

Groton Daily Independent

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Groton Daily Independent
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Saturday Blessings

Keep praying. Don't quit.
Miracles happen every day,
so never stop believing.
God can change things
very quickly in your life.



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.....

9. I love the game of golf



Names Released in Bon Homme County Fatal Crash

What: Two vehicle fatal crash

Where: South Dakota Highway 50, mile marker 361, six miles east of Tyndall, SD

When: 1:16 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2024

Driver 1: Logan A. Brabec, 25-year-old male from Knoxville, TN, fatal injuries

Vehicle 1: 2006 Pontiac G6

Seatbelt Used: Yes

Driver 2: Allen Odell Schofield, 80-year-old male from Chamberlain, SD, fatal injuries

Vehicle 2: 2011 Jeep Patriot

Seatbelt Used: Yes

Bon Homme County, S.D.- Two people died Tuesday afternoon in a two-vehicle crash near Tyndall, SD.

Preliminary crash information indicates Logan A. Brabec, the driver of a 2006 Pontiac G6, was traveling eastbound near mile marker 361 on SD Highway 50. A 2011 Jeep Patriot, driven by Allen Odell Schofield, was traveling westbound at the same location and crossed into the eastbound lane colliding head-on with the oncoming Pontiac. Both drivers received fatal 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.

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1440

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

Trump Murder-for-Hire Plot

Three men have been charged in alleged Iran-linked assassination plots, including targeting President-elect Donald Trump while he was campaigning for a second term, according to charges unsealed by the Justice Department yesterday.

Court documents filed in federal court in Manhattan claim an unidentified Iranian Revolutionary Guard official (see overview) directed an associate—identified as 51-year-old Farjad Shakeri—in September to develop a plan to monitor and eventually kill Trump. In October, Shakeri was given seven days to devise a plan. The Iranian official told Shakeri if he was unable to create and execute the plan, Iran would wait until after the US presidential election to take action, believing Trump would lose. The plot is unrelated to a separate assassination attempt against Trump in July. See the DOJ's announcement and criminal complaint [here](#).

The complaint also revealed US officials had disrupted another plot to assassinate a Brooklyn human-rights activist who has been critical of Iran's treatment of women. Officials have charged New Yorkers Carlisle Rivera, 49, and Jonathan Loadholt, 36.

Israeli soccer fans injured in Amsterdam violence.

At least five people were hospitalized and 62 detained following attacks on Israeli soccer fans, which officials describe as antisemitic. The incident occurred during a Europa League match between Maccabi Tel Aviv and Ajax, prompting Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to arrange flights home for Israeli citizens. Dutch authorities are investigating the incident and have ordered a three-day ban on protests.

Beyoncé leads Grammy nominations with 11 nods.

Beyoncé, who already has 32 Grammys, leads the 67th annual awards for her countrified album, "Cowboy Carter," including for album of the year, record of the year, and song of the year for "Texas Hold 'Em." Charli XCX, Billie Eilish, Kendrick Lamar, and Post Malone nabbed seven nominations apiece; Sabrina Carpenter, Chappell Roan, and Taylor Swift received six; and producer Jack Antonoff and Shaboozey nabbed five. The ceremony will take place Feb. 2.

AOL's "You've Got Mail" voice, Elwood Edwards, dies at 74.

Edwards recorded the famous greeting in 1989, a project initiated by his wife, who worked at AOL's predecessor. Edwards was paid \$200 for the recordings that later became a staple of early internet culture. His voice not only became synonymous with AOL but also inspired the title of the 1998 film "You've Got Mail" starring Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan. See an interview with Edwards [here](#).

Notre Dame Cathedral bells ring for first time since 2019 fire.

The iconic Paris cathedral is preparing for its Dec. 8 reopening, which comes more than five years since a fire in April 2019 caused extensive damage, including the collapse of its spire and most of its roof. The ringing of the bells featured all eight restored bells chiming together, with the introduction of three new bells, including one from the Paris 2024 Olympics.

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Tesla reaches \$1T market cap as shares close up 8% Friday.

The rally marks the first time Tesla stock has risen above \$300 per share since September 2022. The increase in the electric vehicle maker's share price is attributed to optimism surrounding CEO Elon Musk's relationship with President-elect Donald Trump and potential benefits for Tesla under a Trump administration, including lighter EV regulations and potential advantages over competitors.

Humankind(ness)

Today, we're sharing a story from reader John D. in Fishkill, New York.

"I drive a school bus for Arlington school district. The day after Halloween my first student, John (a kindergartener), got on the bus with a huge smile on his face and presented me with a large bag of candy that he said he would like to share with me from what he collected. He also told me he made a bag up for his teacher. I'm driving 9 years and never had a student do this before for me. He also had drawn pictures to decorate the bus for the holiday."

No. 21 Wolves Open the Weekend with a 5-Set Victory

Sioux Falls, S.D. – The No. 21 Northern State University volleyball team battled from behind Friday evening to defeat the University of Sioux Falls. The Wolves and Cougars opened the match with a pair of bonus point sets, and the Wolves rallied after first and third set losses.

THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 3, USF 2

Records: NSU 18-5 (10-5 NSIC), USF 12-11 (7-8 NSIC)

Attendance: 214

HOW IT HAPPENED

Sioux Falls took an early lead winning the first set by a score of 26-24

Northern rallied back in the second with a 27-25 victory, however dropped the third by a score of 25-9

Down two sets to one, the Wolves rattled off 25-14 and 15-7 victories to seal the match

NSU hit .265 in the win, including single set percentages of .346 in the fourth and .438 in the fifth

They led the match with 61 digs, 14 blocks, and eight aces, while adding 61 kills and 58 assists

Hanna Thompson led three with double figure offensive numbers, recording 19 kills on 47 swings with a .277 attack percentage

Morissen Samuels and Natalia Szybinska followed with 14 kills each, as Samuels hit a team leading .419

Keri Walker dished out 52 assists in the 5-setter for the Wolves and added a team second best 14 digs

Abby Meister led the defense with 18 digs, while Abby Brooks and Victoria Persha notched six blocks each

Mia Hinsz and Reece Johnson continued to find success at the service line with three and two aces respectively

NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

Hanna Thompson: 19 kills, .277 attack%, 4 blocks

Morissen Samuels: 14 kills, .419 attack%, 4 blocks

Keri Walker: 52 assists, 14 digs, 3 kills, 1 ace

Abby Meister: 18 digs, 1 ace

UP NEXT

Northern travels to face the tenth-ranked Wildcats of Wayne State this afternoon. First serve is set for 4 p.m. from Rice Auditorium.

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Northern Drops Road Opener at Missouri Western State

Aberdeen, S.D. – The Northern State University men's basketball team opened their 2024-25 season falling to Missouri Western State. The Wolves out-shot the Griffons from the 3-point line, however gave up 28 points off turnovers.

THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 61, MWSU 75

Records: NSU 0-1, MWSU 2-1

Attendance: 323

HOW IT HAPPENED

Northern tallied 28 points in the first and 33 in the second, while Missouri Western notched 32 in the first and in the second

The Wolves shot 47.9% from the floor, 34.8% from the 3-point line, and 53.8% from the foul line

They scored 26 points in the paint, 23 points off the bench, 24 points from beyond the arc, six points off turnovers, and five fast break points

The Griffons notched 38 points in the paint, 28 points off turnovers, 15 points from beyond the arc, 15 fast break points, and 14 points off the bench

Both team tallied 30 rebounds in the contest with MWSU recording five offensive boards to NSU's four

The trio of Marcus Burks, Kwat Abdelkarim, and Ethan Russell led Northern with ten points apiece (NSU career highs for each), while Burks notched a team leading six rebounds and seven assists

Noah Maca and Michael Nhial led the team off the bench with nine points each

James Glenn was second on the team with five assists, while Tobi Obiora led the squad with two steals

NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

Marcus Burks: 10 points, 80.0 FG%, 7 assists, 6 rebounds

Kwat Abdelkarim: 10 points, 66.7 FG%, 4 rebounds

Ethan Russell: 10 points, 2 rebounds, 1 steal

Noah Baca: 9 points, 100.0 FG%, 3 rebounds

Michael Nhial: 9 points, 1 rebound, 1 assist

UP NEXT

The Wolves return to action on Sunday against Emporia State. Tip-off is set for 12 p.m. against the Hornets in St. Joseph.

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Wolves Drop Home Opener Against No. 13 Gorillas

Aberdeen, S.D. – The Northern State University women's basketball team fell against No. 13 Pittsburg State, 85-55 in Friday afternoon action. Alayna Benike led the charge for the Wolves with 21 points along with recording a new career-high.

THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 55, PSU 85

Records: NSU 0-1, PSU 2-1

Attendance: 1004

HOW IT HAPPENED

Northern State recorded 11 points in the first, 20 points in the second, 14 points in the third, and ten points in the fourth quarter

The Wolves tallied 30 points in the paint, 12 points off of turnovers, and 14 points off the bench

NSU shot 31.9% from the floor, 22.2 from beyond the three-point line, and 70.0% from the foul line

Alayna Benike led the team with 21 points for a career high on the day along with a 60.0 three-point percentage

In 33 minute of play, Rianna Fillipi pulled down eight rebounds and six assists to lead the team

Izzy Moore was first off, the bench with eight points, three rebounds, and one steal

NORTHERN STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

Alayna Benike: 21 points (career high), 50.0 field goal%, 60.0 three-point%, 3 rebounds, 1 assist

Izzy Moore: 8 points, 3 rebounds

Rianna Fillipi: 2 points, eight rebounds, six assists, 1 block

Michaela Jewett: six points, seven rebounds, 1 assist

UP NEXT

Northern State returns to Wachs Area to take on Nebraska Karney. Tip-off is set for 4 p.m. on Saturday, November 9th against the Lopers to close out the weekend.

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**BROWN COUNTY
BROWN COUNTY COMMISSION AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING TUESDAY
November 12, 2024 8:45 A.M.**

COMMISSIONER'S CHAMBERS, COURTHOUSE ANNEX - 25 MARKET STREET, ABERDEEN SD

1. Call To Order - Pledge of Allegiance
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Opportunity of Public Comment
4. First Reading – Ordinance #283 - Rezone
5. Rachel Kippley, Fair/Fairgrounds/Parks Manager
 - a. Quotes for Portable Toilets for 2025-2027 Brown County Fair – accept and authorize sign contract
 - b. Fair Board Appointment
 - c. Golf Cart Quote
 - d. Jurassic Bark Contract for 3 years
 - e. Lumberjack Show Contract
 - f. Grandstand Cleaning
6. Dirk Rogers, Highway Superintendent
 - a. R-O-W for Dustin Usselman
7. Sheriff Lunzman
 - a. Department Update
8. Authorize Chairman to sign 2025 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Addendum for 4-H Educator
9. Authorize Chairman to sign Air Quality Permit Application Form for Brown County Landfill
10. Consent Calendar
 - a. Approval of General Meeting Minutes of November 5, 2024
 - b. Approval of General Election Canvass of November 8, 2024
 - c. Claims
 - d. HR Report
 - e. Karting Club Lease Option Renewal Addendum
 - f. Claim Assignments
 - g. Landfill Tonnage Report for October
 - h. Abatements
 - i. Travel Request
11. Other Business
12. Executive Session (if requested per SDCL 1-25-2)
13. Adjourn

Brown County Commission Meeting

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet, or smartphone.

<https://meet.goto.com/BrCoCommission>

You can also dial in using your phone. United States: [+1 \(872\) 240-3311](tel:+18722403311)

Access Code: 601-168-909 #

Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts: <https://meet.goto.com/install>

Public comment provides an opportunity for the public to address the county commission but may not exceed 3 minutes.

Public comment will be limited to 10 minutes (or at the discretion of the board).

Public comment will be accepted virtually when the virtual attendance option is available.

Official Recordings of Commission Meetings along with the Minutes can be found at

<https://www.brown.sd.us/departments/commission>

WORK SESSION & DEPARTMENT HEAD MEETING FOLLOWING THE COMMISSION MEETING

We the People

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



By David Adler

Election of the Presidency Thrown to the House of Representatives: Intrigue and Mischief

James Madison, writing in August of 1823 from his home in Montpelier, Virginia, to which he repaired in what turned out to be a futile effort to retire from public life, continued to assess the defects of the Constitution, including the way America elects its president. Madison, who preferred direct election of the president, addressed what he regarded as a foundational weakness in our electoral system. In the case of a tie in the Electoral College, the Twelfth Amendment requires the U.S. House of Representatives to choose the next president. Madison called for a constitutional amendment to correct this flawed mechanism. "The present rule of voting for the President by the house of Representatives," the Father of the Constitution declared, "is so great a departure from the Republican principle of numerical equality, and even from the federal rule which qualified the numerical by a State equality and is so pregnant also with a mischievous tendency in practice, that an amendment of the Constitution on this point is justly called for by all its considerate and best friends."

Madison's lament, one aired by Thomas Jefferson a week earlier, recalled the political intrigue and disreputable deal-making that characterized the election of 1800, the first—and one of two elections—decided by the House of Representatives. The indirect election of the president by the House, criticized for being two steps removed from a direct election which, they believed, best represented the republican principle that the sovereign people should elect the nation's highest office, constituted, in Jefferson's description "the most dangerous blot on our Constitution, and one which some unlucky chance will some day hit."

In that rancorous race-- the "Revolution of 1800"-- Vice-President Jefferson was selected on the 36th ballot after six days of debate. He and his running mate, Aaron Burr, had tied in the Electoral College, each receiving 73 votes. Jefferson's victory in the House was a product of intrigue and mischief. The Constitution of 1787 stipulated that members of the Electoral College—Electors—would cast two votes for president. The candidate receiving a majority of the electoral votes would be declared the president. The candidate receiving the second most votes would become vice-president. There was no formal way to distinguish a vote for president from a vote for vice-president. Jefferson defeated his ostensible opponent, the incumbent President John Adams, in the Electoral College, 73-65. For the first time, however, with the development of political parties, slates of party candidates and means to enforce party expectations, Jefferson formed a ticket with Aaron Burr, whom everyone, including Burr, understood was the vice-presidential candidate.

But Burr, known as "the man who could not wait," decided—surprise-- that he would prefer the presidency. The tie forced the election into the House of Representatives and Burr's supporters immediately approached Federalist members, those who supported Adams, to negotiate deals in exchange for their votes. Jefferson's supporters were outraged by Burr's betrayal and the House agonized over its decision. The vote would be taken by the lame duck House, not the newly elected House, because the newly minted Congress would not convene until March 4, 1801, and the country needed a new president. The lame duck House, dominated by the Federalists, was deeply disappointed by Adams's defeat and enough voted for Burr to deny Jefferson a first ballot victory. The maneuverings and back-door deal making extended the election until Alexander Hamilton, a leading Federalist and arch nemesis of Jefferson, persuaded his

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colleagues to vote for Jefferson on the 36th ballot on February 17, 1801, because he disliked Burr more than Jefferson. Burr, it will be recalled, "repaid" the favor in 1804 when he killed Hamilton in a duel.

The Madison-Jefferson letters presaged the 1824 election which, thrown to the House, resulted in the election of John Quincy Adams, even though Andrew Jackson had won both the popular and Electoral College vote. "Unlucky chance," as Jefferson had warned, had indeed "hit." The lame duck House that selected Adams frustrated the public will amidst rumors of rank deal making. Jackson charged key figures with "bare faced corruption." After the vote, future president Martin Van Buren declared that Americans were united by the "absolute necessity of taking the election away from the House." But Madison's call for an amendment has not been answered, and the risk to the republic remains.

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

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Class A - SoDak 16




#1 - Stanley County High School

 1 Miller	27-1	11/12 5:30 PM CT
 16 Lakota Tech	22-12	




#2 - Chamberlain High School

 2 Hamlin	23-1	11/12 7:00 PM CT
 15 St. Thomas M...	27-13	

#3 - Deubrook Area High School

 3 Dell Rapids	28-3	11/12 7:00 PM CT
 14 Aberdeen Ronc...	16-8	

#4 - Centerville School

 4 Dakota Valley	28-5	11/12 7:00 PM CT
 13 Hanson	21-6	

#5 - West Central High School Colos...

 5 Baltic	24-3	11/12 7:00 PM CT
 12 Sioux Falls Christian	24-12	




#6 - Philip Schools

 6 Hill City	29-3	11/12 7:00 PM MT
 11 Sioux Valley	23-6	

#7 - Huron Arena

 7 Mount Vernon/Plankinton	26-5	11/12 7:00 PM CT
 10 Groton Area	19-6	

#8 - Stanley County High School

 8 Mobridge-Pollo...	27-8	11/12 7:00 PM CT
 9 Winner	25-6	

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Groton Area First Quarter Honor Roll

Seniors

4.0 GPA: Payton Mitchell, Gretchen Dinger, Faith Traphagen, Axel Warrington, Elizabeth Fliehs, Blake Pauli, Emma Kutter, Logan Pearson

3.99-3.50: Kayla Lehr, Laila Roberts, Brooklyn Hansen, Kennedy Hansen, Kaden Kampa, Turner Thompson, Jeslyn Kosel, Korbin Kucker, Easten Ekern, Ashlyn Johnson, Karrah-Jo Johnson, Christopher Schwab, Corbin Weismantel, Carter Simon

3.49-3.00: Brevin Fliehs, Abby Yeadon, Christian Ehresmann, Ashlyn Feser, Riley Carman, Emma Eahr, Aiden Heathcote, Teylor Diegel

Juniors

4.0 GPA: Nathan Unzen, Carly Gilbert, Jaedyn Penning, Mia Crank, Jerica Locke, Gage Sippel, Ryder Johnson, Rylee Dunker, Karter Moody, Natalia Warrington, Karsten Fliehs, Talli Wright, London Bahr, De Eh Tha Say, Lincoln Krause, Raelee Lilly

3.99-3.50: Keegen Tracy, Aiden Meyers, Garrett Schultz, Logan Warrington, Lucas Carda, Hannah Sandness, Olivia Stiegelmeier, Paisley Mitchell, Jayden Schwan, Becker Bosma

3.49-3.00: Benjamin Hoeft, Drake Peterson, Cali Tollifson, Cambria Bonn, Breslyn Jeschke, Gentry Pigors

Sophomores

4.0 GPA: Liby Althoff, Kira Clocksene, Teagan Hanten, Carlee Johnson, Taryn Traphagen, Ashlynn Warrington, Colt Williamson

3.99-3.50: McKenna Tietz, Brody Lord, Kella Tracy, Walker Zoellner, Brenna Imrie, Gavin Kroll, Emerlee Jones, Dylan Alexander Lopez Marin, Halee Harder, Addison Hoffman Wipf, Jackson Hopfinger, Hayden Zoellner, Zander Harry, Claire Schuelke, Aiden Strom

3.49-3.00: Leah Jones, Logan Clocksene, Avery Crank, Blake Lord, Hailey Pauli

Freshmen

4.0 GPA: Elizabeth Cole, Layne Johnson, Makenna Krause, Ethan Kroll, Kyleigh Kroll, Sydney Locke, Thomas Schuster

3.99-3.50: Rylie Rose, Mya Feser, Chesney Weber, Jace Johnson, Rylen Ekern, Ryder Scheele, Easton Weber, Addison Hoeft, Karson Zak, Brysen Sandness, Alex Abeln

3.49-3.00: Thomas Aalseth, John Bisbee, Taryn Thompson, Brayden Barrera, Braeden, Fliehs, Kason Oswald, Shaydon Wood, Gracie Pearson, Ryelle Gilbert, Aimee Heilman, Trinity Dallaire, Ella Kettner

Eighth Graders

4.0 GPA: Wesley Borg, Zachary Fliehs, Asher Johnson

3.99-3.50: Brooklyn Spanier, Novalea Warrington, Neely Althoff, Abby Fjeldheim, Tevan Hanson, Sydney Holmes, Kolton Antonsen, Aspen Beto, Lincoln Shilhanek, Samuel Crank, Madison Herrick, Connor Kroll, Arianna Dinger, Logan Olson, Jordan Schwan

3.49-3.00: Kaedynce Bonn, Grayson Flores, Tenley Frost, Aurora Washenberger, Kyrie Yeigh, Wesley Morehouse

Seventh Graders

4.0 GPA: Axel Abeln, Ilyanna Dallaire, Hudson Eichler, Amelia Ewalt, Gavin Hanten, Liam Johnson, Asher Zimmerman,

3.99-3.50: Sophia Fliehs, Liam Lord, Trey Tietz, Ryder Schwan, Trayce Schelle, Andi Gauer, Jameson Penning, Haden Harder

3.49-3.00: Nolan Bahr, Elias Heilman, Rowan Patterson, Keegan Kucker, Owen Tewksbury, Tucker Leicht, Kyson Kucker

Sixth Graders

4.0 GPA: Gracie Borg, Lillian Davis, Libby Johnson

3.99-3.50: Zoe Olson, Ayce Warrington, Brynlee Dunker, Mason Locke, Victoria Schuster, Rylee Stotenburg, Charli Jacobsen, Kendyll Kroll, Easton Larson, Maycee Moody, Kinley Sandness, Ivan Schwan, Hank Hill, Mya Moody, Addison Steffes, Taylynn Traphagen, Amara El Salahy, Rylee Hofer, Knox Mulder, Gradyn Rowen

3.49-3.00: Rylan Blackwood, Drew Fjeldheim, Brinley Guthmiller, Andi Iverson, Bella Barrera, Ambrielle Feist, Hadley Heilman, Graham Rose, Parker Zoellner, Carter Boerger, Jaela Fliehs, Colton Morehouse, Charles Telkamp

NOTICE OF SALE

November 9th, 2024, at 10:00 AM

State Nebraska Bank & Trust vs Brian Dolan & Kristen Dolan

(06CIV22-000424-01)

2012 Chevy Avalanche



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

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

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

DAVE LUNZMAN, SHERIFF OF BROWN COUNTY.

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

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Groton Post No. 39 American Legion

Annual Turkey Party

Saturday, Nov. 16, 2024

Starting at 6:30 p.m.

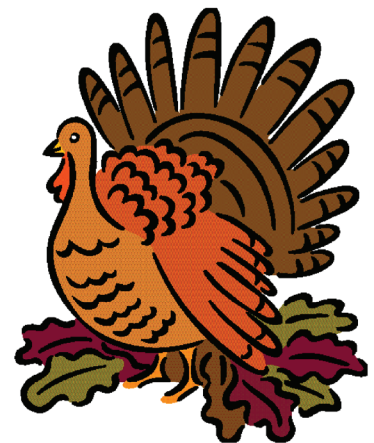
Groton Legion Post Home, 10 N. Main.

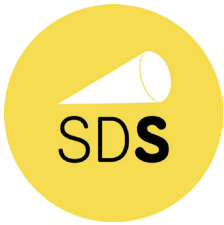
Turkey, Ham and Bacon
to be given away

FREE ADMISSION

**DOOR
PRIZE!**

Lunch served
by Auxiliary





SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

Minnehaha County Auditor defends counting delays, proposes restrictions on absentee ballots

Leah Anderson suggests in-person voting should end on Friday before Election Day

BY: MAKENZIE HUBER - NOVEMBER 8, 2024 6:00 PM

SIoux FALLS — Minnehaha County Auditor Leah Anderson and her supporters defended the time it took to finalize election results at the county's official canvas meeting Friday.

Anderson and members of the public also used the meeting as a platform to pitch reform measures they said would speed things up, including moves that would reduce the number of absentee ballots cast.

Anderson's office didn't post final results until shortly after 3 p.m. on Wednesday — about 20 hours after polls closed. Minnehaha County was the last in the state to finish, drawing ire from some Sioux Falls lawmakers.

Anderson said Wednesday that nearly 30,000 absentee ballots cast in the county slowed the process. Resolution boards recreated ballots sent from overseas to run through the tabulators, she said, which took more time. Absentee ballots are time-intensive, she said, and involve verifying voter information, opening envelopes and preparing ballots for scanning.

Anderson said she worked 33 hours between Election Day and Wednesday to complete results.

Thirty-three hours straight is "incredible" and "almost ridiculous," said Minnehaha County Commissioner Gerald Beninga. He said the commission would review the process in the coming weeks with Anderson to "make more improvements if necessary."

