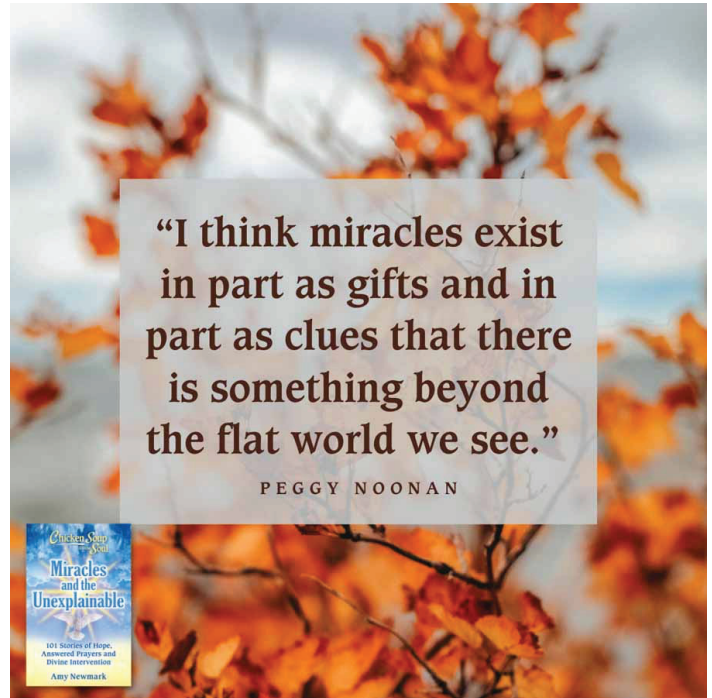


# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 133 ~ 1 of 65

- [1- Dog License ad](#)
- [2- Newsweek Bulletin](#)
- [2- All Over Roofing Ad](#)
- [3- Good Luck at SoDak16](#)
- [4- SoDak16 Pairings](#)
- [5- Groton Area All State Soccer Team](#)
- [6- Groton Area Students participate in school internships](#)
- [6- Aberle interning at Valvoline Instant Oil Change](#)
- [7- Wage Memorial Library](#)
- [8- Brown County Commission Meeting Agenda](#)
- [9- Frosty is Back!!!](#)
- [10- Walworth County Fatal Crash](#)
- [11- SEAS Fall Dinner Ad](#)
- [12- South Dakota Average Gas Prices](#)
- [13- Drought Monitor](#)
- [14- NSU Volleyball](#)
- [14- GFP Commission Holds November Meeting](#)
- [15- American Legion Turkey Party Ad](#)
- [16- SD SearchLight: Defying the odds: Meet the attorney for 1,000 clients who beat two pipeline companies](#)
- [18- SD SearchLight: Noem issues 40 more pardons since April](#)
- [20- Weather Pages](#)
- [24- Daily Devotional](#)
- [25- 2023 Community Events](#)
- [26- Subscription Form](#)
- [27- Lottery Numbers](#)
- [28- News from the Associated Press](#)



## Today's Events

Thrift Store open 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Catholic: SEAS Confession, 3:45-4:15 p.m.; SEAS Mass, 4:30 p.m.

**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.

## 2024 DOG LICENSES DUE BY 12/29/2023

**Fines start January 1, 2024**



Spayed/Neutered dogs are \$5 per dog, otherwise \$10 per dog  
Proof of rabies shot information is RE-REQUIRED!!

Email proof to city.  
kellie@nvc.net, fax to  
(605) 397-4498 or bring a copy to City Hall!!!  
Please contact City Hall as soon as possible if you no longer have a dog(s) that were previously licensed!

**Questions call (605) 397-8422**

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 133 ~ 2 of 65

## The Bulletin by Newsweek

### World in Brief

Friends actor Matthew Perry has been laid to rest in Los Angeles in a private funeral attended by his family and former co-stars. The 54-year-old was found unresponsive at his LA home last Saturday.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken told reporters that Israel has "the obligation to defend itself" but added that "how Israel does this matters". Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant has warned that Israel will not agree to a humanitarian pause unless it includes the release of Hamas-held hostages, a source told CNN.

In a rare public speech in Lebanon, Hezbollah Secretary

General Hassan Nasrallah praised Hamas' Oct. 7 attack on Israel as a "great, blessed operation", but insisted his organization had no prior knowledge of the attack and did not coordinate with Hamas.

U.S. employment increased by around 150,000 jobs in October—fewer than forecast—with unemployment rising to 3.9%, according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Federico Klein, a former Donald Trump appointee at the State Department who was involved in the Jan. 6, 2021 Capitol riot has been sentenced to 70 months—or just under six years—in prison.

At least six people have died after torrential rain from Storm Ciarán hit the central Italian region of Tuscany on Thursday and Friday.

An inquest into the death of hockey player Adam Johnson has begun in England. The former NHL star died after colliding with opposition player Matt Petgrave while playing for the Nottingham Panthers against the Sheffield Steelers last weekend.

President Joe Biden and first lady Jill Biden traveled to Lewiston, Maine to pay respects to the victims of a mass shooting last week that killed 18 people.

In the ongoing war in Ukraine, Ukrainian forces launched a missile attack on the headquarters of the Russian Dnieper military group in the partially occupied southern Kherson region on Wednesday, a U.S.-based think tank said.

RAISING THE ROOFING STANDARDS,  
ALL OVER YOUR TOWN!

FREE HAIL STORM ESTIMATES!

605.759.0000

1205 6TH AVE SW SUITE 2, ABERDEEN, SD 57401



ALL OVER ROOFING



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 133 ~ 3 of 65



## Good Luck Groton Area Tigers at the SoDak 16 !



Back row: Jaedyn Penning, Chesney Weber, Faith Traphagen, Emma Kutter, Rylee Dunker, Sydney Leicht and Anna Fjeldheim.

Front row: Kella Tracy, Sydney Locke, Talli Wright, Laila Roberts, Carly Guthmiller, Jerica Locke and Elizabeth Flihs.

## Groton Area vs. Lennox Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2023, 6:30 p.m. Watertown High School

**Good luck from these GDILIVE.COM Sponsors who  
are making the broadcasts FREE of charge!**

Avantara of Groton  
Bary Keith at Harr Motors  
Basekamp Lodge  
Bierman Farm Services  
BK Custom T's & More  
Blocker Construction  
Dacotah Bank  
Full Circle AG  
Groton American Legion Post #39  
Groton Chamber of Commerce  
Groton Chiropractic Clinic  
Groton Daily Independent



Groton Dairy Queen  
Groton Ford  
Ken's Food Fair  
Lori's Pharmacy  
Love to Travel with Becah Flihs  
Milbrandt Enterprises Inc.  
MJ's Sinclair  
Professional Management Services  
S & S Lumber & Hardware Hank  
Spanier Harvesting & Trucking  
The Meathouse of Andover  
Weismantel Agency of Columbia

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 133 ~ 4 of 65

## Class A - SoDak 16



### #1 - Corn Palace

	<b>1</b> Sioux Falls Christian	31-4	11/7 5:30 PM CT
	<b>16</b> Bennett County	11-15	

STATE QUALIFIER

STATE QUALIFIER



### #5 - Great Plains Lutheran HS

	<b>5</b> Aberdeen Ronc...	20-5	11/7 6:30 PM CT
	<b>12</b> Dakota Valley	18-10	

STATE QUALIFIER

STATE QUALIFIER

### #2 - Central High School Howard Na...

	<b>2</b> Rapid City Christian	32-5	11/7 5:30 PM MT
	<b>15</b> Winner	13-17	

### #3 - Watertown High School

	<b>3</b> Groton Area	20-4	11/7 6:30 PM CT
	<b>14</b> Lennox	18-10	



### #4 - Huron Arena

	<b>4</b> Miller	27-6	11/7 7:30 PM CT
	<b>13</b> Flandreau	18-9	



### #6 - Corn Palace

	<b>6</b> Platte-Geddes	30-6	11/7 7:00 PM CT
	<b>11</b> Elkton-Lake Be...	21-11	

### #7 - Chamberlain Armory

	<b>7</b> Dell Rapids	25-6	11/7 5:30 PM CT
	<b>10</b> Hill City	27-6	

### #8 - T.F. Riggs High School

	<b>8</b> Mobridge-Pollo...	26-7	11/7 6:30 PM CT
	<b>9</b> Wagner	25-6	

### Seed Points Averages (calculated Oct. 24)

#1 Sioux Falls Christian 45.273 - #2 Rapid City Christian 44.500 - #3 Groton Area 44.455 - #4 Miller 44.290 - #5 Aberdeen Roncalli 44.217 - #6 Platte-Geddes 43.912 - #7 Dell Rapids 43.621 - #8 Mobridge-Pollock 43.452 - #9 Wagner 43.172 - #10 Hill City 42.871 - #11 Elkton-Lake Benton 42.667 - #12 Dakota Valley 42.654 - #13 Flandreau 41.840 - #14 Lennox 41.615 - #15 Winner 40.107 - #16 Bennett County 38.000





## Groton Area All State Soccer Team

The following Groton Tiger Soccer Players were selected to the 2023 South Dakota High School Soccer Coaches Association All-State Team.

**First Team All-State:** Jerica Locke and Kennedy Hansen

**All-State Honorable Mention:** Jacob Zak, Jaedyn Penning, and Laila Roberts

(Photo Groton Area facebook page)

## Groton Area Students participate in school internships

by Dorene Nelson

Groton Area High School offers a variety of business classes. One of these classes, School Internships, offers seniors the opportunity to work in various local businesses of their choice.

The purpose of this internship is to teach students responsibility by working for someone other than their family. It helps them learn how to work with the public and with customers who might not be all that agreeable at times.

Internships could also help students decide on a part-time job while they are in college or maybe even to help them choose a future occupation.

The business teacher, Brittany Hubbard, organized this experience for the students enrolled in her School Internship class.

All students must be at their chosen place of work during the last period of the school day. The student interns must contact the place they would like to work and have their own personal transportation.

### Aberle interning at Valvoline Instant Oil Change

Austin Aberle, a senior at Groton Area High School, is interning at Valvoline Instant Oil Change in Aberdeen. "I do my intern hour from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.," Aberle explained, "followed by two more hours that I actually get paid to do!"

"I was on the soccer team and am also a member of FFA," he listed. "These activities keep me busy along with my work here at Valvoline.

"Next year I plan to attend Lake Area Technical College in Watertown," Aberle said. "That is the main reason I decided to do my internship here. I'll get real life experience before I select a career.

"When I go to Lake Area, I plan to take up auto body work with an emphasis on motor work," he stated. "I especially like hands-on kind of work.

"I want to stay close to home rather than go far away to college," Aberle admitted. "The most difficult part of this job at Valvoline is getting dirty air filters out of the customers' cars.

"I really enjoy working here with the other great employees," he explained. "The only downside is trying to please cranky customers who get impatient with the wait!

"I have several duties here. I mop and sweep the floor, work in the oil bays, and clean the windows and the car bays," Aberle listed.

Austin is the son of Kristi Jones and the late Roger Aberle.



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 133 ~ 7 of 65



## Groton Wage Memorial Library

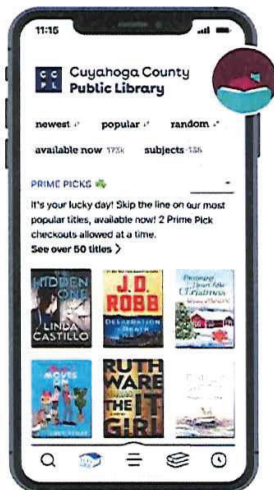


120 N Main St – Groton, SD – (605) 397-8422

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
- A unified bookshelf for all your loans and holds
- 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!

# Groton Daily Independent

**Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 133 ~ 8 of 65**

**BROWN COUNTY  
BROWN COUNTY COMMISSION AGENDA  
REGULAR MEETING TUESDAY**

**November 7, 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. Scott Meints, BCEM and Char Hagar & Jerry Weber, Northern Electric – Discuss FEMA BRIC Grant
5. Neil Bellikka– Discuss roads at Richmond Lake
6. Review City of Groton permit application and approve continued operation of Solid Waste Site
7. Rachel Kippley, Fair/Fairgrounds/Parks Manager
  - a. RFP for replacing the Expo Roof
8. Dirk Rogers, Highway Superintendent
  - a. R-O-W for Web Water
9. Consent Calendar
  - a. Approval of General Meeting Minutes of October 31, 2023
  - b. Claims/Payroll
  - c. HR Report
  - d. Landfill Tonnage Report
  - e. Set Hearing Date for Retail (On-Off Sale) Malt Beverage & SD Farm Wine Licenses
10. Other Business
11. Executive Session (if requested per SDCL 1-25-2)
12. Adjourn

Brown County Commission Meeting

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 133 ~ 9 of 65

## Frosty is Back!!!

Please check the Groton Daily Independent for daily clues as to who the Groton Area Mystery Frosty is. The unveiling of Frosty will take place at the Groton Area Snow Queen and Talent Contest on Sunday, November 26th at 4:00pm.



## 2023 Frosty Clues

I....

4.) Took a boxing class in college

## Walworth County Fatal Crash

What: Two vehicle fatal crash

Where: US Hwy 83, Mile Marker 199, 10 miles southeast of Selby, SD

When: 1:22 p.m., Thursday, November 2, 2023

Driver 1: Male, 56, Fatal injuries

Vehicle 1: 2018 Ford F-250

Driver 2: Male, 30, No injuries

Vehicle 2: 2007 Peterbilt

Walworth County, S.D.- One person died Thursday afternoon in a two vehicle crash in Walworth County.

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

Preliminary crash information indicates a 2007 Peterbilt, hauling a loaded cattle trailer, was traveling southbound on US 83 near MM 199.

The Ford F-250 was traveling northbound on US 83. The vehicles collided head on. The Ford left the roadway and came to rest in the ditch. The Peterbilt rolled onto the driver's side before coming to a stop.

The 56-year-old male driver of the 2018 Ford F-250 sustained fatal injuries and was pronounced deceased at the scene.

Seatbelt use is under investigation.

The 30-year-old male driver of the 2007 Peterbilt did not sustain injury. He was not wearing a seatbelt.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol is investigating the crash. All information released so far is only preliminary.

The Highway Patrol is an agency of the South Dakota Department of Public Safety.

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!



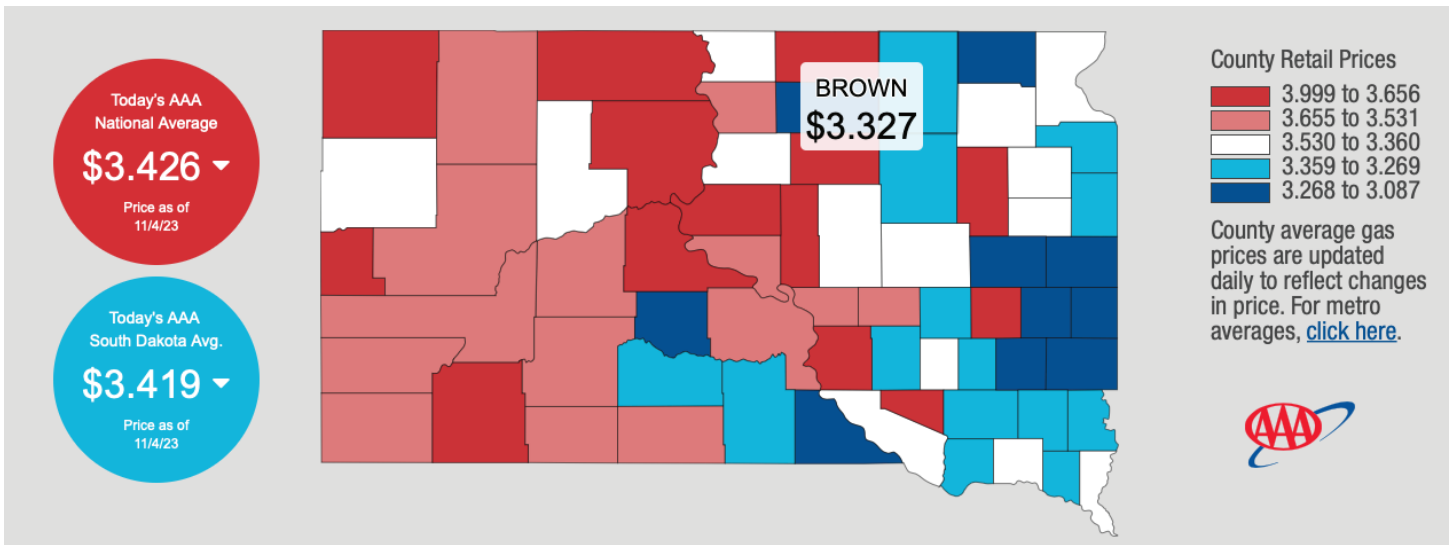
# Broton Daily Independent

Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 133 ~ 12 of 65

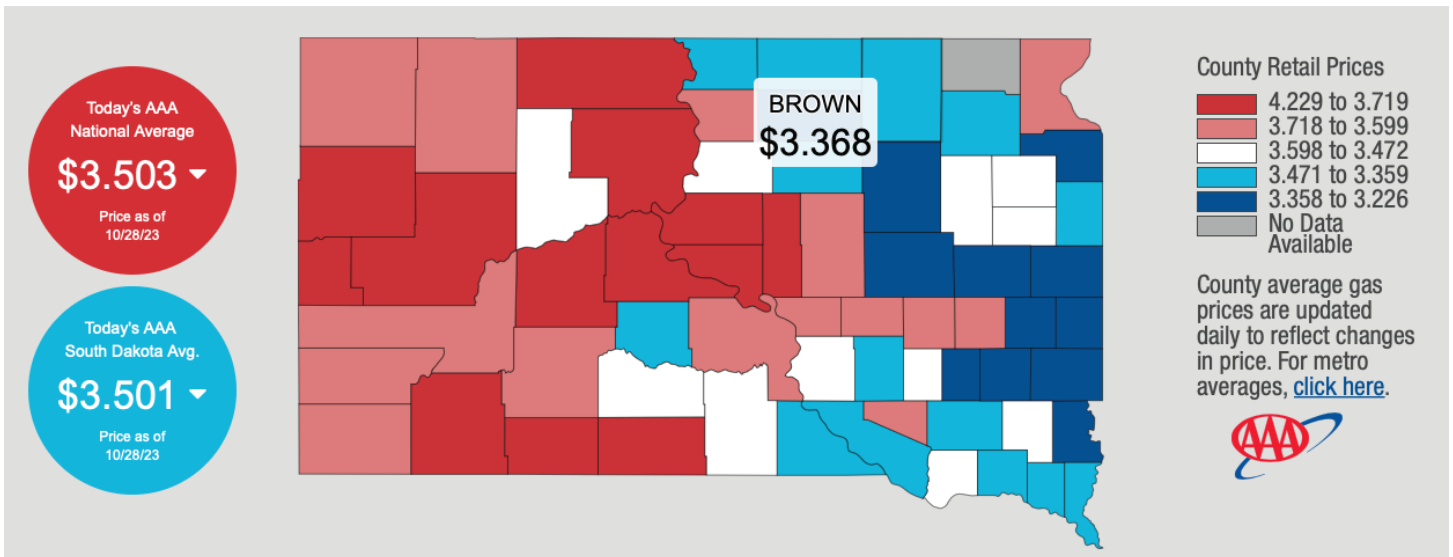
## South Dakota Average Gas Prices

	Regular	Mid-Grade	Premium	Diesel
Current Avg.	\$3.419	\$3.585	\$4.066	\$4.417
Yesterday Avg.	\$3.443	\$3.600	\$4.100	\$4.440
Week Ago Avg.	\$3.501	\$3.664	\$4.172	\$4.628
Month Ago Avg.	\$3.776	\$3.961	\$4.408	\$4.401
Year Ago Avg.	\$3.668	\$3.840	\$4.328	\$5.173

