

# Groton Daily Independent

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## Monday, Nov. 18

Senior Menu: Creamed chicken, biscuit, peas and carrots, fruit.

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

School Breakfast: Stuffed bagels.

School Lunch: Lasagna bake, garlic toast.

St. John's Lutheran: Christian Literature Circle, 7:30 p.m.

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

First allowable day of wrestling practice

Senior Citizens meet at the Groton Community Center, 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

## Tuesday, Nov. 19

Senior Menu: Tuna noodle hot dish with peas, mixed vegetables, apple crisps, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Waffles.

School Lunch: Turkey gravy, mashed potatoes, stuffing, cranberries.

St. John's Lutheran: Quilting, 12:30 p.m.

United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

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

Pantry, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., Groton Community Center  
City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.

## Groton Daily Independent

PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445

Paul's Cell/Text: 605-397-7460

I'M TOO **BLESSED** TO BE  
STRESSED & TOO **GRATEFUL**  
TO BE HATEFUL..

**Life** is too short..

to worry about  
what others  
say or think  
about you.

So just enjoy life,  
don't **SWEAT** the  
small stuff,

have **FUN**, and  
give them

**SOMETHING**  
to talk about.



## Wednesday, Nov. 20

Senior Menu: Hamburger cabbage hot dish, corn, pears, muffin.

School Breakfast: Cereal.

School Lunch: Tacos.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Confirmation, time to be determined; League, 6:30 p.m.

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

United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.; Groton Ad Council, 7 p.m.

Groton C&MA: Kids' Club, Youth Group, Adult Bible Study at 7 pm.

## Thursday, Nov. 21

Senior Menu: Ham rotini bake, capri blend, fruit, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Pancake on a stick.

School Lunch: Glazed ham, baby bakers.

Emmanuel Lutheran: WELCA: Praise and Thanksgiving, 1:30 p.m. (Program - Sarah, Hostess - Nigera)

State Volleyball Tournament in Sioux Falls

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## Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

The Minnesota Vikings are 8-2 after toppling the Titans in Tennessee, 23-13. It wasn't a dominant performance, but the game was never really in doubt. The Vikings were predicted to get 6.5 wins this season according to Las Vegas, so no matter what happens the rest of the way, this year should be considered a success.

Quarterback Sam Darnold fumbled the ball on the offense's third snap of the game, and the Titans were able to convert that turnover into three points. Darnold did a good job of overcoming that early error, however, and led the team on three straight scoring drives (a 47-yard bomb to Jordan Addison, a QB sneak from the goal line, plus a 40-yard field goal). The Vikings led 16-3 heading into halftime.

Neither team was able to get much going to start the third quarter, combining for three straight punts. After a beautiful punt by Ryan Wright gave the ball back to the Titans at their 2-yard line, the Vikings sold out to stop the run which allowed Titans' QB Will Levis to find WR Westbrook-Ikhine for a 98-yard touchdown. The Vikings responded with a TD drive of their own, with the three-yard pass from Darnold to RB Cam Akers making the score 23-10. The Titans managed another field goal a minute into the fourth quarter, but the rest of the final quarter was scoreless. Down 10 with less than two minutes left in the game, Levis threw a deep pass that was intercepted by Harrison Smith to seal the game. Fun fact: Harrison "The Hitman" Smith is one of only four players all time to have 35+ interceptions and 20+ sacks in their career. The other three are all in the Hall of Fame.

Sam Darnold completed 20 of 32 passes for 246 yards and two touchdowns (and zero interceptions). He also added 18 yards and a TD on the ground. Justin Jefferson led the team with six receptions for 81 yards, Jordan Addison caught three passes for 61 yards, and TE Josh Oliver added another three for 34. The run game was stagnant against the Titans, with Aaron Jones and Cam Akers combining for only 64 yards on 25 carries.

The Vikings' defense gave up that huge 98-yard touchdown but were spectacular otherwise. The run defense was particularly stout, only allowing 33 yards on 19 carries. The team finished with five sacks (Andrew Van Ginkel(2), Pat Jones II (2), and Blake Cashman (1)), and one interception (Harrison Smith).

The player of the game on offense was Justin Jefferson, who now holds the record for most receiving yards through a player's first five seasons – and there are still seven games to go! For comparison:

Justin Jefferson has 6,801 yards in 69 games (98.6 yards per game)

Torry Holt had 6,784 yards in 80 games (84.8 yards per game)

Randy Moss had 6,743 yards in 80 games (84.3 yards per game)

Jerry Rice had 6,364 yards in 76 games (83.7 yards per game)

The player of the game on defense was Andrew Van Ginkel, who led the team with eight tackles, two sacks, and three tackles for a loss. AVG was an unheralded free agent signing, but just might be the most important player on the Vikings' defense right now.

Looking ahead, the Vikings finish their three-game road trip with a visit to the windy city to take on the Bears, who are 4-6 this season. The Bears lost to the Packers Sunday, 19-20, after a potential game-winning field goal attempt was blocked by Green Bay. The Vikings are the better team in this matchup, but divisional battles are hard to predict. If Vikings' defensive coordinator can confuse the first-overall pick, QB Caleb Williams, the Vikings should be able to get the win. Skol!

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## Remembering Our American Veterans



by Jerica Locke

Gary Sombke enlisted into the United States Air Force in August of 1971 with a group of high school friends because of the ongoing Vietnam Conflict at the time. He received his basic training at Lackland AFB in

Texas and thought it was tough, but he was able to get through it due to being raised a tough farm kid. Joining the Air Force was the first time he had ever been away from home, so it was a little overwhelming at first.

Gary was first stationed in Denver, Colorado for training and education. Eventually, he was deployed near the Mekong River in Nakhon Phanom, Thailand and in Vietnam for a temporary duty. When he returned to the U.S., he was stationed at Pease AFB in New Hampshire. His training focused on electronics and weapons, and he worked on A1 Fighter jets that were used to rescue downed pilots and on military

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missions as a weapons mechanic.

Some of Gary's most memorable experiences during his service were learning about the cultures and people where he was stationed, having to adjust to the vastly different living conditions of the jungle, using the outdoor toilets and showers, and flying in the refueling jets as they completed midair fueling. He also remembers how at night he could hear bombings in other places and see rockets in the distance. During his service there wasn't much for entertainment, but he does remember seeing a Bob Hope USO show in Udom Thailand.

While serving, Gary would send letters, cassette tapes, and calls to his family and friends in order to stay in touch. He also made many friends and comrades while serving in the Air Force. After his service ended, he reunited with his family and the community. Many things changed in the four years he was gone. Eventually, Gary would go on to get married and have two children, Daughter, Tanea Clocksene husband Josh, and Son, Andrew Sombke, wife Dawn. as well as five amazing grandchildren (Cowan, Dresden, Emma, Harrison, and Hadleigh). Now, in his free time, Gary likes to fish, travel, and spend time with his family.

Gary is a current member of the Veterans of Foreign War and the American Legion. While he served in the military, he learned many values such as loyalty, patriotism, confidence, and cooperation. Gary says the military has had a lifelong positive affect on his life and his family.

Serving in the military, he was able to take advantage of the benefits of the GI bill and attend school for electronics. He was then able to create a forty-year long career working as an electrical lineman, where his military experience served as a solid reference on his resume. Gary says the military is an amazing opportunity to learn a career, receive an education, and to travel the world. He would encourage any young person to enlist.



**Gary Sombke (center) pictured with Jerica Locke (right) and Legion Auxiliary member Tami Zimney.** (Photo by Bruce Babcock)

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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.**

## India Goes Hypersonic

India successfully tested its first long-range hypersonic missile over the weekend, the government said yesterday, maneuvering midflight and impacting with precision.

Hypersonic missiles can fly at more than five times the speed of sound—more than 3,000 miles per hour—and have a range of over 930 miles. Hypersonic missiles are able to fly lower than ballistic missiles, making them harder to detect and intercept. They are also highly precise, do not need to follow a predetermined trajectory, and can change course midflight.

Saturday's test took place on Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of India's eastern state of Odisha. India now joins three countries—the US, Russia, and China—in demonstrating hypersonic capabilities. North Korea and Yemen's Houthis claim to possess hypersonic weapons; other countries—including Germany, France, Japan, and South Korea—are reportedly pursuing them.

## Salmon Swim Free

Salmon have returned to the upper basin of Oregon's Klamath River in recent weeks, successfully laying eggs in the area for the first time in decades, according to expert surveys. The development comes roughly two months after the removal of the last of four hydroelectric dams was completed, wrapping the largest dam removal project in US history.

The Klamath River was once home to one of the country's largest salmon and steelhead migrations, with hundreds of thousands of fish traversing the waterway annually to lay eggs. A series of four dams built between 1918 and 1962 generated hydroelectric power but significantly disrupted (w/map) the ability of fish to reach the river's upper basin. One estimate found spring-run salmon populations in the area to be down 98% from predam levels—though officials are optimistic levels will return to historic averages in the coming years.

## World War II Veteran Recovered

The remains of a missing World War II veteran have been recovered and identified at the bottom of the Pacific Ocean. The expedition—213 feet below the surface—is the US government's deepest underwater recovery operation to date.

On March 11, 1944, a B-24 bomber known as "Heaven Can Wait" was shot down over Papua New Guinea. The aircraft—carrying 11 US service members—was en route to bomb Japanese anti-aircraft weapons on the island's northeast coast. Early last year, Navy divers recovered the dog tags and remains of 2nd Lt. Thomas V. Kelly Jr.—a 21-year-old aviator from California. The remains of two other veterans—radio operator Eugene J. Darrigan, 26, and navigator 2nd Lt. Donald W. Sheppick, 26—were identified earlier this year.

The mission came about after Kelly's family members conducted an extensive research project from 2013 to 2017, gathering historical documents and eyewitness accounts to narrow the wreckage search.

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## Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

Miss Denmark Victoria Kjaer Theilvig crowned 2024 Miss Universe; Miss Nigeria Chidimma Adetshina named first runner-up.

Bela Karolyi, controversial longtime coach of Team USA gymnastics, dies at age 82.

Vladimir Shklyarov, Russian ballet star, dies at age 39 after fall from fifth-floor building.

US Postal Service to honor actress Betty White and musician Allen Toussaint with postage stamps in 2025.

Netflix hauls in 60 million households for Friday night's Mike Tyson-Jake Paul fight.

## Science & Technology

President-elect Donald Trump selects Chris Wright, CEO of Denver-based fracking company Liberty Energy, to lead the Department of Energy; choice faces Senate confirmation.

Researchers create first fully mechanical qubit, the basic processing unit for quantum computers.

The amazing science behind quantum computers.

Stress disrupts memory formation and leads to anxiety in nonthreatening situations, mouse study finds.

## Business & Markets

US stock markets close lower Friday (S&P 500 -1.3%, Dow -0.7%, Nasdaq -2.2%).

October retail sales rise 0.4%, beating expectations.

The Federal Trade Commission is reportedly planning to investigate Microsoft's cloud computing business; allegations of anticompetitive practices include steep exit fees, other terms preventing clients from migrating data to competitors.

The Exploration Company, European competitor to SpaceX, announces it has raised \$160M to develop Nyx, its reusable space capsule.

## Politics & World Affairs

President Joe Biden approves Ukrainian use of US-made long-range weapons into Russia in policy reversal.

Russia launches 120 missiles, 90 drones into Ukraine in attack on country's power grid, per Ukrainian government, killing at least eight people and prompting blackouts.

Israeli strike on Beirut kills Hezbollah's spokesperson.

Israeli strikes in northern Gaza kill dozens of people; Israel says it intercepted two rockets launched from the area.

California confirms first US case of mpox variant originally identified in eastern Congo; the variant—clade I—is associated with more severe illness than the variant currently circulating at low levels in the US.

## FROSTY CLUE

I/My.....

18. Favorite thing to eat is seafood



## Caring for Expectant Moms

Lately my teenager has been fascinated by medical dramas. Although my "doctor self" is usually rolling my eyes throughout the program, it's often a good conversation starter.

One recent show featured a pregnant woman who experienced one medical crisis after another. Her kidneys, liver, and lungs failed in succession as the team raced to identify the underlying obstetrical problem and find a treatment. At the climax of the episode, her heart stopped. Of course, being television, the correct diagnosis was made, the experimental treatment worked, and the episode ended with a perfectly healthy mother at home, holding her perfectly healthy baby.

For all the erroneous and outrageous details that transform bad fictional medicine into good TV, they did get something right. Pregnancy is a dangerous condition. In fact, in America, pregnancy complications account for approximately two percent of all deaths among women between the ages of 20 and 44.

To put the two percent into perspective, consider that pregnancy complications can only happen in the months during and immediately following pregnancy. On average a woman in the United States will birth between one and two children. This means that between the ages of 20 and 44, the risk of pregnancy-related death isn't spread across those 25 years as are the risks of cancer or car accidents. It is concentrated into the relatively few months during which she is pregnant. And for women younger than 20 and older than 44 the risk of pregnancy complications is even greater but, statistically speaking, women in those age groups simply don't have enough babies to categorize pregnancy complications as a major cause of death.

Consider also that death by violence is not counted as a pregnancy complication, even though pregnancy is a significant trigger for violence.

What's more, consider that these risks are not distributed equally between women. Socioeconomic status, education, physical location, and race all impact the likelihood of pregnancy complications, and death from those complications.

Issues that affect pregnant people affect their whole family. In medical school, I was taught "nothing is worse for a fetus than a dead mother." It's hard to disagree.

So, what can we do to make pregnancy safer? The answer to that question is multi-faceted. Access to quality obstetric care is one factor. However, we must also ensure women are as healthy as possible before they conceive. They need good nutrition and safe places to live and work. They need education to know what is normal, and what is not. They and their families need access to psychiatric care to address mental illness and addiction.

It may not make for good TV, but in the real world, the starting place is as basic, and as difficult, as that.

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



Debra Johnston, MD

## EARTHTALK ™

Dear EarthTalk: I often find old tennis balls in a nearby park, likely lost by dog owners. What is the collective effect on ecosystems of all these tennis balls?

-- June Jackson, via email

Tennis balls, primarily made from rubber and synthetic materials, do not biodegrade and can persist in the environment for years. Made with a combination of rubber and felt, they contribute both litter and microplastics to our ecosystems.

Natural and synthetic rubber production is resource-intensive, often leading to deforestation and pollution in areas where rubber plantations are cultivated. The manufacturing process also consumes significant energy, and once discarded, tennis balls contribute to growing plastic waste in ecosystems. While some tennis ball recycling initiatives exist, such as efforts to repurpose used balls into playground surfaces or dog toys, the majority still end up in landfills or scattered in natural spaces.

Also, when left in nature, tennis balls can present hazards to wildlife. Animals may ingest pieces of these balls, mistaking them for food. The felt cover on tennis balls can shed fibers over time, especially in wet or harsh conditions, potentially releasing microplastics and other synthetic particles into the soil and waterways. Studies on synthetic materials in the environment have shown that these particles can disrupt soil health and are increasingly found in water systems, where they accumulate and impact marine life.

Fortunately, some manufacturers are developing more eco-friendly alternatives. Wilson Sporting Goods, for example, introduced the Triniti Ball, which is designed to last longer and comes in a recyclable, unpressurized paper container, a step toward reducing both waste and production impacts. However, these sustainable options are not yet widespread in dog toy collections, so responsible disposal and use are still crucial for pet owners who want to minimize their environmental footprint.

If you want to discard your dog's old tennis balls responsibly—or you pick up others' long forgotten ones left behind on walks—take them to a nearby tennis center that hosts a collection bin from RecycleBalls. This innovative company takes apart old tennis balls and repurposes their constituent parts into a wide variety of other applications.

While one or two tennis balls left behind might seem inconsequential, the cumulative impact is not. Retrieving and disposing of used tennis balls properly—or opting for eco-friendlier toys—can help reduce this environmental impact and keep natural spaces cleaner for everyone.

EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. See more at <https://emagazine.com>. To donate, visit <https://earthtalk.org>. Send questions to: [question@earthtalk.org](mailto:question@earthtalk.org).



**When your dog's tennis ball gets left behind in the bushes or woods, it can wreak havoc on the surrounding ecosystem.** Credit: Roddy Scheer.





## SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

### Lawmakers look forward to Rhoden, speculate about his lieutenant governor pick

**Longtime former lawmaker would be elevated to governor if Noem is confirmed as U.S. Homeland Security secretary**

**BY: JOSHUA HAIAR - NOVEMBER 17, 2024 7:00 AM**



**Lt. Gov. Larry Rhoden listens to Gov. Kristi Noem during her 2023 budget address on the House floor of the South Dakota Capitol on Dec. 5, 2023.** (Makenzie Huber, South Dakota Searchlight)

State lawmakers from across the political spectrum are expressing confidence in Lt. Gov. Larry Rhoden while he prepares to potentially succeed Gov. Kristi Noem early next year. They're also wondering who Rhoden might choose as his own lieutenant governor.

Meanwhile, Rhoden himself has said little publicly, except to provide a statement congratulating Noem on her recent nomination by President-elect Donald Trump to serve as secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The nomination won't officially be sent to the U.S. Senate until Trump takes office in January, the same month South Dakota's Legislature will convene for its annual lawmaking session in Pierre.

State Senator-elect Jamie Smith, D-Sioux Falls, served previously in the Legislature and ran against Noem for governor in 2018.

"I've always had a good working relationship with the lieutenant governor," Smith said. "I believe this change creates new opportunities to work together for the betterment of South Dakota."

House Speaker Pro Tempore Karla Lems, R-Canton, believes legislative priorities will remain consistent regardless of who is governor.

"It will not change much in terms of bills proposed," she said. "I believe the current legislators will strive to work with Lieutenant Governor Rhoden to accomplish legislation on behalf of the people of South Dakota."

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If Rhoden becomes governor, he'll have to appoint a new lieutenant governor. And one of the lieutenant governor's roles is serving as president of the state Senate.

Sen. Randy Deibert, R-Spearfish, said it will be important to have a lieutenant governor with substantial legislative experience.

"If that's going to happen, we should get that appointment made as soon as possible, so we can hit the ground running," Deibert said. "With a significant number of new senators and a fresh leadership team, strong guidance from an experienced Senate president will be crucial."

Rhoden has not said whether he will run for governor in 2026.

Sen. Casey Crabtree, R-Madison, was majority leader of the Senate for the last Legislature. He said Rhoden's lieutenant governor will likely be someone familiar with the Senate's workings, capable of aiding in governance, and strategic on the campaign trail for a potential 2026 gubernatorial run.

"Rhoden's team would likely want someone strong along the I-29 corridor given he already has West River credentials," Crabtree said.

The transition may lead to a shift in style in the governor's office. Noem is nationally known and has spent significant time outside the state campaigning for Trump and other Republican candidates. Crabtree highlighted Rhoden's 16 years as a legislator and described him as a leader focused on "the nuts and bolts" of government.

