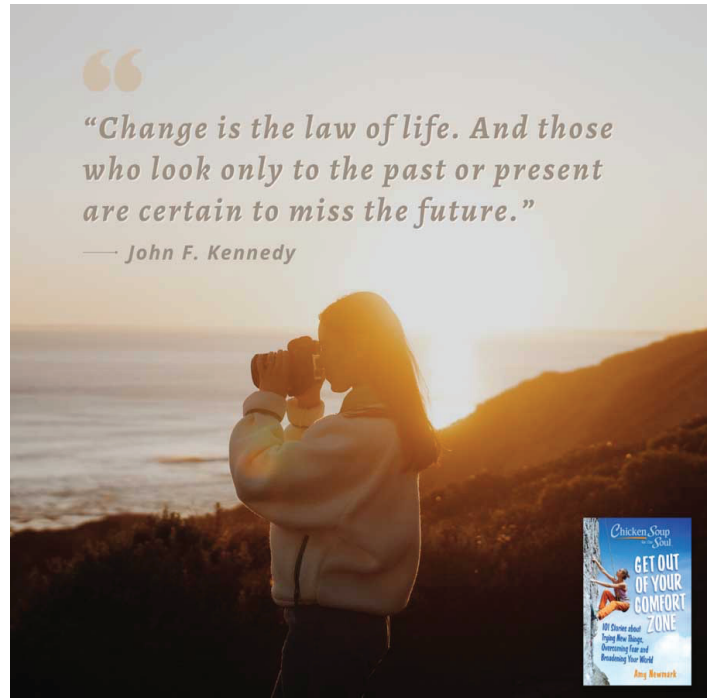


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## October 2023 Calendar

### Tuesday, Oct. 10

Senior Menu: Ham and bean soup, egg salad sandwich, tomato spoon salad, fruit.  
School Breakfast: Waffles.  
School Lunch: Chicken legs, mashed potatoes.  
Northwestern Middle School Music Festival  
School Board Meeting: 7 a.m.  
Elementary Reading and Math Family Fun Night, 5:30 p.m.  
Thrift Store open 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.  
Food Pantry open 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.  
Emmanuel Lutheran: Church Council, 6 p.m.  
United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

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

### Wednesday, Oct. 11

Senior Menu: Oven fried chicken, sweet potatoes, vegetable capri blend, chocolate pudding with bananas, whole wheat bread.  
School Breakfast: Egg bake.  
School Lunch: Chef Salad  
Groton CM&A: Kids' Club, Youth Group and Adult Bible Study begins at 7 pm  
Emmanuel Lutheran: Confirmation, 6 p.m.  
St. John's Lutheran: Bible Study, 2:45 p.m.; Confirmation, 4:35 p.m.  
United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.

### **OPEN:** Recycling Trailer in Groton

The recycling trailer is located west of the city shop. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.  
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## The Bulletin by Newsweek

### World in Brief

and former private office.

Law enforcement officials shot the driver of a car that crashed into a Chinese consulate in San Francisco and stopped in the lobby of the visa office, officials said. The driver later died at the hospital.

The Powerball jackpot surged to \$1.73 billion—the second-largest lottery prize in U.S. history—after no ticket matched the game's six numbers.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis has lost a legal battle over his decision to limit COVID-19 data, meaning he will be forced to release the data to the public.

Tropical Storm Lidia is expected to strengthen to a hurricane and make landfall on Mexico's western Pacific coast, with heavy rains and flooding expected. Tropical Storm Max made landfall on Mexico's southern Pacific coast.

Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen said that peace was "the only option" in her country's relations with China. "Maintaining the status quo as the greatest common denominator for all parties is the key to ensuring peace."

In the ongoing war in Ukraine, combat footage appears to show two Russian soldiers mistakenly firing on one another as the war slips into its second full winter, with one of them collapsing before an explosion goes off close to the second soldier.

### What to Watch in the Day Ahead

Republicans are expected to convene for a speaker candidate forum today, followed by a speakership vote tomorrow, days after the historic ouster of Kevin McCarthy.

Kari Lake, who hasn't accepted her 2022 gubernatorial defeat, is expected to announce her bid for a Senate seat at a rally.

The Final Witness: A Kennedy Secret Service Agent Breaks His Silence After Sixty Years, a book by former Secret Service agent Paul Landis, will be released today. Landis, tasked with guarding First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy, gives a first-hand account of the 1963 assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Amazon Prime Big Deal Days kicks off today. The shopping event will offer Prime members several deals to make an early start to festive shopping and stock up on seasonal essentials.

PepsiCo will report third-quarter earnings, with analysts holding an optimistic outlook as the beverage and snack giant is likely to have benefitted from higher prices.

Jedidiah Murphy, a man convicted for the murder of 79-year-old Bertie Cunningham in 2000, is scheduled to be executed by lethal injection in Texas.

Arnold Schwarzenegger's memoir, Be Useful: Seven Tools For Life, will be released today. It will reveal his life principles, which helped him find his true purpose, following his career as a bodybuilder, actor, and politician as the former governor of California.

Today is World Mental Health Day. Prince and Princess of Wales, William and Kate, hold a series of events highlighting mental health initiatives in the U.K. The Duke and Duchess of Sussex, Harry and Meghan, will host a parents summit in New York City, The Archewell Foundation Parents' Summit: Mental Wellness in a Digital Age.

Israel said it has "restored full control" over the border with Gaza and launched about 200 overnight airstrikes. The Israeli military said about 1,500 bodies of Hamas militants have been found in Israel and around the Gaza Strip. Hamas threatened to execute hostages if Israeli strikes continued without warning. At least 11 Americans have been killed.

President Joe Biden voluntarily met with Special Counsel Robert Hur for interviews as part of an investigation into his handling of classified documents found in his home

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## Names Released in Lawrence County Fatal Crash

What: Two vehicle fatal crash  
Where: I-90, mile marker 16, 2 miles east of Spearfish, S.D.  
When: 6:45 p.m., Thursday, October 5, 2023  
Driver 1: Cactus Millar, 20, Crookston, NE., No injuries  
Vehicle 1: 2007 Dodge Ram  
Driver 2: Marshall Osloond, 39, Rapid City, S.D., Fatal injuries  
Vehicle 2: 2015 Nissan Altima

Lawrence County, S.D.- A Rapid City, S.D., man has been identified as the person who died Thursday evening in a two vehicle crash 2 miles east of Spearfish, S.D.

Preliminary crash information indicates a 2015 Nissan Altima was stopped in the Westbound driving lane of I-90. A 2007 Dodge Ram struck the rear of the Nissan. Both vehicles came to a final rest in the median of the interstate.

The driver of the Dodge Ram, Cactus Millar, age 20, was not injured.

He was wearing a seatbelt.

The driver of the Nissan Altima, 39-year-old Marshall Osloond, sustained fatal injuries and was declared deceased at the scene.

He was not wearing a seatbelt.

South Dakota's Highway Patrol is investigating the crash. All information released so far is only preliminary. The Highway Patrol is an agency of the South Dakota Department of Public Safety.



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Tigers



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## Part 1

# Johnson's political pedigree took shape in Pierre

Stu Whitney

South Dakota News Watch

*This is the first in a four-part series by South Dakota News Watch about the political journey and Republican Party challenges faced by U.S. Representative Dusty Johnson:*

It makes sense to portray Dusty Johnson as a born politician.

He grew up in Pierre with a family legacy of lobbying and lawmaking and pushing the right buttons to make your voice heard. He immersed himself in the South Dakota Teenage Republicans the way some youth embrace the Boy Scouts, to avoid being lost in the wild.

His grandfather was Bill Johnson, a former broadcaster who turned to Republican politics in the 1960s and became an influential state lobbyist. Bill's wife, Joan, was also active in the GOP ranks, attending several national conventions as a delegate, serving as party treasurer and working as an administrative clerk in the South Dakota Senate for nearly three decades.

Dusty spent a few afternoons with his grandmother roaming the halls of the state Capitol, across the street from his middle school. On Sundays, when his family attended church at Lutheran Memorial, it was not uncommon to see three or four state Supreme Court justices in nearby pews, solemnly absorbing the sermon.

But the narrative of an idyllic upbringing surrounded by constructive influences is not entirely whole, as Johnson acknowledges.

There were rough patches that helped mold his political temperament. His parents, Kevin and Jacque, struggled at times to provide for five children during what Dusty, the oldest, describes as a "hardscrabble" existence.

He started working at 14, washing cars at Capital Motors and manning the snack bar at Lariat Lanes bowling alley to be able to afford daily essentials such as socks and deodorant.

"It's very easy to see that government exists when living in a state capital," said Johnson, who was born in 1976, the year Democratic upstart Jimmy Carter won the White House in the wake of the Watergate scandal.

"Because of growing up poor, I was aware that there were safety-net programs out there. When I walked to the convenience store to get groceries for my family, it was not unusual to have to pay with food stamps. So I've always been fascinated about the question of what is the right role of government in people's lives."

Kevin worked as a hotel clerk and groundskeeper and Jacque is a social worker with the South Dakota Department of Social Services.

They started out as Republicans from conservative families and gradually became more liberal, finding daylight between their own beliefs and those that became keystones of their son's political career.

"When you work in social services, you develop a



“  
One of the reasons I like  
Dusty is that he's not  
going to do anything just  
to make his base feel  
better. I mean, he wants  
to effectuate good policy.  
”

U.S. Rep. Kelly Armstrong,  
R-N.D.



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different idea of how things should go," said Jacque, who went from Teenage Republican as a high schooler to precinct captain for the South Dakota Democratic Party in Fort Pierre.

"We avoid discussing those matters (with Dusty) because it's not worth fighting about. He knows that some of our core beliefs are different and we're going to stand by them. But we also believe in getting along."

## Janklow's leadership noticed in Johnson household

Johnson and his parents found common ground in their admiration for Bill Janklow, whose first stint as governor from 1979 to 1987 encompassed much of Johnson's childhood.

They saw him as an effective leader who put public concerns ahead of his own, understood policy matters and worked to solve problems without regard to partisan interests. His ability to unite a politically fractured family was something that young Dusty took to heart.

Another source of agreement was that education was paramount.

Kevin and Jacque, neither of whom are college graduates, wanted to put their kids on a different path. That especially pertained to Dusty, the oldest, who entered a gifted program in elementary school. When the program was threatened by state budget shifts in 1988, when Dusty was 11, Jacque showed up at an Education Committee hearing at the Capitol with her son to testify against the change.

"I did a lousy job," she told News Watch when asked of that day. "My voice quavered, and I shook, but I tried to make my points. Unbeknownst to me, Dusty had signed up while I was testifying, and he got up and testified in front of the committee and did a remarkable job."

## Teenage Republicans served as political proving ground

Johnson landed his first job at 14 and started a business at 16, buying out a local hobby-store owner for \$4,000. It was a place for kids to play Dungeons and Dragons and other role-playing games.

He also wrote for the Riggs High School newspaper and ran track as a quarter-miler, convinced that "going out and running until you puke teaches you plenty of lessons."

Dusty's lean toward politics was encouraged by Alice Kundert, a former state auditor and secretary of state who served as adviser to South Dakota Teenage Republicans, a group that gathered in the Black Hills each summer for a camp to identify and inspire future leaders.

Dusty's role as chairman of Teenage Republicans earned him a seat on the state GOP's executive committee, a position he didn't take lightly. Joel Rosenthal, the Republican Party chairman who became one of Johnson's closest advisers, saw that they weren't dealing with an average teen.

"He interacted well with adults, had a perspective of the party and made contributions to our efforts and discussions," said Rosenthal. "He was easily distinguishable from Teenage Republican representatives that had previously served on our board."

## Head-to-head with Janklow over scholarship funds

Johnson had earned an all-expenses-paid Mickelson Scholarship to study political science at the University of South Dakota starting in 1995, fulfilling his parents' vision in the only way the family could afford.

It was Janklow, revered for years in the Johnson household, who nearly stood in the way.

Budget cuts were looming, and the governor proposed cutting the Mickelson Scholarship grants, which were draining funds from an economic development program.

Johnson and a classmate skipped school and headed to the Capitol on a February morning to testify to legislators, a familiar trip for Dusty with an added sense of urgency.

"When you believe you have a full ride to the University of South Dakota, you don't go hunting for other



"I tried to keep the kids out of (our family's financial struggles). Kids are supposed to be kids, not miniature adults, although Dusty came off as 40 when he was 10."

Jacque Johnson, Dusty's mother, on shielding

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scholarships," Johnson told the Senate Education Committee. "If I have a full ride, why go out and find another \$10,000 that maybe somebody else could use?"

The high school senior later headed to Janklow's office and requested a private meeting, exhibiting a blend of self-assuredness and naivete at which he still marvels.

"I mean, I know now that governors and congressmen are booked every 15 minutes for 12 hours a day and you don't just get to parachute into their calendar," Johnson said. "But I waited and I waited, and we ended up squaring off for a bit. He's quick on his feet and sometimes I can be, and we went round and round on the issue."

In the end, the scholarship program was cut but that year's recipients were allowed to keep their grants, meaning Johnson would head to Vermillion with the understanding that politics are about negotiations and small triumphs, and tenacity is a handy tool.

— This article was produced by South Dakota News Watch, a non-profit journalism organization located online at [sdnewswatch.org](http://sdnewswatch.org).



## ABOUT STU WHITNEY

Stu Whitney is an investigative reporter for South Dakota News Watch. A resident of Sioux Falls, Whitney is an award-winning reporter, editor and novelist with more than 30 years of experience in journalism.

## Tiger Netters have clean sweep over Britton-Hecla



**Anna Fjeldheim**  
(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

Groton Area's volleyball team had a clean sweep over Britton-Hecla Monday night in Groton, winning the C, JV and Varsity matches, losing no sets.

Anna Fjeldheim led the Tigers in the varsity set with 15 of 19 attacks for 11 kills and 15 of 16 serves for three ace serves. Groton Area halved the Britton-Hecla score with each successive set, winning 25-20, 25-10 and 25-5.

Chesney Weber was 18 of 20 in attacks with eight kills, was 18 of 18 in serves with three ace serves, had two assists, 11 digs and two assisted blocks. Rylee Dunker had seven kills, was 12 of 15 in serves with three ace serves and had one solo block. Emma Kutter had four kills and three assisted and one solo block. Sydney Leicht was 25 of 27 in attacks with six kills, had three ace serves and 15 digs. Elizabeth Flihs had 29 assists and one ace serve. Carly Guthmiller had 11 digs and one ace serve.

Abigail Lee led the Braves with five kills. Annika Tank had 11 digs and Heather Storbakken had two ace serves.

The game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Agtegra, Bary Keith at Harr Motors, BK Custom Ts & More, Bierman Farm Service, Blocker Construction, Dacotah Bank, Full Circle Ag, Groton Ag Partners, Groton Chamber, Groton Ford, John Sieh Agency and Locke Electric

Groton Area won the junior varsity match by game scores of 25-18 and 25-17. Jaedyn Penning led Groton Area with seven kills while Faith Traphagen had for kills, Kella Tracy had two kills and two ace serves, Taryn Trapahgen had three ace serves and one kill, Chesney Weber had three ace serves, Sydney

Locke had two ace serves, Talli Wright had a kill and an ace serve and Emerlee Jones had a kill.

The game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by fans of Jaedyn Penning.

Groton Area won the C match, 25-19 and 25-11. Taryn Traphagen led Groton Area with six kills while Leah Jones had three kills, McKenna Tietz had three ace serves, Hannah Sandness had a kill and two ace serves, Avery Crank had two ace serves, Teagan Hanten had two kills and Emerlee Jones and Liby Althoff each had a kill.

The game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by GDILIVE.COM.

- Paul Kosel



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**Rylee Dunker**  
(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



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



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



**Carly Guthmiller**  
(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



**Sydney Leicht**  
(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



## SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

### On Native American Day, tribal members lament the status of race relations in South Dakota

**'If you're brown, that's your first crime,' parade attendee says**

BY: JOSHUA HAIAR - OCTOBER 9, 2023 3:37 PM



Gina Robertson, a member of the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate, participates in a Native American Day celebration in downtown Sioux Falls on Oct. 9, 2023. (Joshua Haiar/South Dakota Searchlight)

SIOUX FALLS — Indigenous people who attended a Native American Day parade on Monday celebrated their culture but also lamented a lack of progress on race relations in South Dakota.

Gina Robertson is a member of the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate.

"We live in a small town in northeast South Dakota and it's still like the 1950s there," she said. "If you're brown, that's your first crime. And what can you do about it, you know? What can you really do?"

Robertson criticized a lack of progress under Gov. Kristi Noem and other current state leaders.

"It won't change as long as they keep electing people like Noem, and they'll keep electing people like her," she said.

Native Americans constitute about 9% of South Dakota's population, according to census data, and are the state's largest minority

group. South Dakota has observed Native American Day in place of Columbus Day since 1990, as part of reconciliation efforts begun by the late Oglala Lakota newsman Tim Giago and the late Gov. George Mickelson.

The state has a dark history of race relations — from the Wounded Knee Massacre to boarding schools' erasure of Indigenous culture. Examples of racial tensions have continued in modern times — such as a Rapid City hotel owner barring Native Americans last year.

Monte Muggins, a member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, said many non-Indigenous people lack a nuanced knowledge about the tribes in South Dakota.

"I still get the 'do you live in a tipi' kind of questions," Muggins said.

James Farmer is a member of the Sicangu Lakota Oyate. He said some people treat him like a "foreigner," which he finds ironic.

"We were here first, you know?" he said.

Lorenzo Stars, a fellow member of the Sicangu Lakota Oyate, said race relations have gradually improved over his lifetime, despite the ups and downs over the decades.

"There may be some variability going on now, and I think a lot of that has to do with the trends in politics nowadays," he said.





**Opal (Marshall) Stars attends a Native American Day celebration on Oct. 9, 2023, in downtown Sioux Falls.** (Joshua Haiar/South Dakota Searchlight)

*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.*

Monday's Native American Day events in Sioux Falls started with a prayer and blessing at Lyon Park and an honoring of Stars' mother, Opal (Marshall) Stars, born March 7, 1929, only five years after the Snyder Act, which extended U.S. citizenship to all Native Americans born in the U.S.

Noem, Sioux Falls Mayor Paul TenHaken and Rosebud Sioux Tribe President Scott Herman issued proclamations designating Oct. 9, 2023, as "Opal Stars Day" in honor of her life as a loving matriarch, educator and preserver of culture.

"I still believe in the great future for my Native people," she told South Dakota Searchlight.

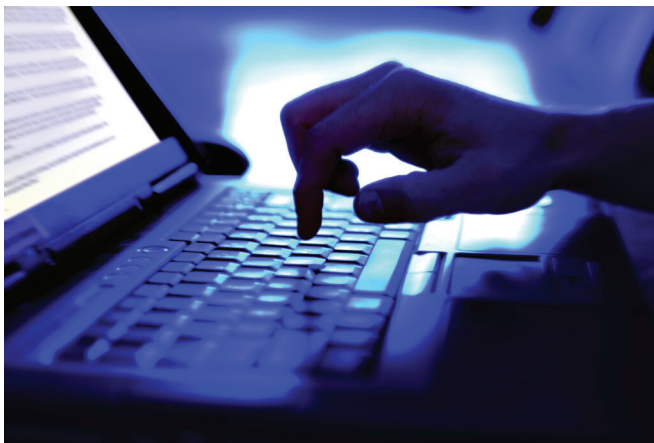
*Joshua Haiar is a reporter based in Sioux Falls. Born and raised in Mitchell, he joined the Navy as a public affairs specialist after high school and then*

## The state employees who 'live, breathe and bleed cybersecurity'

**All South Dakotans have a stake in state security, BIT commissioner says**

**BY: MAKENZIE HUBER - OCTOBER 9, 2023 5:46 PM**

South Dakota's frontline defenders in the cybersecurity battle sit in a darkened room in Sioux Falls. The



(Bill Hinton/Getty Images)

team of 14 is surrounded by monitors to constantly scan for digital threats and daily hacking attempts against state government.

It's pretty close to the stereotype you see in the movies, said Bureau of Information and Telecommunications Commissioner Jeff Clines.

"They do keep the lights off for some reason," Clines joked. "So it is darker than normal in there."

"But," he added, "those are the people that live, breathe and probably bleed cybersecurity."

The collateral damage from cyberattacks can be severe for governments and businesses — disrupting essential services and compromising personal data. Data breaches can lead to financial losses, legal repercussions or physi-



cal harm if criminals target critical infrastructure.

Gov. Kristi Noem declared October Cybersecurity Awareness Month, highlighting how important cybersecurity is for everyone in South Dakota. The federal government has recognized October as Cybersecurity Awareness Month since 2004.

In addition to the BIT cybersecurity team — which South Dakota Searchlight was not allowed to photograph, due to security concerns — there are other IT specialists throughout state government that keep an eye on the network. The state also partners with Dakota State University to bolster local governments' cybersecurity.

But the state turned down a federal grant program earlier this year that would support county and city government cybersecurity, citing administrative burdens and ongoing costs. State legislators plan to bring forth legislation to establish a state-funded cybersecurity grant program for local governments instead.

Most cyberattack attempts at the state level are caught through automation. The system is scanning 24/7 for malicious activity, Clines explained: "every application, every network in point, every server, every desktop computer."

While the BIT cybersecurity team is the main unit protecting valuable state information, every state employee and state resident plays a role. BIT trains employees in good cyber hygiene and best practices, and much of what the bureau preaches about internal security applies to the public.

That includes good password hygiene — using a different, strong password for each site; keeping software up to date; not clicking on suspicious links; and using multifactor authentication.

The greatest risk to the state's security, or any other entity's security, is through an individual's actions. The state Boards and Commissions website, for example, was hacked earlier this summer, Clines said.

A group of hackers compromised a user's credentials to log in and deface the site, he explained. The group of self-described "gay furies" targeted South Dakota and four other states because of the states' track record on transgender issues.

"We have proudly defaced the South Dakota Boards and Commissions website! We left little special messages across their site," the group wrote.

The group didn't access sensitive information, but it showed the importance of being vigilant, Clines said.

"As individuals, we all have a stake in our own security and being aware of good cybersecurity practices," Clines said. "The more we can all do to keep ourselves safe, the more impact we have on the state as a whole."

*Makenzie Huber is a lifelong South Dakotan whose work has won national and regional awards. She's spent five years as a journalist with experience reporting on workforce, development and business issues within the state.*

## **COMMENTARY**

### **Goats can be a flammable forest's best friend**

**DAVE MARSTON**

Goats are particularly good at one thing: Eating. Unlike a horse or cow that leaves noxious weeds behind, goats eat the whole menu of pesky weeds, bushes and small trees. That means goats can be one of the answers to the growing problem of tinder-dry, highly flammable forests.

In Durango, Colorado, former firefighter Jonathan Bartley runs a business called DurangoGoats, along with partner Adrian Lacasse, and it's so popular they're booked daily. Their herd usually works along the wildland-urban interface of the San Juan National Forest, clearing undergrowth around private houses in heavily wooded, steep areas at the town's periphery.

Thanks to his work, Bartley has come to a conclusion about newcomers to the West: "When people move here thinking 'I'd love to live in the woods,' they're probably making a big mistake." If they do choose to live surrounded by trees or next to a forest, though, he has advice.

Because utilities cut off electricity during fires, he suggests buying a generator to keep sprinklers for irrigation running. He also advises homeowners to install a metal roof to repel wind-driven sparks. Always,

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**Jonathan Bartley and Adrian Lacasse of Durangoats LLC.** (Courtesy of Dave Marston)

he adds, have a go-bag ready with your most important stuff if flight becomes necessary. Most of all, he wants homeowners to create flame breaks around their house with gravel while also cutting back trees and shrubs within 30 feet of the house.

