

# Groton Daily Independent

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## Monday, Oct. 30

Senior Menu: Creamed chicken, buttermilk biscuit, peas, pineapple/mandarin oranges, peanut butter cookie, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Stuffed bagels.

School Lunch: Chicken fries mashed with gravy.

Pantry Open 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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

FCCLA Blood Drive at High School

## Tuesday, Oct. 31

Senior Menu: Spaghetti with meat sauce, broccoli, fruit, orange sherbert, garlic toast.

School Breakfast: Waffles.

School Lunch: Werewolf burgers (hamburgers), white trees (cooked cauliflower)

Thrift Store open 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Food Pantry open 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Downtown Trick or Treat, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

United Methodist Trunk or Treat, 5:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Region 1A Volleyball Tournament at Groton

6 p.m.: Groton Area vs. Waubay-Summit

7:30 p.m.: Redfield vs. Sisseton

NCRC Test for Seniors, 8:40 a.m. to Noon

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

**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

The U.N. has said that hundreds of patients are stuck in hospitals in the north of the Gaza Strip and are unable to move south, as heavy bombardment by the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) continued overnight.

Shani Louk, a 22-year-old German national who was believed to have been kidnapped by Hamas fighters during the militant group's attack on Israel on October 7, is probably dead, according to her family.

A gag order against former president Donald Trump in his federal election meddling case was reinstated by U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan on Sunday, prohibiting him

from attacking prosecutors and potential witnesses.

Videos have begun to circulate online showing alleged rioters in Russia storming a flight from Israel in an attempt to attack Jewish passengers. The incident occurred in Makhachkala, a city in the Russian Republic of Dagestan, on Sunday.

The death toll from Category 5 Hurricane Otis has risen to 48 after hitting Mexico's southern coast last week, the region's governor announced Sunday.

An autopsy and toxicology report are pending in the death of Friends star Matthew Perry, who was found unresponsive in his hot tub on Saturday. Perry was 54.

The Denver Broncos beat the Kansas City Chiefs 24-9, snapping a 16-game losing streak against the franchise. Russell Wilson led with three touchdowns.

In the ongoing war in Ukraine, Russia is believed to have suffered some of the country's highest casualty rates so far this year as a result of "heavy but inconclusive" fighting around the town of Avdiivka, according to the U.K. Ministry of Defence.

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FREE HAIL STORM ESTIMATES!

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## October Students of the Month

The following have been chosen as Groton Area's MS/HS student of the month for October  
From back Left: Axel Warrington ( 11th), Claire Heinrich (12th), Jaedyn Penning (10th),  
Ashlynn Warrington (9th)

From Front Left: Neely Althoff ( 7th), Makenna Krause (8th), Hudson Eichler (6th) (Courtesy Photo)

Groton Area School works to ensure that all levels of academic instruction also include the necessary life skills teaching, practicing, and modeling that encourages essential personal life habits that are universally understood to facilitate helping our students become good human beings and citizens.

It is learning with our heads, hearts, and hands to be caring and civil, to make healthy decisions, to effectively problem solve, to be respectful and responsible, to be good citizens, and to be empathetic and ethical individuals.

Students are selected based on individual student growth in the areas of: positive behavior, citizenship, good attendance, a thirst for knowledge, and high academic standards.



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## Groton Wage Memorial Library

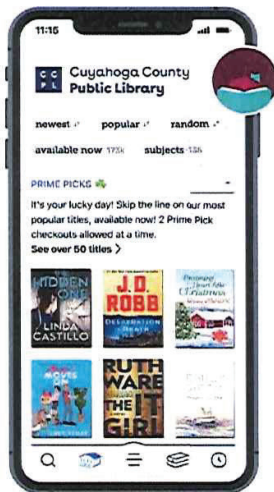


120 N Main St – Groton, SD – (605) 397-8422

Open Monday-Friday 8am-5pm

- Library Cards are FREE to ALL Groton Area Residents!
- Offer a variety of books, magazines, audiobooks and DVDs!
- Offer printing, copying, faxing and scanning services!
- Computer Lab, laptops and tablets available for public use!
- Now offering e-books and audiobooks with the FREE OverDrive/Libby App!

Discover new reads on Libby, the free app from your local library that allows you to borrow ebooks, audiobooks & more on your phone or tablet.



Why you'll love Libby:

- Quick and easy setup! Just follow the prompts to start reading
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- Unlimited custom tags to categorize books however you'd like
- Push notifications so you never miss a thing, including available holds
- Easily find the next book in a series
- Preferences to only see the content you like
- More ways to listen on the go with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto

**With the classic OverDrive app being discontinued soon, it's time to read on Libby.** The award-winning Libby app by OverDrive offers a fresh, easy-to-use design with access to the same great titles from your library.



Visit [overdrive.com/libby](https://overdrive.com/libby) to get started with Libby today!



**Summer Storytime EVERY Thursday in the Summer June-August!**  
**'1,000 Books Before Kindergarten Program' is NOW available!**

**FREE UPCOMING EVENTS: MUST PREREGISTER BY CALLING LIBRARY**

Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup> 3pm-5pm: Halloween Movie Event: Featuring Hocus Pocus 2!

Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup> 11am-1pm: Christmas Movie Event (TBA). Jungle Pizza will be served!



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## Weekly Vikings Recap - Vikings vs. Packers

By Jack & Duane Kolsrud

For only the fourth time since 1992, the Minnesota Vikings traveled to Lambeau Field as favorites to defeat the Green Bay Packers. Thanks to the Vikings' win over the 49ers on Monday night and the Packers' three-game-losing skid, all momentum was on the Vikings' side coming into Sunday.

The Vikings dominated the Packers from start to finish on Sunday. The offense picked up where they left on Monday night by getting on the board first thanks to a Cam Akers rushing touchdown in the first quarter. This was surprisingly the Vikings first rushing touchdown of the season as the team has been unable to get the rushing attack going behind Alexander Mattison. It will be interesting to see going forward if the Vikings start to use Akers more than Mattison as the offensive rushing attack does seem to run a little more efficiently with him.

The Vikings' defense on the other hand was the true star of the game. They completely set the tone to start the game as they held the Packers to four straight three-and-outs with a total of six yards of offense. And when the Packers were able to put a decent drive together, the Vikings' defense was able to hold them to only a total of 10 points in the game. Those 10 points came from two drives of over 14 plays each, which goes to show that the Vikings' defense did a great job of making the Packers have to work for their points.

The turning point of the game came early in the second half. After the Vikings scored a touchdown on their opening second-half drive to give themselves a 17-3 lead, Josh Metellus picked off Jordan Love on a deep ball and returned it to the Packers' 20-yard line. On the very next play, Kirk Cousins found Jordan Addison for a touchdown to give the Vikings a 24-3 lead and the game was pretty much a wrap after that.

Despite the Vikings' success today over the rival Packers, the real story coming from this game was that it looks like Kirk Cousins may have torn his Achilles tendon in the 4th quarter of the game after stepping wrong on a simple dropback. Cousins, who has played through injuries time and time again throughout his time in Minnesota, may not be able to play through this one. After the play, it appeared that Cousins could not put any weight on his right leg as he limped toward the sideline. You do not want to speculate but reports came out after the game that the locker room was extremely quiet despite the win, so it appears many of the players and coaching staff were assuming the worst as well.

If Cousins is in fact out for the rest of the season, the Vikings will likely turn to rookie quarterback Jaren Hall. Hall, who got into the game after Cousins' injury, did not perform in a way that would give Vikings fans hope that he has a chance to be special. Not only did Hall get strip-sacked in his first drive, but he also seemed to not have great control of the offense. You cannot blame Hall for his poor performance as he was not expecting to get into the game Sunday. However, if the Vikings are going to give him the keys to offense for the rest of the season, Hall is going to need to gain more confidence to make throws down the field.

Vikings 24 - Packers 10

Looking ahead, the Vikings will head to Atlanta to face the Falcons next Sunday. The Falcons, who are led by arguably the worst quarterback in the NFL in Desmond Ridder, will face a Vikings defense that seems to be getting better every week. The Vikings will need their defense to show up as the offense will likely look less explosive with the loss of Cousins.

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PLEASE JOIN US FOR

## St Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church

### *Fall Dinner*

NOVEMBER 5TH, 5PM TO 7PM

TOSSED SALAD, LASAGNA, GARLIC BREAD,  
ICE CREAM SUNDAE BAR

.....  
**FREE WILL OFFERING**  
.....

BINGO, BINGO, BINGO!





## Your gastrointestinal system – no reason to be grossed out!

**Kelly Evans-Hullinger, M.D.**

A common lament I hear from my patients as they try to discuss a real concern they have about their body: "I'm sorry; this is so disgusting!" Their cheeks burn with shame as they tell me how their bowels have betrayed them. No matter what the issue is, so many of my patients are mortified discussing their diarrhea, constipation, fecal incontinence. My response, always, is "you can't gross me out – we talk about poop every day in this clinic!"

Plenty of things can go wrong in the gastrointestinal tract, and even minor issues can be really disruptive in a person's life. Certain features of bowel dysfunction, like blood in the stool, abdominal pain, and weight loss, might signal more urgency to get a problem diagnosed and fixed. We certainly don't want to miss things like tumors, ulcers, inflammatory bowel disease, and diseases that might affect absorption of nutrients.

Oftentimes, none of those "red flags" are present, but a patient's gastrointestinal symptoms are affecting their ability to function at work or socially. In cases when we either have ruled out or have low suspicion for something "bad" we can still offer plenty to help with these symptoms. Sometimes that might mean trials of elimination of food types, dietary changes, addition of fiber, or other medications. GI symptoms might be a side effect of another medication. We frequently have to do some trial and error to find the right combination of things that improve an individual's function, but usually we can do so. In some cases consulting with gut specialists, dietitians, even physical therapists, can be very helpful.

My point here is this: if you are having gut symptoms that are worrying you or disrupting your day-to-day life, let's talk about it! Whatever discomfort you have discussing it, I promise, is not shared by your primary care provider or friendly gastroenterologist. We want to help you get answers. And even if there is not a simple diagnosis or fix to the problem, we want to help you be more comfortable leaving the house without worrying about what your gut will do. So please, don't let feeling grossed out keep you from asking the question.

Kelly Evans-Hullinger, M.D. is part of The Prairie Doc® team of physicians and currently practices internal medicine in Brookings, South Dakota. Follow The Prairie Doc® at [www.prairiedoc.org](http://www.prairiedoc.org) and on Facebook featuring On Call with the Prairie Doc® a medical Q&A show providing health information based on science, built on trust, on SDPB and streaming live on Facebook most Thursdays at 7 p.m. central.



**Kelly Evans-Hullinger, MD**

**Groton Post No. 39 American Legion**

# *Annual Turkey Party*

**Saturday, Nov. 11, 2023**

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

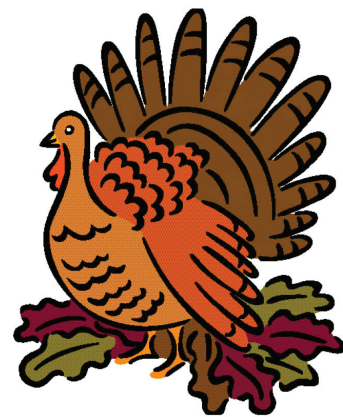
Groton Legion Post Home, 10 N. Main.

Turkey, Ham and Bacon  
to be given away

**FREE ADMISSION**

**DOOR  
PRIZE!**

Lunch served  
by Auxiliary





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BROWN COUNTY  
BROWN COUNTY COMMISSION AGENDA  
REGULAR MEETING TUESDAY

OCTOBER 31, 2023, 8:45 A.M.

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

1. Call To Order - Pledge of Allegiance
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Opportunity of Public Comment
4. Public Hearing for Liquor License Transfer – Stacy Gossman DBA: Nacho Business – Updating Location
5. Second Reading & Possible Adoption of Ordinances:
  - a. #257 – Rezone
  - b. #258 – Rezone
  - c. #259 - Rezone
6. Aaron Walberg, Veterans Services Officer
  - a. Discuss Clothing Policy
7. Dirk Rogers, Highway Superintendent
  - a. R-O-W for Web Water
  - b. Department Update
8. Discuss Limited Public Use Policy
9. Authorize Chairman to Sign Notice to Proceed for Landfill Scale Bid
10. Consent Calendar
  - a. Approval of General Meeting Minutes of October 24, 2023
  - b. Claims
  - c. HR Report
  - d. Liquor License Renewals
  - e. Claim Assignment
  - f. Auditor's Report of Account
  - g. Authorize Advertising for Tax Deed Sale
  - h. Travel Requests
  - i. Zoning Ordinance – Set Hearing Date/Authorize Advertising
11. Other Business
12. Executive Session (if requested per SDCL 1-25-2)
13. Adjourn

Brown County Commission Meeting

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

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

**You can also dial in using your phone.** United States: +1 (872) 240-3311

**Access Code:** 601-168-909 #

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

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

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

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

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

<https://www.brown.sd.us/node/454>

## EARTHTALK ™

### Is Ebony Going Extinct & What Can Be Done?

Grace Wu - October 26, 2023



**Ebony forests are on the ropes in Asia and Africa and environmentalists are pleading with consumers to find alternatives.** Credit: Richard Toller, FlickrCC

Dear EarthTalk: I hear that ebony is going extinct in the wild. Is there anything we can do to conserve what's left and are there alternatives we can use instead?

—Paul B., Bowie, MD

Ebony wood is frequently used in furniture and musical instruments because of its exceptional hardness, density, fine texture and extremely dark hue. The immense demand for this valuable hardwood has led to overexploitation and illegal logging. Meanwhile, the culling of the biggest trees has meant successive generations are smaller and smaller—and ebony trees are slow growers to begin with. Regenerating an ebony forest after it's been cut could take upwards of a century.

Ebony grows mainly in central Africa and southeast Asia, and is critical for economies heavily reliant on natural resources. Insufficient environmental regulations make it disturbingly easy for illicit logging groups to operate in remote forests. Without proper management, loggers typically target physically superior trees, leading to the weakening of the genetic pool of the remaining trees. On a larger scale, the loss of ebony trees carries adverse consequences for local ecosystems. These trees provide sustenance to wildlife; their fruits feed monkeys and apes, while their leaves support animals like elephants.

If you decide to buy a product containing ebony, look for certifications from the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) or the Program for Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC). Wood that is certified by these groups is sourced from forests that are managed in a manner that safeguards biodiversity, supports the well-being of local communities and laborers, and maintains economic sustainability. Fraudulent certification labeling is on the rise among ebony vendors trying to deceive eco-conscious consumers into purchasing their products. To verify the authenticity of a certification, search the FSC and PEFC databases.

Above all else, abstaining from purchasing ebony is the most effective way to prevent your contribution to its overexploitation. Fortunately, there are many other types of wood that may suit your color, durability and texture preferences.

Katalox, or Mexican Royal Ebony, is a non-threatened species with natural dark hues ranging from reddish-brown to nearly pitch black. It has a medium-fine texture and actually surpasses ebony in hardness. Black palm, another non-threatened species, has a speckled appearance with lighter-brown streaks amidst its dark coloring. It's another species that is unthreatened, making it especially sustainable. It is less dense and more susceptible to insect attacks, so for projects needing resistance, exploring other materials might be wise. A third option, black-dyed wood veneers, offers customizability and affordability. Typically, the base panels are made of a common lighter-colored hardwood, such as maple, oak or beech, that have undergone a dyeing process to replicate the deep black color of ebony.

Understanding the ecological implications of ebony wood and exploring sustainable alternatives is essential for responsible consumer choices and the protection of our natural resources.

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## SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

### **COMMENTARY**

## **If you've lost Medicaid since the pandemic, expansion coverage may be available**

**SARAH GRAVES**

You may not recognize my name, but you might recognize my face. Last year at this time, my personal story was featured as part of the campaign to expand health insurance access in South Dakota. I shared how I didn't have health insurance when I was diagnosed with leukemia at age 26. I encouraged you to vote Yes on Amendment D to expand Medicaid, and thankfully, you listened.

One year later, I am still filled with gratitude for your support. Thanks to this vote, I have assurance that if I'm ever in a position where I can't work because of a cancer recurrence, I will still be able to get the treatments I need through Medicaid. This lifeline is now available for fellow cancer patients and everyday South Dakotans no matter what life throws at them.

I work at a medical clinic and I've started nursing school, so I see every day the importance of access to health care. Getting screenings and treating medical conditions are the best way to maintain your health. However, all of the medical advancements in the world don't matter if you can't afford to go to the doctor. Having access to affordable, comprehensive health care saves lives.

Working at the clinic has given me a firsthand look at a notable public health issue. I've seen as people come in for an appointment and find out their Medicaid coverage has been terminated because the pandemic protections have ended. Luckily, because Amendment D passed, many people who are no longer eligible for traditional Medicaid have been able to apply for Medicaid expansion. This results in less people losing continuous coverage and possible medical debt.

Individuals earning below \$20,000, or families of four earning below \$41,000, are now eligible for Medicaid. If you think you might qualify, you can check out [GetCoveredSouthDakota.org](https://GetCoveredSouthDakota.org). If you don't have health insurance through your job, or if you can't afford insurance on the Marketplace, you may be able to learn if you're eligible.

This new program is a gamechanger. Take it from me — you want to have access to health care coverage before you need it.

*Sarah Rose Graves is a mother, medical assistant and nursing student living in Pierre. A survivor of chronic myeloid leukemia, Sarah volunteers as South Dakota's state lead ambassador with the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network.*

## **Forest Service floats fee increase as latest response to Black Hills UTV surge**

**Motorized trail permit sales tripled during past decade**

**BY: SETH TUPPER - OCTOBER 29, 2023 6:00 AM**

There was a time years ago when Travis Bies didn't worry as much about cattle escaping his Black Hills pastures.

"Every Monday, you had to be there and check your gates to make sure they were closed," Bies said. "Now, I've had to hire a full-time person to be there every day."

That's because so many more people are driving utility task vehicles — known as UTVs, or as "side-by-

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sides” due to their multiple seats — and are failing to close the gates they open.

Escaped cattle are one impact from a surge in UTV popularity in the Black Hills. Locals, tourists and rental businesses bought more than 35,000 motorized trail permits last year in the Black Hills National Forest, more than three times as many as a decade ago.

Complaints have also arisen, about increased dust, noise, ruts and off-trail riding. UTVers, meanwhile, complain that the trail system has too many dead ends.

Rising tensions have forced the U.S. Forest Service to take action in recent years, including the creation of a Black Hills trail ranger program to police UTV traffic. Additional steps are planned, including a possible increase in permit fees that has some UTVers pushing back.

## Fee increase debated

Bies, the cattle rancher, is from the rural enclave of Fairburn just outside the Black Hills. He pays the U.S. Forest Service to graze cattle on public land in the Black Hills National Forest, but the land remains open to public use. UTVers are within their rights to open and pass through gates along designated trails, and Bies just wishes they'd heed signs encouraging them to close the gates.

He may get more help from forest managers. They're planning a market study next year and other steps toward raising motorized trail permit fees by an as-yet undetermined amount in 2025.

Current fees for individual off-road vehicles are \$20 for a seven-day permit and \$25 for an annual permit, and have not been raised since they were implemented 13 years ago. Rental businesses pay \$125 per year for each of their vehicles.

Fees in other forests and states typically start at \$50 and go up from there, according to Ralph Adam, of the Black Hills National Forest. He presented UTV information earlier this month to the Black Hills National Forest Advisory Board.

Members of the local Off-Road Riders Association attended the meeting and expressed concern about the fee plan.

“Every year, talk of increasing trail permit fees comes up,” said association member Patty Brown. “And meanwhile, we’ve been asking for accountability and transparency on the use of the funds, and so far no evidence has been shown for the need for additional funds.”

Adam's presentation mentioned several initiatives underway to better manage UTV use, but he did not propose specific uses for the additional revenue from increased permit fees. Last year's permit sales totaled nearly \$1 million, which means if each permit doubled in price and sales numbers remained the same, total sales would be nearly \$2 million.

## Not the first off-road debate

The existing permit-and-fee structure is the product of a previous era's angst about off-road vehicles.

As recently as the early 2000s, there were few restrictions on off-road travel in the Black Hills National Forest. Complaints about ruts and other damage to environmentally sensitive areas motivated a new travel management plan in 2010.

The plan flipped the default position toward off-road vehicles. As a Rapid City Journal editorial described it, motorized travel was previously “allowed anywhere, except where it was designated as closed. Now, it will be closed to motorized travel except where it is allowed.”

Along with the new plan came permits and maps. The maps showed roads open to all vehicles, motorized trails open to all-terrain vehicles and motorbikes, and non-motorized trails open to hikers, bicyclists and horseback riders.

Neither the plan nor the people who prepared it foresaw the revolution that was about to overtake the off-road vehicle industry. In the years since the plan was adopted, recreational riders have largely abandoned traditional ATVs — such as three-wheelers and four-wheelers, operated by a single driver — in favor of larger UTVs with seating for two or more people.

UTVs can be registered, licensed and driven on South Dakota roads. That means the Black Hills motorized trail system is no longer used as it was intended. The architects of the travel plan envisioned people hauling ATVs into the forest on trailers and unloading them at trailheads. Instead, said the forest's Ralph

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Adam, modern users are driving their UTVs from cities to the forest and to points in between.

A rented UTV is some tourists' main mode of transport.

"They're renting the machines. They're driving out of the parking lot and proceeding to their destination," Adam said. "And then when their rental time is done, they're driving them back."

The phenomenon has not gone unnoticed by Black Hills residents, said Scott Guffey, Pennington County's natural resources director and a member of the forest advisory board.

"I'm sure we've all run into those lines of 20 side-by-sides going down Highway 385, and traffic's backed up behind there," Guffey said. "That's super frustrating, and it's a huge safety issue."

Others see opportunity. Al Johnson represents the interests of off-road enthusiasts and other forms of commercial recreation in his service on the forest advisory board.

"The economic impact of off-highway vehicle use in the Black Hills is just enormous, both from visitors and from the locals," Johnson said. "It's millions of dollars annually."

## Current numbers, plans

The explosive growth of UTV recreation is evidenced by permit sales. In 2011, the first full year of the new rules, the Black Hills National Forest sold 7,832 motorized trail permits. By 2021, that number had risen to a peak of 38,521. Some of the recent permits were for ATVs and motorbikes, but the Forest Service estimates up to 90% were for UTVs.

Hikers, bicyclists, horseback riders, grazing permittees, hunters, anglers and others are increasingly interrupted by UTVs. Bies, the cattle rancher, said some interruption is expected and appropriate on public land.