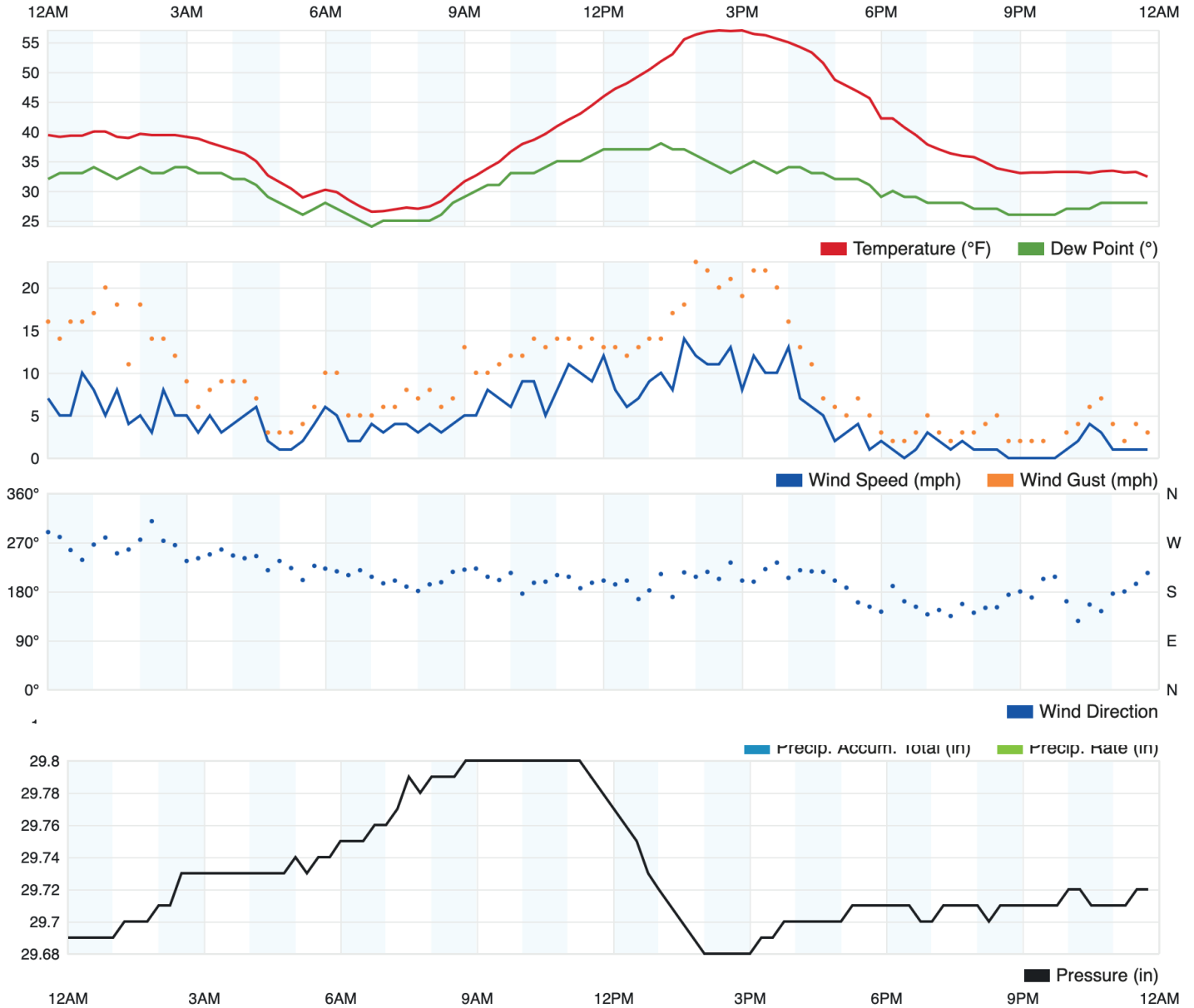
Rhoden is a lifelong rancher and a custom welder from rural Union Center in western South Dakota. He is married to Sandy Rhoden, and they have four sons and six grandchildren.

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

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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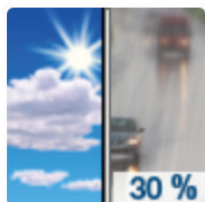
Today

Tonight

Tuesday

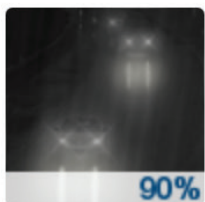
Tuesday Night

Wednesday



High: 54 °F

Mostly Sunny  
then Chance  
Rain



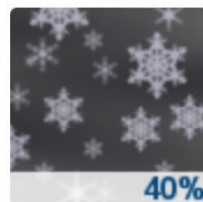
Low: 35 °F

Rain and  
Breezy



High: 42 °F

Breezy. Rain  
Likely then  
Chance  
Rain/Snow



Low: 23 °F

Chance Snow  
and Blustery



High: 30 °F

Chance Snow  
and Windy

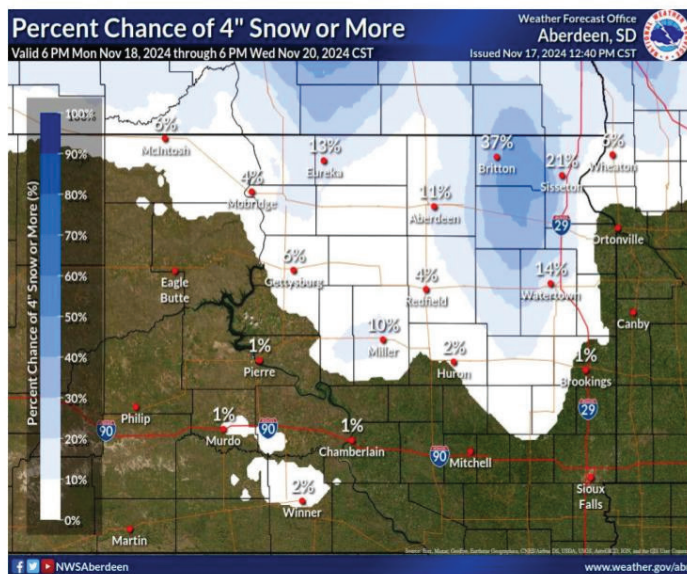
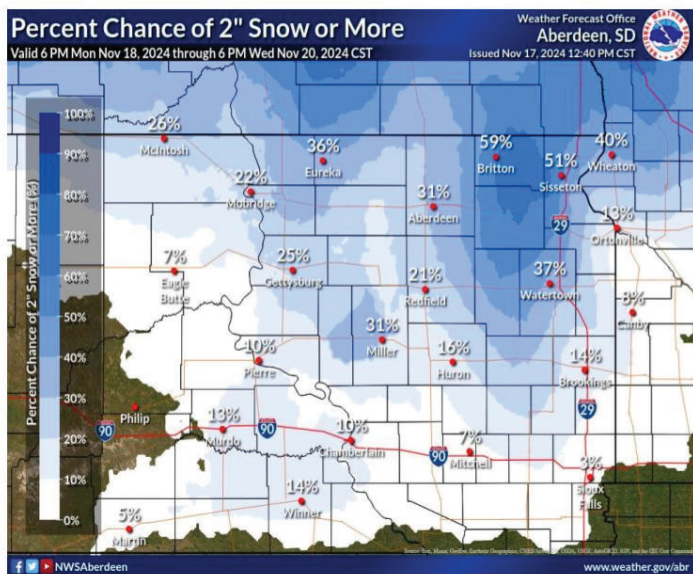


## Accumulating Snowfall Probability

November 17, 2024  
3:05 PM

Valid through 6 PM Wednesday

- A swath of > 2" of snow possible, with 4" or more over the Prairie Coteau and north central SD.
- Travel may be impacted. Keep an eye on the forecast and plan ahead.



A wave of 2" of snow will be possible for much of central and northeastern SD through Wednesday, with potential for 4 or more inches over the Prairie Coteau and north central SD. This may impact travel so keep an eye on the forecast and be prepared to make alternate travel plans

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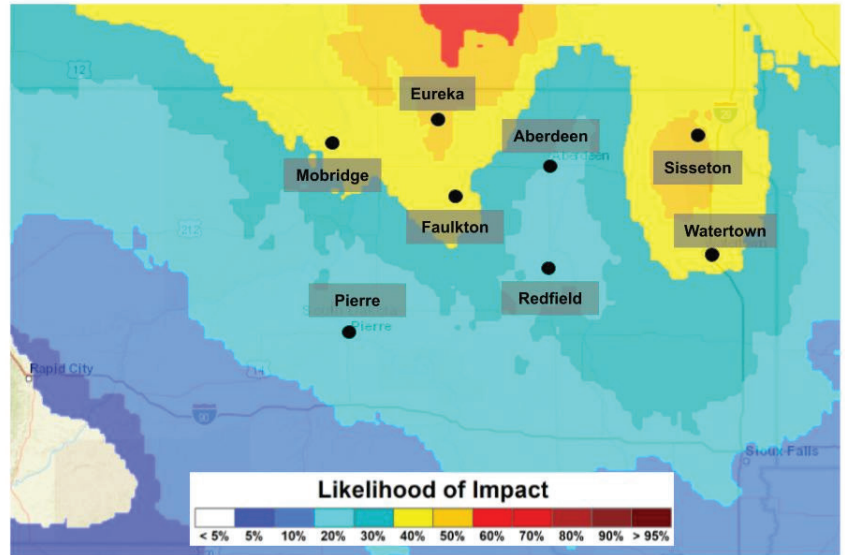


## Potential for Winter Weather Impacts

November 17, 2024  
3:14 PM

Valid through 6 PM Wednesday

### Probability of MINOR Impacts Through Wednesday



- 20-50% chance of snow lingering through the day Wednesday, highest chances over northeastern SD and west central MN.
- Wind gusts of 40-55 mph expected, highest over central SD.
- Expect winter driving conditions; use caution while driving.
- Stay up to date on the forecast; consider alternate travel plans.



National Weather Service  
Aberdeen, SD

Falling snow combined with strong winds will create some minor impacts across northern SD. If you are traveling, expect winter driving conditions and use caution. Stay up to date on the forecast and consider alternate travel plans.



## Potential Wind Gusts

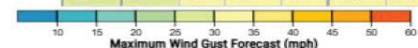
November 17, 2024  
3:11 PM

Valid through 6 PM Wednesday

- 40-55 mph wind gusts move into central SD starting Tuesday morning before spreading east towards the James River valley in the afternoon.
- 35-40 mph wind gusts will be possible east of the James River valley Tuesday and Wednesday.
- Winds are expected to start decreasing overnight Wednesday.

### Maximum Wind Gust Forecast (mph)

	11/18 Mon		11/19 Tue		11/20 Wed	
	6pm	12am	6am	12pm	6am	12pm
McIntosh	31	39	49	55	52	48
Eagle Butte	36	46	53	55	48	53
Murdo	36	43	47	49	46	43
Mobridge	22	39	41	46	45	49
Pierre	26	40	44	47	44	44
Gettysburg	24	37	43	47	40	41
Kennebec	31	43	46	49	45	43
Eureka	21	36	44	52	44	47
Chamberlain	25	38	45	47	41	41
Miller	25	39	43	45	38	41
Ellendale	24	31	37	43	38	40
Redfield	24	36	38	40	33	37
Aberdeen	25	32	37	40	36	40
Huron	21	32	38	40	33	37
Britton	28	29	36	41	38	40
Clark	29	31	36	39	35	37
Webster	31	31	38	44	40	41
Watertown	31	30	38	40	36	40
Sisseton	24	28	39	39	36	41
Brookings	28	26	37	37	32	36
Milbank	23	26	33	36	31	33
Wheaton	28	28	30	32	30	32



Created: 2 pm CST Sun 11/17/2024 | Values are maximums over the period beginning at the time shown. (Sorted geographically from West to East)

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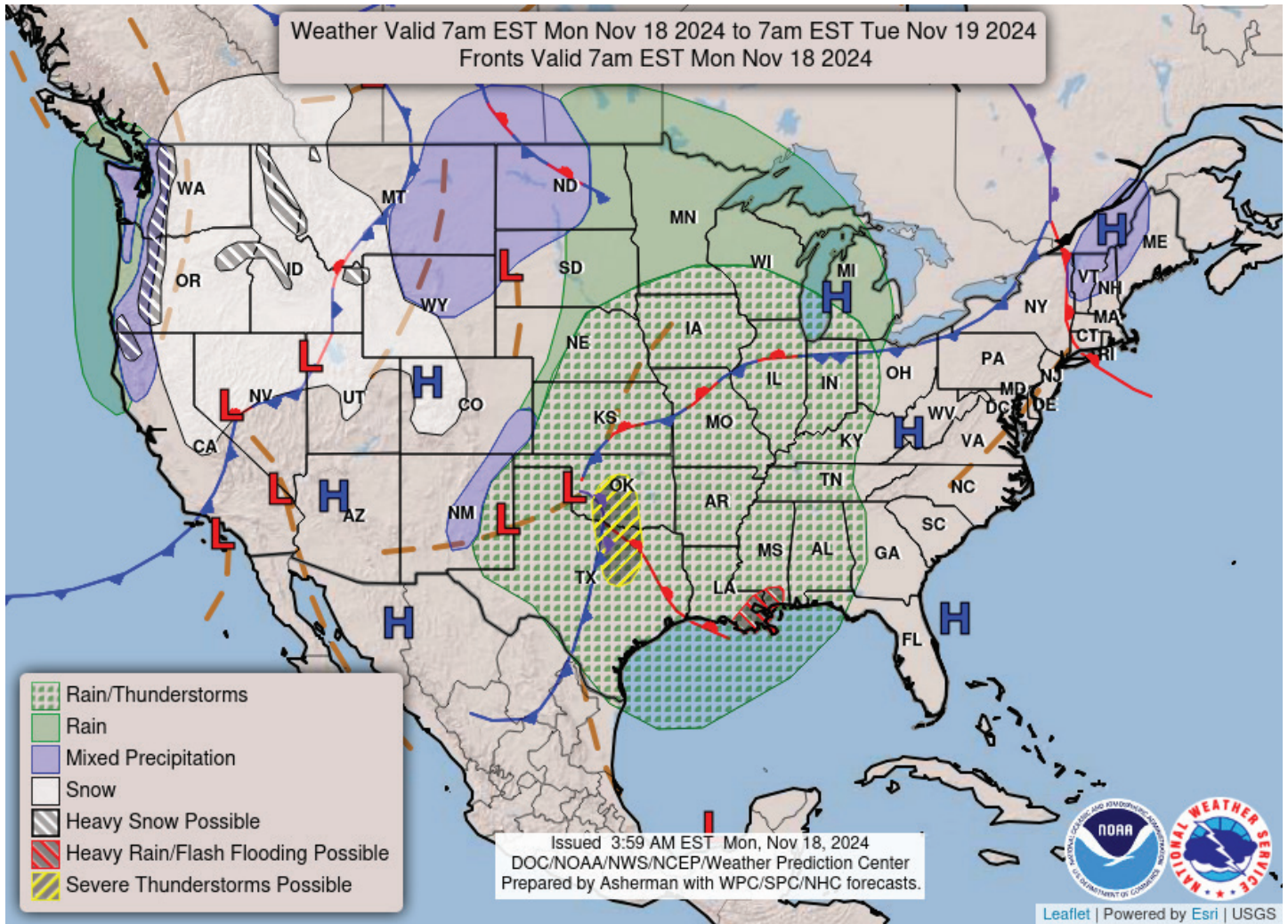
## Yesterday's Groton Weather

**High Temp: 57 °F at 2:31 PM**  
**Low Temp: 26 °F at 7:02 AM**  
**Wind: 23 mph at 1:58 PM**  
**Precip: : 0.00**

Day length: 9 hours, 25 minutes

## Today's Info

Record High: 71 in 1908  
Record Low: -13 in 1896  
Average High: 41  
Average Low: 18  
Average Precip in Nov.: 0.49  
Precip to date in Nov.: 0.76  
Average Precip to date: 20.96  
Precip Year to Date: 20.64  
Sunset Tonight: 5:00:39 pm  
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:36:06 am



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## Today in Weather History

November 18, 1985: Snowfall of 3-8 inches fell over western, central and northern South Dakota, with the most significant amount of 8 inches at Huron in Beadle County and White River in Mellette County. Strong winds exceeding 40 mph over the area produced near-blizzard conditions at times, with considerable blowing and drifting snow. Additional storm total snowfall amounts included; 6.0 inches in Murdo; 5.5 inches at Gettysburg, 5.0 inches near Stephan, in Eureka, and 12SSW of Harrold; and 4.0 inches in McLaughlin.

November 18, 1992: Three to eleven inches of snow fell in the northeast third of South Dakota and into west central Minnesota from the 18th into the 19th. Storm total snowfall amounts included; 11.0 inches in Browns Valley and near Bryant, 9 inches near Sisseton, Summit and Wheaton MN, 8 inches near Victor and Wilmot, 7.9 inches at Artichoke Lake MN, and 7.0 inches in Clear Lake.

1421: The notorious St. Elizabeth's flood occurred during the night of November 18, to November 19 in what is now known as the Netherlands. A strong storm on the North Sea coast caused several dikes to break allowing the lower lands to flood. Some villages around Dordrecht were lost, causing an estimated 6,000 casualties.

1873 - A severe storm raged from Georgia to Nova Scotia causing great losses to fishing fleets along the coast. In Maine, the barometric pressure reached 28.49 inches at Portland. (David Ludlum)

1929: A magnitude 7.2 earthquake off the coast of the Grand Banks, Newfoundland caused a submarine landslide that triggered a tsunami that killed people on the Burin Peninsula of Newfoundland. The under-sea landslide damaged several miles of transatlantic telegraph cables, resulting in much of the \$400,000 in damage. South Carolina and Portugal felt this tsunami.

1955 - An early season cold snap finally came to an end. Helena, MT, experienced 138 consecutive hours of subzero temperatures, including a reading of 29 below zero, which surpassed by seven degrees their previous record for the month of November. Missoula MT broke their November record by 12 degrees with a reading of 23 below zero, and Salt Lake City UT smashed their previous November record of zero with a reading of 14 below. Heavy snow in the Great Basin closed Donner Pass CA, and total crop damage from the cold wave amounted to eleven million dollars. (David Ludlum)

1957 - A tornado, 100 yards in width, travelled a nearly straight as an arrow 27-mile path from near Rosa AL to near Albertville AL, killing three persons. A home in the Susan Moore community in Blount County was picked up and dropped 500 feet away killing one person. (The Weather Channel)

1986 - The first of two successive snowstorms struck the northeastern U.S. The storm produced up to 20 inches of snow in southern New Hampshire. Two days later a second storm produced up to 30 inches of snow in northern Maine. (Storm Data)

1987 - It was a windy day across parts of the nation. Gale force winds whipped the Great Lakes Region. Winds gusting to 80 mph in western New York State damaged buildings and flipped over flatbed trailers at Churchville. In Montana, high winds in the Upper Yellowstone Valley gusted to 64 mph at Livingston. Strong Santa Ana winds buffeted the mountains and valleys of southern California. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Thunderstorms developing along a warm front drenched Little Rock AR with 7.01 inches of rain, smashing their previous record for the date of 1.91 inches. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - A second surge of arctic air brought record cold to parts of the north central U.S. Eleven cities in the Upper Midwest reported record low temperatures for the date, including Rochester MN with a reading of 4 degrees below zero. Strong winds ushering the arctic air into the north central U.S. produced squalls in the Lower Great Lakes Region. Snowfall totals in northern Ohio ranged up to twenty inches in Ashatabula County and Geauga County. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)



## MERCY. WHO NEEDS IT?

Alexander the Great was the first conqueror of the world. Even today, as we recognize leaders who have impacted the world, he is considered as one of the most remarkable men of history.

Late in his life an artist was commissioned to paint a portrait of him. In discussing the content of the painting Alexander informed the artist that he was anxious to conceal the scar on his face.