"Our goal is to be accurate, not fast," Beninga said. "If some people are concerned about the time it takes, we have to have priorities and that priority is not speed but accuracy."

Anderson told reporters after the meeting she needs more space to accommodate the growth in absentee ballots. Anderson could not constantly observe the entire process Tuesday and Wednesday because absentee ballot counting was split into two rooms, while the resolution boards and tabulating machines were in another.

Additionally, Anderson wants to stop allowing early, in-person voting on the Friday before Election Day. The break on Monday before the election would allow her staff to focus on organizing absentee ballots and preparing for Election Day, she said.

Such a change would require legislative action. South Dakota state law currently allows for absentee voting until 5 p.m. the day before the election.

At least 25 states, as well as Washington D.C. and territories Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands, set a break between early voting and an election, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. Indiana, Ohio and Kansas end early voting the day before an election, but before the end of the work day.

South Dakota has one of the longest in-person absentee voting periods in the country. The state allows residents to vote in-person or request a mail-in absentee ballot 46 days before an election. Delaware has the longest absentee mail-in voting period at 60 days ahead of a general election, but allows for in-person voting 10 days before an election.

Jessica Pollema is president of South Dakota Canvassing Group, which advocates for election changes such as hand counting ballots. She suggested to commissioners that ending the "45-day, no excuse absentee referral" would yield faster results statewide because it would mean fewer absentee ballots

"If we want to cast stones, I think the legislators should look at themselves," Pollema said, referring to

criticism levied by some lawmakers about counting delays.

Sioux Falls Republican Rep. Tony Venhuizen was one of the most outspoken. Venhuizen posted his concern on X, formerly Twitter, and spoke to news outlets about it.

He said Friday after the meeting that he'd be reluctant to shorten early voting, saying the increased access makes it easier for South Dakotans to make time to vote.

"What's clear is there's a problem, and it's a problem specific to Minnehaha County," Venhuizen said.

Pennington County Auditor Cindy Mohler told the Argus Leader her team counted ballots until 5 a.m. Wednesday. The state's second-largest county had 48,663 ballots cast and reported a large share of absentee ballots. Minnehaha County had 80,071 ballots cast this election, with 28,707 absentee ballots.

Venhuizen said the state's voting system has worked for decades and that it "used to work totally fine in Minnehaha County."

"I think we're all open to change, but we also want to understand what changed in the last election or two that it's suddenly a problem," Venhuizen said.

Minnehaha generally takes longer than other counties, but counting went into the daylight hours in the 2020 general election and in this year's election. Both saw the largest statewide absentee ballot totals in history: 216,140 in 2020 before the election and 141,554 in 2024.

South Dakota is one of seven states, in addition to Washington D.C., that does not allow election officials to process absentee ballots until Election Day, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. South Dakota is one of fourteen states, and Washington D.C., that does not allow counting until polls close.

Commissioners said they plan to conduct an election review in the coming weeks.

The commission also drew its precincts and races for the post-election audit at its meeting. The post-election audit will be Nov. 21.

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.

Lost Democratic seat in state Senate signals newly competitive district

Senator-elect Tamara Grove credits community outreach for victory in District 26

BY: JOHN HULT - NOVEMBER 8, 2024 1:35 PM

Some of South Dakota's tribal areas have long been considered Democratic strongholds so reliable that some GOP political observers had written some seats off as all but unwinnable.

But Democratic seats in those communities are no longer a given. District 26, which includes parts of the Lower Brule, Crow Creek and Rosebud Sioux reservations, voted Tuesday to send a Republican to the state Senate for the first time in more than a decade.

Tamara Grove of Lower Brule beat incumbent Democratic Sen. Shawn Bordeaux of Mission on Tuesday night, with an unofficial tally of 57%-43%. Bordeaux has been a lawmaker for 10 years.

The last Republican senator to serve in District 26 was John Koskan, who served as Assistant Majority Leader in his final term in 2006.

Grove, who grew up in Miller, moved to Lower Brule with her husband a few years ago from the Sioux Falls area to found a church called The Hope Center. The couple has since worked with community members on issues like food sovereignty, Grove said, having planted a large community garden on the church grounds.

"We connected with leadership in some of the biggest communities in Todd County," Grove said. "That's really what it was about: building those relationships."

She said she worked to meet as many people as possible and helped get voters registered in the runup

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to the election. Grove said she has disagreements on policy with constituents in the majority-Democrat district but found common ground on others.

She found harmony on the issue of abortion with many tribal elders, she said, who shared her opposition to Amendment G. Voters rejected that abortion rights measure on Tuesday.

"Perhaps there may be younger members, but more traditional (people) and elders do not agree with abortion," Grove said.

Grove's ascension signals shifting political winds in the district, Bordeaux told South Dakota Searchlight.

The Democrat bested a Republican candidate named Joel Koskan in 2022, who was indicted on child abuse charges just days before that year's general election. Republican leadership quickly distanced itself from Koskan, but the indictment came too late for Koskan's name to be removed from the ballot.

Koskan, who's serving a five-year sentence for incest, pulled 42% of the vote.

Grove may not have generational roots in District 26, but she carried no such baggage with her into the 2024 general election contest.

"It's that red wave they were predicting over the past few years," Bordeaux said of his loss.

In the past, including 2022, it wasn't uncommon for Bordeaux or his predecessor in the Senate, former Sen. Troy Heinert, to go to bed on election night behind as votes from tribal areas trickled in.

"He would be behind, and he'd have to catch up," Bordeaux said. "I had hoped to have that same experience."

That pattern held true for Bordeaux in 2022. He was losing to Koskan early in the evening on election night in 2022, but came back when tallies from Democrat-friendly precincts were added to the vote totals.

Pat Powers, a longtime GOP blogger in South Dakota, had predicted that Bordeaux would return to the legislature in 2025. The senator has a long history of public service in the area and had the advantage of incumbency.

Reservation areas have been so solidly Democratic for so long, Powers said, that Tuesday's results in District 26 "shocked the bejesus out of me."

The results on Tuesday show that Democrats can no longer take state legislative seats in tribal communities as a given, he said.

"It's been exclusively Democrat for so many years, so for Republicans to make inroads like that, they had to have completely abandoned their get out the vote effort," he said.

Republicans gained strength in the state legislature in this year's general election, with the total number of Democrats in either chamber falling to nine compared to 11 who served in 2023 and 2024. Two Democrats lost seats. Democrats lost a third seat to a Republican who ran for a seat left open by a term-limited Democrat.

Democrats did turn a longtime Republican seat in the House, however. Nicole Uhre-Balk is the first Democrat elected in Rapid City's District 32 in 18 years.

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.

With Trump returning to office, is Noem poised for an administration role? Speculation swirls

BY: JOSHUA HAIAR - NOVEMBER 8, 2024 8:00 AM

As the dust settles on the 2024 election and President-elect Donald Trump prepares for his second term, political observers are buzzing about the role Gov. Kristi Noem might play in the new administration.

Noem, a vocal Trump supporter throughout the campaign, was frequently seen on the trail in recent weeks.

"You've got to reward the people who backed you during the election," said Northern State University

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political science professor Jon Schaff. "I think everybody knows she has been a strong supporter of Trump. I think it'd almost be remarkable if she didn't have some position in that administration. The question is, does she want it?"

Schaff suggested Noem might be a fit for Secretary of Agriculture or Interior, which would align with her experience and the importance of agriculture to South Dakota. He said higher-profile cabinet posts like Secretary of Defense, State, Treasury, or Justice may be out of reach.

"The only one that seems plausible is State, and I don't know if she has the diplomatic chops for that," he said.

Noem could also become a conservative media commentator or the face of a Republican-aligned political organization, or could opt to run for a U.S. Senate seat. If Sen. Mike Rounds decides to run for re-election in 2026 and Noem decides to challenge him, Schaff foresees a very competitive race.

The South Dakota Governor's Office did not respond to a request for comment regarding her plans.

Mike Card, a political science professor at the University of South Dakota, thinks the Department of Agriculture secretary slot or an ambassadorship are two possible paths for Noem, given speculation that North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum will become Secretary of Interior.

"The question is whether she stays with the relatively easy job of being South Dakota Governor," he said, which offers her a platform without the administrative work of becoming a cabinet secretary.

Noem has stayed quiet on Sen. John Thune's bid to become Senate Majority Leader. Noem's silence could mean she's keeping her options open, Card said.

Thune's influence could matter to Noem down the line. If Rounds retires and Thune backs someone else for Senate, it might be harder for Noem to win the seat. She could try to negotiate with Thune — since she has some sway with the president-elect — to help him secure this leadership role, Card said. In exchange, he said, she could ask for his support if she's aiming for a cabinet position requiring Senate approval. Congress must sign off on a president's cabinet secretary choices.

The potential departure of Noem from South Dakota politics has already set the stage for a competitive 2026 gubernatorial race, Card said.

"This essentially means the race for governor has already begun," he said, identifying key players like U.S. Rep. Dusty Johnson, Attorney General Marty Jackley, and Lt Gov. Larry Rhoden as likely contenders.

Card also expects an insurgent "America First" Republican to enter the race for governor in 2026, representing the party's more populist wing.

"It's an America First Republican party now," Card said. "And so, who is that candidate? It's hard not to see it cutting any other way."

Noem before the election

Gov. Noem took an active role on the campaign trail for President-elect Donald Trump.

On Oct. 14, she moderated a town hall in Pennsylvania, where she praised Trump's authenticity and commitment to protecting American families. The event generated headlines after Trump, 78, spent nearly 40 minutes listening to a variety of songs.

Through mid-October, Noem balanced her campaign efforts with state duties, meeting with her executive team in Pierre on Oct. 16 to prepare South Dakota's budget before heading to Mar-a-Lago for discussions with Trump the following day.

As October progressed, she campaigned for Trump in key battleground states, with stops in North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. She also took part in South Dakota events, attending former Senator Tim Johnson's funeral and leading the annual Governor's Hunt in Sioux Falls. Between campaign appearances, Noem was a frequent presence on conservative media, where she defended Trump and criticized President Joe Biden and business mogul Mark Cuban, the latter of whom she took issue with for his comments on Trump's female supporters.

Noem joined panels of Republican women in Georgia and Michigan to rally support for Trump in his campaign's final days. Her schedule remained private for part of Election Day, but a social media post

revealed that she celebrated Trump's victory on Nov. 6 with North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum.

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

Federal prosecutors move to wind down Trump Jan. 6 case after win in presidential race

BY: JACOB FISCHLER - NOVEMBER 8, 2024 5:52 PM

Special counsel Jack Smith, the prosecutor in the federal criminal cases against President-elect Donald Trump, asked a D.C. federal judge on Friday to suspend deadlines in the election interference case that centered on Trump's supporters' Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol.

To allow the government time to mull the "unprecedented circumstance" of a former president under indictment returning to the White House after Tuesday's election, Smith's team, writing in an unopposed motion to U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan, called for upcoming deadlines in the case to be cleared.

Under U.S. Justice Department precedent that dates to the Watergate era, the department may not prosecute a sitting president.

"As a result of the election held on November 5, 2024, the defendant is expected to be certified as President-elect on January 6, 2025, and inaugurated on January 20, 2025," the prosecutors wrote.

"The Government respectfully requests that the Court vacate the remaining deadlines in this pretrial schedule to afford the Government time to assess this unprecedented circumstance and determine the best appropriate course going forward consistent with Department of Justice policy."

A 1973 Justice Department memo concluded that criminally prosecuting a sitting president would diminish the president's capacity to perform the office's functions. That conclusion was affirmed in a 2000 memo dealing with the question.

The four-sentence brief filed Friday said prosecutors would let the court know by Dec. 2 what route they planned to take.

Chutkan granted the motion shortly after Smith filed it.

Reversal of Trump's fortunes

The legal development marks another milestone in Trump's remarkable comeback.

The former president ended his first term, shortly after the Jan. 6 attack and amid a worldwide pandemic, with fewer than 39% of voters holding a favorable opinion of him and nearly 58% disapproving.

Over the next few years, the U.S. Justice Department and state prosecutors in New York and Georgia launched investigations into allegations that resulted in four felony indictments.

But in part thanks to his electoral victory in which he won or led in as of Friday afternoon every battleground state and could win the popular vote for this first time in his three White House runs, Trump appears likely to escape culpability in any of the cases.

Smith, whom Trump railed against and promised to fire — and possibly deport — appears ready to drop the election interference case.

U.S. District Judge Aileen Cannon, a Trump appointee in South Florida, already dismissed charges related to Trump's alleged mishandling of classified documents that prosecutors said he illegally took from the White House and brought to his Mar-a-Lago estate after his 2020 election loss. Prosecutors have appealed that decision.

The Georgia election interference case that charged Trump as part of a conspiracy to overturn the 2020 election results in the state has sputtered amid revelations Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis, who is prosecuting the case, had an inappropriate relationship with a subordinate in her office.

A New York jury did find Trump guilty earlier this year of 34 felony counts of falsifying business records related to hush money payment promised to adult film star Stormy Daniels during the 2016 presidential campaign.

But sentencing for that case was postponed following the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling granting presidents the presumption of criminal immunity for any acts conducted in their official capacity.

The Nov. 26 sentencing could be further delayed as Trump prepares to return to the White House.

Jacob covers federal policy as a senior reporter for States Newsroom. Based in Oregon, he focuses on Western issues. His coverage areas include climate, energy development, public lands and infrastructure.

Health experts outline how Trump administration could affect abortion, contraception access

BY: JENNIFER SHUTT - NOVEMBER 8, 2024 5:26 PM

WASHINGTON — President-elect Donald Trump has several choices to make in the coming months about whether his second administration will keep access to contraception and abortion as it is now or implement changes.

While Trump cannot on his own enact nationwide laws or abortion bans without Congress, he and the people he picks for key posts throughout the federal government will have significant influence on reproductive rights nationwide.

During Trump's first term in office he barred health care organizations that perform or refer patients for abortions from receiving Title X family planning grants, even though there's a moratorium on using federal funds for abortions unless it's the result of rape or incest, or the life of the woman is at risk.

Alina Salganicoff, senior vice president and director for women's health policy at the nonpartisan health research organization KFF, said on a call with reporters Friday that about a quarter of providers withdrew or were disqualified from receiving federal family planning grants as a result of that policy.

"The Title X program basically funds family planning services for low-income people," Salganicoff explained. "It's basically a small program, it's around under \$300 million — but it is a critical program to people who don't otherwise have insurance."

Abortions as stabilizing care

Trump will also have to decide whether to leave in place guidance from the Biden administration that says a federal law from the 1980s protects health care providers who perform abortions as stabilizing care during an emergency that would affect a woman's health or life.

That law, known as the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act, or EMTALA, became one point of disagreement between the Biden administration and Republican states that implemented abortion bans or strict restrictions after the Supreme Court ended the nationwide right to an abortion.

U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra wrote in a letter released in July 2022 that under the federal "law, no matter where you live, women have the right to emergency care — including abortion care."

EMTALA is at the center of an ongoing lawsuit between the Biden administration and Idaho over that state's abortion law. Oral arguments in the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals are set for early December.

Abortion pill

The future of medication abortion, a two-drug regimen approved for up to 10 weeks gestation that's used in about 63% of abortions nationwide, will be another area the Trump administration could alter without congressional approval.

Salganicoff said there's no way to know just yet if the U.S. Food and Drug Administration will seek to change prescribing guidelines for medication abortion or revoke the 2000 approval of mifepristone alto-

gether.

"We don't know whether they're going to actually review the approval, but I will tell you that it is likely that they will revisit the conditions in which medication abortions, which now account for nearly two-thirds of all abortions in this country, can be provided," Salganicoff said.

The Trump administration, she said, is likely to focus on revisions made during the Biden administration that allow doctors or other qualified health care providers to prescribe the two-drug medication abortion regimen via telehealth and then have mifepristone and misoprostol mailed to the patient.

Salganicoff anticipates anti-abortion organizations will also encourage the Trump administration to address recent findings from the We Count Project, showing 1 in 10 abortions take place after medication abortion is mailed to people in states with bans or significant restrictions from states that have shield laws.

"This FDA protocol is legal to do that, but clearly this is going to be a target," she said.

Mailing of abortion medication

The Comstock Act, an anti-obscenity law from the late 19th century that once banned the mailing of boxing photographs, pornography and contraception, will also be front and center after Trump takes the oath of office on Jan. 20.

The law, which is still on the books despite not being enforced in decades, could potentially allow the U.S. Postal Service to prevent the mailing of abortion medications or any other instrument or tool used in abortions.

"The Biden administration's Department of Justice did a review and said that they are not going to enforce Comstock," Salganicoff said. "Project 2025 sees it very differently, and even though President-elect Trump has said that he is not going to enforce Comstock, it's not clear, and there will likely be a lot of pressure to do that."

Project 2025 is a policy map for a Trump presidency published by the Heritage Foundation. Trump has disavowed any connection with it, although former members of his first administration helped develop it.

Salganicoff said enforcing the Comstock Act would affect access to medication abortion throughout the country, even in states that have reinforced reproductive rights during the last two years.

"Clearly that's going to tee up a lot of litigation and challenges," Salganicoff said.

Larry Levitt, executive vice president for health policy at KFF, said during the call that the Trump administration's possible elevation of people who spread misinformation or disinformation could lead to more confusion about research-based health care.

"I think one thing, particularly with the rise in prominence of RFK Jr., you know, is the potential for misinformation," Levitt said, referring to Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., a prominent vaccine opponent who endorsed Trump and campaigned extensively with him.

"We turn to the government for reliable data, public health information and scientific information," Levitt said. "And there's the potential now, for the government to be not only not an effective source for health information, but in fact, an accelerant for misinformation."

Jennifer covers the nation's capital as a senior reporter for States Newsroom. Her coverage areas include congressional policy, politics and legal challenges with a focus on health care, unemployment, housing and aid to families.

Federal judge rejects Biden policy shielding immigrant spouses, children from deportation

BY: ARIANA FIGUEROA - NOVEMBER 8, 2024 11:34 AM

WASHINGTON — A federal judge late Thursday struck down a White House policy that created a pathway to citizenship for people in the country lacking permanent status who were married to a U.S. citizen.

Eastern District of Texas Judge J. Campbell Barker ruled that the Biden administration overstepped its authority and the program "stretches legal interpretation past its breaking point" of U.S. immigration law.

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The suit was brought by Texas and other Republican-led states.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's program, called "Keeping Families Together," would have shielded at least 550,000 immigrant spouses and their children from deportation.

With less than three months before President-elect Donald Trump is sworn into office, it's unlikely the incoming administration will defend the program, and Trump has vowed to carry out mass deportations.

In a Thursday interview with NBC News, Trump said "there is no price tag" when it comes to mass deportations and that his administration will have "no choice" but to carry them out.

"We obviously have to make the border strong and powerful and, and we have to — at the same time, we want people to come into our country," he said to NBC. "And you know, I'm not somebody that says, 'No, you can't come in.' We want people to come in."

Enacting mass deportations would be a costly undertaking that would require congressional approval, which could be easier if Trump is granted GOP control of Congress. Republicans are inching towards control of both chambers.

As the former president is set to enter a second term in January, he has vowed to immediately begin carrying out mass deportations and ending programs that have granted temporary protections for immigrants such as humanitarian parole.

Trump has criticized the Biden policy that was struck down Thursday as a "mass amnesty" program.

"Mass amnesty" is a legal term that is considered an official pardon, but the program had certain requirements. The individuals considered for citizenship had to have been married to a U.S. citizen for at least a decade and undergo an extreme vetting procedure by DHS.

"This is unsustainable and can't be allowed to continue!" Trump wrote of the program when it was announced in June. "On day one, we will SHUT DOWN THE BORDER and start deporting millions of Biden's Illegal Criminals."

The Texas judge, Barker, was appointed during Trump's first term. The program was already put on hold in August when Texas GOP Attorney General Ken Paxton led a suit against it.

The states that joined the suit are Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, North Dakota, Ohio, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee and Wyoming.

Those states argued that the Biden administration overreached its authority in creating the program and that it would financially harm states if the people qualifying for citizenship were allowed to remain in the country.

The states were represented by America First Legal, an organization established by Trump adviser Stephen Miller — the architect of Trump's hard-line immigration policies during his first term.

Ashley DeAzevedo, the President of American Families United, which represents U.S. citizens married to people without permanent status, in a statement urged the Biden administration to appeal the case.

"District Court Judge J. Campbell Barker did not just dismantle the Keeping Families Together program, he shattered the hopes of hundreds of thousands of American families," she said. "Families like ours deserve better than this blatant attempt to stop a legal program, and we will not stop until the courts rectify this injustice."

It's estimated that roughly 500,000 spouses without legal status and their children would have been eligible to apply for a lawful permanent residence — a green card — under certain requirements. About 50,000 children who do not have legal status and have an immigrant parent married to a U.S. citizen would have also been included in that benefit.

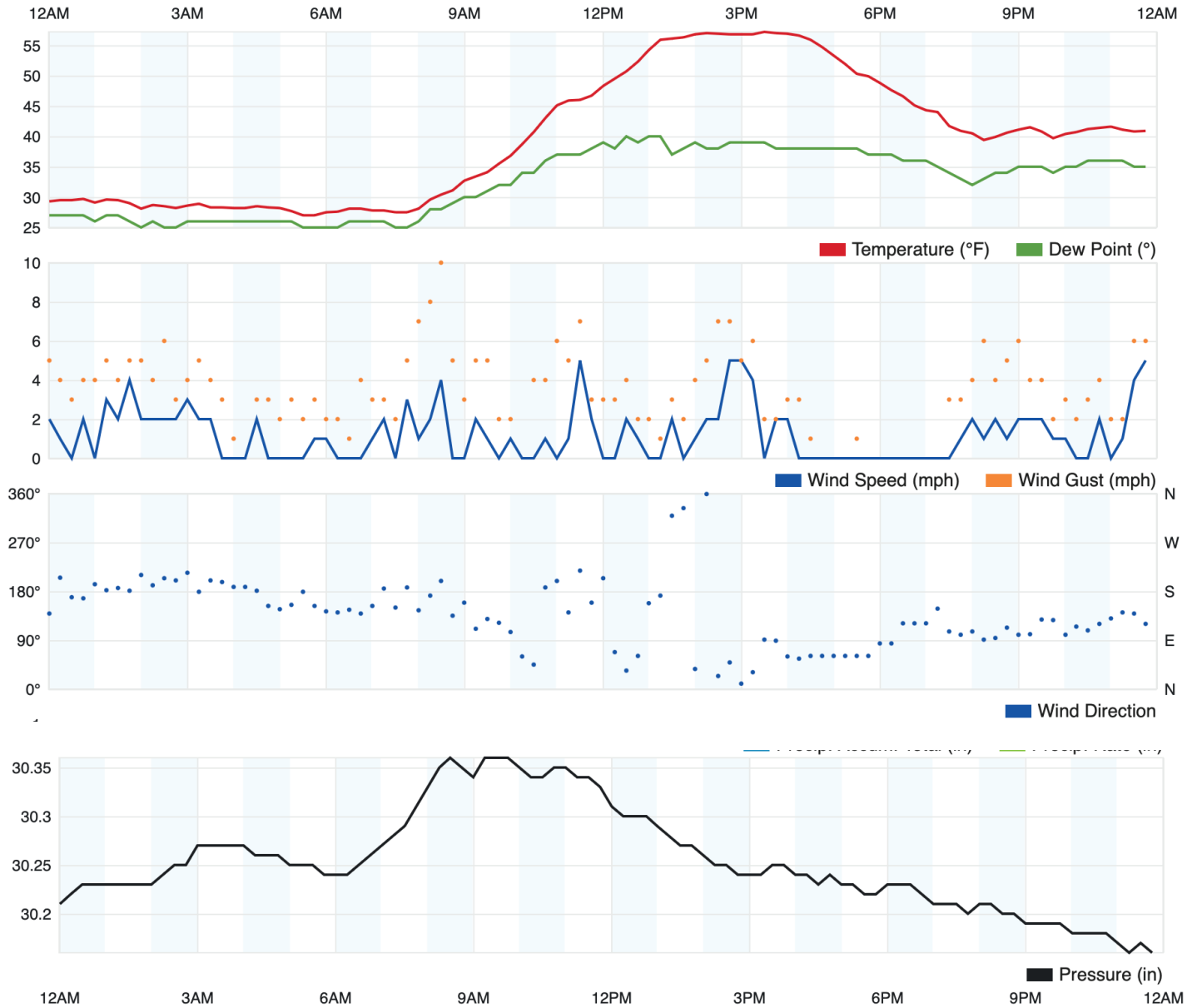
The Department of Justice did not respond to States Newsroom's request for comment.