### This Week



### Two Weeks Ago



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 133 ~ 13 of 65

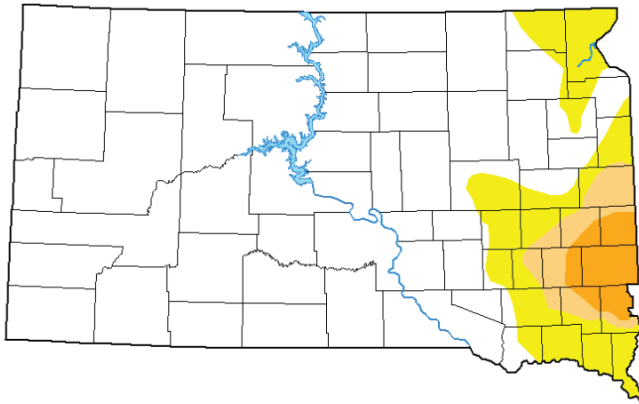
## Drought Classification

None  
D0 (Abnormally Dry)  
D1 (Moderate Drought)

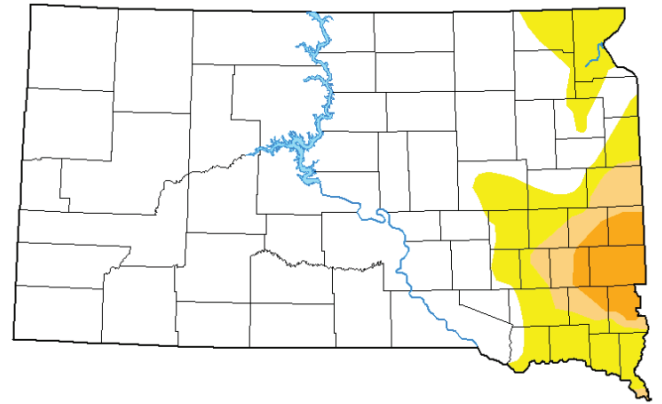
D2 (Severe Drought)  
D3 (Extreme Drought)

D4 (Exceptional Drought)  
No Data

## Drought Monitor



October 31



October 24

Significant precipitation was recorded in North Dakota, northeast Nebraska, and central and southeast Kansas. Some of the precipitation in these regions came as snow and it is anticipated that much of the ensuing melt-off will get moisture into the soils. Temperatures were cooler than normal over most of the region with the greatest departures over the western Dakotas where temperatures were 10-15 degrees below normal. A full category improvement to the drought intensities was made over northern North Dakota, central and western Nebraska, and southeast Kansas. Some expansion of abnormally dry conditions took place over eastern Colorado and western Kansas as well as southern Wyoming.

## **NSU Volleyball**

### **Northern State Falls to No. 4 Concordia-St. Paul**

St. Paul, Minn. – The Northern State University volleyball team was swept by No. 4 Concordia-St. Paul on Friday. The Golden Bears defeated the Wolves with set scores of 25-11, 25-20, and 25-8.

#### THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 0, CSP 3

Records: NSU 17-7 (9-6 NSIC), CSP 22-2 (13-2)

Attendance: 384

#### HOW IT HAPPENED

Northern tallied 28 kills, 30 digs, 27 assists, three blocks, and two aces

Concordia-St. Paul was potent offensively, hitting .477 with 47 kills

Natalia Szybinska led the offense with nine kills, hitting .364

Keri Walker led the defense with ten digs and added 21 assists

#### NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

Natalia Szybinska: 9 kills, .364 attack%, 2 blocks

Keri Walker: 21 assists, 10 digs, 2 aces

#### UP NEXT

Northern travels to Winona State this afternoon. Match start time is set for 4 p.m. against the Warriors.

## **GFP Commission Holds November Meeting**

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Commission held their November Meeting at Prairie Shores Resort and Event Center in Madison November 2.

### **Nonresident One-Day Fishing License**

The Commission tabled action on the one-day nonresident fishing license. Since 2020, there has been a spike in one-day nonresident fishing licenses. Assessments of these license sales indicate some individuals are taking advantage of the license structure to obtain multiple licenses while exempting themselves from purchasing the Habitat Stamp.

The Commission intends to reevaluate ideas that emerged during the additional public comment opportunity regarding this license option and bring this topic back at a later date. The one-day nonresident license remains available to nonresident anglers at this time.

### **Public Comment Opportunity and Upcoming Meeting**

To hear the discussion on any of the topics on the agenda, audio from the meeting is available through South Dakota Public Broadcasting and will soon be available on the GFP website as part of the meeting archive.

To see these documents in their entirety, visit [gfp.sd.gov/commission/information](http://gfp.sd.gov/commission/information).

To be included in the public record and to be considered by the Commission, public comments must include a full name and city of residence and be submitted by 11:59 p.m. CDT on December 3.

The next GFP Commission meeting will be held in Fort Pierre December 7-8.

**Groton Post No. 39 American Legion**

# *Annual Turkey Party*

**Saturday, Nov. 11, 2023**

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

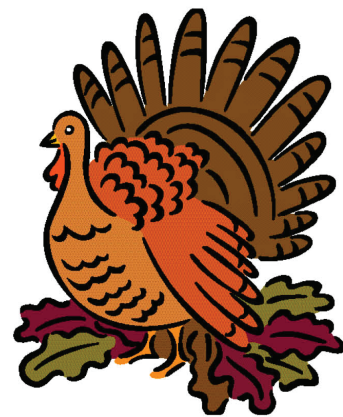
Groton Legion Post Home, 10 N. Main.

Turkey, Ham and Bacon  
to be given away

**FREE ADMISSION**

**DOOR  
PRIZE!**

Lunch served  
by Auxiliary





## SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

### Defying the odds: Meet the attorney for 1,000 clients who beat two pipeline companies

BY: JOSHUA HAIAR - NOVEMBER 3, 2023 5:55 PM

Brian Jorde said most people didn't think he or his clients had much of a chance to stop a pair of carbon dioxide pipelines after the plans were announced two years ago.

"'You all are a nuisance. We all know this is getting permitted.' That has been the attitude of these pipelines since day one, and here we are," Jorde said.

In September, with Jorde representing more than 1,000 affected landowners, the Public Utilities Commission rejected permit applications from both of the companies proposing carbon pipelines in the state.

Both projects carried multi-billion-dollar price tags. Project backers sought to capture carbon dioxide emissions from ethanol plants in multiple states and transport it in liquefied form to be "sequestered" at an underground storage site. Tax credits are available from the federal government for every metric ton of sequestered carbon dioxide, as an incentive to prevent emissions of the heat-trapping greenhouse gas.

Since the permit hearings, Navigator CO2 has withdrawn its project. Meanwhile, Jorde and some of his clients are preparing for an anticipated reapplication from Summit Carbon Solutions, which has said it plans to alter its proposal.

Jorde said he'll be ready to leverage his experience with pipeline cases, including his prior work against a crude-oil pipeline.

#### 'Like 'The Karate Kid''

Jorde, 47, grew up in Nebraska and had a colorful period of finding himself in early adulthood – living in Australia for a short stint, and later making art and music in Michigan. But in the end, because of a "passion for justice," Jorde said, "all roads led back to what I knew was my destiny, which was to practice law."

He passed the Michigan bar exam in 2007 and did some work there, but soon packed up and headed to Omaha where he would join his stepfather's firm, Domina Law Group.

David Domina immediately handed Jorde "three completely hopeless cases" — civil cases with strong evidence against the clients' positions.

"I didn't know I couldn't win these cases," Jorde said. "I didn't know until later that that was all part of his plan."



**Brian Jorde, at right, and Ryan Cwach, attorneys for opponent landowners, participate in a Public Utilities Commission hearing July 25, 2023, in Fort Pierre on the permit application for the proposed Heartland Greenway carbon dioxide pipeline.** (Joshua Haiar/South Dakota Searchlight)



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 133 ~ 17 of 65

That baptism by fire taught Jorde three things, he said: "Get comfortable being uncomfortable, learn to think on your feet and be humble."

"It's kind of like 'The Karate Kid,'" he said, referencing the 1980s movie franchise. And like the dojo operated in the movies by a character named Mr. Miyagi, Jorde added, "Our practice is always on the side of the less capitalized, less wealthy, less connected than our opponents."

Jorde's introduction to pipelines came in 2008 when a longtime client's mother called about the proposed Keystone XL oil pipeline's attempted use of eminent domain to cross her land. "Eminent domain" refers to the power to access private property for public use, provided the owner is given just compensation.

"She was in tears, and there was this company up there called TransCanada that said if she didn't sign papers, they're gonna take her land by eminent domain," he said.

Jorde says he is far from a pipeline expert — but adds that he doesn't have to be.

"I've learned the art of thinking and strategy," he said. "The foundation of all this is being able to strategize, think, see around corners, and anticipate what's coming. If, then, therefore."

Jorde took her and others on as clients, and the 11-year journey taught him a lot about eminent domain law and pipeline construction. He also learned that while many landowners may oppose a project crossing their land, a lot of those landowners are convinced it's a hopeless cause.

"We basically had to convince people that it was OK to stand up for themselves," Jorde said. "Practically speaking, our country is currently by and for the corporations, and anyone who believes it's by and for the people is misinformed. However, all we can do is chip away and chip away, and exercise our rights."

The Keystone XL oil pipeline was never built after President Biden revoked a key permit. Jorde said he played a role in that with his clients.

"We outlasted three presidents," he said. "Every other state had fallen, and the work we did in Nebraska kept the fight alive until the end."

Jorde thinks that because landowners saw clients like his fight Keystone XL successfully, convincing landowners they could win against the carbon sequestration pipelines was easier.

Ed Fischbach of rural Aberdeen is one of Jorde's clients in the carbon pipeline cases. Fischbach said the law firm charges all the South Dakota landowners as one group, and the charge is split evenly among the landowners.

"I wouldn't trust anyone else to do this," Fischbach said. "The guy has been the greatest thing for South Dakota landowners."

Jorde said what an individual landowner pays per month varies, from "less than \$100 to several hundred depending on the intensity of the effort and the time invested."

"In group representation, the landowners end up paying pennies on the dollar," Jorde said. "It's all for one, and one for all."

## Corralling the herd

The Summit project would span five states: North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa and Minnesota. Navigator would have spanned South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota and Illinois.

Representing over 1,000 landowners spread among all of those states except Minnesota and Illinois has kept Jorde busy.

"Yeah, the number of emails saying, 'I just need five minutes,'" he said. "It adds up."

The landowners who hired Jorde come from across the political spectrum — from those who want more CO2 in the atmosphere with the hopes of improving crop yields, to those who think climate change is a serious threat to national security.

All of them are focused on the shared goal of not allowing the projects to use eminent domain.

"It's very simple: Let's focus on where we agree, and let's work like hell to get to the finish line together," Jorde said. "And if we have other things we disagree about, who cares? We don't have time for distractions."

Jorde said the arguments he presented in South Dakota during the permit hearings were tailored for the three elected public utilities commissioners who decided whether to grant the permits.

"Those are the only people that matter," he said.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 133 ~ 18 of 65

Jorde said what brought down the Navigator pipeline "wasn't the money." The company had partners such as BlackRock, a multi-trillion-dollar global asset management firm.

"It's that they weren't as entrenched politically as Summit," he said.

## Summit and Round Two

Summit contracted 14 lobbyists during the last legislative session, including Pierre attorney Brett Koenecke. "I don't think Mr. Koenecke and his team have ever been on the end of a losing infrastructure project," Jorde said.

Koenecke was one of the lawyers representing Keystone XL, which gained a permit in South Dakota before being rejected federally. "And the clients they work for aren't used to losing either," Jorde said. "And that combination is the greatest one for me to go against."

Jorde contrasted himself, saying "I presume the other person is smarter and knows more than I do."

"Everyone on the other side was so sure because they had the power, they had the politics," he said.

Some of those political connections are publicly visible. Summit Carbon Solutions was one of five platinum sponsors for Gov. Kristi Noem's second inauguration in January. After the Public Utilities Commission rejected Summit's permit application, Senate President Pro Tempore Lee Schoenbeck, R-Watertown, sent texts (which were later publicly revealed) to one of the commissioners criticizing his vote.

"U anti ethanol people need to be out of public office. Bad for South Dakota," Schoenbeck wrote in one of the messages.

While the projects are backed by billion- and trillion-dollar companies, Jorde said just like Navigator, Summit could collapse if investors become skeptical.

"At the end of the day, their owners are investors, and all they want is a return," he said. "And when you get investor confidence a little shaky, they're like, 'Listen, I can make money elsewhere, I don't need this.' That's when the project starts to unravel."

Jorde said his side's celebration was short-lived.

"We had our congratulations, and that lasted about five minutes," he said. "And I said, OK, not to be a Debby downer, but here's what we're not going to do: lose focus. Because right now, they're planning a strategy."

Jorde told landowners to push counties to enact and enforce setback ordinances that determine how close a carbon sequestration pipeline can be built to existing houses, farms and other features.

Some counties including Minnehaha and Moody already have such ordinances, which public utilities commissioners unanimously decided they will not overrule. That's despite the pipeline companies having argued the setbacks are unworkable.

Jorde also told landowners to lobby harder in the state Senate, where a bill failed last winter that would have banned eminent domain for carbon pipelines, after passing the House.

"This has really fired up people who thought all this couldn't happen," he said. "This participation in our democracy is so critical to keeping this country a country."

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

## Noem issues 40 more pardons since April

**Pace of clemency approvals picks up in 2023**

**BY: JOHN HULT - NOVEMBER 3, 2023 4:54 PM**

Gov. Kristi Noem has issued 40 pardons since April, according to records on file with the Secretary of State's Office.

The pardons bring the total number issued by Gov. Noem since the start of her first term to 268.

The Board of Pardons and Paroles offers recommendations on pardons to the governor, but South Dakota's constitution empowers the governor alone with the ability to grant them. A pardon clears a crimi-

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 133 ~ 19 of 65

nal conviction from a person's record, and stands as the only way to clear a record in the state in most instances, regardless of the length of time since the offense.

People who wish to clear their criminal record through the pardon process appear before the Board of Pardons and Paroles in a public hearing, at which they must convince at least five of its nine members to recommend clemency.

What happens after the board issues a recommendation takes place outside of public view, however. The governor and her staff are given recordings of the parole board hearings on each pardon request and the requestor's associated records, and at some point the governor's office reviews the information and makes a decision. There is no requirement for a governor to attend to pardons in a timely fashion or to report pardon decisions to the public or the Legislature.

Once a pardon is signed, the document is filed with the secretary of state and remains open to public inspection for five years before being sealed.

## Georgia woman among new pardons

In the run-up to the publication of an April South Dakota Searchlight story on Noem's use of her pardon powers, Noem had signed pardons in spurts, nearly always signing several on a single day. The longest period between pardon signings was 229 days, between July of 2021 and March of 2022.

The pardons issued in 2023 have come more frequently. The 40 issued since April were signed on seven separate dates, with at least one issued every month but September.

There were 11 pardons issued on Oct. 11, 2023. Among them was a pardon for Terra Lynn Eagle Feather, who opted against a virtual meeting and drove from Georgia to Sioux Falls in March with her 2-year-old granddaughter to attend her pardon hearing.

She told the parole board that she'd spent decades raising her family and steering clear of trouble, and she earned a unanimous vote from the board to clear her 29-year-old conviction for sexual contact with a child younger than 16. It was her second request for a pardon, the first coming 10 years before.

Two weeks after her hearing, Eagle Feather told South Dakota Searchlight that she felt it was important for the board to see her face-to-face.

"I wanted them to see me," she said. "I wanted them to see that I'm not that same 20-year-old any more. I'm a 49-year-old woman. I have a family now. If it had been in Rapid City and it was a 24-hour drive, I still would have made it."

## Pardon may help Rapid City man with work opportunity

Criminal convictions can stand in the way of work opportunities, which is part of the reason some states have moved to automatically expunge certain crimes after periods of law-abiding behavior, or to allow those with convictions to file paperwork for an expungement without a hearing. Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison was scheduled to be on hand for a mass expungement clinic Wednesday, in an effort to get more Minnesotans to take advantage of that state's expungement statutes.

A Rapid City man and construction contractor named Bradley Olson, who has become an advocate for recovering addicts in the years since his third driving under the influence conviction in 2009, was issued a pardon in August. Like Eagle Feather, Olson made his case for clemency in March.

Olson's lawyer, Ryan Duffy, told the board about Olson's concerns that his years-old felony conviction might keep him from doing work for Ellsworth Air Force Base if the base's security level were tightened.