"I'm 100 percent for multiple uses of the Black Hills," Bies said. "It's always been that way, and I want it to stay that way."

But he and some others think the scales have tipped a little too far toward UTVs.

The Forest Service has responded by creating a trail ranger program. Two crews based in Rapid City and Nemo conduct daily patrols. They write few tickets and instead focus on educating riders about permits and designated trails.

Forest managers also hosted an off-highway vehicle summit in 2021 and workshops in 2022. Twenty-four recommendations flowed from that work. Adam said he and his staff have implemented or begun implementation of six recommendations.

That includes more and better signs on gates and trails, more rollover cattle guards to negate the need for gates, more visits by trail rangers to UTV rental businesses, addressing dead-end routes with new connections or clearer signage, more educational materials for UTVers, and the potential fee increase.

"As you can expect with any list of recommendations, they're recommendations," Adam said. "So we took it to heart and we're doing what we can."

The Black Hills National Forest Advisory Board is developing a work group to assist forest managers with evaluating and possibly implementing the fee increase and other remaining recommendations.

Ideas for using increased fee revenue abound. They include hiring more trail rangers and designating or creating more motorized trails to disperse UTV traffic beyond its current concentration in the northern Black Hills — an idea likely to be opposed by some non-motorized recreationists who prefer having UTVs confined to a particular area.

Bies thinks a cap on permits is worth discussing.

"I just think our Hills are overrun," he said.

Meanwhile, there are signs the UTV craze may have peaked. After a record 38,521 UTV permits were sold in 2021, the number dropped to 35,480 in 2022.

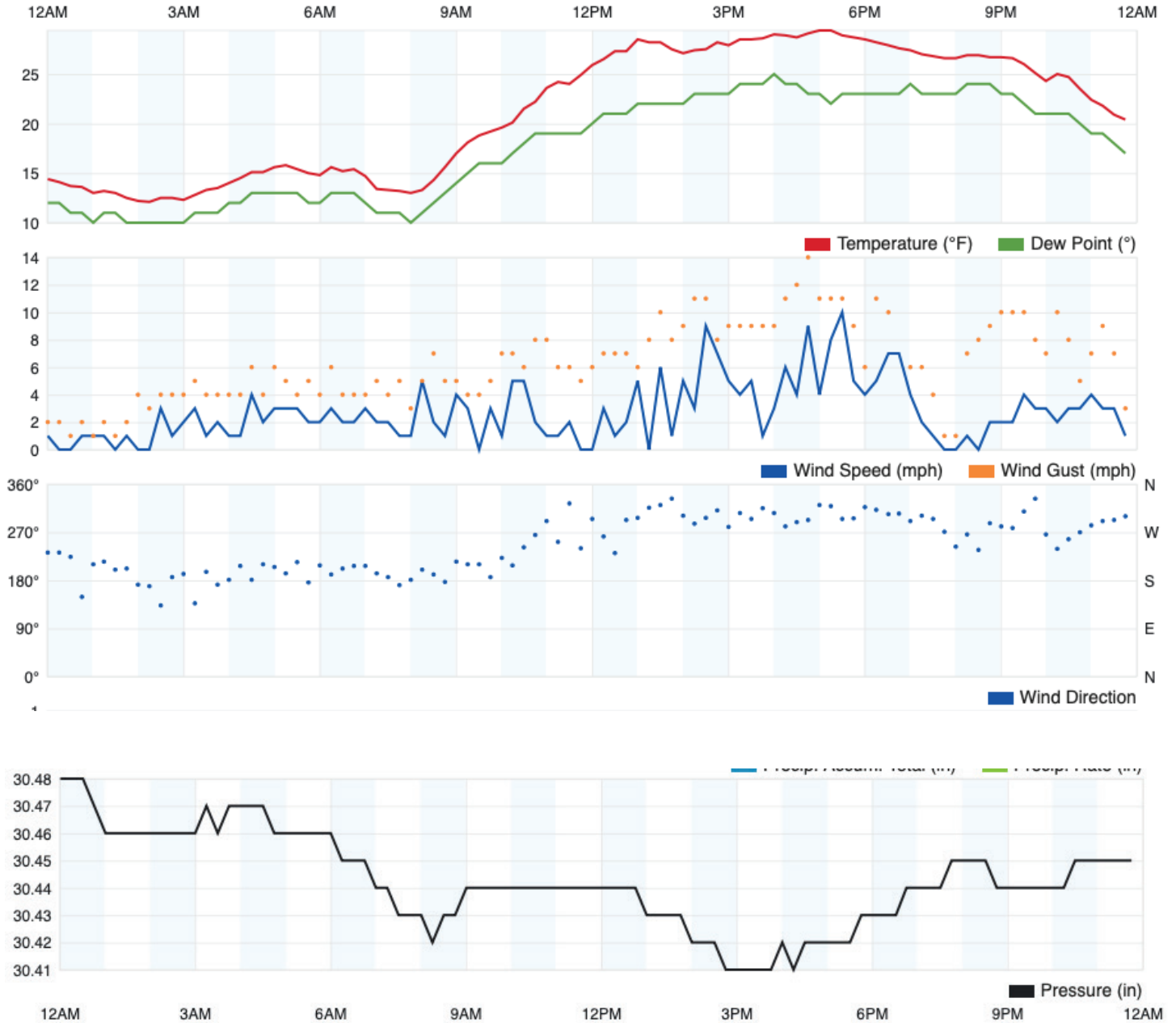
*Seth is editor-in-chief of South Dakota Searchlight. He was previously a supervising senior producer for South Dakota Public Broadcasting and a newspaper journalist in Rapid City and Mitchell.*



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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Mon Oct 30	Tue Oct 31	Wed Nov 1	Thu Nov 2	Fri Nov 3	Sat Nov 4	Sun Nov 5
<b>36° F</b>	<b>28° F</b>	<b>36° F</b>	<b>40° F</b>	<b>41° F</b>	<b>40° F</b>	<b>36° F</b>
<b>14° F</b>	<b>18° F</b>	<b>18° F</b>	<b>26° F</b>	<b>26° F</b>	<b>24° F</b>	<b>31° F</b>
SW	NW	SSW	SSW	NE	N	E
23 MPH	16 MPH	11 MPH	10 MPH	10 MPH	11 MPH	10 MPH



## Clipper bringing strong winds & snow showers

October 30, 2023

2:59 AM

### Timing Snow Showers & Wind Speeds

	Weather Forecast											10/31 Tue			
	10/30 Mon											12am	1am	2am	3am
	1pm	2pm	3pm	4pm	5pm	6pm	7pm	8pm	9pm	10pm	11pm				
Aberdeen							15%	15%	15%	15%	15%		15%	10%	
Britton			15%		15%	15%	15%	20%	15%	15%	20%		15%	10%	
Brookings										10%	10%		10%		
Chamberlain															
Clark							10%	20%	25%	20%	15%		10%		
Eagle Butte															
Ellendale					10%	15%	20%	15%	15%	15%	15%		15%	10%	
Eureka					15%	20%	20%	15%	15%	15%	15%		15%		
Gettysburg								15%	15%	15%	10%				
Huron															
Kennebec															
McIntosh					10%	15%	15%	15%	20%	20%	20%		15%		
Milbank						10%	10%	15%	10%	10%	15%		10%		
Miller								15%							
Mobridge					10%	10%	15%	15%	15%	15%	15%				
Murdo															
Pierre															
Redfield								15%	15%	10%					
Sisseton				10%	15%	20%	15%	25%	20%	25%	25%		15%	15%	10%
Watertown						10%	10%	15%	20%	20%	15%		15%	10%	
Webster				10%	15%	25%	50%	40%	35%	35%	35%		15%	15%	10%
Wheaton				15%	25%	35%	35%	25%	30%	25%	20%		15%	10%	

	Maximum Wind Gust Forecast											
	10/30 Mon						10/31 Tue					
	6am	9am	12pm	3pm	6pm	9pm	12am	3am	6am	9am	12pm	
Aberdeen	17	23	28	35	43	45	43	33	29	21	12	
Britton	18	26	28	32	39	45	43	36	29	21	15	
Brookings	15	23	28	29	30	36	38	37	31	30	22	
Chamberlain	13	22	32	32	32	35	35	28	23	16	13	
Clark	17	24	30	33	36	39	40	38	32	25	16	
Eagle Butte	22	31	38	44	45	43	35	25	17	13	20	
Ellendale	18	25	29	36	44	45	44	33	29	20	12	
Eureka	17	25	36	41	41	41	37	29	22	14	15	
Gettysburg	18	28	35	41	43	43	40	32	24	16	16	
Huron	16	22	28	31	33	37	35	33	26	21	14	
Kennebec	15	26	37	39	41	45	41	33	25	18	13	
McIntosh	21	33	41	47	46	43	33	24	15	14	21	
Milbank	20	22	28	26	31	38	40	36	35	25	20	
Miller	20	26	32	36	38	40	40	33	26	20	12	
Mobridge	15	24	33	39	43	40	36	28	18	13	16	
Murdo	18	29	37	41	43	45	36	28	22	14	16	
Pierre	12	23	33	38	41	39	37	29	20	13	13	
Redfield	17	23	29	36	41	41	41	35	28	22	13	
Sisseton	22	26	28	29	37	44	41	37	33	24	17	
Watertown	18	25	30	32	35	38	38	38	33	25	18	
Webster	21	28	32	37	41	45	43	39	36	25	17	
Wheaton	17	20	24	24	30	35	37	33	30	23	17	



National Weather Service  
Aberdeen, SD

A clipper system will bring snow showers to the area later today and tonight. Accumulations range from a dusting to around a half inch. The system also comes with some winds, which could top 35 to 45 mph.

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 30 °F at 5:05 PM

Low Temp: 12 °F at 2:20 AM

Wind: 14 mph at 4:39 PM

Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 10 hours, 17 minutes

## Today's Info

Record High: 85 in 1950

Record Low: 8 in 1991

Average High: 51

Average Low: 27

Average Precip in Oct.: 2.09

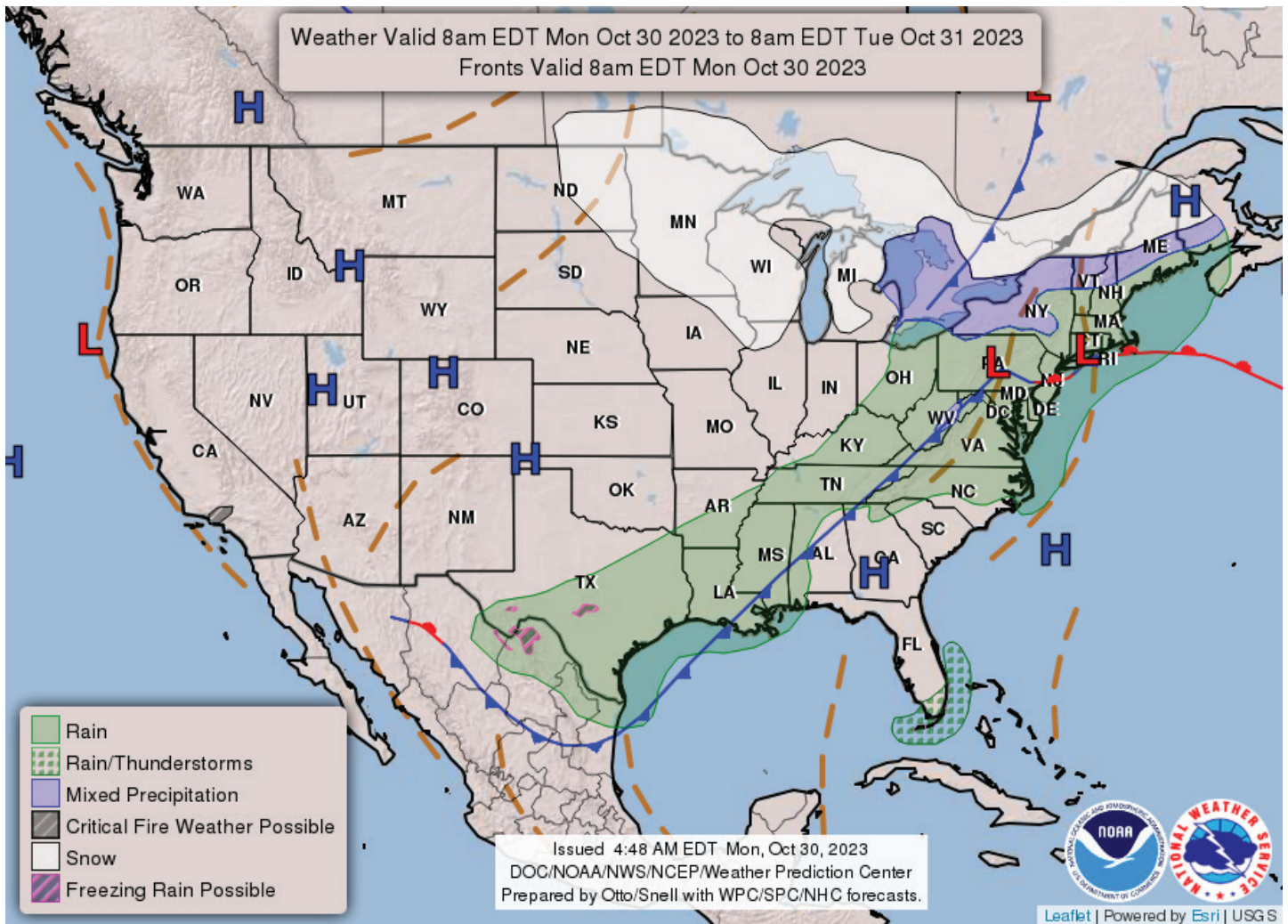
Precip to date in Oct.: 1.21

Average Precip to date: 20.42

Precip Year to Date: 22.98

Sunset Tonight: 6:24:35 PM

Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:08:54 AM





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## Today in Weather History

October 30, 1943: Snow fell across much of central and north central South Dakota on this date in 1943. Snowfall amounts of 2 to 7 inches occurred. Snowfall amounts included, 2 inches at Timber Lake, 4 inches at Murdo, 5 inches at Mobridge, and 7 inches at Kennebec and Pierre.

October 30, 1950: Much above normal temperatures occurred across the entire area of central and northeast South Dakota as well as west central Minnesota. Record highs were mostly in the 80s across the area. The records were 78 degrees at Sisseton, 80 degrees at Wheaton, 85 degrees at Watertown and Aberdeen, 86 degrees at Mobridge, 88 degrees at Pierre, and a hot 91 degrees at Kennebec.

1925 - Nashville, TN, was blanketed with an inch of snow, their earliest measurable snow of record. (The Weather Channel)

1947 - The Donora, PA, smog disaster finally came to an end. For five days an inversion trapped impurities in the lower atmosphere over the Monongahela Valley killing 20 persons, and leaving more than 2000 others sick. (26th-30th) (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Severe thunderstorms in Oklahoma produced golf ball size hail and wind gusts to 74 mph near the town of Gould. Unseasonably warm weather prevailed across the central U.S. Temperatures warmed into the 80s from Texas to the Lower Missouri Valley. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Ten cities in the Upper Midwest reported record low temperatures for the date. The morning low of 20 degrees at South Bend IND was a record for October, and lows of 18 degrees at Grand Rapids MI and 20 degrees at Fort Wayne IND equalled records for October. The low of 2 degrees at International Falls MN smashed their previous record for the date by 11 degrees. Syracuse NY received 2.9 inches of snow to establish a record for October with 5.7 inches for the month. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Temperatures soared into the 70s in the northeastern U.S. The record high of 73 degrees at Alpena MI marked their sixth straight day of record warmth. In the western U.S., Klamath Falls OR reported a record low of 19 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1991: The Perfect Storm, also known as the No-Name Storm reached maximum strength on this day with a low pressure of 972 mb and sustained winds of 69 mph.

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Daily Devotionals

## Seeds of Hope

### WHERE DO I BEGIN?

A company was well known for its highly effective sales personnel. They were able to outperform all of their competitors by their volume of sales, the new customers they attracted, and the loyalty of their old ones.

Once, during an interview, a professor asked the personnel director what he did to attract so many outstanding people to his company. After thinking for a moment he replied, "We give them a water test."

The professor was surprised. He thought he knew of every pre-employment test available. So he asked, "What is the water test?"

"Well," he responded, "before we hire anyone, we take them into a room where the faucet is running, the sink is overflowing, and water is pouring onto the floor. We offer the person a mop and say 'Mop up the water.' If they begin to mop up the water without turning off the faucet, we know they are poor problem-solvers and decision-makers and they would not be good employees. So, we don't hire them."

Too often Christians try to "clean" up their lives without turning "off" old habits and behaviors that lead to sin. If we want to become who God wants us to become, we must turn away from every temptation that can distract, defeat, or destroy us. We can solve the problem of sinning if, when we are tempted, we turn from it and pray, and avoid the appearance of evil.

Prayer: We ask, Heavenly Father, for Your Holy Spirit to "sound an alarm" and get our attention when we face temptation and sin. Give us Your courage to resist! Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Stay away from every kind of evil. 1 Thessalonians 5:22



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
- 11/05/2023 St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Fall Dinner, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- 11/11/2023 Groton American Legion Annual Turkey Party 6:30 pm.
- 11/23/2023 Community Thanksgiving at the Community Center 11:30am-1pm
- 11/26/2023 Snow Queen Contest, 4 p.m.
- 12/02/2023 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:  
10.27.23

11 32 43 57 70 6

MegaPlier: 4x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$159,000,000**

NEXT 1 Days 17 Hrs 13  
DRAW: Mins 48 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:  
10.28.23

12 25 36 39 46 9

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$3,340,000**

NEXT 16 Hrs 28 Mins  
DRAW: 49 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:  
10.29.23

17 25 35 40 47 12

TOP PRIZE:

**\$7,000/week**

NEXT 16 Hrs 43 Mins  
DRAW: 49 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:  
10.28.23

2 10 12 21 34

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$37,000**

NEXT 2 Days 16 Hrs 43  
DRAW: Mins 48 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:  
10.28.23

34 48 50 52 66 11

TOP PRIZE:

**\$10,000,000**

NEXT 17 Hrs 12 Mins 48  
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:  
10.28.23

14 24 50 59 64 2

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$137,000,000**

NEXT 17 Hrs 12 Mins 49  
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

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## News from the Associated Press

### Live updates | Israel deepens military assault in the northern Gaza Strip

By The Associated Press undefined

Israel expanded its military assault deeper into the northern Gaza Strip as the U.N. and medical staff expressed fears over airstrikes hitting closer to hospitals, where tens of thousands of Palestinians have sought shelter alongside thousands of wounded. Relief workers said the largest convoy of humanitarian aid to arrive in Gaza still fell far short of needs.

The Palestinian death toll in the Israel-Hamas war exceeds 8,000, according to the Health Ministry in Gaza. In the occupied West Bank, more than 110 Palestinians have been killed in violence and Israeli raids.

More than 1,400 people in Israel have been killed, most of them civilians slain in the initial Hamas rampage that started the fighting Oct. 7. In addition, 239 hostages were taken from Israel into Gaza by the militant group.

Currently:

1. Internet, phone service gradually returns to Gaza
2. People storm airport in Russia in antisemitic riot over arrival of plane from Israel
3. Israeli media, traumatized by Hamas attack, become communicators of Israel's message
4. Biden says Mideast leaders must consider a two-state solution after the war ends
5. Find more of AP's coverage at <https://apnews.com/hub/israel-hamas-war>.

Here's what is happening in the latest Israel-Hamas war:

#### AIRSTRIKES HIT A CONVOY OF TRUCKS ENTERING SYRIA FROM IRAQ

BEIRUT -- Syrian opposition activists and a Beirut-based TV station say airstrikes on a convoy of trucks in eastern Syria destroyed several vehicles and killed several people shortly after they crossed the border from Iraq.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said it was not immediately clear who was behind the early Monday strikes, adding that three trucks were destroyed shortly after they entered the Syrian border town of Boukamal. It said several people were killed.

Omar Abu Layla, a Europe-based activist who heads the Deir Ezzor 24 media outlet that covers news in east Syria, said U.S. aircraft carried out the attack, adding that the trucks were transporting weapons for Iran-backed militias. He said three drivers were killed.

Beirut-based Al-Mayadeen TV, which has reporters in different parts of Syria, also reported that American warplanes carried out the attack, saying the trucks were carrying construction material.

The U.S. military did not immediately respond for a request for comment.

Al-Mayadeen and Abu Layla said that hours after the airstrike, Iran-backed fighters fired rockets at the al-Omar oil field that houses U.S. troops.

The attacks come after bases housing U.S. troops in Syria and Iraq have come under rocket and drone attacks over the past weeks as tensions rise in the region over the Israel-Hamas war.

#### VATICAN SAYS TWO-STATE SOLUTION NEEDED FOR STABLE, LASTING PEACE

VATICAN CITY — A top Vatican official spoke by telephone Monday with the Iranian foreign minister, Hossein Amirabdollahian, at the foreign minister's request.

The Vatican said in a statement that the Vatican's foreign minister, Archbishop Paul Gallagher, expressed "serious concern in the Holy See about what is happening in Israel and Palestine, emphasizing the absolute necessity to avoid widening the conflict and to reach a two-state solution for a stable and lasting peace."

#### UN SECURITY COUNCIL TO DISCUSS GAZA MONDAY AFTERNOON

UNITED NATIONS — The U.N. Security Council scheduled an emergency meeting Monday afternoon on Israel's ground incursion in Gaza and the dire humanitarian plight of Palestinians at the request of the United Arab Emirates.

The UAE, the Arab representative on the council, is one of 10 elected council members working on a new



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Security Council resolution on the Israel-Hamas war which is still in discussion. The council has rejected four draft resolutions — one vetoed by the United States, one vetoed by Russia and China, and two that failed to get the minimum nine “yes” votes.

The Gaza meeting will take place after the council meets first on Western Sahara and then on Colombia.

The General Assembly, where there are no vetoes, adopted a resolution Friday by a vote of 120-14 with 45 abstentions calling for humanitarian truces leading to a cessation of hostilities. Security Council resolutions are legally binding. General Assembly resolutions are not but they are an important barometer of world opinion.

## 4 PEOPLE KILLED IN CLASHES IN JENIN

CAIRO — Four Palestinians were killed early Monday in Jenin in the occupied West Bank, the Palestinian health ministry said, as Israeli forces clashed with Palestinians.

The ministry said five other Palestinians were wounded, including two with critical injuries.

Israeli media reported that there was heavy exchange of fire between Israeli forces and Palestinians in Jenin in a battle that included drone strikes.