That last bit of advice is key. Firefighters triage neighborhoods, he said, picking winners and losers. When they scan neighborhoods quickly, they tend to give defensible homes extra resources while deciding that the brushy, overgrown properties are going to be lost causes.

Bartley knows fire well. He worked for a private company called Oregon Woods as part of a hand crew of 20 based in Eugene, Oregon. There, the Holiday Farm Fire started within a half-mile of his house. From that experience, he learned that our approach to wildfire is backward: "We react, rather than manage landscapes ahead of time. Spending a few million dollars on fire mitigation would have saved hundreds of millions of dollars."

These days, he said, "I'm still fighting fires — just with goats."

Bartley is quick to point out that fire itself is beneficial to forests. Even Cal-Fire, the firefighting arm of the state of California, says on its website, "Fire removes low-growing underbrush, cleans the forest floor of debris, opens it up to sunlight and nourishes the soil."

The problem across the West, Bartley said, is so many unmanaged dense forests full of deadfall and brush — "ladder fuels" — that allow fire to climb into tree canopies. "By the time wildfire gets into the treetops to become crown fires," Bartley said, "firefighters have evacuated and are miles away."

Everyone knows that western wildfires are becoming worse. Half of the 10 biggest fires in the United States this century all burned in this region. When wildfires grow massive and super-hot, they destroy forest ecosystems, leaving nearly sterilized bare ground that's perfect for flammable cheatgrass to invade. That sets up burned areas to burn again, often quickly.

Bartley has big ambitions for his goat herd, which can clear a quarter-acre in a day. Durangoats charges \$400 daily, he said, much less than the cost of a crew of landscapers armed with weed whackers and loppers on hilly, broken terrain. Moreover, the goats' sharp hooves churn the dirt and fertilize it with poop and pee, setting up a regenerative cycle that improves the soil.

In northwestern Montana, former journalist David Reese has a similar business called Montana Goat. His herd moves daily, and once the animals strip leaves off small trees and gobble up the cheatgrass and knapweed, he said, it's quick work to chainsaw small trees and dead branches.

Like Bartley, Reese has found he has almost more business than he can handle. He plans to scale his herd to 400 goats, while Bartley aims to build up to 100 goats. Both are angling for bigger contracts from homeowners and also government agencies.

Finding four-legged workers is easy. "A male dairy goat has a life expectancy of a week," said Bartley. "They're not plump like meat goats, have no dairy value and often are dispatched at birth."

Extra income for Durangoats comes from outdoor weddings. Festooned with wildflowers and bells, goats roam the grounds and are a favorite with all the guests, even pitching in as ring-bearers, or in a pinch, groomsmen. But like any single man at a wedding, they have a wandering eye, which means that flower arrangements can be gobbled up quickly.

*Dave Marston is the publisher of Writers on the Range, [writersontherange.org](http://writersontherange.org), an independent nonprofit dedicated to spurring lively conversation about the West. He lives in Colorado.*

## McCarthy may jump into U.S. House speaker race, as crises overseas mount

BY: JENNIFER SHUTT, ARIANA FIGUEROA, ASHLEY MURRAY AND JACOB FISCHLER



**Former Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., talks about the Hamas attack on Israel during a news conference in the Rayburn Room at the U.S. Capitol on Oct. 9, 2023 in Washington, D.C.**

(Chip Somodevilla/Getty Images)

WASHINGTON — U.S. House Republicans will gather behind closed doors beginning Monday night in an attempt to decide who should become the chamber's next speaker, a race with a renewed sense of urgency with ally Israel now at war and the House in paralysis.

Louisiana's Steve Scalise and Ohio's Jim Jordan are the only candidates officially campaigning for the gavel, though California's Kevin McCarthy, who was removed from the role just last week, left the door open to taking on the job once again.

"That's a decision for the (House Republican) conference," McCarthy said during a Monday morning press conference. Oklahoma's Kevin Hern, another potential candidate, said over the weekend he would not seek the post.

House Republicans are set to meet both Monday night and Tuesday in private to discuss where the party should go in the months ahead and who should lead them. They are expected to vote behind closed doors on Wednesday on

who should become the next speaker, though no floor vote following that has yet been scheduled. In the meantime, the House has no schedule set for usual floor business such as considering bills.

Much of McCarthy's speech sounded like one he would have given if he were still speaker, laying out a five-point plan for how the United States should respond to the attacks on Israel and criticizing President Joe Biden for not doing what McCarthy believes he should.

Biden said in a written statement that at least 11 Americans have been killed with others taken hostage. "While we are still working to confirm, we believe it is likely that American citizens may be among those being held by Hamas," Biden said. "I have directed my team to work with their Israeli counterparts on every aspect of the hostage crisis, including sharing intelligence and deploying experts from across the United States government to consult with and advise Israeli counterparts on hostage recovery efforts."

"For American citizens who are currently in Israel, the State Department is providing consular assistance as well as updated security alerts," Biden added. "For those who desire to leave, commercial flights and ground options are still available. Please also take sensible precautions in the days ahead and follow the guidance of local authorities."

McCarthy advised House Republicans not to cave to a small group who ousted him last week, voting with all Democrats. McCarthy was able to become speaker in January because he made concessions to a group of hard-right Republicans, including agreeing to allowing a motion to vacate by a single member — the procedure that stripped him of his position.

"Is our conference just gonna select somebody to try to throw them out in another 35 days if eight people don't get 100% of what they want and 96% of the conference does?" he said. "For the idea that you allow eight people to continue to do that with no consequences, no one's gonna be successful."

While McCarthy did not deny that he would run again for speaker, he reiterated that he is a "conserva-



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tive that believes in governing in a conservative way.”

With the war in Israel, McCarthy stressed that the U.S. needs to stand with its allies to “counter this axis of power,” citing Russia, China and Iran, an ally of Hamas. McCarthy specifically called out Russia’s president Vladimir Putin, but stopped short of supporting supplemental aid to Ukraine, and instead called for border security.

Of the two candidates running for the speaker’s gavel, Scalise originally backed aid to Ukraine, though Jordan voted against it. Both have voted against the last two aid bills, though that funding was included in large packages that included other provisions.

## Speaker pro tem questions

McCarthy on Monday also appeared to lay the groundwork for the House operating longer without an elected speaker, saying that there could be a path forward for the speaker pro tempore to do more than North Carolina’s Patrick McHenry has done while in the role. McHenry is McCarthy’s handpicked successor under a procedure established after the 9/11 attacks.

“I think at a moment in time our conference needs to decide who should lead,” McCarthy said.

If that can’t be decided, “we shouldn’t sit back” and allow that situation to continue, he said.

The role of speaker pro tempore created in the wake of the 9/11 terror attacks was designed to bolster continuity of government following a catastrophic event, though there is some debate about how much power that role actually holds.

In their meetings, House Republicans are likely to discuss the so-called motion to vacate that currently allows one member of the chamber to force a vote on keeping or removing the speaker. Florida’s Matt Gaetz used that last week to force McCarthy out.

Some House Republicans have called for changing the House rules to increase the number of lawmakers needed to call for a vote to remove the speaker.

## Scalise, Jordan and Israel

Neither Scalise nor Jordan made public speeches on Monday in the way McCarthy did, though both have expressed support for Israel.

Scalise, currently House majority leader, wrote on X over the weekend that the “United States will always stand with Israel, our greatest ally in the Middle East. They must defend themselves as their citizens are slaughtered by Hamas terrorists. They have our full support and our prayers.”

“The videos coming out of Israel are horrific,” Scalise wrote. “We cannot allow anyone to lie about what’s happening here or call it anything other than what it is: terrorism against innocent Israeli civilians and war waged on our ally. Period.”

Jordan, chair of the Judiciary Committee, posted on X on Sunday that the United States should help Israel by supplying military aid.

“Rockets are raining down on Israeli towns right now. We need to immediately help replenish Israel’s stockpile of Iron Dome missiles to protect more innocent civilians from getting killed. Let’s make sure Congress can unite and assure Israel has what it needs to destroy Hamas,” Jordan wrote.

## White House meetings

Biden met Monday with top officials, including Secretary of State Tony Blinken, National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan, Principal Deputy National Security Advisor Jon Finer, Homeland Security Advisor Liz Sherwood-Randall and White House Chief of Staff Jeff Zients, according to a White House pool report.

“He directed his team to follow up on coordination with Israel on all aspects of the crisis and to continue their work with regional partners to warn anyone who might seek to take advantage in this situation,” according to the pool report.

Biden was planning to speak with “close allies about the latest developments in Israel,” according to the report.

State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller confirmed Monday that nine Americans were killed in Israel.

“We extend our deepest condolences to the victims and to the families of all those affected,” Miller said.

Miller added that there are unaccounted Americans and that the State Department is "working with our Israeli partners to determine their whereabouts."

Finer said on ABC's "Good Morning America" on Monday that the administration would seek to provide military aid to Israel, but was vague about what form the aid would take.

"We expect more U.S. steps to show support and solidarity for Israel will unfold" in the coming days and weeks, Finer said.

## McCarthy supporters speak out

On Capitol Hill, several of McCarthy's allies were publicly calling for him to join the race for speaker, though the GOP lawmakers who voted to remove him just last week said the numbers wouldn't be there during a floor vote.

Rep. Carlos Gimenez, a Florida Republican, said on Fox News on Monday that he hopes McCarthy runs again for speaker.

"I would hope that the speaker (McCarthy) would reconsider, put his name in the hat and we could move on, get past this episode and put him back where he belongs," Gimenez said.

South Carolina Rep. Nancy Mace, who voted to remove McCarthy last week, criticized him for not focusing more on defense funding.

"If the former Speaker had spent as much time going after Chuck Schumer for not taking up our DoD military spending bill as he is attacking other Republicans, he wouldn't be the former Speaker," Mace wrote on X.

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

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

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

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

## Bipartisan U.S. Senate bill aims to boost bison tribal management, restoration

BY: BLAIR MILLER - OCTOBER 9, 2023 12:57 PM

A bipartisan group of U.S. senators has again introduced a bill that aims to create a permanent bison program within the Department of Interior to help bolster tribal involvement in the restoration and management of the creatures on tribal lands.

The Indian Buffalo Management Act, introduced Sept. 22 by Sens. Martin Heinrich, D-New Mexico, and Markwayne Mullin, R-Oklahoma, has received backing from the InterTribal Buffalo Council and several other bison management groups.

A similar version of the bill, sponsored by the late Republican Alaska Rep. Don Young, passed the House of Representatives in late 2021 (with a yes vote from Rep. Dusty Johnson, R-South Dakota) but stalled in the Senate. Rep. Matt Rosendale, R-Mont., voted against the bill in the House.

The new version would create a permanent bison restoration and management program within the Interior Department to expand tribes' abilities to manage bison and their habitat, and more closely include tribes in the department's conversations and decisions surrounding management of the creature.

"I am proud to champion this bipartisan legislation to strengthen our federal support for tribal bison programs," Heinrich said in a statement. "I hope that within my lifetime—thanks to a broad coalition—we

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**A bison grazes in Badlands National Park.** (Seth Tupper/

South Dakota Searchlight)

will see bison return to the prominent place they once occupied as the keystone species on American shortgrass prairies."

The bill would allow the Interior secretary to either enter agreements with, or award grants to, tribes that create and maintain bison restoration and management programs and use bison for commercial activity. It would also enshrine tribes' abilities to help transfer bison from national parks like Yellowstone to tribal lands.

"It is simply impossible to overstate both the importance of the buffalo to the Indian people and the damage that was done when the buffalo were nearly wiped out," said InterTribal Buffalo Council President Ervin Carlson, a Blackfeet tribal member. "By helping tribes reestablish buffalo herds on our reservation lands, the Congress will help us reconnect with a keystone of our historic

culture as well as create jobs and an important source of protein that our people truly need."

The bill's introduction comes weeks after the Interior Department announced \$5 million that would be put toward tribal bison conservation and expansion and ecosystem restoration in what Interior Secretary Deb Haaland said would help restore bison to its native lands and bring Indigenous stewardship practices into the department's agenda.

About \$3.5 million of the money from the Inflation Reduction Act will go toward supporting the InterTribal Buffalo Council's herd development, while another \$1.5 million from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law could be sent to tribes through the Bureau of Indian Affairs to expand tribal bison herds.

There is also less than a week left for the public to comment on a draft environmental impact statement for bison management at Yellowstone National Park that includes three proposals on how to manage population numbers in the park, including continuing to quarantine bison and transfer them to tribal lands via the Bison Conservation Transfer Program in varying numbers.

The Interagency Bison Management Plan (IBMP) team, comprised of federal, state, tribal and local partners, is also set to meet at the end of the month at Chico Hot Springs to discuss their plans for bison management this winter.

Last winter was one of the deadliest for Yellowstone bison in recent history, as around 1,500 bison either died during the harsh winter or were killed outside of the park through tribal and state hunts.

A nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office analysis of the 2021 version of the bill found the measure, if it went into effect in 2023, would cost about \$47 million over its first four years to implement and around \$117 million over the first full decade.

In a written statement, a spokesperson for Sen. Jon Tester, D-Mont., said Tester would again be cosponsoring the bill, as he did the 2021 version.

"Senator Tester is proud to support this bipartisan bill that will help Montana Tribes revive buffalo herds on reservation lands," the spokesperson said.

A spokesperson for Sen. Steve Daines, R-Mont., said Daines was reviewing the legislation and would be talking to tribal leaders and other locals "to ensure their voices are being heard."

Several tribes in Montana are among 80 members of the InterTribal Buffalo Council, which manages more than 20,000 bison in 20 states: the Blackfeet Nation, Chippewa Cree Tribe, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, Crow Nation, Fort Belknap Indian Community, Northern Cheyenne Tribe, and Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes.



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Bison have been transferred to Fort Peck through the Bison Conservation Transfer Program, the Blackfeet Nation offered a hunt open to the public this past winter and released buffalo near Chief Mountain this summer, and the CSKT now manages the Bison Range on the reservation.

Robbie Magnan, the director of the Fort Peck Fish and Game Department, said Fort Peck and other InterTribal Buffalo Council members from Montana support the renewed effort to pass the Indian Buffalo Management Act in part because Fort Peck handles some of the transfers from Yellowstone, and feeding and preparing the bison to be sent to other tribes is getting more expensive because of hay costs, fuel, and maintenance.

He said until more funding is provided, Fort Peck cannot take in any more buffalo through the program despite more bison being ready for transfer during the next two years.

Magnan said the InterTribal Buffalo Council met in Denver last week and discussed supporting the legislation, among other things. He called the efforts to put more bison management back into the hands of tribes a "win-win situation."

"We need to do that. We put all wildlife back into their ranges except for buffalo," he said. "They're not even back where they belong."

Jason Baldes, the senior tribal buffalo program manager for the National Wildlife Federation and a board member of the InterTribal Buffalo Council, said the reintroduction of bison onto tribal lands will help heal the lands and protect tribal culture and ancestral connections.

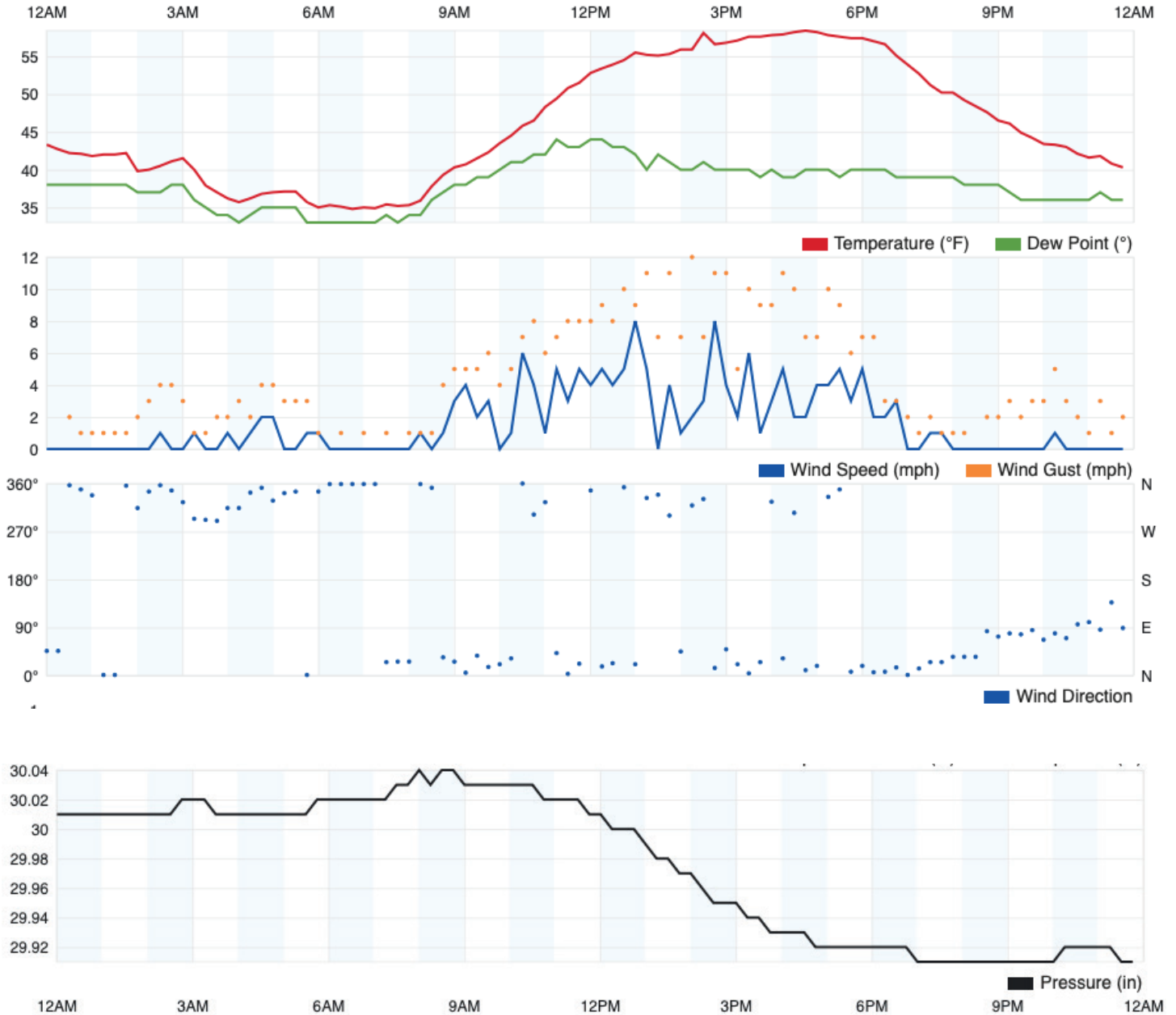
"The Indian Buffalo Management Act not only acknowledges, but celebrates the intergenerational knowledge we hold in caring for this species and provides resources to ensure we can continue working with tribal, federal and conservation partners to establish prolific populations of buffalo across the country," he said in a statement.

*Blair Miller is a Daily Montanan reporter based in Helena who primarily covers government, climate and courts. He's been a journalist for more than 12 years, previously based in Denver, Albuquerque and mid-Missouri.*

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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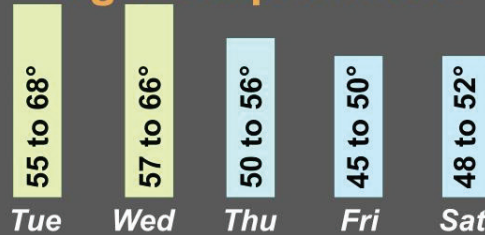
Tue Oct 10	Wed Oct 11	Thu Oct 12	Fri Oct 13	Sat Oct 14	Sun Oct 15	Mon Oct 16
59°F 33°F	60°F 41°F	54°F 39°F	49°F 39°F	50°F 36°F	51°F 33°F	49°F 36°F
E 7 MPH	E 20 MPH	ENE 31 MPH 40%	NNE 23 MPH 50%	N 13 MPH 20%	N 10 MPH	N 9 MPH



Aberdeen, SD [weather.gov/aberndeen](https://weather.gov/aberndeen)

## Dry through Wednesday Morning

### High Temperatures



## Wet & Windy weather returning Wednesday night

A large area of low pressure pushing across NE Wednesday night through Thursday will bring **rain** and **stronger winds** with gusts over 35 mph back to our area. Rainfall amounts will vary significantly from the ND to NE border. There is currently over a 50% chance of 1" of rain or more south of U.S. Highway 212.



A large area of low pressure pushing across NE Wednesday night through Thursday will bring rain and stronger winds with gusts over 35 mph back to our area. Rainfall amounts will vary significantly from the ND to NE border. There is currently over a 50% chance of 1" of rain or more south of U.S. Highway 212.



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## Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 58 °F at 4:34 PM

Low Temp: 35 °F at 6:46 AM

Wind: 12 mph at 1:01 PM

Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 11 hours, 17 minutes

## Today's Info

Record High: 86 in 2020

Record Low: 14 in 1964

Average High: 63

Average Low: 37

Average Precip in Oct.: 0.68

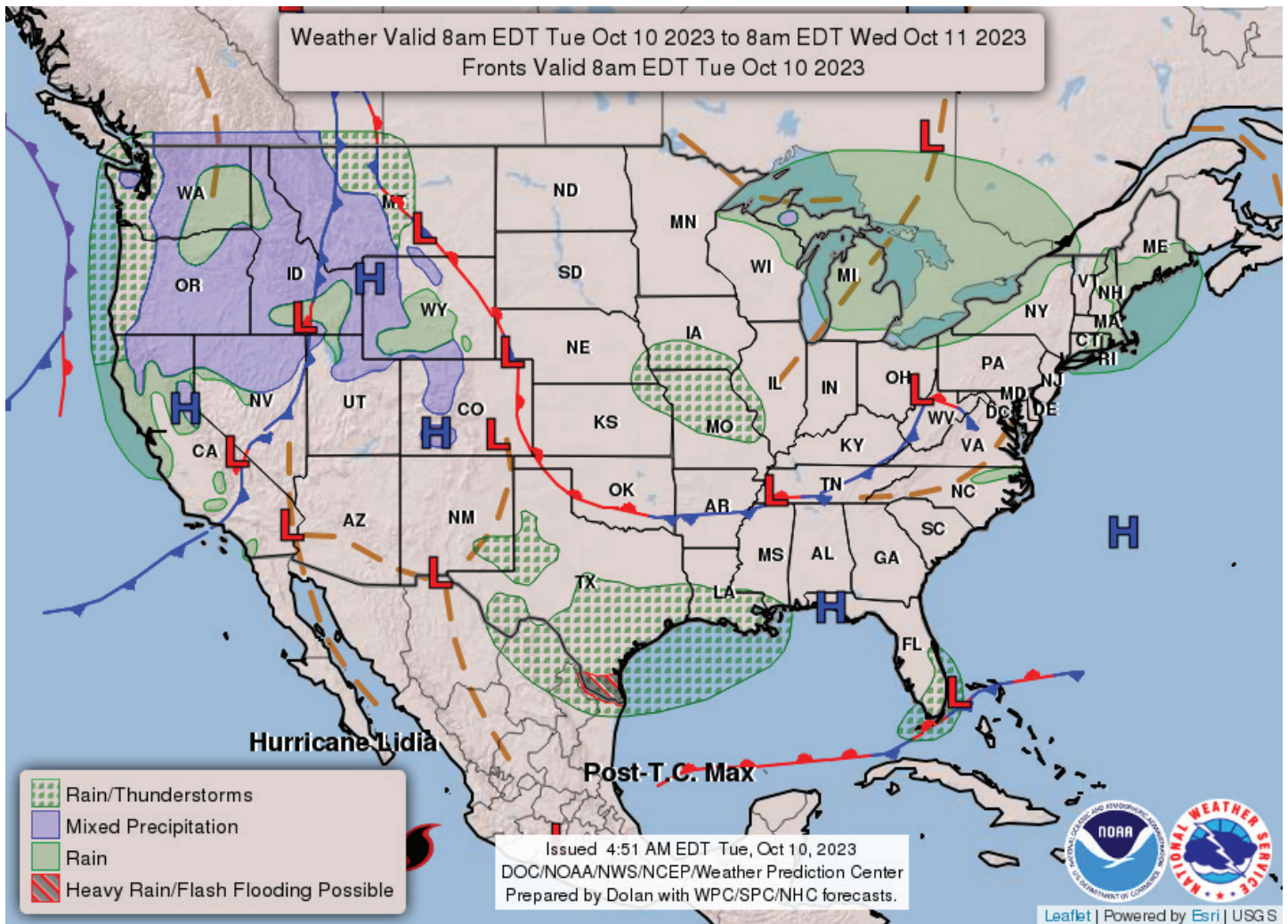
Precip to date in Oct.: 0.06

Average Precip to date: 19.01

Precip Year to Date: 21.83

Sunset Tonight: 6:58:05 PM

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:41:58 AM



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## Today in Weather History

October 10, 1928: The temperature reached 90 degrees at Minneapolis, Minnesota, the latest such reading on record.