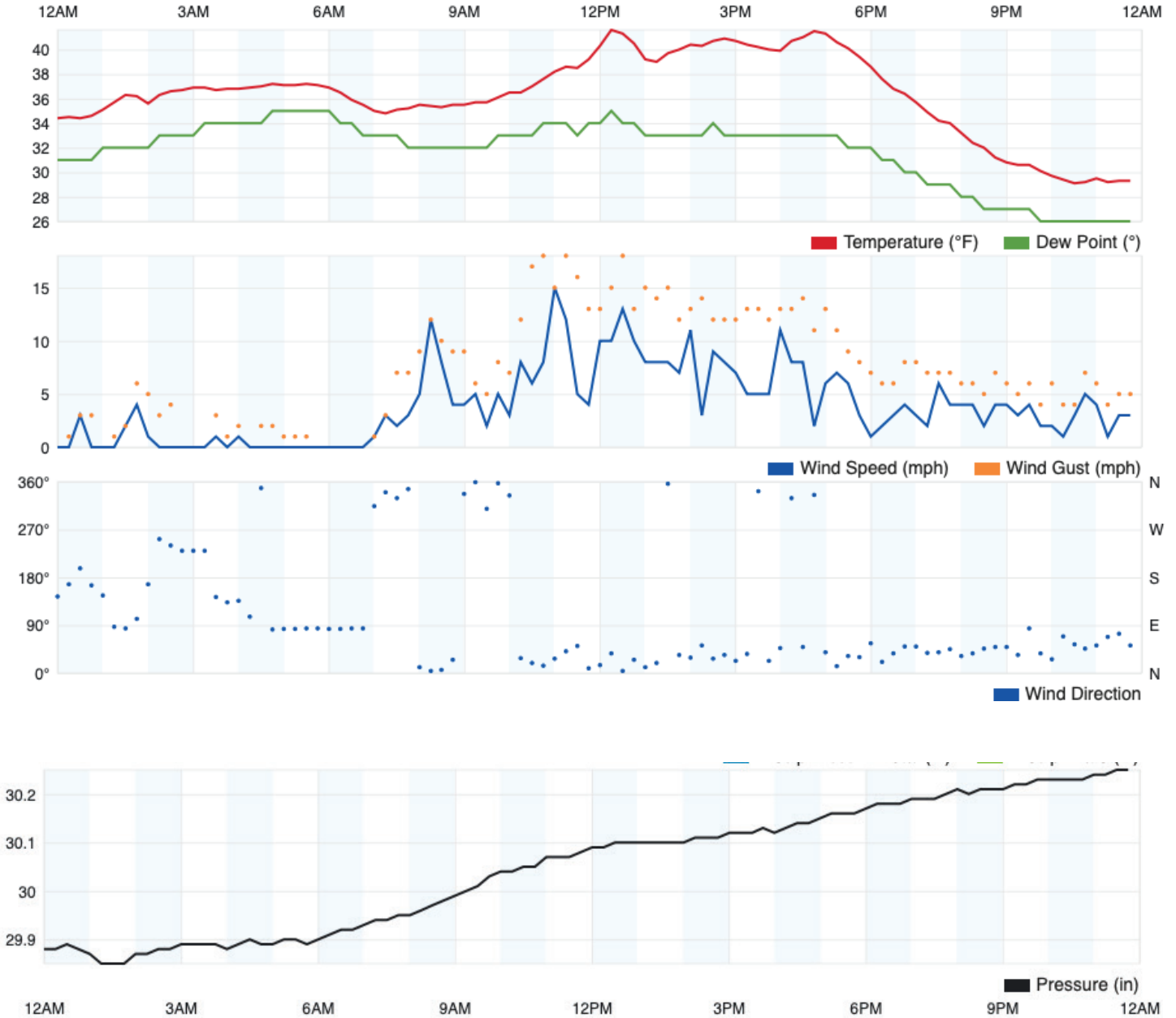
Per parole board policy, South Dakotans are eligible for a pardon five years from the date of their conviction. Former Gov. Dennis Daugaard moved to create an expedited pardon application process for lower-level crimes during his second term in office. Such pardons still require a hearing before the board, but the initial steps of the application process take place online.

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

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 133 ~ 20 of 65

## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 133 ~ 21 of 65

Sat Nov 4	Sun Nov 5	Mon Nov 6	Tue Nov 7	Wed Nov 8	Thu Nov 9	Fri Nov 10
51°F 34°F	57°F 37°F	51°F 27°F	49°F 32°F	47°F 29°F	42°F 24°F	39°F 27°F
SSE 15 MPH	SE 13 MPH	WNW 13 MPH	E 15 MPH	WSW 15 MPH	NW 16 MPH	W 13 MPH



## Near To Slightly Above Normal; Turning Cool Late Next Week

November 4, 2023  
4:44 AM

	Maximum Temperature Forecast (°F)						
	11/4 Sat	11/5 Sun	11/6 Mon	11/7 Tue	11/8 Wed	11/9 Thu	11/10 Fri
Aberdeen	55	57	57	52	52	49	45
Britton	49	55	55	48	46	45	41
Brookings	56	63	63	55	53	52	44
Chamberlain	63	69	69	60	61	54	47
Clark	54	59	59	50	52	48	41
Eagle Butte	56	61	61	55	50	47	45
Ellendale	48	51	51	48	46	45	43
Eureka	49	54	54	49	47	45	43
Gettysburg	55	58	58	54	52	48	45
Huron	60	66	66	57	59	54	47
Kennebec	61	65	65	59	57	53	46
McIntosh	46	54	54	49	46	43	42
Milbank	55	59	59	51	47	49	44
Miller	60	62	62	56	57	50	45
Mobridge	52	57	57	53	51	49	47
Murdo	60	66	66	59	56	52	46
Pierre	61	64	64	60	57	54	49
Redfield	59	62	62	55	56	51	45
Sisseton	52	58	58	49	45	47	42
Watertown	55	60	60	51	50	49	42
Webster	50	55	55	47	47	45	39
Wheaton	50	56	56	47	44	47	41



National Weather Service  
Aberdeen, SD

Warmer air moves in to the region today and sticks around for several days. There could be a shower or two around this morning, mainly west of the Missouri River valley. Otherwise, precipitation chances are rather scant this week.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 133 ~ 22 of 65

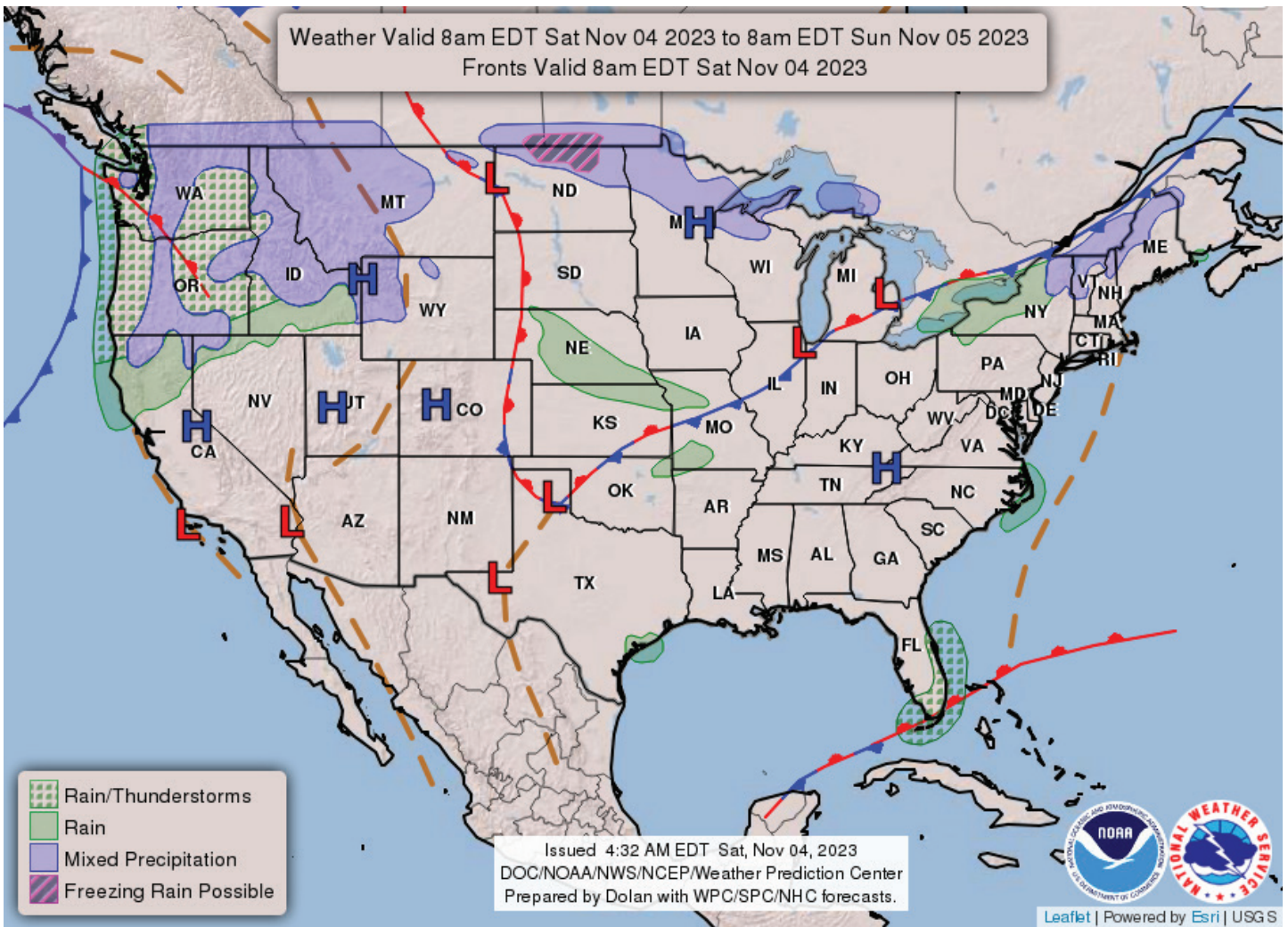
## Yesterday's Groton Weather

**High Temp: 42 °F at 4:53 PM**  
**Low Temp: 29 °F at 10:28 PM**  
**Wind: 19 mph at 11:20 AM**  
**Precip: : 0.00**

## Today's Info

Record High: 78 in 2020  
Record Low: -2 in 1991  
Average High: 49  
Average Low: 25  
Average Precip in Nov.: 0.14  
Precip to date in Nov.: 0.00  
Average Precip to date: 20.61  
Precip Year to Date: 22.98  
Sunset Tonight: 6:17:27 PM  
Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:15:51 AM

Day length: 10 hours, 3 minutes



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 133 ~ 23 of 65

## Today in Weather History

November 4th, 1992: Significant snow blanketed much of the state except the southwest between November 1st and November 4th. The snow and slush caused numerous minor traffic accidents and further delayed the fall harvest in many areas. The highest snowfall amounts included over a foot in north-central and northeast South Dakota, and the northern Black Hills, generally 3 to 7 inches reported elsewhere. Some of the more significant storms total snowfall reports were 25.2 inches at Lead, 15 inches at Eureka, 14 inches near Summit, 13 inches near Victor, 12.6 inches at Roscoe, and 12 inches in Leola and 23 miles north of Highmore.

1935: Called the Yankee Hurricane, this Category 2 storm affected the Bahamas and South Florida. The storm remains the only tropical cyclone to hit Miami from the Northeast in November.

1959: A rare F0 tornado caused minor damage near Cape St. Elias Light Station on Kayak Island, Alaska.

1927 - A great Vermont flood occurred. Tropical rains deluged the Green Mountain area of Vermont causing the worst flood in the history of the state. Torrential rains, up to 15 inches in the higher elevations, sent streams on a rampage devastating the Winooski Valley. Flooding claimed 200 lives and caused 40 million dollars damage. The town of Vernon reported 84 deaths. Flooding left up to eight to ten feet of water in downtown Montpelier VT. (2nd-4th) (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1985: Heavy rains from the remnants of tropical storm Juan dropped 10 to 19 inches of rain on West Virginia and surrounding states, causing 62 deaths. A maximum rainfall amount of 19.77 inches was recorded near Montebello in the Blue Ridge Mountains in Virginia. The flood in West Virginia was considered the worst in the state's history.

1987 - Thirty-two cities in the eastern and south central U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. Highs of 74 degrees at Portland ME and 86 degrees at Fort Smith AR equalled November records. It was the fourth day of record warmth for Beckley WV, Memphis TN and Paducah KY. A cold front ushered much colder air into the north central U.S. Gale force winds lashed all five Great Lakes. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Thunderstorms developing ahead of a fast moving cold front produced severe weather over the Tennessee Valley and the Central Gulf Coast States during the afternoon and evening hours, and into the next morning. Thunderstorms spawned nineteen tornadoes, including eleven in Mississippi. The last of the nineteen tornadoes killed a woman in her mobile home in Lee FL. A tornado in Culbert AL injured sixteen people, and caused two million dollars damage. Thunderstorms also produced baseball size hail in Alabama. Unseasonably hot air prevailed south of the cold front. McAllen TX was the hot spot in the nation with a high of 102 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Snow and high winds plagued parts of Colorado and Wyoming. Winds gusted to 71 mph near Wheatland WY, and reached 80 mph west of Fort Collins CO. Up to five inches of snow blanketed Yellowstone Park WY closing many roads. Snow also blanketed northern Minnesota, with seven inches reported at Baudette. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 133 ~ 24 of 65

Daily Devotionals

## Seeds of Hope

### HOPE

A successful executive of a large company had been in the hospital for days. He had waited, wondered, and worried about what the diagnosis of his illness would be. After the tests were completed, the doctor came into his room and told him the results.

Tearfully and in shock, his wife asked, "Is there any hope, doctor?"

"It depends on where your hope is," said the doctor. "If it is in me, I'm afraid not. But if it is in God, you have all the hope you need."

Jesus gave Christians a prescription for hope. "Don't be troubled," He said. "You trust God, now trust me. There are many rooms in my Father's home, and I am going to prepare a place for you."

Fear has a unique way of bringing life into focus. And there are only a few verses of Scripture that describe eternal life. But these few words are filled with promise and hope. The promise is that Jesus has gone before us to prepare a place for us. Now, the hope that we have is His promise: that He would come again to get us so we may be with Him in Heaven.

We can look forward to eternal life with Him because He has promised it to all who believe in Him as Savior and Lord. Although we may not know all we want to know about eternal life and what heaven is like, we need not fear. His faithfulness, like His love, endures forever!

Prayer: What joy we have, Father, that You - at this very moment - are preparing a home for us in heaven. We have peace knowing that we will be with You forever. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. There is more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? John 14:1-2



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



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 133 ~ 25 of 65

## 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

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 133 ~ 26 of 65

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# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 133 ~ 27 of 65



## WINNING NUMBERS

### MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:  
11.03.23

15 32 38 47 65 12

MegaPlier: 4x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$196,000,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS: 11.01.23

6 19 21 26 29 1

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$3,640,000**

NEXT 15 Hrs 19 Mins 40  
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:  
11.03.23

11 16 30 34 40 3

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

NEXT 15 Hrs 34 Mins  
DRAW: 40 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 11.01.23

6 10 22 33 35

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$40,000**

NEXT 15 Hrs 34 Mins  
DRAW: 40 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 11.01.23

9 26 49 58 61 21

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

NEXT 16 Hrs 3 Mins 40  
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS: 11.01.23

22 26 39 47 63 12

Power Play: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$173,000,000**

NEXT 16 Hrs 3 Mins 40  
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 133 ~ 28 of 65

News from the  Associated Press

## Friday's Scores

The Associated Press

PREP FOOTBALL=

SDHSAA Playoffs=

Class 11AAA=

State Semifinal=

O Gorman 49, Harrisburg 34

Sioux Falls Lincoln High School 28, Brandon Valley 21

Sioux Falls O'Gorman 49, Harrisburg 34

Class 11AA=

State Semifinal=

Pierre T F Riggs High School 35, Watertown 14

Yankton 33, Tea Area 25

Class 11A=

State Semifinal=

Dell Rapids 22, Sioux Falls Christian 14

West Central 57, Lennox 16

Class 11B=

State Semifinal=

Elk Point-Jefferson 21, Winner 16

Hot Springs 28, Rapid City Christian 10

Class 9AA=

State Semifinal=

Howard 36, Platte-Geddes 0

Parkston 26, Hamlin 3

Class 9A=

State Semifinal=

Deubrook 18, Philip 14

Warner 37, Canistota 16

Class 9B=

State Semifinal=

Avon 46, DeSmet 19

Faulkton 42, Potter County 0

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

## South Dakota governor asks state Supreme Court about conflict of interest after lawmaker resigns

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Republican Gov. Kristi Noem has requested guidance from the state's Supreme Court about conflict-of-interest rules for lawmakers, several weeks after a South Dakota state lawmaker resigned and agreed to repay \$500,000 in federal COVID-19 relief that she received for her day care business.

Jessica Castleberry was a state senator when she received the COVID-19 stimulus funding. Doing so violated a state Supreme Court advisory warning state lawmakers that it is unconstitutional for them to accept federal pandemic funding.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 133 ~ 29 of 65

Noem, Attorney General Marty Jackley and two Republican lawmakers have sent letters to the court seeking clarity on what else is illegal, the Sioux Falls Argus Leader reported Thursday.

According to the state Constitution, lawmakers are banned from entering into state contracts "directly or indirectly" during their term and for a year after they finish serving in office.

In her letter, Noem raised specific questions about indirect contracts: Can lawmakers or their spouses be employed by school districts or counties? Can their businesses subcontract with the state for goods and services? And can they receive foster care reimbursements?

Majority Leader Sen. Lee Schoenbeck, a Republican of Watertown, said in his letter that "a literal reading of the 'indirectly' language ... would exclude a very large portion of South Dakota's population," according to the Argus Leader.

The letters also said lawmakers continuously vote on spending packages that fund schools and counties where the lawmakers or their spouses work.

Noem wrote that she is seeking guidance as soon as possible because she still needs to appoint someone to Castleberry's open seat before the Legislature convenes in January.

Schoenbeck added that, depending on the court's ruling, a number of lawmakers may need to resign or pay the state back for services received.

## **Slight change to Dakota Access pipeline comment meeting format, Army Corps says after complaints**

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in the wake of complaints, changed the format of oral testimony for public comments on a draft environmental review of the controversial Dakota Access oil pipeline.

The Corps held two meetings in Bismarck, on Wednesday and Thursday, for public comments on the document that will help determine whether the federal government grants the easement for the pipeline's crossing under the Missouri River near the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe's reservation. The tribe has long opposed the pipeline due to the risk of an oil spill.

Pipeline opponents had criticized the Wednesday meeting because oral testimony was only accepted in private to stenographers in a curtained area in a hotel ballroom. Many people spoke to the room outside of the curtained area, but what they said was not included as official testimony. For example, one man made a demonstration of challenging Corps officials to drink from a cup in which he had poured oil and water.

On Thursday, attendees were given the option to include what they said to the public as their official comment, The Bismarck Tribune reported.

The slight change in the meeting format was due to a smaller public turnout; only 20 people had signed up to make oral comments at Thursday's meeting, Corps spokesman Steve Wolf told The Associated Press.