Violence has surged in the West Bank since the war between Israel and Gaza broke out on Oct. 7. Since then, Israeli forces and settlers killed 115 Palestinians, including 33 minors, as of Sunday, according to the U.N. office for the coordination of humanitarian affairs.

OCHA said half of the fatalities were during clashes that followed Israeli search-and-arrest operations.

## GAZA'S WATER SHORTAGE MEANS PEOPLE BATHE AND WASH DISHES IN THE SEA

On a beach in Gaza, a young boy hunches over a plastic tub full of soapy water and laundry. Nearby, a woman uses sand to clean metal pots and pans. A man stands waist-deep in the sea cleaning a pair of sweatpants, while elsewhere, three women sit in the salty Mediterranean and let the lapping waves rinse their dresses.

The besieged Gaza Strip's 2.3 million people don't have access to clean, running water after Israel cut off water and electricity to the enclave. If water does trickle from the tap, residents have said it's so contaminated with sewage and seawater that it's undrinkable. Under these circumstances, some are forced to use the sea to bathe, wash clothes and clean their cookware.

On Sunday, 33 trucks carrying water, food and medicine entered the only border crossing from Egypt. Israel said it has opened two water lines in southern Gaza within the past week. The AP could not independently verify that either line was functioning.

## CORNELL SENDS POLICE TO JEWISH CENTER AFTER ANTISEMITIC MESSAGES POSTED ONLINE

Cornell University administrators dispatched campus police to a Jewish center after threatening statements appeared on a discussion board Sunday.

Cornell President Martha E. Pollack issued a statement explaining there were a series of “horrendous, antisemitic messages” threatening violence against the university's Jewish community, specifically naming the address of the Center for Jewish Living.

The Cornell University Police Department is investigating and has notified the FBI of a potential hate crime, she said.

The content of the online threats appeared to be instigated by the ongoing Israel-Hamas war and sent chills through Cornell's Jewish community during the third week of the conflict in the Gaza Strip.

## WOMAN MISSING AFTER HAMAS ATTACK ON MUSIC FESTIVAL IS REPORTED DEAD

BERLIN — The mother of a German Israeli dual citizen missing after the Hamas attack on Israel on Oct. 7 says she has been told that her daughter is dead.

Ricarda Louk told German news agency dpa on Monday that she was informed by the Israeli military of the death of Shani Louk, who was 22. She said her daughter's body hasn't been found, but a splinter of a skull bone was located and submitted for a DNA test.

Louk believes her daughter died on Oct. 7, when she was at a music festival in southern Israel that was attacked by militants from Gaza. Videos that circulated at the time appeared to show the young woman face-down on a pickup truck.

The German government has said that a “low two-digit number” of German Israeli dual citizens are

believed to be held in Gaza.

PROTESTERS BLOCK ENTRANCE TO DANISH WEAPONS MAKER

COPENHAGEN, Denmark -- A group of demonstrators has blocked the entrance to a Danish weapons maker that provides parts to Israel.

Demonstrators outside the Terma company in suburban Copenhagen on Monday held a sign saying, "Stop weapons sale to Israel now." One of the protesters, Maryam Alkhawaja, wrote on X, formerly Twitter, that the participants are "demanding they stop all deals supporting genocide in #Palestine."

Clothes with red stains representing blood were placed on the fence of the company in Soeborg, photos in Danish media showed.

According to Danish media, Terma produces components used in Israel jet fighters.

## Some striking UAW members carry family legacies, Black middle-class future along with picket signs

By COREY WILLIAMS and AISHA I. JEFFERSON Associated Press

WAYNE, Mich. (AP) — As Britney Johnson paced the picket line outside Ford's Wayne Assembly plant, she wasn't just carrying a sign demanding higher pay and other changes.

She also carried a legacy of car factory jobs and union wages that allowed generations of her family to enjoy middle-class lifestyles and that for years had been unattainable for many Black Americans.

Johnson's great-grandfather, grandfather and mother all worked on assembly lines for one or more of Detroit's automakers, as did some of her uncles.

"We told her she's representing our family," Johnson's mother, Tracy Brooks, jokes.

It seems the efforts of Johnson and her co-workers were starting to pay off. All striking Ford workers were called Wednesday by the United Auto Workers to return to their jobs after the union said it reached a tentative contract agreement with Ford that would give them a 25% general wage increase, plus cost of living raises that will put the pay increase over 30%, to above \$40 per hour for top-scale assembly plant workers by the end of the contract. Union members still must approve the deal.

Ford's deal was followed Saturday by a similar one with Stellantis and could prompt an agreement with General Motors that would end the nearly 6-week-old strikes that at the peak saw about 46,000 workers walk off their jobs and thousands more laid off.

Union wages, and the battles to keep them, have elevated the fortunes of countless Black families, Brooks said.

Brooks' grandfather, Bobbie Allen Sr., left Texas in the early to mid-1900s and found work at Ford Motor Co. Despite having only an eighth grade education, Allen was able to build homes, buy 40 acres of land in rural southeastern Michigan, purchase luxury cars and take his family on vacations.

"It meant a lot, being in the union," Brooks said. "Those were the good jobs that were available for Blacks. They knew they could go in there and work hard, make money and obtain things like homes and cars. It allowed them to have the ability to take care of their families and help to build that Black middle class."

In the late 1960s and early 1970s, there was a "significant rise" in the Black middle class nationwide, particularly in Detroit and other metro areas, said Andre Perry, a senior fellow at Brookings Metro, a program at the public policy nonprofit, the Brookings Institution.

Black people were able to buy homes in urban neighborhoods that were once predominantly white.

"Black people could take advantage of that and buy homes in neighborhoods throughout Detroit," Perry said. "And as a consequence, you had also thriving commercial corridors, businesses and other ancillary enterprises that supported the rise in income among Black workers."

The union provided protection for Black workers who historically faced harsher treatment in the workplace than their white colleagues, Brooks added.

"Without the union jobs, (employers) can do anything, say anything and you're out the door," she said. "At least with the union, you have some type of cushion."

Brooks, 61, was in her early 30s when she began working the assembly line at what was then Daimler

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Chrysler. Her seven years in that job helped pay for her training to become a preschool teacher and buy a home.

"(My grandfather's) goal was to have his own property," Brooks said. "It was his, that no one could take and he worked hard to get that. Being able to own land and property, that was one of the things that was emphasized with us — that property was money."

Giving city residents the chance to earn a good living and buy homes in Detroit was included in a 2019 land development deal with Fiat Chrysler, which merged with PSA Peugeot in 2021 to form Stellantis. Detroit required the automaker to hire more than 3,800 residents for its new assembly plant in the city, with pay starting at \$17 per hour, climbing to \$28.

"What we want is for people to own homes and raise families in this city," Mayor Mike Duggan said in 2019 "If you're making \$60,000 you can get a nice house in the city of Detroit."

The auto industry and union jobs have been "so important to our quality of life and economic future here in Detroit," said Anika Goss, chief executive of Detroit Future City, a nonprofit focused on improving the lives of the city's residents through community and economic development.

As the auto industry muddled through downturns, car buyers' shifting tastes and the migration of jobs overseas, cities dependent on manufacturing jobs suffered.

In 1980, there were 84,920 people in Detroit employed as machine operators and laborers, according to U.S. Census data. A decade later, that number had dropped to 52,316.

The Chicago and Detroit metropolitan areas each lost more than 100,000 manufacturing jobs between 1995 and 2005, the Brookings Institution wrote in 2006.

Currently, individuals and families earning between \$55,000-\$139,000 are in the middle-class income bracket. Only about 25% of Detroit's residents are in that range, and about two-thirds of city residents earn less than \$50,000 per year, Goss said.

Yolanda Martin, 55, is a second-generation Ford employee who has spent 34 years with the company. She said a two-tier wage system prevents newer employees from making the same financial gains as legacy autoworkers like herself and her late father, who spent 40 years at Ford.

"That is something that I believe is so detrimental to the middle class. It basically wiped out the opportunity for them to be able to make those" higher salaries, said Martin, who has held various positions at Ford and is currently apprenticing to become an industrial electrician.

Martin described her childhood during the 1970s and 1980s in her predominantly Black Detroit neighborhood as among the "happiest times" of her life. The Grandmont-Rosedale community was safe, had plenty of shopping and entertainment, and residents looked out for one another. Families usually had two parents and regularly took vacations, and most children received a new car once they learned how to drive because at least one parent worked for an automaker, she explained.

The community is still strong today and unlike other areas of Detroit, Grandmont-Rosedale staved off blight and maintained its resiliency, according to Tracy Hadden Loh, a fellow at the Brookings Institution, adding that 92% of the neighborhood's residents are Black.

Now living in Novi, an upper-middle-class suburb about 28 miles (45 kilometers) northwest of Detroit, Martin worries that future generations of autoworkers won't be able to afford to live in nicer communities or send their children to better schools.

"I shouldn't be working next to a person who makes half of what I make, and they're doing the exact same thing," Martin said. "And that's what I think the fight is about, to kind of bring it to where we're all on an even playing field."



## **Biden wants to move fast on AI safeguards and will sign an executive order to address his concerns**

By JOSH BOAK and MATT O'BRIEN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden on Monday will sign a sweeping executive order to guide the development of artificial intelligence — requiring industry to develop safety and security standards, introducing new consumer protections and giving federal agencies an extensive to-do list to oversee the rapidly progressing technology.

The order reflects the government's effort to shape how AI evolves in a way that can maximize its possibilities and contain its perils. AI has been a source of deep personal interest for Biden, with its potential to affect the economy and national security.

White House Chief of Staff Jeff Zients recalled Biden giving his staff a directive to move with urgency on the issue, having considered the technology a top priority.

"We can't move at a normal government pace," Zients said the president told him. "We have to move as fast, if not faster than the technology itself."

In Biden's view, the government was late to address the risks of social media and now U.S. youth are grappling with related mental health issues. AI has the positive ability to accelerate cancer research, model the impacts of climate change, boost economic output and improve government services among other benefits. But it could also warp basic notions of truth with false images, deepen racial and social inequalities and provide a tool to scammers and criminals.

The order builds on voluntary commitments already made by technology companies. It's part of a broader strategy that administration officials say also includes congressional legislation and international diplomacy, a sign of the disruptions already caused by the introduction of new AI tools such as ChatGPT that can generate new text, images and sounds.

Using the Defense Production Act, the order will require leading AI developers to share safety test results and other information with the government. The National Institute of Standards and Technology is to create standards to ensure AI tools are safe and secure before public release.

The Commerce Department is to issue guidance to label and watermark AI-generated content to help differentiate between authentic interactions and those generated by software. The order also touches on matters of privacy, civil rights, consumer protections, scientific research and worker rights.

An administration official who previewed the order on a Sunday call with reporters said the to-do lists within the order will be implemented and fulfilled over the range of 90 days to 365 days, with the safety and security items facing the earliest deadlines. The official briefed reporters on condition of anonymity, as required by the White House.

Last Thursday, Biden gathered his aides in the Oval Office to review and finalize the executive order, a 30-minute meeting that stretched to 70 minutes, despite other pressing matters including the mass shooting in Maine, the Israel-Hamas war and the selection of a new House speaker.

Biden was profoundly curious about the technology in the months of meetings that led up to drafting the order. His science advisory council focused on AI at two meetings and his Cabinet discussed it at two meetings. The president also pressed tech executives and civil society advocates about the technology's capabilities at multiple gatherings.

"He was as impressed and alarmed as anyone," deputy White House chief of staff Bruce Reed said in an interview. "He saw fake AI images of himself, of his dog. He saw how it can make bad poetry. And he's seen and heard the incredible and terrifying technology of voice cloning, which can take three seconds of your voice and turn it into an entire fake conversation."

The possibility of false images and sounds led the president to prioritize the labeling and watermarking of anything produced by AI. Biden also wanted to thwart the risk of older Americans getting a phone call from someone who sounded like a loved one, only to be scammed by an AI tool.

Meetings could go beyond schedule, with Biden telling civil society advocates in a ballroom of San Francisco's Fairmont Hotel in June: "This is important. Take as long as you need."

The president also talked with scientists and saw the upside that AI created if harnessed for good. He listened to a Nobel Prize-winning physicist talk about how AI could explain the origins of the universe. Another scientist showed how AI could model extreme weather like 100-year floods, as the past data used to assess these events has lost its accuracy because of climate change.

The issue of AI was seemingly inescapable for Biden. At Camp David one weekend, he relaxed by watching the Tom Cruise film "Mission: Impossible — Dead Reckoning Part One." The film's villain is a sentient and rogue AI known as "the Entity" that sinks a submarine and kills its crew in the movie's opening minutes.

"If he hadn't already been concerned about what could go wrong with AI before that movie, he saw plenty more to worry about," said Reed, who watched the film with the president.

With Congress still in the early stages of debating AI safeguards, Biden's order stakes out a U.S. perspective as countries around the world race to establish their own guidelines. After more than two years of deliberation, the European Union is putting the final touches on a comprehensive set of regulations that targets the riskiest applications for the technology. China, a key AI rival to the U.S., has also set some rules.

U.K. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak also hopes to carve out a prominent role for Britain as an AI safety hub at a summit this week that U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris plans to attend.

The U.S., particularly its West Coast, is home to many of the leading developers of cutting-edge AI technology, including tech giants Google, Meta and Microsoft and AI-focused startups such as OpenAI, maker of ChatGPT. The White House took advantage of that industry weight earlier this year when it secured commitments from those companies to implement safety mechanisms as they build new AI models.

But the White House also faced significant pressure from Democratic allies, including labor and civil rights groups, to make sure its policies reflected their concerns about AI's real-world harms.

The American Civil Liberties Union is among the groups that met with the White House to try to ensure "we're holding the tech industry and tech billionaires accountable" so that algorithmic tools "work for all of us and not just a few," said ReNika Moore, director of the ACLU's racial justice program.

Suresh Venkatasubramanian, a former Biden administration official who helped craft principles for approaching AI, said one of the biggest challenges within the federal government has been what to do about law enforcement's use of AI tools, including at U.S. borders.

"These are all places where we know that the use of automation is very problematic, with facial recognition, drone technology," Venkatasubramanian said. Facial recognition technology has been shown to perform unevenly across racial groups, and has been tied to mistaken arrests.

## Israel expands ground assault into Gaza as fears rise over airstrikes near crowded hospitals

By NAJIB JOBAIN, SAMY MAGDY and LEE KEATH Associated Press

KHAN YOUNIS, Gaza Strip (AP) — Israeli troops and armor pushed deeper into northern and central Gaza on Monday, as the U.N. and medical staff warned that airstrikes are hitting closer to hospitals where tens of thousands of Palestinians have sought shelter alongside thousands of wounded.

Video obtained by the Associated Press showed an Israeli tank and bulldozer in central Gaza blocking the territory's main north-south highway, which the Israeli military earlier told Palestinians to use to escape the expanding ground offensive.

When asked whether forces had positioned on the road, Israeli military spokesman Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari said "we expanded our operations" but would not comment on specific deployments.

The video shows a car approaching an earth barrier across the road. The car stops and turns around. As it heads away, the tank appears to open fire, and an explosion engulfs the car. The Gaza Health Ministry later said three people were killed.

The Israeli advances put their forces on both sides of Gaza City and the surrounding areas of northern Gaza, in what Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called a "second stage" in the war ignited by Hamas' brutal Oct. 7 incursion. Casualties on both sides are expected to rise sharply as Israeli forces and Palestinian militants battle in dense residential areas.

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Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians remain in the north and would no longer be able to escape if the north-south highway is blocked. Around 117,000 displaced people are staying in hospitals in northern Gaza, alongside thousands of patients and staff, hoping they will be safe from strikes, according to U.N. figures.

Most residents heeded Israel's orders to flee to the southern part of the besieged territory, but many stayed in part because Israel has also bombarded targets in so-called safe zones.

The death toll among Palestinians passed 8,000, mostly women and minors, the Gaza Health Ministry said. The toll is without precedent in decades of Israeli-Palestinian violence. More than 1.4 million people in Gaza have fled their homes.

Over 1,400 people have died on the Israeli side, mainly civilians killed during Hamas' initial attack, also an unprecedented figure.

Israeli forces appeared to be driving deeper into Gaza from the north. Video released Monday by the military showed armored vehicles moving among buildings and soldiers taking positions inside a house.

The military said Monday that overnight its troops had killed dozens of militants who attacked from inside buildings and tunnels, and that strikes had destroyed a building Hamas was using as a staging post. It said that in the last few days, it had struck more than 600 militant targets, including weapons depots and anti-tank missile launching positions. The reports of targeting could not be independently confirmed.

Hamas' military wing said its militants clashed with Israeli troops who entered the northwest Gaza Strip with small arms and anti-tank missiles. Palestinian militants have continued firing rockets into Israel, including toward its commercial hub, Tel Aviv.

Also Sunday, the largest convoy of humanitarian aid yet — 33 trucks — entered southern Gaza from Egypt. Relief workers say the amount is still far less than what is needed in the territory, where the population of 2.3 million people has been running low on food, water, medicine and fuel after weeks under Israeli siege.

On Saturday, crowds of people broke into four U.N. facilities and took food supplies in what the U.N. called a sign that civil order was starting to break down amid increasing desperation.

Israel's siege has pushed Gaza's infrastructure nearly to collapse. With no central power for weeks, hospitals are struggling to keep emergency generators running to operate incubators and other life-saving equipment. The U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees, known as UNRWA, has been trying to keep water pumps and bakeries running. Last week, U.N. officials said hunger was growing.

The increase in aid trucks came after U.S. President Joe Biden emphasized to Netanyahu "the need to immediately and significantly" increase the entry of humanitarian aid, the U.S. said.

Israel also opened two water lines in southern Gaza within the past week, according to the Israeli military body responsible for Palestinian civilian affairs. The Associated Press could not independently verify that either line was functioning.

Communications were restored to most of Gaza's 2.3 million people Sunday more than a day without phone and internet services.

Meanwhile, crowded hospitals in northern Gaza came under growing threat. Strikes hit near Gaza City's Shifa and Al Quds hospitals and the Indonesian hospital in northern Gaza in recent days, the U.N. and residents said Monday.

All 10 hospitals operating in northern Gaza have received evacuation orders in recent days, the U.N.'s office for the coordination of humanitarian affairs said. Staff have refused to leave, saying evacuation would mean death for patients on ventilators.

Tens of thousands of civilians are sheltering in Shifa Hospital, the territory's largest. Israel accuses Hamas of having a secret command post beneath the hospital but has not provided much evidence. Hamas denies the allegations.

Strikes hit within 50 meters (yards) of Al Quds Hospital after it received two calls from Israeli authorities on Sunday ordering it to evacuate, the Palestinian Red Crescent rescue service said. Some windows were blown out, and rooms were covered in debris. It said 14,000 people are sheltering there.

About 20,000 people were sheltering at Nasser Hospital in the southern city of Khan Younis, emergency director Dr. Mohammed Qandeel said.



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"I brought my kids to sleep here," said one displaced resident who gave her name only as Umm Ahmad. "I used to be afraid of my kids playing in the sand. Now their hands are dirty with the blood on the floor."

The military escalation has increased domestic pressure on Israel's government to secure the release of 239 hostages seized by Hamas fighters during the Oct. 7 attack.

Hamas says it is ready to release all hostages if Israel releases all of the thousands of Palestinians held in its prisons. Desperate family members of the Israeli captives met with Netanyahu on Saturday and expressed support for an exchange. Israel has dismissed the Hamas offer.

"If Hamas does not feel military pressure, nothing will move forward," Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant told families of the hostages Sunday.

The Israeli military has stopped short of calling its gradually expanding ground operations inside Gaza an all-out invasion

Israel says it targets Hamas fighters and infrastructure and that the militants operate among civilians, putting them in danger.

The fighting has raised concerns that the violence could spread across the region. Israel and the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah have engaged in daily skirmishes along Israel's northern border.

In the West Bank, at least four Palestinians were killed in clashes early Monday between Israeli forces and Palestinians in Jenin, the scene of repeated Israeli raids against gunmen. As of Sunday, Israeli forces and settlers killed 115 Palestinians, including 33 minors, in the West Bank, half of them during Israeli search-and-arrest operations, the U.N.'s OCHA said.

The Israeli military said early Monday that its aircraft hit military infrastructure in Syria after rockets from there fell in open Israeli territory.

Roughly 250,000 Israelis have been evacuated from their homes because of violence along the border with Gaza and the northern border with Lebanon, according to the Israeli military.

## Hundreds storm airport in Russia in antisemitic riot over arrival of plane from Israel

MOSCOW (AP) — Hundreds of people stormed into the main airport in Russia's Dagestan region and rushed onto the landing field, chanting antisemitic slogans and seeking passengers arriving on a flight from the Israeli city of Tel Aviv, Russian news agencies and social media reported.

Russian news reports said the crowd on Sunday surrounded the airliner, which belongs to Russian carrier Red Wings.

Authorities closed the airport in Makhachkala, the capital of the predominantly Muslim region, and police converged on the facility. Dagestan's Ministry of Health said more than 20 people were injured, with two in critical condition. It said the injured included police officers and civilians.

Sixty people were detained in the unrest, the Interior Ministry for the federal district that includes Dagestan said Monday. It was not clear if charges had been filed against any of them.

Video on social media show some in the crowd waving Palestinian flags and others trying to overturn a police car. Antisemitic slogans can be heard being shouted and some in the crowd examined the passports of arriving passengers, apparently in an attempt to identify those who were Israeli.

In a statement Sunday night, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said Israel "expects the Russian law enforcement authorities to protect the safety of all Israeli citizens and Jews wherever they may be and to act resolutely against the rioters and against the wild incitement directed against Jews and Israelis."

Netanyahu's office added that the Israeli ambassador to Russia was working with Russia to keep Israelis and Jews safe.

While voicing support for Palestinians in Gaza, the regional Dagestani government appealed to citizens to remain calm and not take part in such protests.

"We urge residents of the republic to treat the current situation in the world with understanding. Federal authorities and international organizations are making every effort to bring about a cease-fire against Gaza

civilians ... we urge residents of the republic not to succumb to the provocations of destructive groups and not to create panic in society," the Dagestani government wrote on Telegram.

The Supreme Mufti of Dagestan, Sheikh Akhmad Afandi, called on residents to stop the unrest at the airport.

"You are mistaken. This issue cannot be resolved in this way. We understand and perceive your indignation very painfully. ... We will solve this issue differently. Not with rallies, but appropriately. Maximum patience and calm for you," he said in a video published to Telegram.