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

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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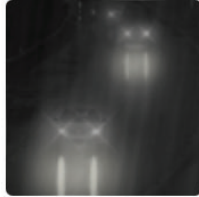
Today



High: 49 °F

Rain Likely
then Chance
Rain

Tonight



Low: 39 °F

Chance
Drizzle

Sunday



High: 56 °F

Gradual
Clearing

Sunday Night



Low: 32 °F

Mostly Cloudy

Veterans Day



High: 44 °F

Sunny



Probabilistic Rain

Saturday Morning, Nov 9 - Sunday Morning, Nov 10

	Sat 11/9							Sun 11/10			
	3am	6am	9am	12pm	3pm	6pm	9pm	12am	3am	6am	9am
Aberdeen	0	50	60	70	40	40	50	70	40	20	0
Miller	60	70	80	70	80	80	30	70	30	10	0
Mobridge	0	80	60	90	70	60	40	30	10	0	13
Murdo	90	90	70	100	50	60	50	30	20	0	0
Ortonville	0	0	40	30	50	60	80	40	40	40	0
Pierre	90	80	80	70	30	40	50	30	40	0	0
Sisseton	0	0	50	50	0	60	50	40	20	30	13
Watertown	0	40	50	30	80	60	50	40	20	30	0

Probabilistic Rain (%)

Additional Details



Rainfall Today And
Tonight:

- Generally 0.05in to 0.25in
- Highest amounts expected over central South Dakota

Valid: Sat 03 am CST - Sun 09 am CST

Issued: Sat, Nov 9, 2024, 3 am CST



Rainfall that has moved up into central South Dakota will continue to spread north and east through the day today, though overall amounts should just be a few hundredths of an inch to around a quarter inch for most locations. Light rain, possibly diminishing to some pockets of light drizzle, will linger into the evening/overnight tonight before mainly dry conditions set in for Sunday. It could be quite warm on Sunday, but that will be a function of how long cloud cover sticks around.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 57 °F at 1:52 PM

Low Temp: 27 °F at 5:38 AM

Wind: 10 mph at 8:05 AM

Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 9 hours, 47 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 70 in 1903

Record Low: 0 in 2018

Average High: 46

Average Low: 22

Average Precip in Nov.: 0.29

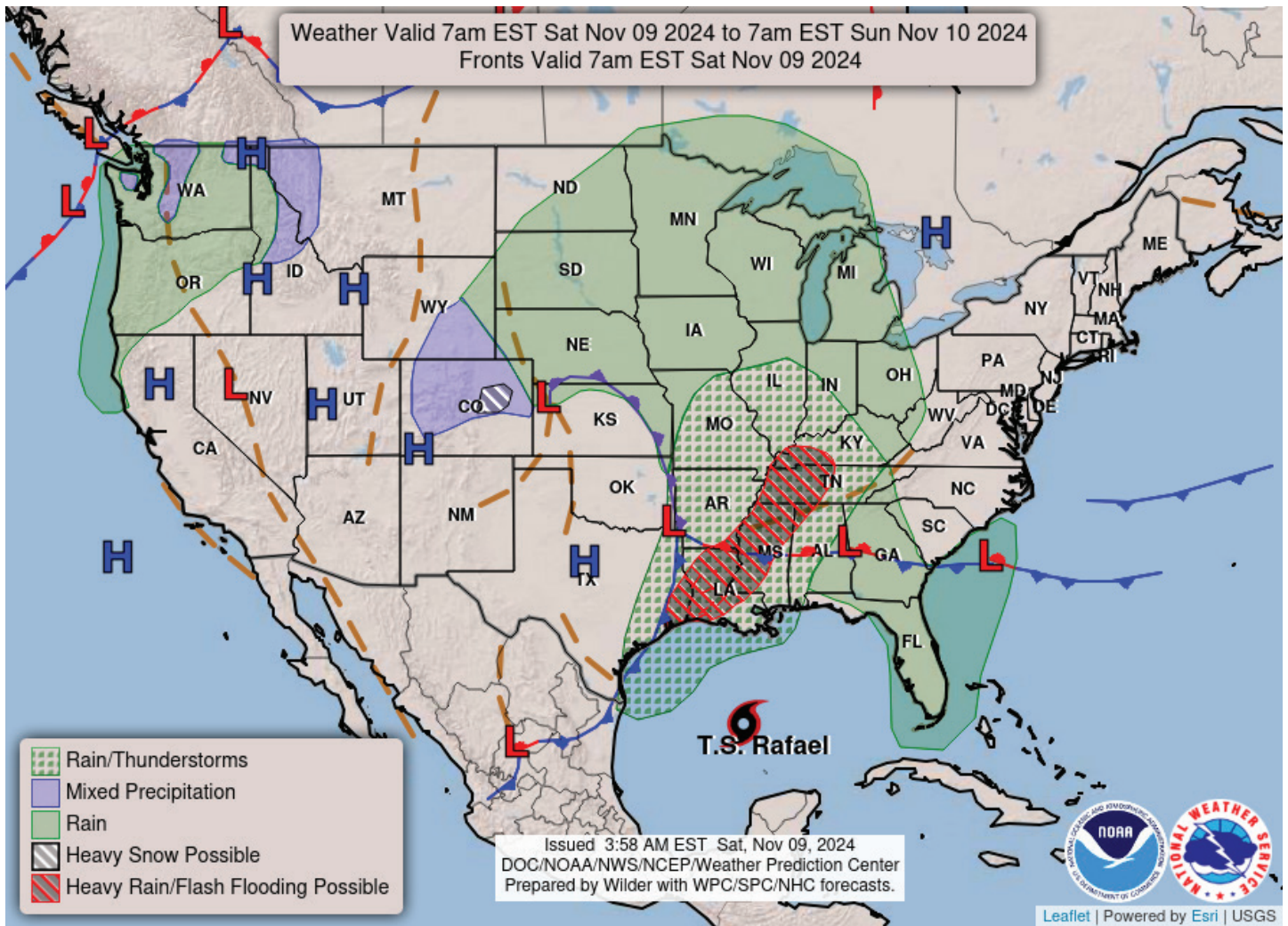
Precip to date in Nov.: 0.59

Average Precip to date: 20.76

Precip Year to Date: 20.47

Sunset Tonight: 5:10:05 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:23:51 am



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Today in Weather History

November 9th, 1977: An intense early winter storm moved northeast from Colorado to Iowa on November 9th and then to Lake Superior by November 10th. In most areas, the precipitation began late on the 8th as rain with temperatures in the 50s, changing to snow early on Wednesday the 9th, with the storm continuing through Thursday. In west-central Minnesota, some freezing rain also occurred before it changed to all snow. As the storm intensified, the winds in the eastern half of South Dakota increased with some gusts as high as 60-70 miles per hour, with widespread visibilities reduced to zero in blowing snow. In west-central Minnesota, north to northwest winds of 60 to 80 mph reduced visibility to zero and piled snow into eight-foot drifts. The temperature dropped rapidly into the 20s. Many roads throughout the eastern part of South Dakota and west-central Minnesota were blocked, and the heavy wet snow immobilized snow plows. Many cars and trucks were snowbound on the roads and highways. Approximately 100 cars and trucks were stalled on Interstate 90, east of Murdo. Near Fergus Falls in western Minnesota, two trucks loaded with turkeys became stuck, and half the birds were frozen. Many schools were closed on the 9th and 10th. Snowfall amounts in the eastern half of the state were more significant than four inches. A band of heavy snow, ten inches or more, extended from Bridgewater to Howard to Clear Lake into parts of west-central Minnesota. The high winds also destroyed a 1400-foot TV tower at Garden City. In addition, there was some loss of the corn crop. Sunflowers comprised the greatest loss because they had not been entirely harvested. Reports of livestock losses were minimal. Some storm total snowfall amounts include; 15 inches in Watertown; 14 inches in Sisseton; 12 inches in Clear Lake and Wheaton; 10.5 inches in Castlewood; and 9 inches near Raymond and Bryant.

1864: On Election Night, a violent tornado strikes a ferry on the Mississippi River near Chester, Illinois, blowing away all but the hull. The boiler and engines are found up the bluff. Half of Chester was destroyed, and twenty died during the storm.

1926: An estimated F3 to F4 tornado tore through La Plata, Maryland, killing 14 individuals at a small school. This storm caused 17 deaths and injured 65 others. 1913 - The freshwater fury, a rapidly deepening cyclone, caused unpredicted gales on the Great Lakes. Eight large ore carriers on Lake Erie sank drowning 270 sailors. Cleveland OH reported 17.4 inches of snow in 24 hours, and a total of 22.2 inches, both all-time records for that location. During the storm, winds at Cleveland averaged 50 mph, with gusts to 79 mph. The storm produced wind gusts to 80 mph at Buffalo NY, and buried Pickens WV under three feet of snow. (9th-11th) (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1982 - Seven tornadoes touched down in southern California, three of which began as waterspouts. The waterspouts moved ashore at Point Mugu, Malibu, and Long Beach. The Long Beach tornado traveled inland ten miles causing much damage. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Showers and gusty winds associated with a cold front helped extinguish forest fires in the Appalachian Region and clear out smoke in the eastern U.S. Thunderstorms produced locally heavy rains from eastern Texas to the Tennessee Valley. Longview TX received 3.12 inches of rain, including two inches in two hours, Tupelo MS was soaked with 2.80 inches of rain. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Thunderstorms developing ahead of a strong cold front produced severe weather from eastern Oklahoma to central Indiana. Hail more than two inches in diameter was reported around Tulsa OK. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - High winds prevailed along the eastern slopes of the Rockies from the afternoon of the 8th into the early morning hours of the 9th. Winds of 50 to 80 mph prevailed across the northwest chinook area of Wyoming, with gusts to 100 mph. Winds in Colorado gusted to 97 mph at Fritz Peak (located near Rollinsville) the evening of the 8th, and early in the morning on the 9th, gusted to 78 mph west of Fort Collins. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1996 - The Veteran's Day storm of November 9-14, 1996 may be the most severe early season lake effect snow (LES) storm the Great Lakes has witnessed in the past fifty years. At the height of the storm, over 160,000 customers were without power in Greater Cleveland alone, as the storm produced isolated snowfall tallies approaching 70. As usual with these LES events, the Veteran's Day storm battered snow-belt communities downwind of each of the Great Lakes while nearby towns went unscathed. (University of Illinois WW2010)



DO OUR WORDS REALLY MATTER?

It was the mid-week prayer service. The crowd was small but the singing loud. The final hymn before the Bible study was "For You I Am Praying."

A visitor turned to a member of the church who was standing next to him and asked, "For whom are you praying?"

"No one, really," came the response. "I'm just singing."

Often the hymns we sing and the words we speak are completely disconnected from the lives we live. Sometimes our faith is so frail that we fail Him.

But if our relationship with God is what He expects it to be, we must give Him our love and our lives, our heads and our hearts, our desires and our dreams. And we must ask Him to empower us, by His grace and goodness, to live lives that will be pleasing to Him.

God's first expectation of us is that we totally commit our lives to Him. Paul, writing to the Romans said, "I beg you, in view of all that God has done for you, to make a decisive decision to present all that you are or have to God as a living sacrifice – which is only reasonable."

If we do that – make that decisive decision to surrender our lives to Him – the songs we sing and the words we speak will be consistent with His expectations.

Prayer: Help us, Heavenly Father, to be certain that our walk matches our words and that we behave what we say we believe. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice – the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. Romans 12:1

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

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WINNING NUMBERS

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:
11.08.24

25 28 42 64 69 19

MegaPlier: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$361,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

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 14 Hrs 22 Mins
DRAW: 24 Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:
11.08.24

2 7 19 42 47 4

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT 14 Hrs 37 Mins
DRAW: 24 Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:
11.06.24

2 5 9 13 28

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$91,000

NEXT 14 Hrs 37 Mins
DRAW: 24 Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:
11.06.24

12 16 17 39 45 10

TOP PRIZE:
\$10,000,000

NEXT 15 Hrs 6 Mins
DRAW: 24 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 15 Hrs 6 Mins
DRAW: 24 Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

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Upcoming Groton Events

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

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News from the **AP** Associated Press

Friday's Scores

The Associated Press

PREP FOOTBALL

All Nations State Playoffs

Class A Championship

Pine Ridge 42, Winnebago, Neb. 40, 2OT

Class B Championship

Lower Brule 60, White River 8

SDHSAA State Playoffs

Class11AAA Semifinal

Brandon Valley 37, Sioux Falls Jefferson 34, OT

Sioux Falls Lincoln 20, Harrisburg 14

Class11AA Semifinal

T F Riggs High School 14, Yankton 9

Watertown 20, Brookings 7

Class11A Semifinal

Lennox 35, Dell Rapids 0

Sioux Falls Christian 31, West Central 7

Class 11B Semifinal

Sioux Valley 28, Elk Point-Jefferson 14

Winner 36, St Thomas More 0

Class 9AA Semifinal

Hamlin 20, Elkton-Lake Benton 16

Parkston 28, Freeman-Marion-FA 22

Class 9A Semifinal

Howard 40, Warner 13

Wolsey-Wessington 30, Wall 28

Class 9B Semifinal

Faulkton 48, Dell Rapids St Mary 22

Sully Buttes 34, Canistota 28

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

Friday's Scores

The Associated Press

PREP VOLLEYBALL=

Sioux Falls Lincoln def. Rapid City Central, 26-24, 25-21, 23-25, 25-18

Sioux Falls Washington def. Rapid City Stevens, 25-15, 25-23, 25-17

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

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Cluff's 23 lead South Dakota State past Long Beach State 80-79

By The Associated Press undefined

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Oscar Cluff had 23 points in South Dakota State's 80-79 win over Long Beach State on Friday.

Cluff had 14 rebounds for the Jackrabbits (2-0). Joe Saylor shot 8 of 15 from the field, including 1 for 3 from 3-point range, and went 4 for 4 from the line to add 21 points. Owen Larson had 10 points and went 4 of 10 from the field (2 for 4 from 3-point range).

Devin Askew finished with 27 points and eight assists for the Beach (1-1). TJ Wainwright added 23 points and two steals for Long Beach State. Kam Martin had 15 points.

South Dakota State women beat No. 21 Creighton 76-71 to spoil the Bluejays' season opener.

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Brooklyn Meyer scored 17 points, Madison Mathiowetz added 13 and South Dakota State beat No. 21 Creighton 76-71 on Friday night to spoil the Bluejays' season opener.

South Dakota State scored the opening seven points of the game before Creighton rallied to take a 13-12 lead at the end of the first quarter. The Bluejays held onto their lead for the entirety of the second quarter, including a 31-28 advantage at the break.

South Dakota State took the lead for good midway through the third quarter when Meyer scored seven straight points during an 11-0 run that made it 47-39.

Haleigh Timmer scored eight points in South Dakota State's 12-2 run to open the fourth. Molly Mogensen rallied Creighton in the final three minutes by scoring 10 straight Bluejay points. But South Dakota State made 4 of 6 free throws in the final 90 seconds to stay ahead by at least five points.

Timmer finished with 12 points, Mesa Byom had 11 points and nine rebounds, and Paige Meyer scored 10 for South Dakota State (2-0), which is coming off the program's 12th trip to the NCAA Tournament. The Jackrabbits were picked to repeat at the top of the Summit League in the preseason poll, with Brooklyn Meyer named the preseason player of the year.

Lauren Jensen led Creighton (0-1) with 23 points. Mogensen had 13 points and nine rebounds, Kiani Lockett added 12 points and Morgan Maly scored 11.

It was the Jacks' home opener in their newly renovated First Bank & Trust Arena.

A record 13 women will be governors next year after New Hampshire elected Kelly Ayotte

By ISABELLA VOLMERT and SEJAL GOVINDARAO Associated Press

The election of Republican Kelly Ayotte as New Hampshire's governor means 13 women will serve as a state's chief executive next year, breaking the record of 12 set after the 2022 elections.

Governors hold powerful sway in American politics, shaping state policy and often using the experience and profile gained to launch campaigns for higher offices.

"It matters to have women in those roles to normalize the image of women in political leadership and even more specifically in executive leadership, where they're the sole leader, not just a member of a team," said Kelly Dittmar, director of research at the Rutgers Center for American Women and Politics.

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer was floated as a potential Democratic nominee for president after President Biden exited the race. Republican South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem was thought to be in the running for President-elect Donald Trump's vice presidential post.

Ayotte, a former U.S. senator, defeated the Democratic nominee Joyce Craig, a former mayor of Manchester, New Hampshire's largest city.

Still, 18 states have never had a woman in the governor's office.

"This is another side of political leadership where women continue to be underrepresented," Dittmar said. "Thirteen out of 50 is still underrepresentation."

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With two women vying for governor in New Hampshire, a new record for female governors was inevitable. The state has a long history of electing women. As a senator, Ayotte was part of the nation's first all-female congressional delegation. It was also the first state to have a female governor, state Senate president and House speaker at the same time, and the first to have a female majority in its Senate. Ayotte will be the state's third woman to be governor.

"Being a woman isn't really that critical to her political persona," Linda Fowler, professor emerita of government at Dartmouth College, said of Ayotte.

Both Ayotte and Craig said their gender hasn't come up on the campaign trail although reproductive rights often took front and center.

In her campaign, Craig attacked Ayotte's record on abortion, and both candidates released TV ads detailing their own miscarriages. Ayotte said she will veto any bill further restricting abortion in New Hampshire where it is illegal after 24 weeks of pregnancy.

When Ayotte is sworn in, five Republican women will serve as governor at the same time, another new high. The other eight are Democrats.

New Hampshire's was one of the few competitive gubernatorial races among the 11 this year. More inroads or setbacks for women's representation could come in 2026 when 36 states will elect governors.

Most voters tend to cast their ballots based on party loyalty and ideology rather than gender, Dittmar said. However, she noted female candidates often face layers of scrutiny that male counterparts largely avoid, with voters judging such things as a woman's intelligence, appearance and even dating history with a sharper lens.

The small gain for women in governor's offices comes as Vice President Kamala Harris failed in her effort to become the first female president.

"I would not suggest to you that Kamala Harris lost a race because she was a woman, because she was a Black and South Asian woman," Dittmar said. "We would also fail to tell the correct story if we didn't acknowledge the ways in which both gender and race shapes the campaign overall, and also had a direct effect on how Kamala Harris was evaluated by voters, treated by her opponents and even in the media and other spaces."

Executive roles, especially the presidency with its associations like commander in chief, often carry masculine stereotypes that women must work harder to overcome, Dittmar said.

Experts say women confront these perceptions more acutely in executive races, such as for governor and president, than in state legislatures, where women are making historic strides as leaders, filling roles such as speaker and committee chairs.

"Sexism, racism, misogyny, it's never the silver bullet. It's never why one voter acts one way or another," said Erin Vilardi, CEO of Vote Run Lead, a left-leaning group that supports women running for state legislatures. "But we have so much of that built in to how we see a leader."

Biden administration to restrict drilling, renewables in the US West to help struggling bird

By MATTHEW BROWN Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — President Joe Biden's administration on Friday proposed tighter restrictions on oil, solar and wind energy development across more than 6,500 square miles (17,000 square kilometers) of federal land in the U.S. West to protect a declining bird species.

However, it is doubtful the changes would survive under President-elect Donald Trump.

Greater sage grouse — chicken-sized birds known for an elaborate mating ritual— were once found across much of the U.S. West. Their numbers plummeted in recent decades because of energy exploration, wildfires, disease and other pressures.

A 2015 agreement shepherded by the Obama administration kept the birds off the endangered species list, by imposing limits on where and when development could occur across 226,000 square miles (590,000 square kilometers) of remaining grouse habitat spanning 11 states.

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Now, in the closing weeks of the Biden administration, officials with the Interior Department want to make the protections even stronger. Their plan would eliminate loopholes that allowed development in areas considered crucial to the bird's long-term survival. New solar and wind projects would be excluded, and oil and gas exploration could only occur from drilling sites located outside the protected areas.

Trump has pushed to open more public lands to energy development in line with his mantra to "drill baby drill." During his first administration, officials attempted to scale back the Obama-era sage grouse protections, but were blocked in court.

Interior Secretary Deb Haaland said Friday's science-based proposal would boost sage grouse while allowing development on government lands to continue.

"For too long, a false choice has been presented for land management that aims to pit development against conservation," Haaland said in a statement.

Yet the agency's attempt to find a middle ground fell flat with the oil and renewable energy industries, Republicans and even some environmentalists.

A spokesperson for American Clean Power, a renewables industry lobbying group companies, said it had supported an earlier version of the proposal but not the final details released Friday. Spokesperson Phil Sgro said the proposal "unnecessarily restricts the development of wind, solar, battery storage and transmission, undermining the ability to deploy much needed clean energy infrastructure."

Most of the land at issue is in Nevada and California, according to government documents. Affected parcels also are in Wyoming, Oregon, Idaho, Colorado, Montana and the Dakotas.

In Wyoming, Gov. Mark Gordon said the proposal would add new layers of federal regulation and hinder practical solutions for the grouse. U.S. Sen. John Barrasso accused the Biden administration of trying to ram through the changes on its way out the door.

"I look forward to working with the Trump-Vance administration to reverse this reckless decision," said Barrasso, the top Republican on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources committee.

Several major conservation organizations, including the Nature Conservancy, National Wildlife Federation and Natural Resources Defense Council, issued a joint statement in support of the changes.

Other environmentalists said officials had squandered a chance to put in place more meaningful protections that could halt the grouse's slow spiral towards extinction. They noted that loopholes allowing development would remain in place across nearly 50,000 square miles (122,000 square kilometers) of sage grouse habitat.

"It's death by a thousands cuts," said Greta Anderson with Western Watersheds Project, an environmental group involved in previous sage grouse lawsuits. "The Biden administration could have stopped the cutting, and it didn't."

Federal officials predicted minimal economic impacts. They said energy companies already steer clear of sage grouse habitat, where there are limits on when and where work can be done near breeding areas. Those companies can still find opportunities on other public lands, the officials said.

That was disputed by Kathleen Sgamma with the Western Energy Alliance. She said the Biden administration already had limited leasing in sage grouse habitat.

"So they've denied access and then say companies are avoiding them anyway," Sgamma said. "That's disingenuous."

The Interior Department's Bureau of Land Management will accept protests against Friday's proposal until Dec. 9. Final decisions on changes to the agency's land management plans will be made after the protests are resolved.

A related proposal to help sage grouse would block for 20 years new mining projects on more than 15,625 square miles (40,000 square kilometers) in Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah and Wyoming. That proposal was part of the 2015 Obama-era protections. It was canceled under Trump then restored by a court.

An analysis of the mining ban will be published by the end of the year, according to the Interior Department.

Greater sage grouse once numbered in the millions across all or portions of 11 Western states. Populations have dropped 65% since 1986, according to government scientists.

Frustrated Americans await the economic changes they voted for with Trump

By PAUL WISEMAN AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Fed up with high prices and unimpressed with an economy that by just about any measure is a healthy one, Americans demanded change when they voted for president.

They could get it.

President-elect Donald Trump has vowed to topple many of the Biden administration's economic policies. Trump campaigned on promises to impose huge tariffs on foreign goods, slash taxes on individuals and businesses and deport millions of undocumented immigrants working in the United States.

With their votes, tens of millions of Americans expressed their confidence that Trump can restore the low prices and economic stability they recall from his first term — at least until the COVID-19 recession of 2020 paralyzed the economy and then a powerful recovery sent inflation soaring. Inflation has since plummeted and is nearly back to normal. Yet Americans are frustrated over still-high prices.