October 10, 1982: October 8th through October 10th, 1982, record amounts of snow piled up in the northern Black Hills. Not only was the storm an unprecedented breaker because it came so early in the season, but it was also a record snowfall producer for any time of year. Amounts of three to six feet were typical across the northern hills. On October 9th, 1982, thirty-two inches of snow buried Lead. The thirty-two inches that day is the most on record for 24 hours in South Dakota.

1780: The Great Hurricane of 1780 made landfall on the island of Barbados on this day with estimated wind gusts of 200 mph. This hurricane went on to affect the islands of St. Vincent, where only 14 of 600 homes stood at Kings Town. St. Lucia, Martinique, Dominica, and Puerto Rico were all impacted by this hurricane. This storm is the deadliest Atlantic hurricane on record, with between 20,000 and 22,000 deaths.

1804 - A famous snow hurricane occurred. The unusual coastal storm caused northerly gales from Maine to New Jersey. Heavy snow fell across New England, with three feet reported at the crest of the Green Mountains. A foot of snow was reported in the Berkshires of southern New England, at Goshen CT. (David Ludlum)

1846: A major hurricane, likely a Category 5, moved through the Caribbean Sea. This Great Havana Hurricane struck western Cuba on 10 October. It hit the Florida Keys on 11 October, destroying the old Key West Lighthouse and Fort Zachary Taylor.

1928 - The temperature at Minneapolis, MN, reached 90 degrees, their latest such reading of record. (The Weather Channel)

1949: A rapidly deepening area of low pressure produced gale to hurricane-force winds across much of Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Nebraska, Michigan, and the Dakotas. Sustained 1-minute winds reached 85 mph at Rochester, MN, and 79 mph at La Crosse, WI, during the early afternoon. Winds gusts were as high as 100 mph. This storm produced extensive damage to buildings and power lines. Also, many corn crops were flattened.

1970: A slow-moving tropical depression produced 41.68 inches of rain in Jayuya, Puerto Rico from October 2-10th, 1970.

1973 - Fifteen to 20 inch rains deluged north central Oklahoma in thirteen hours producing record flooding. Enid was drenched with 15.68 inches of rain from the nearly stationary thunderstorms, which established a state 24 hour rainfall record. Dover OK reported 125 of 150 homes damaged by flooding. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1979 - A storm blanketed Worcester, MA, with 7.5 inches of snow, a record snowfall total for so early in the season for that location. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Eleven cities in the north central U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date, including Colorado Springs CO with a reading of 23 degrees, and Havre MT with a low of 11 degrees above zero. Light snow was reported as far south as Kansas. Omaha NE reported their third earliest snow of record. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Sunny and mild weather prevailed across the nation for Columbus Day. The afternoon high of 77 degrees at Kalispell MT was the warmest reading of record for so late in the autumn season. Thunderstorms developing along a cold front produced wind gusts to 56 mph at Lorain OH. Snowflakes were observed at Milwaukee WI around Noon, but quickly changed to rain as temperature readings were in the lower 60s. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced torrential rains along the northeast coast of Florida. Augustine was deluged with 16.08 inches of rain. The heavy rain caused extensive flooding of homes and businesses, and left some roads under three feet of water. Ten cities from South Carolina to New England reported record low temperatures for the date, including Concord NH with a reading of 23 degrees. Temperatures dipped into the 30s in the Carolinas. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)



Daily Devotionals

## Seeds of Hope

### DECREASE TO INCREASE

A nearby church called a new pastor. He was well received and in a short time, the church began to grow. The attendance at Sunday school and worship services increased beyond expectations. Even the increased number of people at the prayer meeting surprised everyone.

"Congratulations on the way your church is responding to your leadership," I said after being introduced to him. "What are you doing differently than other churches to see such growth?"

"I'm decreasing," was his strange reply.

"Decreasing?" I asked with a question mark on my face.

"Yes," came his quick reply. "It's what John said about Jesus: 'He will increase if I will decrease.'"

John's willingness to decrease is an important first step in humility. Those of us who want to serve God with the gifts He has given us are always tempted to do what John did in reverse order: we want the attention and focus to be upon us and what we are doing when blessings occur and success arrives.

We must never forget that it is always about Him. If we want to see Him at work in our lives, we must do as John did so successfully: point to Him and make Him the "main attraction." We must never put ourselves first. We must stand aside and let His Kingdom come!

Prayer: Lord, it's difficult to get out of the way and not want to be praised for what we do for You. We pray for hearts that are humble and lives that are surrendered to You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: He must become greater and greater, and I must become less and less. John 3:30



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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## 2023 Community Events

- 01/29/2023 Groton Robotics Pancake Feed, 10am-1pm, Community Center
- 01/29/2023 85th Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm (Last Sunday of January)
- 01/31/2023-02/03/2023 Lion's Club Prom & Formal Dress Consignment Drop Off 6-9pm, Community Center
- 02/04/2023-02/05/2023 Lion's Club Prom & Formal Dress Consignment Sale 1-5pm, Community Center
- 02/25/2023 Littles and Me, Art Making 10-11:30am, Wage Memorial Library
- 03/25/2023 Spring Vendor Fair, 10am-3pm, Community Center
- 04/01/2023 Dueling Duo Baseball/Softball Fundraiser at the Legion Post #39 6-11:30pm
- 04/06/2023 Groton Career Development Event
- 04/08/2023 Lion's Club Easter Egg Hunt 10am Sharp at the City Park (Saturday a week before Easter)
- 04/22/2023 Firemen's Spring Social at the Fire Station 7pm-12:30am (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
- 04/23/2023 Princess Prom 4:30-8pm (Sunday after GHS Prom)
- 05/06/2023 Lion's Club Spring Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm (1st Saturday in May)
- 05/29/2023 Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Services (Memorial Day)
- 06/16/2023 SDSU Alumni and Friends Golf Tournament
- 06/17/2023 Groton Triathlon
- 07/04/2023 Couples Firecracker Golf Tournament
- 07/09/2023 Lion's Club Summer Fest/Car Show at the City Park 9am-4pm (Sunday Mid-July)
- 07/26/2023 GGA Burger Fundraiser Lunch at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 08/04/2023 Wine on Nine 6pm
- 08/10/2023 Family Fun Fest, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- 08/11/2023 GHS Basketball Golf Tournament
- 09/08/2023 Family Fun Fest 3:30-5:30pm
- 09/09/2023 Lion's Club Fall Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm
- 09/09-10/2023 Groton Airport Fly-In/Drive-In, Groton Municipal Airport
- 09/10/2023 Couples Sunflower Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course 10am
- 09/10/2023 Emmanuel Lutheran Church Sunday School Rally 9:00am
- 09/10/2023 7th Annual Doggie Day at the Swimming Pool 4-6pm
- 09/15/2023 Homecoming Parade
- 10/13/2023 Lake Region Marching Band Festival 10am
- 10/14/2023 Pumpkin Fest at the City Park 10am-3pm
- 10/31/2023 Downtown Trick or Treat 4-6pm
- 10/31/2023 United Methodist Church Trunk or Treat 5:30-7pm
- 11/23/2023 Community Thanksgiving at the Community Center 11:30am-1pm
- 11/25/2023 Snow Queen Contest
- 12/02/2023 Tour of Homes, Live & Silent Auctions at Olive Grove Golf Course 4pm-close
- 12/09/2023 Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services 9-11am

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## The Groton Independent Printed & Mailed Weekly Edition

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## WINNING NUMBERS

### MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:  
10.06.23

12 24 46 57 66 22

MegaPlier: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$20,000,000**

NEXT 17 Hrs 13 Mins 42  
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:  
10.09.23

10 13 30 38 40 8

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$2,650,000**

NEXT 1 Days 16 Hrs 28  
DRAW: Mins 42 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:  
10.09.23

9 13 17 30 38 10

TOP PRIZE:

**\$7,000/week**

NEXT 16 Hrs 43 Mins  
DRAW: 42 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:  
10.07.23

4 8 11 27 34

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$20,000**

NEXT 1 Days 16 Hrs 43  
DRAW: Mins 42 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:  
10.09.23

1 20 33 49 59 10

TOP PRIZE:

**\$10,000,000**

NEXT 1 Days 17 Hrs 12  
DRAW: Mins 42 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:  
10.09.23

16 34 46 55 67 14

Power Play: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$1,725,000,000**

NEXT 1 Days 17 Hrs 12  
DRAW: Mins 42 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)



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News from the  Associated Press

## Monday's Scores

The Associated Press

PREP VOLLEYBALL=

Dell Rapids def. Vermillion, 25-9, 25-13, 25-13

Deubrook def. Webster, 25-27, 25-19, 25-16, 25-20

Elkton-Lake Benton def. Iroquois/ Lake Preston Co-op, 25-16, 25-21, 25-9

Groton Area def. Britton-Hecla, 25-20, 25-10, 25-5

Herreid/Selby Area def. Aberdeen Christian, 25-20, 25-18, 25-15

Hill City def. Red Cloud, 25-8, 25-11, 25-13

Mobridge-Pollock def. Ipswich, 25-12, 25-8, 25-16

Sanborn Central/Woonsocket def. Howard, 26-24, 25-19, 21-25, 25-21

Viborg-Hurley def. Scotland, 27-25, 16-25, 25-17, 26-24

White River def. Bennett County, 22-25, 25-8, 25-20, 25-20

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

## Sunrise gatherings, dances and speeches mark celebration of culture on Indigenous Peoples Day

By MARK THIESSEN and MORGAN LEE Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — Events across the country — including a sunrise gathering in Minneapolis, a statehouse rally in Maine, a celebratory march in Seattle and traditional dancing, music, and food in Alaska and Arizona — marked celebrations of Indigenous Peoples Day.

The ceremonies, speeches and performances in traditional regalia Monday came two years after President Joe Biden officially commemorated the day honoring "America's first inhabitants and the Tribal Nations that continue to thrive today."

At a gathering in Phoenix where dancers performed in traditional Aztec clothing, Sifa Matafahi said it was an opportunity to "pay respect to Indigenous cultures ... to reflect on our past and history, while also acknowledging our cultural presence."

A celebratory march was held in Seattle and a sunrise ceremony at Alcatraz Island in San Francisco. In Minnesota, about 150 people, including the governor and lieutenant governor, attended a sunrise prayer and ceremony at Bde Maka Ska, a lake surrounded by parkland on the south side of Minneapolis.

"Today, we recognize our ancestors and predecessors who really laid the foundation for us to stand," said Thorne LaPointe, an organizer, who is Sicangu Lakota. "And we will always recognize our elders who are here and those who have gone on before us, who really kicked open the doors in their time, nationally and internationally."

Seventeen states and Washington, D.C., have holidays honoring Indigenous people, according to the Pew Research Center. Many of them celebrate it on the second Monday of October, pivoting from a day long rooted in the celebration of explorer Christopher Columbus to one focused on the people whose lives and culture were forever changed by colonialism. Dozens of cities and school systems also now observe Indigenous Peoples Day.

"I think it just look a long time because we are Indigenous People — we always have to fight for recognition as we have been since the first ships arrived," Matafahi said in an interview at the gathering in Phoenix.

In Augusta, Maine, several hundred people celebrated Indigenous Peoples Day by rallying outside the State House in support of a Nov. 7 statewide vote that would restore language about the state's obligations to Native American tribes to printed versions of its constitution.

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Maulian Bryant, Penobscot Nation ambassador and president of the Wabanaki Alliance, said once people understand the importance to Native Americans, they will support it like they did when towns, and then the state, enacted Indigenous Peoples Day.

Bryant recalled the successful grassroots conversations that took place about the legacy of Columbus, whose arrival brought violence, disease and suffering to Native Americans.

"We want to honor the true stewards of these lands," she said.

In South Dakota, dozens of people marched to a memorial at a park honoring Native American children who died at the Rapid City Indian School in the late 1800s before it was closed in 1933.

Others who gathered in Anchorage, Alaska, said a celebration like the one there Monday would have been unheard of six decades ago.

Gina Ondola, a Dena'ina Athabascan, said she graduated from East Anchorage High School in 1962 with only four or five other Alaska Natives in her class and certainly no Indigenous culture club.

"We didn't learn much about our history," she said. Instead they were taught how white Europeans who came to North America were slaughtered by Native Americans.

"When I was growing up, I didn't feel too much pride in being Native. I always heard about 'drunk Natives,'" said Odola, who was wearing black gloves with red and white beadwork to represent her family's colors.

"It feels good for me to be able to feel pride in who I am," she said.

The Anchorage celebration included Alaska Native dance groups, traditional Alaska Native game demonstrations and a student wearing a "Molly of Denali" costume. The PBS show was the nation's first children's series to feature Indigenous leads.

Abigael Hollis, a freshman film student at the Institute of American Indian Arts, was among those who attended a powwow at a downtown plaza in Santa Fe, New Mexico. It brought together Native American dancing groups from throughout the state and beyond, as well as Native American jewelers, potters and weavers who sold artwork at outdoor stands.

"It's celebrating the fact that my ancestors lived to have me, and that we're still around and that we can celebrate each other and love each other," said Hollis, who is of Cherokee ancestry and wore traditional dress, including a coming-of-age necklace made of buffalo bone and glass beads.

New Mexico, which is home to 23 federally recognized Native American communities, replaced Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples Day through legislation in 2019.

The Santa Fe festival began with a blessing by dancers from nearby Tesuque Pueblo — an acknowledgement that the city stands on the pueblo's ancestral lands, said Caren Gala, who heads the Santa Fe Indigenous Center and helped organize the powwow.

"We wanted to pay respect and homage to that — that this is their land," said Gala, who is affiliated with three pueblos, Laguna, Taos and Nambé.

## Israel pounds downtown Gaza City, threatening punishing retaliation for weekend attack

By JOSEF FEDERMAN and ISSAM ADWAN Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel pounded downtown Gaza City with relentless bombardments Tuesday and further expanded a massive mobilization of reservists as it vowed a retaliation that would "reverberate ... for generations" against the Hamas militant group for its surprise weekend attack.

The war — which began after Hamas militants stormed into Israel on Saturday, bringing gunbattles to its streets for the first time in decades — has already claimed at least 1,600 lives.

It is only expected to escalate from here, with questions over whether Israel will launch a ground invasion and Hamas threatening to kill captured Israelis if strikes targeted civilians without warning. Israel said that Hamas and other militant groups in Gaza are also holding more than 150 soldiers and civilians hostage.

Israel's military said Tuesday morning that it had regained effective control over its south and the border, breached over the weekend in an attack that caught its vaunted military and intelligence apparatus

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completely off guard.

The bodies of roughly 1,500 Hamas militants, meanwhile, were found on Israeli territory, the military said. It wasn't immediately clear whether those numbers overlapped with deaths previously reported by Palestinian authorities.

The military expanded the mobilization of reservists to 360,000, according to Israeli media. That, along with the airstrikes and a formal declaration of war on Sunday, pointed to Israel increasingly shifting to the offensive against Hamas, threatening greater destruction in the densely populated, impoverished Gaza Strip.

It remains to be seen whether that offensive will include a ground assault. The last such assault was in 2014.

The Israeli military said it struck hundreds of targets in Gaza's City Rimal neighborhood, a densely populated, upscale district that is home to ministries of the Hamas-run government, as well as universities, media organizations and the offices of aid organizations.

After hours of nonstop strikes, some residents left their homes at daybreak to find some buildings torn in half by strikes, while others were reduced to mounds of concrete and rebar. Cars were flattened and trees burned out in moonscapes that had been residential streets.

"We have only started striking Hamas," Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a nationally televised address late Monday. "What we will do to our enemies in the coming days will reverberate with them for generations."

The devastation in Rimal signaled what could be a new Israeli tactic: warning civilians to leave certain areas and then hitting those areas with airstrikes of unprecedented intensity. If these types of bombardments continue, Gaza's civilians will have fewer and fewer places to shelter as more neighborhoods become uninhabitable.

The heavy bombardments and Israel's threats to topple the group sharpened questions about Hamas' strategy and objectives. Hamas leaders have not spoken publicly about whether they anticipated Israel's ferocious retaliation — and the potential risk of losing much of the group's government infrastructure — when they launched the weekend attack.

In a briefing Tuesday, army spokesperson Lt. Col. Richard Hecht suggested Palestinians should try to leave through the Rafah border crossing with Egypt.

The U.N. said Tuesday that more than 187,000 of Gaza's 2.3 million people have left their homes — the most since a 2014 air and ground offensive by Israel uprooted about 400,000.

UNRWA, the U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees, is sheltering more than 137,000 people in schools across the territory. Families have taken in some 41,000 others.

Asked if Israel considered Hamas' civil government, such as parliament and ministries, legitimate targets, Hecht said "if there's a gunman firing rockets from there, it turns into a military target."

In response to Israel's aerial attacks, the spokesman of Hamas' armed wing, Abu Obeida, said Monday night that the group will kill one Israeli civilian captive any time Israel targets civilians in their homes in Gaza "without prior warning."

Israeli Foreign Minister Eli Cohen warned Hamas against harming any of the hostages, saying, "This war crime will not be forgiven." Netanyahu appointed a former military commander to manage the hostage and missing persons crisis.

The Israeli military said more than 900 people already have been killed in Israel. In Gaza and the West Bank, 704 people have been killed, according to authorities there; Israel says hundreds of Hamas fighters are among them. Thousands have been wounded on both sides.

The surprise weekend attack by Hamas left a death toll unseen since the 1973 war with Egypt and Syria — and those deaths happened over a longer period of time. The weekend attack was also notable for its high number of civilian deaths.

That fomented calls to crush Hamas no matter the cost, rather than continuing to try to bottle it up in Gaza. Israel is run by its most hard-right government ever, dominated by ministers who adamantly reject Palestinian statehood.



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Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant ordered a "complete siege" on Gaza, saying authorities would cut electricity and block the entry of food and fuel.

Jan Egeland, secretary general of the Norwegian Refugee Council aid group, warned that a siege would spell "utter disaster" for Gazans.

"There is no doubt that collective punishment is in violation of international law," he told The Associated Press. "If and when it would lead to wounded children dying in hospitals because of lack of energy, electricity and supplies, it could amount to war crimes."

Hamas, in turn, says it is ready for a long battle against Israel. Desperation has grown among Palestinians, many of whom see nothing to lose under unending Israeli control and increasing settlements in the West Bank, the blockade in Gaza and what they see as the world's apathy.

Israeli airstrikes on Gaza have razed 790 housing units and severely damaged 5,330, the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said early Tuesday. Damage to three water and sanitation sites have cut off services to 400,000.

The Israeli siege will leave Gaza almost entirely dependent on its crossing into neighboring Egypt at Rafah, where cargo capacities are lower than other crossings into Israel.

An Egyptian military official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the press, said more than 2 tons of medical supplies from the Egyptian Red Crescent were sent to Gaza and efforts were underway to organize food and other deliveries.

Hamas has ruled Gaza since driving out forces loyal to the internationally recognized Palestinian Authority in 2007, and its rule has gone unchallenged through the blockade and four previous wars with Israel.

Meanwhile in the West Bank, Palestinians entered a fourth day under severe movement restrictions. Israeli authorities have sealed off crossings to the occupied territory and closed checkpoints, blocking movement between cities and towns. Clashes between rock-throwing Palestinians and Israeli forces in the territory since the start of the incursion have left 15 Palestinians dead, according to the U.N.

## **Afghans still hope to find survivors from quake that killed over 2,000 in western Herat province**

By EBRAHIM NOROOZI and OMID HAQJO Associated Press

ZINDA JAN, Afghanistan (AP) — Clinging to hope that finding survivors was still possible, Afghan rescuers and villagers kept digging through rubble in western Herat province on Tuesday, three days after one of the deadliest earthquakes in the region left more than 2,000 dead.

Elsewhere in Herat, people were digging graves for loved ones killed in Saturday's 6.3 magnitude quake. On a barren field in the district of Zinda Jan, a bulldozer removed mounds of earth to clear space for a long row of graves.

"It is very difficult to find a family member from a destroyed house and a few minutes to later bury him or her in a nearby grave, again under the ground," said Mir Agha, from the city of Herat who had joined hundreds of volunteers to help the locals in Zinda Jan.

Across kilometers (miles) of dusty hills, there was little left of villages besides rubble and funerals.

In Naib Rafi, a village that previously had about 2,500 residents, people said that almost no one was alive besides men who were working outside when the quake struck. Survivors worked all day with excavators to dig long trenches for mass burials.

Janan Sayiq, a spokesman for the Afghan Taliban government's national disaster authority, said the quake killed and injured thousands but couldn't provide a breakdown for the casualties. Earlier, Taliban officials said more than 2,000 had died across Herat.

The epicenter was about 40 kilometers (25 miles) northwest of the city of Herat, the provincial capital, the U.S. Geological Survey said. Several of the aftershocks have been strong, including one on Monday that again caused residents of the city to rush out of their homes.

The United Nations said the Zinda Jan district was the worst-affected area with 1,294 deaths and 1,688 injuries there. Also, 485 people — 191 men and 294 women — are missing. Six schools are also reported

to have been destroyed in the district, said the U.N.

Nearly 2,000 houses in 20 villages were destroyed, the Taliban have said. The area hit by the quake has just one government-run hospital.

As winter approaches, the new disaster is likely to make it even harder for people to meet basic needs, such as shelter, food and medicine, aid groups have warned.

It is not clear how much foreign aid has reached Herat since Saturday. The global response to the quake has been slow, with much of the world wary of dealing directly with the Taliban-led government and focused on the deadly escalation between Israel and the Palestinians in the aftermath of the surprise attack by Gaza militants on Saturday.

Pakistan has pledged to send blankets, tents, and medicines, and China is reported to have offered cash and other means of emergency humanitarian assistance.

Other foreign governments said they will work with aid agencies on the ground to help with rescue and recovery, and Afghans have launched fundraising campaigns.

Authorities in Kabul did not respond to questions about how much aid has arrived from overseas.

The Taliban's justice ministry has urged national and international charity foundations, businessmen and Afghans to gather aid for the province.