To accommodate him, the artist painted the portrait of Alexander in a reflective mood with his head resting on his hand and a finger covering the scar. This act of insight and kindness worked perfectly, and the scar was hidden.

That's love in action – reflecting the mercy of one who honors the needs of others.

The Apostle Peter summed up the behavior that we, as Christians, are to show others: "Most important of all," he wrote, "continue to show deep love for each other."

Love is always expressed in showing mercy to those in need. If we say that we have love for others yet do nothing to help them in their times of need, we do not reflect our appreciation for the compassion that God, through Christ, has shown us.

We can only show our gratitude for the grace of God in our lives by what we do to and for others. Words are not works, and thoughts do not bring change.

Prayer: Help us, Lord, to show our gratitude to You for the love, grace and mercy You shower upon us each day, by what we do to help others in their times of need. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. 1 Peter 4:8

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



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## WINNING NUMBERS

### MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:

11.15.24

5 17 35 55 69 19

MegaPlier: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$420,000,000**

NEXT 1 Days 16 Hrs 57

DRAW: Mins 8 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:

11.16.24

4 5 7 24 29 4

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$15,230,000**

NEXT 16 Hrs 12 Mins 8

DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:

11.17.24

10 20 26 28 42 2

TOP PRIZE:

**\$7,000/week**

NEXT 16 Hrs 27 Mins 8

DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:

11.16.24

1 11 15 16 20

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$107,000**

NEXT 2 Days 16 Hrs 27

DRAW: Mins 8 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:

11.16.24

16 23 31 59 63 10

TOP PRIZE:

**\$10,000,000**

NEXT 16 Hrs 56 Mins

DRAW: 8 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:

11.16.24

21 22 25 32 38 16

Power Play: 5x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$144,000,000**

NEXT 16 Hrs 56 Mins

DRAW: 8 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

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## Upcoming Groton Events

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

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

### **Jadyn Donovan's double-double helps No. 16 Duke women hold off South Dakota State 75-71**

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Jadyn Donovan finished with 23 points and 15 rebounds to help No. 16 Duke hold off South Dakota State 75-71 on Sunday.

Donovan hit 11 of 17 shots from the floor and added four assists and four steals for the Blue Devils (4-1). It was the second double-double this season for the sophomore.

Ashlon Jackson totaled 17 points and four assists for Duke. Vanessa de Jesus scored 13 off the bench.

Brooklyn Meyer scored 25 points on 9-for-13 shooting to lead the Jackrabbits (3-1). Paige Meyer had 12 points and seven assists. Haleigh Timmer scored 11 on 5-for-7 shooting. Kallie Theisen grabbed 12 rebounds but did not score.

Jackson had nine points to guide the Blue Devils to a 23-18 advantage after one quarter.

Donovan scored off a rebound to give Duke a 10-point lead with 90 seconds left before halftime. But Brooklyn Meyer had the only basket from there and South Dakota State trailed 38-30.

The Jackrabbits grabbed the lead at 47-45 after Timmer's layup and two free throws by Meyer. Donovan answered with a dunk off a rebound and finished off a three-point play, and Reigan Richardson and Toby Fournier sank shots in the final 44 seconds to send the Blue Devils to the fourth quarter with a 54-50 lead.

Mesa Byom hit a 3-pointer with 7:38 left to play to pull South Dakota State even at 59. Donovan answered with another rebound basket and a jumper, and the Blue Devils stayed in front from there.

The Jackrabbits stayed within striking distance by hitting 8 of 16 shots from beyond the arc while Duke sank just 3 of 11.

The Blue Devils return home to play Belmont on Thursday.

### **Lewis scored 23 points, Saint Mary's holds off a late Nebraska rally for a 77-74 win in Sioux Falls**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Mikey Lewis hit two free throws with five seconds left to give Saint Mary's a three-point lead, Brice Williams missed a 3-point attempt at the buzzer to tie and the Gaels earned a 77-74 win over Nebraska in a neutral-site game played in Sioux Falls, South Dakota on Sunday afternoon.

Lewis hit a jumper and knocked down a 3 with 4:13 left to give Saint Mary's a double-digit lead, 73-63, but the Cornhuskers clawed back behind four free throws from Williams, a tip-in and 1 of 2 free throws by Berke Buyuktuncel, and a Rollie Worster layup to make it 75-72 with under a minute left. Williams hit two free throws with 6 seconds left to get within one.

Lewis led Saint Mary's (4-0) with 23 points, four rebounds, three assists and four steals off the bench. Paulius Murauskas had 16 points, six boards and three assists and Luke Barrett added 15 -points. Mitchell Saxen turned in a double-double with a dozen points and a dozen rebounds, leaving him just one point shy of becoming the 40th player to reach 1,000 in his Saint Mary's career. The Gaels shot 42.6% from the field (26 of 61), including 11 of 23 from beyond the arc, but were only 14 of 25 from the free-throw line.

Nebraska (3-1) converted 25 of 29 free-throw attempts to fuel its comeback attempt. Williams was 11 for 11 from the line and scored a season-high 28 points. Buyuktuncel was 5 of 6 from the line and finished with 15 points with three steals and three blocked shots. Worster and Andrew Morgan each added 10 points.

The Gaels return home for a pair of games, beginning with Stanislaus State on Wednesday.

Nebraska travels to Omaha to take on in-state rival Creighton on Friday.

## Middle East latest: Children and parents among 8 killed in Israeli strikes in Gaza, officials say

By The Associated Press undefined

Israeli strikes on the Gaza Strip killed eight people, including two children aged 7 and 9 and their parents, Palestinian officials said Monday.

A third child, 10 years old, was wounded in an overnight strike on a tent where displaced people were sheltering in the southern city of Khan Younis, according to the Civil Defense, first responders who operate under the Hamas-run government. An Associated Press reporter saw the children's bodies at nearby Nasser Hospital.

A separate strike early Monday killed four people, including a woman and a child, in the built-up Nuseirat refugee camp, according to nearby Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital.

The Israeli military blames civilian deaths on Hamas, accusing militants of hiding among civilians and fighting from residential areas. It rarely comments on individual strikes, which often kill women and children.

The war began when Hamas stormed into Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting around 250. Some 100 hostages are still inside Gaza, a third of whom are believed to be dead.

Israel's retaliatory offensive has killed over 43,800 Palestinians, according to local health authorities. They do not distinguish between militants and civilians but say most of those killed are women and children. The fighting has left some 76 people dead in Israel, including 31 soldiers.

Here's the Latest:

Children and their parents among 8 killed in Israeli strikes in Gaza, officials say

KHAN YOUNIS, Gaza Strip — Israeli strikes on the Gaza Strip have killed eight people, including two children aged 7 and 9 and their parents, Palestinian officials said. A third child, 10 years old, was wounded in the same strike.

The Civil Defense, first responders who operate under the Hamas-run government, said Monday that the two children were killed in an overnight strike on a tent where displaced people were sheltering in the southern city of Khan Younis.

An Associated Press reporter saw the bodies at nearby Nasser Hospital. The two children were beheaded by the blast and their remains were placed in one body bag.

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## Brazil hosts a G20 summit overshadowed by wars and Trump's return, aiming for a deal to fight hunger

By ELÉONORE HUGHES and MAURICIO SAVARESE Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — With Brazil preparing to host the Group of 20 summit, it appears unlikely the leading rich and developing nations will sign on to a meaningful declaration regarding geopolitics: The meeting Monday and Tuesday in Rio de Janeiro is overshadowed by two major wars and Donald Trump's recent election victory.

Heightened global tensions and uncertainty about an incoming Trump administration have tempered any

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expectations for a strongly worded statement addressing the conflicts in the Middle East and between Russia and Ukraine. Experts instead anticipate a final document focused on social issues like the eradication of hunger — one of Brazil's priorities — even if it aims to include at least a mention of the ongoing wars.

"Brazilian diplomacy has been strongly engaged in this task, but to expect a substantively strong and consensual declaration in a year like 2024 with two serious international conflicts is to set the bar very high," said Cristiane Lucena Carneiro, an international relations professor at the University of Sao Paulo.

After Brazil's President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva thwarted far-right former President Jair Bolsonaro's reelection bid in 2022, there was some excitement in the international community at the prospect of the leftist leader and savvy diplomat — who Barack Obama once called "the most popular politician on Earth" — hosting the G20. Bolsonaro had little personal interest in international summits, let foreign policy be guided by ideology and clashed with several leaders, including France's Emmanuel Macron. Lula took office and often quoted a catchphrase: "Brazil is back."

Brazil under Lula has reverted to its decades-old principle of non-alignment to carve out a policy that best safeguards its interests in an increasingly multipolar world. That involves talking to all parties, which experts say gave Brazil a privileged position to host a summit such as the G20.

But his administration's foreign policy has at times raised eyebrows. A Brazil-China peace plan for Russia and Ukraine doesn't call for Russia's withdrawal from Ukraine and has been slammed by Ukrainian leader Volodymyr Zelenskyy. And Lula sparked a diplomatic incident with Israel after comparing its actions in Gaza to the Holocaust.

Donald Trump's win in the U.S. presidential election earlier this month and the imminent return of an America First doctrine may also hamper the diplomatic spirit needed for broad agreement on divisive issues.

"If we have one certainty, it is regarding Donald Trump's skepticism towards multilateralism," Carneiro said.

Two officials from Brazil and one from another G20 nation say Argentine negotiators are standing in the way of a joint declaration. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly. Two of them said Argentina's negotiators have raised several objections to the draft. They most vehemently oppose a clause calling for a global tax on the super-rich — which they had previously accepted, in July — and another promoting gender equality.

Ambassador Mauricio Lyrio, Brazil's key negotiator at G20, told journalists on Nov. 8 that the leaders' final declaration should address the wars in Ukraine and the Middle East, but that diplomats were still discussing how to reach universally acceptable language.

"The main message, naturally, is that we need to achieve peace not only regarding these conflicts but all conflicts," he said in the capital Brasilia, adding that Lula's launch of a global alliance against hunger and poverty on Monday is just as important as the final statement.

"The leaders' declaration will be the crowning achievement. But, at the same time, as instructed by the president himself, we have a G20 focused on concrete actions, such as the launch of a Global Alliance Against Hunger, with a package of very concrete social programs and innovative mechanisms to meet the resources needed for implementing them."

Lula, a former trade unionist who hails from a humble background, made the fight against hunger a priority during his first two terms as president (2003-2010) both at home and abroad. The number of undernourished Brazilians fell by more than 80% in 10 years, according to a 2014 U.N. report.

Lula's hunger alliance is the only one of Brazil's primary aims for a G20 declaration that will be obtained, according to Thomas Traumann, a former government minister and a political consultant based in Rio.

"Brazil wanted a global deal to fight poverty, a project to finance green transition and some consensus over a global tax for the super rich. Only the first one has survived," Traumann said.

President Joe Biden will attend the summit after a stop in Lima for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum and then travel on to Manaus, a city in Brazil's Amazon rainforest. It will be the first time a sitting American president sets foot in the Amazon, and the trip's objective is to highlight "commitment to environmental protection and respect for local cultures," according to a Nov. 12 statement from the U.S. Embassy in Brazil.

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White House officials insist that Biden's visits to APEC and the G20 will be substantive, with talks on climate issues, global infrastructure, counternarcotic efforts and one-on-one meetings with global leaders, including Chinese President Xi Jinping. Those officials say Biden also will use the summits to press allies to keep up support for Ukraine as it tries to fend off Russia's invasion and not lose sight of finding an end to the wars in Lebanon and Gaza.

Any commitments Biden makes may be overturned by the next White House administration, according to Danielle Ayres, an international relations professor at the Federal University of Santa Catarina.

"It would mean Trump would have to be proactive and say the U.S. is not going to do something to which it signed up for internationally," Ayres said. "That has a cost. It generates insecurity, a bad perception on behalf of the international community towards Trump."

Trump's election may also cause other countries to look toward China as a more reliable partner. Xi Jinping's inauguration of the Chancaay megaport in Peru on Thursday was perhaps the clearest sign of Latin America's reorientation. U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer will meet Xi Monday, the first meeting between British and Chinese leaders since 2018. Starmer's office says the U.K. leader is seeking to repair relations with Beijing after years of acrimony over human rights, Hong Kong and what U.K. officials say are Beijing's attempts to exert influence on British politics.

A notable absentee at the G20 will be Russia's President Vladimir Putin, against whom the International Criminal Court has issued a warrant that obliges member states to arrest him, and Russia's delegation will be led by Sergey Lavrov. Israel is not a G20 member.

"The latest G20 meetings were somewhat depleted and became just another moment for bilateral meetings of heads of government. As Putin is out, Lula managed Ukraine not to be a topic, just as much as Israel. But Trump's election takes from Lula the chance of being the star on the stage," Traumann said.

## **Spirit Airlines files for bankruptcy as financial losses pile up and debt payments loom**

By DAVID KOENIG AP Airlines Writer

Spirit Airlines said Monday that it has filed for bankruptcy protection and will attempt to reboot as it struggles to recover from the pandemic-caused swoon in travel and a failed attempt to sell the airline to JetBlue.

Spirit, the biggest U.S. budget airline, has lost more than \$2.5 billion since the start of 2020 and faces looming debt payments totaling more than \$1 billion over the next year.

Spirit said it expects to operate as normal as it works its way through a prearranged Chapter 11 bankruptcy process and that customers can continue to book and fly without interruption.

Shares of Miramar, Florida-based Spirit dropped 25% on Friday, after The Wall Street Journal reported that the airline was discussing terms of a possible bankruptcy filing with its bondholders. It was just the latest in a series of blows that have sent the stock crashing down by 97% since late 2018 — when Spirit was still making money.

CEO Ted Christie confirmed in August that Spirit was talking to advisers of its bondholders about the upcoming debt maturities. He called the discussions a priority, and said the airline was trying to get the best deal it could as quickly as possible.

"The chatter in the market about Spirit is notable, but we are not distracted," he told investors during an earnings call. "We are focused on refinancing our debt, improving our overall liquidity position, deploying our new reimagined product into the market, and growing our loyalty programs."

People are still flying on Spirit Airlines. They're just not paying as much.

In the first six months of this year, Spirit passengers flew 2% more than they did in the same period last year. However, they are paying 10% less per mile, and revenue per mile from fares is down nearly 20%, contributing to Spirit's red ink.

It's not a new trend. Spirit failed to return to profitability when the coronavirus pandemic eased and travel rebounded. There are several reasons behind the slump.

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Spirit's costs, especially for labor, have risen. The biggest U.S. airlines have snagged some of Spirit's budget-conscious customers by offering their own brand of bare-bones tickets. And fares for U.S. leisure travel — Spirit's core business — have sagged because of a glut of new flights.

The premium end of the air-travel market has surged while Spirit's traditional no-frills end has stagnated. So this summer, Spirit decided to sell bundled fares that include a bigger seat, priority boarding, free bags, internet service and snacks and drinks. That is a huge change from Spirit's longtime strategy of luring customers with rock-bottom fares and forcing them to pay extra for things such as bringing a carry-on bag or ordering a soda.

In a highly unusual move, Spirit plans to cut its October-through-December schedule by nearly 20%, compared with the same period last year, which analysts say should help prop up fares. But that will help rivals more than it will boost Spirit. Analysts from Deutsche Bank and Raymond James say that Frontier, JetBlue and Southwest would benefit the most because of their overlap with Spirit on many routes.

Spirit has also been plagued by required repairs to Pratt & Whitney engines, which is forcing the airline to ground dozens of its Airbus jets. Spirit has cited the recall as it furloughed pilots.

The aircraft fleet is relatively young, which has made Spirit an attractive takeover target.

Frontier Airlines tried to merge with Spirit in 2022 but was outbid by JetBlue. However, the Justice Department sued to block the \$3.8 billion deal, saying it would drive up prices for Spirit customers who depend on low fares, and a federal judge agreed in January. JetBlue and Spirit dropped their merger two months later.

U.S. airline bankruptcies were common in the 1990s and 2000s, as airlines struggled with fierce competition, high labor costs and sudden spikes in the price of jet fuel. PanAm, TWA, Northwest, Continental, United and Delta were swept up. Some liquidated, while others used favorable laws to renegotiate debts such as aircraft leases and keep flying.

The last bankruptcy by a major U.S. carrier ended when American Airlines emerged from Chapter 11 protection and simultaneously merged with US Airways in December 2013.

## French farmers mobilize for protests over EU-Mercosur trade deal

PARIS (AP) — French farmers are mobilizing for widespread protests on Monday targeting the EU-Mercosur trade agreement. Backed by their government, they argue the deal threatens their livelihoods by allowing a surge of South American agricultural imports produced under less stringent environmental standards.

Protests are planned nationwide, including gatherings at prefectures and traffic circles. So far, protests have been small. One group blocked a highway southwest of Paris on Sunday night with tractors. Witnesses at Velizy-Villacoublay said that some 20 tractors stationed by placard-holding farmers overnight on the N118 freeway artery toward Paris had left by late Monday morning.

The European Union and the Mercosur trade bloc, composed of Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay and Bolivia, reached an initial agreement in 2019, but negotiations stumbled due to opposition from farmers and some European governments, particularly France.

"It is unacceptable as it stands," said French Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot.

But France's hands might be tied.

There are fears the agreement could be finalized at the G20 summit in Brazil this week, or in the coming weeks. A partial EU-Mercosur deal, with many of the parts that French farmers find unsavory, could be agreed over their heads since France does not hold veto power.

Other nations like Germany and Spain would like to see a far-reaching deal with their South American counterparts.

"There is a certain mythology surrounding Mercosur," said Spanish Farm Minister Luis Planas Puchades, who argues there is more at stake than just farming.

"Is the European Union interested, at this moment, in closing in on itself?" he asked ahead of an EU farm ministerial meeting on Monday. "Or is it interested, in this particular geopolitical context that we are experiencing, and especially after the North American election, in expanding the network of our trade



agreements with third countries to maintain our economic and commercial influence as well? I think the answer is very clear.”

Leading the charge of the new protests in France are unions, who oppose provisions such as duty-free imports of beef, poultry and sugar, which they say create unfair competition. Coordination Rurale, a union linked to the far right, has promised an “agricultural revolt,” including food freight blockades beginning Tuesday in Auch and Agen, in southwestern France.

Proponents of the agreement argue that it would significantly boost economic ties between Europe and South America by eliminating tariffs on European exports, notably for machinery, chemicals and cars, thereby enhancing market access and creating lucrative opportunities for European businesses.

Earlier this year, farmers staged protests across France and elsewhere in Europe, blocking roads and buildings to protest EU regulations and financial problems, demand fairer agricultural policies and oppose the trade agreement.

French Agriculture Minister Annie Genevard has publicly opposed the EU-Mercosur trade agreement, citing risks of deforestation and health concerns linked to hormone-treated meat.

In an interview with TF1, she said: “We don’t want this agreement because it’s harmful. It will bring in products, including substances banned in Europe, at the cost of deforestation. It will unfairly compete with our domestic production.”

President Emmanuel Macron has also criticized the agreement unless South American producers meet EU standards.

Farmers say they are further frustrated by a European Commission audit that flagged hormone use in Brazilian beef exports. Their demonstrations aim to pressure the French government and EU officials to block or renegotiate the agreement.

## India’s capital chokes as air pollution levels hit 50 times the safe limit

By MANISH SWARUP and RISHI LEKHI Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — Authorities in India’s capital shut schools, halted construction and banned non-essential trucks from entering the city on Monday after air pollution shot up to its worst level this season.