"His track record proved to be, on balance, positive, and people look back now and think: 'Oh, OK. Let's try that again,'" said Douglas Holtz-Eakin, a former White House economic adviser, director of the Congressional Budget Office and now president of the conservative American Action Forum think tank.

Since Election Day, the Dow Jones Industrial Average has skyrocketed more than 1,700 points, largely on expectations that tax cuts and a broad loosening of regulations will accelerate economic growth and swell corporate profits.

Maybe they will. Yet many economists warn that Trump's plans are likely to worsen the inflation he's vowed to eradicate, drive up the federal debt and eventually slow growth.

Trump policies could boost inflation

The Peterson Institute for International Economics, a leading think tank, has estimated that Trump's policies would slash the U.S. gross domestic product — the total output of goods and services — by between \$1.5 trillion and \$6.4 trillion through 2028. Peterson also estimated that Trump's proposals would drive prices sharply higher within two years: Inflation, which would otherwise come in at 1.9% in 2026, would instead jump to between 6% and 9.3% if Trump's policies were enacted in full.

Last month, 23 Nobel-winning economists signed a letter warning that a Trump administration "will lead to higher prices, larger deficits, and greater inequality."

"Among the most important determinants of economic success," they wrote, "are the rule of law and economic and political certainty, and Trump threatens all of these."

Trump is inheriting an economy that, despite frustratingly high prices, looks fundamentally strong. Growth came in at a healthy 2.8% annual rate from July through September. Unemployment is 4.1% — quite low by historic standards.

Among wealthy countries, only Spain will experience faster growth this year, according to the International Monetary Fund's forecast. The United States is the economic "envy of the world," the Economist magazine recently declared.

The Federal Reserve is so confident that U.S. inflation is slowing toward its 2% target that it cut its benchmark rate in September and again this week.

Americans are deeply unhappy with prices

Consumers, though, still bear the scars of the inflationary surge. Prices on average are still 19% higher than they were before inflation began to accelerate in 2021. Grocery bills and rent hikes are still causing hardships, especially for lower-income households. Though inflation-adjusted hourly wages have risen for more than two years, they're still below where they were before President Joe Biden took office.

Voters took their frustration to the polls. According to AP VoteCast, a sweeping survey of more than

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120,000 voters nationwide, 3 in 10 voters said their family was “falling behind” financially, up from 2 in 10 in 2020. About 9 in 10 voters were at least somewhat worried about the cost of groceries, 8 in 10 about the cost of healthcare, housing or gasoline.

“I don’t think it’s either deep or complicated,” Holtz-Eakin said. “The real problem is the Biden-Harris team made people worse off, and they were very angry about it, and we saw the result.”

The irony is that mainstream economists fear Trump’s remedies will make price levels worse, not better. Tariffs are a tax on consumers

The centerpiece of Trump’s economic agenda is taxing imports. It’s an approach that he asserts will shrink America’s trade deficits and force other countries to grant concessions to the United States. In his first term, he increased tariffs on Chinese goods, and he’s now promised much more of the same: Trump wants to raise tariffs on Chinese goods to 60% and impose a “universal” tax of 10% or 20% on all other imports.

Trump insists that other countries pay tariffs. In fact, American companies pay them — and then typically pass along their higher costs to their customers via higher prices. Which is why taxing imports is normally inflationary. Worse, other countries usually retaliate with tariffs on American goods, thereby hurting U.S. exporters.

Kimberly Clausing and Mary Lovely of the Peterson Institute have calculated that Trump’s proposed 60% tax on Chinese imports and his high-end 20% tariff on everything else would impose an after-tax loss on a typical American household of \$2,600 annually.

The economic damage would likely spread globally. Researchers at Capital Economics have calculated that a 10% U.S. tariff would hurt Mexico hardest. Germany and China would also suffer. All of that depends, of course, on whether he actually does what he said during the campaign.

Deportations would rattle the US job market

Trump has threatened to deport millions of undocumented immigrants, potentially undermining one of the factors that allowed the United States to tame inflation without falling into recession.

The Congressional Budget Office reported that net immigration — arrivals minus departures — reached 3.3 million in 2023. Employers needed the new arrivals. After the economy rebounded from the pandemic recession, companies struggled to hire enough workers, especially because so many native-born baby boomers were retiring.

Immigrants filled the gap. Over the past four years, 73% of those who entered the labor force were foreign born.

Economists Wendy Edelberg and Tara Watson of the Brookings Institution’s Hamilton Project found that by raising the supply of workers, the influx of immigrants allowed the United States to generate jobs without overheating and accelerating inflation.

The Peterson Institute calculates that the deportation of all 8.3 million immigrants believed to be working illegally in the United States would slash U.S. GDP by \$5.1 trillion and raise inflation by 9.1 percentage points by 2028

Big tax cuts could swell the federal deficit

Trump has proposed extending 2017 tax cuts for individuals that were set to expire after 2025 and restoring tax breaks for businesses that were being reduced. He’s also called for ending taxes on Social Security benefits, overtime pay and tips as well as further reducing the corporate income tax rate for U.S. manufacturers.

The University of Pennsylvania’s Penn Wharton Budget Model estimates that Trump’s tax policies would increase budget deficits by \$5.8 trillion over 10 years. Even if the tax cuts generated enough growth to recoup some of the lost tax revenue, Penn Wharton calculated, deficits would still increase by more than \$4.1 trillion from 2025 through 2034.

The federal budget is already out of balance. An aging population has required increased spending on Social Security and Medicare. And past tax cuts have shrunk government revenue.

Holtz-Eakin said he worries that Trump has little appetite for taking the steps — cuts to Social Security and Medicare, tax increases or some combination — needed to bring the federal budget meaningfully

closer to balance.

"It's not going to happen," Holtz-Eakin said.

Hungry Palestinians in north Gaza search for food, sealed off from aid for a month by Israeli siege

By SAMY MAGDY and JULIA FRANKEL Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — With virtually no food allowed into the northernmost part of Gaza for the past month, tens of thousands of Palestinians under Israeli siege are rationing their last lentils and flour to survive. As bombardment pounds around them, some say they risk their lives by venturing out in search of cans of food in the rubble of destroyed homes.

Thousands have staggered out of the area, hungry and thin, into Gaza City, where they find the situation little better. One hospital reports seeing thousands of children suffering from malnutrition. A nutritionist said she treated a pregnant woman wasting away at just 40 kilograms (88 pounds).

"We are being starved to force us to leave our homes," said Mohammed Arqouq, whose family of eight is determined to stay in the north, weathering Israel's siege. "We will die here in our homes."

Medical workers warn that hunger is spiraling to dire proportions under a monthlong siege on north Gaza by the Israeli military, which has been waging a fierce campaign since the beginning of October, saying it's rooting out militants. Hamas, who are still holding hostages inside Gaza, have regrouped in the area and have been carrying out hit-and-run attacks from tunnels and bombed-out buildings. The military has severed the area with checkpoints, ordering residents to leave. Many Palestinians fear Israel aims to depopulate the north long term.

On Friday, experts from a panel that monitors food security said famine is imminent in the north or may already be happening. The growing desperation comes as the deadline approaches next week for a 30-day ultimatum the Biden administration gave Israel: raise the level of humanitarian assistance allowed into Gaza or risk possible restrictions on U.S. military funding.

The U.S. says Israel must allow a minimum of 350 trucks a day carrying food and other supplies. Israel has fallen far short. In October, 57 trucks a day entered Gaza on average, according to figures from Israel's military agency overseeing aid entry, known as COGAT. In the first week of November, the average was 81 a day.

The U.N. puts the number even lower — 37 trucks daily since the beginning of October. It says Israeli military operations and general lawlessness often prevent it from collecting supplies, leaving hundreds of truckloads stranded at the border.

U.S. State Department spokesman Matthew Miller said Israel had made some progress by announcing the opening of a new crossing into central Gaza and approving new delivery routes.

But he said Israel must do more. "It's not just sufficient to open new roads if more humanitarian assistance isn't going through those roads," he said.

A desperate daily struggle

Israeli forces have been hammering the towns of Beit Lahiya, Beit Hanoun and Jabaliya refugee camp. Witnesses report intense fighting between troops and militants.

A trickle of food has reached Gaza City, but as of Thursday, nothing entered the towns farther north for 30 days, even as an estimated 70,000 people remain there, said Louise Wateridge, spokesperson for the U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees, UNRWA, speaking from Gaza City.

The government acknowledged in late October that it hadn't allowed aid into Jabaliya because of military "operational constraints" in response to a petition by Israeli human rights groups. On Saturday, COGAT said it allowed 11 trucks of food and supplies into Beit Hanoun and Jabaliya. But Alia Zaki, a spokeswoman for the WFP, said Israeli troops at a checkpoint forced the convoy to unload the food before it could reach shelters in Beit Hanoun. It was not clear what then happened to the supplies.

Palestinians in the north described to The Associated Press a desperate daily struggle to find food, water and safety, as strikes level buildings, sometimes killing whole families.

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Arqouq said he goes out at night to search bombed-out buildings: "Sometimes you find a half-empty package of flour, canned food and lentils."

His family relies on help from others sheltering at a Jabaliya school, he said — but their food, too, is running low.

"We are like dogs and cats searching for their food in the rubble," said Um Saber, a widow.

She said she and her six children had to flee a school-turned-shelter in Beit Lahiya when Israel struck it. Now they live in her father-in-law's home, stretching meager supplies of lentils and pasta with 40 others, mostly women and children.

Ahmed Abu Awda, a 28-year-old father of three living with 25 relatives in a Jabaliya house, said they have a daily meal of lentils with bread, rationing to ensure children eat.

"Sometimes we don't eat at all," he said.

Lubna, a 38-year-old mother of five, left food behind when fleeing as strikes and drone fire pummeled the street in Jabaliya.

"We got out by a miracle," she said from Beit Lahiya, where they're staying. She spoke on condition her family name not be used for fear of her safety.

Her husband scavenged flour from destroyed homes after Israeli forces withdrew around nearby Kamal Adwan hospital, she said. It's moldy, she said, so they sift it first. Her young daughter, Selina, is visibly gaunt and bony, Lubna said.

Surrender or starve

The offensive has raised fears among Palestinians that Israel seeks to empty northern Gaza and hold it long term under a surrender-or-starve plan proposed by former generals. The Israeli military has denied receiving such orders, but the government hasn't denied the plan outright. Witnesses report Israeli troops going building-to-building, forcing people to leave toward Gaza City.

On Thursday, the Israeli military ordered new evacuations from several Gaza City neighborhoods, raising the possibility of a ground assault there. The U.N. said some 14,000 displaced Palestinians were sheltering there.

Food and supplies are stretched for the several hundred thousand people in Gaza City, too. Much of the city has been flattened by months of Israeli bombardment and shelling.

Dr. Rana Soboh, a nutrition specialist at Gaza City's Patient Friend Benevolent Hospital, said she sees some 350 cases of moderate to severe acute malnutrition daily, most from the north but also Gaza City.

"The bone of their chest is showing, the eyes are protruding," she said, and many have trouble concentrating. "You repeat something a number of times, so they can understand what we are saying."

She cited a 32-year-old woman shedding weight in her third month of pregnancy — when they put her on the scale, she weighed only 40 kilograms (88 pounds).

"We are suffering, facing the ghost of famine that is hovering over Gaza," Soboh said.

A problem long in the making

Even before the siege in the north, the Patient Friend hospital saw a flood of children suffering from malnutrition — more than 4,780 in September compared with 1,100 in July, said Dr Ahmad Eskiek, who oversees hospital operations.

Soboh said staff get calls from Beit Lahiya and Jabaliya pleading for help: "What can we do? We have nothing."

She had worked at Kamal Adwan Hospital in the north but fled with her family to Gaza City. Now they stay with 22 people in her uncle's two-bedroom apartment. Thursday, she had had a morsel of bread for breakfast and later a meal of yellow lentils.

As winter rains near, new arrivals set up tents wherever they can. Some 1,500 people are in a U.N. school already heavily damaged in strikes that "could collapse at any moment," UNRWA spokesperson Wateridge said.

With toilets destroyed, people try to set aside a corner of a classroom to use, leaving waste "streaming down the walls of the school," she said.

Others in Gaza City move into the rubble of buildings, draping tarps between layers of collapsed con-

crete, she said.

"It's like the carcass of a city," she said.

Israeli strikes in Gaza kill at least 13, officials say, as first aid in weeks reaches the north

By WAFAA SHURAFI and SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — Two separate Israeli strikes killed at least 13 people, including women and children, in Gaza on Saturday, Palestinian medical officials said, as Israel announced the first delivery of aid in weeks to war-battered northern Gaza.

One of the strikes hit a school-turned-shelter in Gaza City's eastern Tufah neighborhood, killing at least six people, Gaza's Health Ministry said. Two local journalists, a pregnant woman and a child were among the dead, the ministry said. The Israeli army said the strike targeted a militant belonging to the Palestinian Islamic Jihad group, offering no evidence or further detail.

Another seven people were killed when an Israeli strike hit a tent in the southern city of Khan Younis where displaced people were sheltering, according to Nasser Hospital. It said the dead included two women and a child. The Israeli army did not immediately respond to a request for comment about the blast.

COGAT, the Israeli military body in charge of humanitarian aid to Gaza, said Saturday that 11 aid trucks containing food, water and medical equipment reached the far north of the enclave on Thursday, including the urban refugee camp at Jabaliya. It is the first time any aid has reached the far north of the enclave since Israel began a fresh military campaign there last month.

But not all the aid reached the agreed drop-off points, according to a spokesperson for the U.N. World Food Program, which was involved in the delivery process. In Jabaliya, Israeli troops stopped one of the convoys bound for nearby Beit Lahiya and ordered the supplies to be offloaded, said Alia Zaki.

The announcement comes days ahead of a U.S. deadline demanding that Israel improve aid deliveries across Gaza. Experts have said there is a strong likelihood that famine is imminent in parts of northern Gaza.

Israel's new offensive has focused on Jabaliya, a densely populated refugee camp where Israel says Hamas had regrouped. Other areas affected by the new campaign include Beit Lahiya and Beit Hanoun, situated just north of Gaza City.

The U.N. estimates that tens of thousands of people remain in the area. Earlier this week, the Gaza Health Ministry said that there were no ambulances or emergency crews currently operating north of Gaza City.

Since the outbreak of the Israel-Hamas war, the Israeli army has struck several schools and tent camps, packed with tens of thousands of Palestinians driven from their homes by Israeli offensives and evacuation orders. The conflict has left 90% of Palestinians in Gaza displaced, according to U.N. figures.

The military has continually accused Hamas of operating from within civilian infrastructure in Gaza, including schools, U.N. facilities and hospitals. The contesting narratives over the use of schools and hospitals go to the heart of 13 month conflict.

In July, Israeli airstrikes hit a girls' school in Gaza's central city of Deir al-Balah, killing at least 30 people sheltering inside. Israel's military said it targeted a Hamas command center used to direct attacks against its troops and store "large quantities of weapons."

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

A powerful suicide bombing at a rail station in southwestern Pakistan kills at least 24

By ABDUL SATTAR Associated Press

QUETTA, Pakistan (AP) — A suicide bomber blew himself up at a train station in restive southwestern Pakistan on Saturday, killing at least 24 people, including soldiers and railway staff, and wounding about 50 others, some critically, officials said.

The attack happened when nearly 100 passengers were waiting for a train to travel to the garrison city of Rawalpindi from Quetta, the capital of Balochistan province, according to Hamza Shafqaat, a senior government administrator.

TV footage showed the steel structure of the platform's roof blown apart and a destroyed tea stall. Luggage was strewn everywhere.

Police said about a dozen soldiers and six railway employees were among the dead at the station, where a walk-through gate has been installed to check whether anyone is carrying explosives but there are multiple other entrances into the station without such security.

When asked about security, Shafqaat told reporters that "it is usually very difficult to stop such suicide attacks."

Shahhid Nawaz, who is the in-charge of security at Quetta's train station, insisted that there was no breach of security, as the attacker was disguised as a passenger and he blew himself up among people.

A separatist group, the Balochistan Liberation Army, claimed the attack in a statement, saying a suicide bomber targeted troops present at the railway station. The outlawed BLA has long waged an insurgency seeking independence from Islamabad.

A senior superintendent of police operations, Muhammad Baloch, said separatists frequently attacked soft targets.

"When their people are arrested, they also attack in retaliation. We all have to fight this war. We are resilient. Our teams are here and trying to save as many lives as we can."

Police said some of the critically wounded passengers had died in the hospital, raising the death toll.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif denounced the bombing in a statement, saying those who orchestrated the attack "will pay a very heavy price for it," adding that security forces were determined to eliminate "the menace of terrorism."

Afghanistan's Foreign Ministry also condemned the bombing and expressed its condolences to the families of the victims, as did the Russian Embassy in Islamabad.

Saturday's assault came a little over a week after a powerful bomb attached to a motorcycle exploded near a vehicle carrying police officers assigned to protect polio workers in the province, killing nine people, including five children who were nearby.

In August, the BLA carried out multiple coordinated attacks on passengers buses, police and security forces across Balochistan, killing more than 50 people, mostly civilians.

Oil- and mineral-rich Balochistan is Pakistan's largest but also least populated province. It is a hub for the country's ethnic Baloch minority whose members say they face discrimination and exploitation by the central government. Along with separatist groups, Islamic militants also operate in the province.

The BLA mostly targets security forces and foreigners, especially Chinese nationals who are in Pakistan as part of Beijing's multibillion-dollar Belt and Road Initiative, which is working on major infrastructure projects. The group often demands the halt of all Chinese-funded projects and for workers to leave Pakistan to avoid further attacks.

Last month, the BLA claimed responsibility for a suicide bombing that targeted a convoy with Chinese nationals outside Karachi airport, killing two. Beijing has asked Pakistan to ensure the safety of its citizens working in Balochistan and other parts of the country.

Japanese ace Roki Sasaki to become available to MLB teams this offseason

CHIBA, Japan (AP) — Japanese ace Roki Sasaki will be available to Major League Baseball teams this offseason.

The Chiba Lotte Marines announced Saturday they have chosen to start the process of moving the pitcher to a big league club in North America via the posting system.

Sasaki, who turned 23 this month, is expected to become one of the most sought-after pitchers on the open market. The right-hander went 10-5 with a 2.35 ERA in 18 games this year, striking out 129 hitters in 111 innings.

Because he is younger than 25, Sasaki will be classified as an international amateur free agent subject to bonus pool limits, according to MLB rules. That means his first contract would be a minor league deal no larger than seven figures.

The Marines will receive a percentage fee for posting him, with the amount determined by the size of his contract.

It's unclear yet when Sasaki will officially be posted, starting the 45-day clock for him to sign with a major league club.

Sasaki helped Japan win the 2023 World Baseball Classic. His fastball has been clocked at 102.5 mph, and he has a 29-15 career record with a 2.10 ERA over four injury-shortened seasons with the Marines. He pitched a perfect game against the Orix Buffaloes in April 2022 — racking up 13 straight strikeouts and finishing with 19.

"Since I joined the team, the team has been listening to my thoughts about my future MLB challenge, and I am very grateful to the team for officially allowing me to post," Sasaki said in a statement posted by the Marines on X, the social media site formerly known as Twitter.

"There were many things that did not go well during my five years with the Marines, but I was able to get to this point by concentrating only on baseball, with the support of my teammates, staff, front office, and fans. I will do my best to work my way up from my minor contract to become the best player in the world, so that I will have no regrets in my one and only baseball career and live up to the expectations of everyone who has supported me."

Azerbaijan is the host of the UN's climate conference, shining a spotlight on the petrostate

By EMMA BURROWS Associated Press

The spotlight is on Azerbaijan as the small petrostate in the South Caucasus hosts the U.N.'s biggest climate conference.

Diplomats from across the world will descend on the capital Baku for the annual climate summit, known as COP29, to discuss how to avoid increasing threats from climate change in a place that was one of the birthplaces of the oil industry.

It was in Baku where the world's first oil fields were developed in 1846 and where Azerbaijan led the world in oil production in 1899.

Sandwiched between Iran to the south and Russia to the north, Azerbaijan is on the Caspian Sea and was part of the Soviet Union from 1922 to 1991. Nearly all of Azerbaijan's exports are oil and gas, two of the world's leading sources of planet-warming carbon dioxide emissions. President Ilham Aliyev described them in April as a "gift of the gods."

Aliyev is Azerbaijan's authoritarian leader. He is the son of the former president and has been in power for more than two decades, overseeing a crackdown on freedom of speech and civil society. The Associated Press was not granted permission by Azerbaijan's authorities to report in the country ahead of the conference.

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Aliyev has said it is a "big honor" for Azerbaijan to host the conference. He has also said he wants his country to use more renewable energy at home so that it can export more oil and gas abroad.

In Baku, the signs of fossil fuel addiction are everywhere

In metal cages next to Azerbaijan's Aquatic Palace sporting venue are pumpjacks — a sign says they extract just over 2 tons of oil a day. Others pump away elsewhere, sucking up oil in view of one of Baku's religious and tourist sites, the Bibi Heybat mosque that was rebuilt in the 1990s after it was destroyed by the Bolsheviks almost 80 years ago.

Aliyev said he considers it "a sign of respect" from the international community that Azerbaijan is hosting COP and a recognition of what Azerbaijan is doing around green energy.

Some of those plans involve developing hydropower, solar and wind projects in Karabakh, a region populated by ethnic Armenians who fled to Armenia after a lightning military offensive by Azerbaijan in September 2023.

Aliyev said in a speech in March that his country is in the "active phase of green transition" but added that "no one can ignore the fact that without fossil fuel, the world cannot develop, at least in the foreseeable future."

Mukhtar Babayev, Azerbaijan's environment minister and former vice president at the state energy company Socar, will serve as conference president of the talks. Babayev said in April he wants to show how this "oil and gas country of the past" can show the world a green path with its efforts to ramp up renewable energy, especially wind power.

He said he believes his country's COP summit must build on last year's agreement to transition away from fossil fuels and pave the way for countries to come together in 2025 on beefed-up and financed plans to clamp down on heat-trapping gases.

But plenty of people doubt those commitments.

Multiple organizations say Azerbaijan's commitment to the green energy transition amounts to greenwashing — giving the impression that the country is doing more than it is to combat climate change.

Claims of greenwashing and civil society crackdowns abound

While many countries including the United States and the United Arab Emirates — last year's host — grapple with the challenges of transitioning away from fossil fuels, Azerbaijan has historically not been proactive in that regard, said Kate Watters, executive director at Crude Accountability, which monitors environmental issues in the Caspian Sea region.

Environmental monitoring in Azerbaijan is dangerous, she said, referencing a crackdown on civil society that has effectively snuffed out any real opposition and seen people detained.

There's no effective mechanism in Azerbaijan for locals to ring alarm bells about exposure to pollutants from the oil and gas industry, Watters said. She referenced health issues such as rashes and sickness that residents may experience living near the Sangachal oil and gas terminal just outside Baku but indicated that their concerns are not heard.

Azerbaijani government officials did not respond to numerous requests from The Associated Press for comment.

Babayev has pointed to Azerbaijan experiencing higher-than-normal temperatures and said he wants states to come together to improve plans to stop the emission of gases that contribute to global warming. But his country has been criticized for failing to clamp down on exactly that.

Analysis from Global Witness, a nonprofit organization, found the volume of gas flared at oil and gas facilities in Azerbaijan increased by 10.5% since 2018.

Gas flaring is a major source of soot, carbon dioxide and methane emissions that contribute to global warming. It happens when energy companies burn off excess gas instead of capturing it when it's released while drilling for oil. It's been blamed by human rights groups and investigative journalists for some of Azerbaijanis' health issues, including around the Sangachal terminal.

"We're heading into a COP where even the host isn't bothering to do the basic functions of climate diplomacy," Louis Wilson, head of fossil fuels investigations at Global Witness, told AP.

The Paris climate agreement requires countries to submit plans to combat climate change, with Azerbaijan's

latest update coming in 2023. A group of climate scientists rated it “critically insufficient” in September. It’s expected the country will submit an updated plan this year.