"Due to the extent of damages and casualties caused by this incident, a large number of our compatriots in Herat province need urgent humanitarian aid," the ministry said in a statement.

The Taliban-appointed deputy prime minister for economic affairs, Abdul Ghani Baradar, and his team visited the quake-affected region on Monday to deliver "immediate relief assistance" and ensure "equitable and accurate distribution of aid," authorities said.

The Taliban's supreme leader has made no public comments about the quake.

Top U.N. officials in Afghanistan also went to Zinda Jan to assess the extent of the damage. In neighboring Pakistan, the government held a special session to review aid for Afghanistan, including relief teams, food, medicine, tents and blankets.

Vital infrastructure, including bridges, was destroyed and emergency response teams have been deployed to provide humanitarian assistance, the International Rescue Committee said.

More than 35 teams from the military and nonprofit groups are involved in rescue efforts, said Sayiq, from the disaster authority.

Afghans are still reeling from other recent disasters, including the magnitude 6.5 earthquake in March that struck much of western Pakistan and eastern Afghanistan, and an earthquake that hit eastern Afghanistan in June 2022, flattening stone and mud-brick homes and killing at least 1,000 people.

## **IMF outlook worsens for a world economy left 'limping' by shocks like Russia's war**

By PAUL WISEMAN AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The world economy is losing momentum in the face of higher interest rates, the ongoing war in Ukraine and widening geopolitical rifts, the International Monetary Fund warned Tuesday.

The IMF said it expects global economic growth to slow to 2.9% in 2024 from an expected 3% this year. The forecast for next year is down a notch from the 3% it predicted back in July.

The deceleration comes at a time when the world has yet to fully mend from a devastating but short-lived COVID-19 recession in 2020. A series of shocks, including the pandemic and Russia's invasion of Ukraine, has slashed worldwide economic output by about \$3.7 trillion over the past three years compared with pre-COVID trends.

"We see a global economy that is limping along," IMF chief economist Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas told reporters ahead of the IMF and World Bank's fall meetings this week in Marrakech, Morocco.

The IMF expectation of 3% growth this year is down from 3.5% in 2022 but unchanged from its July projections.

The news isn't all bad. The world economy has displayed "remarkable resiliency," Gourinchas said, at a time when the U.S. Federal Reserve and other central banks worldwide have aggressively raised interest rates to combat a resurgence in inflation.

The hikes have helped ease price pressures without putting many people out of work. That combination, he said, is "increasingly consistent" with a so-called soft landing — the idea that inflation can be contained without causing a recession.

The IMF sees global consumer price inflation dropping from 8.7% in 2022 to 6.9% this year and 5.8% in 2024.

The United States is a standout in the IMF's latest World Economic Outlook. The IMF upgraded its forecast for U.S. growth this year to 2.1% (matching 2022) and 1.5% in 2024 (up sharply from the 1% it had predicted in July).

The U.S., an energy exporter, has not been hurt as much as countries in Europe and elsewhere by higher oil prices, which shot up after Russia invaded Ukraine last year and jumped more recently because of Saudi Arabia's production cuts. And American consumers have been more willing than most to spend the savings they accumulated during the pandemic.

Things are gloomier in the 20 countries that share the euro currency and are more exposed to rising energy prices. The IMF downgraded eurozone growth to 0.7% this year and 1.2% in 2024. It actually expects the German economy to shrink by 0.5% this year before recovering to 0.9% growth next year.

The Chinese economy, the world's second biggest, is forecast to grow 5% this year and 4.2% in 2024 — both downgrades from what the IMF expected in July.

China's economy was expected to bounce back this year after the communist government ended draconian "zero-COVID" lockdowns that had crippled growth in 2022. But the country is struggling with troubles in its overbuilt housing market.

The IMF again expressed concern that the countries of the world were breaking into geopolitical blocs that could limit international trade and economic growth globally.

The United States and its allies have imposed unprecedented sanctions on Russia for its invasion of Ukraine and have sought to become less reliant on Chinese imports as tensions with Beijing grow.

The IMF noted that last year countries imposed nearly 3,000 new restrictions on trade, up from fewer than 1,000 in 2019. It sees international trade growing just 0.9% this year and 3.5% in 2024, down sharply from the 2000-2019 annual average of 4.9%.

## **As Israel pummels Gaza, families of those held hostage by militants agonize over loved ones' safety**

By JULIA FRANKEL and ADAM GELLER Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — In the hours after Hamas blew through Israel's heavily fortified separation fence and crossed into the country from Gaza, Ahal Besorai tried desperately to reach his sister. There was no answer.

Soon after, he learned from witnesses that militants had seized her, her husband and their teenage son and daughter, along with dozens of others. Now, aching uncertainty over their fate has left Besorai and scores of other Israelis in limbo.

"Should I cry because they are dead already? Should I be happy because maybe they are captured but still alive?" said Besorai, a life coach and resort owner who lives in the Philippines and grew up on Kibbutz Be'eri. "I pray to God every day that she will be found alive with her family and we can all be reunited."

As Israel strikes back with missile attacks on targets in Gaza, the families grapple with the knowledge that it could come at the cost of their loved ones' lives. Hamas has warned it will kill one of the 130 hostages every time Israel's military bombs civilian targets in Gaza without warning.

Eli Elbag said he woke Saturday to text messages from his daughter, Liri, 18, who'd just began her military training as an Army lookout at the Gaza border. Militants were shooting at her, she wrote. Minutes later, the messages stopped. By nightfall, a video circulated by Hamas showed her crowded into an Israeli military truck overtaken by militants. The face of a hostage next to Liri was marred and bloodied.



"We are watching television constantly looking for a sign of her," Elbag said. "We think about her all the time. All the time wondering if they're taking care of her, if they're feeding her, how she's feeling and what she's feeling."

For Israel, locating hostages in Gaza may prove difficult. Although the strip is tiny, subject to constant aerial surveillance and surrounded by Israeli ground and naval forces, the territory just over an hour from Tel Aviv remains somewhat opaque to Israeli intelligence agencies.

Militants posted video of the hostages, and families were left in agony wondering about their fate.

Yosi Shnaider has wrestled with worry since his family members were kidnapped from Kibbutz Nir Oz, just over a mile from the Gaza fence line. He saw video of his cousin and her two young boys, held hostage.

"It's like an unbelievable bad movie, like a nightmare," Shnaider said Monday. "I just need information on if they are alive," he added.

Also missing, his aunt who requires medicine to treat her diabetes and Parkinson's disease. Since the family found out they were taken hostage, the woman's sister has been so mortified that she is "like a zombie, alive and dead at the same time" said Shnaider, a real estate agent in the Israeli city of Holon.

Israel's foreign minister, Eli Cohen, said the country is committed to bringing the hostages home and issued a warning to Hamas, which controls Gaza.

"We demand Hamas not to harm any of the hostages," he said. "This war crime will not be forgiven."

Hamas has also said it seeks the release of all Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails — some 4,500 detainees, according to Israeli human rights group B'Tselem — in exchange for the Israeli captives.

Uncertainty also weighs heavily on families who still do not know whether their relatives have been killed, taken into Hamas captivity, or have escaped and are on the run. Tomer Neumann, whose cousin was attending a music festival near the Gaza border and has since vanished, hopes it's the last of the three options.

The cousin, Rotem Neumann, who is 25 and a Portuguese citizen, called her parents from the festival when she heard rocket fire, he said. She piled into a car with friends, witnesses said, but fled when they encountered trucks filled with militants. Later, her phone was found near a concrete shelter.

"All we have is bits and pieces of information," said Neumann, who lives in Bat Yam, a city just south of Tel Aviv.

"What now is on my mind is not war and is not bombing," he said. "All we want is to know where Rotem is and to know what happened to her and we want peace."

## **Auto workers begin strike at GM plants in Canada, as talks continue**

TORONTO (AP) — Auto workers walked off the job at three General Motors facilities in Canada early Tuesday after failing to reach agreement with the automaker.

Their union, Unifor, represents more than 4,200 workers at the plants. They had warned they would begin a strike if no agreement was struck with GM by midnight local time.

"We made some progress throughout the day, but sadly not enough," Unifor President Lana Payne told reporters. She said the union was still speaking with the company, but there was "a lot of ground that needed to be covered to reach a tentative agreement."

The action came after Unifor workers ratified a new three-year labor contract with Ford late last month. They are seeking a similar agreement with GM.

"This strike is about General Motors stubbornly refusing to meet the pattern agreement. The company knows our members will never let GM break our pattern — not today — not ever," Payne said.

She said GM was not meeting the union's demands for pensions, support for retired workers and steps to transition temporary workers to permanent, full-time jobs.

"We are not there yet, so as a result we are on picket lines," Payne said.

General Motors Corp. said that while "very positive progress" had been made, the company was disappointed not to be able to win an agreement.

"We remain at the bargaining table and are committed to keep working with Unifor to reach an agreement that is fair and flexible for our 4,200 represented employees at Oshawa Assembly & Operations, St. Catharines Propulsion Plant, and Woodstock Parts Distribution Centre," Jennifer Wright, GM Canada's executive director for communications, said in a statement.

Payne said earlier that the union had a lot of bargaining leverage with GM because the factory in Oshawa, Ontario, is working around the clock to build profitable Chevrolet pickups. However, in her remarks to reporters she said "demographics," presumably of an aging work force, were a major hurdle.

Workers at Ford of Canada ratified a new deal late last month that raises base hourly pay for production workers by almost 20% over three years.

Unifor had earlier avoided going on strike against the Detroit automakers, unlike its U.S. counterpart, the United Auto Workers.

Its members at a fourth GM facility, the CAMI Assembly Plant in Ingersoll, Ontario, are covered by a separate bargaining agreement and remain at work, the Unifor statement said.

Unifor is Canada's largest private sector union, with 315,000 workers in many industries.

## **Biden's second try at student loan cancellation moves forward with debate over plan's details**

By COLLIN BINKLEY AP Education Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden's second attempt at student loan cancellation is moving forward with a round of hearings beginning Tuesday to negotiate the details of a new plan.

In a process known as negotiated rulemaking, 14 people chosen by the Biden administration will meet for the first of three hearings on student loan relief. Their goal is to guide the Education Department toward a proposal after the Supreme Court rejected Biden's first plan in June.

The negotiators all come from outside the federal government and represent a range of viewpoints on student loans. The panel includes students and officials from a range of colleges, along with loan servicers, state officials and advocates including the NAACP.

Biden directed the Education Department to find another path to loan relief after the conservative court ruled that he couldn't cancel loans using a 2003 law called the HEROES Act.

The latest attempt will rest on a sweeping law known as the Higher Education Act, which gives the education secretary authority to waive student loans — although how far that power extends is the subject of legal debate. The department is going through the negotiated rulemaking process to change or add federal rules clarifying how the secretary can cancel debt.

It's unclear who will be eligible for forgiveness under the new plan and how much relief they would get. Those details will be decided after the administration takes input from the negotiators, who meet in a series of sessions scheduled to continue into December.

At the end of the process, negotiators will vote on a proposed rule drafted with input from their discussions. If they reach consensus on a proposal, the department will move forward with it. If they don't, the agency will propose its own plan, which can be finalized after a public comment period.

The Education Department routinely uses negotiated rulemaking to enact federal regulation, and it's required for any regulation related to student financial aid. It can be a long and painstaking process, and it often finishes without consensus among negotiators.

Biden has called for a new plan to help "as many borrowers as possible," but it's unclear whether it will be as expansive as his first proposal. That plan would have canceled up to \$20,000 in federal student loans for borrowers with incomes below \$125,000 or couples below \$250,000.

Republicans rallied against the cancellation, saying it would add an unfair benefit for college graduates at the expense of taxpayers who didn't attend college.

The administration plans to finalize the new rule sometime next year, but Education Secretary Miguel Cardona has declined to say if it will be in place before next fall's presidential election. In a recent interview with The Associated Press, he said he's working "as quickly as possible."

He also noted that the court's ruling "will have to factor in to the steps we take moving forward."

Some legal analysts see the court's decision as a rejection of any mass cancellation without action from Congress. The court concluded that the education secretary has power "to make modest adjustments and additions to existing provisions, not transform them."

As a starting point for negotiators, the Education Department published an issue paper outlining some of the primary questions that will be up for debate. It offers few clues on the department's vision for loan cancellation, but it identifies five groups of borrowers who may be in need of relief.

Negotiators are being asked how the agency should help:

- Borrowers whose interest grows so much that their balances exceed what they initially owed;
- Those who are eligible for loan cancellation under existing income-driven repayment plans but have not applied for those programs;
- Those who borrowed loans to attend college programs that didn't lead to jobs with enough earnings to repay their loans;
- Borrowers with older loans taken out before Congress created benefits meant to ease the burden of student debt;
- Those who face hardships "that the current student loan system does not adequately address."

It also asks negotiators to discuss the types of factors that would merit loan cancellation. The paper notes that, when deciding whether to collect on debt, some other federal agencies consider whether it "would be against equity and good conscience," or if it would "impose financial hardship."

At a White House briefing last week, Biden drew attention to the problem of ballooning interest. Many college graduates have been making payments for years, he said, "but because of interest, they still owe more than they originally borrowed."

"My administration is doing everything it can to deliver student debt relief to as many as we can, as fast as we can," Biden said.

The negotiators meet virtually for two-day sessions starting Oct. 10, Nov. 6 and Dec. 11.

## **Donald Trump's civil fraud trial resuming with ex-CFO Allen Weisselberg on the witness stand**

By MICHAEL R. SISAK Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — As Donald Trump's longtime finance chief, Allen Weisselberg helped spare the former president's real estate empire from its last existential threat, staving off insolvency after casino bankruptcies and an airline failure in the 1990s.

Now, after a recent jail stint for tax fraud, Weisselberg is front and center again — set to testify Tuesday in the civil trial in New York Attorney General Letitia James' fraud lawsuit against Trump and his company, the Trump Organization.

Weisselberg, also a defendant in the lawsuit, is expected to testify about his role in preparing Trump's annual financial statements — including conversations they had while finalizing the documents, which were given to banks, insurers and others to make deals and secure loans.

James' lawsuit alleges that Weisselberg engineered Trump's financial statements to meet his demands that they show increases in his net worth and signed off on lofty valuations for assets despite appraisals to the contrary.

Trump, who attended the first three days of the non-jury trial last week in Manhattan, is not expected to return to court to see his former chief financial officer testify. An appeals court rejected Trump's bid Friday to halt the trial while he fights a pretrial ruling that could strip him of Trump Tower and other properties.

Weisselberg, 76, has laid low since leaving a New York City jail six months ago after serving 100 days for dodging taxes on \$1.7 million in job perks, including a Manhattan apartment, luxury cars for him and his wife and his grandchildren's school tuition.

"Over the last number of months, it's been I'm sure well-documented and well-known that I've been



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through quite a bit," Weisselberg testified in a May deposition in the civil case.

Weisselberg testified that he was having trouble sleeping, started seeing a therapist and was taking a generic form of Valium as he tried to "re-acclimate myself back to society."

"It's been a traumatic and difficult time for myself and my family," Weisselberg told lawyers in the room, including James, according to a deposition transcript made public last month.

"After a long, what I considered a very quiet business — a job that I had over all these years — to be thrown into this situation has had a traumatic impact on my day-to-day life and my family's life," Weisselberg said.

Weisselberg has not given interviews or commented publicly since leaving jail.

Trump, in his deposition in April, said of his former lieutenant: "He was with me for a long time. He was liked. He was respected. Now, he's gone through hell and back. What's happened to him is very sad."

Jeffrey McConney, the Trump Organization's longtime controller, testified at the civil trial Friday that Weisselberg asked him to assist him in committing tax fraud on multiple occasions, including changing payroll records to hide perks and giving his wife a check for a no-show job so she could qualify for Social Security benefits.

McConney said he went along with it because he feared Weisselberg would fire him if he refused.

In a pretrial ruling last month, Judge Arthur Engoron found that Trump and other defendants including Weisselberg committed years of fraud by exaggerating the value of Trump's assets and net worth on his financial statements.

As punishment, Engoron ordered that a court-appointed receiver take control of some Trump companies, putting the future of Trump Tower and other marquee properties in doubt. An appeals court on Friday blocked enforcement of that aspect of Engoron's ruling, at least for now.

The civil trial concerns allegations of conspiracy, insurance fraud and falsifying business records. James is seeking \$250 million in penalties and a ban on Trump doing business in New York.

At his May deposition, Weisselberg recalled how Trump would sometimes underline or write a question mark next to values he disagreed with, and would quibble about the language the financial statements used to describe his properties.

"I might say beautiful. He might say magnificent," Weisselberg testified. "I might say it was cute. He would say it's incredible."

Weisselberg's association with Trump's family dated to 1973, when he answered a newspaper ad for a staff accountant for Trump's real estate-developer father, Fred, who owned New York City apartment buildings. He started working for Donald Trump in 1986. In his final years, he made \$1.14 million a year in salary and bonuses.

Weisselberg's tax fraud case hastened his exit from the company. According to a severance agreement he signed the day before going to jail, Weisselberg is due to be paid \$2 million in eight quarterly installments. That sum is close to the amount of back taxes, penalties and interest he was required to pay as part of his plea agreement.

So far, according to a calendar included in the agreement, Weisselberg has received \$750,000 in severance.

## **Biden's hopes for establishing Israel-Saudi relations could become a casualty of the new Mideast war**

By AAMER MADHANI and ELLEN KNICKMEYER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Less than three weeks ago, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu sat beside President Joe Biden and marveled that a "historic peace between Israel and Saudi Arabia" seemed within reach — a diplomatic advance that he predicted could lead to lasting peace between the Israelis and Palestinians.

Biden was equally optimistic, telling Netanyahu during their meeting in New York, "If you and I — 10 years ago — were talking about normalization with Saudi Arabia, I think we'd look at each other like, 'Who's been drinking what?'"

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Now, the outbreak of war between Israel and the Palestinians after a devastating Hamas attack on Israeli soil is threatening to delay or derail the years-long, country-by-country diplomatic push by the United States to improve relations between Israel and its Arab neighbors.

The so-called normalization push, which began under former President Donald Trump's administration and was branded as the Abraham Accords, is an ambitious effort to reshape the region and boost Israel's standing in historic ways. But critics have warned that it skips past Palestinian demands for statehood.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the Hamas attacks may have been driven in part by a desire to scuttle the United States' most ambitious part of the initiative: the sealing of diplomatic relations between rivals Israel and Saudi Arabia. The Middle East's two greatest powers share a common enemy in Iran, a generous military and financial sponsor of Hamas.

Such a pact between Jerusalem and Riyadh would be a legacy-defining achievement for Biden, Netanyahu and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. It's one that could pave the way for even more Arab and Muslim-majority nations to abandon their rejection of Israel since its 1948 founding in lands long inhabited by Palestinians. Under Trump, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Morocco all signed on to normalization agreements with Israel.

But the startling attack by Hamas — and much of the Arab world's response to it — has also raised new questions about whether Palestinian ambitions for sovereignty can be put aside while the U.S. tries to help Israel move ahead with improving relations with the rest of its Middle East neighbors.

With Netanyahu vowing to turn all Hamas hideouts in Gaza into rubble, the region is now bracing for even more death and destruction and an expansive military operation by Israel. Biden is set to address the attacks on Israel in a White House speech on Tuesday afternoon.

"We're going to see a rather significant operation from air, land and sea that costs many, many, many lives," said Steven Cook, a senior fellow for Middle East and Africa Studies at the Council on Foreign Relations. "I think this dynamic of normalization will likely slow down or come to a halt, at least for a period of time."

The attacks were a shock to American, Israeli and Saudis officials, who all were riding high on the prospect that an Israeli-Saudi agreement was starting to come into focus.

Netanyahu, in a CNN interview last month, called the potential pact "a quantum leap" for the region. The Saudi crown prince also noted the steady progress, telling Fox News, "every day we get closer."

White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan noted at a recent event hosted by The Atlantic that challenges in the Mideast remained, but the amount of time he was spending on crisis and conflict in the region compared with his recent predecessors was "significantly reduced."

"The Middle East region is quieter today than it has been in two decades," Sullivan said.

In a matter of days, that optimism has vanished.

Social media showed crowds take to the streets with Palestinian flags in Lebanon, Bahrain, Kuwait and elsewhere in the hours after the Hamas attack. A policeman in Egypt's coastal city of Alexandria opened fire on Israeli tourists, killing two Israelis and one Egyptian.

Saudi Arabia's foreign ministry in a statement soon after the attacks did not condemn Hamas. Instead, the ministry noted that it had repeatedly warned that Israel's "occupation, the deprivation of the Palestinian people of their legitimate rights, and the repetition of systematic provocations" led to this moment.

White House National Security Council spokesman John Kirby declined to comment on the Saudi response.

"We still believe that normalization between Israel and Saudi Arabia is not only good for the people of those two nations but for the American people and for everybody else in the region, and we have every intention to continue to encourage a process where normalization can occur," Kirby said.

Yousef Munayyer, who heads the Palestine-Israel program at the Arab Center, a Washington think tank, said the Saudis in their statement were reminding the administration that "we've been telling you guys over and over again that if you ignore the Palestine issue the region's going to explode. And I think there's just been a tremendous amount of hubris on the part of the Biden administration thinking they could do that."

To be certain, Biden and U.S. officials have privately made clear to Netanyahu that any deal needed to

include significant concessions for Palestinians, although members of Netanyahu's far-right coalition have made clear that an independent Palestinian state is not something they'd abide.

The Saudis had said they, too, expected Israel to make concessions. Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan said "there is no other way" to solve the conflict than by establishing a Palestinian state.

Other allies in the region had also underscored that Palestinian concerns could not be overlooked.

King Abdullah II of Jordan, whose country in the early 1990s became the second Arab nation after Egypt to sign a peace deal with Israel, told a global summit last month that the prospect of a normalization deal between Saudi Arabia and Israel offered promise for the Middle East but no guarantee of stability in itself.

"This belief, by some in the region, that you can parachute over Palestine, deal with the Arabs and work your way back — that does not work," the Jordanian king said then. "And even those countries that have Abraham Accords with Israel have difficulty moving publicly on those issues when Israelis and Palestinians are dying. So unless we solve this problem, there will never be a true peace."

U.S. officials say they intend to press ahead, but they also acknowledge efforts are unlikely to bear fruit while there is an active conflict between Israel and the Palestinians.

Blinken had been planning a trip to the Middle East, with stops in Israel, Saudi Arabia and Morocco, later this month, but those plans are now on hold, according to three U.S. officials who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal administration deliberations.

While Blinken may still visit Israel and several neighboring countries to look for ways to ease tensions, he is no longer expected to go to Saudi Arabia, and the Morocco stop for a meeting of foreign ministers in the so-called Negev Forum will almost certainly be postponed, according to these officials. The Negev Forum brings together the top diplomats from Bahrain, Egypt, Israel, the United Arab Emirates and the United States to look at ways to advance Arab-Israeli cooperation with an eye also on improving conditions for the Palestinians.

Analysts note that the Saudis have reason not to walk away from efforts at forging a normalization deal.

Mark Dubowitz, CEO of the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, said that in the long term bin Salman is looking to diversify the oil-rich kingdom's economy and strengthen its security. As part of any pact, Saudi Arabia is pushing Biden for a nuclear cooperation deal and defense guarantees from the U.S.

"He needs normalization and will continue to move forward," Dubowitz predicted. Of the crown prince, Dubowitz added, "the Saudis had better be careful because they are playing with fire in Washington."