Dagestan Gov. Sergei Melikov promised consequences for anyone who took part in the violence.

"The actions of those who gathered at the Makhachkala airport today are a gross violation of the law! ... (W)hat happened at our airport is outrageous and should receive an appropriate assessment from law enforcement agencies! And this will definitely be done!" he wrote on Telegram.

He called the protests a "knife in the backs of those who gave their lives for the security of the Motherland," referring to the 1999 war in Dagestan and troops currently fighting in Ukraine.

Russia's civilian aviation agency, Rosaviatsia, later reported that the airfield had been cleared, but that the airport would remain closed to incoming aircraft until Nov. 6.

## **Cornell University sends police to Jewish center after violent, antisemitic messages posted online**

By BRIAN P. D. HANNON Associated Press

Cornell University administrators dispatched campus police to a Jewish center after threatening statements appeared on a discussion board Sunday.

Cornell President Martha E. Pollack issued a statement explaining there were a series of "horrendous, antisemitic messages" threatening violence against the university's Jewish community, specifically naming the address of the Center for Jewish Living.

"Threats of violence are absolutely intolerable, and we will work to ensure that the person or people who posted them are punished to the full extent of the law," Pollack said. "Our immediate focus is on keeping the community safe; we will continue to prioritize that."

The Cornell University Police Department is investigating and has notified the FBI of a potential hate crime, she said.

Pollack said the website was not affiliated with the school in Ithaca, New York, about 227 miles (365 kilometers) northwest of New York City.

"The virulence and destructiveness of antisemitism is real and deeply impacting our Jewish students, faculty and staff, as well as the entire Cornell community," Pollack said, noting antisemitism will not be tolerated at Cornell.

The content of the online threats appeared to be instigated by the ongoing Israel-Hamas war and sent chills through Cornell's Jewish community during the third week of the conflict in the Gaza Strip.

The menacing posts drew a swift rebuke from state officials.

New York Gov. Kathy Hochul posted a message on X, formerly Twitter, calling the "disgusting & hateful posts" the latest in a series of concerning events on college campuses. The New York State Police is taking steps to ensure student safety, although she said it was not immediately clear if the threats were credible.

Hochul said she spoke with university leaders across the state to assure them law enforcement and the state government will continue to support efforts to keep students and campus communities safe.

"I also reiterated our strong belief in free speech and the right to peaceful assembly, but made clear that we will have zero tolerance for acts of violence or those who intimidate and harass others through words or actions," Hochul said in her post.

New York Attorney General Letitia James called the threats targeting the Jewish community "absolutely horrific."

"There is no space for antisemitism or violence of any kind. Campuses must remain safe spaces for our

students," she wrote in a post on X.

## How extreme weather in the US may have affected the pumpkins you picked this year for Halloween

By MELINA WALLING and BRITTANY PETERSON Associated Press  
HUDSON, Colo. (AP) —

Alan Mazzotti can see the Rocky Mountains about 30 miles west of his pumpkin patch in northeast Colorado on a clear day. He could tell the snow was abundant last winter, and verified it up close when he floated through fresh powder alongside his wife and three sons at the popular Winter Park Resort.

But one season of above-average snowfall wasn't enough to refill the dwindling reservoir he relies on to irrigate his pumpkins. He received news this spring that his water delivery would be about half of what it was from the previous season, so he planted just half of his typical pumpkin crop. Then heavy rains in May and June brought plenty of water and turned fields into a muddy mess, preventing any additional planting many farmers might have wanted to do.

"By time it started raining and the rain started to affect our reservoir supplies and everything else, it was just too late for this year," Mazzotti said.

For some pumpkin growers in states like Texas, New Mexico and Colorado, this year's pumpkin crop was a reminder of the water challenges hitting agriculture across the Southwest and West as human-caused climate change exacerbates drought and heat extremes. Some farmers lost 20% or more of their predicted yields; others, like Mazzotti, left some land bare. Labor costs and inflation are also narrowing margins, hitting farmers' ability to profit off what they sell to garden centers and pumpkin patches.

This year's thirsty gourds are a symbol of the reality that farmers who rely on irrigation must continue to face season after season: they have to make choices, based on water allotments and the cost of electricity to pump it out of the ground, about which acres to plant and which crops they can gamble on to make it through hotter and drier summers.

Pumpkins can survive hot, dry weather to an extent, but this summer's heat, which broke world records and brought temperatures well over 100 degrees Fahrenheit (38 degrees Celsius) to agricultural fields across the country, was just too much, said Mark Carroll, a Texas A&M extension agent for Floyd County, which he calls the "pumpkin capital" of the state.

"It's one of the worst years we've had in several years," Carroll said. Not only did the hot, dry weather surpass what irrigation could make up for, but pumpkins also need cooler weather to be harvested or they'll start to decompose during the shipping process, sometimes disintegrating before they even arrive at stores.

America's pumpkin powerhouse, Illinois, had a successful harvest on par with the last two years, according to the Illinois Farm Bureau. But this year it was so hot into the harvest season in Texas that farmers had to decide whether to risk cutting pumpkins off the vines at the usual time or wait and miss the start of the fall pumpkin rush. Adding to the problem, irrigation costs more as groundwater levels continue to drop — driving some farmers' energy bills to pump water into the thousands of dollars every month.

Lindsey Pyle, who farms 950 acres of pumpkins in North Texas about an hour outside Lubbock, has seen her energy bills go up too, alongside the cost of just about everything else, from supplies and chemicals to seed and fuel. She lost about 20% of her yield. She added that pumpkins can be hard to predict earlier in the growing season because the vines might look lush and green, but not bloom and produce fruit if they aren't getting enough water.

Steven Ness, who grows pinto beans and pumpkins in central New Mexico, said the rising cost of irrigation as groundwater dwindles is an issue across the board for farmers in the region. That can inform what farmers choose to grow, because if corn and pumpkins use about the same amount of water, they might get more money per acre for selling pumpkins, a more lucrative crop.

But at the end of the day, "our real problem is groundwater, ... the lack of deep moisture and the lack of water in the aquifer," Ness said. That's a problem that likely won't go away because aquifers can take hundreds or thousands of years to refill after overuse, and climate change is reducing the very rain and



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snow needed to recharge them in the arid West.

Jill Graves, who added a pumpkin patch to her blueberry farm about an hour east of Dallas about three years ago, said they had to give up on growing their own pumpkins this year and source them from a wholesaler. Graves said the pumpkins she bought rotted more quickly than in past years, but it was better than what little they grew themselves.

Still, she thinks they'll try again next year. "They worked perfect the first two years," she said. "We didn't have any problems."

Mazzotti, for his part, says that with not enough water, you "might as well not farm" — but even so, he sees labor as the bigger issue. Farmers in Colorado have been dealing with water cutbacks for a long time, and they're used to it. However, pumpkins can't be harvested by machine like corn can, so they require lots of people to determine they're ripe, cut them off the vines and prepare them for shipping.

He hires guest workers through the H-2A program, but Colorado recently instituted a law ensuring farmworkers to be paid overtime — something most states don't require. That makes it tough to maintain competitive prices with places where laborers are paid less, and the increasing costs of irrigation and supplies stack onto that, creating what Mazzotti calls a "no-win situation."

He'll keep farming pumpkins for a bit longer, but "there's no future after me," he said. "My boys won't farm."

## More than 1,000 pay tribute to Maine's mass shooting victims on day of prayer, reflection and hope

DAVID SHARP undefined

LEWISTON, Maine (AP) — Residents of Lewiston return to work and school Monday, the morning after coming together to mourn those lost in Maine's worst mass shooting. They gathered Sunday evening, hugging one another, singing a rousing edition of "Amazing Grace," and seeking guidance out of these dark days from religious leaders who talked of hope, healing and the power of prayer.

More than 1,000 people attended Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul for a vigil in Lewiston, where days earlier a gunman fatally shot 18 people. Some put their heads in their hands as the names of the people who died in Wednesday's shooting were read. Others quietly wept.

Hundreds more watched a live stream of the vigil shown on a huge screen in front of the church. Some held American flags and others had lit candles in cups marked with the names of the dead and injured.

"Remember to seek healing over relief. Relief is temporary. Healing is permanent. Pain is temporary," the Rev. Gary Bragg of the Southern Baptist Church in Lewiston said. As he spoke, he asked the crowd to welcome their neighbor to the service with the words "I am so glad you are here" and then to ask how they might help them.

The vigil came two days after the body of suspected gunman Robert Card was found. The 40-year-old's body was discovered in a trailer at a recycling center in Lisbon Falls. Card died of an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound though it was unclear when, authorities said. Card was also suspected of injuring 13 people in the shooting rampage Wednesday night in Lewiston.

Christian leaders along with a rabbi and an imam spoke of the pain from the shooting but also the healing process and the resilience of the community of 40,000. There was also a speaker from Lewiston's deaf and hard of hearing community, as four of its members were killed in the shooting.

Kevin Bohlin, who represented the deaf community, signed his message, which was delivered through an ASL interpreter, about how the tragedy hit close to home for the community. Several in attendance could be seen signing to one another throughout the vigil.

The victims are now gone, he said, "but they are directing us to come together and make a difference in this world."

The Rev. Allen Austin, a senior pastor at Pathways Vineyard Church in Lewiston encouraged the crowd to "stay focused on the things that invite peace into our communities."

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Austin said he hopes that what arises from the tragedy is a "kinder people, a more compassionate people, a more merciful people."

The Rev. Todd Little from the First United Pentecostal Church of Lewiston spoke at the vigil of a diverse community that now has something new in common after the tragedy: "shared brokenness, worry, fear and loss."

He also vowed that the community is bigger than the tragedy and will emerge not just "Lewiston Strong" but "Lewiston Stronger."

"We will not be defined by the tragedies that happened," he said. "Fear, anxiety and trepidation will not dictate our present or our future."

Earlier Sunday, several church services were shaped by the shooting and subsequent lockdown lasting days. At the morning mass at Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul, several women wore black veils. A church official said they are raising funds to help those hurt by "the horrible events in our small town."

"We can see the rays of light in darkness," said the Rev. Daniel Greenleaf, adding it is for times like this that people have "practiced" their faith.

At Lisbon Falls Baptist Church, arriving church members greeted each other warmly but the atmosphere turned somber when the Rev. Brian Ganong brought up the tragedy. He prayed for those fighting for their lives, those who lost family and friends, first responders and medical workers, and others — including the Card family, who he said had ties to some members of the church.

"It did happen. We may never know the reason why," he said, encouraging the congregation to seek solace through a higher being.

Authorities recovered a multitude of weapons while searching for Card and believe he had legally purchased his guns, including those recovered in his car and near his body, said Jim Ferguson, the special agent in charge of the Boston office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. He declined to discuss any specifics.

Investigators are still searching for a motive for the massacre, but have increasingly focused on Card's mental health history.

State Department of Public Safety Commissioner Michael Sauschuck said Card believed "people were talking about him and there may even have been some voices at play."

Family members of Card told federal investigators that he had recently discussed hearing voices and became more focused on the bowling alley and bar, according to law enforcement officials who spoke with The Associated Press on condition of anonymity in order to discuss details of the investigation.

A stay-at-home order in place during the massive search was lifted Friday afternoon, hours before authorities announced they had found Card's body. By Saturday, some sense of normalcy returned. Residents went hunting on the opening day of hunting season for deer, and one family handed out buckets of flowers downtown.

On Sunday at Schemengees Bar & Grille, one of the shooting sites, workers in white hazmat suits could be seen methodically cleaning up a staircase. Yellow tape surrounded the site and a small memorial erected nearby featuring colorful balloons, flowers and a poster that read: "Be Strong Lewiston."

Leroy Walker, an Auburn city councilor and father of one of the victims, was greeting people at a trick-or-treat event on Sunday, hosted by an organization he leads. He smiled broadly when the children hugged him but he became emotional when he spoke of his son, Joseph, who normally would've joined him at the event.

"It's been a tough few days, trust me. The heart doesn't stop bleeding," he said.

The deadliest shootings in Maine's history stunned a state of 1.3 million people that has relatively little violent crime and only 29 killings in all of 2022.

Three of the injured remained in critical condition at Central Maine Medical Center, and a fourth was stable, hospital officials said. Another was transported to Massachusetts General Hospital, and the rest were discharged.

The Lewiston shootings were the 36th mass killing in the U.S. this year, according to a database maintained by AP and USA Today in partnership with Northeastern University. The database includes every

mass killing since 2006 from all weapons in which four or more people, excluding the offender, were killed within a 24-hour time frame.

## As economy falters, more Chinese migrants take a perilous journey to the US border to seek asylum

By ELLIOT SPAGAT and DIDI TANG Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The young Chinese man looked lost and exhausted when Border Patrol agents left him at a transit station. Deng Guangsen, 28, had spent the last two months traveling to San Diego from the southern Chinese province of Guangdong, through seven countries on plane, bus and foot, including traversing Panama's dangerous Darién Gap jungle.

"I feel nothing," Deng said in the San Diego parking lot, insisting on using the broken English he learned from the "Harry Potter" film series. "I have no brother, no sister. I have nobody."

Deng is part of a major influx of Chinese migration to the United States on a relatively new and perilous route that has become increasingly popular with the help of social media. Chinese people were the fourth-highest nationality, after Venezuelans, Ecuadorians and Haitians, crossing the Darién Gap during the first nine months of this year, according to Panamanian immigration authorities.

Chinese asylum-seekers who spoke to The Associated Press, as well as observers, say they are seeking to escape an increasingly repressive political climate and bleak economic prospects.

They also reflect a broader presence of migrants at the U.S.-Mexico border — Asians, South Americans and Africans — who made September the second-highest month of illegal crossings and the U.S. government's 2023 budget year the second-highest on record.

The pandemic and China's COVID-19 policies, which included tight border controls, temporarily stemmed the exodus that rose dramatically in 2018 when President Xi Jinping amended the constitution to scrap the presidential term limit. Now emigration has resumed, with China's economy struggling to rebound and youth unemployment high. The United Nations has projected China will lose 310,000 people through emigration this year, compared with 120,000 in 2012.

It has become known as "runxue," or the study of running away. The term started as a way to get around censorship, using a Chinese character whose pronunciation spells like the English word "run" but means "moistening." Now it's an internet meme.

"This wave of emigration reflects despair toward China," Cai Xia, editor-in-chief of the online commentary site of Yibao and a former professor at the Central Party School of the Chinese Communist Party in Beijing.

"They've lost hope for the future of the country," said Cai, who now lives in the U.S. "You see among them the educated and the uneducated, white-collar workers, as well as small business owners, and those from well-off families."

Those who can't get a visa are finding other ways to flee the world's most populous nation. Many are showing up at the U.S.-Mexico border to seek asylum. The Border Patrol made 22,187 arrests of Chinese for crossing the border illegally from Mexico from January through September, nearly 13 times the same period in 2022. Arrests peaked at 4,010 in September, up 70% from August. The vast majority were single adults.

The popular route to the U.S. is through Ecuador, which has no visa requirements for Chinese nationals. Migrants from China join Latin Americans there to trek north through the once-impenetrable Darién and across several Central American countries before reaching the U.S. border. The journey is well-known enough it has its own name in Chinese: walk the line, or "zouxian."

The monthly number of Chinese migrants crossing the Darién has been rising gradually, from 913 in January to 2,588 in September. For the first nine months of this year, Panamanian immigration authorities registered 15,567 Chinese citizens crossing the Darién. By comparison, 2,005 Chinese people trekked through the rainforest in 2022, and just 376 in total from 2010 to 2021.

Short video platforms and messaging apps provide not only on-the-ground video clips but also step-by-



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step guides from China to the U.S., including tips on what to pack, where to find guides, how to survive the jungle, which hotels to stay at, how much to bribe police in different countries and what to do when encountering U.S. immigration officers.

Translation apps allow migrants to navigate through Central America on their own, even if they don't speak Spanish or English. The journey can cost thousands to tens of thousands of dollars, paid for with family savings or even online loans.

It's markedly different from the days when Chinese nationals paid smugglers, known as snakeheads, and traveled in groups.

With more financial resources, Xi Yan, 46, and her daughter Song Siming, 24, didn't trek the Ecuador-Mexico route, but instead flew into Mexico via Europe. With help from a local guide, the two women crossed the border at Mexicali into the U.S. in April.

"The unemployment rate is very high. People cannot find work," said Xi Yan, a Chinese writer. "For small business owners, they cannot sustain their businesses."

Xi Yan said she decided to leave China in March, when she traveled to the southern city of Foshan to see her mother but had to leave the next day when state security agents and police officers harassed her brother and told him that his sister was not allowed in the city. She realized she was still on the state blacklist, six years after being detained for gathering at a seaside spot to remember Liu Xiaobo, a Nobel peace laureate who died in a Chinese prison. In 2015, she was locked up for 25 days over an online post remembering the victims of the 1989 Tiananmen Massacre.

Her daughter, Song, agreed to leave with her. A college graduate, the daughter struggled to find work in China and became depressed, the mother said.

Despite the challenges to survive in the U.S., Xi Yan said it was worth it.

"We have freedom," she said. "I used to get nervous whenever there was a police car. Now, I don't have to worry about it anymore."

Migrants hoping to enter the U.S. at San Diego wait for agents to pick them up in an area between two border walls or in remote mountains east of the city covered with shrubs and large boulders.

Many migrants are released with court dates in cities nearest their final destination in a bottlenecked system that takes years to decide cases. Chinese migrants had an asylum grant rate of 33% in the 2022 budget year, compared with 46% for all nationalities, according to Syracuse University's Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse.

Catholic Charities of San Diego uses hotels to provide shelters for migrants, including 1,223 from China in September. The average shelter stay is a day and a half among all nationalities. For Chinese visitors, it's less than a day.

"They get dropped off in the morning. By afternoon they are looking to reunite with their families. They're going to New York, they're going to Chicago, they're going to all kinds of places," said Vito Paganor, the group's chief executive. "They don't want to be in a shelter."

In September, 98% of U.S. border arrests of Chinese people occurred in the San Diego area. At the transit stop, migrants charge phones, snack, browse piles of free clothing and get travel advice.

Signs at portable bathrooms and information booths and a volunteer's loudspeaker announcements about free airport shuttles are translated to multiple languages, including Mandarin. Taxi drivers offer rides to Los Angeles.

Many migrants who spoke to the AP did not give their full names out of fear of drawing attention to their cases. Some said they came for economic reasons and paid 300,000 to 400,000 yuan (\$41,000 to \$56,000 for the trip).

In recent weeks, Chinese migrants have filled makeshift encampments in the California desert as they wait to turn themselves in to U.S. authorities to make asylum claims.

Near the small town of Jacumba, hundreds huddled in the shadow of a section of border wall and under crude tarps. Others tried to sleep on large boulders or under the few trees there. Small campfires keep them warm overnight. Without food or running water, the migrants rely on volunteers who distribute

bottled water, hot oatmeal and peanut butter and jelly sandwiches.

Chen Yixiao said he endured a hard journey to come to the U.S. He said life had become difficult back home, with some migrants experiencing issues with the government and others failing in business.

"I'm very happy to be in the U.S. now. This is my dream country," said Chen, who planned to join his relatives in New York and find work there.

At San Diego's transit station, Deng was headed to Monterey Park, a Los Angeles suburb that became known as "Little Taipei" in the 1980s. But when he didn't provide the Border Patrol with a U.S. address, an agent scheduled an initial immigration court appearance for him in New York in February.

Deng said he worked a job in Guangdong requiring him to ride motorcycles, which he considered unsafe. As he lingered at the transit station, sitting on a curb with his small backpack, several Africans approached to ask questions. He told them he arrived in the U.S. with \$880 in his pockets.

## **Illinois man to appear in court on hate crime and murder charges in attack on Muslim mother and son**

JOLIET, Ill. (AP) — A man accused of murder, attempted murder and a hate crime in an attack on a Palestinian-American woman and her young son is scheduled to appear in court on Monday following his indictment by an Illinois grand jury.

Joseph Czuba, 71, is expected to enter a plea at an arraignment on eight counts in the indictment filed last week. He is charged in the fatal stabbing of Wadea Al-Fayoume, 6, and the wounding of Hanaan Shahin on Oct. 14. Authorities said the victims were targeted because of their Muslim faith.

Shahin told police that Czuba, her landlord in Plainfield in Will County, was upset over the Israel-Hamas war and attacked them after she had urged him to "pray for peace."

Shahin, 32, is recovering from multiple stab wounds. Hundreds of people attended her son's funeral on Oct. 16.

The murder charge in the indictment against Czuba describes the boy's death as the result of "exceptionally brutal or heinous behavior."

Defense attorney George Lenard has said he won't comment on the case outside court. Czuba, who is in jail, is expected in court in Joliet, 50 miles (80 kilometers) southwest of Chicago.

Shahin asked the public to "pray for peace" and said her son was her best friend in a statement issued last week through the Chicago chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations.

The stabbings were part of rising hostility against Muslim and Jewish communities in the U.S. since Hamas attacked Israel.

## **Court arguments begin in effort to bar Trump from presidential ballot under 'insurrection' clause**

By NICHOLAS RICCARDI Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — The campaign to use the U.S. Constitution's "insurrection" clause to bar former President Donald Trump from running for the White House again enters a new phase this week as hearings begin in two states on lawsuits that might end up reaching the U.S. Supreme Court.

A weeklong hearing on one lawsuit to bar Trump from the ballot in Colorado begins Monday, while on Thursday oral arguments are scheduled before the Minnesota Supreme Court on an effort to kick the former president off the ballot in that state.

Whether the judges keep Trump on the ballot or boot him, their rulings are likely to be swiftly appealed, eventually to the U.S. Supreme Court. The nation's highest court has never ruled on the Civil War-era provision in the 14th Amendment that prohibits those who swore an oath to uphold the constitution and then "engaged in insurrection" against it from holding higher office.

"We've had hearings with presidential candidates debating their eligibility before — Barack Obama, Ted Cruz, John McCain," said Derek T. Muller, a Notre Dame law professor, listing candidates challenged on

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whether they met the constitutional requirement of being a “natural born citizen.” But these cases, Muller added, are different, using an obscure clause of the Constitution with the “incendiary” bar against insurrection.

Even if they’re longshots, Muller said, they have a plausible legal path to success and raise important issues.

“Those legal questions are very heavy ones,” Muller said.

Dozens of cases citing Section Three of the 14th Amendment have been filed in recent months, but the ones in Colorado and Minnesota seem the most important, according to legal experts. That’s because they were filed by two liberal groups with significant legal resources. They also targeted states with a clear, swift process for challenges to candidates’ ballot qualifications.