"Both meetings essentially operated in the same fashion. People who wanted to make oral comments in private or openly in front of the entire assembled attendees were able to do so. Those who wanted their oral or written comments to be officially entered into the administrative record were able to do so both nights," Wolf told AP.

The pipeline has been transporting oil from western North Dakota since 2017, after months of protests with hundreds of arrests.

The public comment period closes Dec. 13.

## **NOT REAL NEWS: A look at what didn't happen this week**

By The Associated Press undefined

A roundup of some of the most popular but completely untrue stories and visuals of the week. None of these are legit, even though they were shared widely on social media. The Associated Press checked them out. Here are the facts:

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# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 133 ~ 30 of 65

No, an Austrian airport doesn't have a desk for travelers who thought they were going to Australia

CLAIM: Salzburg Airport in Austria has a help desk specifically for people who intended to fly to Australia.

THE FACTS: The European airport confirmed it does not have a desk for absent-minded holiday makers who set out for Sydney but wind up thousands of miles away in Salzburg. The misconception stems from a technology company advertisement that ran on a baggage carousel at the airport, which joked about offering such a service. The claim has delighted social media users in recent days, with one post on X, formerly known as Twitter, racking up more than 18,000 likes. "If you're having a bad day, just remember that the airport in Salzburg, Austria has a counter for people who flew to Austria instead of Australia," reads another post on Facebook. Some shared an image of a large sign that reads in part: "Sorry, this is Austria not Australia! Need help? Please press the button." But Salzburg Airport said on Monday in a Facebook post written in German that no such counter or button exists and that the sign seen in some of the posts is actually an advertisement for Commend, an Austrian communication and security technology company. Indeed, the sign also includes the address of Commend's website and reads: "Commend provides Security and Communication. From Salzburg to the rest of the world. Even for the most unlikely of situations." Wolfgang Peer, a spokesperson for Commend International, confirmed to The Associated Press that the advertisement was real, but had been discontinued in 2022. "The briefing was to initiate a direct dialog between the passengers who see the board and the Commend brand and its Intercom products," he wrote in an email. "Above all, it was to contain a witty message, with a certain wink." He added: "An Austrian very often answers in English to the question where he comes from with: 'From Austria, but there are no kangaroos in Austria.'"

— Associated Press writer Melissa Goldin in New York contributed this report.

Yemen hasn't declared war on Israel, contrary to online claims. Houthi rebels have launched missiles

CLAIM: Yemen has declared war against Israel.

THE FACTS: Yemen's internationally recognized government has not declared war on Israel. Houthi rebels that control the country's capital launched missiles at Israeli targets this week and threatened further attacks, but experts say the Iran-backed militia stopped short of declaring an all-out war. Social media users made the claim while sharing a video of a military leader dressed in combat fatigues speaking in Arabic. "BREAKING: YEMEN DECLARED THEY ARE NOW AT WAR WITH ISRAEL," wrote one user who shared the brief clip in a post on X, formerly Twitter. But Yemen's official government did no such thing. The Houthis, a rebel group that controls the national capital of Sanaa, announced Tuesday that it had launched missiles and drones at Israel. Israel's military said its fighter jets and missile defense system intercepted the salvos outside of Israeli territory. The Houthi military said Wednesday it fired another batch of drones towards Israeli targets "in support of the oppressed Palestinian people." But the Republic of Yemen, the country's internationally-recognized government, is led by the Presidential Leadership Council, explained Thomas Juneau, a professor at the University of Ottawa in Canada who specializes in Yemen. That government, which has no relations with the Houthis, splits its time between Riyadh, Saudi Arabia's capital, and Aden, in southern Yemen. "The Houthis are the de facto authority in Sanaa, the capital, but it is indeed inaccurate to say that 'Yemen' (or the Republic of Yemen) has declared war on Israel," Juneau wrote in an email Wednesday. Bruce Riedel, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution's Center for Middle East Policy, agreed, adding that while the rocket and drone strikes are a significant escalation, the rebel group's statement stops short of committing to an all-out effort to destroy Israel. Brig. Gen. Yahya Saree, a spokesperson for the Iran-backed militia, said in a televised statement that the rebel army would launch other strikes at Israel until it halted its attacks on Palestinian territories, which came in response to Hamas' surprise attack on Oct. 7. "It implies that if Israel stops bombing Gaza they will halt attacking Israel," Riedel wrote in an email Wednesday, referring to the Hamas-controlled Palestinian territory that has received the brunt of Israel's attacks. Officials with Yemen's embassy in Washington didn't respond to emails seeking comment Wednesday.

— Associated Press writers Philip Marcelo in New York and Jon Gambrell in Dubai contributed this report.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 133 ~ 31 of 65

News outlets didn't ignore Korean leaders' historic summit. A video of the meeting is 5 years old  
CLAIM: A new video shows a historic meeting between the leaders of North Korea and South Korea at their border, but the mainstream media isn't covering it.

THE FACTS: The clip is more than 5 years old and shows a moment that was captured by news outlets from across the world. Nevertheless, a popular social media post claimed the media is so transfixed by conflicts roiling the world that outlets are ignoring a momentous moment in global peace and diplomacy: a meeting of the two rival leaders of the Koreas. The post includes a video that shows the leaders of North Korea and South Korea smiling as they shake hands and walk together along the demilitarized zone separating the nations. "New history: Kim Jong Un shakes hands with South Korean leader as they both cross borders for the first time," reads the text over the video that was widely shared on TikTok and other social media platforms in recent days. "History made again. This gave me chills," reads a caption above the post on Facebook, which has been liked more than 17,000 times. "You won't see this on the television or hear about it on the radio. We the people all across the (world) want peace not war!" But the historic moment isn't new: it happened in 2018 and didn't go unnoticed by news outlets at the time. The Associated Press and many other media companies covered the event, which marked the first time a North Korean leader crossed into South Korea since the end of the Korean War in 1953, which separated the once-united country. In fact, the widely shared clip comes from The Guardian's coverage of the April 26, 2018, meeting. The British news outlet's logo is clearly seen at the start of the video. At one point in the video, the two leaders can even be seen holding their pose and smiling for the cameras as they shake hands. The meeting took place in Panmunjom, the village in the demilitarized zone, or DMZ, where the armistice ending the Korean War was signed decades ago. The carefully coordinated interactions between Kim and then-South Korean President Moon Jae-in were captured in photos and videos, though their private conversations were largely inaudible, the AP reported at the time.

## Hamas leader's home is hit in airstrike as Israel presses its attacks and U.S. envoy seeks aid route

By NAJIB JOBAIN, SAMY MAGDY and DAVID RISING Associated Press

RAFAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — Israel's military hit the family home of the exiled leader of Hamas on the outskirts of Gaza City with an airstrike Saturday and pressed ahead with attacks across in the besieged enclave where a humanitarian crisis is rapidly worsening.

With food, water and the fuel needed for generators that power hospitals and other facilities running out, U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres urged an immediate cease-fire to allow aid in.

"The humanitarian situation in Gaza is horrific," Guterres said late Friday in an unusually blunt statement. "An entire population is traumatized, nowhere is safe."

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken has been in the region since Friday trying to find ways to ease the plight of the civilians caught in the fighting and was meeting with Arab foreign ministers on Saturday. His mission is complicated by Israel's insistence there can be no temporary cease-fire until all hostages held by Hamas are released.

Guterres said he had not forgotten the slaughter of civilians at the hands of Hamas militants when they launched their attack on Israel almost a month ago, but said civilians and civilian infrastructure must be protected. He also said civilians must not be used as human shields, and called upon Hamas to release all of the roughly 240 hostages it has.

The family home of Hamas' exiled leader Ismail Haniyeh, in the Shati refugee camp on the northern edge of Gaza City, was hit Saturday morning by an airstrike, according to the Hamas-run media office in Gaza. It had no immediate details on damage or casualties and there was no immediate comment.

Senior Hamas official Ghazi Hamad told The Associated Press that the house was being used by Haniyeh's two sons.

The home is located in a narrow alley in the refugee camp, which has become a crowded neighborhood

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 133 ~ 32 of 65

of Gaza City over the generations. Haniyeh, a former aide to Hamas' founder, Ahmed Yassin, who was killed in an Israeli airstrike in 2004, has been in exile since 2019.

Overnight strikes also hit the western outskirts of the city and near Al-Quds Hospital.

Adly Abu Taha, a Gaza City resident who has sheltered in the hospital grounds for the past three weeks, said strikes have repeatedly hit close to the hospital in recent days.

"The bombardment gets closer day by day," he said over the phone. "We don't know where to go."

Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians remain in the city and across northern Gaza.

Israel says Hamas has extensive military infrastructure in the city, including a network of underground tunnels, bunkers and command centers. It says its strikes target Hamas, and the militants endanger civilians by operating among them.

The city is now encircled by Israeli forces, who have been urging civilians to head south to avoid getting caught up in the fighting.

Despite those warnings, Israel has continued striking in the south, saying it is targeting Hamas members, but bombs are also killing entire families.

Raed Mattar, who was sheltering in a school in the southern town of Khan Younis after fleeing the north early in the war, said Saturday that he regularly heard explosions, apparently from airstrikes.

"People never sleep," he said. "The sound of explosions never stops."

About 1.5 million people in Gaza, or 70% of the population, have fled their homes, according to the U.N.

In the center of Khan Younis, an airstrike early Saturday destroyed the home of a family, with first responders pulling three bodies and six injured people from the rubble.

Among those killed was a child, according to an Associated Press cameraman at the scene.

The Israeli military said ground forces were also now operating in the south, with an armored and engineering corps working to remove booby traps from buildings.

During the operation the military said fighters were seen exiting a tunnel and they were killed by Israel troops.

The military said there were also numerous attacks staged from tunnels on Israeli forces in the northern Gaza strip.

Elsewhere, skirmishes along Israel's northern border continued Saturday morning as the Israeli military said it had struck militant cells in Lebanon trying to fire at Israel, as well as a Hezbollah observation post.

Throughout the war, Israel and Hezbollah, an ally of Hamas, have traded fire almost daily along the Lebanese border, raising fears of a new front opening there.

In his first public speech since the war began, Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah on Friday suggested escalation was possible, but gave little sign that Hezbollah would fully engage in the fighting. So far, Hezbollah has taken calculated steps to show backing for Hamas without igniting an all-out war that would be devastating for Lebanon and Israel.

## DIPLOMACY

On Friday in Tel Aviv, on his third trip to Israel since the war began, Blinken pushed President Joe Biden's calls for a brief halt in the fighting to address the worsening humanitarian crisis. But Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said there could be no humanitarian pause until Hamas releases all the hostages it holds.

On Saturday he held meetings in Amman with diplomats from Jordan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and the Palestinian Authority, who remain angry and deeply suspicious of Israel.

In addition to aid distribution, allowing foreigners out and the release of hostages, Blinken is looking to get Jordan and other Arab states to begin to think about the future of Gaza if and when Israel succeeds in wresting control from Hamas.

Arab leaders have thus far resisted American suggestions that they play a larger role in crisis, expressing outrage at the civilian toll of the Israeli military operations but believing Gaza to be a problem largely of Israel's own making.

## CASUALTIES RISING



More than 9,200 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza so far, including more than 3,600 Palestinian children, the Gaza Health Ministry said, without providing a breakdown between civilians and fighters.

More than 1,400 people have died on the Israeli side, mainly civilians killed during Hamas' initial attack. Rocket fire by Gaza militants into Israel persists, disrupting life for millions of people and forcing an estimated 250,000 to evacuate. Most rockets are intercepted.

Twenty-four Israeli soldiers have been killed in Gaza since the start of the ground operation.

The overall toll is likely to rise dramatically as the assault on densely built-up Gaza City continues.

More than 386 Palestinian dual nationals and wounded exited Gaza into Egypt on Friday, according to Wael Abou Omar, the Hamas spokesperson for the Rafah border crossing. That brings the total who have gotten out since Wednesday to 1,115.

## **Blinken tries to cajole wary Arabs on support for post-conflict Gaza as Israel's war intensifies**

By MATTHEW LEE AP Diplomatic Writer

AMMAN, Jordan (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken stepped up his frantic diplomacy on Saturday, trying to build support for planning a post-conflict future for Gaza as he continued his second urgent mission to the Middle East since the Israel-Hamas conflict began.

A day after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu pointedly snubbed Blinken's blunt warning that Israel risks losing any hope of an eventual peace deal with the Palestinians unless it eases the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, he met in Amman with senior Jordanian and other Arab officials, who remain angry and deeply suspicious of Israel as it intensifies its war against Hamas.

Blinken met first with Lebanon's caretaker Prime Minister Najib Mikati, whose economically and politically ravaged country is home to Hezbollah — an Iranian-backed force hostile to Israel.

The U.S. has grave concerns that Hezbollah, which has already stepped up rocket and cross-border attacks on northern Israel, will take a more active role in the conflict.

Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah gave his first major speech since the Oct. 7 Hamas attacks on Israel that sparked the war, but did not forecast his group's greater involvement despite professing it was not perturbed by U.S. attempts to deter it.

Blinken thanked Mikati for his leadership "in preventing Lebanon from being pulled into a war that the Lebanese people do not want," said State Department spokesman Matthew Miller. Blinken also discussed U.S. efforts to secure humanitarian assistance for civilians in Gaza, Miller said.

Neither Blinken nor Mikati spoke to reporters at the top of their meeting in an Amman hotel. Nor did Blinken speak publicly as he posed for pictures with Qatar's foreign minister, whose country has emerged as the most influential interlocutor with Hamas and has been key to negotiating the limited release of hostages held by the group as well as convincing it to allow foreign citizens to leave Gaza and cross into Egypt.

Blinken was then to meet with the head of the United Nations agency in charge of assisting Palestinian refugees. UNRWA has said dozens of its staff have been killed in Israeli airstrikes and is running critically low on necessary supplies like food, medicine and fuel.

Later, Blinken was to hold group talks with foreign ministers of Qatar, Jordan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, and the chair of the PLO executive committee. All parties have denounced Israel's tactics against Hamas, which they say constitutes unlawful collective punishment of the Palestinian people.

Blinken will also see King Abdullah II of Jordan, whose country this week recalled its ambassador to Israel and told Israel's envoy not to return to the country until the Gaza crisis was over.

Still, the Arab states have thus far resisted American suggestions that they play a larger role in crisis, expressing outrage at the civilian toll of the Israeli military operations but believing Gaza to be a problem largely of Israel's own making.

The Arabs meeting with Blinken were convened by Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman al-Safadi, who said the gathering was organized "in the context of their efforts aimed at stopping the Israeli war on Gaza and the humanitarian catastrophe it is causing," Jordan's foreign ministry said.

Still, U.S. officials believe Arab backing — no matter how modest — will be critical to efforts to not only ease the worsening conditions in Gaza but also to lay the groundwork for what would replace Hamas as the territory's governing authority if and when Israel succeeds in eradicating it.

However, ideas on Gaza's future governance are few and far between, with Blinken and other U.S. officials offering a vague outline that it might include a combination of a revitalized Palestinian Authority — which has not been a factor in the territory since 2007 — international organizations and potentially a peace-keeping force. U.S. officials acknowledge these ideas have been met with a distinct lack of enthusiasm.

## Quake shakes northwest Nepal, killing at least 128 and injuring dozens. Officials fear toll to rise

By BINAJ GURUBACHARYA Associated Press

KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP) — Helicopters and ground troops rushed to help people hurt in a strong earthquake that shook districts in northwestern Nepal just before midnight Friday, killing at least 128 people and injuring dozens more, officials said Saturday.

Authorities said the death toll was expected to rise, noting that communications were cut off with many places.

At the regional hospital in the city of Nepalgunj, more than 100 beds were made available and teams of doctors stood by to help the injured.

"I was fast asleep when all of a sudden it started shaking violently. I tried to run but the whole house collapsed. I tried escaping but half my body got buried in the debris," said Bimal Kumar Karki, one of the first two people to be brought to the regional hospital.

"I screamed, but every one of my neighbors were in the same situation and screaming for help. It took nearly a half-hour to an hour before rescuers found me," he said.

The United States Geological Survey said the earthquake had a preliminary magnitude of 5.6 and occurred at a depth of 11 miles. Nepal's National Earthquake Monitoring & Research Center said its epicenter was at Jajarkot, which is about 400 kilometers (250 miles) northeast of the Nepalese capital, Kathmandu.

As day broke Saturday, rescue helicopters flew into the region to help out and security forces on the ground were digging out the injured and dead from the rubble, Nepal police spokesperson Kuber Kadayat said.

Troops were clearing roads and mountain trails that were blocked by landslides triggered by the earthquake. Helicopters flew in medical workers and medicines to the hospitals there.

Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal also flew in on a helicopter with a team of doctors. Dahal led an armed communist revolt in 1996-2006 that began from the districts that were hit by the quake.

In Jajarkot district, where the quake's epicenter was, 92 people were confirmed dead and 55 others injured, Kadayat said. The quake killed at least 36 people in neighboring Rukum district, where numerous houses collapsed, and at least 85 injured people were taken to the local hospital, he said.

Security officials worked with villagers all through the night in the darkness to pull the dead and injured from fallen houses.

The quake, which hit when many people were already were asleep in their homes, was felt in India's capital, New Delhi, more than 800 kilometers (500 miles) away.

Earthquakes are common in mountainous Nepal. A 7.8 magnitude earthquake in 2015 killed some 9,000 people and damaged about 1 million structures.

Neighboring India offered to help in the rescue efforts.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi shared on social media that he was deeply saddened by the loss of lives and damage due to the earthquake in Nepal.

"India stands in solidarity with the people of Nepal and is ready to extend all possible assistance," he said.

## The average Palestinian in Gaza is living on 2 pieces of bread a day, UN official says

By EDITH M. LEDERER Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The average Palestinian in Gaza is living on two pieces of Arabic bread made from flour the United Nations had stockpiled in the region, yet the main refrain now being heard in the street is “Water, water,” the Gaza director for the U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees said Friday.

Thomas White, who said he traveled “the length and breadth of Gaza in the last few weeks,” described the place as a “scene of death and destruction.” No place is safe now, he said, and people fear for their lives, their future and their ability to feed their families.

The Palestinian refugee agency, known as UNRWA, is supporting about 89 bakeries across Gaza, aiming to get bread to 1.7 million people, White told diplomats from the U.N.’s 193 member nations in a video briefing from Gaza.

But, he said, “now people are beyond looking for bread. It’s looking for water.”