Amid war, Europe turns to Azerbaijan for gas

Azerbaijan owns one of the largest gas fields in the world, Shah Deniz, and BP announced in April the start of oil production from a new offshore platform also in the Caspian Sea.

Baku is planning to hike its fossil fuel production over the next decade and its natural resources have transformed it into a geopolitical player.

Before Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022, Moscow supplied some of 40% of Europe’s natural gas through four pipelines but most of that was later cut off.

That meant opportunity for Azerbaijan, with the EU striking a deal later that year to double its imports of Azeri gas to 20 billion cubic meters a year by 2027. But there are questions as to whether Azerbaijan can meet that demand and disagreements over the terms of the deal.

“The more renewable sources we have, the more natural gas we will save,” Aliyev said in March, noting the fuel saved will be “an additional contribution to the Southern Gas Corridor,” which takes gas from the Caspian Sea to Europe.

Azerbaijani officials have argued that it is unfair to criticize Baku for producing more fossil fuels when there is a demand for them across Europe as national governments endeavor to keep fuel prices low for citizens.

Azerbaijan’s hosting of COP will turn the spotlight on the nation which makes most of its money from selling fossil fuels but it may also highlight Europe’s — and the world’s — continuing dependence on them.

For many climate experts, the question for Azerbaijan is whether the country that saw the beginnings of the fossil fuel industry is serious about hosting negotiations focused on moving the world toward green energy.

Bribery case adds to problems in Mississippi city with water woes and policing disputes

By EMILY WAGSTER PETTUS Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — Bribery and conspiracy charges against the mayor are the latest shock to Mississippi’s capital, where a federally appointed official is running the water system after it nearly collapsed and state police are patrolling parts of the majority-Black city because of white legislators’ concerns about crime.

Jackson Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba and two other Democratic elected officials — Hinds County District Attorney Jody Owens and Jackson City Council member Aaron B. Banks — pleaded not guilty to federal charges Thursday. They will remain free while awaiting trial in a case tied to the proposed development of a long-vacant downtown property.

“I am not guilty, and so I will not proceed as a guilty man,” said the mayor, who is seeking a third term in 2025.

Lumumba is Black and has described himself as a “radical” who is “uncomfortable with oppressive conditions.” Both he and his sister, Rukia Lumumba, say they believe he is facing a political prosecution, even with the Justice Department still being led by a Democratic administration.

“First Trump wins, now they are trying to indict my brother,” Rukia Lumumba posted on Facebook. “As Spike Lee says, WAKE UP! They come for the best of us because we are threatening their power.”

Distrust of government runs deep in Jackson, from people who say the state has blocked efforts to help the city and those who say the city has stumbled in providing basic services.

City Council member Kenneth Stokes, a fellow Democrat and frequent critic of the mayor, said the indictments sharpen the skepticism.

“You’re drinking dirty water. You can’t get your streets paved. You already lost trust,” Stokes, who is also Black, told media outlets.

“Do not say you are running for office to help people when you’re trying to help yourself,” Stokes said.

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"If you're going to help people, help people."

Jackson's population peaked at about 203,000 in 1980, a decade after the integration of public schools, and has since fallen to around 143,700. More than 80% of residents are Black, the highest percentage of any major U.S. city, and about 25% live in poverty.

The city struggled for years with water quality problems and understaffing at its two treatment plants.

A cold snap in early 2021 froze some treatment equipment and left many people with low pressure or no running water at all. For weeks, thousands of people collected water in buckets from distribution sites so they could flush toilets and bathe, and the National Guard helped distribute drinking water.

Tens of thousands had little or no water for weeks in August and September 2022 after heavy rains exacerbated problems at one of the plants. The city had already been under a boil-water notice for a month because the state Health Department found cloudy water that could cause digestive problems. The federal government put an independent administrator in charge of the system in late 2022, over objections from the mayor and his political allies.

A conflict over law enforcement developed in 2023, when the majority-white and Republican-controlled Legislature voted to expand the territory of the Capitol Police, a division of the state Department of Public Safety. State officers previously patrolled around government buildings in downtown Jackson and now do so in a significantly bigger area.

People who protested against the expansion said it would give white state officials disproportionate power in Jackson. Early this year Republican Gov. Tate Reeves and Mayor Lumumba announced "Operation Unified," a federal, state and local effort to fight violent crime the city.

Indictments were filed against the mayor, Owens and Banks after two people working for the FBI posed as real estate developers wanting to build a hotel near the downtown convention center and provided payments, including \$50,000 for the mayor's reelection campaign, according to court documents.

Two others were previously caught up in the bribery investigation.

City Council member Angelique Lee, a Democrat, resigned in August and pleaded guilty to federal bribery charges. Her sentencing is scheduled for Wednesday.

Sherik Marve Smith — an insurance broker and a relative of Owens, according to court documents — waived indictment and pleaded guilty to a federal bribery charge in the case on Oct. 17. He agreed to forfeit \$20,000, and his sentencing is set for Feb. 19.

In May, FBI agents raided Owens' office and a downtown cigar bar he owns. Among the items found in the office was a lockbox made to look like a book labeled as the U.S. Constitution; inside was about \$20,000 in cash, with about \$9,900 of it with serial numbers confirming it was paid by the purported developers to Owens, according to the indictment.

Owens boasted to the purported developers about having influence over Jackson officials, saying he had "information on all the city councilmen" and could get votes approved, according to the indictment. It also said Owens told the purported developers that Mississippi politicians live off campaign contributions, that he knew how to "clean" outside money by putting it in an in-state bank and that he didn't care about the source of the money.

Owens "facilitated over \$80,000 in bribe payments" to Lumumba, Banks and Lee in exchange for their agreement to ensure approval of the multimillion-dollar downtown development, according to the indictment.

Outside the courthouse Thursday, Banks declined to comment. Owens called the FBI investigation flawed, adding: "We think the truth has to come out, that cherry-picked statements of drunken, locker-room banter is not a crime."

Democratic US Sen. Jacky Rosen is reelected in Nevada, securing battleground seat

By NICHOLAS RICCARDI and RIO YAMAT Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Nevada Democratic Sen. Jacky Rosen has won reelection, beating Republican Sam Brown in a tight but unusually quiet race for the battleground state.

The first-term senator had campaigned on abortion rights and positioned herself as a nonideological politician, a formula that also worked for the state's senior senator, Democrat Catherine Cortez Masto, in her own reelection bid two years ago.

"Thank you, Nevada! I'm honored and grateful to continue serving as your United States Senator," Rosen said Friday on the social platform X.

Brown, a retired Army captain who moved to Nevada from Texas in 2018 and has never held elected office, unsuccessfully tried to ride President-elect Donald Trump's strong showing in the working-class state. Trump won Nevada on Friday.

The Associated Press left phone and emailed messages seeking comment Friday from Brown's campaign. Just before Rosen won, Brown said on X that it was unacceptable that votes were still being counted in Nevada days after the election.

"We deserve to know election results within hours, not a week later," he said.

Brown had Trump's support in the Republican primary and won easily, but he was significantly outspent during the campaign, leaving Rosen to dominate the airwaves for months.

Rosen, a former Las Vegas-area synagogue president and computer programmer, ran ads touting herself as an independent who doesn't listen to "party leaders."

Analysts note that Nevada has a history of backing no-nonsense senators who deliver funding from Washington.

Rosen also spotlighted her work on expanding broadband internet access and helping to connect Las Vegas with Southern California via light rail.

And she hammered Brown for his opposition to abortion rights, saying he would support a national abortion ban despite Brown's statements that he respects Nevada voters' choice decades ago to legalize abortions.

A ballot measure this year that would enshrine abortion rights in the state constitution passed. Voters must again approve it in 2026 in order to amend the constitution.

The Senate contest drew relatively little national interest for most of the campaign, a striking contrast with the presidential race as both Trump and Vice President Kamala Harris targeted the state and its six electoral votes. Conservative money flowed in during the final days as the GOP posted a strong showing in early period, but Brown was unable to fully fight back.

Brown, who was awarded a Purple Heart for his service in Afghanistan, was grievously wounded by an improvised explosive device there in 2008 and endured 30 surgeries as he recuperated. In campaign ads, he repeatedly mentioned that his face remains heavily scarred from the attack.

He is also the founder of a medical company that serves veterans.

Brown previously made an unsuccessful bid in 2022 for the Republican nomination to face Cortez Masto.

All four of Nevada's U.S. House incumbents — three Democrats and one Republican — also won reelection this year.

Justice Department brings criminal charges in Iranian murder-for-hire plan targeting Donald Trump

By ERIC TUCKER and LARRY NEUMEISTER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Justice Department on Friday disclosed an Iranian murder-for-hire plot to kill Donald Trump, charging a man who said he had been tasked by a government official before this week's election with planning the assassination of the Republican president-elect.

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Investigators were told of the plan to kill Trump by Farhad Shakeri, an accused Iranian government asset who spent time in American prisons for robbery and who authorities say maintains a network of criminal associates enlisted by Tehran for surveillance and murder-for-hire plots.

Shakeri told the FBI that a contact in Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard instructed him this past September to set aside other work he was doing and assemble a plan within seven days to surveil and ultimately kill Trump, according to a criminal complaint unsealed in federal court in Manhattan.

The official was quoted by Shakeri as saying that "We have already spent a lot of money" and that "money's not an issue." Shakeri told investigators the official told him that if he could not put together a plan within the seven-day timeframe, then the plot would be paused until after the election because the official assumed Trump would lose and that it would be easier to kill him then, the complaint said.

Shakeri is at large and remains in Iran. Two other men were arrested on charges that Shakeri recruited them to follow and kill prominent Iranian-American journalist Masih Alinejad, who has endured multiple Iranian murder-for-hire plots foiled by law enforcement.

"I'm very shocked," said Alinejad, speaking by telephone to The Associated Press from Berlin, where she was about to attend a ceremony to mark the anniversary of the tearing down of the wall. "This is the third attempt against me and that's shocking."

In a post on the social media platform X, she said: "I came to America to practice my First Amendment right to freedom of speech — I don't want to die. I want to fight against tyranny, and I deserve to be safe. Thank you to law enforcement for protecting me, but I urge the U.S. government to protect the national security of America."

Lawyers for the two other defendants, identified as Jonathan Loadholt and Carlisle Rivera, did not immediately return messages seeking comment.

In Tehran, Esmail Baghaei, an Iranian foreign ministry spokesman, rejected the report and called it a plot by Israel-linked circles to make Iran-U.S. relation more complicated, the official IRNA news agency reported.

Similar accusations in the past were rejected by Iran as their "erroneousness" were proved, he said.

"Repeat of the accusation in the current time span is a disgusting plot by the Zionist and anti-Iran circles that has aimed at making US-Iran problems more complicated," Baghaei said.

Shakeri, an Afghan national who immigrated to the U.S. as a child but later was deported after spending 14 years in prison for robbery, also told investigators that he was tasked by his Revolutionary Guard contact with plotting the killings of two Jewish-Americans living in New York and Israeli tourists in Sri Lanka. Officials say he overlapped with Rivera while in prison as well as an unidentified co-conspirator.

The criminal complaint says Shakeri disclosed some of the details of the alleged plots in a series of recorded telephone interviews with FBI agents while in Iran. The stated reason for his cooperation, he told investigators, was to try to get a reduced prison sentence for an associate behind bars in the U.S.

According to the complaint, though officials determined that some of the information he provided was false, his statements regarding a plot to kill Trump and Iran's willingness to pay large sums of money were determined to be accurate.

The plot, announced by the Justice Department just days after Trump's defeat of Democrat Kamala Harris, is part of what federal officials have described as ongoing efforts by Iran to target U.S. government officials, including Trump, on U.S. soil. Last summer, for instance, the Justice Department charged a Pakistani man with ties to Iran in a murder-for-hire plot targeting American officials.

"There are few actors in the world that pose as grave a threat to the national security of the United States as does Iran," Attorney General Merrick Garland said in a statement Friday. FBI Director Christopher Wray said the case shows Iran's "continued brazen attempts to target U.S. citizens," including Trump, "other government leaders and dissidents who criticize the regime in Tehran."

Iranian operatives also conducted a hack-and-leak operation of emails belonging to Trump campaign associates in what officials have assessed was an effort to interfere in the presidential election and harm Trump's campaign.

Intelligence officials have said Iran opposed Trump's reelection, seeing him as more likely to increase

tension between Washington and Tehran. Trump's administration ended a nuclear deal with Iran, reimposed sanctions and ordered the killing of Iranian Gen. Qassem Soleimani, an act that prompted Iran's leaders to vow revenge.

Trump spokesman Steven Cheung said the president-elect was aware of the assassination plot and nothing will deter him "from returning to the White House and restoring peace around the world."

100-year-old Royal Air Force veteran will join UK memorial service for the first time

By DANICA KIRKA Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Michael Woods has visited his wife, Mary, every day since she moved into a nursing home two years ago.

But on Sunday, the 100-year-old Royal Air Force veteran will skip the daily get-together so he can fulfill another duty — honoring the men he served with during World War II.

For the first time since he left the RAF in 1947, Woods will take part in Britain's national Remembrance Day service, joining thousands of veterans as they march past the Cenotaph war memorial in central London to honor those who died during the world wars and all the conflicts that followed.

"It's a great privilege for me to do this," said Woods, a mechanic who kept Lancaster bombers flying during the war. "And I suppose I'll never do it again."

The annual ceremony is a solemn event marked every year when the king and envoys from the Commonwealth nations that fought alongside Britain in the two world wars lay wreaths at the Cenotaph. It culminates when up to 10,000 veterans, many with medals gleaming on their chests and regimental berets on their heads, parade past the memorial.

Until now, Woods has watched on television from his home in Dunstable, 30 miles (50 kilometers) away. Mary always watched with him.

Woods had a lot on his mind before. For many years, he was busy with his family: two daughters, a son, eight grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. And, more recently, he was looking after Mary, his wife of 68 years.

But there was something else holding him back as well. He didn't feel he deserved the honor, as he was "just" a mechanic working on the 12-cylinder Rolls-Royce Merlin engines that powered the Lancaster bombers. He changed his mind after he connected with other ex-service members through Blind Veterans UK, the charity that has helped him deal with macular degeneration and glaucoma.

He felt it was time to remember the men who didn't come home after they roared into the sky aboard planes he had certified as airworthy. Each Lancaster carried a crew of seven, most in their early 20s, so the losses — so many at once — were hard to bear.

"It's very, very upsetting when a Lancaster takes off and it doesn't return," Woods told The Associated Press.

"I couldn't forget it if I wanted to," he added. "It's just imprinted on your mind, you know."

The RAF's Bomber Command had the highest attrition rate of any Allied unit during World War II, with 44% of aircrew members killed in action, according to the International Bomber Command Centre. Some 55,573 of the 125,000 who served on the aircrews died during the war.

Adrian Bell, CEO of Blind Veterans UK, said he's met many World War II veterans who describe themselves as mere cogs in a massive machine. But that's what it took to defeat fascism. Everyone was needed.

So come Sunday, Woods will be marching.

With the stubbornness to retain his independence that seems to have come with turning 100, Woods insists he won't use a wheelchair because he has never used one before and isn't going to start now. Besides, his son, Eddie, will be there to act as a guide and his buddies from the charity will be nearby to offer emotional support.

He will be an inspiration, Bell said.

"I think the most important thing is the fortitude of a man who is 100 years old, who fought in the Sec-

ond World War and beyond, who is going to be there physically on Sunday and marching as a tribute to those who lost their lives and as a sort of a sign of hope and a sign ... that there is life after all of these things," Bell said. "That's the embodiment of something that I think is really important."

The Democrats are starting to discuss party chair candidates for the second Trump era

By DAN MERICA and STEVE PEOPLES Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Democratic Party faces existential questions after Donald Trump's resounding victory. One of the first: Who will lead it?

Democratic National Committee chairman Jaime Harrison is not expected to seek a second term, opening a job that must be filled by March 1, according to the party's bylaws. Who takes the position will speak volumes about how the party wants to present itself going forward and what issues members believe hampered Democrats against Trump in 2024.

The incoming chair will also oversee the party's 2028 nominating process, a complex and contentious exercise that will make that person central to the next presidential election. Harrison was derided for having backed President Joe Biden even as many Democratic voters questioned whether the president should run again. He was accused after Biden's disastrous debate performance of pushing for a virtual roll call before Biden chose to withdraw.

The early debate over Harrison's replacement appears to be set on a clear dividing line: Do Democrats need an operative with clear skills and experience in reshaping the party's infrastructure? Or does the party need a communicator who can respond to everything the Trump administration plans to do and can sell Democratic ideas to a public that rejected them at the ballot box?

"They have to find someone from outside Washington who understands politics at the grassroots level," said Howard Dean, a former chair who took the position after George W. Bush won a second term as president. Dean said he has received calls from members urging him to run, but he has no plans to do so. "The DNC is often a creature of Washington, which is a major problem. ... You have to have a DNC that is big enough to include the whole country."

Top Democrats are scheduled to meet privately in Scottsdale, Arizona, in mid-December. Already, there is speculation among attendees that serious candidates would attend the meeting or at least be announced by then.

In the wake of Tuesday's thrashing, there is a sense, at least among some of the DNC's rank-and-file, that the committee's 440-plus voting members may be more likely to embrace an outsider with strong ties to the party's formal establishment. Some also would want the new chair to fill a full-time role, which would present challenges to a current officeholder.

"As the party looks to the future, we must be positioned for the important work of unifying and strengthening Democrats at all levels, and holding Trump's Republican Party accountable for the harms it will inflict on the American people," said Rosemary Boeglin, a spokesperson for the committee. "In the coming weeks, we will lay out a process for electing a new Chair to guide us on that path forward."

The potential candidates, from Beto to Buttigieg

The more high-profile leaders on the minds of multiple top Democrats include Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear, former Georgia lawmaker Stacey Abrams, New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy, former Texas Rep. Beto O'Rourke, Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg; and Martin O'Malley, the former Maryland governor and current commissioner of the Social Security Administration.

The lower-profile route features state party chairs Ken Martin, chairman of the Minnesota Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party and a vice chair of the national party; Ben Wikler, chairman of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin; and Michael Blake, a former vice chair of the party.

Murphy and O'Malley have already been having early discussions with DNC members and donors over the last day or so, according to people with direct knowledge of the outreach. It is unclear whether they will enter the race.

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O'Rourke, said a person familiar with his thinking but granted anonymity to speak openly, is being asked to run by donors and operatives.

Beshear, a 46-year-old two-term Democratic governor in a state Trump twice carried by more than 25 points, has no interest in the chairmanship, according to a person close to him granted anonymity to share internal discussions.

Buttigieg, who unsuccessfully ran for chair in 2017, is not exploring a run, said a person close to the secretary granted anonymity to speak openly about his thinking.

And a source close to Abrams, granted anonymity to speak openly, said she was not interested in becoming chair.

Martin, who reached out to every state party chair, vice chair and executive director the day before the election, began a new round of temperature-taking phone calls on Friday.

"People have approached me about running," Martin told the Associated Press. "I have not decided at this point."

Wikler did not respond to questions about the position, but in the wake of losses across the country for Democrats, he touted what he and his team in Wisconsin accomplished.

"The red wave hit this year: a (tilde)6% national swing to Trump, from 2020 margins," Wikler posted on X. "In Wisconsin, thousands of heroes pulled the swing down to 1.5%. More D votes statewide & in 46 counties. Tammy Baldwin won. Huge wins in the state legislature."

He added: "Deeply grateful to all — it mattered."

Blake told The Associated Press on Friday that he is "seriously" considering a run.

"When we came in eight years ago, we built something that was successful and won," Blake said, invoking his time as vice chair. "It's impossible to see what happened Tuesday and not think significant change is called for." Blake, who once served in the New York State Assembly, also said he is weighing running for DNC chair against running for New York City mayor.

The power brokers

Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, an independent who excoriated party leaders earlier in the week for abandoning working-class people, is expected to play an active role in the DNC pick — at least behind the scenes. Sanders did the same in the wake of the party's 2016 election loss when he privately worked to boost former Minnesota Rep. Keith Ellison, although Ellison ultimately lost to former Labor Secretary Tom Perez.

Sanders' allies believe that the party is taking his concerns more seriously in the wake of Tuesday's drubbing.

Presidential losses regularly force parties to ask sweeping questions about everything from their message to their infrastructure to their core beliefs, and this loss will be no different for Democrats. After Hillary Clinton's loss in 2016, the committee was lambasted as an unprofessional organization. Those issues were central to the committee chair fight in 2017, and led the committee to rebuild during Trump's first term in office. That has created a quandary for the party now: The national committee has not garnered the kind of blame that it did after the first loss to Trump, but that also means the answers Democrats are searching for are far less clear.

Many committee members believe this is not a time for the party to focus on one specific skill set in a chair at the expense of others. Instead, this group argues, you need someone with a broad range of skills.

"It needs to be someone who can raise money. It needs to be someone who is a good communicator. And it needs to be someone who can look towards modernization," said Maria Cardona, a longtime Democratic operative and DNC member who is against the chair being a current elected official.

"As opposed to Trump, we believe in the peaceful transfer of power," Cardona said. "But we are not going to concede the fight."

Anti-abortion advocates press Trump for more restrictions as abortion pill sales spike

By AMANDA SEITZ Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Anti-abortion advocates say there is still work to be done to further restrict access to abortion when Republican Donald Trump returns to the White House next year.

They point to the federal guidance that the administration of Democratic President Joe Biden released around emergency abortions, requiring that hospitals provide them for women whose health or life is at risk, and its easing of prescribing restrictions for abortion pills that have allowed women to order the medication online with the click of a button.

"Now the work begins to dismantle the pro-abortion policies of the Biden-Harris administration," the Susan B. Anthony List, the powerful anti-abortion lobby, said in a statement Wednesday. "President Trump's first-term pro-life accomplishments are the baseline for his second term."

The group declined to release details about what, specifically, they will seek to undo. But abortion rights advocates are bracing for further abortion restrictions once Trump takes office. And some women are, too, with online abortion pill orders spiking in the days after Election Day.

Trump has said abortion is an issue for the states, not the federal government. Yet, during the campaign, he pointedly noted that he appointed justices to the Supreme Court who were in the majority when striking down the national right to abortion. And there are things his administration can do, from picking judges to issuing regulations, to further an anti-abortion agenda.

Trump unlikely to require emergency abortions from hospitals

The Trump administration is expected to pull back Biden's controversial directive that requires emergency rooms to provide abortions when necessary to stabilize a woman's health or life. The Biden administration had argued that the decades-old federal law, which requires hospitals to provide stabilizing treatment for patients in exchange for Medicare funding, also applies in cases where an abortion might be needed.

Reports of women being sent home or left untreated by hospitals in dangerous scenarios have proliferated across the United States since the Supreme Court overturned the national right to an abortion in 2022. In some cases, hospitals said state abortion bans had stopped them from terminating a pregnancy.

"We're seeing the lives of pregnant people be put in jeopardy," Fatima Goss Graves, president and CEO of the National Women's Law Center, said Wednesday. "We're seeing women who have become infertile, who have been subject to sepsis and we're now hearing reports with death."

Even if a Trump administration abandons the guidance of the law, Goss Graves said advocacy groups like hers will continue a legal fight for the Biden administration's interpretation of the law.

Some doctors and hospitals also have said the federal guidance offered a protection for them to perform emergency abortions in states like Idaho and Texas, where threat of prosecution for performing an abortion hangs over their decision-making.

Trump has said he supports exceptions for rape and incest cases, as well as when a woman's life is at risk. But he has not gone as far as saying he supports exemptions when a woman's health is on the line.

Abortions might be necessary to prevent organ loss, significant hemorrhage or dangerous infections for pregnant women in rare but serious scenarios. In cases like ectopic pregnancy, premature rupture of membranes and placental abruptions, a fetus might still be alive but continuing the pregnancy can be detrimental. Doctors have argued that the legal gray area has put them in a bind.

In Idaho, for example, one hospital resorted to airlifting women out of the state after a strict abortion ban, which only allowed for abortions to prevent a woman's death, was enacted.