That means the Colorado and Minnesota cases are taking a more legally sound route to get courts to force election officials to disqualify Trump, as opposed to other lawsuits that seek a sweeping ruling from federal judges that Trump is no longer eligible for the presidency.

The plaintiffs in the cases argue the issue is simple: Trump’s efforts to overturn his 2020 election loss, leading to the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol, mean he’s disqualified from the presidency just as clearly as if he were not a natural-born citizen, another constitutional prerequisite for the office.

“Four years after taking an oath to ‘preserve, protect and defend’ the Constitution as President of the United States ... Trump tried to overthrow the results of the 2020 election, leading to a violent insurrection at the United States Capitol to stop the lawful transfer of power to his successor,” alleges the Colorado lawsuit, filed on behalf of Republican and unaffiliated voters by the liberal group Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington.

“By instigating this unprecedented assault on the American constitutional order, Trump violated his oath and disqualified himself under the Fourteenth Amendment from holding public office, including the Office of the President.”

Trump has castigated the lawsuits as “election interference.” His lawyers contend that none of the issues are simple in a provision of the Constitution that hasn’t been used in 150 years.

The clause has only been used a handful of times since immediately after the Civil War. Trump’s lawyers contend that it was never meant to apply to the office of president, which is not mentioned in the text, unlike “Senator or Representative in Congress” and “elector of President and Vice President.”

The provision allows Congress to grant amnesty — as was done in 1872 to allow former confederates back into government — which has led some to argue that it has no power without an enabling act of Congress.

Finally, Trump’s lawyers contend the former president never “engaged in insurrection” and was simply exercising his free speech rights to warn about election results he did not believe were legitimate.

“Trump’s comments did not come close to ‘incitement,’ let alone ‘engagement’ in an insurrection,” his attorneys wrote in a filing in the Colorado case, adding examples of cases where the congressional authors of Section Three declined to use it against people who only rhetorically backed the confederacy.

The arguments in Colorado could feature testimony from witnesses to the Jan. 6 attack or other important events during Trump’s efforts to overturn the election. The identities of witnesses have been shielded until they take the stand, part of the court’s effort to limit the heated rhetoric and threats that have become an issue in Trump’s criminal trials.

The lawyers are expected to delve deeply into the history of the drafting of the provision in the 14th Amendment and its use between its adoption in 1868 and the amnesty law in 1872. There is scant legal precedent on the issue — so little that the attorneys have had to argue about the meaning of an 1869 case written by Salmon Chase, who was then chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court but wrote only as an appeals judge.

After the amnesty act in 1872, legal scholars could only find one other time the provision was cited, when Congress refused to seat a socialist member of the House of Representatives because he opposed entry into World War I.

Then last year, it was used by CREW to bar the head of “Cowboys for Trump” from a county commission

seat in rural New Mexico. A second liberal group, Free Speech For People, filed lawsuits seeking to prevent Republican Reps. Marjorie Taylor-Greene and Madison Cawthorn from running for reelection.

The judge overseeing Greene's case ruled in her favor, while Cawthorn's case became moot after he was defeated in his primary. Free Speech For People filed the case in Minnesota, where challenges to ballot appearances go straight to the state supreme court.

## **Idaho left early education up to families. One town set out to get universal preschool anyway**

By EMILY TATE SULLIVAN of EdSurge undefined

AMERICAN FALLS, Idaho (AP) — After reading a book about the five senses to a semicircle of rapt 4-year-olds, Abi Hawker tells the children in her afternoon preschool class that she has a surprise for them.

She drags a small popcorn maker onto the carpet and asks them to consider: Which of their senses might be activated when she pours the kernels into the machine? When the kernels heat up? When the popcorn begins to pop?

Moments later, the children shriek with joy as the corn kernels burst.

While Hawker explains what the kids are seeing, she asks them questions that connect back to the day's lesson. From the activity, the class transitions to snack time, stimulating two more senses: touch and taste.

A few years ago, this experience would've been inaccessible to nearly half of the children in Hawker's classroom. Their families don't make enough money to afford early childhood education. Other kids come from families who may have the means but, until recently, didn't make early learning a priority.

Today, though, American Falls is a town transformed.

This one-stoplight farming community has seen marked improvements in family engagement, preschool access and kindergarten readiness in just the last few years — the results of a grassroots effort to support children and families.

It could not have come at a more critical time. As President Joe Biden's efforts to expand child care support have faltered, states have been the next-best hope for addressing a nationwide crisis in early childhood education. Some, such as New Mexico, Minnesota and Vermont, have invested heavily. But others have made clear they view early care and education as an individual, not government, responsibility.

In reliably conservative Idaho, lawmakers have gone a step further. They've withheld statewide support for early learners — Idaho is one of the few states that does not provide funding for preschool — and rejected federal grants to improve early childhood education. Some have expressed open hostility toward early learning, including one Republican lawmaker who said he opposed any bill that makes it easier "for mothers to come out of the home" and later apologized for his remarks.

American Falls swings conservative, too. Yet the town has proudly embraced a goal that backers typically describe as "progressive": universal preschool. Residents have rallied around a simple mantra — "read, talk, play" — and turned it into a movement.

That homegrown success has been fueled by a broader experiment spreading across the state, where communities build their own systems for early childhood education. These ad hoc projects known as "collaboratives" bring together educators, school district leaders, and nonprofit and business executives to dismantle barriers to early childhood development.

These local partnerships offer hope to families in the 25 Idaho communities and counting that have launched them. Organizers aim to prove to state lawmakers that early learning programs are good for all Idahoans and worthy of state money.

"We're building something that they can see, feel, touch, experience in their backyards," said Beth Oppenheimer, executive director of the Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children, a nonprofit that champions the collaborative model. "So if you invest in early childhood, you are going to see better fall kindergarten (readiness) rates. You're going to see families who know where to go for resources. You're going to see children thriving."

That's what is on display in American Falls, the darling of Idaho's early learning enterprise.



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It started with Randy Jensen, who became superintendent of the American Falls school district in 2017. At the time, he said, kindergarten readiness rates “were like, whew, rock bottom.” To turn things around, he encouraged families to read to their children, talk with their children and play with their children every day.

Six years later, after a community-wide campaign, the concept is ubiquitous in the 4,500-person town, where half of residents identify as Hispanic. People wear “read, talk, play” shirts with pride. The message, sometimes translated to the Spanish “leer, hablar, jugar,” can be found also on decals in shop windows, pinned to office bulletin boards and on banners hung from light poles.

“It’s just part of the culture here now,” said Tennille Call, the interim director of education at United Way of Southeastern Idaho. The nonprofit supports early learning in American Falls financially and by hosting regular events where parents and children participate together in learning activities.

A small number of families in town could afford to pay out of pocket before the preschool push. Others qualified for free Head Start or child care subsidies.

But most fell into an overlooked middle category.

“They don’t have money for preschool,” Jensen said, noting his rural district has one of the highest poverty rates in the state. “They’re living paycheck to paycheck.”

The United Way stepped forward with scholarships that today support nearly 40% of the children who attend preschool in American Falls, which now has five preschools — a mix of private and public.

As the 3-year-olds in Honi Allen’s class grab their seats and get started on the art activity, she notices a few have their fists closed tightly around their crayons. She reminds them to “pinch, pinch, pinch” the utensil. They adjust their grips.

Six of the 11 children in Allen’s class this morning have United Way scholarships.

Allen has led St. John’s Preschool in a church basement for a decade but said she never had a curriculum before, just “pulled stuff off the internet.” Now, with all preschools in town using the same vetted curriculum — a change ushered in by the collaborative — she said her program’s quality has noticeably improved.

So have student outcomes. The school district’s kindergarten readiness scores, which measure early literacy skills, increased from 19.7% proficiency in fall 2019 to 40% this September — a rare story of progress made during the pandemic.

The results are sticking. Whitney Lankford’s daughter Tucker was enrolled in preschool during the first year of the collaborative. With the emphasis on quality and access, “everyone started at a higher level,” Lankford said of Tucker’s class. Now in second grade, the literacy rates for those same children are soaring.

“It’s been cool to see,” said Lankford, who works for the school district to engage more families.

Still, the work in American Falls is not finished, advocates say.

“We are very, very close to universal preschool,” Call noted. She estimates one quarter of children are not being served, down from about three-quarters five years ago.

Transportation remains a barrier. American Falls is the largest town in a vast but sparsely populated county.

Rebeca Worton’s older son attended preschool in American Falls last year. But her family moved to be closer to their farm in the unincorporated town of Arbon, where her 4-year-old son now attends a home-based early learning program. It’s unreasonable, she said, for her to drive 45 minutes each way for him to attend half-day preschool in town.

A handful of families are still not convinced their children need preschool. But others slip through the cracks. At a family engagement event in September, a parent was astonished to learn her 4-year-old could attend preschool for free. “Sometimes you just totally miss them,” said Tina Fehringer, principal of the preK-2 elementary school in American Falls.

As American Falls inches toward universality, other districts are taking notice.

In nearby Pocatello, with a population 12 times that of American Falls, efforts are underway to adapt and scale its neighbor’s success. T-shirts emblazoned with “read, talk, play” are showing up in schools. United Way is funding scholarships and bringing early learning providers together.

“What we’re doing is special,” said Jensen, “but it’s very replicable.”

## Deadly explosion off Nigeria points to threat posed by aging oil ships around the world

By HELEN WIEFFERING and GRACE EKPU Associated Press

OKITIPUPA, Nigeria (AP) — It was the dead of night when the ship caught fire, Patrick Aganyebi remembers, but the flames made it seem as bright as day.

The explosion that night woke him and knocked him to the floor. He tucked his phone and his ID card in his pockets, strapped on a life jacket and made his way to the upper deck. As the flames barreled toward him, he prepared to jump nearly 100 feet (30 meters) into the sea.

Five workers were killed and two others presumed dead in the blast on the Trinity Spirit, a rusting converted oil tanker anchored 15 miles (24 km) off the coast of Nigeria that pulled crude oil from the ocean floor. It was by the grace of God, Aganyebi said, that he and two fellow crewmen escaped, rescued by a pair of fishermen as the burning vessel sank along with 40,000 barrels of oil.

The Trinity Spirit's explosion in February of last year stands among the deadliest tragedies on an oil ship or platform in recent years. The Associated Press' review of court documents, ship databases, and interviews with crew members reveals that the 46-year-old ship was in a state of near-total disrepair, and the systems meant to ensure its safe and lawful operation — annual inspections, a flag registry, insurance — had gradually fallen away.

The Trinity Spirit fits a pattern of old tankers put to work storing and extracting oil even while on the brink of mechanical breakdowns. At least eight have been shut down after a fire, a major safety hazard, or the death of a worker in the last decade, according to an AP review. More than 30 are older than the Trinity Spirit and still storing oil around the world.

Jan-Erik Vinnem, who has spent his career studying the risks of offshore oil production, said he's sometimes shocked when he sees pictures of oil ships in Africa.

"I call them 'floating bombs,'" he said.

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### AGING HULLS

The Trinity Spirit was part of a class of vessels that extracts oil offshore and stores it at sea. They are known as floating production storage and offloading units — FPSOs — or as FSOs, floating storage and offloading units, when used only for storage. Since the 1970s, they've become increasingly popular for developing oil in deep waters and in places where no pipelines exist. According to the environmental group SkyTruth, there are some 240 in operation today.

FPSOs are unlike most ships for one key reason: They stay in place. Once attached to the ocean floor, they can linger at the same oil field for years or even decades. They may be surveyed by in-country regulators or hired inspectors, but they operate outside the normal flow of shipping traffic and the added safety and legal inspections that take place in port.

"If a vessel is sitting in a country's domestic waters and is not going around trading ... then you're not going to have that same level of oversight," said Meghan Mathieson, strategy director at the Canadian-based Clear Seas Centre for Responsible Marine Shipping.

More than half the current fleet of FPSOs are recycled oil tankers, according to Oslo-based Rystad Energy, which keeps data on the ships. Senior analyst Edvard Christoffersen said that without a major repair, most oil ships have hulls built to last about 25 years. But some FPSOs are used far longer, sometimes to dangerous effect.

In the same month that the Trinity Spirit caught fire, inspectors found problems with an aging FPSO moored off the coast of Malaysia. The Bunga Kertas was built as an oil tanker in the 1980s, and press coverage of its conversion to an FPSO in 2004 said the vessel had an intended service life of 10 more years.

But it was 18 years later when a safety issue on the Bunga Kertas led to a pause in operations. The

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ship's hull had "integrity issues," according to stakeholder Jadestone Energy. Four months later a diver was killed while repairing the damage. Petronas, the operator at the time, did not respond to a request for comment.

Until this fall, another aging ship floating off the coast of Yemen seemed dangerously close to spilling a massive amount of oil. The FSO Safer was built in the same year as the Trinity Spirit, and became a floating hazard over years of neglect amid the country's civil war. Seawater had leaked into the ship's engine room by 2020.

"It could break up at any time – or explode," the United Nations said in a statement this spring.

The ship held more than a million barrels of oil — risking a spill that could have decimated fisheries in the Red Sea, threatened desalination plants and washed oil on the shores of countries around the Horn of Africa, according to the U.N. After years of alarm and negotiations, the oil was transferred onto another tanker this August, but the rusting Safer remains off Yemen's coast, awaiting funds to be scrapped.

Age isn't the only measure of a ship's health: Climate, storms and wave patterns can add stress to ship components or increase the pace of corrosion, just as careful maintenance can extend a ship's life.

But the fleet's growing age is well known in the industry. The average hull age of FPSOs has increased from 22 to nearly 28 years since 2010, according to Rystad Energy. The American Bureau of Shipping — one of several companies known as classification societies that certify vessels' safety — launched a working group in 2021 to address the challenges of older FPSOs, noting that 55 ships were approaching the end of their intended lives.

"A lot of these things are foreseeable," said Ian Ralby, a maritime security expert who helped sound the alarm about the Safer.

"If they are not well maintained and not watched carefully," Ralby said, "they can sink, they can spill, and they can, as the Trinity Spirit showed, blow up."

## DANGEROUS TO ABANDON

There has been little to no public explanation of what led to the Trinity Spirit's explosion, though multiple Nigerian agencies had responsibility for overseeing the ship. The Trinity Spirit had been on the same oil field for more than two decades. According to Aganyebi, after the ship arrived in Nigeria, it was never brought to shore for major upgrades or repairs.

Warning signs began years before it caught fire. In 2015, the American Bureau of Shipping canceled its classification and ceased inspections of the ship. There's no record the Trinity Spirit had insurance after that point, according to Lloyd's List Intelligence. In the next several years, the ship lost its privilege to fly the flag of Liberia, becoming a stateless vessel.

By 2019, Nigeria's petroleum regulator had revoked the Trinity Spirit's license to pump oil. Nigeria's head of maritime safety, quoted in local press coverage, said his agency had directed the ship to stop operating five years before the blast. Yet the Trinity Spirit was never forced to leave.

Up till the moment of the explosion, there was oil on board. As recently as 2021, according to satellite imagery and ship transponder data, oil was loaded onto a tanker that later docked at a Shell refinery in the Netherlands.

Adeyemi Adeyiga, a spokesperson for Nigeria's Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission, which regulates the country's oil resources, said the sale was legal because the oil was produced before the license was revoked. And a spokesperson for Shell said the company conducts robust reviews of its supply chain and complies with all laws and regulations.

Though the federal government investigated the Trinity Spirit's explosion, more than a year later no findings have been released. For months, it seemed the only scrutiny would fall on the surviving men.

Not long after their escape, and still in the throes of recovery, Aganyebi and a fellow crewman were arrested on accusations of "Murder, Arson, and Malicious Damage," according to their charging documents. Police were acting on a complaint from Shebah Exploration and Production Company Limited — the Trinity Spirit's longtime operator.

An attorney in Lagos took on the case pro bono.

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"They committed no offense, they did nothing wrong. They were staffers of the company," Benson Enikuomehin said. In an interview, he accused Shebah of drumming up criminal charges to distract from the company's missteps. Anything that took place on the Trinity Spirit should be considered illegal after the license to the oil field was revoked, he said.

Yinka Agidee, an attorney specializing in Nigeria's oil and gas sector who was not involved in the case, said the Trinity Spirit represented an "accident waiting to happen," and showed that local authorities failed to enforce their own orders.

"I'm not sure if it's a question of people closing their eyes or deliberately not doing what they're supposed to have done," she said. "But that has resulted in an accident and there has been a loss of life. So we need some explanation."

Interviews and an exploration of documents provide a lack of clarity about who was responsible for the Trinity Spirit in the final years of its decline. Though Shebah hired Aganyebi and the rest of the Trinity Spirit's crew, CEO Ikemefuna Okafor said in an email to the AP that the company wasn't responsible for the ship's neglect. The company reported the surviving crew to police, he said, because it had evidence of illegal storage of oil on the ship.

According to Okafor, liquidators seized ownership of the Trinity Spirit in 2018 due to Shebah's outsized debt. Yet in a deposition given one year before the explosion, the company's former president, Ambrosie Orjiako, described how Shebah continued to run operations.

Sustaining fuel purchases, food supplies, and "skeletal manpower" wasn't easy, Orijiako said, because "there's no revenue coming in." But he managed to fund the minimal operations with family resources, he said, because the FPSO "would be dangerous to abandon."

Adeyiga, the spokesperson for Nigeria's Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission, said it was still finalizing its investigation into the ship's explosion and would continue working to prevent similar tragedies from happening.

The Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency did not respond to repeated requests for comment, but issued notice in December that all FPSOs and FSOs in Nigeria's waters must have a flag, be certified by a classification society, and maintain official plans for ship maintenance and emergency response.

## SAVE OUR SOULS

The deck of the Trinity Spirit was an expanse of rust. Orange rust coated the floor, crept over pipes and trailed from crevices in the walls, according to cell phone photos taken four months before the explosion. Equipment failures plagued the ship's interior: The engine room flooded twice, Aganyebi said, and the main generator plant was damaged and never repaired.

Shebah had started running operations on the ship in 2004, taking over from Houston-based ConocoPhillips. But the site's wells had passed peak oil production several years earlier, according to the energy research firm Wood Mackenzie. Within a few years Shebah's venture showed signs of financial stress.

Oil and gas operators tend to operate on the edge of financial wealth or financial ruin, said David Hammond, founder of the nonprofit Human Rights at Sea.

"These things go from boom to bust," he said. "The workers are the last people to be looked after."

Aganyebi worked in the engine room of the Trinity Spirit. Within a year of joining the crew in 2014, he said, Shebah stopped reliably paying his wages. Lawrence Yorgolo, who operated the crane on the ship, and Pius Orofin, a deck operator — the only other survivors of last year's fire — alleged the same in interviews with the AP. The men said they stayed on board the ship because they had few other options and hoped they would someday be paid.

The staff sent repeated letters asking for the money they were owed, the men told AP. One of their last attempts was dated July 2019, with a subject line of "SAVE OUR SOUL (SOS)." They wrote they had worked 15 months without salary and endured, with "pains and hardship," the "harsh condition and occupational hazards" of life on board the Trinity Spirit.

Shebah by that time owed millions of dollars. A trio of banks had sued the company over its alleged failure to make payments on a \$150 million loan, and in 2016 a judge ruled that Shebah must repay nearly the



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full amount. A government-run entity, the Asset Management Corporation of Nigeria, moved to take over the company and the assets of its president. The ship's staffing dwindled from nearly 40 people to 10.

For those who remained, there were times on the ship when there was nothing to eat, the survivors told AP. Yorgolo recalled how the crew went hungry one year on Christmas. On a separate occasion — the worst of them, he said — the engine room flooded and the staff worked for three days without food. The radio operator sent a message pleading with oil operators nearby to come to their aid.

"Our management was furious," Yorgolo said.

When the radio operator next went to shore, according to Aganyebi, Yorgolo and Orofin, Shebah didn't allow him back on the ship. He was the designated person to fire a flare or call for help in an emergency. Had the radio operator been on board the night of the explosion, Aganyebi said, "maybe those people that have died — they wouldn't have died."

The AP's attempts to reach the former radio operator were unsuccessful.

When it broke in two and began to sink, the Trinity Spirit had at least 40,000 barrels of oil on board, according to Nigeria's environmental department, which responded to examine the spill. It was capable, like most FPSOs, of storing more than a million barrels.

The agency said oil wasn't leaking from the submerged tanks nor had it washed up on shore, but letters still arrived from community members in nearby Ondo and Delta states complaining about the spill. Oil sheens were visible fanning out from the vessel in satellite imagery for days.

Five bodies were recovered, and two were never found.

## SINKING SHIP

Among the more than 30 ships identified by the AP as older than the Trinity Spirit is the Al-Zaafarana, floating off the coast of Egypt. At 54 years, it is one of the oldest FPSOs still in service. Close behind it are FPSOs in Malaysia and Brazil, each at least half a century old.

Along Nigeria's coast, about 200 miles (320 km) south of where the Trinity Spirit caught fire, the FPSO Mystras is still in service at 47 years old, although industry reports have noted structural issues on the ship. The classification society DNV severed ties with the Mystras three years ago, ending its regular inspections. According to Rystad Energy, it was originally designed to operate only through 2014.

The Mystras' owner, NNPC Limited, did not respond to AP's requests for comment.

Further inland, the Trinity Spirit's surviving crew members have been left to eke out a living as they wait for the wages they say were never paid. Aganyebi's vision is poor from the glare of the explosion; Orofin's hearing is damaged from the noise. He has a long scar on his leg. Both men spent 19 days in jail.

Yorgolo, who was the only survivor not charged with a crime, fell on his back when he jumped from the burning vessel and was unconscious when fishermen pulled him into their boat. He believes he wasn't named as a suspect only because he spent months in the hospital suffering from an injured spine.

The charges were dropped in October last year after the Ondo State Ministry of Justice reviewed the case. In conversations with AP, the men vehemently denied setting the vessel on fire or illegally storing oil. They blamed the explosion on their employer, Shebah, and the years without maintenance on the ship.

For Aganyebi, it was clear the company had abandoned the Trinity Spirit long ago.

"No medical personnel, no safety officer, no radio man in that gigantic vessel," he said.

Off the coast of Nigeria, the ship is still visible — split in two pieces and half submerged. As recently as September, in satellite imagery, oil appeared to be leaking from the site of the wreck. It's unclear when authorities will remove the hazard or salvage the remaining oil, as slowly, the ship sinks further into the sea.