U.N. deputy Mideast coordinator Lynn Hastings, who is also the humanitarian coordinator for the Palestinian territories, said only one of three water supply lines from Israel is operational.

“Many people are relying on brackish or saline ground water, if at all,” she said.

In the briefing, U.N. humanitarian chief Martin Griffiths also said intense negotiations are taking place among authorities from Israel, Egypt, the United States and United Nations on allowing fuel to enter Gaza.

Fuel, he said, is essential for the functioning of institutions, hospitals and the distribution of water and electricity. “We must allow these supplies reliably, repetitively and dependently into Gaza.”

Backup generators, which have been essential to keep hospitals, water desalination plants, food production facilities and other essential services operating “are one by one grinding to a halt as fuel supplies run out,” Hastings said.

White pointed to other major problems.

Sewage is not being treated and instead is being pumped into the sea, he said. “But when you speak to municipal workers, the reality is once their fuel runs out, that sewage will flow in the streets.”

In addition, he said, cooking gas that was brought into Gaza from Egypt by the private sector before the war is increasingly in short supply. Aid organizations like UNRWA “are not going to be able to step in and replicate the network of distribution by the private sector for this essential item,” he said.

White said close to 600,000 people are sheltering in 149 UNRWA facilities, most of them schools, but the agency has lost contact with many in the north, where Israel is carrying intense ground and air operations following Hamas’ surprise Oct. 7 attacks.

An average of 4,000 displaced people in Gaza are living in the schools without the resources to maintain proper sanitation, he said. “The conditions are desperate,” with women and children sleeping in the classrooms and men sleeping outside in the open, he said.

The U.N. can’t provide them safety, White said, pointing to over 50 UNRWA facilities impacted by the conflict, including five direct hits. “At last count, 38 people have died in our shelters. I fear that with the fighting going on in the north right now, that number is going to grow significantly,” he said.

Griffiths, the humanitarian chief, said 72 UNRWA staff members had been killed since Oct. 7. “I think it’s the highest number of U.N. staff lost in a conflict,” he said.

The Gaza Health Ministry’s total of more than 9,000 people killed in Gaza is four times as many deaths as during the 50-day conflict between Israel and Hamas in Gaza in 2014 when just over 2,200 Palestinians were killed, Griffiths said. He added that the real toll will only emerge once buildings are cleared and rubble is taken away.

Griffiths called for humanitarian pauses to get aid to millions of people. He also urged the immediate release of all hostages and protection of all civilians by both sides as required under international humanitarian law.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has repeatedly called for a full cease-fire, and Riyad Mansour, the Palestinian U.N. ambassador, criticized Griffiths for talking about humanitarian pauses, something the

United States is also urging.

This means "Israel continues killing the Palestinians, but gives us few hours every now and then, in order to get food and other stuff," Mansour said.

He said a cease-fire is essential to save lives, saying that "almost 50% of all the structures in the Gaza Strip" have been destroyed by Israel and the situation for Palestinians "is beyond comprehension and beyond description."

"It requires from all of us to do everything that we can to stop it," he said.

## Sheryl Crow, Missy Elliott and Chaka Khan make the crowd go wild at Rock & Roll Hall of Fame

By MARK KENNEDY AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Sheryl Crow and Olivia Rodrigo kicked off the 2023 Rock & Roll Hall of Fame induction ceremony Friday night and Missy Elliott closed the show more than four hours later with a roof-shaking set, as the hall celebrated a strong representation of women and Black artists.

Chaka Khan, Kate Bush, "Soul Train" creator Don Cornelius, The Spinners and DJ Kool Herc were also inducted in a celebration of funk, art-rock, R&B and hip-hop, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary. Country music was represented by Willie Nelson, punk had Rage Against the Machine, the late George Michael repped pure pop and Link Wray defined guitar heroes.

The ceremony's strong representation of Black and women artists this year came not long after the hall removed Rolling Stone co-founder Jann Wenner from its board of directors. Wenner, who also co-founded the hall, had said that Black and female musicians "didn't articulate at the level" of the white musicians featured in his new book of interviews. He later apologized.

The new inductees' talent seemed to show how misguided Wenner's initial stance was. Elton John's songwriting partner, Bernie Taupin, drew cheers when he slyly said he was honored to join the 2023 class with such "profoundly articulate women" and "articulate Black artists."

Queen Latifah introduced Missy Elliott, who became the first female hip-hop artist in the rock hall, smashing the boundaries of fashion and style along the way. "Nothing sounded the same after Missy came onto the scene," Latifah said. "She is avant garde without even trying."

Elliott then appeared onstage at Brooklyn's Barclays Center as if beamed from a spaceship and with smoke machines pumping, a kinetic light show and a massive digital screen working overtime, performed "Get Ur Freak On," "The Rain (Supa Dupa Fly)," "Work It," "Pass That Dutch" and "Lose Control."

"Missy will wear you out!" Queen Latifah joked after the set. "This woman goes hard for the art." Elliott, in a sparkly bucket hat, had her mother in attendance, the first time she saw her daughter perform live.

Elliott noted hip-hop's anniversary, 50 years after its birth in New York. "To be standing here, it means so much to me," she said. Of her fellow inductees, she said: "I'm honored just to be in a room with you all."

The show kicked off when Crow joined by Rodrigo — both in black — traded verses as they both played guitars. Stevie Nicks later joined Crow for a performance of "Strong Enough" and Peter Frampton came out to help sing "Everyday Is a Winding Road."

"This is a little bit like getting an Oscar for a screenplay you have not finished writing," Crow said. She thanked her parents for unconditional love "and piano lessons." She called music a "universal gift."

Laura Dern inducted Crow, calling her friend "a badass goddess." Dern said the music business initially had no idea what to do with a Southern female guitar-playing singer-songwriter. But it soon learned. "She mapped out the chapters of our lives," Dern said.

John came out of retirement to perform and toast Taupin. "He became my best friend and my lyricist," John said. "He is without doubt one the finest lyric writers of all time."

John joked that the two never had an argument over their 56 years together. "He was disgusted by my behavior, but that's a given." John also revealed that the two have just finished a new album.

The two men hugged at the podium and Taupin said he found in John when they met in 1967 someone

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 133 ~ 37 of 65

"to inspire with their imagination and ignite your dreams." John then sat at the piano to sing "Tiny Dancer." H.E.R., Sia and Common accompanied Khan for a medley of her funky hits that included "I Feel For You," "Ain't Nobody," "Sweet Thing" and "I'm Every Woman," the latter which brought nearly everyone to their feet.

At the podium, Khan graciously called up guitarist Tony Maiden, a member of the band Rufus, which featured Khan in her early career. "Without him and the band, I would not be here today," Khan said.

Nelson's part of the ceremony took a fair chunk of the night, with Dave Matthews playing an acoustic "Funny How Time Slips Away," and the legend joining Chris Stapleton on "Whiskey River," dueting with Crow for "Crazy" and then all three musicians combining with Nelson for a rollicking "On the Road Again," which got a standing ovation.

Matthews said Nelson, 90, wrote his first song at 7 in 1940 and has put out over 70 albums. He ran through the legendary musician's career, including Farm Aid, IRS troubles and Nelson's preference for pot. "It's people like Willie Nelson who give me hope for the world," Matthews said.

When it was his turn, Nelson thanked his wife, Annie, for "keeping me out here, doing what I'm meant to do." He added: "Thanks for appreciating my music."

Andrew Ridgeley honored his partner in Wham!, the late George Michael. "His music was key to his compassion," Ridgeley said. "George is one of the greatest singers of our time."

Michael attracted an intriguing trio of performers in his honor: Miguel, Carrie Underwood and Adam Levine, who each performed one of his hits — "Careless Whisper," "Faith" and "One More Try."

Another posthumous inductee was "Soul Train" creator Don Cornelius. A huge sign from his old TV dance show was lowered and the crowd danced happily. Snoop Dogg, Questlove and Lionel Richie in a video called the show a rite of passage and a pioneering show that elevated Black music and culture.

Big Boi inducted Kate Bush, telling the crowd he never knew what to expect from her music and comparing her insistence on producing her own work to being very hip-hop. "Who sounds like Kate Bush?" he asked. "If you were hearing Kate's music for the first time, why wouldn't you believe this was a current artist?"

St. Vincent took the stage to perform a solemn "Running Up That Hill (A Deal with God)," the Bush song that bumped up her popularity after the TV show "Stranger Things" featured it. Bush didn't make it to Friday's ceremony.

LL Cool J presented inductee DJ Kool Herc, called the Father of Hip-Hop. "Arguably, no one made a bigger contribution to hip-hop culture than DJ Kool Herc," LL Cool J said and then turned to the older artist: "You lit the fire and it's still blazing." A visibly moved Herc was unable to speak for a few moments before thanking his parents, James Brown, Marcus Garvey and Harry Belafonte, among others.

The Spinners, who became a hit-making machine with four No. 1 R&B hits in less than 18 months, were honored by a velvet-jacket-and-fedora-clad New Edition, who sang "I'll Be Around," "The Rubberband Man" and "Could It Be I'm Falling in Love." John Edwards and Henry Fambrough represented the Philadelphia five-member group.

Also entering the hall as the class of 2023 were Rage Against the Machine and the late guitarist Link Wray. Jimmy Page of Led Zeppelin honored Wray with a virtuoso performance of the late guitar god's seminal "Rumble" with a double-necked guitar. The stage was later filled with singers including John, Crow and Brittany Howard belting out the Band's song "The Weight," in honor of the late Robbie Robertson.

Ice-T presented activist punk-rockers Rage Against the Machine — "rock rocks the boat," he said — and guitarist Tom Morello urged the crowd to fight for a world "without compromise or apologies."

Artists must have released their first commercial recording at least 25 years before they're eligible for induction. Nominees were voted on by more than 1,000 artists, historians and music industry professionals.

ABC will air a special featuring performance highlights and standout moments on Jan. 1.

## The Trump-DeSantis rivalry grows more personal and crude as the GOP candidates head to Florida

By ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON and BILL BARROW Associated Press  
KISSIMMEE, Fla. (AP) — For Sat PMs

Former President Donald Trump is expanding his support in Florida as he seeks to bury the presidential ambitions of Gov. Ron DeSantis in their shared home state.

Trump in recent days was endorsed by U.S. Sen. Rick Scott and state lawmaker Randy Fine, a longtime DeSantis ally who has advised him on Israel. He'd already secured the support of the majority of the state's Republicans in Congress. And more Florida Republicans may soon follow.

DeSantis is still a powerful governor who enacted policies long sought by conservatives and moved a traditional swing state increasingly to the right. But as the first nominating contests of the primary grow closer, DeSantis is well behind in the 2024 race and fighting a Trump campaign focused not just on winning the nomination, but on embarrassing him in his home state and nationally.

"Weakening DeSantis' standing in Florida is a clear objective of the Trump campaign," said Alex Conant, a Republican strategist who worked on the 2016 presidential campaign of Florida Sen. Marco Rubio. "His entire message is built on the idea that he is a terrific governor. When Republican officials in Florida are choosing Trump over DeSantis, it really weakens the core of DeSantis' pitch."

Trump and DeSantis will be among the GOP hopefuls speaking Saturday at the Florida Freedom Summit, hosted by the state GOP at an Orlando-area convention center. Scott, Fine and four U.S. House members who already declared support for Trump are also scheduled to speak.

Four days later, DeSantis will join several candidates for the third Republican debate in Miami. Trump will again skip the debate to hold his own event in the nearby suburb of Hialeah with its own "spin room," competing with the traditional post-debate gathering where journalists do interviews after debates.

Initially expected to be Trump's top rival after winning re-election by a huge margin last November, DeSantis has struggled since he launched his campaign in May. He is in a distant second in the race. A Des Moines Register poll published Monday finds him tied in Iowa with Nikki Haley, the former South Carolina governor who served as United Nations ambassador under Trump. Both stood at 16%, 27 percentage points behind the former president.

Trump has ripped DeSantis as disloyal for running against him and his campaign has for weeks been mocking DeSantis' laugh and interactions with voters. DeSantis has responded by pointing to Trump's gaffes and suggesting the former president no longer has the same energy he once did.

Their back-and-forth in recent days has turned more crude. Trump's allies have boosted headlines suggesting DeSantis wears lifts in his boots. DeSantis told Newsmax that if "Donald Trump can summon the balls to show up to the debate, I'll wear a boot on my head."

DeSantis' super PAC then began selling a set of golf balls with the inscription, "Ron DeSantis has a pair." Responded Trump spokesperson Steven Cheung: "Ron DeSantis is so broke he needs to sell his balls to strangers in order (to) make rent and keep the lights on."

The campaign references to male anatomy are reminiscent of another Floridian's failed bid against Trump. Rubio in 2016 joked about Trump's "small hands" in response to Trump's personal attacks. He would drop out of the race after losing Florida's primary.

State party members gave Trump a symbolic win in September, when they voted against requiring Florida primary candidates to pledge to support the eventual nominee in order to run next March. Trump has refused to take a similar pledge required for candidates to participate in national GOP debates.

Joe Gruters, the former chairman of the state party and one of the few Republican Florida lawmakers to back Trump, said he expected there would be additional endorsements from Florida officials, but stressed the risks for those who choose to go against DeSantis, given he will remain governor for the next three years.

"It takes real courage for any member to flip at this point or to come out publicly," he said, since state lawmakers "have to go back and serve their communities." He accused DeSantis of being "vindictive" against those who have chosen to back Trump.

As a result, he said: "A lot of people are still scared to come out."

## **Ken Mattingly, astronaut who helped Apollo 13 crew return safely home, dies at age 87**

By ROBERT JABLON Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Ken Mattingly, an astronaut who is best remembered for his efforts on the ground that helped bring the damaged Apollo 13 spacecraft safely back to Earth, has died, NASA announced. He was 87.

"We lost one of our country's heroes on Oct. 31," NASA Administrator Bill Nelson said in a Thursday statement.

Thomas Kenneth Mattingly II "was key to the success of our Apollo Program, and his shining personality will ensure he is remembered throughout history," Nelson said.

NASA didn't mention where or how Mattingly died. However, The New York Times reported that Mattingly died in Arlington, Virginia.

A former Navy pilot, Mattingly joined NASA in 1966. He helped with development of the spacesuit and backpack for the Apollo moon missions, NASA said.

However, his own first spaceflight only came in 1972 when he orbited the moon as pilot of the Apollo 16 command module, while two other crew members landed on the moon's surface.

On the trip back to Earth, Mattingly spacewalked to collect film cannisters with photographs he had snapped of the moon's surface.

In later years, Mattingly commanded two space shuttle missions and retired from the agency and the Navy as a rear admiral.

But his most dramatic mission was one that he never flew.

In 1970, Mattingly was supposed to have joined the crew of Apollo 13, piloting the command module. But he was removed from the mission a few days before launch after being exposed to German measles.

He didn't contract the illness but was replaced aboard the mission by John Swigert Jr.

Several days into the mission, an oxygen tank on the spacecraft's service module exploded, knocking out most of the power and oxygen to the command module. The lunar landing was scrapped and NASA began frantic efforts to save Swigert, James Lovell and Fred Haise.

Mattingly, who knew the spacecraft intimately, worked with engineers and others as they analyzed the situation and scrambled to find solutions and pass on instructions to the crew.

The trio of astronauts eventually crowded into the lander, which was designed for only two, and used it as a lifeboat for four days as Apollo 13 swung around the moon and then landed safely on Earth.

Mattingly "stayed behind and provided key real-time decisions to successfully bring home the wounded spacecraft and the crew," NASA's Nelson said.

"One of the many lessons out of all this is starting on day one it was from the very first moment, assume you're going to succeed and don't do anything that gets in the way," Mattingly recalled in an oral history interview for NASA in 2001.

Apollo 13's story was told in the 1994 book "Lost Moon: The Perilous Voyage of Apollo 13," co-authored by Lovell, and in the 1995 movie "Apollo 13," where Gary Sinise played Mattingly.

## Right turn on red? With pedestrian deaths rising, US cities are considering bans

By JEFF McMURRAY Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Sophee Langerman was on her way to a bicycle safety rally in Chicago's Lakeview neighborhood in June when a car turning right rolled through a red light and slammed into her bike, which she was walking off the curb and into the crosswalk.

The car was moving slowly enough that Langerman escaped serious injury, but the bicycle required extensive repairs. To Langerman, it's another argument for ending a practice that almost all U.S. cities have embraced for decades: the legal prerogative for a driver to turn right after stopping at a red light.

A dramatic rise in accidents killing or injuring pedestrians and bicyclists has led to a myriad of policy and infrastructure changes, but moves to ban right on red have drawn some of the most intense sentiments on both sides.

Washington, D.C.'s City Council last year approved a right-on-red ban that takes effect in 2025. New Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson's transition plan called for "restricting right turns on red," but his administration hasn't provided specifics. The college town of Ann Arbor, Michigan, now prohibits right turns at red lights in the downtown area.

San Francisco leaders recently voted to urge their transportation agency to ban right on red across the city, and other major cities such as Los Angeles, Seattle and Denver have looked into bans as well.

"Drivers should not have the option to decide for themselves when they think it's safe," said Langerman, 26. "People are busy. People are distracted."

But Jay Beeber, executive director for policy at the National Motorists Association, an advocacy organization for drivers, called it a "fallacy" to assume such blanket bans would make streets safer.

He cited an upcoming study by his association that analyzed California crash data from 2011-2019 and found that drivers turning right on red accounted for only about one pedestrian death and less than one bicyclist death statewide every two years.

"What's really behind this movement is part of the agenda to make driving as miserable and as difficult as possible so people don't drive so much," Beeber said.

Safety advocates counter that official crash reports are often mislabeled, undercounting the dangers.

The United States is one of few major countries that generally allow right turns on red. Concerned that cars idling at stop lights could compound an energy crisis, the U.S. government warned states in the 1970s that they could risk some federal funding should cities prohibit right on red, except in specific, clearly marked areas. Although another energy-conscious provision capping speed limits at 55 mph has long been abandoned, right on red has endured.

"It's an example of bad policy," said Bill Schultheiss, director of engineering at Toole Design Group, which consults with public transportation agencies. "It made sense in the context of the gas crisis, but it was way oversold on what it would achieve. It's a mandate that doesn't consider the full consequences."

Right on red has never been allowed across most of New York City, where large signs alert Manhattan's visitors that the practice is prohibited there. But it was the default policy practically everywhere else in the U.S. until last year's vote in the nation's capital.

Safety advocates who pushed for the change in Washington, D.C., are bracing for blowback from drivers, particularly if the city also allows the so-called Idaho Stop in which cyclists are permitted to go through a red light after stopping to make sure the coast is clear.