## **Aid groups scramble to help as Israel-Hamas war intensifies and Gaza blockade complicates efforts**

By HALELUYA HADERO AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Humanitarian groups are scrambling to assist civilians caught in the war between Israel and Hamas and determine what aid operations are still safe to continue, efforts that are being complicated by an intensified blockade of Gaza and ongoing fighting.

Two days after Hamas militants went on a rampage that took the world by surprise, Israel increased airstrikes on Gaza and blocked off food, fuel and other supplies from going into the territory, a move that raised concerns at the United Nations and among aid groups operating in the area home to 2.3 million people. Hamas, in turn, pledged to kill Israelis it abducted if the country's military bombs civilian targets in Gaza without warning.

Hundreds of people have been killed and thousands wounded on both sides, and aid groups operating in the region say there are needs both in Gaza and Israel.

More than 2 tons of medical supplies from the Egyptian Red Crescent have been sent to Gaza and efforts are underway to organize food and other deliveries, according to an Egyptian military official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the press. But the United Nations and other aid groups are pleading for more access to help Palestinians who find themselves in the middle of intense fighting.

Doctors Without Borders, which is still operating in Gaza, has to rely on supplies it already has inside



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the territory because it can't bring any more in, said Emmanuel Massart, a deputy desk coordinator with the organization in Brussels.

The group — which says it only runs programs in Palestinian areas since Israel has strong emergency and health services — reported Monday that it provided treatments to more than 50 people following airstrikes at the Jabalia refugee camp located north of Gaza City. In addition to helping patients in Gaza, it said it was donating medical supplies to other clinics and hospitals, which have become overcrowded with patients and are experiencing shortages of drugs and fuel that can be used for generators.

If Doctors Without Borders is not able to resupply fairly quickly, Massart said, it will run out of supplies it can use to operate on patients who might be wounded. He also said since the facilities the organization uses are running on generators due to the low supply of electricity, cutting off fuel will present a "huge problem."

"If there is no fuel anymore, there is no medical facilities anymore because we cannot run our medical facility without the energy," Massart said.

The war has also been deeply disruptive to work Mercy Corps has been doing to provide people in Gaza with necessities like food and water, said Arnaud Quemin, the Middle East regional director for the organization. Right now, he said the team on the ground is trying to find a scenario that would enable them to get back to work. The blockade of food and other supplies into Gaza is a major worry.

"We are very concerned with the way things are going at this point because it looks like it's going to get worse — very soon," Quemin said. The sealing of Gaza, he said, will create "humanitarian needs very quickly."

Governments have also been weighing how to respond.

As the fighting intensified, the European Union on late Monday reversed an earlier announcement by an EU commissioner that the bloc was "immediately" suspending aid for Palestinian authorities. Instead, the 27-nation group said it would urgently review the assistance it provides in the wake of Hamas' attacks on Israel. Two European countries — Germany and Austria — said they were suspending development aid for Palestinian areas.

Meanwhile, some organizations are stepping up aid efforts in Israel, which has seen displacement because of the violence.

Naomi Adler, CEO of Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, said a trauma center in Jerusalem that's owned by the organization is treating wounded Israeli soldiers and civilians. About 90% of the patients in the center right now are soldiers, who are typically the first to be brought in for traumatic injuries, Adler said. But the center also accepts anyone who's wounded or injured in the country.

The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, a Jewish humanitarian organization, said on Sunday that it was activating its emergency response team in Israel, where it runs programs to support people with disabilities, the elderly and children and families who've been impacted by the war and prior conflicts. The organization said it was working with its partners, including in the Israeli government, to address what it called an unprecedented emergency.

JDC's CEO Ariel Zwang said among other things the nonprofit is helping teachers, social workers and other caregivers provide support to those who've suffered trauma and tragedies from the events of the past few days. She said it will help nurse teachers, for example, explain to children why some of their classmates are suddenly missing.

"If you're a teacher now, if you know the children are traumatized, you need special skills and special training in order to manage what you're experiencing and provide for the emotional needs, which are extraordinary at this time, of your youngest charges," Zwang said.

One organization that helps Palestinian children is shifting its focus, too. Steve Sosebee, the president of Palestine Children's Relief Fund, a U.S.-based charity that helps children in need travel to the U.S. for medical treatment, said given the war, the fund is now looking away from long-term programs and toward more urgent needs for food, medication, clothing and other types of basic humanitarian aid. But like others, he noted the blockade and security risks to its Gaza staff makes it more challenging to do that.

"There are no areas of security, there are no safe havens," Sosebee said. "And therefore, it's very difficult for us to be out in the field providing humanitarian aid when there are no safe places from the constant bombing and attacks that are taking place over the last 72 hours."

## **Israel strikes and seals off Gaza after incursion by Hamas, which vows to execute hostages**

By JOSEF FEDERMAN and ISSAM ADWAN Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel increased airstrikes on the Gaza Strip and sealed it off from food, fuel and other supplies Monday in retaliation for a bloody incursion by Hamas militants, as the war's death toll rose to nearly 1,600 on both sides. Hamas also escalated the conflict, pledging to kill captured Israelis if attacks targeted civilians without warnings.

In the war's third day, Israel was still finding bodies from Hamas' stunning weekend attack into southern Israeli towns. Rescue workers found 100 bodies in the tiny farming community of Be'eri — around 10% of its population — after a long hostage standoff with gunmen. In Gaza, tens of thousands fled their homes as relentless airstrikes leveled buildings.

The Israeli military said it had largely gained control in the south after the attack caught its vaunted military and intelligence apparatus completely off guard and led to fierce battles in its streets for the first time in decades. Hamas and other militants in Gaza say they are holding more than 130 soldiers and civilians snatched from inside Israel.

Israeli tanks and drones were deployed to guard breaches in the Gaza border fence to prevent new incursions. Thousands of Israelis were evacuated from more than a dozen towns near Gaza, and the military summoned 300,000 reservists — a massive mobilization in a short time.

The moves, along with Israel's formal declaration of war on Sunday, pointed to Israel increasingly shifting to the offensive against Hamas, threatening greater destruction in the densely populated, impoverished Gaza Strip.

"We have only started striking Hamas," Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a nationally televised address. "What we will do to our enemies in the coming days will reverberate with them for generations."

As the Israeli military brought additional forces near the border, a major question was whether it will launch a ground assault into the tiny Mediterranean coastal territory. The last ground assault was in 2014.

The Israeli military said more than 900 people already have been killed in Israel. In Gaza, more than 680 people have been killed, according to authorities there; Israel says hundreds of Hamas fighters are among them. Thousands have been wounded on both sides.

In response to Israel's aerial attacks, the spokesman of Hamas' armed wing, Abu Obeida, said Monday night that the group will kill one Israeli civilian captive any time Israel targets civilians in their homes in Gaza "without prior warning."

Israeli Foreign Minister Eli Cohen warned Hamas against harming any of the hostages, saying, "This war crime will not be forgiven." Netanyahu appointed a former military commander to manage the hostage and missing persons crisis.

Israel and Hamas have had repeated conflicts in past years, often sparked by tensions around a Jerusalem holy site. This time, the context has become potentially more explosive. Both sides talk of shattering with violence a yearslong Israeli-Palestinian deadlock left by the moribund peace process.

The surprise weekend attack by Hamas left a death toll unseen since the 1973 war with Egypt and Syria. That fomented calls to crush Hamas no matter the cost, rather than continuing to try to bottle it up in Gaza. Israel is run by its most hard-right government ever, dominated by ministers who adamantly reject Palestinian statehood.

Hamas, in turn, says it is ready for a long battle to end an Israeli occupation it says is no longer tolerable. Desperation has grown among Palestinians, many of whom see nothing to lose under unending

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Israeli control and increasing settler depredations in the West Bank, the blockade in Gaza and what they see as the world's apathy.

Attacks by both sides created more scenes of devastation Monday. In Israel's southern coastal city of Ashkelon, a man holding a crutch with one hand and an older boy with the other joined evacuees being shepherded from a street after a rocket blew out the front of a house.

In Gaza, Palestinians passed the bodies of the dead through dense crowds of men in the rubble in the Jebaliya refugee camp.

Early Monday evening, the sound of explosions echoed over Jerusalem when a volley of rockets fired from Gaza hit two neighborhoods — a sign of Hamas's reach. Israeli media said seven were wounded.

Israeli warplanes carried out an intense bombardment of Rimal, a residential and commercial district of central Gaza City, after issuing warnings for residents to evacuate. Amid continuous explosions, the building housing the headquarters of the Palestinian Telecommunications Company was destroyed.

Israeli airstrikes on Gaza have razed 790 housing units and severely damaged 5,330, the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said early Tuesday. Damage to three water and sanitation sites have cut off services to 400,000.

Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant ordered a "complete siege" on Gaza, saying authorities would cut electricity and block the entry of food and fuel.

Jan Egeland, secretary general of the Norwegian Refugee Council aid group, warned that Israel's siege would spell "utter disaster" for Gazans.

"There is no doubt that collective punishment is in violation of international law," he told The Associated Press. "If and when it would lead to wounded children dying in hospitals because of lack of energy, electricity and supplies, it could amount to war crimes."

The Israeli siege will leave Gaza almost entirely dependent on its crossing into neighboring Egypt at Rafah, where cargo capacities are lower than other crossings into Israel.

An Egyptian military official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the press, said more than 2 tons of medical supplies from the Egyptian Red Crescent were sent to Gaza and efforts were underway to organize food and other deliveries.

Tens of thousands of Gaza residents continued to flee. The U.N. said Tuesday that more than 187,000 of Gaza's 2.3 million people have left their homes — the most since a 2014 air and ground offensive by Israel uprooted about 400,000.

UNRWA, the U.N. agencies for Palestinian refugees, is sheltering more than 137,000 people in schools across the territory. Families have taken in some 41,000 others.

In the southern Gaza city of Rafah, an Israeli airstrike early Monday killed 19 people, including women and children, said Talat Barhoum, a doctor at the local Al-Najjar Hospital.

Hundreds of Hamas militants were buried under rubble of buildings destroyed by Israel in the past 48 hours, according to Israeli Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari. His claims could not be confirmed.

New exchanges on Israel's northern border Monday raised worries that the war could spread to a new front.

Palestinian militants from the Islamic Jihad group slipped from Lebanon into Israel, sparking Israeli shelling into southern Lebanon. Lebanon's Hezbollah militant group said five of its members were killed, and it retaliated with a volley of rockets and mortars at two Israeli army bases across the border.

After breaking through Israeli barriers with explosives at daybreak Saturday, an estimated 1,000 Hamas gunmen rampaged for hours, gunning down civilians and snatching people in towns, along highways and at a techno music festival attended by thousands in the desert. Palestinian militants have also launched around 4,400 rockets at Israel, according to the military.

Hamas spokesman Abdel-Latif al-Qanoua told the AP that the group's fighters continued to battle outside Gaza and had captured more Israelis as recently as Monday morning.

He said the group aims to free all Palestinian prisoners held by Israel, which in the past has agreed to lopsided exchange deals in which it released large numbers of prisoners for individual captives or even the remains of soldiers.



Among the captives are soldiers and civilians, including women, children and older adults, mostly Israelis but also some people of other nationalities.

Hamas has ruled Gaza since driving out forces loyal to the internationally recognized Palestinian Authority in 2007, and its rule has gone unchallenged through the blockade and four previous wars with Israel.

Meanwhile in the West Bank, Palestinians entered a fourth day under severe movement restrictions. Israeli authorities have sealed off crossings to the occupied territory and closed checkpoints, blocking movement between cities and towns. Clashes between rock-throwing Palestinians and Israeli forces in the territory since the start of the incursion have left 15 Palestinians dead, according to the U.N.

## **As Republicans split over who will be House speaker, McCarthy positions himself as a de facto leader**

By LISA MASCARO and KEVIN FREKING Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans have no clear idea who will be the next U.S. House speaker, leaving an unprecedented power vacuum in Congress and severely limiting America's ability to quickly respond to the crisis in Israel — or any number of other problems at home and abroad.

On Monday, the ousted former speaker, Kevin McCarthy, quickly jumped into the void, bitterly criticizing President Joe Biden's administration over the strength of its defense of Israel and positioning himself as a de facto Republican leader even though his colleagues toppled him from power.

But it's not at all clear if McCarthy could seriously make a comeback — or if one of the other Republicans seeking the gavel, Steve Scalise or Jim Jordan, can be elected speaker as their majority stumbles into infighting. House Republicans met behind closed doors for hours Monday evening as anger and blame spilled out, with no clear path forward.

"Whether I'm speaker or not ... I can lead in any position I'm in," McCarthy, R-Calif., said earlier at the Capitol.

The upheaval in the House puts the U.S. Congress at a crossroads during a moment of crisis, the first time in history it has booted a speaker from power, operating without a constitutional officer, second in line to the presidency. House business, and with it most congressional action, has come to a standstill.

There are unanswered questions about what, if anything, the Congress can do with only an interim speaker pro tempore, a position created to ensure the continuity of government after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. At risk is immediate aid to Israel along with passage of a resolution that would show U.S. support for Israel and condemnation of Hamas for the attack as the region is now engulfed in war.

And there are broader demands on Congress, including Ukraine's requests for aid as it fights Russia and the need to fund the U.S. government again by Nov. 17 or risk a federal shutdown. The Senate meanwhile is also out of session, on recess until next week.

"The world is watching," Rep. Michael McCaul, a Texas Republican who chairs the House Foreign Relations, said he told the meeting. "They are seeing a dysfunctional democracy."

Republicans are planning to vote as soon as Wednesday, first in private balloting and later on the House floor, where a majority would be needed to choose the next speaker after McCarthy's historic ouster by a handful of hardline Republicans led by Rep. Matt Gaetz, R-Fla.

Asked if McCarthy could make a comeback, Gaetz said, "I wouldn't bet on it."

Any speaker's vote by midweek seems aspirational rather than realistic. Neither Scalise, the majority leader who is the second-ranking Republican in the House, nor Jordan, who is the chairman of the Judiciary Committee and backed by Donald Trump, appears to have the votes needed to secure the majority vote.

"Does anybody have the votes? No," said Rep. Mike Lawler of New York, a centrist Republican pushing for McCarthy to be reinstated as speaker.

Both Scalise and Jordan have eyed the speaker's gavel for some time and come with political strengths, but also baggage that leaves colleagues split and skeptical.

Scalise is battling blood cancer, and is seen by a hero among colleagues for having survived severe injuries from a mass shooting during a congressional baseball game practice in 2017. But the Louisiana

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Republican had apologized in 2014 after he was found to have addressed a white supremacist group in 2002 founded by a former Ku Klux Klan leader. Scalise said he didn't know of the group's racial views.

"The House needs to get back to work," Scalise said he told his colleagues.

Jordan is a high-profile political firebrand known for his close alliance with Trump, particularly when the then-president was working to overturn the results of the 2020 election, leading to the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol.

Some years ago, Jordan and his office denied allegations from former wrestlers during his time as an assistant wrestling coach at Ohio State University who accused him of knowing about claims they were inappropriately groped by an Ohio doctor. Jordan and his office have said he was never aware of any abuse.

The House Republicans hold just a slim majority and they are considering rules changes to avoid another spectacle electing a new speaker, like the 15 rounds it took McCarthy in January to seize the gavel.

While the full House, including Democrats and Republicans, ultimately votes on the new speaker, the position usually falls to a person from the party with the House majority.

One idea is to require the candidate for House speaker to reach the 218 majority threshold during internal voting behind closed doors before the Republicans bring the vote up publicly on the House floor.

Another idea is to change the rule that allows a single lawmaker to make a "motion to vacate" the office — which is the rare procedural tool Gaetz used to force a vote that ousted McCarthy. In previous years, it required more than one lawmaker to make the motion.

But lawmakers exiting the evening meeting came to the understanding that such changes might not be achievable in time for a speaker's vote as Republicans try to move on from the chaos that has thrown their majority into turmoil.

Republican Rep. Max Miller of Ohio said he is for Jordan, but he wants to take another week to sort through all the leadership positions, adding there were a lot of "broken" personalities in the room.

"People are going to be upset," he said. "We will find a way forward."

Democrats so far reject both Scalise and Jordan, and are almost certain to vote against either Republican. McCarthy's ouster came with the help of Democrats, who voiced their disdain for the speaker and joined with eight Republicans to oust him.

For now, no consensus candidate who could bridge both parties seems at all within reach.

Meantime, Rep. Patrick McHenry, R-N.C., has been named as speaker pro tempore, and brushed back questions late Monday about staying in the job longer.

Asked about a House vote Wednesday on a new speaker, he said, "That's my goal."

The rules around the temporary speaker position have been untested before, though they appear to indicate the main power in the role is to ensure the election of a new speaker.

But if House Republicans are unable to quickly agree on a speaker, McHenry could be in the position for some time. Any moves McHenry makes in the temporary position have the potential to become precedent-setting for the House.

McHenry is viewed as a serious legislator, with nearly 20 years in office, even though his first act was to boot Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi from her private office at the Capitol.

## **Biden interviewed as part of special counsel investigation into handling of classified documents**

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE and ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden has been interviewed as part of an independent investigation into his handling of classified documents, the White House said late Monday. It's a possible sign that the investigation is nearing its end.

Special counsel Robert Hur is examining the improper retention of classified documents by Biden from his time as a U.S. senator and as vice president that were found at his Delaware home, as well as at a private office that he used in between his service in the Obama administration and becoming president.

Biden has said he was unaware he had the documents and that "there's no there there."

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Ian Sams, a spokesperson for the White House counsel's office, said in a statement that the interview was voluntary and conducted at the White House on Sunday and Monday.

It's not clear when Hur's team approached Biden's lawyers about an interview or how long they'd been negotiating. Asked on Aug. 25 if he planned to sit for an interview with the special counsel, Biden replied, "There's no such request and no such interest."

The interview could signal that the special counsel investigation is nearing its conclusion.

In 2016, then-FBI Director James Comey announced his recommendation against criminal charges for former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, the Democratic presidential nominee, over her handling of classified information just three days after agents interviewed her at FBI headquarters.

Investigators with Hur's office have already cast a broad net in the Biden probe, interviewing a wide range of witnesses about their knowledge of the handling of classified documents.

In his statement, Sams reiterated that Biden and the White House were cooperating. He referred any questions to the Justice Department.

"As we have said from the beginning, the President and the White House are cooperating with this investigation, and as it has been appropriate, we have provided relevant updates publicly, being as transparent as we can consistent with protecting and preserving the integrity of the investigation," Sams said. "We would refer other questions to the Justice Department at this time."

Attorney General Merrick Garland in January 2023 named Hur, a former U.S. attorney for Maryland, to handle the politically sensitive Justice Department inquiry in an attempt to avoid conflicts of interest.

It is one of three recent Justice Department investigations into the handling of classified documents by politically prominent figures.

The investigation into Biden is separate from special counsel Jack Smith's probe into the handling of classified documents by former President Donald Trump after he left the White House. Smith's team has charged Trump with illegally retaining top secret records at his Mar-a-Lago home in Florida and then obstructing government efforts to get them back. Trump has said he did nothing wrong.

No evidence has emerged to suggest that Biden engaged in comparable conduct or willfully held onto records he wasn't supposed to have.

Questioned in January about the discovery, Biden told reporters that the documents were immediately turned over to the National Archives and the Justice Department. He said he was cooperating fully with the investigation and was "looking forward to getting this resolved quickly."

"I think you're going to find there's nothing there," he said. "There's no there there."

In June, the Justice Department informed former Vice President Mike Pence's legal team that it would not pursue criminal charges against him related to the discovery of classified documents at his Indiana home. The news came as Pence finalized plans to launch his campaign for the 2024 Republican presidential nomination.

About a dozen documents with classified markings were discovered at Pence's home in January after he asked his lawyers to search his vice presidential belongings "out of an abundance of caution" after the Biden discovery. The items had been "inadvertently boxed and transported" to Pence's home at the end of the last administration, Pence's lawyer, Greg Jacob, wrote in a letter to the National Archives.

The FBI then discovered an additional document with classified markings at the Indiana house during its own search the following month.

Pence repeatedly had said he was unaware of the documents' existence, but that "mistakes were made" in his handling of classified material.

It is hardly unprecedented for sitting presidents to be interviewed in criminal investigations.

President George W. Bush sat for a 70-minute interview as part of an investigation into the leak of the identity of a CIA operative. President Bill Clinton in 1998 underwent more than four hours of questioning from independent counsel Kenneth Starr before a federal grand jury.

Special counsel Robert Mueller's team negotiated with lawyers for then-President Donald Trump for an interview but Trump never sat for one. His lawyers instead submitted answers to written questions.



## Nobel economics prize goes to Harvard's Claudia Goldin for research on the workplace gender gap

By PAUL WISEMAN, DAVID KEYTON and MICHAEL CASEY Associated Press

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Claudia Goldin, a Harvard University professor, was awarded the Nobel economics prize on Monday for research that helps explain why women around the world are less likely than men to work and to earn less money when they do.

Fittingly, the announcement marked a small step toward closing a gender gap among Nobel laureates in economics: Out of 93 economics winners, Goldin is just the third woman to be awarded the prize and the first woman to be the sole winner in any year.

Her award follows Nobel honors this year in medicine, physics, chemistry, literature and peace that were announced last week. And it follows last year's three winners in economics: Former Federal Reserve Chair Ben Bernanke, Douglas W. Diamond and Philip Dybvig for their research into bank failures that helped shape America's aggressive response to the 2007-2008 financial crisis.

### WHAT WORK WON GOLDIN THE NOBEL IN ECONOMICS?

Only about half the world's women have paid jobs, in contrast to 80% of men. Economists regard the gap as a wasted opportunity: Jobs have often failed to go to the most qualified people because women either weren't competing for work or weren't being properly considered.

In addition, a persistent pay gap — women in advanced economies earn, on average, about 13% less than men — discourages women from pursuing jobs or continuing their education to qualify for more advanced job opportunities.

Goldin, 77, explored the reasons behind such disparities. Often, she found, they resulted from decisions that women made about their prospects in the job market and about their families' personal circumstances. Some women underestimated their employment opportunities. Others felt overwhelmed by responsibilities at home.

"Women are now more educated than men," Goldin noted in an interview with The Associated Press. "They graduate from college at much higher rates than men. They do better in high school than men do. So why are there these differences?"

"And we realize that these differences, although some are found within the labor market, are really reflections of what happens within individuals' homes, and they're an interaction between what happens in the home and what happens in the labor market."

### HOW DID GOLDIN CONDUCT HER RESEARCH?

To understand what was happening, Goldin pored through 200 years of labor market data. The task required a laborious process of sleuthing: Women's jobs frequently didn't appear in historical records. Women who worked on farms alongside their husbands or who labored at home in cottage industries such as weaving, for example, often went uncounted.

Goldin compiled new databases using such resources as industrial statistics and historical surveys on how people used their time. She discovered that official records dramatically undercounted how much work women were doing.

### WHAT DID HER WORK BRING TO LIGHT?

Correcting the record revealed some striking surprises. During the Industrial Revolution, as the U.S. and European economies rapidly expanded and shifted from farms to factories, women's share of the workforce actually declined. Before Goldin's work advanced public understanding, researchers, unfamiliar with older data, generally assumed that growing economies drew more women into the job market.

Progress in expanding female employment was slowed, in part, by women's own expectations and the experiences they had witnessed. Often, for example, they watched their own mothers stay home even after their children had grown up.

But their expectations could be "severely off the mark," and they led some women to cut short their education because they didn't expect long careers, the Nobel committee said in an essay on Goldin's work. Many women who came of age in the 1950s, for instance, did not foresee the growing opportunities of

the 1960s and 1970s. Women who grew up later did, and more of them pursued higher education.