Residents of New Delhi woke up to thick, toxic smog enveloping the city of some 33 million as the air quality became increasingly hazardous. It rose further into the severe category, according to SAFAR, the country’s main environmental agency, which measures tiny particulate matter in the air that can enter deep into the lungs.

The deadly haze covered monuments and high-rise buildings in the capital, with visibility so low that airlines warned of delays.

In several areas of the city, pollution levels were more than 50 times higher than the World Health Organization’s recommended safe limit. Forecasts say the poor air quality will continue into the week.

Air pollution in northern India rises every year, particularly in winter, as farmers burn crop residue in agricultural areas. The burning coincides with colder temperatures, which trap the smoke in the air. The smoke is then blown into cities, where auto emissions add to the pollution.

Emissions from industries and the burning of coal to produce electricity are also linked to the pollution, which has been steadily ticking up in recent weeks.

Starting Monday, authorities began enforcing stage 4 of a graded response action plan, or GRAP 4, based on the severity of the air pollution. Earlier stages of the plan were already in place, and stage 4 includes stricter curbs.

Classes for all grades except 10 and 12 will be held online and no trucks will be allowed to enter the city except for those carrying essential items. Some older, diesel guzzling vehicles have been banned inside the city, and all construction activities have been halted. Authorities also urged children, the elderly and others with chronic diseases or respiratory issues to avoid going outside as much as possible.

Over the weekend, farmers in neighboring Uttar Pradesh state burned their fields, releasing plumes of

gray smoke that winds likely carried into New Delhi and other nearby areas. Despite the poisonous air, many in the capital continued their usual routines, including morning walks in the city's beloved Lodhi Garden.

"Everyone has a sore throat," said Sanjay Goel, a 51-year-old shopkeeper in New Delhi. "They should ban crop residue burning ... it's just smoke everywhere."

The worsening air quality in the capital also sparked outrage from residents on social media. Many complained of headaches and hacking coughs, describing the city as "apocalyptic" and a "gas chamber." Others urged officials to solve the public health crisis once and for all. Several studies have estimated more than a million Indians die each year from pollution-related diseases.

Authorities have invoked similar measures in the past and have at times deployed water sprinklers and anti-smog guns in an attempt to control the haze. But critics say there needs to be a long-term solution that drastically reduces pollution itself, instead of actions that aim to mitigate the effects after it has already plagued the region.

## At climate summit in Baku, negotiators are urged to get down to business as talks enter second week

By SIBI ARASU, MELINA WALLING and SETH BORENSTEIN Associated Press

BAKU, Azerbaijan (AP) — United Nations climate talks resumed Monday with negotiators urged to make progress on a deal that could see developing countries get more money to spend on clean energy and adapting to climate-charged weather extremes.

On Monday, U.N. Climate Change executive secretary Simon Stiell called for countries to "cut the theatrics and get down to real business."

"We will only get the job done if Parties are prepared to step forward in parallel, bringing us closer to common ground," Stiell said to a room of delegates in Baku, Azerbaijan. "I know we can get this done."

Climate and environment ministers from around the world have arrived at the summit to help push the talks forward.

Talks in Baku are focused on getting more climate cash for developing countries to transition away from fossil fuels, adapt to climate change and pay for damages caused by extreme weather. But countries are far apart on how much money that will require. Several experts put the sum needed at around \$1 trillion.

Some rich countries say that developing countries that are able to — such as China and Gulf states — should also be contributors to the climate cash pot.

But Teresa Anderson, the Global Lead on Climate Justice at ActionAid International, was skeptical about rich countries' intentions.

"The concern is that the pressure to add developing countries to the list of contributors is not, in fact, about raising more money for frontline countries," Anderson said. "Rich countries are just trying to point the finger and have an excuse to provide less finance. That's not the way to address runaway climate breakdown, and is a distraction from the real issues at stake."

Rachel Cleetus from the Union of Concerned Scientists said \$1 trillion in global climate funds "is going to look like a bargain five, 10 years from now."

"We're going to wonder why we didn't take that and run with it," she said, citing a multitude of costly recent extreme weather events from flooding in Spain to hurricanes Helene and Milton in the United States.

Climate watchers keep an eye on Rio and Paris

Meanwhile, the world's biggest decision makers are halfway around the world as another major summit convenes. Brazil is hosting the Group of 20 summit, which runs Nov. 18-19, bringing together many of the world's largest economies. Climate change — among other major topics like rising global tensions and poverty — will be on the agenda.

Harjeet Singh, global engagement director for the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty Initiative, said G20 nations "cannot turn their backs on the reality of their historical emissions and the responsibility that comes with it."

"They must commit to trillions in public finance," he said.

Also on Monday, the Paris-based Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development has been mulling a proposal to cut public spending for foreign fossil fuel projects. The OECD — made up of 38 member countries including the United States, the United Kingdom, South Korea, Japan and Germany — are discussing a deal that could prevent up to \$40 billion worth of carbon-polluting projects.

At COP29, activists are protesting the U.S., South Korea, Japan, and Turkey who they say are the key holdouts preventing the agreement in Paris from being finalized.

"It's of critical importance that President Biden comes out in support. We know it's really important that he lands a deal that Trump cannot undo. This can be really important for Biden's legacy," said Lauri van der Burg, Global Public Finance Lead at Oil Change international. "If he comes around, this will help mount pressure on other laggards including Korea, Turkey and Japan."

## **Typhoon Man-yi leaves 7 dead in landslide in Philippines and worsens crisis from back-to-back storms**

By JIM GOMEZ Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Typhoon Man-yi left at least seven people dead in a landslide, destroyed scores of houses and displaced large numbers of villagers before blowing away from the northern Philippines, worsening the crisis wreaked by multiple back-to-back storms, officials said Monday.

Man-yi was one of the strongest of the six major storms to hit the northern Philippines in less than a month and had sustained winds of up to 195 kilometers (125 miles) per hour when it slammed into the eastern island province of Catanduanes on Saturday night.

U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin met President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. in Manila and offered his prayers, announcing an additional \$1 million in humanitarian aid for typhoon victims. He told Marcos he has authorized U.S. troops to help Filipino forces provide lifesaving aid.

Torrential rains and fierce wind unleashed by Man-yi set off a landslide early Monday in the northern town of Ambaguio in Nueva Vizcaya province that buried a house and killed seven people, including children, and injured three others inside, regional police chief Brig. Gen. Antonio P. Marallag Jr. said.

Army troops, police and villagers were scrambling to search for three other people who were believed to have been entombed in the avalanche of mud, boulders and uprooted trees, Marallag said.

Disaster response officials said they were checking if the deaths of two villagers in a motorcycle accident and an electrocution were directly related to Man-yi's onslaught so they could be added to the overall death toll. They said a separate search was underway for a couple and their child after their shanty was swept away in rampaging rivers in northern Nueva Ecija province.

More than a million people were affected by the typhoon and two previous storms, including nearly 700,000 who fled their homes and moved to emergency shelters or relatives' homes, according to the Office of Civil Defense.

Nearly 8,000 houses were damaged or destroyed and more than 100 cities and towns were hit by power outages due to toppled electric posts, it said.

In the worst-hit province of Camarines, officials pleaded for additional help after fierce winds and rain damaged more houses and cut off electricity and water supplies in the entire province, along with cellphone connections in many areas, provincial information officer Camille Gianan said.

Welfare officials transported food aid, drinking water and other help but more is needed over the coming months, Gianan said. Many villagers will need construction materials to rebuild their houses, she said.

"They have not recovered from the previous storms when the super typhoon hit," Gianan told The Associated Press. "It's been one calamity after another."

The rare number of back-to-back storms and typhoons that lashed Luzon — the country's largest and most populous island — in just three weeks left more than 160 people dead, affected 9 million people and caused such extensive damage to communities, infrastructure and farmlands that the Philippines may have to import more rice, a staple food.

In an emergency meeting as Man-yi approached, Marcos asked his Cabinet and provincial officials to

brace for “the worst-case scenario.”

At least 26 domestic airports and two international airports were briefly shut and inter-island ferry and cargo services were suspended due to rough seas, stranding thousands of passengers and commuters. Most transport services have now resumed, according to the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippine and the coast guard.

The U.S., Manila’s treaty ally, along with Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia and Brunei provided cargo aircraft and other storm aid to help the government’s overwhelmed disaster-response agencies. Last month, the first major storm, Trami, left scores of people dead after dumping one to two months’ worth of rain in just 24 hours in several towns.

The Philippines is battered by about 20 typhoons and storms each year. It’s often hit by earthquakes and has more than a dozen active volcanoes, making it one of the world’s most disaster-prone countries.

## **A Russian ballistic missile with cluster munitions kills 11 people and injures 84 in Ukraine’s north**

By SAMYA KULLAB and ILLIA NOVIKOV Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — A Russian ballistic missile with cluster munitions struck a residential area of a northern Ukraine city, killing 11 people including two children and injuring 84 others, officials said Monday.

The two children killed in the strike on Sumy late Sunday were a 9-year-old boy and a 14-year-old girl, the regional prosecutor’s office said. Six injured children are in critical condition, it said.

The attack damaged 15 buildings, including two educational facilities, the prosecutor’s office said. A search and rescue operation continued Monday, on the eve of the war’s 1,000-day milestone.

Sumy lies 40 kilometers (24 miles) from the Russian border.

Also Sunday, U.S. President Joe Biden authorized for the first time the use of U.S.-supplied longer-range missiles by Ukraine to strike inside Russia, after extensive lobbying by Ukrainian officials.

The weapons are likely to be used in response to North Korea’s decision to send thousands of troops to support Russia in the Kursk region where Ukraine mounted a military incursion over the summer.

It is the second time the U.S. has permitted the use of Western weapons inside Russian territory within limits after permitting the use of HIMARS systems, a shorter-range weapon, to stem Russia’s advance in Ukraine’s Kharkiv region in May.

The first reaction from Ukraine to the long-awaited decision from the U.S. was notably restrained.

“Today, much is being said in the media about us receiving permission for the relevant actions. But strikes are not made with words. Such things are not announced. The missiles will speak for themselves,” Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in his nightly video address.

Earlier, Zelenskyy said that Russia had launched a total of 120 missiles and 90 drones in a large-scale attack across Ukraine, including Sumy. Russia deployed various types of drones, he said, including Iranian-made Shaheds, as well as cruise, ballistic and aircraft-launched ballistic missiles.

The attack, which targeted Ukraine’s energy infrastructure, came as fears are mounting about Moscow’s intentions to devastate Ukraine’s power generation capacity ahead of the winter.

Ukrainian defenses shot down 144 out of a total of 210 air targets, Ukraine’s air force reported.

“The enemy’s target was our energy infrastructure throughout Ukraine. Unfortunately, there is damage to objects from hits and falling debris. In Mykolaiv, as a result of a drone attack, two people were killed and six others were injured, including two children,” Zelenskyy said.

Two more people were killed in the Odesa region, where the attack damaged energy infrastructure and disrupted power and water supplies, said local Gov. Oleh Kiper. Both victims were employees of Ukraine’s state-owned power grid operator, Ukrenergo, the company said hours later.

The combined drone and missile attack was the most powerful in three months, according to the head of Kyiv’s City Military Administration, Serhii Popko.

One person was injured after the roof of a five-story residential building caught fire in Kyiv’s historic

center, according to Popko.

A thermal power plant operated by private energy company DTEK was "seriously damaged," the company said.

Russian strikes have hammered Ukraine's power infrastructure since Moscow's all-out invasion of its neighbor in February 2022, prompting repeated emergency power shutdowns and nationwide rolling blackouts. Ukrainian officials have routinely urged Western allies to bolster the country's air defenses to counter assaults and allow for repairs.

Russia's Defense Ministry on Sunday acknowledged carrying out a "mass" missile and drone attack on "critical energy infrastructure" in Ukraine, but claimed all targeted facilities were tied to Kyiv's military industry.

Although Ukraine's nuclear plants were not directly impacted, several electrical substations on which they depend suffered further damage, the U.N.'s nuclear energy watchdog said in a statement Sunday. According to the International Atomic Energy Agency, only two of Ukraine's nine operational reactors continue to generate power at full capacity.

The Russian military said Monday it intercepted and destroyed 59 Ukrainian drones overnight over several Russian regions. Two were downed over the Moscow region that surrounds the Russian capital, and three others over the neighboring Tula region. A total of 54 drones were destroyed over the Bryansk, Kursk and Belgorod regions on the border with Ukraine, according to a statement by the Russian Defense Ministry.

Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyenin said the drones shot down outside of Moscow were heading toward the capital.

## **Bangladesh tribunal tells investigators to finish probe against ousted premier Hasina by next month**

By JULHAS ALAM Associated Press

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — A special tribunal in Bangladesh on Monday told investigators they have one month to complete their work on ousted former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her close aides, who face charges of crimes against humanity after hundreds of people were killed in a mass uprising this summer.

Golam Mortuza Majumdar, the head judge of the three-member International Crimes Tribunal, set Dec. 17 for investigators to finish their work, as the tribunal heard updates Monday from police about what the country's security agencies have done to arrest Hasina and her close aides.

The decision came after prosecutors sought more time for the investigation.

Mohammed Tajul Islam, chief prosecutor of the tribunal, told the judges during Monday's hearing that they were working in line with an extradition treaty signed earlier with India to make Hasina's return possible.

Hasina has been living in exile in India since Aug. 5 when she fled the country amid the student-led protests. The Dhaka-based tribunal on Oct. 17 issued arrest warrants for Hasina and 45 others, including former Cabinet ministers, advisers and military and civil officials. The country is now being run by an interim government headed by Nobel Peace laureate Muhammad Yunus.

At least 13 people, including a former law minister and a businessman who was Hasina's private-sector adviser, appeared before the tribunal on Monday, said B.M. Sultan Mahmud, a prosecutor at the tribunal. One former Cabinet minister was not brought to the tribunal as he was in custody for police interrogation in a separate case. A further six people will appear on Wednesday, tribunal officials said. At least 20 suspects have been arrested in the case.

The tribunal will also seek updates from police on their progress in arresting the other suspects, including Hasina.

After the hearing on Monday, the tribunal's head judge ordered authorities to send all 13 suspects to jail, pending investigation.

The chief prosecutor of the tribunal has already sought help from Interpol through the country's police chief to arrest Hasina. On Sunday, Yunus said in an address to the nation that his administration would seek Hasina's extradition from India.

Authorities say hundreds of people were killed during the uprising in July and August, mainly by security agents seeking to quell the initial protests over government jobs. The violence intensified as the protests morphed into an anti-government movement, with more bloodshed, ending Hasina's 15-year rule. Hasina had also earlier sought an investigation into the killings.

## Some Arab Americans who voted for Trump are concerned about his picks for key positions

By JOEY CAPPELLETTI Associated Press

LANSING, Mich. (AP) — Just a week after winning a majority of the vote in several of the nation's largest Arab-majority cities, President-elect Donald Trump has filled top administration posts with staunch Israel supporters, including an ambassador to Israel who has claimed "there is no such thing as Palestinians."

Meanwhile, the two Trump advisers who led his outreach to Arab Americans have not secured positions in the administration yet.

The selections have prompted mixed reactions among Arab Americans and Muslims in Michigan, which went for Trump along with all six other battleground states. Some noted Trump's longstanding support for Israel and said their vote against Vice President Kamala Harris was not necessarily an endorsement of him. Others who openly supported him say he will be the final decisionmaker on policy and hope he will keep his promise of achieving an end to the conflicts in the Middle East.

Albert Abbas, a Lebanese American leader whose brother owns the Dearborn, Michigan, restaurant Trump visited in the campaign's final days, stood beside the former president during that visit and spoke in support of him.

Now, Abbas says it's "too early" to judge Trump and that "we all need to take a deep breath, take a step back and let him do the work that he needs to do to achieve this peace."

"I just want you to think about what the alternative was," said Abbas, referring to the current administration's handling of Israel's war in Gaza and its invasion of Lebanon. He added, "What did you expect from myself or many members of the community to do?"

Beyond promising peace in the Middle East, Trump has offered few concrete details on how he plans to achieve it. His transition team did not respond to a request for comment.

Throughout the campaign, his surrogates often focused more on criticizing Harris than outlining his agenda. And visuals of the conflict — with tens of thousands of deaths collectively in Gaza and Lebanon — stirred anger among many in Arab and Muslim communities about President Joe Biden and Harris' backing of Israel.

Amin Hashmi, a Pakistani American in Michigan who voted for Trump, urged him to stay true to his campaign commitments to bring peace.

"I am disappointed but not surprised," said Hashmi, who urged Trump to "keep the promise you made to the people of Arab descent in Michigan."

Trump picks what pro-Israel conservatives call a 'dream team'

Those in the community with concerns have specifically pointed to former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, nominated as Trump's ambassador to Israel. Huckabee has consistently rejected the idea of a Palestinian state in territories seized by Israel, strongly supported Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and opposed a two-state solution, claiming "there really isn't such a thing" as Palestinians in referring to the descendants of people who lived in Palestine before the establishment of Israel.

While Huckabee has sparked the most concern among community members, other Trump Cabinet picks have strongly spoken in Israel's favor as it targets Hamas following the militant group's Oct. 7, 2023, attack in which it killed 1,200 Israelis and took hundreds more as hostage.

Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, nominated for secretary of state, has opposed a ceasefire in the war, stating that he wants Israel to "destroy every element of Hamas they can get their hands on."

Trump's pick to be his ambassador to the United Nations, New York Rep. Elise Stefanik, led the question-

ing of university presidents over antisemitism on campuses. She has also opposed funding for the U.N. Relief and Works Agency, which oversees aid to Gaza.

The Republican Jewish Coalition, which organized for Trump in Michigan, has been outspoken in its support for many of Trump's Cabinet picks. Sam Markstein, the group's political director, described the proposed lineup as a "pro-Israel dream team," adding that "folks are giddy about the picks." He praised Trump's pro-Israel record as "second to nobody."

"The days of this mealymouthed, trying to have support in both camps of this issue are over," Markstein said. "The way to secure the region is peace through strength, and that means no daylight between Israel and the United States."

No roles yet for key figures in Trump's Arab American outreach

Among the reasons some Arab American voters supported Trump was that they believed his prominent supporters would be key in the next administration.

Massad Boulos, a Lebanese businessman and father-in-law of Trump's daughter Tiffany, led efforts to engage the Arab American community, organizing dozens of meetings across Michigan and other areas with large Arab populations. Some sessions also featured Richard Grenell, former acting director of national intelligence, who was well-regarded by those who met with him.

Neither Boulos nor Grenell has been tapped yet for the coming administration, though Grenell was once considered a potential secretary of state before Rubio was selected. Boulos declined to comment and Grenell did not respond to a request for comment.

"Some people expected Trump to be different and thought Massad would play a significant role," said Osama Siblani, publisher of the Dearborn-based Arab American News, which declined to endorse a candidate in the presidential race.

Siblani himself turned down a suggested meeting with Trump after the non-endorsement announcement.

"But now people are coming to us and saying, 'Look what you've done,'" Siblani said. "We had a choice between someone actively shooting and killing you and someone threatening to do so. We had to punish the person who was shooting and killing us at the time."

## A makeshift memorial grows in Ukraine's capital after 1,000 days of war

By HANNA ARHIROVA Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Before Russia's invasion, this was an ordinary green lawn in the heart of Ukraine's capital. Tourists would visit to take photos, and locals would stroll there on weekends.