## Hurricane Otis death toll rises to 48, missing now number 36 as search and recovery work continues

By FELIX MARQUEZ and MEGAN JANETSKY Associated Press

ACAPULCO, Mexico (AP) — At least 48 people died when Category 5 Hurricane Otis slammed into Mexico's southern Pacific coast, most of them in Acapulco, Mexican authorities said Sunday as the death toll continued to climb and families buried loved ones.

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Mexico's civil defense agency said in a statement that 43 of the dead were in the resort city of Acapulco and five in nearby Coyuca de Benitez. Guerrero state's governor had earlier raised the number of missing to 36 from 10 a day earlier. The death toll increased after authorities had raised it to 39 on Saturday.

In Acapulco, families held funerals for the dead on Sunday and continued the search for essentials while government workers and volunteers cleared streets clogged with muck and debris from the powerful Category 5 hurricane.

Katy Barrera, 30, said Sunday that her aunt's family was buried under a landslide when tons of mud and rock tumbled down onto their home. Her aunt's body was found with the remains of their three children ranging in age from 2 to 21. Her uncle was still missing. Separately, Barrera's own mother and brother also remained missing.

"The water came in with the rocks, the mud and totally buried them," Barrera, who was standing outside a local morgue, said of her aunt's family.

On Sunday, authorities released the bodies of her aunt and the two youngest children to relatives. Bodies in white bags were loaded into open caskets in the back of hearses. The eldest daughter had already been buried the day before.

As she prepared to lay her relatives to rest, Barrera — who had hardly even had a chance to search for her own mother and brother — expressed desperation and frustration at the aid and personnel she had begun seeing in tourist areas of the city — but not in their neighborhood high on a mountainside hit by landslides.

"There are many, many people here at the (morgue) that are entire families, families of six, families of four, even eight people," she said. "I want to ask authorities not to lie ... there are a lot of people who are arriving dead."

During a short time outside the morgue Sunday morning, at least a half-dozen families arrived, some looking for relatives; other identifying bodies and still others giving statements to authorities.

The somber convoys of hearses and relatives crossed much of battered Acapulco en route to the cemetery, passing ransacked stores, streets strewn with debris and soldiers cutting away fallen trees.

President Andrés Manuel López Obrador said Saturday that his opponents are trying to inflate the toll to damage him politically, but with hundreds of families still awaiting word from loved ones it was likely to keep rising.

Otis roared ashore early Wednesday with devastating 165 mph (266 kph) winds after strengthening so rapidly that people had little time to prepare.

Kristian Vera stood on an Acapulco beach Saturday looking out toward dozens of sunken boats, including three of her own, all marked by floating buoys or just poking out of the water.

Despite losing her livelihood in Otis' brutal assault on the coast, she felt fortunate. Earlier in the day, she watched a body pulled from the water and saw families coming and going, looking for their loved ones.

Many people rode out on boats what had started as a tropical storm and in just 12 hours powered up into a catastrophic Category 5 hurricane.

Leaning against a small wooden fishing boat like her own, tipped on its side on a beach strewn with trash and fallen trees, she explained that some of the people who died were either fishermen caring for their boats or yacht captains who were told by their owners to make sure their boats were OK when Otis was approaching as a tropical storm.

"That night I was so worried because I live off of this, it's how I feed my kids," Vera said. "But when I began to feel how strong the wind was, I said, 'Tomorrow I won't have a boat, but God willing, Acapulco will see another day.'"

Military personnel and volunteers worked along Acapulco's main tourist strip Saturday and Salgado announced Sunday that the boulevard had been cleared of debris.

Salgado also said that the national electric company reported restoring power to 58% of homes and businesses in Acapulco and 21 water tankers were distributing water to outlying neighborhoods.

But on the city's periphery, neighborhoods remained in ruins.

Aid has been slow to arrive. The storm's destruction cut off the city of nearly 1 million people for the first

day, and because Otis had intensified so quickly on Tuesday little to nothing had been staged in advance. The military presence swelled to 15,000 in the area. López Obrador had called on the armed forces to set up checkpoints in the city to deter looting and robbery.

The federal civil defense agency tallied 220,000 homes that were damaged by the storm, he said.

## More than 1,000 pay tribute to Maine's mass shooting victims on day of prayer, reflection on tragedy

By DAVID SHARP, JAKE BLEIBERG and ROBERT F. BUKATY Associated Press

LEWISTON, Maine (AP) — More than 1,000 people packed a cavernous church Sunday night, and hundreds more spilled outside, to hug, sing, weep and seek comfort in the wake of Maine's most deadly mass shooting.

The crowd gathered for the vigil at the Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul in Lewiston, where days earlier a gunman fatally shot 18 people.

Some people put their heads in their hands and wept when the names were read aloud. At one point, members of the crowd raised their hands to say "I love you" in American Sign Language in honor of the four members of Maine's deaf community killed in the shooting.

"We will not be defined by the tragedies that happened," said the Rev. Todd Little from the First United Pentecostal Church. "Fear, anxiety and trepidation will not dictate our present or our future."

The vigil came two days after the body of suspected gunman Robert Card was found. The 40-year-old's body was discovered in a trailer at a recycling center in Lisbon Falls. Card died of an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound though it was unclear when, authorities said. Card was also suspected of injuring 13 people in the shooting rampage Wednesday night in Lewiston.

Christian leaders, a rabbi and an imam spoke of the pain from the shooting but how the city of about 37,000 can become stronger. Little told the crowd that their community is bigger than the tragedy and will emerge not just "Lewiston Strong" but "Lewiston Stronger."

Kevin Bohlin, a leader in Maine's deaf community, addressed the crowd through American Sign Language as an interpreter delivered his message. Several in attendance could be seen signing to one another throughout the vigil.

The victims are now gone, Bohlin said, "but they are directing us to come together and make a difference in this world."

Another pastor encouraged Mainers to compassion borne of the tragedy, and to avoid unhealthy debate of the details surrounding the crime that are sure to emerge in coming days.

"Let's stay focused on the things that invite peace into our communities," the Rev. Allen Austin said. "Let's not let this moment be defined by divisiveness."

Earlier Sunday, several church services were shaped by the shooting and subsequent lockdown that lasted days. At the morning mass for the basilica, several women wore black veils to mark what a church official called "the horrible events in our small town."

At Lisbon Falls Baptist Church, worshipers greeted each other warmly but the atmosphere turned somber when the Rev. Brian Ganong brought up the tragedy. He prayed for those fighting for their lives, those who lost family and friends, first responders and medical workers, and others — including the Card family, who he said had ties to some members of the church.

Authorities recovered many guns while searching for Card and believe he had legally purchased them, including those recovered in his car and near his body, said Jim Ferguson, the special agent in charge of the Boston office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. He declined to discuss any specifics.

Investigators are still searching for a motive for the massacre, but have increasingly focused on Card's mental health history. State Department of Public Safety Commissioner Michael Sauschuck may have been driven by paranoia.

Card's family told federal investigators that he had recently discussed hearing voices and became more

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focused on the bowling alley and bar, according to law enforcement officials who spoke with The Associated Press on condition of anonymity in order to discuss details of the investigation.

On Friday, authorities lifted a stay-at-home order put in place during the search for Card, hours before they announced they had found his body. By Saturday, the community was reaching for normalcy. Residents went hunting on the opening day of firearm season for deer, and one family handed out buckets of flowers downtown.

But signs of the killings endured. On Sunday at Schemengees Bar & Grille, one of the shooting sites, workers in white hazmat suits could be seen methodically cleaning up a staircase cordoned off by yellow tape. Nearby, colorful balloons and flowers nestled around a poster that read: "Be Strong Lewiston."

Leroy Walker, an Auburn city councilor and father of one of the victims, greeted people at a early Halloween event on Sunday. He smiled broadly when trick-or-treaters hugged him but teared up when he spoke of his son, Joseph, who normally would've joined him.

"It's been a tough few days, trust me," he said. "The heart doesn't stop bleeding,"

The deadliest shootings in Maine's history stunned a state of 1.3 million people that has relatively little violent crime and only 29 killings in all of 2022.

Three of the injured remained in critical condition at Central Maine Medical Center, and a fourth was stable, hospital officials said. Another was transported to Massachusetts General Hospital, and the rest were discharged.

The Lewiston shootings were the 36th mass killing in the U.S. this year, according to a database maintained by AP and USA Today in partnership with Northeastern University. The database includes every mass killing since 2006 from all weapons in which four or more people, excluding the offender, were killed within a 24-hour time frame.

## **Gaza receives largest aid shipment so far as deaths top 8,000 and Israel widens military offensive**

By WAFAA SHURAF, SAMY MAGDY and KAREEM CHEHAYEB Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — Nearly three dozen trucks entered Gaza on Sunday in the largest aid convoy since the war between Israel and Hamas began, but humanitarian workers said the assistance still fell desperately short of needs after thousands of people broke into warehouses to take flour and basic hygiene products.

The Gaza Health Ministry said the death toll among Palestinians passed 8,000, mostly women and minors, as Israeli tanks and infantry pursued what Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called a "second stage" in the war ignited by Hamas' brutal Oct. 7 incursion. The toll is without precedent in decades of Israeli-Palestinian violence. Over 1,400 people have died on the Israeli side, mainly civilians killed during the initial attack, also an unprecedented figure.

Communications were restored to most of Gaza's 2.3 million people Sunday after an Israeli bombardment described by residents as the most intense of the war knocked out phone and internet services late Friday.

Israel has allowed only a trickle of aid to enter. On Sunday, 33 trucks carrying water, food and medicine entered the only border crossing from Egypt, a spokesperson at the Rafah crossing, Wael Abo Omar, told The Associated Press.

After visiting the Rafah crossing, the chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court called the suffering of civilians "profound" and said he had not been able to enter Gaza. "These are the most tragic of days," said Karim Khan, whose court has been investigating the actions of Israeli and Palestinian authorities since 2014.

Khan called on Israel to respect international law but stopped short of accusing it of war crimes. He called Hamas' Oct. 7 attack a serious violation of international humanitarian law. "The burden rests with those who aim the gun, missile or rocket in question," he said.

The Israeli military said Sunday that it had struck more than 450 militant targets over the past 24 hours, including Hamas command centers and anti-tank missile launching positions. Huge plumes of smoke rose



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over Gaza City. Military spokesman Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari said dozens of militants were killed.

Hagari, who said ground operations were intensifying, also reiterated calls for Gaza residents to move south, saying they'd have better access to food, water and medicine there.

"This is a matter of urgency," he said.

Israel says most Gaza residents have heeded its orders to flee to the southern part of the besieged territory, but hundreds of thousands remain in the north, in part because Israel has also bombarded targets in so-called safe zones. More than 1.4 million people in Gaza have fled their homes.

The Hamas military wing said its militants clashed with Israeli troops who entered the northwest Gaza Strip with small arms and anti-tank missiles. Palestinian militants have continued firing rockets into Israel, including toward its commercial hub, Tel Aviv.

The aid warehouse break-ins were "a worrying sign that civil order is starting to break down after three weeks of war and a tight siege on Gaza," said Thomas White, Gaza director for the U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees, known as UNRWA. "People are scared, frustrated and desperate."

UNRWA spokesperson Juliette Touma said the crowds broke into four facilities on Saturday. She said the warehouses did not contain any fuel, which has been in critically short supply since Israel cut off all shipments. Israel says Hamas would use it for military purposes and that the militant group is hoarding large fuel stocks for itself in the territory. That claim couldn't be independently verified.

One warehouse held 80 tons of food, the U.N. World Food Program said. It emphasized that at least 40 of its trucks need to cross into Gaza daily just to meet growing food needs.

President Joe Biden in a call with Netanyahu on Sunday "underscored the need to immediately and significantly increase the flow of humanitarian assistance to meet the needs of civilians in Gaza," the U.S. said.

Israeli authorities said they would soon allow more humanitarian aid to enter Gaza.

But the head of civil affairs at COGAT, the Israeli defense body responsible for Palestinian civilian affairs, provided no details on how much aid would be available. Elad Goren also said Israel has opened two water lines in southern Gaza within the past week. The AP could not independently verify that either line was functioning.

Meanwhile, crowded hospitals in Gaza came under growing threat. Residents living near Shifa Hospital, the territory's largest, said Israeli airstrikes overnight hit near the complex where tens of thousands of civilians are sheltering. Israel accuses Hamas of having a secret command post beneath the hospital but has not provided much evidence. Hamas denies the allegations.

The Palestinian Red Crescent rescue service said nearby Israeli airstrikes damaged parts of another Gaza City hospital after it received two calls from Israeli authorities on Sunday ordering it to evacuate. Some windows were blown out, and rooms were covered in debris. The rescue service said airstrikes have hit as close as 50 meters (yards) from the Al-Quds Hospital where 14,000 people are sheltering.

Israel ordered the hospital to evacuate more than a week ago, but it and other medical facilities have refused, saying evacuation would mean death for patients on ventilators.

"Under no circumstances, hospitals should be bombed," the director general of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Robert Mardini, told CBS' "Face the Nation."

About 20,000 people were sheltering at Nasser Hospital, emergency director Dr. Mohammed Qandeel said. "I brought my kids to sleep here," said one displaced resident who gave her name only as Umm Ahmad. "I used to be afraid of my kids playing in the sand. Now their hands are dirty with the blood on the floor."

An Israeli airstrike hit a two-story house in Khan Younis on Sunday, killing at least 13 people, including 10 from one family. The bodies were brought to the nearby Nasser Hospital, according to an AP journalist at the scene.

The military escalation has increased domestic pressure on Israel's government to secure the release of 239 hostages seized by Hamas fighters during the Oct. 7 attack.

Hamas says it is ready to release all hostages if Israel releases all of the thousands of Palestinians held in its prisons. Desperate family members of the Israeli captives met with Netanyahu on Saturday and expressed support for an exchange. Israel has dismissed the Hamas offer.

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"If Hamas does not feel military pressure, nothing will move forward," Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant told families of the hostages Sunday.

The Israeli military has stopped short of calling its gradually expanding ground operations inside Gaza an all-out invasion. Casualties on both sides are expected to rise sharply as Israeli forces and Palestinian militants battle in dense residential areas.

Israel says it targets Hamas fighters and infrastructure and that the militants operate among civilians, putting them in danger.

The violence has inflicted serious damage on Gaza's civilian infrastructure. The territory's sole power plant shut down shortly after the war began. Hospitals are struggling to keep emergency generators running to operate incubators and other life-saving equipment, and UNRWA is trying to keep water pumps and bakeries running. As water ran short, some Gazans bathed in the sea.

The fighting has raised concerns that the violence could spread across the region. Israel and the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah have engaged in daily skirmishes along Israel's northern border. Hagari said Israel on Sunday struck three militant cells that fired from Lebanon into Israel and killed militants who were trying to enter. Hamas said its forces in Lebanon fired 16 missiles at the Israeli city of Nahariya. Hezbollah, a Hamas ally, said it also fired missiles at several sites.

The Israeli military said early Monday that its aircraft hit military infrastructure in Syria after rockets from there fell in open Israeli territory.

Roughly 250,000 Israelis have been evacuated from their homes because of violence along the border with Gaza and the northern border with Lebanon, according to the Israeli military.

## **UAW escalates strike against lone holdout GM after landing tentative pacts with Stellantis and Ford**

By TOM KRISHER and FRANK BAJAK Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — The United Auto Workers union has widened its strike against General Motors, the lone holdout among the three Detroit automakers, after reaching a tentative contract agreement with Jeep maker Stellantis.

The escalated walkout began Saturday evening at a Spring Hill, Tennessee plant, GM's largest in North America, just hours after the Stellantis deal was reached. Its nearly 4,000 workers join about 14,000 already striking at GM factories in Texas, Michigan and Missouri.

The UAW did not immediately explain what prompted the new action after 44 days of targeted strikes. The added pressure on GM is substantial as Spring Hill makes engines for vehicles assembled in a total of nine plants as far afield as Mexico, including Silverado and Sierra pickups. One plant already on strike it supplies with engines, in Arlington Texas, makes full-size SUVs including the Tahoe and Suburban. Vehicles assembled at Spring Hill include the electric Cadillac Lyriq, GMC Acadia and Cadillac crossover SUVs.

"The Spring Hill walkout affects so much of GM's production that the company is likely to settle quickly or close down most production," said Erik Gordon, a University of Michigan business professor. The union wants to wrap negotiations with all three automakers so "Ford and Stellantis workers don't vote down (their) tentative agreements because they want to see what GM workers get."

The Stellantis deal mirrors one reached last week with Ford, and saves jobs at several plants, the UAW said.

Presidents of the Ford union locals voted unanimously Sunday in Detroit to endorse that tentative contract after UAW President Shawn Fain explained its details, the union tweeted.

As he explained the particulars to the full membership in a later livestream, Fain, along with Chuck Browning, the UAW vice president, said the deal represents a "historical inflection point" for reviving union power in an America where "we were being left behind by an economy that only works for the billionaire class."

"UAW members at Ford will receive more in straight general wage increases over the next 4 1/2 years than we have over the last 22 years combined," Browning said.

Fain called the deal "a turning point in the class war that has been raging in this country for the past

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40 years.”

The Ford and Stellantis pacts, which would run until April 30, 2028, include 25% in general wage increases for top assembly plant workers, with 11% coming once the deal is ratified.

The Ford agreement revives cost-of-living adjustments that the UAW agreed to suspend during in 2009 during the recession. And it ends “the abuse of temporary workers,” who not only will become permanent after nine months of continuous employment but will also get profit-sharing checks, Fain said.

He added the deal won't force autoworkers to choose between “good jobs and green jobs” as the industry converts to electric vehicles: Workers at Ford's electronic vehicle and battery plants will fall under UAW agreements once their workforce becomes majority union.

Meantime, the union continued talks Sunday with GM, said a spokesman for the automaker. No details were provided.

On Saturday, the company said in a statement it was disappointed with the expanded strike “in light of the progress we have made,” adding it has bargained in good faith and wants a deal as soon as possible.

In a statement, Fain lamented what he called “GM's unnecessary and irresponsible refusal to come to a fair agreement.”

“Everybody's really fired up and excited,” Spring Hill assembly line worker Larry Montgomery said by phone on Sunday. He said workers were taken by surprise by the strike call. “We thought it was going to happen earlier.”

Fain said in a video appearance Saturday that 43,000 members at Stellantis would have to vote on the deal — just as Ford workers must. About 14,000 UAW workers had been on strike at two Stellantis assembly plants in Michigan and Ohio, and several parts distribution centers across the country. The company makes Jeep and Ram vehicles.

At Stellantis, workers get cost-of-living pay that would bring raises to a compounded 33%, with top assembly plant workers making more than \$42 per hour. Top-scale workers there now make around \$31 per hour.

The union said the Stellantis deal saved jobs in Belvidere as well at an engine plant in Trenton, Michigan, and a machining factory in Toledo, Ohio. It also includes a commitment by Stellantis to build a new midsize combustion-engine truck at the Belvidere factory that was slated to be closed.

About 1,200 workers will be hired back, plus another 1,000 workers will be added for a new electric vehicle battery plant, the union said.

Vice President Rich Boyer, who led the Stellantis talks, said the workforce will double at the Toledo, Ohio, machining plant. The union, he said, won \$19 billion worth of investment across the U.S.

That compares with more than \$8 billion in investments that Browning said UAW won from Ford.

Fain said Stellantis had proposed cutting 5,000 U.S. jobs, but the union's strike changed that to adding 5,000 jobs by the end of the contract.

Gordon, the University of Michigan professor, said the Stellantis deal “shows that the car companies feel they are at the mercy of the UAW, that the UAW is not going to give any mercy.” He said competing companies with non-unionized workforces, which include Toyota and Tesla, “couldn't have gotten a better year-end gift.”

Under the Stellantis contract, starting wages for new hires will rise 67% including cost-of-living adjustments to over \$30 per hour, it said in a statement. Temporary workers will get raises of more than 165%, while workers at parts centers will get an immediate 76% increase if the contract is ratified.

Like the Ford agreement, it will take just three years for new workers to get to the top of the assembly pay scale, the union said. Similarly, the union won the right to strike over plant closures.

Bruce Baumhower, president of the local union at a large Stellantis Jeep factory in Toledo, Ohio, that had been on strike since September, said he expected workers to vote to approve the deal because of pay raises including the immediate 11% raise on ratification. “It's a historic agreement as far as I'm concerned.”

Some union members had complained that Fain promised 40% raises to match what he said was given to company CEOs, but Baumhower said that was merely an opening bid.

The union began targeted strikes against all three automakers on Sept. 15 after its contracts with the

companies expired. At the peak, about 46,000 UAW workers were on strike — about one-third of the union's 146,000 members at all three companies.

With the Ford deal, which set a template for the other two companies, workers with pensions will see small increases when they retire, and those hired after 2007 with 401(k) plans will get large increases. Workers also get two weeks parental leave — a first in UAW history, Fain said Sunday.

Other union leaders who followed aggressive bargaining strategies in recent months have also secured pay hikes and other benefits for their members. Last month, the union representing Hollywood writers called off a nearly five-month strike after scoring some wins in compensation, length of employment and other areas.

## Federal judge reimposes limited gag order in Donald Trump's 2020 election interference case

By ALANNA DURKIN RICHER and ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The federal judge overseeing Donald Trump's 2020 election interference case in Washington on Sunday reimposed a narrow gag order barring him from making public comments targeting prosecutors, court staff and potential witnesses.

The reinstatement of the gag order was revealed in a brief notation on the online case docket Sunday night, but the order itself was not immediately available, making it impossible to see the judge's rationale or the precise contours of the restrictions.

U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan, who is presiding over the federal case charging Trump with plotting to overturn the results of the 2020 election, had temporarily lifted the gag order as she considered the former president's request to keep it on hold while he challenges the restrictions on his speech in higher courts.

But Chutkan agreed to reinstate the order after prosecutors cited Trump's recent social media comments about his former chief of staff they said represented an attempt to influence and intimidate a likely witness in the case.

The order is a fresh reminder that Trump's penchant for incendiary and bitter rants about the four criminal cases that he's facing, though politically beneficial in rallying his supporters as he seeks to reclaim the White House, carry practical consequences in court. Two separate judges have now imposed orders mandating that he rein in his speech, with the jurist presiding over a civil fraud trial in New York issuing a monetary fine last week.

A request for comment was sent Sunday to a Trump attorney, Todd Blanche. Trump in a social media post late Sunday acknowledged that the gag order was back in place, calling it "NOT CONSTITUTIONAL!"

Trump's lawyers have said they will seek an emergency stay of the order from the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. The defense has said Trump is entitled to criticize prosecutors and "speak truth to oppression."