Goldin also discovered that marriage proved to be a more serious barrier to women's employment than had been previously thought. At the start of the 20th century, only 5% of married women worked, versus 20% of all women. Until the 1930s, laws often barred married women from continuing their employment as teachers or office workers.

Those laws were eventually repealed. And the birth-control pill, introduced in 1950, over time allowed women to make long-term plans for their education, careers and families. The proportion of U.S. women who either had a job or were looking for one rose steadily from the 1950s until the mid-1990s, when the figure plateaued.

#### WHAT EXPLAINS THE CONTINUING PAY GAP BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN?

The earnings disparity between men and women narrowed as more women went to work. But it didn't go away.

Goldin compiled two centuries of data on the gender pay disparity. She found that the earnings gap narrowed during the first half of the 19th century and then from roughly 1890 to 1930 as companies began to need many more administrative and clerical workers.

But progress in reducing the pay gap stalled from about 1930 to 1980 even though more women were working and attending college.

Goldin identified the key culprit: Parenthood. Once a woman has a child, her pay tends to drop and subsequently doesn't grow as fast as it does for men, even among women and men with similar educational and professional backgrounds.

Modern pay systems tend to reward employees with long, uninterrupted careers. And companies often demand that employees be available at all times and flexible about working late and on weekends. That can be difficult for women who typically bear more childcare responsibilities than men do.

Speaking to the AP, Goldin expressed dismay that women are less likely to work in America than in France, Canada or Japan — a reversal from the 1990s when U.S. women enjoyed the world's highest labor force participation rates.

"When I look at the numbers, I think something has happened in America," she said. "We have to ask why that's the case ... We have to step back and ask questions about piecing together the family, the home, together with the marketplace and employment."

Goldin suggested that women need more help, often from their partners, in balancing childcare and work responsibility.

"Ways in which we can even things out or create more couple equity also leads to more gender equality," said Goldin, who often works with her Harvard colleague and husband, Lawrence Katz.

Goldin noted another barrier for women: Most children get out of school sometime in the middle of the afternoon.

"Very few of us have jobs that finish at 3 o'clock in the afternoon," Goldin said. "So having extended school programs is also important, and those cost money."

Despite everything, she said: "I am an optimist. I've always been an optimist."

## Former Texas Rep. Will Hurd suspends long-shot GOP 2024 presidential bid, endorses Nikki Haley

By WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former Republican Texas congressman Will Hurd suspended his presidential bid on Monday and endorsed fellow GOP primary candidate Nikki Haley, officially abandoning a brief campaign built on criticizing Donald Trump at a time when his party seems even more determined to embrace the former president.

"While I appreciate all the time and energy our supporters have given, it is important to recognize the realities of the political landscape and the need to consolidate our party around one person to defeat both

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Donald Trump and President Biden," Hurd wrote on X, the platform formerly known as Twitter.

He added that Haley, a former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations under Trump and governor of South Carolina, "has shown a willingness to articulate a different vision for the country than Donald Trump and has an unmatched grasp on the complexities of our foreign policy."

Hurd was the last major candidate to join the already crowded Republican primary field when he announced his run in late June. He leaves the race barely three months later, after failing to gain traction as pragmatic moderate who pledged to lead the party away from Trump's "Make America Great Again" movement. Hurd failed to qualify for both the first GOP debate in Milwaukee in August and the second debate the following month in Simi Valley, California.

"America is at a crossroads and it's time to come together and make Joe Biden a one-term president," Haley wrote on X in response to Hurd's endorsement. "Thank you @WillHurd for your support and confidence. We have a country to save!"

Hurd ending his campaign follows another Republican candidate, Miami Mayor Francis Suarez, who became the first presidential hopeful to suspend his campaign shortly after failing to make the first debate stage.

Hurd wasn't invited to the Milwaukee event after falling short of Republican National Committee minimums on support in the polls and sufficient numbers of donors to his campaign.

Hurd was initially defiant about missing the first debate, arguing that the Republican Party blocked him for refusing to sign a pledge for its presidential candidates to support the eventual primary winner, even if it was Trump. The RNC standards are "arbitrary, unclear, and lack consistency. This is an unacceptable process for a presidential election," he said in a statement.

When he didn't make the second debate, Hurd stuck a different tone, writing on X that "we narrowly missed the cut for the second debate and our campaign is at an inflection point."

A clandestine CIA officer who worked in Pakistan, Hurd served three terms in the House through January 2021 and was the chamber's only Black Republican during his final two years in office. He represented Texas' then-most competitive district, which was heavily Hispanic and stretched from the outskirts of San Antonio to El Paso, encompassing more than 800 miles of Texas-Mexico border.

Hurd opted not to seek reelection in 2020, saying he was pursuing opportunities outside Congress "to solve problems at the nexus between technology and national security." Last year, he traveled the country promoting his book "American Reboot: An Idealist's Guide to Getting Big Things Done."

The 46-year-old has long been a fierce Trump antagonist, even encouraging the then-Republican presidential nominee to leave the 2016 race when the "Access Hollywood" tape in which Trump brags about sexually assaulting women was made public in the final weeks before Election Day.

Hurd was hoping to resonate with voters seeking a pro-business Republican with a strong national security background who was also unafraid to seek bipartisan consensus. He announced his candidacy criticizing both Biden and Trump, saying the president wasn't up to securing the U.S.-Mexico border, combating fentanyl smuggling that has led to epidemic of American overdoses and violent crime and homelessness in the country's cities.

"President Biden can't solve these problems — or won't," Hurd said in his announcement video. "And, if we nominate a lawless, selfish, failed politician like Donald Trump — who lost the House, the Senate, and the White House — we all know Joe Biden will win again."

Hurd stepped up his public criticism of Trump as the former president was repeatedly indicted and now faces four separate criminal cases and 91 total charges. Trump still holds a fundraising advantage and commanding lead in early primary polls.

As a result, Hurd's few memorable moments as a White House candidate came when he was heckled by Republican crowds after repeating assertions that Trump, should he clinch the GOP nomination, would lose the general election to Biden.

"Donald Trump is running to stay out of prison," Hurd declared at a July GOP dinner in Iowa. When sustained booing followed, he responded, "Listen, I know the truth is hard."



## Mounds of rubble and a future of grief are what's left after Afghanistan earthquake killed thousands

By OMID HAQJO Associated Press

ZINDA JAN, Afghanistan (AP) — People dug through the rubble of the quake in western Afghanistan for their few possessions but the material losses seemed unimportant.

Saturday's 6.3 magnitude quake killed and injured thousands when it leveled an untold number of homes in Herat province. Picking through the rubble on Monday, Asadullah Khan paused to think about a future marred by grief.

Khan lost three daughters, his mother and his sister-in-law. Five members of his uncle's family have died. His neighbors are grief-stricken, too.

"We have lost 23 people in this village," Khan said.

Mounds of rubble flank the road winding through Zinda Jan district. Some door frames remain standing. There were few people in sight on Monday.

The Taliban-appointed deputy prime minister for economic affairs, Abdul Ghani Baradar, and his team visited the quake-affected region Monday to deliver "immediate relief assistance" and ensure "equitable and accurate distribution of aid," authorities said.

Top U.N officials also went to Zinda Jan to assess the extent of the damage. And in neighboring Pakistan, the government held a special session to review aid for Afghanistan, including relief teams, food, medicine, tents and blankets.

The Taliban's supreme leader has made no public comments about the quake.

Afghanistan has few reliable statistics but a spokesman for Afghanistan's national disaster authority, Janan Sayiq, told reporters in Kabul that around 4,000 people were killed or injured by the disaster. He did not provide a breakdown, but the United Nations estimates that 1,023 people were killed and 1,663 people injured in 11 villages in Zinda Jan alone.

Nearly 2,000 houses in 20 villages were destroyed, the Taliban has said. The area hit by the quake has just one government-run hospital.

Saturday's epicenter was about 40 kilometers (25 miles) northwest of the city of Herat, the provincial capital, the U.S. Geological Survey said. Several of the aftershocks have been strong, including one Monday that again caused residents of the city to rush out of their homes.

More than 35 teams from the military and nonprofit groups are involved in rescue efforts, said Sayiq, from the disaster authority.

The fast-approaching winter, combined with the new disaster, is likely to exacerbate Afghanistan's existing challenges and make it even harder for people to meet their basic needs, like adequate shelter, food, and medicine, aid groups warn.

Vital infrastructure including bridges was destroyed and emergency response teams have been deployed to provide humanitarian assistance, the International Rescue Committee said.

The global response to the quake has been slow, with much of the world wary of dealing directly with the Taliban-led government and focused on the deadly escalation between Israel and the Palestinians in the aftermath of the surprise attack by Gaza militants on Saturday.

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian called his Afghan Taliban counterpart, Amir Khan Muttaqi, to express his condolences, according to a post on X by Hafiz Zia Ahmad, the deputy spokesman for the foreign ministry in Kabul. The Iranian diplomat "promised humanitarian aid to victims," said Ahmad.

Meanwhile, the justice ministry has urged national and international charity foundations, businessmen and Afghans to mobilize and gather humanitarian aid for needy people in the province.

"Due to the extent of damages and casualties caused by this incident, a large number of our compatriots in Herat province need urgent humanitarian aid," the ministry said in a statement.

Afghans are still reeling from recent natural disasters.

A magnitude 6.5 earthquake in March struck much of Pakistan and Afghanistan, and an earthquake hit eastern Afghanistan in June 2022, flattening stone and mud-brick homes and killing at least 1,000 people.

## 'Frasier' returns to TV but you don't need to be a superfan of the original to laugh at its jokes

By ALICIA RANCILIO Associated Press

You could say Joe Cristalli tweeted his role as an executive producer and co-showrunner on the new "Frasier" sitcom into existence.

About 10 years ago as a fledgling TV writer and "Frasier" super fan, Cristalli started a Twitter account with "random jokes" about the show and character made famous by Kelsey Grammer in the sitcoms "Cheers" and "Frasier."

"It was stupid and nobody cared about it. I think I had maybe 3,000 followers at its height," he recalled in a recent interview.

At this point, "Frasier" had been off the air for 10 years, but Cristalli used it as "an outlet to practice writing because I was such a super fan and I just loved the style of joke-telling, so I would work on it."

A few years later, Cristalli read that Grammer was interested in reviving the character. He had his agent send a sample script and examples from his "Frasier"-centric Twitter feed to Grammer's team. He was eventually hired alongside "How I Met Your Mother" writer Chris Harris to be co-showrunners of a new "Frasier" series, debuting Oct. 12 on Paramount+.

This "Frasier" stars Grammer in the title role of the high-brow psychiatrist, as he moves back to Boston. His son Freddy is now grown, working as a firefighter, and Frasier realizes he needs to prioritize their relationship (much in the way the character set out to connect with his retired police officer father, played by John Mahoney, in the original). He also begins a new career as a professor at Harvard.

Writing for the character is a fun challenge, said Harris, because "when you think of Frasier Crane speaking, you think of flowery language." Because of time constraints, every line can't be in Frasier-speak. "We save those moments for certain times," said Harris.

They also reference the original series sparingly and smartly — which is an act of restraint that Cristalli said Harris helped him to understand.

"I put in a very specific reference to something in ('Frasier') season four, and I remember Chris very gently saying, 'Do you think maybe we should do jokes that everyone will laugh at?'"

"There are analogies and callbacks to the old show, but we try not to do any of them shamelessly," Cristalli said. "We're not going to just throw a recliner or a Jack Russell in, like we're trying to do them subtly and elegantly. So if you catch them, great, but we're not hanging everything on those jokes. I love (the references) ... but Chris makes a very good point. We want other people to like this show besides me."

The show is a throwback in that it's a multi-cam comedy taped in front of a live audience. Most comedies these days are single-cam and filmed without an audience.

Harris hopes the show is a success and provides a much-needed boost for the multi-cam format.

"I will say that nothing feels as much like showbiz as a tape night," said Harris. "There's a working-without-a-net kind of feeling and you really are putting all your work and all your creativity out there for people to judge. You don't know something works until you get that immediate response, but that immediate response is awesome."

Famed sitcom director James Burrows ("Taxi," "Friends," "Will & Grace"), who worked with Grammer on both "Cheers" and "Frasier," signed on to direct two episodes.

"It's such a comfort because he didn't have to do the show," said Cristalli. "He didn't have to help out. But he read the scripts, he was in the auditioning process, he was pitching jokes and genuinely laughing and enjoying himself. It just made everybody more relaxed because it's a lot of pressure to bring back something this iconic."

Burrows shared his advice to the new actors on "Frasier" (including Jack Cutmore-Scott as Freddy and Anders Keith as David, Frasier's nephew and the son of Niles and Daphne).

"What I tell them is, 'When we rehearse, Kelsey is at 50%. When he's in front of an audience, he's at 100% and you better be on that level otherwise you'll get blown away.' That's what I used to tell guest stars on 'Cheers.' ... 'They're marking time in rehearsal. When they get on a stage and the laughter comes,

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if you don't play up on their level, you're going to disappear."

Cristalli said Grammer slowly morphs into the character.

"In the first rehearsal day, he'll be in like, a T-shirt and shorts and it's like, 'Hold on. That's not. Who's that? That's not Frasier.' The next day he's got, you know, longer pants and the next day it's a blazer. and then all of a sudden it's like, 'Oh, wait a second, I see him now,'" Cristalli said. "There's a very clear distinction between Frasier and Kelsey Grammer, but he slips into those shoes real comfortably and it's very seamless."

For the show's theme, composers and father-son duo Bruce and Jason Miller were brought in to update the original "Tossed Salads & Scrambled Eggs" song. Bruce Miller composed the original "Frasier" theme. Grammer also sings this version.

The composers first did a "hipper" version "that had movement to it, and energy," Bruce Miller said. Grammer listened and suggested the sound reflect how the character is older now, and looking for calmness at this stage in his life. They went back and used a small band, which is the version that viewers will hear.

This "Frasier" also has a bar, but it's not THE bar made famous in "Cheers." Its name, Mahoney's, is a tribute to John Mahoney, who died in 2018. Just as the Martin character was different than his sons, this set captures that juxtaposition. It's conceived as a place where both firefighters and academics gather.

"It's an older bar, something you would find near Cambridge," said set director Glenda Rovello.

"There's a sweet line where Frasier is in Mahoney's and remarks, 'I may have spent too much time in a particular bar,' which I made sure the boys kept because it was a wonderful tribute," Burrows said.

## Tropical Storm Max makes landfall in Mexico as country braces for Lidia

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Tropical Storm Max made landfall in Mexico's southern Pacific coast Monday, as the country braces for a second punch from Tropical Storm Lidia, expected to hit Tuesday as a hurricane in a different part of the country.

Max was located about 40 miles (65 kilometers) east of the resort town of Zihuatanejo with winds of about 60 mph (95 kph) and was moving inland at about 7 mph (11 kph). Mexico's Civil Defense office said Max was causing "torrential" rain in the states of Guerrero and Michoacan. The storm was expected to quickly weaken.

However, the U.S. National Hurricane Center and Mexican authorities warned of the possibility of flash floods from both systems.

Lidia was gaining strength farther north off Mexico's western Pacific coast and was expected to make landfall Tuesday as a hurricane on a stretch of coast north of the resort of Puerto Vallarta with winds of up to 100 mph (160 kph).

Hurricane warnings were in force for the resort of Puerto Vallarta and the surrounding coast.

Lidia was expected to pass near or over the government-run nature education center on the Islas Marias, but the islands are frequently hit by bad weather and are mostly unpopulated.

On Tuesday, Lidia was located about 375 miles (605 kilometers) southwest of the Islas Marias and was moving east-northeast at 8 mph (13 kph). Its winds increased to about 70 mph (110 kph), but the storm could have winds as high as 100 mph (160 kph) when it makes landfall in Nayarit state around Tuesday.

Authorities in the neighboring state of Sinaloa canceled classes in preparation for the impact.

## RFK Jr.'s independent run for president draws GOP criticism and silence from national Democrats

By ALI SWENSON Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Republicans attacked Robert F. Kennedy Jr. on Monday as the longtime environmental lawyer and anti-vaccine activist launched an independent bid for the White House, reflecting growing concerns on the right that the former Democrat now threatens to take votes from former Presi-



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dent Donald Trump in 2024.

The Republican National Committee and Trump's campaign both took aim at Kennedy's liberal background while national Democrats stayed silent as Kennedy insisted in a speech in Philadelphia that he was leaving both political parties behind.

"Voters should not be deceived by anyone who pretends to have conservative values," said Trump spokesperson Steven Cheung in a statement. He labeled Kennedy's campaign "nothing more than a vanity project for a liberal Kennedy looking to cash in on his family's name."

The fiery response exposes the unknowns that lie in Kennedy's long-anticipated decision to run as an independent. The move is likely to impact the 2024 race, which appears to be heading toward a rematch between Trump and President Joe Biden, but it's still unclear exactly how.

Kennedy, a member of one of the most famous families in Democratic politics, was running a long-shot primary bid and holds better favorability ratings among Republicans than Democrats. Even Trump just two weeks ago said of Kennedy, "I like him a lot. I've known him for a long time."

Allies of both Biden and Trump have at times questioned whether Kennedy would be a spoiler against their candidate.

"The truth is, they're both right," Kennedy said onstage Monday to roaring applause. "My intention is to spoil it for both of them."

Speaking Monday from Philadelphia's Independence Mall, where America's founding documents were adopted, Kennedy made it clear he didn't want to be affiliated with either party. He referenced a "rising tide of discontent" in the country. He said he wants to make a "new declaration of independence" — from corporations, the media and the two major political parties.

Hundreds of supporters who gathered for Kennedy's remarks, holding signs that read "Declare your independence" and at times chanting "RFK, all the way!" were upbeat about his decision. An eclectic mix of disillusioned Democrats, Trump voters looking for a change, and political outsiders who say their ideas don't square with any one party, they insisted that Kennedy could unify them all.

"He's going to win," said Peter Pantazis, a 40-year-old business owner from Lewes, Delaware. "I've been praying that he's going to decentralize the campaign, get away from the party system and actually be the candidate of the people for the people. And that's what he announced today."

"The last couple years I've been noticing the Republican Party's been going a way I didn't like," said Brent Snyder, a disabled veteran from south Philadelphia. "Not that I agree with everything that's happening to Trump, but I think right now he has more baggage than his country needs. The division right now is just terrible. We need someone to bring both sides together to make us work."

Joy, hope and the faint smell of marijuana hovered above the crowd as Kennedy spoke of John Adams' unwavering support for his country and George Washington's prescient warning that partisan politics would result in corruption.

Yet Kennedy's upstart campaign has a long way to go to compete with the funding, support and experience that the Trump and Biden campaigns enjoy. His announcement Monday was delayed briefly when he arrived onstage only to find his speech was loaded upside-down in the teleprompter.

Monday's announcement comes less than a week after the progressive activist Cornel West abandoned his Green Party bid in favor of an independent White House run. Meanwhile, the centrist group No Labels is actively securing ballot access for a yet-to-be-named candidate.

Aware of the risk that Kennedy could pull votes away from Republicans, Trump allies have begun circulating opposition research against Kennedy designed to damage his standing among would-be conservative supporters.

The Republican National Committee published a fact sheet before Kennedy's speech titled "Radical DEMOCRAT RFK Jr." that lists times he supported liberal politicians or ideas. The document also listed times he supported conspiracy theories about COVID-19 or "stolen-election claims" related to the 2000 and 2004 presidential elections that Democrats lost to President George W. Bush. Trump continues to promote the disproved theory that his loss to Biden was the result of a stolen election.

Biden's allies so far have dismissed Kennedy's primary campaign as unserious. Asked for comment ahead of the announcement, a Democratic National Committee spokesman responded with an eye roll emoji. The DNC declined to comment Monday.

Four of Kennedy's eight surviving siblings put out a joint statement denouncing his candidacy and saying his announcement saddened them.

"The decision of our brother Bobby to run as a third party candidate against Joe Biden is dangerous to our country," it read. "Bobby might share the same name as our father, but he does not share the same values, vision or judgment."

Tony Lyons, co-founder and co-chairman of American Values 2024, the super PAC supporting Kennedy, dismissed those comments as "part of a strategy to discredit him."

"At his family dinner tables they would disagree about everything, and that's what democracy looks like," Lyons said. "Families are allowed to disagree."

While Kennedy has long identified as a Democrat and frequently invokes his late father, Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, and his uncle President John F. Kennedy on the campaign trail, he has built close relationships with far-right figures in recent years. He appeared on a channel run by the Sandy Hook conspiracy theorist Alex Jones and headlined a stop on the ReAwaken America Tour, the Christian nationalist road show put together by Trump's former national security adviser Michael Flynn.

Polls show far more Republicans than Democrats have a favorable opinion of Kennedy. He also has gained support from some far-right conservatives for his fringe views, including his vocal distrust of COVID-19 vaccines, which studies have shown are safe and effective against severe disease and death.

Kennedy's anti-vaccine organization, Children's Health Defense, currently has a lawsuit pending against a number of news organizations, among them The Associated Press, accusing them of violating antitrust laws by taking action to identify misinformation, including about COVID-19 and COVID-19 vaccines. Kennedy took leave from the group when he announced his run for president but is listed as one of its attorneys in the lawsuit.

## Judge upholds most serious charges in deadly arrest of Black driver Ronald Greene

By JIM MUSTIAN Associated Press

FARMERVILLE, La. (AP) — A judge delivered a victory Monday to the state prosecution of white Louisiana lawmen in the deadly 2019 arrest of Ronald Greene, allowing the most serious charge of negligent homicide to go forward against a trooper captured on body-camera video dragging the Black motorist by his ankle shackles and forcing him to lie facedown in the dirt.

The case had been steeped in uncertainty in recent months after the judge dismissed obstruction charges against two other troopers, leaving three officers still facing charges.

"My heart is lifted by this," said Greene's mother, Mona Hardin. "We shouldn't have waited four plus years, but we're still moving forward."

Master Trooper Kory York had sought dismissal of the negligent homicide and malfeasance charges against him after prosecutors acknowledged an extraordinary oversight in which they improperly allowed a use-of-force expert to review statements York made during an internal affairs inquiry. Such compelled interviews may be used to discipline officers administratively but are specifically shielded from use in criminal cases.

But Judge Thomas Rogers ruled Monday that the prosecutors' blunder did not taint York's indictment, and that the use-of-force expert, Seth Stoughton, had drawn his conclusions not from the protected interview but the graphic body-camera footage of Greene's deadly arrest on a rural roadside outside Monroe.

Stoughton concluded that the troopers used "egregiously disproportionate" force in detaining Greene.

"We don't need to hear no more — just show the video," prominent civil rights attorney Ben Crump told reporters outside the Union Parish Courthouse this summer. "The killing of Ronald Greene is just as tragic as the killing of George Floyd, of Ahmaud Arbery, of Tyre Nichols. It is as tragic of a killing by police on a citizen as I have witnessed on video."

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State police initially blamed Greene's May 10, 2019, death on a car crash at the end a high-speed chase. After officials refused for more than two years to release the body-camera video, the AP obtained and published the footage showing white troopers converging on Greene before he could get out of his car as he wailed: "I'm your brother! I'm scared!"

As Greene moaned and writhed in the dirt, York ordered the heavysset man to "shut up" and "lay on your f----- belly like I told you to!"

One trooper can be seen striking Greene in the head and later boasting, "I beat the ever-living f--- out of him." That trooper, Chris Hollingsworth, was widely considered the most culpable of the half-dozen officers involved, but he died in a high-speed, single-vehicle crash in 2020, hours after he was informed he would be fired for his role in Greene's arrest.