The Biden administration sued Idaho, arguing its state law conflicted with federal law requiring hospitals to provide stabilizing treatment, which might include abortions, for patients. The state amended its law to allow abortions for ectopic pregnancies, but other dangerous scenarios still remain unaccounted for. The Supreme Court declined to address the issue earlier this year, issuing a limited order that cleared the way for hospitals to provide emergency abortions while the case worked its way through lower courts.

Enforcement of the federal law, however, is on hold in Texas, which challenged the Biden administration's

guidance on emergency abortions.

A patchwork of state laws governing abortion will remain in place under the Trump administration. Voters in Florida, Nebraska and South Dakota on Tuesday defeated constitutional amendments, leaving bans in place.

In Missouri, however, voters approved a ballot measure on Tuesday to undo one of the nation's strictest bans. Abortion rights amendments also passed in Arizona, Colorado, Maryland and Montana. Nevada voters also approved an amendment, but they'll need to pass it again in 2026 for it to take effect.

Challenges to abortion pill access will continue under Trump

The ease with which women have been able to get abortion pills could also be up for reconsideration under Trump.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Food and Drug Administration made it easier to obtain abortion pills, including mifepristone, allowing women to access the medication over telehealth. The agency has approved the drug's safety through 10 weeks of pregnancy, saying that adverse effects happen for .32% of patients.

Anti-abortion advocates have challenged that, arguing the medications are not safe and at the very least not fit for eased access without in-person supervision by a doctor.

Although the Supreme Court preserved access to the drug earlier this year, anti-abortion advocates and conservative states have renewed their challenge in lower courts.

Some women are worried. Telehealth company Wisp saw an immediate spike in abortion pill orders between Election Day and the following day, with a 600% increase. In states like Florida and Texas, where the medication cannot be legally shipped, the company saw a nearly 1000% percent increase in orders of so-called "morning after" pills, also known as emergency contraception.

The company fills about tens of thousands of orders monthly for reproductive products including birth control pills and abortion pills, CEO Monica Cepak told the Associated Press.

Right now women typically take a two-step regimen of mifepristone and misoprostol to complete a medication abortion. Cepak said the company will keep a "close eye" on mifepristone under a Trump administration and is prepared to shift to a misoprostol-only regimen should restriction to mifepristone be implemented.

But Trump could be a wild card on the issue, said Mary Ziegler, a law professor at the University of California, Davis who is an expert on reproductive health issues. In the final months of the campaign, he backed away from a more rigid stance on abortion — even saying he would not sign a national abortion ban if it came across his desk.

Although he has enjoyed firm backing from anti-abortion groups, he is willing to break with allies when he wants.

"I don't think we have a clear sense from him about what he would do," Ziegler said.

Southern California firefighters gain ground over wildfire thanks to decreased winds

By NOAH BERGER and OLGA R. RODRIGUEZ Associated Press

CAMARILLO, Calif. (AP) — Southern California firefighters gained ground Friday against a wildfire that has destroyed at least 132 structures, mostly houses, as favorable conditions were expected to continue through the weekend after two days of dangerous gusty winds.

Forecasters expect light winds over the weekend that will continue to aid firefighters. Meteorologists are monitoring a weather system that could hit Southern California next week but it is not expected to bring another round of extreme winds like earlier this week.

Ventura County Sheriff James Fryhoff said Friday that 3,500 houses have been repopulated, but residents of 2,000 homes still have not been able to go back.

Maryanne Belote was among those who returned Friday to sift through the charred remains of their properties. She went home to her hillside neighborhood in Camarillo, a city northwest of Los Angeles, after making a harrowing escape with her cat, her dog and her horses as the blaze raged in the area. The only

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thing standing was a rock wall she built.

"If I hadn't gotten the horses, I would have been devastated, but I have my family and I have my animals so, I'm OK. I will rebuild," she said standing outside the remains of her home of 50 years while her dog stayed in her car.

The Mountain Fire started Wednesday morning in Ventura County and had grown to 32 square miles (about 83 square kilometers). It was 14% contained Friday evening.

"We had no external or lateral movement today," Ventura County Fire Chief Dustin Gardner said Friday. "That is fantastic."

Bill Nardoni and his family sifted through the rubble of their Camarillo home on Friday afternoon and discovered his wedding ring in a safe. But his wife's, kept in a different safe in another part of their house, remained missing and Nardoni did not have high hopes that it would be found intact.

Nardoni, his wife and his visiting mother-in-law fled Wednesday morning with their dogs as flames engulfed both sides of their road. They returned Friday to devastation at a home they'd bought only a year ago that was still going through a remodel.

"The house is decimated. There's nothing to be salvaged really out of it," he said. "I don't know what we'll do."

Over three days, thousands of people were under evacuation orders as the fire threatened 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. 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 injuries that were not life-threatening, Fryhoff said Thursday.

The next day, the sheriff said his deputies will be deploying cadaver dogs in the area as a precaution, even though no one has been reported missing.

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, including in a rural area of northern San Diego County where a brush fire prompted mandatory evacuations Friday afternoon.

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.

The red flag warnings, indicating conditions for high fire danger, expired in most of the area Thursday, except in the Santa Susana Mountains where the warnings expired Friday morning when winds began diminishing.

An air quality alert for harmful fine particle pollution was in effect from Friday morning until Saturday afternoon due to smoke from the wildfires.

More than a dozen school districts and campuses in Ventura County were closed Friday due to impacts from the fires, according to the county's Office of Education.

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.

Gov. Gavin Newsom has proclaimed a state of emergency in Ventura County.

Beyoncé leads the 2025 Grammy noms, becoming the most nominated artist in the show's history

By MARIA SHERMAN AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Welcome to Beyoncé country. When it comes to the 2025 Grammy Award nominations, "Cowboy Carter" rules the nation. She leads the nods with 11, bringing her career total to 99 nominations.

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That makes her the most nominated artist in Grammy history.

"Cowboy Carter" is up for album and country album of the year, and "Texas Hold 'Em" is nominated for record, song and country song of the year. She also received nominations in a wide swath of genres, including pop, country, Americana and melodic rap performance categories.

This is her first time receiving nominations in the country and Americana categories. Previously, she and her husband Jay-Z were tied for most career nominations, at 88.

If Beyoncé wins the album of the year, she'll become the first Black woman to do so in the 21st century. Lauryn Hill last won in 1999 for "The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill," joining Natalie Cole and Whitney Houston as the only Black women to take home the Grammys' top prize.

Post Malone also received his first ever nominations in the country categories this year, having released his debut country album "F-1 Trillion" in August. That one is up for country album and "I Had Some Help," his collaboration with Morgan Wallen, is nominated for country song and country duo/group performance. They are Wallen's first ever Grammy nominations.

Malone is just behind Beyoncé, with seven nominations, tied with Billie Eilish, Kendrick Lamar and Charli XCX, who earned her first nominations as a solo artist.

Lamar's ubiquitous diss track released during his feud with Drake, "Not Like Us," is nominated for record and song of the year, rap song, music video as well as best rap performance. He has two simultaneous entries in the latter category, a career first: Future & Metro Boomin featuring Lamar, "Like That" is up for best rap performance and best rap song.

This is his third time receiving two simultaneous nominations for best rap song.

Taylor Swift and first-time nominees Sabrina Carpenter and Chappell Roan boast of six nominations each. Last year, women artists dominated the major categories. This year, that continues somewhat, but the main trend seems to be a variance of genre. In the album of the year category, alongside "Cowboy Carter" is André 3000's new age, alt-jazz "New Blue Sun" and multi-instrumentalist Jacob Collier's "Djesse Vol. 4." Rising pop stars Carpenter and Roan round it out, with "Short n' Sweet" and "The Rise and Fall of a Midwest Princess" respectively, as well as Swift's "The Tortured Poets Department," Eilish's "Hit Me Hard and Soft," and Charli XCX's rave-ready "BRAT."

Eilish is the only artist to have her first three albums become nominated for album of the year.

Last year, Swift won album of the year for "Midnights," breaking the record for most wins in the category with four. This year, she becomes the first ever woman to seven career nominations in the category.

"The breadth and the variety of genres represented in the general field feels new and really exciting," says the Recording Academy CEO and President Harvey Mason jr. He credits an active and evolving voting body for its success. "We've been very intentional in how we looked at and tried to rebalance our membership. So not just gender or people of color, different racial makeup, but also genre equity and trying to make sure that all different types of music in different regions and different locations are being represented in every way possible."

Only recordings commercially released in the U.S. between Sept. 16, 2023 through Aug. 30, 2024 were eligible for nominations. The final round of Grammy voting, which determines its winners, will take place Dec. 12 through January 3.

In the best new artist category, Carpenter and Roan will go head-to-head, alongside Benson Boone, Doechii, Khruangbin, RAYE, Shaboozey and Teddy Swims.

In the song of the year category, Beyoncé is joined by Eilish with "Birds of a Feather," Swift and Post Malone with "Fortnight," Roan's "Good Luck, Babe!," Carpenter's "Please Please Please," Lamar's "Not Like Us," Lady Gaga and Bruno Mars' "Die With A Smile," and Shaboozey's "A Bar Song (Topsy)."

Shaboozey is also a first-time nominee. His "A Bar Song (Topsy)" is the biggest song of the year, having spent more weeks at No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100 than any other — it is so popular, a remix of the track is also up for remixed recording.

Elsewhere, Shaboozey is nominated in the melodic rap performance category for his feature on Beyoncé's "SPAGHETTII." Linda Martell, the first commercially-successful Black woman musician in country, is also featured on the song, delivering the 83-year-old artist her first Grammy nomination.

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For record of the year, "Texas Hold 'Em" will compete against Swift and Post Malone's "Fortnight," Eilish's "Birds of a Feather," Lamar's "Not Like Us," Roan's "Good Luck, Babe!," Carpenter's "Espresso," Charli XCX's "360," and the Beatles last new song, the AI-assisted "Now and Then."

"We're trying to make sure we're keeping up with how music creators and our community are using technology. And in this case, AI enhanced the record and allowed it to be eligible in the categories that it was eligible in," Mason jr explains.

Dolly Parton scored her 55th career nomination in the audio book, narration, and storytelling recording category for her "Behind the Seams: My Life in Rhinestones," news The Associated Press broke to the country music legend Friday morning. "No! What did I get nominated for?" she cheered over the phone. "Oh, well, that's cool. I thought it would be for my rock album, I'd take it.

"It feels good. I'm always appreciative of everything. I don't work for that, but it's always good to say 'you've done good work,' and for somebody to acknowledge that. So, I'm always proud of every award I get and every mention I get. That just makes me feel like I'm doing the right thing."

She's up against producer Guy Oldfield, George Clinton, Barbra Streisand and Jimmy Carter, who could become the oldest Grammy award winner in history at 100.

So, what's missing? Like last year, there's a huge dearth of Latin music — the fastest growing streaming genre in the United States — across the board, and no representation in the major categories. There are also only four entries in the best Música Mexicana album category, despite it also being one of the fastest growing genres.

And K-pop, too, seems to be absent. There are no nominations for the BTS members who've released solo material this year: RM's "Right Place, Wrong Person," J-Hope's "Hope on the Street, Vol. 1," and Jimin's "Muse." As a boy band, BTS has received five nominations across their career.

"I definitely see room for improvement across many genres and we are continuing to invite people to be a part of the academy," Mason jr. says. "Without the right representation we don't get the right results. When I say right, I mean reflective and representative of what's happening in music today. So, the work continues."

The 2025 Grammy Awards will air Feb. 2 live on CBS and Paramount+ from the Crypto.com Arena in Los Angeles.

Judge cancels court deadlines in Trump's 2020 election case after his presidential win

By ALANNA DURKIN RICHER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The judge overseeing Donald Trump's 2020 election interference case canceled any remaining court deadlines Friday while prosecutors assess the "the appropriate course going forward" in light of the Republican's presidential victory.

Special Counsel Jack Smith charged Trump last year with plotting to overturn the results of the 2020 presidential election and illegally hoarding classified documents at his Mar-a-Lago estate. But Smith's team has been evaluating how to wind down the two federal cases before the president-elect takes office because of longstanding Justice Department policy that says sitting presidents cannot be prosecuted, a person familiar with the matter told The Associated Press.

Trump's victory over Vice President Kamala Harris means that the Justice Department believes he can no longer face prosecution in accordance with department legal opinions meant to shield presidents from criminal charges while in office.

Trump has criticized both cases as politically motivated, and has said he would fire Smith "within two seconds" of taking office.

In a court filing Friday in the 2020 election case, Smith's team asked to cancel any upcoming court deadlines, saying it needs "time to assess this unprecedented circumstance and determine the appropriate course going forward consistent with Department of Justice policy."

U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan quickly granted the request, and ordered prosecutors to file court

papers with their "proposed course for this case" by Dec. 2.

Trump had been scheduled to stand trial in March in Washington, where more than 1,000 of his supporters have been convicted of charges for their roles in the Capitol riot. But his case was halted as Trump pursued his sweeping claims of immunity from prosecution that ultimately landed before the U.S. Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court in July ruled that former presidents have broad immunity from prosecution, and sent the case back to Chutkan to determine which of the the allegations in the indictment can move forward.

The classified documents case has been stalled since July when a Trump-appointed judge, Aileen Cannon, dismissed it on grounds that Smith was illegally appointed. Smith has appealed to the Atlanta-based 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, where the request to revive the case is pending. Even as Smith looks to withdraw the documents case against Trump, he would seem likely to continue to challenge Cannon's ruling on the legality of his appointment given the precedent such a ruling would create.

FBI, Justice Department investigating racist mass texts sent following the election

By AYANNA ALEXANDER and MATT O'BRIEN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Several federal and state agencies are investigating how racist mass texts were sent to Black people across the country in the wake of the presidential election this week.

The text messages invoking slavery were sent to Black men, women and children, prompting inquiries by the FBI and other law enforcement departments.

The anonymously sent messages were reported in several states, including New York, Alabama, California, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Tennessee. The FBI said it has communicated with the Justice Department about the messages, and the Federal Communications Commission said it is investigating alongside federal and state law enforcement.

"These messages are unacceptable," said a statement from FCC Chair Jessica Rosenworcel. She said the agency takes "this type of targeting very seriously."

While the texts varied somewhat, they all instructed recipients to "board a bus" that would transport them to a "plantation" to work as slaves, officials said. They said the messages were sent to school-aged children and college students, causing significant distress.

Whoever sent the messages used a VPN to obscure their origin, Louisiana Attorney General Liz Murrill said Thursday morning.

Maryland Attorney General Anthony Brown said his office is fielding multiple reports of racist text messages being sent to Black residents, including children. Officials said the messages appear to be part of a nationwide campaign targeting Black people in the wake of the election.

"These messages are horrific, unacceptable, and will not be tolerated," Brown said in a statement.

Brown said in an interview that it's disturbing that children were targeted, sometimes by name, in mass texts that typically rely on datasets collected on adults, such as campaign donors or magazine subscribers.

"This is an intimidating, threatening use of technology" that likely violated multiple laws, Brown said. He said investigators will use "all the tools and resources available to us to hold accountable whoever is behind these text messages."

Phone service provider TextNow said that "one or more of our accounts" were used to send the racist text messages and that it quickly disabled those accounts for violating its terms of service.

"As part of our investigation into these messages, we learned they have been sent through multiple carriers across the US and we are working with partners and law enforcement cooperatively to investigate this attack," the Canada-based company said in a statement Friday.

Major providers AT&T and Verizon both said it was an industry-wide problem and referred comment Friday to the CTIA, a wireless communications trade group.

The U.S. wireless industry has been working in recent days to block thousands of the texts and the numbers sending them, said CTIA spokesperson Nick Ludlum. An industry group initiative is working with law enforcement and has "identified platforms bad actors used to send these messages," he said.

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These racist text messages span the entire country, predominately targeting Black Americans, and more specifically Black children as young as middle schoolers.

Nicole, a mother in North Carolina who asked not to use her last name because of her profession, said she was disturbed and concerned by the messages her high school daughter showed her Thursday night. The texts instructed her to get ready to go back to the plantation. This was her daughter's first real experience with this type of racism, Nicole said, and as a parent she didn't want to have to have these conversations with her kids.

"It's like a slap in the face and it shows me that it is still an issue that has not changed at all," she said.

Nicole said her daughter didn't really say much after the text, deleted the message, and went to bed. As for Nicole, she said she had to sit and process her feelings. She said the situation was so shocking that it didn't feel real, and she felt sad for her daughter.

"She has a lot of friends of different races. She's the one that doesn't see color and she doesn't see a difference. So, I feel like for her, it really showed her that everyone isn't like her," Nicole said. "Racism is still a very prominent thing in our country right now."

Nicole said that parents have to be vigilant, especially with older children, and have the tough conversations, even if you don't want to or feel like you have to.

"Whatever way it makes your child feel, approach it with open arms and be very receptive to it and just take it day by day."

Several historically Black college students received a message with a similar tone but varied wording. Dr. Robert Greene II, an assistant professor of history at Claflin University, said he heard stories from his students about it, as well as from campus officials. Greene said he thinks the timing of this mass messaging is not only intentional, but the focus on young Black students is as well.

"It's a way to say to, especially Black college students, that this is the world they are now living in, that this kind of outright racist intimidation is coming back to the norm in American society and American politics," Greene said. "No doubt about it, fear and intimidation are the heart of what's going on with these text messages."

This type of browbeating toward the Black community isn't a new phenomenon. Physical violence was how intimidation was done in the early 1900s and around the time of World War II, it was done through suppressive methods like poll taxes, Greene said.

But what makes this time different is the form of communication and the introduction of technology makes this a more sinister tactic, he added.

"The technology that we take for granted, that brings us all together via the Internet, via social media, via cell phones, is now being used to also intimidate folks," Greene said. "It does add to the atmosphere of fear and paranoia. Certainly, there's that sense of, well, if they can text message me, how else can they get in touch with me? What else do they know about me personally?"

Those responsible for sending the messages took advantage of a bulk-messaging industry designed to help legitimate marketers reach people on their phones.

"This is the primary way now that most Americans will communicate," said Cori Faklaris, an assistant professor of software and information services at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. "So people who need to advertise or market services, they go where the people are. Unfortunately, the scammers and the haters also follow suit."

Faklaris said they also likely made use of collections of personal data that can be bought relatively cheaply on some corners of the internet. When combined with other data, such as places of residence or past purchases, Faklaris said it can be easy to use machine-learning algorithms to infer demographic information.

"All of this means it might be easier than most people realize to make a really good guess about the race or ethnicity of the person attached to that phone number," she said.

Unlike email or social media, the U.S. regulates text messages like a utility and tries to remain neutral about content shared via text. As a result, there's little filtering that could have blocked this week's spree of racist messages, Faklaris said. There's no universal system in the U.S. to flag texts as suspicious or unwanted before they are viewed, she said.

But after an explosion of texting scams that accelerated during the pandemic, Faklaris said law enforcement agencies have developed better investigative tools and it should be “relatively easy for the authorities to trace this particular attack.”

Famine is likely imminent in northern Gaza, hunger experts say

By EDITH M. LEDERER Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — There is a strong likelihood that famine is imminent in parts of northern Gaza, where Israeli forces are conducting a major offensive, hunger experts warned Friday.

An alert issued by the four experts called the humanitarian situation throughout the war-torn Gaza Strip “extremely grave and rapidly deteriorating” and worst in the north.

The Famine Review Committee warned that “famine thresholds may have already been crossed or else will be in the near future.”

The committee’s four independent experts are part of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, or IPC, which is made up of a network of 15 U.N. and other organizations that monitor global hunger and food security.

The experts said all actors in the war in Gaza must take immediate action “within days not weeks ... to avert and alleviate this catastrophic situation.”

They said this includes not only combatants — Israel, Hamas and other militant groups — but those who have influence on them.

Cindy McCain, executive director of the U.N. World Food Program, tweeted after the alert was issued: “The unacceptable is confirmed: Famine is likely happening or imminent in north Gaza.”

“Immediate steps MUST BE TAKEN to allow safe, rapid & unimpeded flow of humanitarian & commercial supplies to prevent an all-out catastrophe. NOW,” she said.

Its alert follows an Oct. 17 report by an IPC analysis team that said Palestinians in the entire territory face acute food insecurity. That’s the emergency level, Phase 4, on the five-level classification system for hunger. It said 133,000 people were classified as facing catastrophic food insecurity, which is Phase 5 along with famine.

That IPC team did a risk assessment and concluded that under a reasonable worst-case scenario, all of Gaza faced a risk of famine between November and April 2025, the experts said.

Since their report, the committee said, there have been a number of significant developments: Israel’s offensive largely sealing off northern Gaza for a month, a lower level of aid shipments last month than at any time since the war began in October 2023, and food access reaching “critical levels and deteriorating.”

The Israeli military body handling aid to Gaza, COGAT, said it is preparing to open a new aid crossing into Gaza as a U.S. deadline approaches next week for Israel to increase humanitarian supplies into the territory or risk restrictions on military assistance.

But COGAT did not say when the crossing will open or if aid will be delivered to north Gaza.

The U.S. says Israel must allow a minimum of 350 trucks a day carrying food and other supplies. In October, 57 trucks a day entered Gaza on average, according to COGAT figures, and 81 a day in the first week of November. The U.N. puts the number lower, at 37 trucks daily since the beginning of October.

It was an average of 500 trucks daily before the war, said Jean-Martin Bauer, WFP’s director of food security and nutrition analysis.

“The supply of the essentials in Gaza has really dwindled, and the consequence of that is very high food insecurity and the imminent famine in northern Gaza,” Bauer told The Associated Press. “The message is: Act now to let aid in and let aid programs and humanitarians do what they need to do to assist the population.”

The Famine Review Committee cited people fleeing and trapped in the north, skyrocketing food prices and accelerating attacks on health and nutrition facilities and other civilian infrastructure in recent weeks, including the arrest of medical staff by Israeli forces.

It called for a new IPC analysis, saying “it is already abundantly clear that the worst-case scenario de-

veloped by the analysis team is now playing out in areas of the northern Gaza Strip.”

“It can therefore be assumed that the starvation, malnutrition, and excess mortality due to malnutrition and disease, are rapidly increasing in these areas,” it said. “Famine thresholds may have already been crossed or else will be in the near future.”

Famine results from an extreme lack of food, starvation, destitution, extremely critical acute malnutrition, including among at least 30% of children and deaths.

The committee called for immediate action to end the siege in northern Gaza, allow unimpeded supplies of food, water, medical and nutritional supplies to enter the entire Gaza Strip, the repair of health and sanitation facilities, and release of health staff.

The experts warned that the failure to respond in the next few days will lead to further deterioration of the humanitarian situation and additional, unavoidable deaths.

“If no effective action is taken by stakeholders with influence, the scale of this looming catastrophe is likely to dwarf anything we have seen so far in the Gaza Strip since Oct. 7, 2023,” the committee warned.

India’s ban on Salman Rushdie ‘The Satanic Verses’ may end — thanks to missing paperwork

By HILLEL ITALIE and KRUTIKA PATHI Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — The decadeslong ban of Salman Rushdie’s “The Satanic Verses” in his native India is now in doubt — not because of a change of heart more than two years after the author’s near-fatal stabbing, but because of what amounts to some missing paperwork.

Earlier this week, a court in New Delhi closed proceedings on a petition filed five years ago that challenged the then-government’s decision to ban the import of the novel, which enraged Muslims worldwide because of its alleged blasphemy, just days after its 1988 publication. In a ruling issued Tuesday, according to the Press Trust of India news agency, a bench headed by Justice Rekha Palli said authorities had failed to produce the notification of the ban.

“We have no other option except to presume that no such notification exists,” the judges concluded.

The petitioner, Sandipan Khan, had argued that he couldn’t buy the book because of a notification issued by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs on Oct. 5, 1988, which forbade its import into India, adding that he was unable to locate the notification on any official website or through officials. Khan’s lawyer, Uddyam Mukherjee, said that the court’s ruling meant that as of now, nothing prohibits anybody from importing the novel into India.

“But whether this means it will be sold in bookstores — I don’t know, that depends on the publishers or sellers,” he told The Associated Press.