Trump has denied any wrongdoing in the case. He has made a central part of his 2024 campaign for president vilifying special counsel Jack Smith and others involved in the criminal cases against him, casting himself as the victim of a politicized justice system.

Prosecutors have said Trump's verbal attacks threaten to undermine the integrity of the case and risk inspiring his supporters to violence.

Smith's team said Trump took advantage of the recent lifting of the gag order to "send an unmistakable and threatening message" to his former chief of staff, Mark Meadows, who was reported by ABC News to have received immunity to testify before a grand jury.

The former president mused on social media about the possibility that Meadows would give testimony to Smith in exchange for immunity. One part of the post said: "Some people would make that deal, but they are weaklings and cowards, and so bad for the future of our Failing Nation. I don't think that Mark Meadows is one of them but who really knows?"

In a separate case, Trump was fined last week \$10,000 after the judge in his civil fraud trial in New York said the former president had violated a gag order.



## 'Friends' creators, actors, family mourn Matthew Perry: 'The One Where Our Hearts Are Broken'

Matthew Perry was widely mourned this weekend by friends, co-stars and some very famous fans, including his childhood classmate, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau; his "Friends" mom Morgan Fairchild; and even Adele.

Perry, who played Chandler Bing on NBC's "Friends" for 10 seasons, was found dead at his Los Angeles home on Saturday. He was 54.

"This truly is The One Where Our Hearts Are Broken," "Friends" co-creators Marta Kauffman and David Crane, along with executive producer Kevin Bright, said in a joint statement Sunday.

"We are shocked and deeply, deeply saddened by our beloved friend Matthew's passing," Kauffman, Crane and Bright wrote. "We will always cherish the joy, the light, the blinding intelligence he brought to every moment - not just to his work, but in life as well. He was always the funniest person in the room. More than that, he was the sweetest, with a giving and selfless heart."

Perry's family also gave a statement to People Magazine, writing that they are heartbroken by the loss. "Matthew brought so much joy to the world, both as an actor and a friend," the family said. "You all meant so much to him and we appreciate the tremendous outpouring of love."

Others, some who knew him, some who didn't, took to social media to express their grief.

Trudeau, who attended elementary school with Perry while their parents worked together, wrote a tribute on X, formerly Twitter.

"I'll never forget the schoolyard games we used to play, and I know people around the world are never going to forget the joy he brought them," Trudeau wrote. "Thanks for all the laughs, Matthew. You were loved — and you will be missed."

Perry's mother served as press secretary to Trudeau's father, Pierre Trudeau, during his time as prime minister.

Adele took a moment to talk about him during her show in Las Vegas on Saturday night. She recalled how his work made her laugh and said that even though she'd never met him, there is a strange thing that happens sometimes when an entertainer dies that makes you feel personally sad.

"I just want to say how much I love what he did for us," she said to the cheering crowd.

Saturday Night Live also showed a tribute card for Perry during the weekend's episode. Perry once hosted the show, in 1997, which featured one sketch where he played Matt LeBlanc's character Joey and Colin Quinn played Chandler.

Fairchild, who played Chandler's mother on "Friends" wrote on X, that she was "heartbroken about the untimely death of my 'son'."

"The loss of such a brilliant young actor is a shock. I'm sending love & condolences to his friends & family, especially his dad," Fairchild wrote.

She had also worked with Perry's father, actor John Bennett Perry, on several television series.

Another frequent "Friends" co-star, Maggie Wheeler, who played his girlfriend Janice, wrote, "The joy you brought to so many in your too short lifetime will live on. I feel very blessed by every creative moment we shared."

Selma Blair, who also appeared on an episode of "Friends," posted on Instagram that she was "broken hearted."

"My oldest boy friend," Blair wrote. "All of us loved Matthew Perry, and I did especially. Every day. I loved him unconditionally. And he me. And I'm broken. Broken hearted. Sweet dreams Matty. Sweet dreams."

Many Hollywood actors crossed paths with Perry, who had worked steadily on screen since he was a child.

Wendell Pierce, who worked with Perry on "The Odd Couple," wrote on X that for two years, "Matthew Perry was my boss, my colleague, and a giving, kind, funny man. I pray and hope he is at peace."

Shannen Doherty shared a photo on Instagram and reflected on their friendship, which extended back to an appearance on "Beverly Hills 90210," and included a Valentine's Day date in Malibu once.

"We were a gang way back. We all grew up together going to the Formosa ... We played dare and Matt had to say ridiculous things to girls at the bar. We just always had fun and supported each other. You would always find us all together in a booth speaking in our own made up language. And yes, Matt always had THAT sense of humor," Doherty wrote. "I could be more poetic or say things better but right now, shock and sadness prevail."

Gwyneth Paltrow, writing on Instagram, recalled meeting Perry at the Williamstown Theater Festival in the summer of 1993, where they were both doing plays. The "Friends" pilot had been shot but not yet aired. The actor and lifestyle guru recalled Perry as funny, sweet and fun to be with.

"We drove out to swim in creeks, had beers in the local college bar, kissed in a field of long grass. It was a magical summer," she wrote. "I am super sad today, as so many of us are. I hope Matthew is at peace at long last. I really do."

## Arrest made in Halloween weekend's fatal shooting of 2 in Tampa; 18 more victims injured

By CURT ANDERSON and CHRIS O'MEARA Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — A man has been arrested in Tampa, Florida, in a mass shooting that erupted during Halloween festivities early Sunday. Two people were killed and 18 injured, police said.

At least two shooters opened fire just before 3 a.m. in the Ybor City area, Tampa Police Chief Lee Bercaw said during a news conference at the scene. Later Sunday he said detectives arrested Tyrell Stephen Phillips, 22, in connection with the shooting. He was charged with second-degree murder with a firearm.

"My heart goes out to the families," Bercaw said in a news briefing posted online. He called the gun violence "extremely tragic" and said police would not tolerate it.

Earlier, authorities said one suspect was in custody and at least one other was being sought, but Bercaw did not immediately say Sunday afternoon whether police were seeking anyone else after Phillips' arrest.

"We make arrests quickly," Bercaw said in the briefing. "We have a sense of urgency and if you are going to be out there with a gun, you are going to pay for it."

It was not immediately known if Phillips had an attorney, and he remained jailed pending an initial court appearance Monday, according to officials and local reports.

Tampa Mayor Jane Castor, a former city police chief, lamented that Tampa was the focus of national attention for "yet another shooting in our country."

"We've got to say, as a country, that enough is enough," she said.

The early morning fight occurred in an area with several bars and clubs that was once the center of Tampa's cigar industry. In more recent years, the area has been known for its lively nightlife, and Tampa police spokeswoman Jonee Lewis said "hundreds" of people were on the streets at the time of Sunday's shootings because numerous nightspots had just closed.

Police had not released the names of those killed, but Emmitt Wilson said his 14-year-old son, Elijah, was one of the fatalities. Wilson came to the scene Sunday after getting a call that his son was a victim.

"It's madness to me. I don't even feel like I'm here right now," Wilson said. "I hope the investigators do their job."

Video posted online shows people, many in Halloween costumes, drinking and talking on the street when about a dozen shots ring out followed seconds later by about eight more. A stampede ensued, with some people toppling over metal tables and taking cover behind them. Video from the aftermath shows police officers treating several people lying wounded on the ground.

"It was a disturbance or a fight between two groups. And in this fight between two groups we had hundreds of innocent people involved that were in the way," Bercaw said.

He did not provide details of the injuries suffered by the victims taken to area hospitals. Authorities later said most of those hurt were treated and released.

Police are still investigating the reason for the fight between the two groups, he said.

Castor blamed Sunday's shootings on easy access to guns.

"Yet again, a senseless loss of life by those choosing to settle a dispute with firearms. Lives lost and

others forever changed. To what end?" Castor asked. "The Tampa Police Department had 50 officers deployed in the area at the time, so this is not a law enforcement issue.

The scene of the shooting was quiet Sunday morning as officers had the area blocked off. Roosters that roam the historic Ybor City streets wandered among empty cups, beer bottles and shoes left behind.

Two young women who came to the scene Sunday morning said they decided not to go to Ybor City the night before because of the crowds.

"We know how Ybor gets," said Minna Cohen, a 23-year-old recent University of Tampa graduate. "A lot of crime happens here often. You sometimes know not to go to certain places."

Her friend, 21-year-old Carolina Londoner, said when the bars all close in the early morning hours the streets are packed and unruly.

"When everyone comes together it gets messy, and it's that way all night," she said.

## **Mission impossible? Biden says Mideast leaders must consider a two-state solution after the war ends**

By AAMER MADHANI, CHRIS MEGERIAN, WILL WEISSERT and SEUNG MIN KIM Associated Press  
WASHINGTON (AP) — As the 3-week-old Israel-Hamas war enters what Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu says could be a "long and difficult" new stage, President Joe Biden is calling on Israeli and Arab leaders to think hard about their eventual postwar reality.

It's one, he argues, where finally finding agreement on a long-sought two-state solution to the Israel-Palestinian conflict should be a priority.

"There's no going back to the status quo as it stood on Oct. 6," Biden told reporters, referring to the day before Hamas militants attacked Israel and set off the latest war. The White House says Biden conveyed the same message directly to Netanyahu during a telephone call this past week.

"It also means that when this crisis is over, there has to be a vision of what comes next, and in our view it has to be a two-state solution," Biden said.

The push for a two-state solution — one in which Israel would co-exist with an independent Palestinian state — has eluded U.S. presidents and Middle East diplomats for decades. It's been put on the back burner since the last American-led effort at peace talks collapsed in 2014 amid disagreements on Israeli settlements, the release of Palestinian prisoners and other issues.

Palestinian statehood is something that Biden rarely addressed in the early going of his administration. During his visit to the West Bank last year, Biden said the "ground is not ripe" for new attempts to reach a permanent peace even as he reiterated to Palestinians the long-held U.S. support for statehood.

Now, at a moment of heightened concern that the Israel-Hamas war could spiral into a broader regional conflict, Biden has begun to emphasize that once the bombing and shooting stop, working toward a Palestinian state should no longer be ignored.

Until recently, Biden had put far more emphasis on what his administration saw as the achievable ambition of normalizing relations between Israel and its Arab neighbors than on restarting peace talks.

Even his national security adviser, Jake Sullivan, in a lengthy essay that was written shortly before the Oct. 7 attack and described Biden's global foreign policy efforts made no mention of Palestinian statehood. In an updated version of the Foreign Affairs essay posted online, Sullivan wrote that the administration was "committed to a two-state solution." White House officials also say the normalization talks have always included significant proposals to benefit the Palestinians.

There is no shortage of obstacles in the way of Biden's postwar vision. An independent Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza is viewed as a nonstarter by Israel's far-right government. An ineffectual Palestinian Authority controls parts of the West Bank and has little credibility with the population it governs. Meantime, a looming U.S. presidential election could make Biden a less-than-ideal mediator in 2024.

Aaron David Miller, who served as an adviser on Middle East issues to Democratic and Republican administrations, said Biden's recent emphasis on a two-state solution was an "aspirational talking point."

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"The odds are very, very low," he said. "It's essentially mission impossible."

Still, Biden in recent days has been raising the issue in his conversations with fellow leaders. Biden and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi during a Sunday phone call discussed setting the conditions "for a durable and sustainable peace in the Middle East to include the establishment of a Palestinian state," according to the White House.

The call for a two-state solution arose Saturday at the Republican Jewish Coalition summit in Las Vegas, where GOP presidential contenders criticized Biden's Israel policy and what they saw as a failure by Democrats to sufficiently condemn antisemitism across the United States. One presidential hopeful, biotech entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy, said Israel should feel free to abandon "the myth of a two-state solution."

The White House is cognizant that Biden's calls for a two-state solution are ambitious and are perhaps not achievable in the near term, according to a White House official who was not authorized to publicly discuss internal deliberations and spoke on condition of anonymity. There is also a recognition that the Netanyahu government, facing public backlash for failing to prevent the Hamas attack, is focused on its operations against Hamas and is not giving much consideration to Biden's talk of Palestinian statehood.

Still, Biden believes it is important for him and his team to convey "hope" and make clear that his administration backs a Palestinian state, the official said.

Dennis Ross, a negotiator in the peace process in both the George H. W. Bush and Bill Clinton administrations, said it is important to start planning for down the road even though there is no end in sight for the current conflict.

"You can't go back to the point where you can ignore the Palestinians as an issue," Ross said. "It's not hopeless. When you get beyond this, it's not hopeless."

The renewed calls for Palestinian statehood also come as Palestinian American groups, Muslim advocacy organizations and some fellow Democrats have expressed frustration that Biden continues to express full-throated support for Israel at a time when the Palestinian death count is mounting and the humanitarian crisis in Gaza worsening.

"This is not about someone's faith," said White House National Security Council spokesman John Kirby said. "It's about finding a future for the Middle East that is more cooperative, more stable, more secure, where Israel's more integrated into the region and we're not giving up on it."

Biden has expressed concern about deteriorating conditions for innocent civilians in Gaza. But his insistence that he will not dictate how Israeli forces carry out their operations could complicate his ability to maintain credibility as an evenhanded broker. U.S. Muslim leaders, at a private White House meeting with Biden and top aides this past week, urged the president to call for a cease-fire.

Participants also told Biden that his silence on what they perceive as collective punishment by Israel against innocent Gaza civilians was undercutting his standing with Arab Americans and Muslims, including in states that could have a big impact on the 2024 election.

They also expressed their concern to Biden over his statement that he has "no confidence" in the Gaza death count because it is tabulated by the Hamas-run Health Ministry. The ministry says more than 8,000 people, mostly women and minors, have been killed in Gaza. More than 1,400 people have died on the Israeli side, mainly civilians killed during the initial Hamas onslaught.

Rami Nashashibi, the founder of the Inner City Muslim Action Network in Chicago and a participant in the meeting, said he told Biden that his comments about the death toll in Gaza came off as "dehumanizing." Nashashibi added that he and the other participants told the president that his comments were particularly unsettling because Biden, throughout his term, has demonstrated profound empathy with suffering people.

"I raised that with him very directly, and others in the room also did so in a way that I think was heard and acknowledged," Nashashibi said.

The renewed push for statehood could be pointed to by Biden as a sign of his commitment to Palestinian sovereignty. But his handling of the Mideast turmoil is already threatening to be a drag on his reelection prospects in 2024, and any progress that Biden can make toward a two-state solution is likely to require a second term.



Some Democratic Party officials have become concerned his handling of the war could dent Biden's and the party's standing with Arab American voters as well as a younger voters who polls show have greater sympathy for Palestinian concerns than the party's older and more centrist voters.

A senior Michigan Democratic Party official said Biden's handling of the war has already emerged in the state as a "huge" problem and could become more vexing if the war stretches on and the death toll in Gaza continues to rise. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive party concerns.

Biden was expected to face a tight 2024 race in the state even before the war. He won Michigan by less than 3 percentage points in 2020, and Republican Donald Trump beat Democrat Hillary Clinton in the state by 0.3% in 2016. More than 300,000 people of Middle Eastern or North African ancestry live in Michigan.

"Even if he's hurt to the tune of a few points, he's already got a very close race," said longtime Michigan pollster Bernie Porn.

## **Pence's early exit from the presidential campaign offers a reminder of Trump's grip on the GOP**

By JILL COLVIN and MICHELLE L. PRICE Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Mike Pence has a resume most White House hopefuls would dream of. A congressman. A governor of a big Midwestern state. A one-time vice president.

In normal times, someone with such credentials would be well-positioned to win their party's presidential nomination. But these are not normal times and Pence's decision to end his campaign more than two months before the first contest in the Republican primary underscores the extent to which the party has been subsumed by former President Donald Trump and his lies about the 2020 election that he lost to Democrat Joe Biden.

Pence made his surprise announcement Saturday in Las Vegas, where he and other GOP presidential hopefuls spoke at a summit sponsored by the Republican Jewish Coalition. But in many ways, Pence's campaign ended years before it officially began, in the days leading up to Jan. 6, 2021. That was when Trump, desperate to hang onto power, became convinced that Pence, as president of the Senate, could somehow reject the election results — a power the then-vice president did not possess.

After spending four years as Trump's loyal defender, Pence was suddenly cast as a traitor, targeted by rioters who stormed the Capitol, some chanting "Hang Mike Pence!" Angry Trump supporters crossed his name off their "Trump-Pence" yard signs or shoved them deep into the ground to bury his name in the dirt. While the issue became less salient as the campaign went on, Pence was heckled and booed at times.

"From the very beginning, I think his supporters knew that the challenge was going to be some of the hardcore Trump supporters were never going to forgive him for upholding the Constitution on Jan 6," said Art Pope, a GOP donor from North Carolina who supported Pence's campaign. "On the other hand, there were a group of Americans who were never going to forgive him for being in the Trump administration to begin with."

"He just could not overcome that," Pope said.

Pence tried to thread what often seemed like an impossibly fine needle. He ran on the record of what he fondly referred to as the Trump-Pence administration while also criticizing his former boss. He accused Trump of abandoning conservative principles on issues such as abortion and of putting himself above the Constitution to stay in power. During his campaign launch event, Pence addressed Jan. 6 head-on, defending his actions and saying Trump disqualified himself during that period.

"Anyone that puts themselves over the Constitution should never be president of the United States, and anyone who asks someone else to put them over the Constitution should never be president of the United States again," Pence said.

The Wi-Fi password for the media at the event — "KeptHisOath!" — underscored his message, as did the first ad run by a supportive super political action committee, which featured footage from the insurrection, contrasting both men's actions that day.

Though it was never part of his stump speech, Pence's approach to Jan. 6 reflected his advisers' belief

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that, if he addressed the Capitol attack directly and spent time explaining his position, voters would come to respect his adherence to the Constitution and see it as a point of strength.

"People respect him for upholding his oath under enormous pressure," Marc Short, a longtime senior adviser, said over the summer.

That never translated into support from conservative primary voters, who in polls and focus groups made clear they preferred other options. An Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research from August found 57% of Republicans still believe Biden was illegitimately elected president, while a plurality believed Trump did nothing wrong in the run-up to Jan. 6.

Even at Pence's opening campaign event, many in attendance said they liked and respected him, but had yet to make a decision.

"Trump blew up Mike Pence on January 6th. Trump demonized Pence on that day, and he never recovered. But it's more than that," said longtime pollster and focus group moderator Frank Luntz. "The GOP of 2023 is not the same party that nominated Pence in 2016. The same people who gave him standing ovations in 2016 turned their back on him now."

Devin O'Malley, Pence's longtime spokesman, said his campaign "always knew there was going to be a large portion of the electorate that was not going to be with him on Jan. 6, but the only way he could tarnish his career and his legacy and reputation was to be untrue to himself," he said. "Ultimately there was one person who could change how he'll be perceived through history and that was Mike Pence. And he stayed true to himself and he comes out with his legacy intact."

Pence spent much of his campaign advocating traditional conservative policies, including more U.S. support for Ukraine, even as those ideas have fallen out of favor in a Republican Party increasingly aligned with Trump's populist and isolationist leanings.

All the while, Trump only grew stronger, building his support even as he confronted multiple criminal indictments, including cases in Georgia and Washington tied to his efforts to overturn the election.

Supporters and those close to Pence, some of whom were granted anonymity to describe the final weeks of his campaign, said they realized it was effectively over around the time of the second debate in September.

Several expected Pence would see a wave of momentum after the first debate, when he delivered an uncharacteristically pointed performance, tangling, in particular, with tech entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy. But Pence saw no appreciable bump in the polls or fundraising. By the second debate, he was relegated to the far side of the stage.

Then came a campaign finance report that showed just how dire the situation had become. Pence had already racked up more than \$600,000 in debt by the end of September and was burning through nearly as much cash as he was raising, despite an aggressive fundraising schedule.

While Pence staked his campaign on Iowa — where his super PAC had knocked on nearly 600,000 doors — making it to the January caucuses would have required him to go into the kind of debt that might have taken Pence, who is not independently wealthy, years to pay off.

Aides insisted he would qualify for the third debate if he tried, but his calendar became suspiciously empty. This past week, Pence began dialing top supporters to let them know that he decided to end the campaign.

"He never got much traction," said Larry Post, a retired money manager from Beverly Hills, California, who was among the Republican donors gathered in Las Vegas.

Pence chose the Republican Jewish Coalition summit — before a friendly crowd that has long appreciated his support for Israel — in part so he could make his case one last time that the U.S. must maintain its leadership role on the world stage to prevent attacks such as the one by Hamas against Israel.

Post blamed Pence for his predicament. "He's kind of stiff," Post said. "So I don't think he had a lot of charisma." But Post also said Jan. 6 may have played a role in Pence's struggle to gain momentum as a candidate, "when he decided, you know, to pick a fight with Trump over what was right and what was wrong and what he should do."

Lawrence Platt, an OB/GYN from Los Angeles who was also attending the meeting of the influential Jewish group, said he was “not shocked but surprised,” when Pence announced he was ending his campaign.

He called Pence “a respectful man,” but said there were other strong candidates in the field beyond Trump. Pence was only polling in the single digits, so his departure is unlikely to give a major boost to any of his rivals. But former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, who has been running as the most vocal Trump critic in the race, said it was a sign the field was finally winnowing — something anti-Trump Republicans have long argued must happen for anyone to have a shot at taking on Trump directly.

“In the end, it just means this race is narrowing as everyone said that it would,” Christie told CNN’s “State of the Union” on Sunday.

Pope, who said Pence had reached out earlier this past week to let him know he had decided to end his campaign, said that was the right choice to drop out now.

“If there is not a path to victory then I think it was a prudent thing to withdraw from the race earlier rather than later and let the field consolidate,” he said, voicing belief that Trump can still be beaten.

## Israeli settler kills Palestinian man harvesting olives as violence surges in the West Bank

By SAMY MAGDY and AMY TEIBEL Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — A Jewish settler shot dead a Palestinian man harvesting olives near the West Bank city of Nablus, the man’s uncle said Sunday. This brings the number of Palestinians reported killed by settlers to seven since Hamas’s bloody incursion into Israel three weeks ago.

Tayseer Mahmoud said his nephew, Bilal Saleh, was working in the grove in the village of Sawiya with his wife and their four children on Saturday when a group of settlers attacked them. Saleh, concerned about the safety of his children, tried to leave the area but a settler shot him in the chest, Mahmoud said.

Mahmoud said he didn’t witness the confrontation but was close by and reached the scene within minutes of the shooting. Saleh died before he could be taken for medical care, he said.