York's defense attorney, J. Michael Small, was expected to appeal the ruling. "With all due respect," he said, "I strongly disagree with the court's decision."

The stakes could not have been higher for District Attorney John Belton and special prosecutor Hugo Holland, who have faced mounting criticism over their handling of the case. Had Rogers dismissed the charges of negligent homicide and malfeasance in office against York, prosecutors would have been unable to seek a new indictment under Louisiana's statute of limitations.

The ruling comes amid new calls for the U.S. Justice Department to bring its own indictment against the troopers. Federal prosecutors have been weighing civil rights charges for years amid a grand jury investigation that examined whether Louisiana State Police brass obstructed justice by dragging their feet and protecting the troopers involved in Greene's arrest.

In a previous ruling, the judge let stand an obstruction of justice charge against Lt. John Clary, the ranking officer during Greene's arrest who is accused of withholding his body camera footage from investigators. Clary's 30-minute footage is the only clip showing the moment a handcuffed, bloody Greene moans under the weight of two troopers, twitches and then goes still.

The only other remaining charges are two counts of malfeasance against Chris Harpin, a former Union Parish deputy sheriff who taunted Greene before he stopped breathing: "Yeah, yeah, that s--- hurts, doesn't it?"

## **Is Mar-a-Lago worth \$1 billion? Trump's winter home valuations are at the core of his fraud trial**

By TERRY SPENCER Associated Press

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — How much is Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago worth? That's been a point of contention after a New York judge ruled that the former president exaggerated the Florida property's value when he said it's worth at least \$420 million and perhaps \$1.5 billion.

Siding with New York's attorney general in a lawsuit accusing Trump of grossly overvaluing his assets, Judge Arthur Engoron found that Trump consistently exaggerated Mar-a-Lago's worth. He noted that one Trump estimate of the club's value was 2,300% times the Palm Beach County tax appraiser's valuations, which ranged from \$18 million to \$37 million.

But Palm Beach real estate agents who specialize in high-end properties scoffed at the idea that the estate could be worth that little, in the unlikely event Trump ever sold.

"Ludicrous," agent Liza Pulitzer said about the judge citing the county's tax appraisal as a benchmark. Homes a tenth the size of Mar-a-Lago on tiny inland lots sell for that in the Town of Palm Beach, a wealthy island enclave.

"The entire real estate community felt it was a joke when they saw that figure," said Pulitzer, who works for the firm Brown Harris Stevens.

"That thing would get snapped up for hundreds and hundreds of millions of dollars," said Rob Thomson, owner of Waterfront Properties and a Mar-a-Lago member. "There is zero chance that it's going to sell for \$40 million or \$50 million."

In the ongoing trial over the lawsuit, though, what a private buyer might pay for a place like Mar-a-Lago



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isn't the only factor in determining whether Trump is liable for fraud.

## WHAT IS MAR-A-LAGO?

The 126-room, 62,500-square-foot (5,810-square-meter) mansion is Trump's primary home. It is also a club, private beach resort, historical artifact and banquet hall with a ballroom that features gold leaf. It is where Trump stored government documents federal prosecutors say he took illegally after leaving office in 2021.

While Trump has long admitted using "truthful hyperbole" in his business dealings, he is not exaggerating when he calls Mar-a-Lago unique.

Built in 1927 by cereal heiress Marjorie Merriweather Post and her second husband, financier E.F. Hutton, she gave the property its name — Spanish for "sea-to-lake" — because its 17 acres (7 hectares) stretch from the Atlantic Ocean to the Intracoastal Waterway.

Post kept the mansion after the couple's divorce, using it to host opulent galas. In 1969, Mar-a-Lago was designated a National Historic Landmark.

Post, who died in 1973, bequeathed the property to the U.S. government as a winter get-away for presidents, but Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter never used it. The government, citing the high upkeep costs, returned it to Post's foundation in 1981.

The property fell into disrepair. Trump bought it in 1985 for about \$10 million, the equivalent of \$30 million today. He invested heavily in its refurbishment.

By the early 1990s, however, Trump was in financial distress after several of his businesses flopped. He told Palm Beach town officials he couldn't afford the \$3 million annual upkeep, and proposed subdividing the property and building mansions. The town rejected the plan.

Negotiations continued and in 1993 the town agreed he could turn the estate into a private club, giving him cash flow he could use for maintenance. He built the ballroom, but signed away development rights.

The agreement limits the club to 500 members — the initiation fee is \$500,000 with annual dues of \$20,000.

Trump typically lives at Mar-a-Lago from October to May before summering in New Jersey.

## SO WHAT IS MAR-A-LAGO WORTH?

That's hard to say. The biggest problem is there are no comparable properties. No one builds mansions in Palm Beach like Mar-a-Lago anymore and those that did exist were demolished long ago, broken up or turned into a museum.

Trump, in an April deposition, justified his belief that Mar-a-Lago could be worth \$1 billion by comparing it to the price the Mona Lisa or a painting by Renoir would command — the ultra-wealthy will pay a premium to buy something that's one-of-a-kind.

Eli Beracha, chair of Florida International University's Hollo School of Real Estate, agreed it's difficult to assess the value of any unique property. The fact that Trump owned Mar-a-Lago would likely increase its sale price.

"Some people are going to argue that not everyone likes Trump — some people would actually pay less because of that. ... But the high bidder is probably going to be a person who buys it because it belonged to Trump," Beracha said.

Pulitzer said the rock-bottom price for Mar-a-Lago would be \$300 million. Thomson said at least \$600 million. If uber-billionaires got into a bidding war, they said, a sale of a billion dollars or more would be possible.

The much smaller Palm Beach compound once owned by the Kennedy political dynasty sold for \$70 million three years ago.

## SO HOW DID PALM BEACH COUNTY COME UP WITH SUCH A LOW TAX ASSESSMENT?

The county gives Mar-a-Lago its current value for taxation of \$37 million based on its annual net operating income as a club and not on its resale value as a home or its reconstruction cost. It is one of nine private clubs in the county taxed that way.

Becky Robinson, the tax assessor's spokesperson, said that method is used because private clubs are so rarely sold or built, making it impossible to set their tax rates by comparing them to similar properties.

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Mar-a-Lago's property tax bill will be \$602,000 this year, county records show.

U.S. Rep. Jared Moskowitz, a South Florida Democrat, wrote the county saying if Trump claims Mar-a-Lago is worth \$1 billion, he should be taxed accordingly. If Mar-a-Lago had a \$1 billion assessed value, its property tax bill would be approximately \$18 million.

Robinson said the county bases its assessments on the law and its formulas, not the value owners claim.  
WHY IT MATTERS

In her lawsuit against Trump, New York Attorney General Letitia James argued that Mar-a-Lago was one of multiple assets Trump overvalued in financial statements given to banks and others.

On those statements, Trump valued Mar-a-Lago as high as \$739 million — a figure James said ignored deed restrictions requiring the property to be used as a social club — not a private home. Her lawyers have argued that in his financial statements, Trump should have valued Mar-a-Lago the same way the county does, based on its club status.

Trump's financial statements, the New York lawyers wrote, valued the club "based on the false and misleading premise that it was an unrestricted residential plot of land that could be sold and used as a private home, which was clearly not the case."

Trump's lawyers have said no trickery was involved, and that banks probably didn't rely on his financial statements anyway when determining whether to lend him money.

## How third-party and independent candidates could threaten Democrats and Republicans in 2024

By STEVE PEOPLES AP National Political Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Robert F. Kennedy Jr., an anti-vaccine conspiracy theorist and scion of the storied Democratic dynasty, launched an independent presidential bid on Monday. Cornel West, a philosopher and Black social leader, made the same choice last week. And No Labels, a new political party, is intensifying candidate recruitment efforts.

While the politics are murky, the fresh frenzy of outsider candidates threatens to weaken both major parties as Democratic President Joe Biden and Republican former President Donald Trump tighten their grip on their parties' presidential nominations.

There's little concern that the independent or third-party candidates would actually win the presidency, but they could siphon support from the ultimate Democratic and Republican nominees. A heightened sense of concern is spreading especially among Democratic officials, who see the outsiders as a dangerous wildcard that harkens back to 2016, when Green Party nominee Jill Stein may have enabled Trump's razor-thin victory by winning a small portion of the vote.

Those associated with the third-party efforts make no apologies for their work.

"The American people have been hungry for options. So, get ready," Stein said in an interview. "What we're seeing is a voter rebellion. It's been a long time coming."

The rise of outsider candidates is an acute reminder of the intense volatility — and uncertainty — that hangs over the 2024 presidential election. Both of the major parties' most likely nominees — Biden and Trump — are extraordinarily unpopular. They're running as the nation grapples with dangerous political divisions, economic anxiety and a deep desire for a new generation of leadership in Washington.

Much more activity is expected soon.

Stein said the Green Party will likely make an announcement about its presidential aspirations later this month. No Labels plans to make a formal decision about its presidential nominee in the spring.

And Kennedy formally launched an independent White House bid on Monday from inside Philadelphia's Independence Hall.

"I'm here to join you in making a new Declaration of Independence for our entire nation," Kennedy told hundreds of supporters on Monday. "We declare independence from the cynical elites who betray our home and who amplify our divisions. And finally, we declare independence from the two political parties."

The efforts face steep hurdles beyond winning more than a small fraction of voters. Simply qualifying

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for the ballot in every state will be a gargantuan task for outsider candidates without the benefit of existing political networks.

Jim Messina, who managed President Barack Obama's 2012 reelection campaign and is now a prominent Biden ally, didn't downplay the possibility that the new candidates could weaken Biden's coalition.

"I am a campaign manager so I am wired to plan for everything and panic about nothing, and the threat of a third party needs to be planned for seriously," Messina said.

No independent or third-party candidate has won an electoral vote in more than half a century, never mind the 270 needed to claim the presidency, but Messina said Biden and his team still need to be aggressive in warning voters about the threat that long-shot outsider candidates present.

"You need to tell people that a vote for a candidate without a path to 270 means they're lighting their ballot on fire," Messina said.

That may be easier said than done.

Gallup released new polling last week showing that 63% of U.S. adults currently agree with the statement that the Republican and Democratic parties do "such a poor job" of representing the American people that "a third major party is needed." It was among the highest figures since Gallup first asked the question in 2003.

Still, it's far from certain that dissatisfied voters would ultimately cast a ballot next fall for Kennedy, West or a centrist No Labels candidate. Historically, polls showing that people want a third party to exist have rarely translated into substantial support for actual third-party candidates.

On paper, Kennedy may be most likely to draw support from Trump's coalition given his embrace of anti-vaccine conspiracy theories and positive attention from far-right media.

Aware of the risk, Republican National Committee Chair Ronna McDaniel released a statement on Monday calling Kennedy a "typical elitist liberal." "Make no mistake – a Democrat in Independent's clothing is still a Democrat," she said, highlighting Kennedy's past support for Hillary Clinton and his support for progressive environmental protections known as the Green New Deal.

At the same time, Trump allies have begun circulating opposition research against Kennedy designed to damage his standing among would-be conservative supporters, including a pre-pandemic video clip of Kennedy declaring himself "fiercely pro-vaccine" in a message to Black religious leader Louis Farrakhan.

Kennedy campaign spokesperson Stefanie Spear said the clip has "obviously been removed from its context."

"Mr. Kennedy is and has always been against mandates for any and all medical interventions," she said. "Mr. Kennedy's position is that he is in favor of vaccines that have undergone unbiased scientific testing for safety and efficacy. Such testing has been impossible because of the corrupt influence of the pharmaceutical industry."

Trump senior adviser Chris LaCivita downplayed any internal concerns about Kennedy's impact on the race.

"The most intriguing thing about this is, you have an incumbent president of the United States, and all of the elements of the third-party run are coming out of his coalition, not ours," LaCivita told The Associated Press.

The Trump and Biden campaigns are quick to note that it will be very difficult, if not impossible, for the political outsiders with no major funding sources or political infrastructure to get their name on the ballot in most states. No Labels is the big exception, having already secured a presidential ballot line in 11 states backed by an army of paid signature collectors.

In Arizona, alone, minor party candidates must collect more than 34,000 signatures to qualify for the general election ballot. Signatures must be collected in at least five different counties, and at least 10% of signatures must be from counties with populations of less than 500,000. An independent candidate must collect more than 43,000 signatures.

Michigan requires a minor party candidate to collect 44,619 signatures and independents to collect 12,000. And in Nevada, a minor party or independent candidate must collect 10,095 signatures to qualify for the ballot. At least 2,524 signatures must be collected in each of Nevada's four congressional districts.

But an outsider candidate does not need to qualify for the ballot in every state to have a profound political



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impact. Just ask Brendan McPhillips, the state director for Biden's Pennsylvania efforts in the last election.

Like many Democrats, he still blames Stein for helping Trump win the battleground state in 2016. While it's impossible to say for sure, Trump carried Pennsylvania that year by just 44,000 votes, while Stein, an outspoken progressive, won nearly 50,000 votes in the state.

"It's dangerous," McPhillips said of the independent and third-party candidates. "But I also think the Biden campaign is going to be smart about this. They're going to make sure everybody knows the consequences of throwing your vote away on some egomaniac's vanity project."

For now, Biden's team has allowed two Democratic-aligned groups, MoveOn and Third Way, to take the lead in public attacks against the outsiders. Leaders from the groups recently hosted private briefings with senior aides on Capitol Hill to raise the alarm about No Labels especially.

Third Way co-founder Matt Bennett said Kennedy is also a problem.

"Anything that divides the anti-Trump vote is dangerous," Bennett said. "Kennedy divides it on the fringes. And No Labels divides it from the center. ... It's seriously worrying."

Anxious Democratic officials comfort themselves by pointing to a trend in recent elections in which young people and suburban women have turned out in strong numbers for Democratic candidates. But looking to 2024, recent polls suggest that a Trump-Biden rematch would be competitive.

The 2024 outsiders likely won't make it any easier for Biden.

In fact, they're actively challenging his core message on democracy, which the president's team says is essentially on the ballot next fall as Trump and his supporters undermine the rule of law and integrity of the vote.

"We are out there proudly giving people a choice and fighting for real democracy, not the democracy where the Democratic Party says, 'Yeah, we're saving democracy from the Republican Party by squelching any chance of a primary, by shaming voters who want to vote for a third party or an independent,'" said West's campaign manager, Peter Daou. "No, the true fight for democracy is to finally give people choices."

And while West will rely on grassroots volunteers and small-dollar donations to secure his place on the November 2024 ballot, the No Labels movement is making almost exactly the same argument and is backed by tens of millions of dollars in anonymous donations.

In an interview, former Connecticut Sen. Joe Lieberman, the No Labels founding chairman, said the organization will begin a candidate recruitment and selection process in the next two to three weeks. The group would decide to move forward with a centrist candidate, he said, only if Biden and Trump appear likely to win their party's presidential nominations after the batch of primary contests known as Super Tuesday next March.

A final decision will be made by delegates at a convention scheduled for April in Dallas, but a process for choosing those delegates has not been announced.

"The parties have such a stranglehold on American politics and government for too long and it's really hurting our country," Lieberman said. "The public is crying out for a third choice, and maybe we need to listen to the public."

## **IMF and World Bank pledge Africa focus at first meetings on the continent in 50 years**

By SAM METZ Associated Press

MARRAKECH, Morocco (AP) — In the shadow of a deadly earthquake in Morocco that caused nearly \$12 billion in damage, the world's most powerful economic policymakers said they would focus on Africa as they work to grow and stabilize the global economy during times of war, inequality and climate change.

The International Monetary Fund and World Bank are holding their annual meetings in Africa for the first time in 50 years as they face a growing chorus of criticism that poorer nations are underrepresented at the two institutions. Both have recently said they plan to give Africa additional seats on their executive boards. The conference theme was clear Monday during the gathering in Marrakech, although definitive details had yet to be discussed.

"We're here, Africa," IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said on a panel with African entrepre-

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neurs.

Often lenders of last resort, the IMF and the World Bank use billions in loans and assistance to buoy struggling economies and encourage countries operating in deficit to implement reforms they say promote stability and growth.

But critics — including officials from throughout Africa — have said policies that deny economies access to credit and loans in the absence of balanced budgets often require governments to make impossible choices, including tax reform or making cuts to subsidies for food or energy.

Though the policies often intend to prevent countries from defaulting, keeping up with high interest loans in Africa means less money for critical needs, youth and infrastructure, said Nadia Fettah, Morocco's economy and finance minister.

"When we're having the conversation about how much financial resources are available, that we need to choose between food security and debt or climate finance and economic outside investment — we need both," she said. "Emerging countries need all of this, and the future of growth in the world needs growth in Africa."

From Egypt to Ghana, those choices have sparked opposition in recent months. And for years, they have formed the basis of criticisms that the institutions sideline the neediest nations from their governance and decision-making process.

Those criticisms came to a head during the pandemic, when wealthy countries pumped billions into keeping their economies afloat while poorer ones took on more debt.

"It's a time of multiple crises, particularly for Arab and African countries who've been hit by various exogenous shocks not of their making," said Iskander Erzini Vernoit, director of the Morocco-based Imal Initiative for Climate and Development. "There's this massive financing gap on the order of trillions for developing countries and also the key question of how affordable the financing can be."

Those shocks include rising energy and food costs spurred by the war in Ukraine. The challenges are particularly pronounced in Africa, where many countries spend more on debt than health care and education combined.

Africa is also among the places most vulnerable to the effects of climate change, with critics calling on the World Bank and IMF to increasingly factor climate resiliency into its decision-making.

In the aftermath of last month's earthquake, the IMF approved a \$1.3 billion loan for Morocco to "help strengthen its preparedness and resilience against natural disasters."

The North African country is a longtime borrower that has used loans and credit to weather economic downturns, including most recently when the pandemic hit tourism and exports particularly hard. The institution has pushed Morocco to balance its budget and continue raising interest rates.

Morocco has experienced rapid development in its major cities, constructing world-class infrastructure that includes renovating airports, repaving roads and building a new high-speed rail.

Signs of the country's rapid economic development are on display during the meetings in Marrakech, where attendees were welcomed with a video describing Morocco as a place where "institutional continuity and sound leadership of the country's affairs have fostered progress and speeded development."

But the transformation remains uneven. Far from the meeting's air-conditioned and carpeted tents, in earthquake-hit mountain villages, roads remain unpaved, water can be scarce and jobs are hard to come by.

The disaster, residents say, exacerbated disparities plaguing rural areas and compounded struggles facing already-impooverished communities.

Laid-off miner Brahim Ait Brahim — who lives in Anerni, a mountain village near the quake's epicenter — said he's still waiting for emergency financial and housing assistance one month after his house was destroyed in the earthquake.

"That's Marrakech. It's the capital for tourism," Ait Brahim said, describing it as the face of Morocco. "Here's it's hidden behind."

## Workers at Mack Trucks reject contract and join the thousands of UAW picketers already on strike

By TOM KRISHER AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — Union workers at Mack Trucks went on strike Monday after voting down a five-year contract agreement that negotiators had reached with the company.

The United Auto Workers said 4,000 unionized workers walked out at 7 a.m., adding to labor turmoil in the industry that has ensnared all three big Detroit automakers.

With those workers joining picket lines, the total number of UAW members that are on strike now exceeds 30,000 across 22 states, the union said Monday.

Union President Shawn Fain said in a letter to Mack parent company Volvo Trucks that 73% of workers voted against the deal in results counted on Sunday.

The UAW represents Mack workers in Pennsylvania, Maryland and Florida. Union leaders had reached a tentative agreement on the deal on Oct. 1.

UAW Locals 171, 677, 1247, 2301, and 2420 in UAW Region 8 and Region 9 represent workers at Mack Trucks in Macungie and Middletown, Pennsylvania; Hagerstown and Baltimore, Maryland; and Jacksonville, Florida.

The deal negotiators had reached with Mack just over a week ago included a 19% pay raise over the life of the contract with 10% upon ratification. There also was a \$3,500 ratification bonus, no increase in weekly health care contributions, increased annual lump sum payments for retirees and a \$1,000 annual 401(k) lump sum to offset health care costs for employees who don't get health insurance after retirement.

Fain said in his letter to Volvo Trucks' head of labor relations that employees working early Monday would exit the factories after performing tasks needed to prevent damage to company equipment.

Fain wrote that UAW members and workers across the country are seeking their fair share in wages and benefits.

The company and union are still apart on work schedules, health and safety, pensions, health care, prescription drug coverage, overtime and other issues, he wrote.

The contract may have been sunk by high expectations Fain has set in bargaining with Detroit's three automakers. In those talks, the UAW has asked for 36% raises over four years, while Ford has offered 23% and the other two firms are at 20%.

"I'm inspired to see UAW members at Mack Trucks holding out for a better deal, and ready to stand up and walk off the job to win it," Fain said in a prepared statement. "The members have the final say, and it's their solidarity and organization that will win a fair contract at Mack."

Mack Trucks President Stephen Roy said in a statement Sunday night that the company is "surprised and disappointed" that the union chose to strike. The union, he wrote, called the tentative agreement a record for the heavy truck industry. "We trust that other stakeholders also appreciate that our market, business and competitive set are very different from those of the passenger car makers," the statement said.

Mack, he wrote, is part of the only heavy truck manufacturing group that assembles all of its vehicles and engines for North America in the U.S., competing against trucks built in lower-cost countries.

The company is committed to collective bargaining and is confident both sides will reach a deal that delivers competitive wages and benefits while safeguarding the company's future, the statement said.

The UAW went on strike at selected factories run by automakers General Motors, Ford and Jeep maker Stellantis on Sept. 15. It started with one assembly plant for each company, then spread to 38 GM and Stellantis parts warehouses. Two additional assembly plants at Ford and GM were added later.

On Friday, the union decided not to expand the strikes to any more plants for the time being after GM agreed to bring its electric vehicle battery factories into the UAW's national contract, assuring that they'll be unionized. The union also reported progress with all three automakers.

## What does the science say about the grass vs. turf debate in sports?

By CARLA K. JOHNSON AP Medical Writer

Which playing surface is safer for athletes: natural grass or artificial turf?

The question is important not just in football, but also for soccer, recreational sports and high school and college athletics — anywhere athletes make sudden shifts in direction that can twist joints and tear ligaments.

Scientists continue to study the question, but there are challenges to getting the answer right. There are variables to take into account: the player's age and physical shape, weather and surface conditions, the type of shoes and whether the injuries involved contact with other players. And surfaces have changed over the years with new technology.

The debate was revived when Aaron Rodgers tore his Achilles' tendon during an NFL game on artificial turf. Although Rodgers' injury may have been just as likely on grass because of the circumstances, that hasn't stopped the wrangling.

What does the science say and what are the challenges?

### LOOKING BACK AT INJURY RATES

Some studies look back at injury rates, while making adjustments for other factors that could be in play. That type of study is good, but will never be able to keep up with innovation, said Dr. Calvin Hwang, a team doctor for Stanford's football players and the San Jose Earthquakes soccer team.

"There's always evolving technology, both with grass, but especially with artificial turf," Hwang said. "The newer generation turfs may be safer than older generation turfs. And so studies that were done five or six years ago may not be including some of those newer generation turfs."

Still, Hwang, who treats players who play home games on grass, said the research he's seen leads him to believe that grass is safer.

Recently, a group of researchers reviewed studies on the topic. They looked at 53 articles published between 1972 and 2020, on injuries in professional and amateur sports, including football, soccer, rugby, field hockey and ultimate Frisbee. The authors didn't specify whether the studies included injuries involving a direct blow from another player, or just non-contact injuries.