"There are just some battles, in terms of public opinion, where you have to be content to sacrifice that for the safety of the people," said Jonathan Kincade, communications coordinator at the Washington Area Bicyclists Association. "It doesn't make sense to treat cars and bikes the same. They're not the same vehicle, and we've seen the outcomes of that."

Critics argue that banning right on red will not only inconvenience motorists but also slow down commuter buses and deliveries. The United Parcel Service hasn't taken an official position on right on red but has long directed its drivers to avoid left turns whenever possible, viewing them as inefficient.



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 133 ~ 41 of 65

Priya Sarathy Jones, deputy executive director at the Fines and Fees Justice Center, is concerned penalties from right-on-red bans will fall disproportionately on lower-income drivers who have to drive to work because they can't afford housing near public transit. If there's more enforcement at red lights, more cameras are certain to follow, she said. And in the Chicago area, any discussion of red light policy often conjures up memories of the region's vilified red-light camera program, which spurred bribery charges against public officials accused of trying to influence the high-profit contracts.

"It generates a lot of money for the city, instead of our decisions being driven by safety strategies backed by evidence," she said, suggesting that road infrastructure improvements would be a much more effective way to reduce accidents.

There are no recent, nationwide studies of how many people are hurt or killed by right-turning drivers.

According to a national report by the Governors Highway Safety Association, more than 7,500 people walking were struck and killed by automobiles in 2022, the highest number since 1981. The spike, which included all accidents — not just those involving right turns on red, was attributed in part to an increase in larger vehicles such as SUVs and pickup trucks on the road.

The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety found that the odds a pedestrian would be killed when struck by an automobile turning right were 89% higher when the vehicle was a pickup and 63% higher when it was an SUV, due to larger blind spots and the deadlier force associated with heavier models.

"These big, blunt front hoods, they knock people down and run over them, as opposed to before when people would crumple onto the hood," said Mike McGinn, a former Seattle mayor who is the executive director of America Walks, a national nonprofit that advocates for pedestrian-friendly neighborhoods.

Much of the research looking directly at the impact of right-on-red policies is years if not decades old, but both sides argue it's still relevant.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in a 1994 report to Congress looked at four years of crash data from Indiana, Maryland and Missouri and three years of data from Illinois, counting a combined 558 injury crashes and four fatalities stemming from right turns on red. Advocates of a ban point out that study came before the nation's vehicle fleet grew much larger and more lethal.

But Beeber said the National Motorists Association study of California found that even when there was an accident associated with right turns on red, at least 96% of the injuries sustained by pedestrians or cyclists were minor.

"One injury or death is too many," said Washington state Sen. John Lovick, the primary sponsor of a bill this year that would have prohibited right on red statewide near schools, parks and certain other locations. "If it were me at that intersection crossing, I would want something done."

Lovick's bill didn't make it out of committee, but Seattle this year made it the default policy to prohibit right on red when new traffic signals are added.

Melinda Kasraie testified on behalf of Lovick's bill at a legislative hearing, sharing her experience being struck by a car turning right on red in Seattle. She needed a total knee replacement, had to give up her 20-year job and moved to a small town in part due to her newfound fears of crossing the street.

"He just needed to wait 20 more seconds and he would have had a green light, and that 20 seconds made a big impact on me," Kasraie said.

## War in the Middle East upends the dynamics of 2024 House Democratic primaries

By JIM SALTER and MARC LEVY Associated Press  
ST. LOUIS (AP) — For Sat PMs

—  
Most members of Congress have stood firmly behind Israel since the Hamas attack last month, but not Cori Bush. The Missouri Democrat called Israel's response a "war crime" and an "ethnic cleansing campaign," and was among the few House members who opposed a resolution supporting Israel.

Her unwavering stance has angered some in her district. St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney Wesley Bell on Monday dropped a U.S. Senate bid to challenge Bush in next year's 1st District Democratic primary, and moderate Democrats believe he could win.

Bush isn't alone. She's among a small group of Democrats viewed by critics as insufficiently supportive of Israel — both long before and now after Hamas' Oct. 7 attack on Israel — or insufficiently critical of Hamas. Across those districts, moderates like Bell are being encouraged to run. In particular, Summer Lee in Pennsylvania, Jamaal Bowman in New York, Ilhan Omar in Minnesota and Rashida Tlaib in Michigan probably will face challengers.

All five have condemned Hamas' attack and antisemitism, but they've all made statements seen as inflammatory by Israel's staunchest supporters and been critical of U.S. military aid to Israel.

Bush and Omar accused Israel of "ethnic cleansing." Summer Lee said it had committed "human rights violations." And at a recent ceasefire rally, Bowman said: "We cannot allow the lives of anyone to be erased. This erasure of Palestinian lives and experience has been happening for decades."

Adding to the fraught politics for Democrats is the fact that others could face pressure for the opposite reason — such as Shri Thanedar in Detroit, who represents a heavily Democratic district with a big Muslim population but has backed Israel.

Last week, the House overwhelmingly passed a resolution supporting Israel. Bush, Bowman, Lee, Omar and Tlaib were among nine Democrats who opposed the measure, saying it failed to call for a ceasefire, create a pathway to peace or express the need to protect Palestinian civilians in Gaza.

Bowman, Lee, Omar and Tlaib also were among the 17 sponsors of Bush's resolution asking the Biden administration to call for a ceasefire. Critics of that resolution said it failed to mention Hamas' unprovoked attack on Israel, hostages held by Hamas or that the U.S. considers Hamas a terrorist organization.

All five are considered progressives in the Democratic caucus and represent strongly Democratic districts, so the main threat to their re-election prospects would probably come from the Democratic Party.

Challenges to Bush and the others were possible even before the Hamas attack on Oct. 7 or Israel's subsequent attack on Hamas in the Gaza Strip. But their stances after Oct. 7 have fueled calls for primary challengers.

Lee and Omar — who narrowly held off primary competitors in 2022 — may be particularly vulnerable.

The progressive group Justice Democrats, which has backed primary challengers against moderate Democrats around the country, blamed the primary challenges on the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, or AIPAC, and a network of Republican donors who help fund AIPAC's efforts to elect unequivocal allies of Israel.

"Democratic members are truly out of step with their voters and their bases who do not want to see us barreling toward another war on their taxpayer dollars," Justice Democrats' spokesperson Usamah Andrabi said.

It is unfortunate, Andrabi said, that the House Democratic leadership has not taken a stronger stance against AIPAC's efforts to knock off rank-and-file Democrats.

It remains unclear whether House Democrats will help incumbents fend off primary challengers through campaign fundraising arms. One organization, the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, said it could potentially get involved in a primary race to protect an incumbent, but declined to discuss specifics.

Before Oct. 7, House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries, D-N.Y., issued statements of support for Omar

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 133 ~ 43 of 65

and others, saying he will support the reelection of every House Democratic incumbent, regardless of ideology.

AIPAC declined to discuss its campaign efforts, saying "there will be a time for political action, but right now our priority is building and sustaining congressional support for Israel's fight to permanently dismantle Hamas, which perpetrated this barbaric, terrorist attack on the Jewish state."

Tlaib, the lone Palestinian American in Congress, has been an outspoken opponent of the Biden administration's response to the conflict.

While Tlaib defeated her primary opponent handily last year, pro-Israel groups have already signaled that they will focus on defeating her in 2024. The Democratic Majority for Israel — which bills itself as the "voice of pro-Israel Democrats" — began running ads against Tlaib in Detroit this week.

Tlaib's metro Detroit House district includes a large Arab American population in Dearborn and heavily Jewish neighborhoods in Southfield.

Her congressional neighbor, however, is in a different situation: Tlaib and Thanedar have feuded publicly since he criticized her statements on Hamas' attack on Israel, and Thanedar — a freshman who represents Detroit — has since drawn criticism from Tlaib on how he runs his office.

Thanedar's Detroit district has been a center of pro-Palestinian pushback in the state, with thousands of demonstrators calling for a ceasefire in the city's downtown on Oct. 28.

He has a primary challenger in former state Sen. Adam Hollier — Thanedar beat Hollier by 5 percentage points in a nine-way primary in 2022 — but Hollier's campaign said his run isn't a response to Thanedar's stance on Israel.

In Pittsburgh, Lee has faced broad criticism from the Jewish community, where members just marked the five-year anniversary of a gunman's rampage through the Tree of Life synagogue, killing 11 people in the worst attack on Jews on American soil.

On Tuesday, a group of 36 rabbis and four cantors released a letter criticizing Lee for voting against the House resolution expressing support for Israel and for supporting Bush's ceasefire resolution.

"It's a rare day in any Jewish community when you have Reform, Conservative, Orthodox, Chabad and Reconstructionists together on one page," said Rabbi Daniel Fellman of Pittsburgh's Temple Sinai, who helped organize the effort. "But the reality is that Rep. Lee isn't representing her constituents."

Lee already has one declared opponent, and more may be coming.

Bhavini Patel, 29, said she would have run regardless of Lee's stance on Israel. But, she said, Lee's standing in the Jewish community shows how Lee doesn't try to understand the people she represents.

In Minneapolis, a former school board member, Don Samuels, is considering a second campaign against Omar after he came within 2 percentage points of unseating her in 2022's primary election.

That close race turned mostly on the future of policing in the city where George Floyd was murdered. It remains to be seen how Omar's stance on Israel will play out in her district, which has a large Somali American Muslim population.

Omar has long been dogged by accusations that she is anti-Israel and antisemitic — accusations that have intensified since the Hamas attack.

In New York, current Westchester County Executive George Latimer is considering challenging Bowman.

Latimer said people had encouraged him to challenge Bowman long before Oct. 7, including overtures that had nothing to do with Israel. After Hamas' attack, however, some in the Jewish community have intensified their efforts.

A group of more than two dozen rabbis last month publicized a letter they wrote asking Latimer to challenge Bowman, citing the congressman's posture on Israel.

Latimer said he would decide in the coming months.

In Missouri, Bush — who has called Israel an "apartheid" state — said she is pushing a "pro-peace agenda."

Writing on social media, she said, "Israel's collective punishment against Palestinians for Hamas's actions is a war crime. I strongly condemn Hamas & their appalling violations of human rights, but violations of human rights don't justify more human rights violations in retaliation."

Her challenger, Bell, said those types of comments "send the wrong message and we need to be send-

ing to rogue nations and dictators and terrorist groups the message that that they cannot have missiles trained on Israel like we see with Hamas, like we see with Iran."

The Rev. Darryl Gray, who like Bush is a leading civil rights activist in St. Louis, said he saw Bush as an advocate for peace. He said she believes that Israeli leaders are "not looking for de-escalation, not looking for ceasefire, but looking for revenge."

## **Israel's fortified underground blood bank processes unprecedented amounts as troops move into Gaza**

By ALON BERNSTEIN and SAM MEDNICK Associated Press

RAMLA, Israel (AP) — Hours after Hamas militants attacked southern Israel on Oct. 7, the country's new fortified, subterranean blood bank kicked into action. Staffers moved equipment into the underground bunker and started saving lives.

The Marcus National Blood Services Center in Ramla, near Tel Aviv, had been scheduled to open within days, but with more than 1,400 people in Israel killed since the Hamas raids — most killed during the initial attack — the timeline changed.

"It became very clear we needed to move with the war plans because this was exactly the moment, the event it was built for," said Dr. Eilat Shinar, director of the national blood services division of Magen David Adom — Israel's medical emergency, disaster, ambulance and blood service.

Nestled some 15 meters (50 feet) underground at its lowest level, the \$135-million, 6-story, state-of-the-art facility is protected from rockets, missiles, chemical attacks and earthquakes, ensuring blood processing can continue when it's needed most.

Shiner said the center provided tens of thousands of units of blood in the days that followed the Hamas attacks.

"We worked very hard to supply everything they needed," she said. "We had many injured and we had to treat them."

The former blood bank, which was built in the 1980s, was not able to handle the country's needs in times of war, and had been exposed — but not damaged — during earlier conflicts, the center said. After Israel's third war against Hamas in 2014, when rockets reached Tel Aviv and other major cities, discussions began about the need to create a more protected facility.

The new center has the capacity to store almost twice the amount of blood of its predecessor — half a million units a year compared with 270,000 — and has processed more blood than has ever been held in Israel's reserves.

"There was a clear understanding that because rockets were flying close to the center ... any other place in the center can be targeted," said Moshe Noyovich, the project engineer and representative in Israel for the American Friends of Magen David Adom, which primarily funded the new center.

In the past, each time rockets were fired into Israel, the team had to move the equipment into a bunker to continue working. Now they can operate uninterrupted, he said.

The new steel and concrete 51,000-square-meter (550,000-square-foot) building processes all of Israel's donated blood. It has a transportation center, a molecular lab, an air-filtration system allowing staff to continue working even in the event of chemical or biological warfare, and a 300-square-meter (3,200-square-foot) safe room shielded against the most severe missile threats, the center said.

Israel has vowed to crush Hamas in Gaza. Hamas, an Islamic militant group, has called for the destruction of Israel. And as Israeli troops advance deeper into the Gaza Strip, the center is preparing for a potential surge of casualties that might need transfusions.

Since the war began, thousands of people have stood in line for hours to donate blood. In early October, the center received 5,000 units of blood in one day — five times more than usual, said its staff. The ideal blood donors are those with Type O, which can be given safely to anyone and can help people more quickly.

Once blood is donated, it's transferred to the hospitals and given directly to the Israeli military to treat wounded soldiers on the battlefield.

"During war, blood is part of the resuscitation process and the idea is to have a stock, to be able to give blood as soon as it's needed," said Guillemette Thomas, the medical coordinator for Doctors Without Borders.

## Israel resists US pressure to pause the war to allow more aid to Gaza, wants hostages back first

By JOSEF FEDERMAN, BASSEM MROUE and LEE KEATH Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Friday pushed back against growing U.S. pressure for a "humanitarian pause" in the nearly month-old war to protect civilians and allow more aid into Gaza, insisting there would be no temporary cease-fire until the roughly 240 hostages held by Hamas are released.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken made his third trip to Israel since the war began, reiterating American support for Israel's campaign to crush Hamas after its brutal Oct. 7 attack in Israel. He also echoed President Joe Biden's calls for a brief halt in the fighting to address the worsening humanitarian crisis.

Alarm has grown over spiraling Palestinian deaths and deepening misery for civilians from weeks of Israeli bombardment and a widening ground assault that risks even greater casualties. Overwhelmed hospitals say they are nearing collapse, with medicine and fuel running low under the Israeli siege. About 1.5 million people in Gaza, or 70% of the population, have fled their homes, the United Nations said Friday.

Palestinians are increasingly desperate for the most basic supplies.

The average Gaza resident is now surviving on two pieces of bread per day, much of it made from stockpiled U.N. flour, said Thomas White, Gaza director for the U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees. Demands for drinking water are also growing.

"People are beyond looking for bread," he told U.N. diplomats in a video briefing from Gaza. "It's looking for water."

After talks with Netanyahu, Blinken said a temporary halt was needed to boost aid deliveries and help win the release of the hostages Hamas took during its brutal incursion.

But Netanyahu said he told Blinken that Israel was "going with full steam ahead" unless hostages are released.

U.S. officials initially said they were not seeking a cease-fire, but rather short pauses in specific areas to allow aid deliveries or other humanitarian activity, after which Israeli operations would resume. Netanyahu has not publicly addressed the idea and has instead repeatedly ruled out a cease-fire.

On Friday, however, a senior U.S. administration official said policymakers believe a "fairly significant pause" in fighting will be needed to allow for releases. The idea is modeled on a smaller-scale pause that allowed the freeing of two American hostages from Hamas captivity in October.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss the matter, said that release was a test pilot for how a broader deal could be struck, and said negotiations on a "larger package" of hostages are ongoing. The official emphasized it would require a significant pause in fighting to ensure their safety to the Gaza border.

### GAZA CITY ENCIRCLED

Israeli troops tightened their encirclement of Gaza City amid continued battles with Hamas militants as airstrikes wreaked havoc around the city, the largest in the tiny Mediterranean territory.

Al Jazeera TV reported that a strike late Friday hit a school in Gaza City where many were taking refuge, causing casualties.

Strikes hit near the entrances of three hospitals in northern Gaza just as staff were trying to evacuate wounded to the south, hospital directors said. Footage showed the aftermath outside Gaza's largest hospital, Shifa, where more than a dozen bloodied bodies were strewn next to damaged cars and ambulances. One bleeding boy screamed as he huddled on top of a woman sprawled on the pavement.

Friday's strike outside Shifa Hospital came after Israel said Hamas has a command center there — a claim that could not be independently verified and that Hamas and hospital officials deny.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 133 ~ 46 of 65

At least 15 people were killed and 60 wounded outside Shifa Hospital, said Health Ministry spokesperson Ashraf al-Qidra. At least 50 others were killed or wounded in a strike outside Gaza's Indonesian Hospital, its director said, without providing more precise figures.

The Israeli military said its aircraft hit an ambulance Friday that Hamas fighters were using to carry weapons. The claim could not be independently verified. It was not clear whether the strike was connected to the one by Shifa Hospital. The military said it took place "near a battle zone," suggesting it was close to ongoing ground battles.

Al-Qidra said a convoy of ambulances left Shifa carrying wounded people to Rafah when a strike hit a vehicle on the edges of Gaza City. The convoy turned around, and another strike hit another ambulance. He denied that any of the ambulances were used by Hamas fighters.

## FEARS OVER NEW FRONTS

Throughout the war, Israel and Hezbollah have traded fire almost daily along the Lebanon border, raising fears of a new front opening there.

In his first public speech since the war began, Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah said the cross-border fighting showed his group had "entered the battle."

He suggested escalation was possible: "We will not be limited to this." But he gave little sign that Hezbollah would fully engage in the fighting. So far, Hezbollah has taken calculated steps to show backing for Hamas without igniting an all-out war that would be devastating for Lebanon and Israel.

"We are in a high state of readiness in the north, in a very high state of alert," said Israeli military spokesperson Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari.

The exchanges since the start of the war have killed 10 Lebanese civilians and 66 fighters from Hezbollah and other militant groups, as well as seven Israeli soldiers and a civilian in northern Israel. Thursday saw one of the heaviest exchanges over the border yet when Hezbollah attacked Israeli military positions in northern Israel with drones and mortar fire, and Israeli warplanes and helicopter gunships retaliated with strikes in Lebanon.

## WHERE THINGS STAND

More than 9,200 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza so far, including more than 3,600 Palestinian children, the Gaza Health Ministry said, without providing a breakdown between civilians and fighters.