But 1,000 days of war have transformed it into a makeshift memorial, dotted with blue-and-yellow flags — each honoring a soldier who died fighting Russia. Many were volunteers who left their civilian lives behind to answer to defend their country.

Their loved ones, left alone with grief, hope their sacrifices won't be forgotten. They plant small, simple flags, hand-marked with the names and dates they died. Over time, the flags have multiplied, fluttering in the wind as the seasons change and the war drags on.

"I put it so that someone might pass by and see that this person once lived and gave their life for us," said Svitlana Kirichenko, who traveled from Cherkasy to replace the weathered flag she had planted over a year ago in honor of her son, who died fighting. She carefully placed a new one in its place.

"So we can live peacefully among our own people, and not have Russians dictate how we should live and what to do."

Associated Press archives show that the first flags appeared on the lawn in May of the war's first year, shortly after Russian forces withdrew from the Kyiv region and the capital was no longer under the threat of occupation. Photos from that time show dozens of flags neatly arranged in rows across the grassy field.

As the war continued, the place has transformed. The grass has faded away, replaced by well-worn paths resembling those in a cemetery, winding through thousands of flags. Among them, many portraits have appeared — brought by relative — showing confident, smiling faces in military uniforms.

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Svitlana Kanevska, cloaked in a black hood against the drizzly autumn rain, bent over a portrait of her boyfriend, Serhii Ivanytskyi, who had died months earlier in eastern Ukraine. The photo — a selfie he had sent her during one of their chats — showed him standing in a sunlit Ukrainian field. Kanevska carefully wiped droplets from the image.

Since Serhii joined the army early in the war, their time together had been scarce, mostly confined to messages. He kept his location and activities hidden, and their conversations centered largely on love.

Last December, during a brief leave in Kyiv, they passed by this very memorial. "He said he felt so sorry for the guys," Kanevska recalled. He was killed in the summer of 2024.

"You feel so much pain that you don't know where to go or what to do," she said. That's what brought her here months ago, to place his flag and photo among the countless others. Kanevska, who works nearby, often visits to mourn.

She's not alone. The place is strewn with fresh and dried flowers, a concentration of grief and an epicenter of Ukrainian history. Independence Square, after all, has long been the heart of Ukraine's revolutions. For many, it is the only fitting place for their loved ones to be remembered.

City authorities have no control over this memorial. It was created by people themselves, driven by a deep need to honor their fallen in the absence of an official government memorial.

Soldiers and families come here to sit for long stretches, gazing quietly into the distance. New flags are added almost daily.

Nearby, funeral ceremonies take place almost every day, followed by moments of silence. Passersby stop, kneel and observe in quiet reverence. But soon, life in the capital moves on, returning to its usual pace.

The memorial keeps growing with each passing day, a reminder of the price Ukraine pays for its freedom.

"If someone thinks of him, it brings him light where he is. He knows he hasn't been forgotten," said Andrii Pedychenko, who came to the memorial to put a new flag for his friend who was killed in action about one year ago. "Each flag is a tragedy. And it reminds us that this is just a small piece because there wouldn't be enough space here for everyone."

## As China cracks down on bookstores at home, Chinese-language booksellers are flourishing overseas

By FU TING Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Yu Miao smiles as he stands among the 10,000 books crowded on rows of bamboo shelves in his newly reopened bookstore. It's in Washington's vibrant Dupont Circle neighborhood, far from its last location in Shanghai, where the Chinese government forced him out of business six years ago.

"There is no pressure from the authorities here," said Yu, the owner of JF Books, Washington's only Chinese bookseller. "I want to live without fear."

Independent bookstores have become a new battleground in China, swept up in the ruling Communist Party's crackdown on dissent and free expression. The Associated Press found that at least a dozen bookstores in the world's second-largest economy have been shuttered or targeted for closure in the last few months alone, squeezing the already tight space for press freedom. One bookstore owner was arrested over four months ago.

The crackdown has had a chilling effect on China's publishing industry. Bookstores are common in China, but many are state-owned. Independent bookstores are governed by an intricate set of rules with strict controls now being more aggressively policed, according to bookstore owners. Printing shops and street vendors are also facing more rigorous government inspections by the National Office Against Pornography and Illegal Publication.

The office did not respond to interview requests from The Associated Press. China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in a statement to AP, said it was not aware of a crackdown on bookstores.

Yu isn't alone in taking his business out of the country. Chinese bookstores have popped up in Japan, France, Netherlands and elsewhere in the U.S. in recent years, as a result of both stricter controls in China



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and growing Chinese communities abroad.

It's not just the books' contents that are making Chinese authorities wary. In many communities, bookstores are cultural centers where critical thinking is encouraged, and conversations can veer into politics and other topics not welcomed by the authorities.

The bookstore owner who was arrested was Yuan Di, also called Yanyou, the founder of Jiazazhi, an artistic bookstore in Shanghai and Ningbo on China's eastern coast. He was taken away by police in June, according to Zhou Youlieguo, who closed his own bookstore in Shanghai in September. Yuan's arrest was also confirmed by two other people who declined to be named for fear of retribution. The charge against Yuan is unclear.

An official in Ningbo's Bureau of Culture, Radio Television and Tourism, which oversees bookstores, declined comment, noting the case is under investigation. The Ningbo police didn't respond to an interview request.

Michael Berry, director of UCLA's Center for Chinese Studies, said a sluggish Chinese economy may be driving the government to exert greater control.

"The government might be feeling that this is a time to be more cautious and control this kind of discourse in terms of what people are consuming and reading to try to put a damper on any potential unrest and kind of nip it in the bud," Berry said.

These bookstore owners face dual pressures, Berry added. One is the political clampdown; the other is the global movement, especially among young people, toward digital media and away from print publications.

Wang Yingxing sold secondhand books in Ningbo for almost two decades before being ordered to close in August. Local officials informed Wang he lacked a publication business license even though he wasn't eligible to obtain one as a second-hand seller.

Faded outlines marked the spot where a sign for Fatty Wang's Bookstore once hung. Spray-painted black letters on the bookstore's window read: "Temporarily closed".

"We're promoting culture, I'm not doing anything wrong, right? I'm just selling some books and promoting culture," Wang said, tying a bundle of books together with brown wrapper and white nylon string.

"Then why won't you leave me alone?" Wang added.

Half a dozen other people heaved boxes of books into the back of a van. The books, Wang said, were being sold to cafe and bar owners who wanted to burnish little libraries for their patrons. Some would be sent to a warehouse in Anhui. The rest, he said, were to be sent to a recycling station to be pulped and destroyed.

Bookstores are not the only target. Central authorities have also cracked down on other places such as printing shops, internet bars, gaming rooms and street vendors. Strict inspections have taken place all over the country, according to Chinese authorities.

Authorities in Shanghai inspected printing places and bookstores, looking for "printing, copying or selling illegal publications," according to a government document. This shows the authorities are not just barring the sale of some publications, but tracing them back to the printing process. They found some printing stores did not "register the copy content as required" and demanded they fix the problem quickly.

In Shaoyang, a city in China's south, authorities said they will be "cracking down on harmful publications in accordance with the law."

The Communist Party has various powers to control which books are available. Any publication without a China Standard Book Number is considered illegal, including self-published books and those imported without special licenses. Books can be banned even after they are published if restrictions are later tightened — often for unclear reasons — or if the writers say something upsetting to the Chinese authorities.

Yet despite these restrictions and the crackdown on existing booksellers, more bookstores are opening. Recent figures are unavailable, but a survey by Bookdao, a media company that focuses on the book industry, shows more than twice as many bookstores opened than closed in China in 2020.

Liu Suli, who has been running All Sages Books in Beijing for over three decades, says there are many idealists in the industry.

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"Everyone who reads has a dream of having a bookstore," Liu says, despite the challenges.

In many cases, those dreams are being fulfilled outside China. Yu and other Chinese booksellers around the world stock their shelves with books from Hong Kong, Taiwan and mainland China, as well as books published locally.

Zhang Jieping, founder of Nowhere, a bookstore in Taiwan and Thailand, said there's a growing demand for books from migrants who left China after the COVID-19 pandemic.

"They don't just want to speak fluent English or Japanese to fit in, they want cultural autonomy," Zhang said. "They want more community spaces. Not necessarily a bookstore, but in any format — a gallery, or a restaurant."

Li Yijia is a 22-year-old student who arrived in Washington from Beijing in August. One Sunday morning, she wandered through JF Books where she found titles in Chinese and English. She said a Chinese bookstore feels like "another world in a bubble" which helps her critical thinking by allowing her to read books in both languages.

"It also relieves homesickness, like a Chinese restaurant," Li added.

The closure of the bookstores leads the owners to different paths. Some ended up in jail, some went looking for jobs to feed their families. Some started a journey to leave censorship behind.

Since he closed his Shanghai bookstore, Zhou, 39, has moved to Los Angeles, but hasn't decided what his next step will be.

He said his fully licensed independent bookstore, which sold art books and self-published works by artists and translators, was fined thousands of dollars and he was interrogated over a dozen times during the past four years. He's seen colleagues jailed for selling "illegal publications." All the self-published book artists and editors he worked with asked him to take down their work after warnings by local authorities.

Zhou said he could not handle further harassment. He said it was as if he were "smuggling drugs instead of selling books."

The existence of his bookstore, Zhou said, was "a rebellion and a resistance," which is not there anymore. \_\_\_\_

Associated Press writer Dake Kang in Ningbo, China, contributed to this report.

## Trial to begin in human smuggling case after freezing deaths of Indian family at Canada-US border

By MICHAEL GOLDBERG Associated Press

FERGUS FALLS, Minn. (AP) — A criminal network stretching from India to Canada made money smuggling families seeking better lives in the United States, including a man who died holding his 3-year-old son in gusting snow and bone-chilling temperatures two years ago, federal prosecutors plan to argue at a trial starting Monday in Minnesota.

Prosecutors have accused Indian national Harshkumar Ramanlal Patel, 29, of running the scheme and Steve Shand, 50, of Florida of waiting in a truck for 11 migrants, including the couple and two children who died after they tried to walk across the border to the U.S.

Prosecutors say Patel recruited Shand at a casino near their homes in Deltona, Florida, just north of Orlando.

Jagdish Patel, 39, died along with his wife, Vaishaliben, who was in her mid-30s, and with their 11-year-old daughter, Vihangi and their 3-year-old son Dharmik. Patel is a common Indian surname and the victims were not related to Harshkumar Patel, who has pleaded not guilty, as has Shand.

The family, from the village of Dingucha in Gujarat state, is believed to have spent hours wandering fields in blizzard conditions as the wind chill reached minus 36 Fahrenheit (minus 38 Celsius). Canadian authorities found the Patels' frozen bodies on the morning of Jan. 19, 2022. Jagdish Patel was holding Dharmik, who was wrapped in a blanket.

Federal prosecutors say Patel and Shand were part of an operation that scouted clients in India, got them Canadian student visas, arranged transportation and smuggled them into the U.S., mostly through

Washington state or Minnesota.

The U.S. Border Patrol arrested more than 14,000 Indians on the Canadian border in the year ending Sept. 30. By 2022, the Pew Research Center estimates there were more than 725,000 Indians living illegally in the U.S., behind only Mexicans and El Salvadorans.

Harshkumar Patel's attorney, Thomas Leinenweber, told The Associated Press that his client came to America to escape poverty and build a better life for himself and now "stands unjustly accused of participating in this horrible crime. He has faith in the justice system of his adopted country and believes that the truth will come out at the trial." Attorneys for Shand did not return messages.

Court documents filed by prosecutors show Patel was in the U.S. illegally after being refused a U.S. visa at least five times.

Over a five-week period, court documents say, Patel and Shand often communicated about the bitter cold as they smuggled five groups of Indians over a quiet stretch of border. One night in December 2021, Shand messaged Patel that it was "cold as hell" while waiting to pick up one group, the documents say.

"They going to be alive when they get here?" he allegedly wrote.

During the last trip in January, Shand had messaged Patel, saying: "Make sure everyone is dressed for the blizzard conditions, please," according to prosecutors.

Prosecutors say Shand told investigators that Patel paid him about \$25,000 for the five trips.

Jagdish Patel grew up in Dingucha. He and family lived with his parents. The couple were schoolteachers, according to local news reports.

Satveer Chaudhary is a Minneapolis-based immigration attorney who has helped migrants exploited by motel owners, many of them Gujaratis. He said smugglers and shady business interests promised many migrants an American dream that doesn't exist when they arrive.

"The promises of the almighty dollar lead many people to take unwarranted risks with their own dignity, and as we're finding out here, their own lives," Chaudhary said.

## **Biden authorizes Ukraine to use US-supplied longer range missiles for deeper strikes inside Russia**

By AAMER MADHANI, COLLEEN LONG, ZEKE MILLER, MATTHEW LEE and ELLEN KNICKMEYER Associated Press

MANAUS, Brazil (AP) — President Joe Biden has authorized Ukraine to use U.S.-supplied missiles to strike deeper inside Russia, easing limitations on the longer range weapons as Russia deploys thousands of North Korean troops to reinforce its war, according to a U.S. official and three other people familiar with the matter.

The decision allowing Kyiv to use the Army Tactical Missile System, or ATACMs, for attacks farther inside Russia comes as President Vladimir Putin positions North Korean troops along Ukraine's northern border to try to reclaim hundreds of miles of territory seized by Ukrainian forces.

Biden's move also follows the presidential election victory of Donald Trump, who has said he would bring about a swift end to the war and raised uncertainty about whether his administration would continue the United States' vital military support for Ukraine.

The official and the others knowledgeable about the matter were not authorized to discuss the U.S. decision publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's reaction Sunday was notably restrained.

"Strikes are not made with words," he said during his nightly video address. "Such things are not announced. The missiles will speak for themselves."

Zelenskyy and many of his Western supporters have been pressing Biden for months to allow Ukraine to strike military targets deeper inside Russia with Western-supplied missiles, saying the U.S. ban had made it impossible for Ukraine to try to stop Russian attacks on its cities and electrical grids.

Zelenskyy's statement came shortly after he posted a message of condolence on Telegram following a Russian attack on a nine-story building that killed at least eight people in the northern city of Sumy, 40

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kilometers (24 miles) from the border with Russia.

Russia also launched a massive drone and missile attack, described by officials as the largest in recent months, targeting energy infrastructure and killing civilians. The attack came as fears are mounting about Moscow's intentions to devastate Ukraine's power generation capacity before the winter.

"And this is the answer to everyone who tried to achieve something with Putin through talks, phone calls, hugs and appeasement," Zelenskyy said.

The comment appeared to be a dig at German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, who spoke Friday with Putin in the first such call with a sitting head of a major Western power in nearly two years.

Some supporters have argued that the limitation and other U.S. constraints could cost Ukraine the war. The debate has become a source of disagreement among Ukraine's NATO allies.

Biden had remained opposed, determined to hold the line against any escalation that he felt could draw the U.S. and other NATO members into direct conflict with nuclear-armed Russia.

Putin has warned that Moscow could provide long-range weapons to others to strike Western targets if NATO allies allow Ukraine to use their arms to attack Russian territory.

News of Biden's decision followed meetings over the last two days with the leaders of South Korea, Japan and China. The addition of North Korean troops was central to the talks, which took place on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Peru.

Biden did not mention the decision during a speech at a stop in the Amazon rainforest in Brazil on his way to the Group of 20 summit.

Asked about the decision, U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told reporters that the U.N. position is "to avoid a permanent deterioration of the war in Ukraine."

"We want peace, we want fair peace," Guterres said Sunday before the summit in Rio de Janeiro. He didn't elaborate.

The longer-range missiles are likely to be used in response to North Korea's decision to support Putin's invasion of Ukraine, according to one of the people familiar with the development.

The overall supply of ATACMS missiles is short, so U.S. officials in the past have questioned whether they could give Ukraine enough to make a difference. Some supporters of Ukraine say that even a few strikes deeper inside Russia would force its military to change deployments and expend more of its resources.

North Korea has provided thousands of troops to Russia to help Moscow try to claw back land in the Kursk border region that Ukraine seized this year. The introduction of North Korean troops to the conflict comes as Moscow has seen a favorable shift in momentum. Trump has signaled that he could push Ukraine to agree to give up some land seized by Russia to find an end to the conflict.

As many as 12,000 North Korean troops have been sent to Russia, according to U.S., South Korean and Ukrainian assessments. U.S. and South Korean intelligence officials say North Korea also has provided Russia with significant amounts of munitions to replenish its dwindling weapons stockpiles.

Trump, who takes office in January, spoke for months as a candidate about wanting Russia's war in Ukraine to be over, but he mostly ducked questions about whether he wanted U.S. ally Ukraine to win.

He also repeatedly slammed the Biden administration for giving Kyiv tens of billions of dollars in aid. His victory has Ukraine's international backers worrying that any rushed settlement would mostly benefit Putin.

America is Ukraine's most valuable ally in the war, providing more than \$56.2 billion in security assistance since Russian forces invaded in February 2022.

Worried about Russia's response, however, the Biden administration repeatedly has delayed providing some specific advanced weapons sought by Ukraine, agreeing only under pressure from Kyiv, its supporters and in consultation with allies.

That includes initially refusing Zelenskyy's pleas for advanced tanks, Patriot air defense systems and F-16 fighter jets, among other systems.

The White House agreed in May to allow Ukraine to use U.S.-provided weaponry for limited strikes just across the border with Russia.

## 45 pro-democracy activists face sentencing in Hong Kong. Here's who some of them are

By KANIS LEUNG Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — Dozens of prominent Hong Kong pro-democracy activists are scheduled to be sentenced Tuesday in the largest case under a national security law that critics say crushed political activism in the semi-autonomous Chinese city.

The convictions of the 45 activists under the Beijing-imposed law are widely seen as part of a crack-down by China that destroyed hopes for a more democratic Hong Kong. They face sentences of up to life imprisonment.

The activists were among 47 people charged with conspiracy to commit subversion in 2021 for their involvement in an unofficial primary election to pick opposition candidates. They were accused of agreeing to veto government-proposed budgets indiscriminately after securing a legislative majority to force a dissolution of the legislature and then the ouster of the city's leader.

Three government-approved judges ruled that the plan to achieve political change through the unofficial primary in 2020 would have undermined the government's authority and created a constitutional crisis.

Thirty-one of the activists pleaded guilty and 14 others were found guilty in May following a trial. Two were acquitted. Those who entered guilty pleas have a better chance of shorter prison terms.

Some of the convicted activists have sought lesser sentences by expressing remorse and apologizing. Others have remained defiant.

Here are profiles of some of the leading activists.

**Benny Tai**

Riding on a wave of anti-government protests in 2019, Benny Tai, a former law professor at the University of Hong Kong, co-organized the primary election that drew 610,000 voters — over 13% of the city's registered electorate. The primary was aimed at selecting pro-democracy candidates who would then run in the official election.

The judges said Tai stated that acquiring a legislative majority was a "constitutional weapon of mass destruction" that would allow the pro-democracy camp to veto government budgets. Under the city's Basic Law, or mini-constitution, the city leader can dissolve the legislature if a budget cannot be passed. But the leader must step down if the budget is again blocked by the next legislature.

The judges said Tai aimed to "undermine, destroy or overthrow the existing political system and structure" of Hong Kong.

Tai pleaded guilty to the charge. In seeking a shorter sentence, his lawyer said Tai always supported non-violence and believed his actions were legal.

Tai was not always viewed as a threat by authorities. He was a member of a consultative committee that helped collect views on the drafting of the Basic Law before the former British colony returned to Chinese rule in 1997.