The studies suggest "a higher rate of foot and ankle injuries on artificial turf, both old-generation and new-generation turf, compared to natural grass," they wrote in a paper published last year in the American Journal of Sports Medicine. Knee and hip injuries were similar on both surfaces, they wrote. The authors noted that studies reporting a higher rate of injury on grass received financial support from the artificial turf industry.

Similar findings were reported in a separate study that analyzed 4,801 NFL foot and leg injuries during 2012-2016 regular season games. That research found 16% more injuries per play on artificial turf compared to grass. The authors concluded that if all games had been played on grass during that period there would have been 319 fewer foot and leg injuries. Looking only at non-contact injuries the risk was even higher, about 20% more injuries per play.

### THE DEBATE

In the NFL, the players' union prefers grass and has been pushing for it. The NFL says some artificial turf fields are safer than some grass fields and wants to reduce injuries on all surfaces. About half the NFL stadiums use artificial turf.

Both sides use the same data on non-contact injury rates, but have interpreted the figures differently.

The data collected for the NFL and players union is not publicly available. The company that analyzes the data, IQVIA, did not respond to multiple requests for comment.

Artificial turf is made from plastic fibers that resemble grass with a cushioning infill made of granulated rubber, sand, cork or coconut fiber.

"The upside of turf is that players feel more nimble, they feel faster," said Dr. Brian Cole, orthopedic



surgeon and team doctor for basketball's Chicago Bulls. "The downside is they're faster. It's a collision sport. Velocity goes up and collisions go up."

## SHOE CLEATS AND SURFACES

Dr. Joseph Donnelly has repaired numerous torn ACLs in female high school soccer players in the Bay Area where most high school athletes play on artificial turf. Female athletes are more likely than males to suffer ACL injuries in sports such as soccer that require sudden changes in direction, studies have shown.

"It's an epidemic," said Donnelly, an orthopedic surgeon at Stanford Health Care. "When these ladies tear their ACLs, we fix them, we send them back and then they're actually more likely to tear their opposite ACL."

He dug into the research. One study from 2016 used a hydraulic testing machine to simulate shoes with different style cleats pivoting on various playing surfaces. Shoes with blade-shaped cleats on artificial turf were a dangerous combination. The traction from the blade-shaped cleats increased the twisting force on the knee.

"You're not going to be able to change the surface you play on," Donnelly said. "So we do try to get them to use a cleat that has a favorable interaction with the turf."

Some young athletes don't want to give up their favorite cleats because they worry about performance on the field, he said. Like other sports medicine experts interviewed for this story, he thinks grass is safer.

"There's no question that there is less torque when you're on grass no matter what cleats you're wearing," he said.

## HYBRID SURFACES

For big stadiums, aside from player safety, there are financial pressures that favor artificial turf, which offers more flexibility for events like concerts. Weather and upkeep are part of the equation. A poorly maintained grass field can cause injuries.

The future may be hybrid fields. The Green Bay Packers' Lambeau Field in Wisconsin has featured Kentucky bluegrass sod weaved in with synthetic fibers since 2018.

Grass or hybrid fields may get a boost from the 2026 World Cup. The regulations for the tournament have not yet been published, but grass has been preferred for all past men's World Cups. Seven of the 11 U.S. venues are NFL stadiums with artificial turf. And in a recent ESPN interview, NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell said the stadiums will be putting in hybrid surfaces for the tournament.

Grass field technology has improved, Cole said. "They can do it when it's 110 (degrees) and they can do it when it's 30 below zero in Green Bay. So it can be done. And I think the science is clearly enabling them to do it at this point."

## California governor vetoes bill to make free condoms available for high school students, citing cost

By ADAM BEAM Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — California Gov. Gavin Newsom rejected a bill on Sunday that would have made free condoms available to all public high school students, arguing it was too expensive for a state with a budget deficit of more than \$30 billion.

Legislative staff estimated it would have cost in the low millions of dollars each year. California had about 1.9 million high school students enrolled in more than 4,000 schools last year, according to the California Department of Education.

"This bill would create an unfunded mandate to public schools that should be considered in the annual budget process," Newsom wrote in a message explaining why he vetoed the bill, known as Senate bill 541.

The bill is one of hundreds passed by California's Democratic-dominated state Legislature before lawmakers adjourned last month. Newsom has been signing and vetoing legislation since then, including rejecting bills on Saturday to ban caste-based discrimination, limit the price of insulin and decriminalize possession and use of some hallucinogens.

The bill would have required all public schools that have grades nine through 12 to make condoms avail-

able for free to all students. It would have required public schools with grades seven through 12 to allow condoms to be made available as part of educational or public health programs.

And it would have made it illegal for retailers to refuse to sell condoms to youth.

State Sen. Caroline Menjivar, a Democrat from Los Angeles and the author of the bill, had argued the bill would have helped “youth who decide to become sexually active to protect themselves and their partners from (sexually transmitted infections), while also removing barriers that potentially shame them and lead to unsafe sex.”

Newsom said programs increasing access to condoms are “important to supporting improved adolescent sexual health.” But he said this bill was one of several measures lawmakers passed this year that, when added together, would add \$19 billion in costs to the state budget.

“With our state facing continuing economic risk and revenue uncertainty, it is important to remain disciplined when considering bills with significant fiscal implications, such as this measure,” Newsom said.

Also on Sunday, Newsom signed a law aimed at electrifying the state’s fleet of school buses. Starting in 2035, the law will require any new bus purchased or contracted by school districts to be zero-emission.

California’s public school districts that provide their own transportation own about 15,800 school buses, of which 10,800 are powered by diesel fuel, according to a 2022 report from the Legislative Analyst’s Office.

The law is part of California’s plan to phase out the use of fossil fuels. State regulations will ban the sale of new gas-powered cars in California by 2035.

## Costly upkeep, less-than-ideal weather lead most college football stadiums to use artificial turf

BY RALPH D. RUSSO AP College Football Writer

When a new football stadium was built at South Alabama, located in one of America’s rainiest cities, the decision was made to go with an artificial turf playing surface.

At San Diego State, where the weather seems almost always perfect, going with a grass field was an easy choice — but not the usual one in major college football.

Of the 133 schools that currently compete in the top-tier of NCAA Division I, 94 have artificial surface football fields (71%) and 39 have grass (29%), most of those at Power Five schools that can afford the upkeep and maintenance. A half-century ago, there were 74 such schools playing on natural grass and the number actually peaked at 75 around 20 years ago.

It has plummeted since, even with more money flowing into Power Five school coffers from billion-dollar TV contracts.

The topic is a complicated one with some schools (Arkansas and Mississippi, for example) switching four times in the past century and others such as Michigan and Ohio State changing surfaces three times.

Many schools find turf is cheaper to maintain, particularly for concerts or other non-athletic events, even though there are concerns about athlete injuries.

When Aaron Rodgers went down with an injury just a few plays into his first season with the New York Jets, it reignited calls from NFL players for natural grass fields for their safety (about half of the 30 NFL stadiums use grass).

In major college football, the players don’t have a union behind them to voice concerns. Some do have a preference.

“I would much rather (play) on grass,” said Wisconsin quarterback Tanner Mordecai, who has played on turf for the Badgers and at SMU and on grass for Oklahoma. “I don’t know all the studies and all that, but I do know that it feels better. Just feels better on your joints and your bones. It doesn’t feel like you beat yourself up as much.”

Some studies — including one using NCAA injury surveillance data from 2004-14 — have concluded playing football on artificial surfaces increases the frequency of certain lower body injuries. Experts, though, are hesitant to draw definitive conclusions.

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"The preliminary studies have shown that there is an increase in injury risk to the lower extremity on synthetic surfaces vs. grass," said Bud Cooper, clinical professor in the department of kinesiology at the University of Georgia. "Now, is that the Bible? It is not."

Most of the grass fields in top level of Division I are in the South, Southwest and California, including San Diego State's new \$310 million stadium that opened about a year ago. Derek Grice, the former associate athletic director at San Diego State, said climate was a key factor in choosing grass. The growing season is relatively constant.

Aside from being the home of the Aztecs, plans for Snapdragon Stadium include professional soccer and becoming a destination for international clubs and competition. That requires a grass playing surface.

Grice has worked at other schools where determining what surface to use in a facility wasn't so clear cut. Ideal conditions don't always exist and the quality of artificial turf is improving, he said.

"I believe if you look at it a majority of athletes are going to prefer to play on grass. If it's a well-maintained surface," Grice said.

And there's the catch.

"I think it honestly depends on the grass," Ohio State quarterback Kyle McCord said. "I feel like the turf -- especially around the Big Ten -- is pretty consistent. I would say good grass is better than turf, but I think overall just turf because you know what you're going to get with it."

First-year Nebraska coach Matt Rhule, who has also coached in the NFL, had the practice fields in Lincoln changed to grass. The Cornhuskers' Memorial Stadium has artificial turf.

"Injuries happen on everything. I don't ever like one thing to be the end all, be all. But I'm a grass fan," Rhule said. "That's why I made the practice fields grass so that we can have more reps on the softer surface."

South Alabama's Hancock Whitney Stadium opened in 2020. Athletic director Joel Erdmann said the school went with FieldTurf, the most common artificial surface among Bowl Subdivision schools, in large part because Mobile, Alabama, gets so much rain.

"If you're going to have a natural grass field, especially in our climate, you're going to have to have a very robust drainage system," he said.

Erdmann said the cost of the synthetic surface South Alabama uses was about \$1.6 million and estimated the initial cost of a grass field would have been similar.

"But then I think what you run into is the annual maintenance costs," he said. "Instead of having two grounds guys, you've got six. And you've got a \$60-, \$70,000 mower that needs to have maintenance."

In the future, weighing the cost of turf vs. grass might also include legal fees.

Jennifer Steinmetz, an attorney with Tucker Ellis who has defended manufacturers and distributors against product liability claims, said in email that turf fields in football and other sports could be ripe for litigation.

"While we anticipate that turf manufacturers will be the primary target, colleges do face potential liability," she said.

Ramogi Huma, the executive director of the National College Players Association, compared concerns about playing surfaces to head injuries. Eventually, pressure by the NFLPA forced the NFL to adopt mandatory concussion protocols, but that doesn't exist in college football because the athletes don't have representation.

For some players, the playing surface doesn't matter much.

"Shoot, we used to play in the street and on rocks when I was little," Texas defensive back Jahdae Barron said.

## Some GOP candidates want to use force against Mexico to stop fentanyl. Experts say that won't work

By ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — Ron DeSantis wants suspected drug smugglers at the U.S.-Mexico border to be shot dead. Nikki Haley promises to send American special forces into Mexico. Vivek Ramaswamy has accused Mexico's leader of treating drug cartels as his "sugar daddy" and says that if he is elected president, "there will be a new daddy in town."

Donald Trump, the Republican front-runner for the 2024 nomination and long the person who has shaped his party's rhetoric on the border, has often blamed Mexico for problems in the United States and promises new uses of military force and covert action if he returns to the White House.

Many of the GOP presidential candidates say they would use military force against Mexico in response to the trafficking of fentanyl and other synthetic opioids. More than 75,000 people in the U.S. died last year from overdoses of synthetic opioids, an annual figure more than 20 times higher than a decade ago.

The candidates' antagonism toward Mexico is welcomed by some families who have lost loved ones to fentanyl and have argued that Washington has not done enough to address the worst drug crisis in U.S. history. But analysts and nonpartisan experts warn that military force is not the answer and instead fuels the racism and xenophobia that undermine efforts to stop drug trafficking.

"You've got politicking on this side. And then on the Mexican side of the border, you've got a president who is turning a blind eye to what's going on in Mexico and who has completely gutted bilateral collaboration with the United States," said Arturo Sarukhan, Mexico's ambassador to the U.S. from 2007 to 2013. "That's a very combustible mixture."

Andrea Thomas' daughter died at age 32 after taking half of a counterfeit pill laced with fentanyl that looked like her prescription pills for abdominal pain. Thomas started the foundation Voices for Awareness in Grand Junction, Colorado, to raise the alarm about fentanyl.

Thomas says people she knows are interested in what the candidates are proposing and feel that President Joe Biden's administration has not properly responded to the crisis. In a letter to the presidential candidates, Thomas and an assembly of other groups urge the politicians to do "all that can be done" to stop the manufacturing and smuggling of the drug.

"This drug is like no drug we have ever seen before," she said. "We need some strong measures. We have no more time to waste."

Democrats also face immense political pressure on border issues heading into next year's election. The White House has funded national programs to reduce fentanyl overdoses and sanctioned Chinese companies blamed for importing the chemicals used to make the drug.

In a statement on Sunday, the White House said the administration imposed targeted sanctions as recently as last week and blamed Republicans in Congress for blocking a request for an additional \$800 million to fight fentanyl trafficking, which includes money for law enforcement.

Mexico has failed to address its problem with fentanyl production and trafficking. Mexican President Andres Manuel López Obrador repeatedly denies his country is producing the synthetic opioid despite enormous evidence to the contrary.

Border agents seized nearly 13 tons (12,000 kilograms) of fentanyl at the U.S.-Mexico border between September 2022 and August, according to U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

At the second GOP primary debate late last month, candidates reiterated that they would use military forces to go after drug gangs in Mexico.

"As commander in chief, I'm going to use the U.S. military to go after the Mexican drug cartels," said DeSantis, the Florida governor. He has promised that people suspected of smuggling drugs across the southern border would end up "stone cold dead." That raises the prospect of border agents being authorized to shoot people on sight before any investigation into whether those people were carrying drugs.

U.S. government data undercuts the claim that people seeking asylum and other border crossers are responsible for drug trafficking. About 90% of fentanyl seizures were made at official land crossings, not



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between crossings where people entered illegally. At a hearing in July, James Mandryck, a CBP deputy assistant commissioner, said 73% of fentanyl seizures at the border since the previous October were smuggling attempts carried out by U.S. citizens, with the rest being done by Mexican citizens.

A study published last year from U.S. law enforcement and intelligence agencies called Mexico the "principal source" of fentanyl, with cartels manufacturing the drug using precursor chemicals largely smuggled from China. But it noted that the crisis could not be resolved without curbing addiction in the U.S. that creates overwhelming demand for illegal opioids.

"The supply of illicit fentanyl cannot be permanently stopped through enforcement alone — only temporarily disrupted before another cartel, trafficking method, or analogue steps in to fill the market that addiction creates," said the report from the U.S. Commission on Combating Synthetic Opioid Trafficking.

Lopez Obrador took office in December 2018 campaigning with a motto of "hugs, not bullets," and for four years has shredded his predecessors' prosecution of the drug war. Experts agree that wide swaths of Mexico are under the de facto control of drug cartels. Lopez Obrador is already sensitive to what he considers U.S. "interference" in Mexico, suggesting that foreign agents were "spying" as they built a fentanyl smuggling case against members of the Sinaloa drug cartel announced earlier this year.

Lopez Obrador is defensive about U.S. criticism of his government's failure to stop the flow of fentanyl. "There is a kind of competition to see who is the most ridiculous, who is most brazen to threaten Mexico, to blame Mexico," he said at a recent news conference. "They are nonsense."

Mexico will elect a new president next year, and the opposition candidate recently told Univision that she would accept more U.S. agents and help. But when asked about military operations, Xóchitl Gálvez said, "We have to get serious. We have to be smart with proposals that are clear and strong and not just to get votes."

Mexico today is also the top trading partner of the U.S. It has agreed to host agents from the Drug Enforcement Administration and other federal agents and to keep thousands of migrants rejected at the U.S. border under both the Trump and Biden administrations.

But the U.S. has invaded Mexican territory before and tried to overthrow governments through Latin America for its own policy goals.

In 1846, seeking to expand U.S. borders after supporting the annexation of Texas, President James K. Polk called on Congress to declare war with Mexico. The war ended with Mexico agreeing to cede 55% of its territory, including present-day states California, Nevada, Utah, New Mexico, most of Arizona and Colorado, and parts of Oklahoma, Kansas, and Wyoming.

In 1914, the U.S. invaded the port of Veracruz after the arrest of U.S. soldiers. In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson deployed tens of thousands of troops in response to an attack by Mexican revolutionary Pancho Villa in Columbus, New Mexico.

More recently, Trump promised to build a southern border wall to stop illegal immigration — and make Mexico pay for it. While he was president, the U.S. would build or refurbish about 500 miles of wall on the more than 2,000-mile border.

Mexico never paid for any sections of wall. And border crossings would repeatedly hit record highs throughout Trump's presidency and during Biden's term.

"We have to take what they say seriously," Tony Payan, director of the Center for the United States and Mexico at Rice University's Baker Institute for Public Policy said about the Republican candidates. "But they are pretty much going off the rails. They are engaged in political theater, and they find Mexico an easy target."

## Indian rescuers are flying into the region where a flood washed out bridges and killed at least 74

By WASBIR HUSSAIN and ANUPAM NATH Associated Press

GANGTOK, India (AP) — Air force helicopters rescued scores of stranded tourists Monday in India's Himalayan northeast after a 6-year-old hydroelectric dam cracked open last week in intense rain, flooding a valley with glacial lake water and killing at least 74 people.

Officials told the Press Trust of India news agency that they recovered 34 bodies in Sikkim state since the flooding began on Wednesday, while authorities in neighboring West Bengal state have retrieved 40 bodies from the Teesta River as the floodwaters carried them downstream.

Around 100 people are still missing, police said. As weather conditions improved in Sikkim state, helicopters arrived in the worst-hit Mangan district to help some 3,000 stranded tourists.

The design and placement of the Teesta 3 dam, the biggest hydroelectric dam in Sikkim, were controversial from the time it was built. A 2019 report identified Lhonak Lake as "highly vulnerable" to flooding that could breach dams and cause extensive damage.

It wasn't clear what triggered the deadly flood that began early Wednesday, the latest to hit northeast India in a year of unusually heavy monsoon rains. Experts say possible contributors were the intense rain and a 6.2 magnitude earthquake that struck neighboring Nepal on Tuesday afternoon.

The flood began when the glacial lake overflowed, cracking open the Teesta 3 dam. The icy waters then cascaded through towns in the valley below, carrying some bodies kilometers (miles) downstream.

On Monday, as the skies cleared and rains subsided, 77 tourists stranded by washed-out roads were airlifted out of northern Sikkim, police told PTI news agency.

On Sunday, helicopters rescued 89 others who were stranded in the area. Some 10 tourists, including five Thai nationals, were able to trek to safety with assistance from rescuers. Overall, more than 5,000 people have been brought to safety since the disaster struck last week, PTI reported.

The flood destroyed multiple bridges, hit pipelines and damaged hundreds of houses in northern Sikkim. Of 23 Indian soldiers reported missing earlier, officials say one was rescued and 10 were confirmed to have died, while the search for the others continued.

There is no land access or mobile connectivity in the area, complicating rescue efforts and sharing of information. Thousands of people are sheltering in relief camps set up by the state.

Experts say the flooding disaster underscores a climate dilemma that pits local environmental activists who believe dams in the Himalayas are too dangerous against Indian authorities pursuing green energy agenda.

Despite risks to dams due to the increasing frequency of extreme weather, the Indian federal government aims to increase India's hydroelectric dam output by half, to 70,000 megawatts, by 2030.

Several towns, including Dikchu and Rangpo in the Teesta basin, were flooded.

Rangpo resident Muhammad Karim has been searching for his father, brother and sister-in-law for five days. "I am clueless. ... I have asked the police for help, but there's been no progress so far," he said.

Homes and buildings in the town were covered by mud as excavators dug through debris to recover bodies over the weekend.

Disasters caused by landslides and floods are common in India's Himalayan region during the June-September monsoon season. Scientists say they are becoming more frequent as global warming contributes to the melting of glaciers there.

Himalayan glaciers could lose 80% of their volume if global warming isn't controlled, according to a report from the International Center for Integrated Mountain Development.

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## Today in History: October 10

### U.S. Naval Academy is established in Annapolis, Maryland

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Oct. 10, the 283rd day of 2023. There are 82 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 10, 1845, the U.S. Naval Academy was established in Annapolis, Maryland.

On this date:

In 1911, Chinese revolutionaries launched an uprising that led to the collapse of the Qing (or Manchu) Dynasty and the establishment of the Republic of China.

In 1935, the George Gershwin opera "Porgy and Bess," featuring an all-Black cast, opened on Broadway, beginning a run of 124 performances.

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy, responding to the Thalidomide birth defects crisis, signed an amendment to the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act requiring pharmaceutical companies to prove that their products were safe and effective prior to marketing.

In 1964, entertainer Eddie Cantor died in Beverly Hills, California at age 72.

In 1966, the Beach Boys' single "Good Vibrations," written by Brian Wilson and Mike Love was released by Capitol Records.

In 1973, Vice President Spiro T. Agnew, accused of accepting bribes, pleaded no contest to one count of federal income tax evasion, and resigned his office.

In 1981, a funeral was held in Cairo for Egyptian leader Anwar Sadat, who had been assassinated by Muslim extremists.

In 1985, actor-director Orson Welles died in Los Angeles at age 70, and actor Yul Brynner died in New York at age 65.

In 1997, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines and its coordinator, Jody Williams, were named winners of the Nobel Peace Prize.

In 2001, a month after the Sept. 11 attacks, U.S. jets pounded the Afghan capital of Kabul while President George W. Bush unveiled a list of 22 most-wanted terrorists, including Osama bin Laden.

In 2012, football star-turned-actor Alex Karras died in Los Angeles at age 77.

In 2013, Scott Carpenter, the second American to orbit the Earth and one of the last surviving Mercury 7 astronauts, died at age 88.

In 2014, Malala Yousafzai (mah-LAH'-lah YOO'-suhf-zeye), a 17-year-old Pakistani girl, and Kailash Satyarthi (KY'-lash saht-YAHR'-thee), a 60-year-old Indian man, were jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for risking their lives for the right of children to receive an education and to live free from abuse.

In 2017, the U.S. soccer team failed to qualify for the World Cup, eliminated with a 2-1 loss to Trinidad and Tobago; it ended a run of seven straight U.S. appearances at soccer's showcase event.

In 2021, after more than 18 months of pandemic delays, Daniel Craig's final James Bond film, "No Time to Die," was the top earner at the box office on its opening weekend, grossing \$56 million in North America.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Peter Coyote is 82. Entertainer Ben Vereen is 77. Actor Charles Dance is 77. Rock singer-musician Cyril Neville (The Neville Brothers) is 75. Actor Jessica Harper is 74. Author Nora Roberts (aka "J.D. Robb") is 73. Singer-musician Midge Ure is 70. Rock singer David Lee Roth is 69. Actor J. Eddie Peck is 65. Country singer Tanya Tucker is 65. Actor Julia Sweeney is 64. Actor Bradley Whitford is 64. Musician Martin Kemp is 62. Actor Jodi Benson is 62. Rock musician Jim Glennie (James) is 60. Actor Rebecca Pidgeon is 58. California Gov. Gavin Newsom is 56. Rock musician Mike Malinin (mah-LIHN'-ihn) (Goo Goo Dolls) is 56. Pro Football Hall of Famer Brett Favre is 54. Actor Manu Bennett is 54. Actor Joelle Carter is 54. Actor Wendi McLendon-Covey is 54. Actor/TV host Mario Lopez is 50. Retired race car driver Dale Earnhardt Jr. is 49. Actor Jodi Lyn O'Keefe is 45. Singer Mya is 44. Actor Dan Stevens is 41. Singer Cherie is 39. MLB outfielder Andrew McCutchen is 37. Actor Rose McIver is 35. Actor Aimee Teegarden is 34.