More than 1,400 people have died on the Israeli side, mainly civilians killed during Hamas' initial attack. Rocket fire by Gaza militants into Israel persists, disrupting life for millions of people and forcing an estimated 250,000 to evacuate. Most rockets are intercepted.

Twenty-four Israeli soldiers have been killed in Gaza since the start of the ground operation.

The overall toll is likely to rise dramatically. Israeli military officials said their forces have encircled densely built-up Gaza City and began Friday to launch targeted attacks within the city on militant cells.

Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians remain in the city and across northern Gaza. Israel says Hamas has extensive military infrastructure in the city, including a network of underground tunnels, bunkers and command centers. It says its strikes target Hamas and the militants endanger civilians by operating among them.

The military said its troops have killed numerous Hamas militants exiting tunnels. Footage released by the military showed soldiers and tanks advancing toward bombed-out buildings.

Israel has repeatedly told residents of Gaza's north to evacuate to the south for greater safety. But many have been unable to leave or to stay in the south, fearing continued airstrikes there.

The military on Thursday told residents to evacuate the Shati refugee camp on Gaza City's edge. On Friday, shells hit a convoy of evacuees on the coastal road they were told to use, killing around a dozen people, doctors said. Footage from the road showed dead children lying in the sand.

Further south, in Khan Younis, workers pulled 17 bodies from the rubble of a building leveled by a strike, witnesses said. Associated Press images showed rescuers digging with their bare hands to save someone buried, with one arm protruding from the wreckage. At a hospital, a crying man held up the dead body of a small girl whose lower limbs appeared to be missing.

Heading into Friday morning in the occupied West Bank, Israeli forces killed seven Palestinians and ar-

rested many more, according to the Israeli military and Palestinian health officials.

More than 386 Palestinian dual nationals and wounded exited Gaza into Egypt on Friday, according to Wael Abou Omar, the Hamas spokesperson for the Rafah border crossing. That brings the total who have gotten out since Wednesday to 1,115.

Israel has allowed more than 300 trucks carrying food and medicine into Gaza, but aid workers say it's not nearly enough. Israeli authorities have refused to allow fuel in, saying Hamas is hoarding fuel for military use and would steal new supplies.

## **Panama president signs into law a moratorium on new mining concessions. A Canadian mine is untouched**

PANAMA CITY (AP) — Panama's President, Laurentino Cortizo, signed into law an indefinite moratorium on new mining concessions Friday. The law also prohibits renewing existing concessions.

Panama's National Assembly approved the bill Thursday. An article was removed, however, that would have revoked a controversial mining contract that sparked nationwide protests over the past two weeks.

The new law will still allow Minera Panama to operate an open-pit copper mine in the state of Colon for 20 years, with a possible extension for another 20 years.

Environmentalists argue the mine threatens to destroy more of the dense jungle surrounding it and imperils local drinking water.

Minera Panama is a local subsidiary of Canadian mining company First Quantum.

Some lawyers welcomed the decision, warning that revoking that contract could have left the government open to multi-million-dollar legal liabilities.

However, experts said those could be avoided if the country's Supreme Court rules the original contract was unconstitutional in any one of eight such cases brought against the deal so far.

Another bill also awaits debate, which would put the contract to a popular referendum.

Cortizo initially gave his final approval to the contract on Oct. 20.

Protests continued across the country Friday, drawing supporters from Indigenous groups and unions across the education, construction and medical sectors.

In 2017, El Salvador's congress passed a total ban on the mining of metals in the country, becoming one of the first countries to enact such a broad ban. Proponents said the measure was needed to protect the water supply.

## **Maine mass shooter was alive for most of massive 2-day search, autopsy suggests**

By DAVID SHARP Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — The Army reservist who opened fire inside at a bowling alley and a bar in Lewiston, Maine, before disappearing was alive and possibly on the run during a good portion of the massive search that followed, according to a conclusion from the state medical examiner's office released Friday.

Robert Card died from a self-inflicted gunshot that "likely" happened eight to 12 hours before the discovery of his body, based on a time-of-death analysis, officials said. The conclusion was announced a week after his body was discovered in the back of a tractor-trailer on the property of his former employer at a recycling center.

In the wake of the Oct. 25 shootings, which killed 18 people and wounded 13 more, tens of thousands of area residents sheltered at home behind locked doors as hundreds of law enforcement officers scoured the area looking for Card. He fled in a vehicle that was later found abandoned on a waterfront in a nearby town.

Law enforcement agencies came under scrutiny for not finding Card's body earlier under the assumption that he killed himself in the hours just after the shootings and that his body was overlooked in earlier

searches.

But the time of death provided by the state's chief medical examiner, Dr. Mark Flomenbaum, suggests Card, 40, was alive and potentially on the move for more than 24 hours after the killings.

The medical examiner's office, however, said Card suffered from a condition in which his heart emptied of blood after the gunshot wound, affecting the way the blood settled in his body and potentially making the time of death less certain, according to Lindsey Chasteen, office administrator of medical examiner's office in Augusta.

A state police spokesperson had no comment Friday.

The latest disclosure in the investigation came on the same day President Joe Biden and first lady Jill Biden visited Lewiston to pay their respects and meet with victims. "Jill and I have done too many of these," Biden said outside the bowling alley where Card first opened fire. The other site was a nearby bar.

Card had been known to law enforcement for months as family members and others became increasingly worried about his mental state.

Concern accelerated following an altercation he had with fellow Army Reserve members. Card and other members of the Army Reserve's 3rd Battalion, 304th Infantry Unit were in New York for training July 15 when he accused several of them of calling him a pedophile, shoved one of them and locked himself in his motel room. Concerns over his mental health led to a 14-day hospitalization at the Four Winds Psychiatric Hospital in Katonah, New York.

The worries continued when Card returned to Maine. One of Card's fellow reservists urged a superior to change the passcode to the gate and have a gun if Card arrived at the Army Reserve drill center in Saco, Maine.

"I believe he's going to snap and do a mass shooting," the reservist wrote in a text.

A deputy twice visited Card's house in Bowdoin, calling for backup on the second visit, but Card didn't come to the door. Under Maine's "yellow flag" law, officers have discretion to seek to put someone in temporary protective custody and begin the process of removing the person's access to guns.

That never happened. A sheriff said the deputies who visited Card for a wellness check didn't have legal authority to break down the door and take Card.

What happened after the deputies' visit remains unclear. The sheriff's office canceled its statewide alert seeking help locating Card a week before the killings.

## Lawyers in Trump's civil fraud trial are ordered to clam up about judge's communications with staff

By JENNIFER PELTZ Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The judge in Donald Trump's civil business fraud trial barred attorneys in the case Friday from commenting on "confidential communications" between him and his staff, after the former president's attorneys renewed claims that a clerk is poisoning the proceedings.

Threatening "serious sanctions" for any violations, Judge Arthur Engoron expanded on a prior gag order that prohibited parties in the trial from speaking publicly about court staffers. The earlier order didn't mention the parties' attorneys, but Engoron had suggested Thursday he might expand it.

The matter seized attention on a day when Eric Trump, one of the former president's sons and a top executive in the family business, wrapped up his testimony. He said he relied completely on accountants and lawyers to assure the accuracy of financial documents that are key to New York Attorney General Letitia James' lawsuit.

The state lawsuit accuses Trump and his company of deceiving banks and insurers by exaggerating his wealth on his annual financial statements. Trump and other defendants, including sons Eric and Donald Trump Jr., deny the allegations.

The former president and current Republican 2024 front-runner is due to testify Monday in the case, which threatens the real estate empire that launched him into the public eye and, eventually, politics.

Like the earlier gag order, the new one was sparked by criticism of the judge's principal law clerk, Allison



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 133 ~ 49 of 65

Greenfield. She has unexpectedly become a lightning rod during the trial.

"The First Amendment right of defendants and their attorneys to comment on my staff is far and away outweighed by the need to protect them from threats and physical harm," wrote Engoron. He said his office has gotten "hundreds of harassing and threatening phone calls, voice mails, emails, letters and packages" during the trial.

In response, a spokesperson for Trump lawyer Alina Habba called the case "an attempt to silence the left's top political opponent."

"There should be no doubt at this point that politics is now permeating our courts," the spokesperson, Erica Knight, wrote in a statement. She warned of "a dangerous precedent which diminishes the integrity of the judicial system."

Hours earlier, Trump attorney Christopher Kise had recapped complaints that the defense team has raised for over a week about the clerk's notes to the judge during testimony.

The contents of the notes have not been disclosed. But Trump's lawyers say the messages are more frequent when the defense is questioning witnesses, and the attorneys suggest the notes are tilting the process against their case.

"I certainly am often thinking I'm arguing against two adversaries, not one," attorney Kise told the judge Friday. "I'm debating with the government, and then I'm debating with someone who is providing input to you on a regular, immediate basis."

Greenfield ran for a judgeship as a Democrat. Engoron also is a Democrat.

The judge says the accusations of bias and improper influence are false, and he insists that he has an "absolute, unfettered right" to input from his clerk.

Separately on Friday, a federal appeals court temporarily lifted a gag order on Trump in his 2020 election interference case in Washington.

That order bars Trump from making public statements targeting prosecutors, court staff and potential witnesses in the case accusing him of conspiring to overturn the 2020 election he lost to President Joe Biden. It still allows the former president to assert his innocence and to claim the case against him is politically motivated.

In New York, Trump lawyer Kise had argued anew that if the judge was "receiving input from someone with potentially demonstrable bias" or at least questions about it, defense lawyers need to "make that record."

A record documenting questions or objections that were raised during a trial would be key to any appeal. Engoron said the record had been made.

A lawyer for James' office, Kevin Wallace, called the dispute over the clerk a "sideshow." He suggested that the defense was "trying to blow up the trial" and seeking "to interrupt our ability to put in evidence."

Engoron's action Friday came a month after the initial gag order, spurred by Donald Trump's disparaging comments about Greenfield in a social media post. Fines followed, after the judge said Trump violated the order.

Trump's sons are executive vice presidents of the family's Trump Organization, and they became trustees of a trust set up to run the company when their father went to the White House.

The sons signed, for example, yearly letters that certified their father's financial wherewithal to lender Deutsche Bank. As Donald Trump Jr. did in testimony earlier this week, Eric Trump told the court Friday that he trusted company finance executives and an outside accounting firm to ensure the information was correct.

"I would not sign something that was not accurate," he said Friday, his second day on the stand. "I relied on one of the biggest accounting firms in the country. And I relied on a great legal team. And when they gave me comfort that the statement was perfect, I was more than happy to execute."

Speaking to reporters outside the courtroom, Eric Trump called the case a "charade" and waste of taxpayer dollars.

"We're going to win this thing. I promise you we're going to win it because we haven't done a damn thing wrong," he said.

## Virginia teacher shot by 6-year-old can proceed with \$40 million lawsuit, judge rules

By BEN FINLEY Associated Press

NEWPORT NEWS, Va. (AP) — A teacher who was shot by her 6-year-old student in Virginia can press forward with her \$40 million lawsuit against a school system over claims of negligence by school administrators, a judge ruled Friday.

The surprise decision by Newport News Circuit Court Judge Matthew Hoffman means that Abby Zwerner could get much more than just workers' compensation for the serious injuries caused by January's classroom shooting.

Lawyers for Newport News Public Schools had tried to block the lawsuit, arguing that Zwerner was eligible only for workers' compensation. It provides up to nearly 10 years pay and lifetime medical care for injuries.

Zwerner's attorneys countered that workers' compensation doesn't apply because a first-grade teacher would never anticipate getting shot: "It was not an actual risk of her job."

Hoffman sided with Zwerner, concluding that her injuries "did not arise out of her employment" and therefore did not "fall within the exclusive provisions of workers' compensation coverage."

The judge wrote: "The danger of being shot by a student is not one that is peculiar or unique to the job of a first-grade teacher."

Zwerner was hospitalized for nearly two weeks and endured multiple surgeries after a bullet struck her hand and chest. Zwerner alleges that administrators ignored multiple warnings the boy had a gun that day and had routinely dismissed ongoing concerns about his troubling behavior.

"This victory is an important stepping stone on our path towards justice for Abby," Zwerner's attorneys, Diane Toscano, Jeffrey Breit and Kevin Biniazan, said in a statement.

"We are eager to continue our pursuit of accountability and a just, fair recovery," they said. "No teacher expects to stare down the barrel of a gun held by a six-year-old student."

Zwerner no longer works for the school system. A tentative trial date for her lawsuit is scheduled for January 2025.

The school board's attorneys indicated that they would appeal Friday's decision and said in a statement that they "fully anticipate its reversal by the appellate court."

The school board maintained that Zwerner's injuries were directly related to her job and therefore covered under workers' compensation.

"The actual risk of employment in this scenario is that of a teacher being injured at the hands of a student which, unfortunately, is a fairly common occurrence and one that is only increasing in frequency this day and age," school board attorney Anne Lahren said in a statement.

Some legal experts expected Zwerner's lawsuit to fail under Virginia's uncommonly strict workers' compensation law. That's because it covers workplace assaults and allegations of negligence against employers. Lawsuits that might move forward in other states often falter in the Commonwealth.

J. H. Verkerke, a University of Virginia law professor, said Friday's ruling was "somewhat surprising" based on previous Virginia court decisions.

"Virginia precedent surely gives the school board reason to hope for reversal of the trial court's ruling," Verkerke said.

In early January, the 6-year-old pulled out his mother's handgun and shot Zwerner as she sat at a reading table in front of her first-grade class. She rushed the rest her students into the hallway before collapsing in the school's office.

The shooting revived a national dialogue about gun violence and roiled this military shipbuilding city near the Chesapeake Bay.

Zwerner sued in April, alleging school officials ignored multiple warnings that the boy had a gun and was in a violent mood.

Police have said the shooting was intentional. Zwerner claims school officials knew the boy "had a history of random violence" at school and home, including when he "choked" his kindergarten teacher.

Verkerke, the law professor, said Zwerner's attorneys needed to prove the shooting was unrelated to Zwerner's job. Their challenge was "to somehow make out that it's personal."

In his ruling on Friday, Judge Hoffman wrote that the shooting against Zwerner was "personal."

Judge Hoffman noted that the boy had the gun with him from the beginning of the school day until just before dismissal.

"It was not until the student was back in (Zwerner's) classroom that he decided to fire it once, striking (Zwerner)," Judge Hoffman wrote. "He did not at any time threaten any other student, teacher or administrator at the school with a firearm."

Zwerner's attorneys argued in a brief last month that the boy's "violence was random and aimed at everyone, both in and out of school."

He "asserted that he was angry that people were 'picking on' his friend, a motivation that had nothing to do with (Zwerner)," her lawyers wrote without further elaboration. "His motivation was a personal one."

The school board disagreed and questioned how the shooting could be anything but work-related.

Responding to the judge's decision on Friday, the school board's attorneys said "it is clear that the student and Ms. Zwerner only knew each other through their teacher-student relationship."

"In order for a 'personal' action to defeat the exclusivity of the Workers' Compensation Act, that personal motive must not be itself related to ... the employment," they wrote.

Workers' compensation laws were deemed a grand bargain in the 20th century between injured workers and employers, Verkerke said. Workers lost the ability to sue in most cases, protecting employers from enormous payouts. But people who were injured gained much easier access to compensation — lost pay and medical coverage — without having to prove fault.

"I'm quite sympathetic to the idea that such an assault falls outside the 'grand bargain' at the root of workers' compensation law," Verkerke said.

But he said the facts in the case cast doubt on the conclusion that the shooting was personal. The school board, he said, "would have substantial grounds to appeal."

## **Biden tells residents of Maine city reeling from mass shooting: 'You're not alone'**

By FATIMA HUSSEIN, PATRICK WHITTLE and COLLEEN LONG Associated Press

LEWISTON, Maine (AP) — President Joe Biden and first lady Jill Biden stood for a moment of silence and placed a bouquet of white flowers at a makeshift memorial outside Schemengees Bar and Grille, one of the scenes of the state's deadliest mass shooting.

Biden then bent to hug Kathy Lebel, owner of the bar where eight people died in the Oct. 25 massacre. Seven more died at the nearby Just-In-Time Recreation bowling alley, three others at hospitals.

Biden came to Lewiston on Friday for what presidents do in these moments of horror and grief: lend comfort to the families of the victims and show support for a reeling community. It's a trip that has become all too familiar, despite a bipartisan gun safety law passed last year after another mass shooting, and despite a series of executive orders by the president meant to curb gun violence.

"Jill and I have done too many of these," Biden said outside the bowling alley, standing in front of police officers, EMTs and others who responded to the shootings. "Jill and I are here, though on behalf of the American people to make sure you know that you're not alone."

Besides those killed, 13 people were injured in the shootings. Gunman Robert Card, a 40-year-old fire-arms instructor, was found dead of an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound after the killings, following a dayslong search.

Authorities said this week that Card's family had brought their concerns about his deteriorating mental health to the local sheriff five months before the deadly rampage. He had also undergone a mental health evaluation after he began behaving erratically at a training facility last summer.

Signs hung around the town Friday read "Fix the mental health system" and simply "Be nice." Inside the town's elementary school, there were notes on the hallways made by students that read: "Lewiston

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 133 ~ 52 of 65

strong" and "You ARE safe."

The Democratic president has said he's determined to fight gun violence in the U.S. and it's a large part of his reelection campaign platform. He created the first White House office of gun violence prevention, which is charged with finding solutions and fully implementing landmark gun safety legislation enacted last year. One of the leaders of the office was in Maine this week helping coordinate the federal response. Biden has also pushed for a ban on assault weapons.

"This is about common sense," he said Friday. "Reasonable, responsible measures to protect our children, our families, our communities. Because regardless of our politics, this is about protecting our freedom to go to a bowling alley, a restaurant, a school, church, without being shot and killed."

The president has visited many other communities scarred by mass shootings. He's been to Buffalo, New York; Uvalde, Texas; and Monterey Park, California, just in roughly the past year.

"As we mourn today in Maine, this tragedy opens a painful wound, all across the country," Biden said. "Too many Americans have lost loved ones or survived the trauma of gun violence."

As of Friday, there have been at least 37 mass killings in the U.S. in 2023, leaving at least 195 people dead, not including shooters who died, according to a database maintained by The Associated Press and USA Today in partnership with Northeastern University.

Members of the community visited the memorial outside Schemengees to grieve throughout the morning. Biden's arrival may help the city, but it's terrible that it had to happen, said John Murphy, of New Gloucester, who went to the memorial to pay his respects. "I'm sorry that he had to on this occasion."