In 2001, the government awarded him a medal of honor for promoting civic education, though it was withdrawn in 2022.

Tai is perhaps best known as a co-founder of the city's 2014 Occupy Movement, during which demonstrators occupied streets and brought traffic to a standstill in some areas for nearly 80 days, demanding direct elections for the city's leader.

**Joshua Wong**

Joshua Wong rose to fame in Hong Kong in 2012 as a high school student leading protests against the introduction of national education in the city's schools. Two years later, he became world famous as a leader of the Occupy Movement.

In 2016, Wong co-founded a political party named "Demosisto" with fellow young activists Nathan Law and Agnes Chow. In the 2019 pro-democracy movement, Wong helped seek overseas support for the protests. His activism led Beijing to label him an advocate of Hong Kong's independence who "begged for interference" by foreign forces.

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Demosisto disbanded when Beijing imposed the security law in 2020. Wong won in the primary election, but the government postponed the official election, citing public health risks during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Wong has pleaded guilty and asked for a lesser sentence. His lawyer said he hoped "he could part with his history and would be able to reform himself" after completing it.

Wu Chi-wai

Wu Chi-wai is the former chair of Hong Kong's biggest pro-democracy party, the Democratic Party, which some activists saw as too moderate. In 2006, the government awarded Wu a medal of honor for community service.

Wu entered a guilty plea, with his lawyer saying he has been in public service for over 30 years and that he and his party did not seek indiscriminate vetoing of budgets. Three former government officials wrote letters seeking a reduced sentence for him.

Wu's parents passed away during his detention and he could only briefly attend their funerals.

Gordon Ng

Gordon Ng, a dual citizen of Australia and Hong Kong, was initially named an organizer of the primary by prosecutors, an accusation Ng denied. He pleaded not guilty.

The judges acknowledged in their verdict that Ng did not organize the plan and was not a candidate. However, they pointed to his campaign urging voters to support primary winners through social media posts and a front-page advertisement in the now-shuttered pro-democracy Apple Daily newspaper, founded by Jimmy Lai.

In seeking a lesser sentence, Ng said his support for the primary was linked to his belief that it could address the differences within the pro-democracy camp, which had long been plagued by infighting. He said he never asked candidates to promise to veto budgets.

## Trump names Brendan Carr, senior GOP leader at FCC, to lead the agency

By WILL WEISSERT and COLLEEN LONG Associated Press

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — President-elect Donald Trump on Sunday named Brendan Carr, the senior Republican on the Federal Communications Commission, as the new chairman of the agency tasked with regulating broadcasting, telecommunications and broadband.

Carr is a longtime member of the commission and served previously as the FCC's general counsel. He has been unanimously confirmed by the Senate three times and was nominated by both Trump and President Joe Biden to the commission.

The FCC is an independent agency that is overseen by Congress, but Trump has suggested he wanted to bring it under tighter White House control, in part to use the agency to punish TV networks that cover him in a way he doesn't like.

Carr has of late embraced Trump's ideas about social media and tech. Carr wrote a section devoted to the FCC in "Project 2025," a sweeping blueprint for gutting the federal workforce and dismantling federal agencies in a second Trump administration produced by the conservative Heritage Foundation.

Trump has claimed he doesn't know anything about Project 2025, but many of its themes have aligned with his statements.

Carr said in a statement congratulating Trump on his win that he believed "the FCC will have an important role to play reining in Big Tech, ensuring that broadcasters operate in the public interest, and unleashing economic growth."

"Commissioner Carr is a warrior for Free Speech, and has fought against the regulatory Lawfare that has stifled Americans' Freedoms, and held back our Economy," Trump said in a statement on Sunday. "He will end the regulatory onslaught that has been crippling America's Job Creators and Innovators, and ensure that the FCC delivers for rural America."

The five-person commission has a 3-2 Democratic majority until next year, when Trump gets to appoint a new member.

Carr has made appearances on Fox News Channel, including when he slammed Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris' appearance on "Saturday Night Live" the weekend before the election -- charging that the network didn't offer equal time to Trump.

Also a prolific writer of op-eds, Carr wrote in an opinion piece for The Wall Street Journal last month decrying an FCC decision to revoke a federal award for Elon Musk's satellite service, Starlink. He said the move couldn't be explained "by any objective application of the facts, the law or sound policy."

"In my view, it amounted to nothing more than regulatory lawfare against one of the left's top targets: Mr. Musk," Carr wrote.

## Donald Trump Jr. says pushback against Cabinet picks proves they're the disrupters voters wanted

By WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Donald Trump Jr. said Sunday that any pushback from the Washington establishment around his father's unconventional choices for Cabinet proves they are just the kind of disruptors that voters are demanding.

The younger Trump insisted the team now around the president-elect knows how to build out an administration, unlike when his father first took office.

"The reality this time is, we actually know what we're doing. We actually know who the good guys and the bad guys are," he told Fox News Channel's "Sunday Morning Futures." "And it's about surrounding my father with people who are both competent and loyal. They will deliver on his promises. They will deliver on his message. They are not people who think they know better, as unelected bureaucrats."

After Donald Trump was elected in 2016, he stocked his early administration with choices from traditional Republican and business circles, tapping figures such as former Exxon Mobil CEO Rex Tillerson, who was his first as secretary of state.

Today, Trump is valuing personal allegiance above political experience.

That has translated into selections such as former Florida Rep. Matt Gaetz, who faced a House ethics investigation, as attorney general, anti-vaccine activist Robert F. Kennedy Jr. as head of the Department of Health and Human Services and Tulsi Gabbard, a former Democratic lawmaker who has in the past publicly expressed sympathy to Russian causes, as director of U.S. intelligence services.

On Sunday, Trump continued to round out his team, naming Brendan Carr, the senior Republican on the Federal Communications Commission, as the new chairman.

Carr said recently the commission's priorities should be "reining in Big Tech," and drafted the FCC chapter of Project 2025, an agenda that the conservative Heritage Foundation sketched out for a second Trump term. Trump has claimed he doesn't know anything about the effort, but some of its themes have aligned with his statements.

The five-person commission has a 3-2 Democratic majority until next year, when Trump gets to appoint a new member.

Some of his picks might face difficulties getting confirmed by the Senate, even with Republicans holding a majority in January.

Donald Trump Jr. suggested that was precisely the idea.

"A lot of them are going to face pushback" but "they are going to be actual disrupters," he said. "That's what the American people want."

He said there are "backup plans" if Senate confirmation is problematic in some cases, but "we're obviously going with the strongest candidates first."

Trump Jr. also looked back to eight years ago, when his businessman father was new to Washington and its ways. "A big part of that process is just something that we didn't understand in 2016, where he came to Washington, D.C., he had no experience," he said.

Now, his son said, Trump knows what to expect.

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Sen. Eric Schmitt, R-Mo., said the president-elect has "a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to deliver that change, to take on permanent Washington, return the power back to the people."

"You have to have people you trust to go into these agencies and have a real reform agenda," Schmitt told "Sunday Morning Futures." He said he sees "real momentum to get these nominations confirmed to actually deliver what President Trump promised on the campaign trail."

On the same show, Sen. Tommy Tuberville, R-Ala., said, "We don't need any Democrats to help us. We have got the numbers." But, he added, Trump needs "a team around him that's going to help him. He can't do it by himself."

Vivek Ramaswamy, the former Republican presidential candidate tapped by Trump along with businessman Elon Musk to lead a new effort on government efficiency, also predicted pushback from traditional Washington to promised steep federal cuts that he said showed the need to "score quick wins through executive action."

## 2 killed, 10 wounded in shootings near New Orleans parade route

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Two people were killed and 10 others were wounded in two separate shootings along a New Orleans parade route and celebration attended by thousands on Sunday, authorities said. There were no immediate arrests.

Officers responding to reports of gunfire shortly after 3:30 p.m. on an avenue in the city's St. Roch neighborhood found eight victims with gunshot wounds, according to a news release from the New Orleans Police Department. All eight were taken to hospitals in unknown condition. Police later said a ninth wounded person arrived at a hospital via a private car.

About 45 minutes later, police received another report of gunfire as revelers were crossing the Almonaster Avenue Bridge, just over half a mile (.8 km) to the north. One person died at the scene and another died at a hospital, police said. A third victim was driven to a hospital in a private vehicle and is in stable condition, police said.

No arrests were announced and no suspect information was released. The St. Roch neighborhood is outside the city's French Quarter that is popular with tourists, located several blocks northeast of the quarter.

The Almonaster Bridge was closed in both directions during the investigation.

Police Superintendent Anne Kirkpatrick said detectives didn't immediately know if the incidents were related.

"They were ... different kinds of approaches," she said of the shootings, which occurred in the area where a "second line," a celebration following a parade, was taking place.

Thousands had gathered for the annual outing of the Nine Times Social Aid & Pleasure Club in the 9th Ward, organizer Oscar Brown told NOLA.com.

"It is a wonderful event, and we want to keep it a wonderful event," Kirkpatrick said.

It was the second major shooting in the South since gunfire marred a homecoming weekend at Tuskegee University in Alabama on Nov. 10, leaving one person dead and injuring 16 others, a dozen of them by gunfire, authorities said.

## From the Amazon rainforest, Biden declares nobody can reverse US progress on clean energy

By AAMER MADHANI, GABRIELA SÁ PESSOA and COLLEEN LONG Associated Press

MANAUS, Brazil (AP) — Speaking from the Amazon rainforest, President Joe Biden declared Sunday that there's no going back in America's "clean energy revolution" even as the incoming Trump administration vows to spur fossil fuel production and scale back efforts against climate change.

Biden, the first sitting U.S. president to visit the world's largest tropical rainforest, saw up close the ravages of deforestation. The Amazon, which is about the size of Australia, stores huge amounts of the world's carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas driving climate change. But development is rapidly depleting the



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long-verdant region, where rivers have been running dry.

Flanked by giant ferns in the forest, Biden said the fight against climate change has been a defining cause of his presidency — he's pushed for cleaner air, water and energy and achieved legislation that steered unprecedented federal spending to the fight against global warming.

But he's about to hand off to Republican President-elect Donald Trump, who is highly unlikely to prioritize the Amazon or anything related to climate change, which he's cast as a "hoax."

Trump has pledged to again pull out of the Paris agreement, a global pact forged to avert the threat of catastrophic climate change, and he says he'll rescind unspent money in energy efficiency legislation.

"It's true, some may seek to deny or delay the clean energy revolution that's underway in America," Biden said from a podium set up on a sandy forest bed. "But nobody, nobody can reverse it, nobody — not when so many people, regardless of party or politics, are enjoying its benefits."

The question now, he said, is "which government will stand in the way and which will seize the enormous opportunity."

His trip comes as the U.N. climate conference is underway in Azerbaijan. Brazil will hold the talks next year.

During a helicopter tour, Biden saw severe erosion, ships grounded in one of the Amazon River's main tributaries and fire damage. He also passed over a wildlife refuge for endangered species of monkeys and birds and the expansive waters where the Negro River tributary flows into the Amazon. He was joined by Carlos Nobre, a Nobel Prize-winning scientist and expert on how climate change is harming the Amazon.

Biden met Indigenous leaders — introducing his daughter and granddaughter — and visited a museum at the gateway to the Amazon where Indigenous women shook maracas as part of a welcoming ceremony. He then signed a U.S. proclamation designating Nov. 17 as International Conservation Day.

The U.S. president leaned into the symbolism of his trip, saying the Amazon might be the "lungs of the world," but "in my view, our forest and national wonders are the heart and soul of the world. They unite us. They inspire us to make us proud of our countries and our heritage."

The Amazon is home to Indigenous communities and 10% of Earth's biodiversity. About two-thirds of the Amazon lies within Brazil. Scientists say its devastation poses a catastrophic threat to the planet.

During brief remarks from the forest, Biden sought to highlight his commitment to the preservation of the region. He said the U.S. was on track to reach \$11 billion in spending on international climate financing in 2024, a sixfold increase from when he started his term. Poorer nations struggling with rising seas and other effects of climate change say the U.S. and other wealthier nations have yet to fulfill their pledges to help.

"The fight to protect our planet is literally a fight for humanity," he said.

Biden's administration announced plans last year for a \$500 million contribution to the Amazon Fund, the most significant international cooperation effort to preserve the rainforest, primarily financed by Norway.

The U.S. has said it has provided \$50 million, and the White House announced Sunday an additional \$50 million contribution.

Biden's trip was significant, but "we can't expect concrete results from this visit," said Suely Araújo, former head of the Brazilian environmental protection agency and public policy coordinator with the nonprofit Climate Observatory.

She doubts that a "single penny" will go to the Amazon Fund once Trump is in the White House.

The Biden administration touted a series of new efforts aimed at bolstering the Amazon and stemming the impact of climate change.

That includes the launch of a finance coalition looking to spur at least \$10 billion in public and private investment for land restoration and eco-friendly economic projects by 2030 as well as a \$37.5 million loan to support the large-scale planting of native tree species on degraded grasslands in Brazil.

The Amazon has been suffering under two years of historic drought that have dried up waterways, isolated thousands of river communities and hindered riverine dwellers' ability to fish. It's also made way for wildfires that have burned an area larger than Switzerland and choked cities near and far with smoke.

When Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva took office last year, he signaled a shift in environmental policy from his far-right predecessor, Jair Bolsonaro.

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Lula has pledged "zero deforestation" by 2030, though his term runs through 2026. Forest loss in Brazil's Amazon dropped by 30.6% in the 12 months through July from a year earlier, bringing deforestation to its lowest level in nine years, official data released last week said.

In that 12-month span, the Amazon lost 6,288 square kilometers (2,428 square miles), roughly the size of the U.S. state of Delaware. But that data fails to capture the surge of destruction this year, which will only be included in next year's reading.

Despite the success in curbing Amazon deforestation, Lula's government has been criticized by environmentalists for backing projects that could harm the region, such as paving a highway that cuts from an old-growth area and could encourage logging, oil drilling near the mouth of the Amazon River and building a railway to transport soy to Amazonian ports.

While Biden is the first sitting president in the Amazon, former President Theodore Roosevelt traveled to the region with the help of the American Museum of Natural History following his 1912 loss to Woodrow Wilson. Roosevelt, joined by his son and naturalists, traversed roughly 15,000 miles, and the former president fell ill with malaria and suffered a serious leg infection after a boat accident.

Biden is making the Amazon visit as part of a six-day trip to South America, the first to the continent of his presidency. He traveled from Lima, Peru, where he took part in the annual Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit and met with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

After his stop in Manaus, he was heading to Rio de Janeiro for this year's Group of 20 leaders summit.

## **An Israeli strike in Beirut kills Hezbollah's spokesman, while a strike in Gaza kills at least 30**

By FADI TAWIL, BASSEM MROUE and WAFAA SHURAFU Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — A rare Israeli strike in central Beirut killed the Hezbollah militant group's chief spokesman on Sunday, while an Israeli strike in northern Gaza's Beit Lahiya killed at least 30 people, a hospital director there told The Associated Press.

Mohammed Afif al-Naboulsi was killed in a strike on the Arab socialist Baath party's office in Beirut, Hezbollah confirmed in a statement. He had been especially visible after all-out war erupted between Israel and Hezbollah in September.

Israel's military in a statement said he "wielded significant influence over Hezbollah's military operations" and "glorified and incited" attacks on Israel.

It was the latest targeted killing of a senior Hezbollah official. On Sunday night, another strike in central Beirut hit a computer shop, killing two people and wounding 22, Lebanon's Health Ministry said. There was no immediate comment from Israel's military.

The strikes happened as Lebanese officials considered a United States-led cease-fire proposal. "This confirms the crimes of the Israeli enemy, and that it wants to negotiate under fire and is expanding and targeting safe and safer areas," said a Lebanese member of parliament, Faisal Al Sayegh.

Israel also bombed several buildings in Beirut's southern suburbs, where Hezbollah has long been headquartered, after warning people to evacuate.

Screams in central Beirut

There was no Israeli evacuation warning before the strike near a busy intersection that killed Afif. Four people were killed and 14 wounded including two children, the Health Ministry said.

"I was asleep and awoke from the sound of the strike, and people screaming, and cars and gunfire," said witness Suheil Halabi.

After the second strike in central Beirut, firefighters struggled to control the blaze in the busy residential neighborhood of Mar Elias. Bystanders said they heard a second explosion and a car nearby appeared to be hit.

Hezbollah began firing rockets, missiles and drones into Israel the day after Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023 attack ignited the war in Gaza. Israel launched retaliatory airstrikes in Lebanon and the conflict steadily escalated.

Israeli forces invaded Lebanon on Oct. 1. On Sunday, Israel's military said mobile artillery batteries had

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crossed into Lebanon and began attacking Hezbollah targets, the first time artillery was launched within Lebanese territory.

More than 3,400 people have been killed in Lebanon, according to the Health Ministry, and over 1.2 million driven from their homes. It is not known how many of the dead are Hezbollah fighters.

Hezbollah has fired dozens of projectiles into Israel daily. The attacks have killed at least 76 people, including 31 soldiers, and caused some 60,000 people to flee. Israel's Magen David Adom emergency service said a teenager suffered blast injuries Sunday in Upper Galilee.

Lebanon's army, largely on the sidelines, said an Israeli strike on Sunday hit a military center in south-eastern Al-Mari, killing two soldiers and wounding two others. There was no immediate Israeli comment.

In Gaza, an escalation

The director of the Kamal Adwan hospital in Beit Lahiya, Hosam Abu Safiya, said dozens were wounded in the Israeli strike and other people likely were under the rubble.

Fleeing residents told the AP that houses were hit. An Israeli military statement earlier said it conducted several strikes on "terrorist targets" in Beit Lahiya, and that efforts to evacuate civilians from the "active war zone" continued.

Israeli forces have again been on the offensive in northern Gaza, saying Hamas militants have regrouped. "Tonight we did not sleep at all," said one fleeing Beit Lahiya resident, Dalal al-Bakri. "They destroyed all the houses around us. ... There are many martyrs."

A woman, Umm Hamza, said the bombing escalated overnight. "It's cold and we don't know where to go," she said.

Earlier, officials said Israeli strikes killed six people in Nuseirat and four in Bureij, two built-up refugee camps in central Gaza dating back to the 1948 war surrounding Israel's creation.

Two people were killed in a strike on Gaza's main north-south highway, according to Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in the central city of Deir al-Balah.

Israel's military said two soldiers were killed in northern Gaza on Sunday.

The war between Israel and Hamas began after Palestinian militants stormed into Israel on Oct. 7. last year, killing about 1,200 people — mostly civilians — and abducting around 250 others. Around 100 hostages remain in Gaza, about a third believed to be dead.

On Sunday, Israel's Shin Bet internal security agency said it met with the heads of the army and intelligence to discuss mediation efforts to release the hostages. It was the first public word of any such effort since Qatar announced earlier this month it was suspending its mediation work.

Gaza's Health Ministry says around 43,800 Palestinians have been killed in the war. It does not distinguish between civilians and combatants but has said women and children make up more than half the dead.

Around 90% of Gaza's population of 2.3 million Palestinians have been displaced, and large areas have been flattened by Israeli bombardment and ground operations.

Pope Francis has called for an investigation to determine if Israel's attacks in Gaza constitute genocide, according to excerpts released Sunday from an upcoming book.

3 arrested after flares fired at Netanyahu's home

Israeli police arrested three suspects after two flares were fired overnight at Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's private residence in the coastal city of Caesarea.