When reached by phone, several bookstores in the country’s capital were unaware of the news. An employee of Jain Book Agency in New Delhi said that they did not know whether this news meant that the novel would be available again in stores in India, adding that if that was the case, it could still take time and that they would need to hear from the publisher.

“What the ruling does is open up a potential path for the book to become available here,” Mukherjee said, but added that any aggrieved individual, group or the government can also appeal against it.

Rushdie’s literary agent, Andrew Wylie, declined comment to the AP. Rushdie, now a citizen of the United Kingdom and the United States, has yet to comment publicly. He has more than 1 million followers on his X account, on which he last posted in September.

Rushdie’s publisher in India, Penguin Random House India, issued a statement Friday called the ruling a “significant new development” and adding that it was “thinking through next steps.”

This week’s ruling adds a new twist to Rushdie’s complex relationship with India, where he was born in 1947, just before the country’s independence. He left as a child and was living in the United Kingdom at the time of his breakout novel, “Midnight’s Children,” which came out in 1981 and infuriated India’s prime minister at the time, Indira Gandhi, who was satirized in the book. After she sued over a reference to her having caused her husband’s death, Rushdie agreed to remove it and the case was settled.

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When India banned "The Satanic Verses," Rushdie condemned the action and doubted whether his censors had even read the novel. In an open letter to then-Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, published in The New York Times in 1988, he alleged the book was "being used as a political football" and called the ban not only "anti-democratic, but opportunistic." Over the years, Rushdie has made private trips to India and attended the Jaipur Literary Festival in 2007. But five years later, he canceled plans to attend the Jaipur gathering because of security concerns. The festival did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the ruling.

Besides the ban in his native country, "The Satanic Verses" elicited a fatwa calling for Rushdie's death from Iran's Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, forcing the author into hiding in 1989. He gradually resumed a normal life, especially after Iranian officials announced in 1998 that the government had no plans to enforce it. But his relative calm abruptly ended in 2022, when he was stabbed repeatedly onstage by a young assailant during a literary festival in western New York. Rushdie survived the attack, which left him blind in one eye, and wrote about it in the memoir "Knife," a finalist this year for the National Book Award.

On Friday, Khan's lawyer said that his client was an avid book reader driven to find answers after he found out the novel was banned. He filed numerous requests for information with various authorities — and tried for over a year to get a hold of the notification. Mukherjee said Khan was told by authorities that it was not traceable.

"When we realized there was no hope, we proceeded to go to court and challenge the notification," Mukherjee added.

The court also said that Khan has the right under law to procure this book. So how does he plan to get it now?

"He doesn't have a clear answer to this yet — if it becomes available in India, he will buy a copy of it," Mukherjee said. "But he can also potentially buy it from international booksellers online, as it's no longer illegal to import the book into the country."

Trump put Elon Musk on phone with Ukraine's Zelenskyy during congratulatory call, official says

By HANNA ARHIROVA, ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON and ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — President-elect Donald Trump put billionaire Elon Musk on the line with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy when the Ukrainian leader called to congratulate the incoming U.S. president, according to a Ukrainian official with direct knowledge of the phone call.

The person, who was not authorized to comment on the matter publicly, confirmed that Zelenskyy and Musk spoke during the call with Trump, but that Musk did not appear to be on the line for the entire conversation on Wednesday. Trump seemingly handed his phone over to Musk, the person said, and the Ukrainian president thanked the SpaceX owner for assisting his country with access to the Starlink satellite internet platform.

The presence of Musk on the call highlights his influence in the president-elect's circle. Trump has mused that Musk could have a formal role in his administration that focuses on government efficiency, raising questions about potential conflicts of interest given SpaceX's lucrative government contracts.

Trump's interactions with Zelenskyy are being closely watched as he prepares to take over the presidency on Jan. 20 and has signaled a shift in Washington's steadfast support for Ukraine against Russia's nearly three-year-old invasion.

Trump has promised to swiftly end the war and suggested that Kyiv should agree to cede some territory to Moscow in return for peace, a condition Zelenskyy has rejected.

It was under Trump that the United States first sent weapons to Ukraine in its fight against Russia, in 2017. Those Javelin anti-tank missiles were crucial to Ukraine's initial ability to fend off the full-scale invasion in 2022.

President Joe Biden's administration has sent tens of billions of dollars in military and economic assistance to Ukraine, drawing criticism from Trump and Vice President-elect JD Vance, who are wary of U.S.

involvement in foreign conflicts and suggested the money could better be spent domestically.

Trump has promoted his good relationship with President Vladimir Putin and called the Russian leader "pretty smart" for invading Ukraine. He characterized Zelenskyy as "the greatest salesman on earth" for winning U.S. aid.

Zelenskyy is one of dozens of world leaders, business executives and political leaders to speak with Trump, who has been at his private club and residence in Florida, in the days since he won the White House.

The Trump transition said it would not comment on private meetings.

Axios was first to report on Musk's presence on the Trump-Zelenskyy call.

2 men accused of plotting to shoot at immigrants are convicted of attempting to kill federal agents

By JOHN HANNA Associated Press

Two men who co-founded a militia group have been convicted of attempting to murder federal agents ahead of a planned trip to the Texas-Mexico border to shoot at immigrants illegally crossing there and any federal agents who might try to stop them.

A jury at the U.S. District Court in the Missouri state capital of Jefferson City found Jonathan S. O'Dell, 34, of Warshaw, Missouri, and Bryan C. Perry, 39, of Clarksville, Tennessee, guilty of more than 30 felony counts each, the chief federal prosecutor for western Missouri, Teresa Moore, announced Friday. The convictions Thursday came after jurors deliberated for more than two hours.

O'Dell's attorney, Jonathan Truesdale, declined comment, but Perry's attorney, Thomas Kirsch, said his client plans to appeal the verdict. Kirsch said Perry is disappointed in the verdict but said he is grateful for jurors' dedication and the opportunity to exercise "his fundamental right" of trial by jury.

"My client has a deep love and passion for our country and the values it stands for and what the Constitution stands for, including his right to a trial by jury," Kirsch said.

A sentencing date for either man has not yet been set. They both face at least 10 years in prison, and possibly life.

Perry also pled guilty to three charges, including escaping from federal custody. Held for trial in a county jail in Rolla, Missouri, he escaped in September 2023 but was captured two days later and about 160 miles (258 kilometers) to the northwest, outside Kansas City, following a high-speed chase.

The two men formed the 2nd Amendment Militia and then in the summer and fall of 2022 tried recruit others to join them, prosecutors said. In September 2022, O'Dell's home about 100 miles (161 kilometers) became a staging site as the two men collected firearms, ammunition, paramilitary gear and other supplies, according to the government's evidence.

Prosecutors said Perry posted a TikTok video in September saying that their militia group was going to "go protect this country," and another in early October saying the group would be "out huntin'." Prosecutors said the two men viewed U.S. Border Patrol agents as traitors for allowing immigrants to cross into Texas.

The day before they planned to leave for Texas, an FBI team using an armored vehicle served a search warrant on O'Dell's home, and prosecutors said Perry fired 11 rifle shots at them. O'Dell and his girlfriend surrendered, but after exiting the house, Perry fought with agents.

The charges against the two men also included using a firearm in a violent crime, illegal gun possession and damaging federal property. Perry couldn't legally have a gun because in 2004, he pled guilty in Tennessee to a felony aggravated robbery charge and served about four years in prison, according to online records.

Israeli soccer fans were attacked in Amsterdam. The violence was condemned as antisemitic

By MIKE CORDER Associated Press

AMSTERDAM (AP) — Israeli fans were assaulted after a soccer game in Amsterdam by hordes of young people apparently riled up by calls on social media to target Jewish people, Dutch authorities said Friday. Five people were treated at hospitals and dozens were arrested after the attacks, which were condemned as antisemitic by authorities in Amsterdam, Israel and across Europe.

Reports of antisemitic speech, vandalism and violence have been on the rise in Europe since the start of the war in Gaza, and tensions mounted in Amsterdam ahead of Thursday night's match between the Dutch team Ajax and Maccabi Tel Aviv.

Pro-Palestinian demonstrators were banned by local authorities from gathering outside the stadium, and video showed a large crowd of Israeli fans chanting anti-Arab slogans on their way to the game. Afterward, youths on scooters and on foot crisscrossed the city in search of Israeli fans, punching and kicking them and then fleeing quickly to evade police, Amsterdam Mayor Femke Halsema said.

On the social media platform Telegram, "there is talk of people going on a Jew hunt," Halsema said. "That is so shocking and so despicable that I still cannot fathom it." Dutch Minister of Justice and Security David van Weel vowed to track down and prosecute the perpetrators.

Police had to escort some fans back to hotels, according to authorities.

Ofek Ziv, a Maccabi fan from the Israeli city of Petah Tikva, said someone threw a rock at his head, causing light bleeding, as he and a friend left the stadium. He said a group of men began to chase him, before he and his friend got into a taxi, picked up other fans and took shelter at a hotel.

"I'm very scared, it's very striking," Ziv said. "And the police didn't come to help us."

Another Israeli fan, Alyia Cohen, said upon arriving back in Israel that he would go back to Amsterdam for future matches. "We are not afraid of anything, ours is the people of Israel."

Five people were treated in the hospital and released, while some 20 to 30 people suffered light injuries, police said. At least 62 suspects were arrested, with 10 still in custody, the city's public prosecutor, René de Beukelaer, told reporters at a news conference Friday.

A statement from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said he "views the horrifying incident with utmost gravity." He demanded that the Dutch government take "vigorous and swift action" against those involved.

Condemnation of the violence poured in from around Europe. "Antisemitism has absolutely no place in Europe, and we are determined to fight it and to fight all forms of hatred," said Ursula von der Leyen, the president of the European Commission. "We want Jewish life and culture to thrive in Europe."

Dutch Prime Minister Dick Schoof condemned the violence and flew home early from a European Union summit in Hungary.

The attacks shattered Amsterdam's long-cherished view of itself as a beacon of tolerance and haven for persecuted religions, including Sephardic Jews from Portugal and Spain who fled to the city centuries ago.

Police said security will be beefed up at Jewish institutions across the city, which 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.

Halsema, Amsterdam's mayor, described the violence as "an eruption of antisemitism that we had hoped never again to see in Amsterdam."

In the past, Ajax was known as a soccer club with links to Amsterdam's Jewish community because visiting fans had to pass the city's Jewish quarter to get to the club's former stadium. Ajax fans sometimes wave Star of David flags and chant the Dutch word for Jews.

Israel's foreign minister, Gideon Saar, flew to Amsterdam on Friday and in a message on X he said that hatred of Jews is "appearing in place after place after place."

Saar met with the Dutch minister for security and justice, pledging Israeli help in the investigation, and also held talks with Geert Wilders, a far right, anti-Islam lawmaker whose party won national elections

last year.

Amsterdam police spokeswoman Sara Tillart said it was too early in their investigation to say if anybody other than soccer fans was targeted. Authorities outlawed demonstrations across the city for the weekend and gave police extra powers to frisk people.

Israel's government initially ordered two planes sent to Amsterdam to bring fans home, but Netanyahu's office later said it would work to help citizens arrange commercial flights.

Maccabi's CEO, Ben Mansford, spoke to reporters at Israel's international airport as some fans returned. "Lots of people went to watch a football game ... to support Israel, to support the star of David," he said. For them to be attacked, "that's very sad times for us all given the last year we've had."

Tensions had been brewing in Amsterdam for days ahead of the match. A Palestinian flag was torn down from a building in Amsterdam on Wednesday, Dutch broadcaster NOS reported, and authorities banned a pro-Palestinian demonstration near the stadium.

Ahead of the game, large crowds of supporters of the Israeli team could be seen on video chanting anti-Arab slogans as they headed to the stadium, escorted by police.

"Let the IDF win, and (expletive) the Arabs," the fans chanted, using the acronym of the Israeli military, as they shook their fists. It also showed police pushing several pro-Palestinian protesters away from a Maccabi fan gathering in a square earlier in the day.

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.

Israel was exiled from the Asian Football Confederation in the 1970s after Arab nations refused to play against it. Israel played in European qualifying for the 1982 World Cup and has been a member of European soccer body UEFA since 1994.

The violence in Amsterdam will no doubt lead to a review of security at upcoming matches involving Israeli teams. UEFA had announced Monday that a Maccabi match initially to be played in Istanbul on Nov. 28 against the Turkish team Besiktas, would be moved to a yet-to-be-decided neutral venue.

Italian police said security was increased for Maccabi Tel Aviv's basketball game at Virtus Bologna Friday night, both for fans and for the Maccabi team.

Israel's national soccer team is scheduled to play France in Paris on Nov. 14 in the Nations League. French Interior Minister Bruno Retailleau said Friday the match would go ahead as planned.

"I think that for a symbolic reason we must not yield, we must not give up," he said, noting that sports fans from around the world came together for the Paris Olympics this year to celebrate the "universal values" of sports.

Teen is in custody after trying to enter Wisconsin elementary school while armed, police say

By TODD RICHMOND and RICK CALLAHAN Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — A 13-year-old boy who had researched school shootings online was arrested hours after he tried to enter a Wisconsin elementary school with suspicious bags, police said.

Investigators believe the boy was armed, judging by videos of him brandishing what investigators believe was a rifle and comments he made to other students, said Patrick Patton, police chief in Kenosha, a city on Lake Michigan between Milwaukee and Chicago.

"We narrowly missed a tragedy," Patton said at a news conference Thursday afternoon.

The teen tried to enter Roosevelt Elementary School around 9 a.m. Thursday with a backpack and a duffle bag, according to police. Staff members grew suspicious and moved to question him, but he fled.

Kenosha Unified schools were placed on lockdown for the rest of the day as police searched for the boy. They finally arrested him at his home that afternoon.

The teen attends Mahone Middle School in Kenosha and was a former Roosevelt Elementary student,

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police said, but they have not released his name. They said in a news release Friday that he has been charged with making terroristic threats. Kenosha County District Attorney Michael Graveley said in an email to The Associated Press on Friday that the boy will be prosecuted in juvenile court, where proceedings are confidential.

It was unclear Friday whether the boy was actually armed when he tried to enter the elementary school. Patton said investigators believe he was carrying a firearm, but the chief has not said whether police recovered any weapons or ammunition from him.

A search of his home netted several pellet guns that resembled real handguns and a pellet rifle that resembled a real rifle, police said in Friday's news release. The boy's mother told investigators he didn't have access to any actual firearms.

The teen told detectives he went to the elementary school to sell candy but later told a social worker he intended to scare students, police said.

Investigators also "have information that the suspect performed multiple internet searches related to school shootings," Patton said Thursday, adding that the teen had shared videos and made several comments to fellow students for weeks before Thursday.

"This is something that had been told to people of his growing intentions," Patton said. "We know that there is internet searches, and all the red flags that we would look for and expect someone to report were there."

Police received at least one video of the student wielding what investigators believe is a rifle, Patton said. The chief played a video at a news conference Thursday that shows the student holding a firearm as he appears to practice room-entry techniques, Patton said. The chief did not specify when or where the video was filmed, but it appears to have been filmed in a home.

"The Kenosha Police Department had reason to believe the suspect had access to some type of firearm based on videos on social media and other witness information," the agency said in Friday's news release. "The actions on scene were extremely suspicious and the internet activity by the suspect suggested they had extensive research history related to previous school shootings, information on how to execute a school shooting, and specifics about the targeted building."

The student was taken into custody some six months after police shot and killed an armed student outside a Wisconsin middle school following a report of someone with a weapon. The May shooting in Mount Horeb, outside Madison, sent children fleeing and led to an hourslong lockdown of local schools. Prosecutors announced in August that the officers who fatally shot the student would not face criminal charges.

Kenosha made national headlines in August 2020 after a white police officer shot a Black man during a domestic disturbance, leaving him paralyzed. The shooting spurred several nights of protests. A white Illinois teenager named Kyle Rittenhouse shot three people during the unrest, killing two of them. A jury eventually acquitted Rittenhouse of any wrongdoing after he argued he fired in self-defense.

Trump's election may usher in leadership change at FBI

By ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Donald Trump lavished Christopher Wray with praise when he named him FBI director in 2017, introducing him as an "impeccably qualified individual" and a "model of integrity."

So much has changed in the seven years since.

With Trump poised to reclaim the White House, Wray's days as director may be numbered. Though the director's job carries a 10-year term, Trump's blistering and repeated criticism of his own appointee raises the likelihood that Trump would either replace Wray upon taking office or that Wray would leave on his own to avoid being fired. Such a move would give Trump a chance to reshape the FBI's leadership in his own image at a time when he's threatened to pursue his own political adversaries.

"He enjoys the work, he's committed to the bureau, he's an outstanding public servant — but I don't think he's going to lobby for the job," Gregory Brower, a former FBI official who served as director of congressional affairs until 2018, said of Wray.

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"If the new president wants to replace him, then that's what the new president's going to do," he added. "Based on what Trump has said in the past, I think it's likely we'll see that."

Trump's transition office did not return an email seeking comment. An FBI official said Wray was continuing to oversee the bureau's day-to-day operations — including visiting the FBI's election command post multiple times this week — and was planning with his team to lead the workforce into the next year. The official, an executive who interacts with Wray on a day-to-day basis, was not authorized to discuss the details publicly and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

Trump hasn't spoken publicly about Wray in recent days but he's known to take a particularly keen interest in the FBI and Justice Department in part because his first term and post-presidency life were shadowed by investigations, including two that resulted in indictments now expected to wind down. The positions are being closely watched because whoever occupies them may be confronted with Trump's stated desire to seek retribution against opponents, even though longstanding guardrails would complicate such plans, and because the FBI is facing more global threats than any time in recent memory.

A recent Supreme Court opinion conferring broad immunity on former presidents could also embolden Trump to demand particular Justice Department investigations, as occurred in his first term.

Wray was nominated in June 2017 to replace James Comey, the FBI director Trump inherited from President Barack Obama and then fired amid an investigation into ties between Russia and Trump's 2016 campaign. A well-regarded Republican lawyer who served as a senior Justice Department official in the George W. Bush administration, Wray was recommended to Trump by Chris Christie after representing the then-New Jersey governor in an investigation into the closing of the George Washington Bridge.

"In 2017, the president wanted an FBI director with bipartisan support and a reputation for integrity who would maintain a low public profile and defer to the Attorney General," Rod Rosenstein, the deputy attorney general at the time of Wray's appointment, said in an email to AP this week,

It didn't take long for Wray to provoke Trump's ire.

In 2018, he broke with Trump over the administration's declassification of information related to FBI surveillance of former campaign aide Carter Page. He later angered Trump over congressional testimony that stressed the election interference threat from Russia at a time when Trump was focused on China. He also described antifa, an umbrella term for leftist militants, as an ideology rather than an organization, contradicting Trump, who wanted to designate it as a terror group.

Wray's job was in a precarious position at the time of Trump's 2020 election loss, with Trump declining before the election to give Wray a vote of confidence and his oldest son, Donald Trump Jr., posting online that Wray was working to "protect corrupt Democrats." But the president left him in place.

Trump's view of FBI leadership soured even further in 2022 after agents searched his Florida home for classified documents, an action that resulted in an indictment on dozens of charges. This past summer, Trump faulted the FBI for not immediately confirming he'd been struck by a bullet during an assassination attempt and even took to social media to call on Wray to resign after the director vouched for President Joe Biden's mental acuity during a congressional hearing.

Through it all, Wray has preached to the workforce a "keep calm and tackle hard" mantra, navigating the FBI through a politically turbulent time that in addition to Trump's criticism has also included stinging and sometimes misleading attacks from congressional Republicans over everything from the Hunter Biden investigation to government surveillance.

Wray has sought when possible to avoid conflict and maintain a by-the-book approach, striving over the years to appear responsive to congressional demands as well as determined to fix past missteps. Earlier in his tenure, for instance, he announced dozens of corrective steps following surveillance errors identified in the Trump-Russia investigation and remains open about the FBI's shortcomings during that inquiry.

"I look not just at the one or two investigations being discussed breathlessly on social media or cable news but at the impact that we're having across the board to protect the American people," Wray said in an interview AP with last year.

The normally mild-mannered director has also tried to forcefully defend his workforce from what he sees as illegitimate attacks, decrying as ludicrous the notion that the bureau was involved the Jan. 6, 2021,

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attack on the Capitol and calling it “insane” to suggest that he harbored anti-conservative bias.

Replacing Wray before the end of his 10-year term, a tenure intended to keep the FBI free from the influence of presidential politics, would be a departure from the norm. Obama, for instance, not only kept Robert Mueller as FBI director but asked him to stay on for an extra two years even though Mueller was a Bush appointee. Trump initially kept Comey in the job but fired him in May 2017, saying he was thinking of “this Russia thing” — a reference to the Russia investigation.

It’s unclear who might be in line to replace Wray if he goes, but some candidates interviewed for the post after Comey’s firing — including Adam Lee, the former top agent in Richmond, and William Evanina, the U.S. government’s former top counterintelligence executive — could again be considered.

Frank Montoya, a former FBI senior official, said he was concerned that Trump was seeking someone willing to “kiss the ring” and adhere to his wishes.

“This is all about seizing control of the apparatus from the get-go,” he said.

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.

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

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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.

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

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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 pursued 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 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."

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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 out-raised 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 offense, 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 island 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.

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 civic engagement for political organizing group LUPE Votes, 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."

A research boat will scan the seabed to help search for those missing in Spain's floods

By JOSEPH WILSON Associated Press

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) — A Spanish research vessel that investigates marine ecosystems has been abruptly diverted from its usual task to take on a new job: Helping in the increasingly desperate search for the missing from Spain's floods.

The 24 crew members aboard the Ramón Margalef were preparing Friday to use its sensors and submersible robot to map an offshore area of 36 square kilometers — the equivalent of more than 5,000 soccer fields — to see if they can locate vehicles that last week's catastrophic floods swept into the Mediterranean Sea.

The hope is that a map of sunken vehicles could lead to the recovery of bodies. Nearly 100 people have been officially declared missing, and authorities admit that is likely more people are unaccounted for, in addition to more than 200 declared dead.

Pablo Carrera, the marine biologist leading the mission, estimates that in 10 days his team will be able to hand over useful information to police and emergency services. Without a map, he said, it would be practically impossible for police to carry out an effective and systematic recovery operation to reach vehicles that ended up on the seabed.

"It would be like finding a needle in a haystack," Carrera told The Associated Press by phone.

Many cars became death traps when the tsunami-like flooding hit on Oct. 29.

The boat will join a wider effort by police and soldiers who have expanded their searches for bodies and the missing beyond the devastated towns and streets. Searchers have used poles to probe into layers of mud while sniffer dogs tried to find scent traces of bodies buried in canal banks and fields. They are also looking at beaches that line the coast.

The first area the Ramón Margalef is searching is the stretch of sea off the Albufera wetlands, where at least some of the water ended up after ripping through villages and the southern outskirts of Valencia city.

Carrera, 60, is head of the fleet of the research vessels run by the Spanish Institute of Oceanography, a government-funded science center under the umbrella of the Spanish National Research Council.

He boarded the Ramón Margalef in Alicante, located on Spain's south coast, from where it will set sail to reach Valencia's waters before dawn Saturday. The plan is to go straight to work with the 10 scientists

and technicians and 14 sailors working non-stop in shifts. The boat also helped research the impact from the lava flow that reached the sea from the 2021 La Palma volcano eruption in Spain's Canary Islands.

Finding a body at sea, Carrera said, is highly unlikely. So the focus is on large objects that shouldn't be there.

The boat's submersible robot loaded with cameras can dive to a depth of 60 meters to attempt to identify cars. Ideally, they will try to locate license plates, although visibility could be extremely limited and the cars could be smashed to bits or engulfed in the muck, Carrera said.

In the longer term, he said his team will also evaluate the impact of the flood runoff on the marine ecosystem.

Those findings will contribute to initiatives by other Spanish research centers to study Spain's deadliest floods of the century.

Spain is used to the occasional deadly flood produced by autumn storms. But the drought that has hit the country for the past two years and record hot temperatures helped magnify these floods, scientists say.

Spain's meteorological agency said that the 30.4 inches of rain that fell in one hour in the Valencian town of Turis is an all-time national record.