Settler leader Yossi Dagan said in a video posted to Facebook on Saturday that the shooter was accompanied by family members and fired in self-defense after they were “attacked with rocks by dozens of rioting Hamas supporters.”

The deadly shooting took place amid a spike in settler violence since Hamas militants infiltrated Israel on Oct. 7, killing more than 1,400 Israelis and taking over 230 others hostage. The incursion touched off a war that has killed more than 7,700 Palestinians, according to the Gaza Health Ministry.

In addition to the killings, Palestinians in the West Bank have reported attacks on people and property, as well as denial of access to their land.

The violence has gotten so intense that it has drawn condemnation from U.S. President Joe Biden. Attacks by extremist settlers, Biden said, amounted to “pouring gasoline” on fires already burning in the Middle East since the Hamas attack.

The Israeli military said it received a report of a “violent confrontation” between Palestinians and Israeli civilians, and that a Palestinian was reported killed. Police have opened an investigation, it said.

This year has been the deadliest in the West Bank since the second Palestinian uprising against Israel two decades ago.

Since the outbreak of the war alone, more than 100 Palestinians, including civilians, have been killed, most during military arrest raids and violent protests in the West Bank.

France on Sunday condemned the deadly attacks by settlers in recent days and urged Israeli authorities to protect Palestinian civilian populations, notably in Suwiya.

“Violent acts perpetrated by settlers against the Palestinian population are multiplying. They are inadmissible and must stop,” the statement from the French Foreign Ministry said.

## Israeli media, also traumatized by Hamas attack, become communicators of Israel's message

By TIA GOLDENBERG Associated Press

When 85-year-old Israeli woman Yocheved Lifshitz was released from Hamas captivity last week, she was warmly welcomed home. Then she began to speak.

Addressing reporters from a wheelchair at a hospital, Lifshitz described a harrowing experience in Hamas captivity but also said she had been fairly treated. Israeli media instantly seized on that nuanced portrayal as a blow to the country's messaging that Hamas are savages.

A flurry of op-eds, social media posts and on-air discussion by Israeli journalists counseled Israeli officials how to manage further hostage releases to ensure Israel's narrative was being effectively communicated.

The episode brought into focus the dual role played by Israeli media following Hamas' devastating Oct. 7 attack on southern Israeli communities and the war that it set off. Beyond their traditional function as journalists, Israeli reporters are also in many ways acting as public advocates on behalf of the Israeli war effort, showing how deeply the trauma from the attack penetrated society.

Banners fly across the screens and sites of mainstream media outlets, declaring "we will win!" Newscasters decry Hamas' atrocities as the act of "Nazis." An Israeli news and entertainment portal has set up a campaign where users can share English videos disseminating the Israeli message of Hamas' barbarism.

"You really feel the need of the media to enlist in this defining moment where Israel is fighting to defend itself," said Tehilla Shwartz Altshuler, a senior fellow at the Israel Democracy Institute, a Jerusalem think tank.

The attack, which killed 1,400 people and saw more than 200 people taken captive, hit close to home for most in Israel, a small country where many people had ties to the incident. The same was true for journalists.

At least two, including a former Associated Press cameraman, were killed in their homes along with other family members. One journalist was trapped inside his home with his family as militants tried to burst in and was eventually rescued by his father, a former general. One journalist posted a stream of harrowing social media posts detailing how he scrambled to have his son rescued from a music festival massacre.

Some reporters who rushed to the scenes became impromptu rescuers, ferrying people away from the violence in their cars. Terrified residents called into news stations pleading for help as the attack was underway and the military failed to come to their assistance.

As hundreds of thousands of Israelis are joining the war effort through the military reserves or by volunteering to assist displaced communities, journalists also feel the need to take part in that mass deployment, Shwartz Altshuler said.

"They are saying 'we are part of the disaster that befell us and therefore we have to work in Israeli messaging,'" she said.

Nurit Canetti, chair of the Union of Journalists in Israel, said media coverage has been "responsible and reliable." She denied that journalists were taking on the role of messengers, saying they were covering a reality that directly affected them.

Israel's media landscape is diverse, robust and independent. Beyond privately owned channels, radio stations and newspapers, the country has a public broadcaster, a military radio station and a growing conservative, Fox News-style, media scene.

In general, media outlets are fiercely critical of the government and Israeli journalists have been behind some of the most biting investigations exposing the transgressions of officials up and down the political echelon. Israeli leaders, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, have not been spared the media glare. At his first press conference of the war on Saturday night, Netanyahu faced down tough questions about whether he was responsible for the Oct. 7 debacle.

But in wartime, Israeli media, like other components of Israeli society, set differences aside and rally behind the military leadership. Some critics who don't are dubbed traitors. Coverage of the other side's plight is kept to a bare minimum.



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Although some media have criticized the political leadership's failure to prevent Hamas' onslaught, many outlets are still taking on an active role in trying to push Israel's broader messaging that the country is battling a war of good vs. evil.

Lifshitz's public statement appeared to be a prime example. Ran Boker, a journalist at the popular news site Ynet, called her testimony a "PR blunder" asking, "How could it be that we, by our own hands and on Israeli soil, fall into Hamas' PR trap?"

A panel of reporters on the top-rated Channel 12 news also appeared flummoxed by her description of captors who were polite, fed their hostages, kept their quarters clean and and provided medical care. They criticized officials for not coaching her before she appeared before reporters.

Media critics said that reaction underscored how some journalists have taken it upon themselves to help communicate the Israeli narrative. Yasmine Levi, a TV critic and opinion writer for the liberal daily Haaretz, said that journalists were acting "as if they worked in the public advocacy department and forgot what their role is in a democracy."

Canetti, the chair of the Union of Journalists in Israel, said she saw the media reaction to Lifshitz' remarks as part of broader criticism against what's generally been perceived as a hapless government response to the crisis.

It's not the first time Israeli journalists have been seen as taking sides. Israeli media have long had a cozy relationship with the military, with many journalists getting their starts during their compulsory military service in the force's radio station or magazine.

Every major news outlet has a "defense correspondent" who receives briefings from top military officials, often forming chummy relationships. In previous Israeli conflicts with Gaza, journalists have tended to report the information provided by the Israeli military as fact.

Since Israel withdrew from Gaza in 2005, Israelis, including journalists, are prohibited from entering the coastal enclave, limiting on-the-ground coverage of the plight of the Palestinians in Israeli media. Israeli media do use footage and news content from foreign media about Gaza, but its prominence and air time is minimal.

The coverage of the Hamas assault and the ensuing war is no different. While the attack took place three weeks ago and international coverage has largely shifted its focus to violence and destruction in Gaza, Israeli media is still dominated by stories of the survivors, the dead and the kidnapped in the attack. News broadcasts are often accompanied by somber music, and the names of those killed are read on air over the image of a flickering flame.

"Coverage of the home front, particularly the victims, the murdered, and the kidnapped, is empathetic and receives ample attention, as it should. Objectivity is not a primary concern in this context," said Meital Balmas-Cohen, a communications professor at Jerusalem's Hebrew University, adding that local media in other countries have behaved similarly in wartime.

## **Thousands rally in Pakistan against Israel's bombing in Gaza, chanting anti-American slogans**

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Thousands of supporters from Pakistan's main religious political party rallied in the capital, Islamabad, on Sunday against Israel's bombing of Palestinians in Gaza, chanting anti-American slogans and accusing the U.S. of "backing the aggressor."

The Jamaat-e-Islami party initially announced a march to the U.S. Embassy in the city's high-security diplomatic enclave.

But tough action from authorities the previous night forced the party to change its plans and hold the rally in a major street away from the protected enclave. Police pulled down the party's encampments on Saturday night, detaining the local leadership and dozens of supporters.

Because of the Jamaat-e-Islami plan and the risk of violence, the U.S. Embassy issued an advisory for American citizens living in Islamabad and the surrounding area to "limit unnecessary travel on Sunday." It advised them to avoid large public gatherings, to exercise caution if unexpectedly in the vicinity of a large

gathering or demonstration and to review personal security plans.

Jamaat-e-Islami supporters, including women and children, marched for several kilometers (miles) to reach the agreed protest venue. They held banners and posters with slogans opposing Israel and the United States and in support of the Palestinians.

"Just sending medicines and relief goods is neither sufficient, nor is it the sole duty of the world, particularly of Muslim rulers, but to stay the hand of the aggressor is the real task of the world," said party leader Sirajul Haq. He urged the leaders of the Muslim world to rise up for Gaza, and to rely on God instead of remaining the slave of America.

Jamaat-e-Islami would continue to raise its voice for the Palestinians until they liberated their land, he said.

Another religious party, Jamiat Ulema Islam, held a massive rally in the southwestern city of Quetta, where its leader Maulana Fazlur Rehman expressed solidarity and support for Gazans.

Also on Sunday, Aurat March, a women's advocacy group, held protests in several Pakistani cities against a government policy to arrest and deport all foreigners found living in the country illegally after Oct. 31, including at least 2 million Afghans.

Aurat March supporters gathered in Islamabad, Karachi, Lahore and Multan to support Afghans facing the threat of deportation.

Pakistani authorities have repeatedly said their campaign does not target Afghans specifically, only those migrants who are undocumented or unregistered.

## **Internet, phone service gradually return after vanishing for most of Gaza amid heavy bombardment**

By NAJIB JOBAIN, SAMYA KULLAB and SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

KHAN YOUNIS, Gaza Strip (AP) — Two days after cellular and internet service abruptly vanished for most of Gaza amid a heavy Israeli bombardment, the crowded enclave came back online Sunday as communications systems were gradually restored.

That's a welcome development for Gaza following a communications blackout that began late Friday as Israel expanded ground operations and launched intense airstrikes that illuminated the night sky with furious orange flashes. A rare few Palestinians with international SIM cards or satellite phones took it upon themselves to get the news out.

By Sunday morning, phone and internet communications had been restored to many people in Gaza, according to telecommunications providers in the area, Internet-access advocacy group NetBlocks.org and confirmation on the ground.

After weeks of a total Israeli siege, Palestinians in Gaza felt the vise tightening. Social media had been a lifeline for Palestinians desperate to get news and to share their terrifying plight with the world. Now even that was gone. Many were consumed with hopelessness and fear as the Israeli military announced a new stage in its war, launched in a response to a bloody cross-border attack by Hamas on Oct. 7, and troops crossed into Gaza.

Exhausted and afraid her link to the world could drop at any moment, 28-year-old Palestinian journalist Hind al-Khoudary said the massive airstrikes that shook the ground exceeded anything she had experienced over the past three weeks or any of the four previous Israel-Hamas wars.

"It was crazy," she said.

Residents on Saturday darted across dilapidated neighborhoods under heavy bombardment to check on loved ones. Medics chased the thunder of artillery and bombs because they couldn't receive distress calls. Survivors pulled the dead from the rubble with bare hands and loaded them into cars and donkey-drawn carts.

"It's a catastrophe," said Anas al-Sharif, a freelance journalist. "Entire families remain under the rubble."

Reached by WhatsApp, freelance photojournalist Ashraf Abu Amra in northern Gaza said panic and confusion surrounded him.

"It's barely possible to send this message," he said. "All I want to convey is that the international com-

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munity must intervene and save the people of Gaza from death immediately.”

Local journalists posting daily on social media scavenged the 360-square-kilometer (140-square-mile) territory to find even a spotty connection. Some moved closer to the southern border with Egypt, hoping to pick up that country’s network. Others had foreign SIM cards and special routers that connected to Israel’s network.

Mohammed Abdel Rahman, a journalist in northern Gaza, kept track of Israeli airstrikes all night, noticing the raids were concentrated along the strip’s northern border with Israel.

“A new bombing is happening right now as we speak,” he said, as the roar of explosions resounded in the background. “There is an explosion, gunfire, and clashes are heard near the border.”

“We do not know if there are (dead) or wounded because of the lack of communication,” Abdel Rahman added.

When the pace of bombardment slowed Saturday morning, residents rushed to the homes of loved ones with whom they had lost touch overnight.

“People right now are walking, using their cars because there isn’t internet,” al-Khoudary said. “Everyone is checking on us, seeing us, and now we are going to check on others.”

She went directly to Shifa Hospital, Gaza’s largest, where doctors, exhausted from operating on patient after patient with dwindling fuel and medical supplies, pressed on, despite the crowds of some 50,000 people sheltering in the compound.

The wounded poured in from Shati refugee camp in Gaza City, al-Khoudary said, where Israeli bombs wrought destruction the night before.

Health authorities in Gaza and U.N. agencies warned that the blackout has exacerbated Gaza’s humanitarian crisis.

Gaza’s Hamas-run Health Ministry said the communication outages had paralyzed an overwhelmed health system. As ministry spokesperson Ashraf al-Qidra addressed reporters at a press conference livestreamed by the Al Jazeera satellite network from the hospital, an older bespectacled man positioned himself just behind the podium.

While al-Qidra spoke, the man waved into the camera and pointed his hands upward to the heavens — apparently hoping to reassure someone far away that he was alive.

International aid organizations, whose limited operations inside the enclave have teetered on collapse, said they couldn’t reach their staff nearly 24 hours after the blackout.

The chief of the U.N. Palestinian Refugee Agency, Philippe Lazzarini, penned a public letter to his staff in Gaza expressing “immense worry” for their safety.

“I am constantly hoping that this hell on earth will soon come to an end and that you and your families are safe,” he wrote. “You are the face of humanity during one of its darkest hours.”

Doctors Without Borders said the group had not communicated with its team in Gaza since since 8 p.m. Friday.

“We are not able to send our team to different facilities because we have no way to coordinate with them,” Guillemette Thomas, the regional medical coordinator, said from Paris. “That’s really a critical situation.”

## Kelly dominates after Korea detour as Diamondbacks rout Rangers 9-1 to tie World Series 1-all

By RONALD BLUM AP Baseball Writer

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Merrill Kelly called his four-season detour to South Korea a “Lost in Translation” experience. When he made his World Series debut, it was Texas Rangers batters who were disoriented.

The 35-year-old right-hander pitched three-hit ball over seven innings, Ketel Marte extended his post-season hitting streak to a record 18 games and the Arizona Diamondbacks routed Texas 9-1 on Saturday night to even the World Series at one game apiece.

“At this point in my career, nothing is going to shock me,” Kelly said. “I think going over to Korea as a 26-year-old is way scarier than pitching in the big leagues or even in the World Series.”

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Kelly struck out nine, walked none and allowed his only run on Mitch Garver's leadoff homer in the fifth on a sinker at the bottom of the strike zone. His 22 called strikes were the most for a Series pitcher since Stephen Strasburg in Game 6 for the 2019 Washington Nationals.

"I thought he might go nine innings today at one point," Diamondbacks manager Torey Lovullo said, contemplating what would have been the first complete game in the World Series since 2015. "But for that to happen, 89 pitches, you've got to jump him up probably another 35. I wasn't going to let him throw 120 pitches."

Gabriel Moreno hit a go-ahead homer in a two-run fourth against Jordan Montgomery, and Tommy Pham went 4 for 4 with a pair of doubles. Arizona batters broke it open late as the young Diamondbacks rebounded quickly from an agonizing defeat the night before.

Marte had a two-run single in a three-run eighth, snapping a tie for the longest postseason hitting streak with Derek Jeter, Manny Ramírez and Hank Bauer. Marte has a hit in every postseason game he's ever played.

A night after wasting a two-run, ninth-inning lead in a 6-5, 11-inning loss, the Diamondbacks outhit Texas 16-4 — the most hits for one team in a Series game in nine years.

Emmanuel Rivera also had a two-run single, and rookie Corbin Carroll had a pair of RBI singles. Lourdes Gurriel Jr. and 38-year-old Evan Longoria each singled in a run for Arizona, which got its first World Series road win after four losses dating to 2001.

The best-of-seven Series, just the third between wild-card teams, shifts to Arizona for Game 3 on Monday in the first Series game at Phoenix since 2001.

Texas has won all eight of its road games this postseason, equaling a major league record.

"We'd be naive to think that we're going to run away with four in a row against a team that really fights hard like the same way we did," Rangers first baseman Nathaniel Lowe said.

Kelly was drafted by Tampa Bay in 2010 and had spent six seasons in the minors when he was told by pitcher Doug Mathis he had been spotted by a South Korean scout while pitching in Rochester, New York. Kelly's agents at Apex Baseball arranged a contract and Kelly spent 2015-18 with SK Wyverns in Incheon.

"I definitely had visions and images about me sitting on this podium," Kelly said in the postgame interview room, recounting how he got up each morning, made coffee and checked MLB games. "It felt literally and figuratively miles away."

In an on-field interview with MLB Network, he called it "Lost in Translation" type stuff, referring to the 2003 Sofia Coppola movie of cultural displacement, saying "as far as how they view pitching, for four years I pretty much had to figure it out myself."

"The coaches that I had, the translation factor, obviously, is a bit of a hindrance," he said later in the interview room. "At the end of the day, I think what helped over there the most is almost being my own voice and my own pitching coach."

Kelly made his big league debut with Arizona in 2019 and is 48-43. He went 12-8 with a 3.29 ERA in 30 starts this season and is 3-1 with a 2.25 ERA in four postseason starts.

He went to only one three-ball count Saturday.

"Just great command. He hit his spots all night, four pitches. He was on," Rangers manager Bruce Bochy said.

Kelly's grandmother June was at the game and he looked forward to seeing her for the first time since a 2011 visit when he was driving to spring training with his wife.

Kelly's brother Reid also was in the stands. Last year, Merrill took Reid to Game 3 of the World Series in Philadelphia.

"His birthday is Halloween," Merrill Kelly said. "He texted me the other day saying that obviously this is probably the best birthday present I could give him."

PHAM-TASTIC

Pham, a trade-deadline acquisition from the New York Mets, entered in a 3-for-29 skid that included a Game 1 homer. He singled in the second, hit opposite-field doubles to right in the fourth and sixth, and singled in the eighth. He also was picked off second base by Montgomery.



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Pham was inspired by Kurt Reece's self-help book "Good Is The Enemy Of Great."

"One of my mentors, who the St. Louis Cardinals hired, he gave it to a group of us to read that were hand-chosen from the Cardinals to work with him," Pham said. "Highly recommend it."

## SLOW DOWN

Montgomery, coming off his second big league relief appearance, a win in Game 7 of the ALCS at Houston on Monday, had a velocity dip of about 1.5 mph from his season average. Diamondbacks batters failed to make contact on just two of the 37 pitches they swung at.

"Sometimes you've just got to grit," he said.

## FAST PACE

At 2 hours, 59 minutes, it was the quickest World Series game since 2017.

## WEB GEMS

Rangers rookie third baseman Josh Jung dove into foul territory to snag Christian Walker's fourth-inning grounder, then popped to his feet to throw out Walker at first. ... Walker leaped to make a barehand grab of Jonah Heim's fifth-inning grounder that hit first base and flipped to Kelly covering for the out.

## UP NEXT

Texas RHP Max Scherzer, who is 0-1 with a 9.45 ERA in a pair of postseason starts this year, appears for his third different World Series team in Game 3 after pitching for Detroit and Washington. Rookie RHP Brandon Pfaadt has a 2.70 ERA without a decision in four postseason games for Arizona.

## Today in History: October 30, Muhammad Ali knocks out George Foreman in 'Rumble in the Jungle'

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Monday, Oct. 30, the 303rd day of 2023. There are 62 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 30, 1974, Muhammad Ali knocked out George Foreman in the eighth round of a 15-round bout in Kinshasa, Zaire, known as the "Rumble in the Jungle," to regain his world heavyweight title.

On this date:

In 1885, poet Ezra Pound was born in Hailey, Idaho.

In 1912, Vice President James S. Sherman, running for a second term of office with President William Howard Taft, died six days before Election Day.

In 1938, the radio play "The War of the Worlds," starring Orson Welles, aired on CBS.

In 1945, the U.S. government announced the end of shoe rationing, effective at midnight.

In 1961, the Soviet Union tested a hydrogen bomb, the "Tsar Bomba," with a force estimated at about 50 megatons.

In 1972, 45 people were killed when an Illinois Central Gulf commuter train was struck from behind by another train on Chicago's South Side.

In 1975, the New York Daily News ran the headline "Ford to City: Drop Dead" a day after President Gerald R. Ford said he would veto any proposed federal bailout of New York City.

In 1995, by a razor-thin vote of 50.6 percent to 49.4 percent, Federalists prevailed over separatists in a Quebec secession referendum.

In 2000, comedian, television host, author and composer Steve Allen died in Encino, California, at age 78.

In 2001, Ukraine destroyed its last nuclear missile silo, fulfilling a pledge to give up the vast nuclear arsenal it had inherited after the breakup of the Soviet Union.

In 2005, the body of Rosa Parks arrived at the U.S. Capitol, where the civil rights icon became the first woman to lie in honor in the Rotunda; President George W. Bush and congressional leaders paused to lay wreaths by her casket.

In 2012, the Walt Disney Co. announced that it would buy Lucasfilm Ltd. for \$4.05 billion, paving the way for a new "Star Wars" trilogy.

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In 2013, the Boston Red Sox romped to their third World Series championship in 10 seasons, thumping the St. Louis Cardinals 6-1 in Game 6 at Fenway Park.

Today's Birthdays: Movie director Claude Lelouch is 86. Rock singer Grace Slick is 84. Songwriter Eddie Holland is 84. R&B singer Otis Williams (The Temptations) is 82. Actor Joanna Shimkus is 80. Actor Henry Winkler is 78. Broadcast journalist Andrea Mitchell is 77. Rock musician Chris Slade (Asia) is 77. Country/rock musician Timothy B. Schmit (The Eagles) is 76. Actor Leon Rippey is 74. Actor Harry Hamlin is 72. Actor Charles Martin Smith is 70. Country singer T. Graham Brown is 69. Actor Kevin Pollak is 66. Rock singer-musician Jerry De Borg (Jesus Jones) is 63. Actor Michael Beach is 60. Rock singer-musician Gavin Rossdale (Bush) is 58. Actor Jack Plotnick is 55. Comedian Ben Bailey is 53. Actor Billy Brown is 53. Actor Nia Long is 53. Country singer Cassidy Osborn (SHeDAISY) (sh-DAY'-zee) is 47. Actor Gael Garcia Bernal is 45. Actor Matthew Morrison is 45. Business executive and former presidential adviser Ivanka Trump is 42. Actor Fiona Dourif is 42. Actor Shaun Sipos (SEE'-pohs) is 42. Actor Tasso Feldman is 40. Actor Janel (juh-NEHL') Parrish is 35. Actor Tequan Richmond is 31. Actor Kennedy McMann is 27. NHL defenseman Cale Makar is 25.

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