Netanyahu and his family were not there, authorities said. A drone launched by Hezbollah struck the residence last month, also when they were away.

The police did not provide details about the suspects, but officials pointed to domestic political critics of Netanyahu.

The prime minister has faced months of mass protests. Critics blame him for security and intelligence failures that allowed the Oct. 7 attack to happen and for not reaching a deal with Hamas to release hostages.

His government also faces anger from the ultra-Orthodox community over military draft notices. Some protested Sunday in the ultra-Orthodox city of Bnei Brak near Tel Aviv after the government said 7,000 new notices would be issued.

## Senegal votes in election that will decide if president can carry out the reforms he promised

By MARK BANCHEREAU Associated Press

DAKAR, Senegal (AP) — Polls closed in Senegal on Sunday for a parliamentary election set to determine whether the country's newly elected president can carry out ambitious reforms.

More than 7 million registered voters in the West African country were choosing 165 lawmakers in the National Assembly, where the party of President Bassirou Diomaye Faye does not hold a majority.

Faye, who was elected in March on an anti-establishment platform, says that has blocked him from implementing the reforms he pledged during his campaign, including fighting corruption, reviewing fishing permits for foreign companies, and securing a bigger share from the country's natural resources for the population.

In September, he dissolved the opposition-led parliament, paving the way for a snap legislative election. His party is facing the Takku Wallu opposition platform led by former President Macky Sall, alongside 39 other registered parties and coalitions.

Polls opened at 8 a.m. and closed at 6 p.m. local time. The first provisional results were expected by Monday morning, but the final count will only be published later in the week.

Faye's political party, PASTEF, needs at least 83 seats in order to gain a majority in the assembly.

Analysts say it has a high chance of securing that, given its popularity and Faye's margin of victory in the March presidential election.

Faye, 44, was elected with 54% in the first round, becoming Africa's youngest elected leader, less than two weeks after he was released from prison. His rise has reflected widespread frustration among Senegal's youth with the country's direction — a common sentiment across Africa, which has the world's youngest population and a number of leaders accused of clinging to power for decades.

Over 60% of Senegalese are under age 25 and 90% work in informal jobs. Senegal has been hit by skyrocketing inflation in recent years, making it difficult for them to get by.

"These elections could change a lot for me, like all other young people. We all need work," Aita Pene, a 26-year-old student said after casting her vote in the Ouakam neighborhood of Dakar.

"We need to be able to live a good life in Senegal so we don't have to go abroad to find it," she added.

Senegal is a major source of irregular migration to Europe, with thousands leaving every year on rickety, artisanal fishing boats in search of economic opportunities.

The campaign for the legislative election was marked by sporadic clashes between supporters of different parties. The headquarters of an opposition party were set on fire in the capital, Dakar, and clashes have erupted between supporters in central Senegal in recent weeks, the interior ministry said Monday.

On Tuesday, Ousmane Sonko, the country's prime minister who helped catapult Faye to victory, denounced attacks against supporters of PASTEF in Dakar and other cities.

"May each patriot they have attacked and injured be proportionally avenged. We will exercise our legitimate right to respond," he wrote on X, before back-pedaling and asking his supporters to remain peaceful in a speech later that day.

Last month, Sonko's vehicle was attacked with stones as clashes broke out between his supporters and unidentified attackers while he was campaigning in Koungueul, in the center of the country. The leader of an allied party, former minister Malick Gackou, had his arm broken in the incident, according to local media.

Faye called for peace and urged his supporters to respect the results of the election regardless of the outcome.

"There will be winners and losers but in the end, it is the people that win," Faye said after casting his vote in his native town of Ndiagianiao, more than 100 kilometers (60 miles) east of Dakar.

"We have an obligation to preserve the international community's view of our democracy. We are an exception and we must continue to protect that," he added, referring to Senegal's reputation as a stable democracy in West Africa, a region rocked in recent years by coups and attempted coups.

The presidential election in March had tested this reputation. Both Faye and Sonko had been imprisoned on charges that were largely seen as political, leading to months of protests that were unprecedented in Senegal. Rights groups said dozens of people were killed and about 1,000 people were jailed.

Opposition supporters also had been concerned that Sall would seek a third term in office despite being prevented from doing so by the constitution.

After a bid to delay the election was blocked by the courts, the government released hundreds of political prisoners, including Faye and Sonko, less than two weeks before the vote. Faye was catapulted into the presidency when Sonko — who was barred from running due to a previous conviction — put his backing behind the political novice and Faye easily beat the candidate backed by Sall.

## **Dozens are sickened and 1 person died after eating carrots contaminated with E. coli**

CATHY BUSSEWITZ Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — An outbreak of E. coli has infected dozens of people who ate bagged organic carrots, and one person died from the infection.

Altogether, 39 people were infected and 15 were hospitalized in 18 states after eating organic whole and baby carrots sold by Grimmway Farms, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Sunday.

Grimmway Farms, based in Bakersfield, California, has recalled the carrots, which included whole and baby organic carrots sold in bags under multiple brand names including 365, Cal-Organic, Nature's Promise, O-Organics, Trader Joe's and Wegmans, among others.

The carrots are no longer in stores, but the CDC is warning consumers to not eat recalled bag carrots and to check their refrigerators or freezers and throw away any carrots that fit the description. Most of the infected people live in New York, Minnesota and Washington, followed by California and Oregon, although infections have been reported in states throughout the country, according to the CDC.

There have been several E. coli outbreaks in recent months. In October, more than 100 McDonald's customers were sickened by an E. coli outbreak in the U.S. linked to sliced onions. In the U.K., one person died in an E. coli outbreak in June linked to lettuce that sickened at least 275 people. Organic walnuts sickened consumers in 19 states with E. coli infections in April.

Despite the number of recent outbreaks, experts say the food supply is generally safe, although there hasn't been much progress in curbing infections caused by E. coli.

The recalled organic baby carrots have best-by dates ranging from Sept. 11 through Nov. 12, according to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Symptoms of E. coli infection usually start three to four days after eating the bacteria and include severe stomach cramps, diarrhea, which is often bloody, and vomiting. People with severe symptoms of an E. coli infection should seek medical attention and tell the provider what they ate, the CDC said.

The bacteria E. coli can cause serious and sometimes fatal infections in young children, elderly people and those with weakened immune systems, according to the FDA.

## **AP Top 25: Oregon is the unanimous No. 1 team again; Georgia is back in top 10 and LSU out of Top 25**

By ERIC OLSON AP College Football Writer

Oregon remained the unanimous No. 1 team in The Associated Press Top 25 college football poll Sunday after its close call at Wisconsin, Notre Dame and Alabama each jumped up two spots and Georgia returned to the top 10. LSU is unranked for the first time in two years.

The unbeaten Ducks are atop the AP Top 25 for the fifth straight week, passing Texas as the No. 1 team for the most polls this season. They received all 62 first-place votes for the third week in a row after scoring their fewest points in 37 games in the 16-13 win over Wisconsin.

Oregon also holds the top spot in the College Football Playoff rankings and will attempt to complete its

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first perfect regular season since 2010 when it hosts Washington in two weeks.

The Ducks were followed in the AP poll by No. 2 Ohio State, No. 3 Texas, No. 4 Penn State and No. 5 Indiana for the second straight week. The top five could be due for a shakeup this week with Indiana visiting Ohio State for one of the most anticipated games of the season.

Notre Dame, Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi and Tennessee rounded out the top 10. Georgia got a three-rung promotion to No. 8 with its 31-17 win over Tennessee.

Mississippi, which was idle Saturday, rose one spot and Tennessee dropped four but stayed in the top 10.

The Big Ten again held four of the top five spots, and the Southeastern Conference had five of the top 10.

BYU's 17-13 home loss to Kansas dropped the Cougars from No. 7 to No. 14 and put them in a first-place tie with Deion Sanders' Colorado Buffaloes in the Big 12. The Buffs are No. 16.

A season-high four Group of Five teams are in the Top 25. No. 12 Boise State remains the highest ranked of those programs and first in line for the guaranteed playoff spot. No. 23 UNLV joins Boise State as Top 25 Mountain West teams. No. 18 Army and No. 20 Tulane give the American Athletic Conference two ranked teams as well.

LSU — which dropped to 6-4 following its third straight loss, 27-16 at Florida — is out of the Top 25 for the first time since Oct. 16, 2022. The Tigers were ranked in 36 straight polls.

Poll points

Oregon's win over Wisconsin was its third by three points or fewer this season. The Ducks' 16 points were their fewest since a 49-3 loss to Georgia in their 2022 opener.

Tulane went from No. 25 to No. 20 for the week's biggest promotion. The Green Wave's 35-0 win at Navy marked their first shutout of a conference opponent since 1960 and set up a matchup with No. 18 Army in the AAC championship game on Dec. 6.

No. 16 Colorado has its highest ranking since it was No. 11 on Dec. 4, 2016, and No. 19 South Carolina has its highest since it was No. 13 on Sept. 21, 2014.

In and out

No. 21 Arizona State is in the Top 25 for the first time since Oct. 10, 2021. The Sun Devils (8-2), who are coming off a win at Kansas State, have their most victories since 2021.

No. 22 Iowa State, which beat Cincinnati after two straight losses, is back following a one-week absence.

No. 23 UNLV, which was ranked for one week after a 4-0 start, has won four of its last five.

No. 24 Illinois makes its eighth appearance in the Top 25 this season, its most since 2001.

Missouri, Kansas State and Louisville joined LSU as teams knocked out of the rankings following losses.

Conference call

SEC — 7 (Nos. 3, 7, 8, 9, 10, 15, 19).

Big Ten — 5 (Nos. 1, 2, 4, 5, 24).

Big 12 — 4 (Nos. 14, 16, 21, 22).

ACC — 3 (Nos. 11, 13, 17).

AAC — 2 (Nos. 18, 20).

Mountain West — 2 (Nos. 12, 23).

Pac-12 — 1 (No. 25).

Independent — 1 (No. 6).

Ranked vs. ranked

— No. 5 Indiana at No. 2 Ohio State: The magnitude of this game has increased with each week as the Hoosiers have rolled through 10 straight unranked opponents. Just how good are the Hoosiers? Finally, we find out.

— No. 14 BYU at No. 21 Arizona State: The Sun Devils suddenly they control their destiny thanks to Kansas' win over the previously unbeaten Cougars. A win here moves ASU into a tie with BYU for first or second place in the Big 12 and holding the tie-breaker for entry to the conference championship game.

— No. 18 Army vs. No. 6 Notre Dame, Yankee Stadium: This is the first time since 1958 that both teams are ranked entering their meeting. Notre Dame (9-1) has won 15 in a row in the series since Army (9-0)

won that game in '58.

## Russia grinds deeper into Ukraine after 1,000 days of grueling war

By HANNA ARHIROVA Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — When Russian tanks rolled into Ukraine in February 2022, the conventional wisdom was that the capital, Kyiv, would soon fall and the rest of the country wouldn't last long against a much larger enemy.

Instead, it was that narrative that quickly collapsed. The Ukrainian army proved it could slow the advance of Russia's forces and, if not drive them out completely, then — with enough support from the West — at least forestall defeat.

But nearly three years later, the outlook is again grim. Russia is expending huge amounts of weaponry and human life to make small-but-steady territorial gains to the nearly one-fifth of Ukraine it already controls. Ukraine, meanwhile, is struggling to minimize losses, maintain morale and convince allies that, with more military aid, it can turn the tide.

As this brutal war of attrition grinds toward its 1,000th day, neither side seems eager to negotiate. President-elect Donald Trump has said he could quickly end the war, though it is unclear how or in whose favor he might tip the scales.

This backdrop appears to be driving Russia's strategy in eastern Ukraine, according to Phillips O'Brien, a professor of strategic studies at the University of St. Andrews, Scotland. Trump could try to force an end to the war by halting the supply of weapons to Ukraine, he said.

"If Trump cuts aid to Ukraine and a cease-fire leads to a frozen conflict, Russia wants to secure as much territory as it can now," O'Brien said.

For Ukraine, the key to any cease-fire would be guarantees from the West that it won't allow Russia to re-invade in the future. Otherwise, O'Brien said, "a cease-fire is a recipe for constant instability in Europe."

Russia is advancing slowly but steadily in eastern Ukraine

In the war's first year, Ukraine lost huge amounts of territory — but it also achieved notable victories. It resisted a much larger adversary with superior air power to survive as an independent country, and it reclaimed some land through gutsy counteroffensives, giving the underdog — and its wealthy allies — the confidence to stay in the fight.

In the second year, which was punctuated by Ukraine's devastating loss of Bakhmut and its failed counteroffensive, the armies essentially fought to a standstill along a 1,000 kilometer (620 mile) front line. Toward the end of that year, the U.S. Congress delayed the approval of a \$61 billion package of aid for weapons, and economic and humanitarian assistance.

With Ukraine's ammunition dwindling, its outlook deteriorated significantly as the war's third year began. In February 2024, the town of Avdiivka fell after months of airstrikes by Russia, which used highly destructive Soviet-era bombs retrofitted with navigation systems.

The fall of Avdiivka created a major breach in Ukraine's defenses. When Russia later mounted an assault on the northeastern city of Kharkiv, Ukrainian troops were stretched further.

A bright spot for Ukraine came in August, when it launched a surprise incursion into Russia. It took — and still holds — hundreds of square kilometers in the Kursk region. While this could be an important chip in any cease-fire negotiations, it hasn't stopped Russian forces from taking more land in Ukraine's east.

"The Russians have paid a very high price to keep advancing, but they're willing to pay that price in lives to gain a few more meters of territory each day," said Justin Crump, head of the British strategic advisory firm Sibylline.

Tens of thousands of soldiers from both countries have been killed since the start of the war in 2022, according to estimates, and the U.N. says at least 11,700 Ukrainian civilians have been killed.

While the amount of land Russia has gained in 2024 — about 2,455 square kilometers (948 square miles) — is equal to less than 1% of Ukraine's pre-war territory, it is having a psychological impact.

With Ukraine in retreat, "we've now returned to a period reminiscent of the (war's) first months," said

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Mykola Bielieskov, an analyst at CBA Initiatives Center in Kyiv. "This strengthens Russia's position — not so much militarily, but in terms of morale."

A war of attrition requires both sides to seek outside resources

To keep its war machine going, Russia — like Ukraine — has turned to allies for help.

Iran supplies Russia with drones and possibly missiles, and North Korea has sent ammunition — and even troops, who have been deployed to Russia's Kursk region.

Russian President Vladimir Putin claimed this year that 700,000 of his troops are fighting in Ukraine. Analysts say Putin would need a much larger force to accelerate Russia's advance, but that he is unlikely to mobilize more troops because it could stoke internal discontent.

Ukraine's foothold in Kursk is another complicating factor for Putin, and it could be used as a bargaining chip in any future cease-fire negotiations.

Captain Yevhen Karas, a Ukrainian commander in Kursk, said the fighting inside Russia is highly dynamic, but he believes it will prove effective in diverting Russia's attention and resources.

"Even a creeping, retreating front exhausts the enemy significantly," Karas said.

Ukraine has asked the West for longer range missiles and its blessing to fire at air bases deep inside Russia. But its allies have so far resisted, wary of escalating tensions with a nuclear-armed Russia.

The U.S. has provided more than \$64 billion in military aid to Ukraine since the war began 1,000 days ago. Soldiers worry about what would happen without sustained American support.

"Bravery, heroism, and spirit alone are not enough," said a Ukrainian soldier in the eastern Donetsk region who spoke on condition of anonymity, in line with military rules.

The soldier estimated that where he is stationed Russian infantry outnumber Ukrainian troops 10 to 1. As the war drags on and the death toll rises, it has become increasingly difficult for Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to keep replacing troops.

The US will play a vital role in determining the war's next direction

What direction the war takes next will depend in large part on how the incoming Trump administration plays its hand.

Trump, who has touted his good relationship with President Vladimir Putin and called the Russian leader "pretty smart" for invading Ukraine, has repeatedly criticized American backing of Ukraine.

During his only campaign debate with Vice President Kamala Harris, Trump twice refused to directly answer a question about whether he wanted Ukraine to win — raising concerns that Kyiv could be forced to accept unfavorable terms in any negotiations.

Without security guarantees from the West, Ukraine could find itself vulnerable to future Russian aggression. Analysts say a cease-fire based on the current state of the battlefield would set a dangerous precedent, implying that Europe's borders are up for grabs through military action — something that hasn't happened since World War II.

"This would also have a lot of traction in countries like China, India, and elsewhere," said Richard Connolly, a Russia expert at the Royal United Services Institute in London. "They could present that as a strategic defeat not only for Ukraine, but also for the West."

As another winter of war approaches, Ukrainian soldiers say they remain resolute.

"We are standing strong, giving it our all, and we won't surrender," said a battalion chief of staff in the southern region of Zaporizhzhia. "The most important thing now is not to lose more land."

## Big voter turnout this year benefited Republicans, contradicting conventional political wisdom

By NICHOLAS RICCARDI Associated Press

The 2024 presidential election featured sky-high turnout, approaching the historic levels of the 2020 contest and contradicting long-held conventional political wisdom that Republicans struggle to win races in which many people vote.

According to Associated Press elections data, more than 153 million ballots were cast in this year's race



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between Republican Donald Trump, now the president-elect, and Democrat Kamala Harris, the vice president, with hundreds of thousands of more still being tallied in slower-counting states such as California. When those ballots are fully tabulated, the number of votes will come even closer to the 158 million in the 2020 presidential contest, which was the highest turnout election since women were given the right to vote more than a century ago.

"Trump is great for voter turnout in both parties," said Eitan Hersh, a political scientist at Tufts University.

The former president's victory in both the Electoral College and popular vote — Trump currently leads Harris by nearly 2.5 million votes nationwide — also contradicts the belief in politics that Democrats, not Republicans, benefit from high-turnout elections.

Trump himself voiced it in 2020 when he warned that a Democratic bill to expand mail balloting would lead to "levels of voting that, if you ever agreed to it, you'd never have a Republican elected in this country again." That warning came as Trump began to sow conspiracy theories about using mail voting during the coronavirus pandemic, which he then used to falsely claim his 2020 loss was due to fraud.

That claim led to a wave of new laws adding regulations and rolling back forms of voting in GOP-controlled states and an expansion of mail voting in Democratic-led ones, as the battle over turnout became a central part of political debate. Such laws usually have a miniscule impact on voting but inspired allegations of voter suppression from Democrats and cheating from Republicans.

"It's such an embarrassing story for proponents on both sides, because it's so obviously wrong," Hersh said.

Though both sides are likely to continue to battle over how elections are run, Trump's high-turnout victory may take some of the urgency out of that confrontation.

"Now I think, you just won the popular vote, I think it'll quiet down," said Patrick Ruffini, a Republican data analyst and pollster who has long argued his party can succeed in a high-turnout election with a diverse electorate.

Experts note that turnout in the seven swing states at the heart of the election was even higher than in the rest of the country.

"This was a campaign in seven states much more so than previous elections have felt like," Ruffini said.

While the rest of the country shifted significantly from 2020, when Democrat Joe Biden won the popular vote by 7 million, or 4.5 percentage points, the outcome in the swing states was closer. The turnout story also was different. Turnout dropped from 2020 in noncompetitive states such as Illinois, which recorded more than 500,000 fewer votes than in the last presidential election, and Ohio, which reported more than 300,000 less.

Meanwhile, the number of votes cast topped those in 2020 in the battleground states of Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, all of which Trump won. Arizona's turnout was nearly even with four years ago, as the state continued to count ballots.