"We have never seen an autumn storm of this intensity," Carrera said. "We cannot stop climate change, so we have to prepare for its effects."

The US election was largely trouble-free, but a flood of misinformation raises future concerns

By CHRISTINA A. CASSIDY and DAVID KLEPPER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A relatively trouble-free presidential election was good news for those working to restore faith in the system. Less encouraging was a flood of misinformation that sought to undermine trust in voting and sow chaos, something experts say is likely to get worse in the years ahead.

The most significant test for officials on Election Day was a series of bomb threats reported in five battleground states, some of which forced polling places to be evacuated temporarily. The day otherwise played out like most other election days, with only routine problems, and former President Donald Trump's commanding lead allowed the presidential race to be called early Wednesday morning.

"High turnout and wide margins — that's all we ever hope for," said Zach Manifold, the elections supervisor in Gwinnett County, Georgia.

The more than 84 million people who voted early, either in person or by mail, eased the crush on Tuesday and provided election workers with more flexibility to respond to unexpected problems.

"Yesterday and the election season was a wonderful example of how early voting is so important to maintain security, and how it actually minimized and mitigated some of the threats that we saw," David Becker, a former U.S. Justice Department attorney who leads the Center for Election Innovation and Research, said the day after Election Day.

When the bomb threats came in — starting early in the day in the Atlanta area and then spreading to Arizona, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin — election officials were prepared. They had spent the better part of the year meeting with local law enforcement, training through various scenarios and updating their emergency plans.

"I saw professionals all across the country saying, 'OK, here's what we're going to do,'" said Carolina Lopez, a former local election official who leads the Partnership for Large Election Jurisdictions.

The FBI said the threats appeared to originate from Russian email domains, though federal cybersecurity officials cautioned the culprits were not necessarily Russian.

Interference from Russia and other foreign adversaries was a constant theme running through election season.

Russia, Iran and China steadily increased their use of English-language disinformation in the months leading up to Election Day. Their motives varied, but their tactics were similar: using networks of bogus social media accounts and websites to spread content designed to erode confidence in election security.

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and American democracy.

Russia was particularly audacious, creating and spreading staged videos that aimed to smear Vice President Kamala Harris and her running mate, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz. The Kremlin's efforts this year also involved paying a Tennessee media company \$10 million to produce pro-Russian content.

"Russia clearly interfered in this election," said Brian Taylor, a political science professor and Russia expert at Syracuse University. He said Russia's objectives were to "help Trump and to sow chaos more generally — although there is no evidence that their activities changed the outcome."

Experts say America's adversaries are playing a long game, using disinformation to undermine Americans' confidence in their own country and gradually diminish U.S. power. Russia, in particular, preferred Trump as a candidate because he is seen as less likely to support assistance for Ukraine, said Emerson Brooking, resident senior fellow at the Atlantic Council's Digital Forensic Research Lab, which tracks foreign disinformation.

"None of this goes away after Election Day," Brooking said. "What are Russia's goals? It wasn't to elect President Trump, but to steer the United States in a particular direction. Trump's election is one step in that process."

Russia, Iran and China have rejected allegations they sought to meddle with the U.S. election.

Steve Simon, president of the National Association of Secretaries of State, praised the quick work done by federal agencies to call out the disinformation. He said federal officials had within a day identified Russia as being behind a viral video purporting to show voter fraud in Georgia.

"The nature of their response and the timeliness of their response really helped confront and limit the influence of those messages," said Simon, who serves as Minnesota's top state election official.

Kim Wyman, a former official with the U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, said the agency had proven its value this year given the meddling by other countries.

"What was certainly demonstrated in this election is that foreign adversaries have not stopped trying to have an impact in U.S. elections, and we anticipate that will continue in the future," said Wyman, who also served as Washington's secretary of state.

She said she'd like the Republican-controlled Congress to continue supporting CISA and the U.S. Election Assistance Commission, which works with states to improve election operations and certifies voting systems.

Voting rights groups said they hoped an election with no major problems would temper talk about making widespread changes to voting procedures. During the campaign, Trump and his allies had spoken of a desire for a single day of voting, pushing false claims of widespread voter fraud with mail ballots. It's not clear whether that talk will continue, given that Republicans flocked to early voting this year after Trump encouraged it.

The president-elect has been spreading election lies for years related to his re-election loss in 2020. He repeatedly questioned voting procedures and accused Democrats of cheating before and during Election Day, but stopped making those claims once he took the lead.

"I'm hopeful that we'll keep the things in place that work for the vast majorities of voters," said Jay Young, senior director of voting and democracy with Common Cause.

Young said he would be concerned about any effort to restrict voting based on false claims, such as the one peddled by Republicans this year that large numbers of noncitizens were voting. Republicans in Congress have been pushing legislation on the issue.

"There is a lot of noise out there that is not based in fact," Young said. "It's my job, frankly, to make sure my organization and the groups that we are part of, that we can't let someone try to seize on a moment in time to achieve a political end."

Trump rebuilds Democrats' 'blue wall' states with red bricks. Especially Pennsylvania

By MARC LEVY Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — Republicans landed historic victories in Pennsylvania this week, winning the battleground state's valuable presidential electoral votes, posting a two-seat gain in its U.S. House delegation and sweeping all four statewide offices on the ballot, including a U.S. Senate seat.

The strong performance means Donald Trump has won Pennsylvania in two out of three tries, after Republicans had lost six straight presidential elections there.

Something similar happened in the other "blue wall" states of Michigan and Wisconsin, Rust Belt states where Trump prevailed again after losing in 2020. Still, Democrats held on in key Senate races in Wisconsin and Michigan, if just barely, and the results played out differently in each state.

Republican victories were most pronounced in Pennsylvania, a state flagged early on as this year's preeminent swing state, where deep dissatisfaction surfaced with the status quo, more often than not to Republicans' benefit.

Voters had the economy on their minds.

Voters were in a bad mood

About a third of voters nationwide, including in the blue wall states, said they felt their families were "falling behind" financially, according to AP VoteCast, a survey of more than 120,000 voters nationwide. That was an increase from 2020, when about 2 in 10 felt that way. In 2020, a majority of those financially strapped voters voted for President Joe Biden, but this year, about two-thirds supported Trump.

Berwood Yost, director of the Center for Opinion Research at Franklin & Marshall College in Pennsylvania, said Democrats had a lot working against them among swing voters: their deteriorating personal finances, fueled by inflation, and the sense that many blamed Biden.

Yost said Vice President Kamala Harris ran a strong campaign but was unable to overcome those headwinds.

"The mood of the electorate was so negative, they took it out on the incumbent party," Yost said.

Some voters' memories of Trump's presidency improved with the passage of time. VoteCast shows just 40% of Pennsylvania voters said they approve of Biden's job performance, while 54% said they approved of Trump when he was president. Four years ago, Trump approval in Pennsylvania was 49%.

In his victory over Harris, Trump won Pennsylvania by about 2%, with votes still being counted. That was about three times the margin of his 2016 victory. He lost Pennsylvania by just over 1% in 2020 to Biden.

Trump carried Wisconsin by less than a point, as he did in 2016, after losing it by about a half percentage point in 2020.

In Michigan, Trump won by about 80,000 — many times his nearly 11,000-vote win in 2016 and about half the margin of his loss to Biden in 2020.

In Pennsylvania, Trump gained ground in Democratic-friendly counties statewide, including the Democratic bastion of Philadelphia and heavily populated suburbs that swung hard against Trump in 2016 and 2020.

In Trump-friendly exurbs and rural areas, his margins grew across the board.

His strength also helped David McCormick beat three-term Democratic Sen. Bob Casey, Republicans say, allowing them to reclaim the Senate seat the GOP lost in 2022 when Democrat John Fetterman replaced retiring Republican Sen. Pat Toomey.

In addition, a two-seat pickup shifted the state's congressional delegation from 9-8 in favor of Democrats to a 10-7 Republicans majority, giving the GOP a valuable boost in its fight to keep House control.

And for the first time since the state attorney general's office became an elected position in 1980, Republicans will hold all three statewide row offices.

That includes treasurer, auditor general and attorney general, a position thrust into the national spotlight four years ago when Trump sued to overturn his 2020 defeat.

Legislative majorities were unchanged: Republicans held their six-seat state Senate majority while Democrats held their one-seat state House majority.

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With more Republicans at the Capitol, Democratic Gov. Josh Shapiro — who made Harris' list of finalists for vice president — could be under more pressure to work across the aisle.

Trump visited Pennsylvania more than any other state and often brought downballot Republicans on stage.

Trump survived an assassination attempt in western Pennsylvania over the summer — then returned there for a second rally — and drew a crowd to a McDonald's in a politically divided Philadelphia suburb where he donned an apron and tried his hand at the French fry station.

Trump campaigned in conservative white areas, in heavily Black Philadelphia and in a fast-growing belt of cities from Lancaster to Reading to Allentown where Latinos are settling, and AP VoteCast showed that he benefited from modest swings among traditionally Democratic voters.

Across the country, and in Pennsylvania, clear majorities of Black and Latino voters supported Harris, but slightly more of them backed Trump this year compared with four years ago.

"I told Donald Trump in 2015 when he asked 'what do I have to do to win Pennsylvania,' I said, 'come here a lot, Pennsylvanians like to know their candidates,'" said Rob Gleason, who was state GOP chairman at the time.

In Wisconsin and Michigan, Republicans gained but not as much

Democrats had a much better night in Wisconsin than in the other "blue wall" states, despite Trump's victory.

Trump cut into Democratic margins in the counties around Milwaukee and Madison, and held or boosted his margins in rural areas, suburbs and other conservative areas.

"There were a lot of people who didn't think we could do this," Wisconsin Republican Party chair Brian Schimming said. "That blue brick in that blue wall is now red in Wisconsin."

Still, Democrats were buoyed by U.S. Sen. Tammy Baldwin's narrow victory, and newly enacted legislative maps drawn by Democratic Gov. Tony Evers helped his party.

They made gains in both the state Senate and Assembly, shrinking the Republican Senate supermajority to a simple majority.

In Michigan, Harris carried Wayne County, which includes Detroit and suburbs with heavy Arab American populations, but by a far slimmer margin — about 90,000 votes — than Biden's. Meanwhile, Trump boosted his margins by more than 55,000 votes in two other big suburban counties, Macomb and Oakland.

Democrat Elissa Slotkin narrowly won Michigan's open U.S. Senate seat, but Democrats lost the House seat she vacated to run for the higher chamber.

Meanwhile, they lost their state House majority, ending a two-year run in which a Democratic-controlled statehouse enacted new laws on gun safety, abortion rights and other top priorities.

Republicans say Trump's embrace of early voting and emphasis on inflation and immigration was effective.

In Pennsylvania, some Democrats said Harris should have picked Shapiro to be her running mate. Others suggested Biden, who grew up in Pennsylvania and made it his presidential campaign base, would have done better.

Former Gov. Ed Rendell questioned whether Harris' campaign effectively responded to attacks in the nation's No. 2 natural gas state that she would ban fracking. Two-thirds of Pennsylvania voters support expanding fracking, according to VoteCast.

Larry Maggi, a Democratic county commissioner in blue-collar Washington County, just outside Pittsburgh, said Harris didn't connect with people — particularly men, and especially young white men — the way Trump did.

"That bravado talk, that tough talk, people like that," Maggi said. "It resonated."

A Marine Corps veteran, Maggi recalled a conversation over a beer in a Veterans of Foreign Wars hall with a friend who was wearing a red MAGA hat.

Maggi asked him why he likes Trump.

"Because he tells it how it is," the friend replied.

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 at least pay lip service 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 on 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, defense chiefs of France and Germany scheduled talks to address the impact.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau revived a special Cabinet committee on Canada-U.S. relations to address concerns about another Trump presidency. Former Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, now ambassador to the U.S., whose government is investing in an American defense partnership, deleted old tweets that included calling Trump "the most destructive president in U.S. history."

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 support for Ukraine as a 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

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are spending at least 2% of their gross domestic product on defense, compared with 10 in 2020 — helping counter 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 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 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 President Joe Biden's foreign policy becoming consumed by unsuccessful efforts to reach cease-fires in the Middle East — already spurred allies to start building up their own military strength and that of smaller regional alliances.

"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."

AP VoteCast: How Donald Trump built a winning 2024 coalition

By LINLEY SANDERS Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Big shifts within small groups and small shifts within big groups helped propel Donald Trump's return to the White House.

The Republican candidate won by holding onto his traditional coalition — white voters, voters without a college degree and older voters — while making crucial gains among younger voters and Black and Hispanic men, according to AP VoteCast, a far-reaching survey of more than 120,000 voters nationwide.

His Democratic opponent, Vice President Kamala Harris, made small gains — most significantly with white men with a college degree living in urban areas — but it was not enough to offset her losses elsewhere.

Trump increased his share of the youth vote

Younger voters made up a bigger chunk of Trump's coalition, compared with his voters four years ago.

That happened because Trump benefited from winning slightly more than half of voters over 45, while Harris won about the same share for voters under 45. But older voters make up a larger share of the electorate than younger ones do — and that worked to Trump's advantage. Roughly 6 in 10 voters in the 2024 presidential election were older than 45.

He kept about the same share of older voters as he did in the 2020 presidential election against President

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Joe Biden, but he also made small but significant gains with younger voters. In the last election, he won 4 in 10 voters under 45 years old. In this election, he won nearly half.

Looking at the youngest voters — those between 18 to 29 — Trump increased his share of the youth vote significantly. Nearly half, 46%, voted for him over Harris, up from 36% in the last election.

Trump gained among voters without a college degree

About 6 in 10 Trump voters didn't have a college degree, compared with about half of Harris voters.

A majority of voters in this election did not have a college degree, and most of those non-college-educated voters backed Trump. He won 55% of voters without a college degree, compared with about 4 in 10 who chose Harris. That represented a decline for the Democrats — in 2020, Biden drew about even with Trump among voters without a college degree, earning 47% of their vote compared with Trump's 51%.

Trump's gains with non-college voters primarily came from non-white men without a college degree shifting right, as well as younger voters overall without a college degree. But he also won over more non-white women without a college degree compared with the last election.

Harris maintained Biden's level of support among college graduates, who made up 44% of voters overall. A majority of college-educated voters backed Harris, and about 4 in 10 voted for Trump. But that wasn't enough when she wasn't able to capture the same share of voters without a college degree.

Trump won white voters while making inroads with Black and Hispanic voters

Trump's coalition this year was mostly white, just as it was in 2020. But it was more diverse than it was four years ago because of the gains he made with relatively small groups.

White voters made up about three-quarters of the electorate, and they did not shift significantly at the national level — about the same share voted for Trump as in 2020. He was able to make slight inroads with Black and Latino voters, and each group made up about 1 in 10 voters in this election.

Nationally, about 8 in 10 Black voters supported Harris. But that was down from about 9 in 10 in the last presidential election who went for Biden. And while Harris won more than half of Hispanic voters, that was down slightly from the roughly 6 in 10 Biden won.

Trump increased his share of young Black men — something that helped cut into a key Democratic voting group. About 3 in 10 Black men under the age of 45 went for Trump, roughly double the share he got in 2020. Young Latinos — particularly young Latino men — were more open to Trump than they were in 2020. Roughly half of Latino men under 45 voted for Harris, down from about 6 in 10 who went for Biden.

Harris narrowly carried suburbs, but Trump ran up the rural vote

Just like four years ago, Trump drew more strength from rural areas than his Democratic opponent did.

Nearly half of voters, 45%, say they live in the suburbs. About half of those voters went for Harris, while 46% chose Trump. Trump won about 6 in 10 voters who live in small towns or rural communities, while Harris won about 6 in 10 urban voters. Those numbers were roughly in line with support during the 2020 election.

Education was a factor here, too. Trump made slight gains with urban voters without a college degree, as well as non-white voters in urban communities and rural areas. He also drew in slightly more white men without a college degree in urban areas: about 6 in 10 supported him, compared with about half in 2020.

Those gains for Trump among urban voters were offset, however, by Harris' improvement over Biden with white men with college degrees living in urban areas. She won about two-thirds of this group, up from about half for Biden in 2020.

___ AP VoteCast is a survey of the American electorate conducted by NORC at the University of Chicago for Fox News, PBS NewsHour, The Wall Street Journal and The Associated Press. The survey of more than 120,000 voters was conducted for eight days, concluding as polls closed. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. The survey combines a random sample of registered voters drawn from state voter files; self-identified registered voters using NORC's probability based AmeriSpeak panel, which is designed to be representative of the U.S. population; and self-identified registered voters selected from nonprobability online panels. The margin of sampling error for voters overall is estimated to be plus or minus 0.4 percentage points. Find more details about AP VoteCast's methodology at <https://ap.org/votecast>.

Trump 2.0 will alter global climate fighting efforts. Will others step up?

By SETH BORENSTEIN AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Global efforts to fight climate change stumbled but survived the last time Donald Trump was elected president and withdrew the United States from an international climate agreement. Other countries, states, cities and businesses picked up some of the slack.

But numerous experts worry that a second Trump term will be more damaging, with the United States withdrawing even further from climate efforts in a way that could cripple future presidents' efforts. With Trump, who has dismissed climate change, in charge of the world's leading economy, those experts fear other countries — especially top polluting nation China — could use it as an excuse to ease off their own efforts to curb carbon emissions.

"There's no hope of reaching a safe climate without substantive action from the United States, from China, from Europe," said Stanford University climate scientist Rob Jackson, who chairs the Global Carbon Project, a group of scientists that tracks countries' carbon dioxide emissions, which have been rising globally. He said he's certain the world is shooting past the internationally accepted threshold of limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius since pre-industrial times. That's just a couple tenths of a degree away. Others believe the goal is alive.

Trump's reelection comes as the world is on track to set yet another record hot year, and has been lurching from drought to hurricane to flood to wildfire.

"An emboldened Trump would be terrible," European Climate Foundation CEO Laurence Tubiana said in August.

On Wednesday, Tubiana, the former French official who helped forge the landmark 2015 Paris Agreement that Trump pulled out of, called the election result a setback for global climate action. But she added: "The Paris Agreement has proven resilient and is stronger than any single country's policy."

The United Nations' annual climate negotiations to follow on the Paris accord start next week in Baku, Azerbaijan. In the months after, all countries including the U.S. must issue national plans showing how they will increase efforts to limit heat-trapping emissions from coal, oil and natural gas.

"Baku will be the earliest test of the resilience of the global climate regime," said Asia Society Policy Institute Director Li Shuo, who foresees the European Union and China stepping up to fill the U.S. leadership void, especially economically. "It should also unite other countries."

It sort of did that in 2017, when Trump announced that the U.S. would abandon the Paris climate agreement.

"Not a single country followed the U.S. out the door," said Alden Meyer, a longtime climate negotiations analyst with the European think tank E3G. "We saw the birth and launch of the We Are Still In movement of subnational actors, investors, businesses, governors, mayors and others here in the U.S."

Meyer and others said a more serious step than withdrawing from Paris is possible. That would be pulling out of an underlying treaty from 1992 that set curbing climate change and saving biodiversity as part of global environmental goals for the 21st century, as well as withdrawing from the United Nations climate change fighting system that fosters negotiations, records emissions and what's being done about them.

Project 2025, a conservative post-election blueprint that the Trump campaign distanced itself from but was written by his allies, called for withdrawing from both that U.N. framework and the Paris Agreement.

In 1992, then-President George H.W. Bush signed the Rio conventions, which set up the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. That eventually led to agreements in Kyoto and Paris. The Rio agreement was unanimously approved by the U.S. Senate, but senators soundly rejected the 1997 Kyoto Protocol and President George W. Bush pulled the U.S. out of it.

When negotiators were crafting the 2015 Paris deal, they made it voluntary and made it part of the Rio treaty so no Senate approval was needed. That allowed President Joe Biden in 2021 to immediately rejoin the Paris Agreement without Senate approval.

It's not straightforward, but an exit from Rio and the UNFCCC could make it nearly impossible for the

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U.S. to get back into climate negotiations, Meyer said.

David Waskow, international climate director for World Resources Institute, agreed. He said withdrawal from the U.N. agreement "would not only place the U.S. on the sidelines of international climate discussions but would be like ejecting itself from the stadium."

The Paris agreement calls for nations to submit new and more aggressive plans to reduce emissions of heat-trapping gases every five years. Those are due next February and the Biden administration has promised to submit one before it ends "to show what should be done, what can be done," Meyer said. But the assumption is that the new Trump administration won't honor it, he said.

Meyer said the United States pulling out of climate agreements in Republican administrations and then trying to lead the world in Democratic ones is like the Peanuts cartoon when Lucy keeps pulling the football away from Charlie Brown.

"The world has gotten tired of this routine," Meyer said.

Joanna Depledge, a historian of international climate negotiations, said she expected Trump's new term will mean four lost years for U.S. climate action. But she added: "The rest of the world is used to U.S. flip-flopping now and will not be diverted from their own efforts."

Because of the 2020 pandemic and the timing of deadlines created by the Paris Agreement, the three United Nations climate negotiations that took place during the first Trump administration weren't as ambitious as they could have been. Now, urgent action is needed at the summit this year and next, Depledge and others said.

U.N. climate chief Simon Stiell said negotiations continue because "the fundamental facts remain unchanged: global heating is already hammering every nation, hitting national and households budgets harder every year."

The Biden administration will still represent the United States next week, when crucial negotiations will address financial help that poor nations need to cope with and fight climate change. But Harris' loss undercuts negotiations because "everyone there knows" the U.S. is unlikely to follow through on any agreement it signs, Stanford's Jackson said.

One of the dynamics of past negotiations during Democratic regimes was that any U.S.-China deal usually led to a global one. Usually the United States "is able to nudge" a more reluctant China to be more ambitious about fighting climate change, Asia Society's Li Shuo said.

"Beijing will read the air in Washington and their conclusion is climate does not enjoy the same level of momentum it had a couple of years ago," Li said.

But despite all this, many in the insular world of climate negotiations somehow keep optimistic.

"There is an antidote to doom and despair," said former U.N. climate chief Christiana Figueres said. "It's action on the ground and it's happening in all corners of the Earth."

Today in History: November 9, Berlin Wall falls after 28 years

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Saturday, Nov. 9, the 314th day of 2024. There are 52 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Nov. 9, 1989, communist East Germany threw open its borders, allowing citizens to travel freely to the West for the first time in decades.

Also on this date:

In 1906, Theodore Roosevelt made the first trip abroad of any sitting president in order to observe construction of the Panama Canal.

In 1935, United Mine Workers President John L. Lewis and other labor leaders formed the Committee for Industrial Organization.

In 1938, Nazis looted and burned synagogues as well as thousands of Jewish-owned stores and houses in Germany and Austria in a pogrom or deliberate persecution that became known as "Kristallnacht."

In 1965, the great Northeast blackout began with a series of power failures lasting up to 13 1/2 hours,

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leaving 30 million people in seven states and part of Canada without electricity.

In 1976, the U.N. General Assembly approved resolutions condemning apartheid in South Africa, including one characterizing the white-ruled government as "illegitimate."

In 2007, President Gen. Pervez Musharraf (pur-VEHZ' moo-SHAH'-ruhv) of Pakistan placed opposition leader Benazir Bhutto (BEN'-uh-zeer BOO'-toh) under house arrest for a day and rounded up thousands of her supporters to block a mass rally against his emergency rule.

In 2011, after 46 seasons as Penn State's head football coach and a record 409 victories, Joe Paterno was fired along with the university president, Graham Spanier, over their handling of child sex abuse allegations against former assistant coach Jerry Sandusky.

Today's Birthdays: Film director Bille August is 76. Actor-bodybuilder Lou Ferrigno is 73. Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, is 72. Gospel singer Donnie McClurkin is 65. TV writer-director-producer Ryan Murphy is 59. Rapper Scarface (Geto Boys) is 54. Blues singer Susan Tedeschi (teh-DEHS'-kee) is 54. Golfer David Duval is 53. Actor Eric Dane is 52. Singer-TV personality Nick Lachey is 51. R&B singer Sisqo is 46. Actor-TV personality Vanessa Lachey is 44. Country singer Chris Lane is 40.