Harris even met or topped Biden's vote totals in Georgia, Nevada, North Carolina and Wisconsin, and turnout has far eclipsed that of the 2016 presidential election, when 135.6 million voters cast ballots in a race won by Trump over Democrat Hillary Clinton. The problem for Democrats is that Trump did better in the battlegrounds than four years ago.

"The Harris campaign did a pretty good job getting voters out who wouldn't have come out," said Tom Bonier, a Democratic data analyst. "She did get her voters out. Trump got more."

Those Trump turnout victories included first-time voter Jasmine Perez, 26, who voted for Trump at the Las Vegas Raiders stadium.

"I'm a Christian and he really aligns with a lot of my values as a Christian in America, and I like that he openly promotes Christianity in America," Perez said.

Voting alongside her was Diego Zubek, 27, who voted for Trump in 2016 but didn't vote in 2020 because he figured Trump would win easily. He voted for Trump this year.

"I wasn't going to let that happen again," Zubek said.

A key part of the GOP strategy was reaching out to voters such as Perez and Zubek, encouraging early and mail voting after Republicans had largely abandoned them in the past two elections due to Trump's

lies about vote fraud. Conservatives mounted extensive voter registration and get-out-the-vote operations targeting infrequent voters, a demographic that many operatives have long believed would not vote for the GOP.

More than half the votes were cast before Election Day this year, according to AP tracking of the advanced vote.

During the campaign, Andrew Kolvet, a spokesman for Turning Point Action, a conservative group that ran a get-out-the-vote campaign with more than 1,000 workers in multiple battleground states, cited Stacey Abrams, a onetime Democratic candidate for Georgia governor, as an inspiration in his group's effort. Abrams' success mobilizing Black voters and other groups in her home state that were less likely to vote helped pave the way for Biden's 2020 win there.

"We saw that Trump has this amazing reservoir of low-propensity conservatives who needed a little coaxing," Kolvet said in an interview Friday. "They didn't think their vote mattered, and their No. 1 pushback was they didn't understand, really, how to vote."

Kolvet acknowledged that conservatives long believed large turnout didn't help them but contended that's changed in the Trump era: "Our ideas are more popular," he said.

Whether it continues is up to what happens next in Washington.

"It's going to be up to conservatives to make good on those campaign promises," Kolvet said.

## **Latest typhoon lashes the Philippines, causing tidal surges and displacing massive numbers of people**

By JIM GOMEZ Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — A powerful typhoon wrecked houses, caused towering tidal surges and forced hundreds of thousands of people to flee to emergency shelters as it cut across the northern Philippines on Sunday in the sixth major storm to hit the country in less than a month.

Typhoon Man-yi slammed into the eastern island province of Catanduanes on Saturday night with sustained winds of up to 195 kilometers (125 miles) per hour and gusts of up to 240 kph (149 mph). The country's weather agency warned of a "potentially catastrophic and life-threatening situation" in provinces along its path.

There were no immediate reports of casualties from the typhoon, which was forecast to blow northwestward on Sunday across northern Luzon, the archipelago's most populous region. The capital region of metropolitan Manila would likely be spared from a direct hit but was placed, along with outlying regions, under storm alerts and warned of dangerous coastal storm surges.

"The rain was minimal, but the wind was very strong and had this eerie howling sound," Roberto Monterola, a disaster-mitigation officer in Catanduanes, told The Associated Press by telephone. "Along a main boulevard here, the tidal surges went up to more than 7 meters (23 feet) near the seaside houses. It looked really scary."

The entire province of Catanduanes had no power after the typhoon knocked down trees and electricity posts, and disaster-response teams were checking how many more houses were damaged in addition to those impacted by previous storms, he said.

"We need tin roofs and other construction materials, aside from food. Villagers tell us here that they still haven't gotten up from the past storm and were pinned down again by this typhoon," Monterola said. Nearly half of the island province's 80,000 people were sheltering in evacuation centers.

Catanduanes officials were so concerned as the typhoon approached that they threatened vulnerable villagers with arrest if they did not follow orders to evacuate to safer grounds. More than 750,000 people took refuge in emergency shelters, including churches and a shopping mall, due to Man-yi and two previous storms mostly in the northern Philippines, Assistant Secretary Cesar Idio of the Office of Civil Defense and other provincial officials said.

The rare number of back-to-back storms and typhoons that lashed Luzon in just three weeks left more than 160 people dead, affected 9 million people and caused such extensive damage to residential com-

munities, infrastructure and farmlands that the Philippines may have to import more rice, a staple food for most Filipinos. In an emergency meeting as Man-yi approached, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. asked his Cabinet and provincial officials to brace for "the worst-case scenario."

At least 26 domestic airports and two international airports were briefly shut and inter-island ferry and cargo services were suspended due to rough seas, stranding thousands of passengers and commuters, according to the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippine and the coast guard.

The United States, Manila's treaty ally, along with Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia and Brunei provided cargo aircraft and other storm aid to augment the government's overwhelmed disaster-response agencies. Last month, the first major storm, Trami, left scores of people dead after dumping one to two months' worth of rain in just 24 hours in several towns.

The Philippines is battered by about 20 typhoons and storms each year. It's often hit by earthquakes and has more than a dozen active volcanoes, making it one of the world's most disaster-prone countries.

## Gabbard's sympathetic views toward Russia cause alarm as Trump's pick to lead intelligence services

By DAVID KLEPPER, ELLEN KNICKMEYER and EDITH M. LEDERER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Tulsi Gabbard, President-elect Donald Trump's choice to lead the U.S. intelligence services, in 2022 endorsed one of Russia's main justifications for invading Ukraine: the existence of dozens of U.S.-funded biolabs working on some of the world's nastiest pathogens.

Moscow claimed Ukraine was using the labs to create deadly bioweapons similar to COVID-19 that could be used against Russia, and that Russian President Vladimir Putin had no choice but to invade neighboring Ukraine to protect his country.

In fact, the labs are public and part of an international effort to control outbreaks and stop bioweapons.

Gabbard, a military veteran and a former Democratic congresswoman from Hawaii, later said she wasn't accusing the United States or Ukraine of anything nefarious and was just voicing concerns about protecting the labs.

But to critics in the U.S., including lawmakers in both parties, the comments showed a disturbing willingness to parrot Russian propaganda — a tendency that has earned Gabbard praise on Russian state TV.

Gabbard's past comments supportive of Russia — as well as secret meetings with Syria's president, a close ally of Russia and Iran — are attracting fresh scrutiny from Democrats and national security analysts who fear that as Trump's director of national intelligence she could give Russia a major win, undercut Ukraine, weaken U.S. national security and endanger intelligence ties with allies.

"Gabbard, like Gaetz, is like a hand grenade ready to explode," former Trump national security adviser John Bolton said, speaking of Matt Gaetz, the former Florida congressman who is Trump's pick for attorney general. "Republicans who throw themselves on those grenades for Donald Trump are risking their own personal reputations and places in history."

Gabbard says American assistance for Ukraine jeopardizes global security by antagonizing Russia. She has criticized Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy as corrupt and has expressed sympathy for Russia's position, given Ukraine's desire to join NATO, the Western military alliance.

"This war and suffering could have easily been avoided if Biden Admin/NATO had simply acknowledged Russia's legitimate security concerns," she posted on Twitter at the start of Russia's invasion in 2022.

Democrats say Gabbard's comments signify a pro-Russian bent that poses a problem for U.S. national security if she is confirmed by the Senate.

"Do you really want her to have all of the secrets of the United States and our defense intelligence agencies when she has so clearly been in Putin's pocket?" Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., said on MSNBC. "That just has to be a hard no."

The Office of the Director of National Intelligence was created after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks to coordinate the nation's intelligence agencies and act as the president's main intelligence adviser.

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Gabbard and the Trump transition team did not respond to questions seeking comment. She has in the past defended her actions and said her military service — she has served in the Army National Guard for more than two decades and deployed to Iraq and Kuwait — has made her skeptical about military interventions.

Gabbard also has defended Trump's relationship with autocrats such as Putin, saying it shows Trump has "the courage to meet with adversaries, dictators, allies and partners alike in the pursuit of peace, seeing war as a last resort."

Gabbard's own meetings with Syrian President Bashar Assad in 2017 angered many of her then-fellow Democrats. They said her visit helped legitimize a leader accused of war crimes and who has served as a proxy and host for Russia and Iran in the Middle East.

Assad welcomed Russia's military into Syria in 2015 to crush a popular uprising against him. Russian forces and Iranian-allied militias have remained, using Syria as a base for attacks on American troops and their allies. The U.S. has severed diplomatic relations with Syria and placed Assad under heavy sanctions over the brutality with which he, Russian warplanes and Iranian-allied forces crushed the uprising, leading to 500,000 deaths.

Gabbard ran for president in 2020 before dropping out and endorsing Democrat Joe Biden, who defeated Trump. Two years later, she left the Democratic Party to become an independent, criticizing her former colleagues as an "elitist cabal of warmongers" and "woke" ideologues.

She subsequently campaigned for several high-profile Republicans, became a contributor to Fox News and started a podcast.

Gabbard's remarks about Russia haven't gone unnoticed in Moscow, where state-run media have praised her and even jokingly referred to her as a Russian agent.

An article published Friday in RIA Novosti, a major Russian state-controlled news agency, called Gabbard "superwoman" and noted her past appearances on Russian TV, claiming that Ukrainian intelligence views her as "probably an agent of the Russian special services."

Gabbard's stance on Russia and Syria is likely to come up during her Senate confirmation.

Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, said that while he has questions about her comments and believes Gabbard should receive the traditional background check during her confirmation process, he doesn't second-guess her loyalties.

"I certainly would want to ask her about that," Cornyn said of Gabbard's Russia comments. "But I have no doubt that she's a patriot. I mean, she served in the United States military and was deployed much of the time."

America's allies are watching the nomination process closely, worried about how Trump's incoming administration could affect intelligence cooperation and sharing.

Trump's election raises "very difficult issues" for America's closest allies and members of the Five Eyes group, an intelligence-sharing coalition of the U.S., the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand and Canada, according to Thomas Juneau, a former strategic analyst with Canada's Department of National Defence.

"Will the U.S. be more selective in what it shares, to pressure allies? If yes, this will create mistrust between the U.S. and its closest partners," Juneau said. "In the long term, this would negatively affect the Five Eyes, which is an extremely close partnership premised on an extraordinarily high level of trust."

Some officials in allied governments declined to speak about Gabbard and other Trump picks. Since Biden's dismal debate showing, which led to Vice President Kamala Harris becoming the Democratic nominee, some key European allies said they already were scrambling to build up a security strategy less reliant on the U.S.

French President Emmanuel Macron and other European officials underscored that publicly after the U.S. election.

## Will the antitrust showdown launched under Biden turn into 'Let's Make A Deal' under Trump?

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE AP Business Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The U.S. antitrust watchdogs that pounced on Big Tech and deterred corporate deal making throughout President Joe Biden's administration may be kept on a shorter leash by Donald Trump after he returns to the White House next year.

Although regulators began cracking down on tech powerhouses such as Google and Facebook during Trump's first term as president, most experts expect his second administration to ease up on antitrust enforcement and be more receptive to mergers and deal-making after years of hypervigilance under Biden's watch.

One of the biggest reasons underlying the anticipated pivot stems from the widespread belief that the chief architects of the Biden administration's get-tougher stance — Lina Khan of the U.S. Federal Trade Commission and the Justice Department's Jonathan Kanter — won't be part of the Trump regime.

Both the Justice Department and FTC didn't respond to request for comment.

Trump's announcement of billionaire Elon Musk, who once anointed himself as "Technoking," to oversee an advisory effort focused on slashing government spending could end up reducing the staffs and regulators trying to rein in deep-pocketed companies.

And Trump's nomination of combative supporter Matt Gaetz to be U.S. Attorney General has thrown even more uncertainty into the game. Gaetz has previously lashed out at social media platforms' policies he claims suppress conservative views, and has, at times, joined in on calls to break up Big Tech. He also has a track record of supporting causes trumpeted by Trump.

"There are going to be some profound changes" in antitrust policies, predicts John Kwoka, an economics professor at Northeastern University that has periodically worked on antitrust issues with the FTC and Justice Department. "Elon Musk could end up having a larger-than-life influence on policy, and that isn't something we have seen before, where a single person whispers in the ear of the President."

Other experts interviewed by The Associated Press mostly agree with Kwoka's sentiments. But they also believe it's highly unlikely the anticipated shift will result in regulators abandoning existing antitrust cases against Big Tech firms, partly because those legal showdowns coalesce with populist worries about the industry's increasing power and influence on people's lives.

"We are in uncharted territory, but the idea of going up against Big Tech still has legs to it," said Rebecca Allensworth, a Vanderbilt University law professor who tracks antitrust issues.

But the changing of the guard may open a door for Google, Apple, Amazon and Facebook to avert prolonged court battles and negotiate settlements under a president that relishes in deal making.

"Maybe Big Tech should buy a copy of 'The Art of The Deal' to figure out how to best negotiate with this administration," suggested Paul Swanson, an antitrust attorney for the law firm Holland & Hart. "I won't be surprised if they find ways to reach some accommodations and we end up seeing more negotiated resolutions and consent decrees."

While the fate of existing antitrust cases remains in a realm of pure speculation, almost everyone is betting the Trump administration will be more receptive to mergers that typically come with a promise of lower costs and other benefits for consumers.

The stage is set for "a golden era for deal flow among public and private tech players over the next 12 to 18 months," Wedbush Securities analyst Dan Ives wrote in a research note after Trump's reelection.

It's a belief widely shared by most investors, which helped fuel a run up in the overall stock market since Election Day and boosted shares in companies trying to close deals announced during the Biden administration. One such example involves Capital One Financial and Discover, who aim to consummate their merger in a stock swap next year. Capital One's market value has increased by 11% while Discover's market value has climbed 16%.

The change in administration could also sway a proposed merger between the country's two biggest supermarket chains, Kroger and Albertsons, which forged a \$24.6 billion deal to combine in 2022. But the

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FTC filed a lawsuit in federal court earlier this year to block the merger, claiming the deal would eliminate competition, leading to higher prices and lower wages for workers. But the two companies say a merger would help them lower prices and compete against bigger rivals like Walmart.

Given grocery prices remain a hot-button issue among consumers still feeling shell shocked from post-pandemic inflationary spikes, Allensworth believes the Trump administration is less likely to "abandon or soft pedal" the FTC's challenge to the Kroger-Albertsons merger.

In another case that has been cheered by hordes of consumers, the Justice Department is seeking to break up Ticketmaster and its corporate parent Live Nation in a lawsuit claiming their practices are driving up the cost of concerts and other entertainment.

Despite the grassroots support for that case, Live Nation executives are signaling they think they can preserve the current system under a Trump presidency.

"We are hopeful that we'll see a return to the more traditional antitrust approach, where the agencies have generally tried to find ways to solve problems they see with targeted remedies that minimize government intervention in the marketplace," Live Nation President Joe Berchtold said during a conference call with investors shortly after the election.

Deals that got torpedoed by the Biden administration could find new life with Trump in command. American and JetBlue are already considering resurrecting a partnership after an earlier proposal got torpedoed by a legal challenge by Biden's antitrust team — a decision that was recently upheld by a Boston appeals court.

"We are still taking a look at it," American Airlines CEO Robert Isom said shortly after the election. "We will take everything that the court has fed back, and we'll put that into consideration."

Similar conversations are likely taking place among other executives re-examining deals that seemed off-limits during the Biden administration, said Colin Kass, an antitrust attorney at the law firm Proskauer Rose,

"It's almost certain there were deals that people put the brakes on because of antitrust concerns and those will be revisited to decide whether they still make economic sense," Kass said. "If so, they will present it to the DOJ. And if there needs to be a fix, it's more likely to get fixed than blocked outright. So it's worth taking a chance at getting these deals done."

As for the efforts to dismantle Big Tech monopolies, the first case brought by the Trump administration against Google is now in the hands of a federal judge who ruled in August that the company's dominant search engine is an illegal monopoly. U.S. District Judge Amit Mehta in Washington, D.C. is now weighing what kind of punishment to impose on Google. A decision is expected by August next year.

In a preliminary proposal filed last month, the Justice Department indicated it might try to persuade Mehta to order that key parts of Google be broken up to restore competition.

The Justice Department's final draft of recommended penalties is due this Wednesday. The filing isn't likely to be influenced by the specter of the Trump administration taking over next January as Kanter and the rest of the team he assembled at Justice get one final chance to state their case against Google, said David Olson, an associate law professor for Boston College.

A reshuffled team of antitrust regulators appointed by Trump could still backtrack from whatever position is staked out in the Nov. 20 filing and take a different stance when Mehta presides over the hearings about the proposed punishments next spring.

"It is disheartening to see," Kwoka said. "A tougher policy was in order because the tech companies in particular had been allowed to behave without any significant restraint for 20 years. And then we all recognized it was going to take more than four years to establish a tougher policy and show its merits. Now, that may not happen."

## Today in History: November 18, more than 900 die at Jonestown

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Monday, Nov. 18, the 323rd day of 2024. There are 43 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Nov. 18, 1978, U.S. Rep. Leo J. Ryan of California and four others were killed on an airstrip in Jonestown,

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Guyana, by members of the Peoples Temple; the killings were followed by a night of mass murder and suicide resulting in the deaths of more than 900 cult members.

Also on this date:

In 1928, "Steamboat Willie," the first cartoon with synchronized sound as well as the first release of the character Mickey Mouse, debuted on screen at the Colony Theater in New York.

In 1987, an underground fire broke out in the King's Cross St Pancras subway station in London, causing 31 deaths.

In 1991, Shiite Muslim kidnappers in Lebanon freed Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite and Thomas Sutherland, the American dean of agriculture at the American University of Beirut.

In 1999, 12 people were killed and 27 injured when a bonfire under construction at Texas A&M University collapsed.

In 2003, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruled that the state constitution guaranteed gay couples the right to marry, the first state supreme court to do so.

In 2005, eight months after Robert Blake was acquitted of murdering his wife at a criminal trial, a civil jury decided the actor was behind the killing and ordered him to pay Bonny Lee Bakley's children \$30 million.

In 2021, more than half a century after the assassination of Malcolm X, two of his convicted killers were exonerated; a New York judge dismissed the convictions of Muhammad Aziz and the late Khalil Islam after prosecutors and the men's lawyers said a renewed investigation had found new evidence that undermined the case against them.

Today's Birthdays: Author Margaret Atwood is 85. Actor Linda Evans is 82. Actor Delroy Lindo is 72. Comedian Kevin Nealon is 71. Football Hall of Famer Warren Moon is 68. Actor Oscar Nunez is 66. Actor Elizabeth Perkins is 64. Rock musician Kirk Hammett (Metallica) is 62. Author and lecturer Brené Brown is 59. Actor Romany Malco is 56. Actor Owen Wilson is 56. Commentator Megan Kelly is 54. Actor Chloe Sevigny (SEH'-ven-ee) is 50. Baseball Hall of Famer David Ortiz is 49. Rapper Fabolous is 47. NASCAR driver Denny Hamlin is 44. Actor-comedian Nasim Pedrad (nah-SEEM' peh-DRAHD') is 43. Actor Damon Wayans Jr. is 42. Olympic track and field gold medalist Allyson Felix is 39. Fashion designer Christian Siriano is 39. Actor Nathan Kress is 32. NFL quarterback Caleb Williams is 23.