It will take years for the community to heal, said Murphy, who is 70.

"It's going to be a long time. Maine is a beautiful state. A very peaceful state," he said.

There were also memorials paying tribute to victims outside Just-In-Time, the bowling alley where the shootings began. The sign outside read: "Lewiston Strong! Remembering our loss Oct. 25 2023."

Michele Stapleton of Brunswick said she was glad the president came to Maine.

"It's very encouraging to have a president who wants to speak about gun safety. For too long, politicians have maybe felt that way, but they were maybe afraid to say it," she said.

In fact, the shootings have many residents searching for answers.

Elizabeth Seal, who lost her husband Josh, said in an interview this week that she was frustrated to learn that semi-automatic weapons were used.

"In general, I have no issue with the use of guns," she said through a sign language interpreter. "Some people feel more comfortable having a gun for protection or for some it's a hunting tradition. But why do we have semi-automatic weapons available that people can get? That can cause such severe devastation?"

"I hope that our lawmakers will do something to change that," she said. "I don't see this problem in other countries, right? This is an American issue."

Overall, stricter gun laws are desired by a majority of Americans, regardless of what the current gun laws are in their state, according to an AP/NORC poll. That desire could be tied to perceptions that fewer guns would mean fewer mass shootings.

Lewiston city administrator Heather Hunter, who was present when Biden spoke, said she appreciated that the president focused on the right to be safe.

"I agree, safety is one of those rights that everybody should enjoy. We have to make sure everyone in our community understands that," she said. "This is the first step toward working to acknowledge that and to achieve that goal."

Biden was notified of the shootings as he hosted a White House state dinner honoring Australia last week. He stepped out of the event to speak by telephone with Maine Gov. Janet Mills and the state's representatives in Congress. On Friday, both Mills and Lewiston mayor Carl Sheline said the community was working to heal.

"We are resilient, strong and used to putting our shoulder to the wheel, Sheline said. "But nothing can prepare a community for the grief and sorrow of losing 18 souls to horrific violence."

## Illinois city tickets reporter for asking too many questions, in latest First Amendment dustup

By JOHN O'CONNOR AP Political Reporter  
SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP) —

Officials in a suburban Chicago community have issued municipal citations to a local news reporter for what they say were persistent contacts with city officials seeking comment on treacherous fall flooding.

The tickets from Calumet City, a city of 35,000 located 24 miles (39 kilometers) south of Chicago, allege "interference/hampering of city employees" by Hank Sanders, a reporter for the Daily Southtown, the Chicago Tribune reported Friday.

It's the latest of several recent First Amendment dust-ups involving city officials and news outlets around the country, following this week's arrest of a small-town Alabama newspaper publisher and reporter after reporting on a grand jury investigation of a school district, and the August police raid of a newspaper and its publisher's home in Kansas tied to an apparent dispute a restaurant owner had with the paper.

Sanders reported in an Oct. 20 story that consultants told Calumet City administrators the city's storm-water infrastructure was in poor condition before flooding wrought by record September rains. Officials say Sanders continued to call and email city employees, drawing complaints including from Mayor Thaddeus Jones, who is also a Democratic state representative.

The Tribune, which shares an owner with the Daily Southtown, reported that Sanders was told to channel requests for information through Jones' spokesperson, Sean Howard, but according to one citation sent 14 emails to the city during a nine-day period in October asking questions about flooding.

Mitch Pugh, executive editor of the Chicago Tribune, said one reason Sanders continued asking questions was for a follow-up flooding story that has yet to be published.

While the citations are not of "the same degree and magnitude" as the other recent incidents, Pugh said, "it seems to be on the same through line of a real lack of understanding of what the First Amendment protects, what a journalist's job is, what our role is."

"You get used to it a little bit on the national scale, but now we're seeing it in very small municipalities with mayors, and that's a disturbing trend and we need to call it out when we see it," Pugh told The Associated Press. "A public official ought to know better than to basically use a police force to try to intimidate a reporter who's just doing his job."

The news media's freedom from government meddling or intervention is protected by the First Amendment.

Phone and text messages seeking comment were left for Jones. Howard referred questions to city attorney Patrick Walsh, saying it is a legal matter. A message was also left for Walsh.

Don Craven, president, CEO and general counsel of the Illinois Press Association, criticized the citations and said the media play a fundamental role in the functioning of democracy.

"We're talking about a reporter who is doing his job," Craven said, "and instead of saying 'We're working on the problem,' the city's response is, blame the reporter."

## Retired businessman will lead Boy Scouts of America as it emerges from scandal-driven bankruptcy

By MARK THIESSEN Associated Press

The new president of the Boy Scouts of America plans to reverse the trend of declining membership and improve safety programs as the organization emerges from bankruptcy following a sexual abuse scandal.

Roger Krone, a retired businessman and Eagle Scout, was named Friday as the new chief executive of the 113-year-old youth organization, replacing the retiring Roger Mosby as the top administrator.

A federal judge in March upheld the \$2.4 billion bankruptcy plan for the Irving, Texas-based organization, which allowed it to keep operating while compensating more than 80,000 men who filed claims saying they were sexually abused while in scouting. The trust recently began paying claimants who elected

an expedited amount of \$3,500, the organization said in an email to The Associated Press. Others must complete questionnaires and submit supporting documentation, and only a few payments have been made in that process.

Some local Boy Scout councils have sold about 15 properties to satisfy their trust obligations, the email said.

"Scouting is safer today than it ever has been," Krone told AP by telephone from his home in Annapolis, Maryland. Measures previously taken to assure parents their children are safe include training for adults and making sure a Scout is never alone with only one adult.

"And under my leadership, we will continue to evolve and improve our program so that we have the safest youth program that we can possibly have," he said.

Krone recently retired as president of Leidos, a \$15 billion defense, aviation and information technology company based in Virginia. With an extensive background in engineering and aerospace, he previously served as president of the network and space systems at Boeing Co.

"I see my business experience, what I have done in corporate America, really complementing the strengths that scouting has today," he said, adding they don't need him to lead classes in crafts or building a fire. "They need me to align the organization post-bankruptcy and drive the roadmap to build the scouting of the future."

Membership in the organization's flagship Cub Scouts and Scouts fell from 1.97 million in 2019 to about 762,000 in 2021. Last year, membership was up to just over 1 million, the organization said. Finances plummeted with membership, with net revenue of \$319 million in 2019 falling to nearly \$188 million last year.

Among the reasons cited for the membership drop include the sexual assault allegations, competition from sports leagues, technology and video games and the pandemic.

Scouting needs to be relevant for the children of today, but Krone said the opportunity to get outdoors — to have Scouts sail a boat or paddle a canoe, go hiking, mountain climbing, rappelling or spelunking — has universal appeal.

"That means we need to meet the kids where they are," he said. "Get them off the couch, get them away from their small screen device, get them outdoors."

He predicts in five years, the Boy Scouts of America will be twice its current size, their high adventure camps — where they go sailing in Florida, mountain climbing in the Rockies or ziplining in West Virginia — will be expanded, and scouting will be relevant to the youth.

"There are no admission requirements," he said. "We want everybody to participate."

## **US employers pulled back on hiring in October, adding 150,000 jobs in face of higher borrowing rates**

By PAUL WISEMAN and ANNE D'INNOCENZIO AP Economics Writers

WASHINGTON (AP) — The nation's employers slowed their hiring in October, adding a modest but still decent 150,000 jobs, a sign that the labor market may be cooling but remains resilient despite high interest rates that have made borrowing much costlier for companies and consumers.

Last month's job growth, though down sharply from a robust 297,000 gain in September, was solid enough to suggest that many companies still want to hire and that the economy remains sturdy. And job growth would have been higher in October if not for the now-settled United Auto Workers' strikes. The strikes ended this week with tentative settlements in which against Detroit's automakers granted significantly better pay and benefits to the union's workers.

Friday's jobs report from the government comes as the Federal Reserve is assessing incoming economic data to determine whether to leave its key interest rate unchanged, as it did this week, or to raise it again in its drive to curb inflation. The lower job growth in October, along with a slowdown in pay gains last month, could help convince the Fed that inflation pressures will continue to cool and that further rate hikes may not be needed.

On Wall Street, traders appeared to signal their growing belief in that scenario. Bond yields fell and stock

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 133 ~ 55 of 65

prices rose sharply after the jobs report was released, indicating optimism that the Fed will decide it won't need to impose additional rate hikes.

The unemployment rate rose last month from 3.8% to 3.9%. And in another sign of a possible softening in the labor market, the Labor Department revised down its estimate of job growth in August and September by a combined 101,000.

The UAW strikes contributed to an overall loss of 35,000 factory positions in October. Several other sectors posted solid job gains last month, notably healthcare, which added 58,000, government agencies 51,000 and construction companies 23,000.

By contrast, the vast leisure and hospitality sector, which includes bars, restaurants and hotels, reported only modest job growth. So did professional and business services, a category that includes such high-paying occupations as accounting, engineering and architecture.

Wage pressures, which have been gradually slowing, eased further in October. Average hourly pay rose 0.2% from September and 4.1% from 12 months earlier. The year-over-year wage increase was the lowest since June 2021; the month-over-month rise was the smallest since February 2022.

The Fed has raised its benchmark interest rate 11 times since March 2022 to try to slow the economy and tame inflation, which hit a four-decade high last year but has slowed sharply since then. In September, consumer prices rose 3.7% from a year earlier, down drastically from a year-over-year peak of 9.1% in June 2022 but still well above the Fed's 2% target level.

The U.S. job market has remained on firm footing despite those rate hikes and has helped fuel consumer spending, the primary driver of the economy. Employers have now added a healthy 204,000 jobs a month over the past three months. The combination of a solid economy and decelerating inflation has raised hopes that the Fed can nail a so-called soft landing — raising rates just enough to tame inflation without triggering a recession.

"This is still a good labor market," said Nick Bunker, head of economic research at the Indeed Hiring Lab. "There's no recession right now that you can see in the labor market data." Bunker added that the October jobs numbers are "mostly consistent with the soft landing story."

For the Fed, one unwelcome note in Friday's report is that the number of people in the labor force — those who either have a job or are looking for one — fell by 201,000 in October. It was the first such drop since April. Over the past year, more than 3 million people have entered the workforce, making it easier for companies to fill job openings. This has reduced pressure on employers to jack up pay and pass on their higher labor costs to their customers through higher prices. But the trend was broken last month.

Since matching a half-century low of 3.4% in April, the nation's unemployment rate has more or less steadily edged up. The 3.9% rate in October was the highest level since January 2022. Still, historically, any jobless rate below 5% has been considered healthy.

"There's a clear upward trajectory in the unemployment rate," Bunker said. "It's not at the point where it's tripping any alarms or causing blinking, flashing red lights ... but it is something to monitor."

The Fed's policymakers are trying to calibrate their key rate to simultaneously cool inflation, support job growth and ward off a recession. Despite long-standing predictions that the Fed's ever-higher rates would trigger a recession, the U.S. economy grew at a 4.9% annual pace from July through September, the fastest quarterly expansion in more than two years.

And many companies are still looking to hire — and benefiting from the job market's slowdown.

One of them is Saltbox, which offers co-working space and warehouse services for about small business in 10 states. Last year, the company felt compelled to raise pay from \$15 to \$20 for hourly workers who load merchandise on trucks and do maintenance work. Now, Tyler Scriven, the company's founder and CEO, no longer sees a need to further raise pay.

"The pressure of raising wages," Scriven said, "is easing. I would go further to say that at this point, I don't really feel any pressure."

Likewise, Omaha Steaks had struggled since the start of the pandemic with a big problem: Holiday-season employees who didn't show up for the first day of work, particularly at its distribution centers. At the time, no-show employees were a major headache for many companies. A year ago, Omaha Steaks,

which has been shipping meats directly to consumers since 1952, had to hire 10% more holiday workers to account for the high quit rate.

This year, based on the past few weeks of holiday hiring, the show-up rates have improved markedly. It's a sign that Nate Rempe, the company's president and chief operating officer, said he thinks reflects a more normal job environment. Omaha Steaks, based in Omaha, Nebraska, no longer has to hire extra holiday workers to make up for the no-shows. In fact, it's hiring modestly fewer people.

"They actually want to get to work, which we love to see because it's good for business," Rempe said.

## **Supreme Court will rule on ban on rapid-fire gun bump stocks, used in the Las Vegas mass shooting**

By MARK SHERMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court agreed on Friday to decide whether a Trump era-ban on bump stocks, the gun attachments that allow semi-automatic weapons to fire rapidly like machine guns, violates federal law.

The justices will hear arguments early next year over a regulation put in place by the Justice Department after a mass shooting in Las Vegas in 2017.

Federal appeals courts have come to different decisions about whether the regulation defining a bump stock as a machine gun comports with federal law.

The justices said they will review the Biden administration's appeal of a ruling by the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans that invalidated the ban.

The Supreme Court already is weighing a challenge to another federal law that seeks to keep guns away from people under domestic violence restraining orders, a case that stems from the landmark decision in 2022 in which the six-justice conservative majority expanded gun rights.

The new case is not about the Second Amendment right to "keep and bear arms," but rather whether the Trump administration followed federal law in changing the bump stock regulation.

The ban on bump stocks took effect in 2019. It stemmed from the Las Vegas shooting in which the gunman, a 64-year-old retired postal service worker and high-stakes gambler, used assault-style rifles to fire more than 1,000 rounds in 11 minutes into a crowd of 22,000 music fans.

Most of the rifles were fitted with bump stock devices and high-capacity magazines. A total of 58 people were killed in the shooting, and two died later. Hundreds were injured.

The Trump administration's ban on bump stocks was an about-face for the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. In 2010, under the Obama administration, the agency found that a bump stock should not be classified as a machine gun and therefore should not be banned under federal law.

Following the Las Vegas shooting, officials revisited that determination and found it incorrect.

Bump stocks harness the recoil energy of a semi-automatic firearm so that a trigger "resets and continues firing without additional physical manipulation of the trigger by the shooter," according to the ATF.

A shooter must maintain constant forward pressure on the weapon with the non-shooting hand and constant pressure on the trigger with the trigger finger, according to court records.

The full U.S. 5th Circuit ruled 13-3 in January that Congress would have to change federal law to ban bump stocks.

"The definition of 'machinegun' as set forth in the National Firearms Act and Gun Control Act does not apply to bump stocks," Judge Jennifer Walker Elrod wrote for the 5th Circuit.

But a panel of three judges on the federal appeals court in Washington looked at the same language and came to a different conclusion.

Judge Robert Wilkins wrote for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit that "under the best interpretation of the statute, a bump stock is a self-regulating mechanism that allows a shooter to shoot more than one shot through a single pull of the trigger. As such, it is a machine gun under the National Firearms Act and Gun Control Act."

A decision is expected by early summer in *Garland v. Cargill*, 22-976.



## Can Trump be on the ballot in 2024?

### It can hinge on the meaning of 'insurrection'

By NICHOLAS RICCARDI and CHRISTINE FERNANDO Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — Can former President Donald Trump run for his old job again after his role in the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol? The answer may depend on the definition of insurrection.

Liberal groups have filed lawsuits in Colorado, Minnesota and other states to bar Trump from the ballot, citing a rarely used constitutional prohibition against holding office for those who swore an oath to uphold the Constitution but then "engaged in insurrection" against it. The two-sentence clause in the 14th Amendment has been used only a handful of times since the years after the Civil War.

Because of that, there's almost no case law defining its terms, including what would constitute an "insurrection." While people have argued about whether to call Jan. 6 an insurrection ever since the days following the attack, the debate in court this week has been different — whether those who ratified the amendment in 1868 would call it one.

"There's this very public fight, in all these colloquial terms, about whether it's an insurrection, but it really comes down to brass tacks defining what this constitutional term means," said Derek Muller, a Notre Dame law professor who's followed the litigation closely.

There are a myriad of other legal reasons why the long-shot legal bids to bar the former president and current Republican primary frontrunner from the ballot could fail, from limits on the role of state courts to whether Section Three applies to the president. But perhaps none resonate like the debate over whether the Jan. 6 attack should be considered an insurrection in the first place.

In a hearing Thursday before the Minnesota Supreme Court, the question was part of the reason the justices seemed skeptical that states have the authority to throw Trump off the ballot.

"What does it mean in your estimation to have engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the Constitution?" Justice Gordon Moore asked the lawyers for each side.

Nicholas Nelson, representing Trump, defined an insurrection as "some sort of organized form of warfare or violence ... that is oriented toward breaking away from or overthrowing the United States government." He added that nothing in the past 50 years met that criteria.

Ronald Fein, an attorney for the group Free Speech For People, which is representing the petitioners, said an insurrection against the Constitution is "a concerted, forcible effort to prevent or obstruct execution of a central Constitutional function," which he said closely describes Trump's actions surrounding the January 2021 assault on the Capitol, an attack that was intended to halt certification of Democrat Joe Biden's election win.

"Insurrection might be in the eye of the beholder," Minnesota Supreme Court Chief Justice Natalie Hudson concluded after statements from both sides.

A day earlier, an Indiana University law professor, Gerard Magliocca, sat in a Denver courtroom and described his research into Section Three, a subject few had delved into before he started looking into it in late 2020.

Magliocca dug into dictionary definitions of insurrection from 150 years ago — one was "the rising of people in arms against their government, or against a portion of it, or against a portion or one of its laws."

He found an opinion from the U.S. attorney general in 1867 that former confederates should be barred from certain offices even if they simply bought bonds in the rebel government. He also found instances where Congress refused to seat elected representatives whose only violation was writing a letter to the editor backing the confederate cause or paying a son \$100 to help cover his costs to join the confederate army.

Congress also passed a law in 1862 making insurrection a crime that used different language. Some critics of the Section Three lawsuits have noted that out of the thousands of charges filed by the federal government related to Jan. 6, no one has been charged with the crime of insurrection — though several far-right extremists have been convicted of seditious conspiracy.

Magliocca noted that constitutional language is different than far more technical and detailed criminal

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 133 ~ 58 of 65

statutes, and Section Three says nothing about the person barred from office having to be first convicted of a crime. Indeed, Magliocca testified it was understood the goal of the provision was to keep a wide range of former confederates out of public office in the years after the war.

In 1872, Congress lifted the ban for most former confederates, something it's explicitly able to do under the terms of Section Three.

On Friday in the Colorado hearing, Trump's lawyers put on their own constitutional expert, Robert Delahunty, to note that some of Magliocca's definitions were contradictory. Some required the use of "arms" in insurrection while others did not.

Delahunty, a retired law professor who is a fellow at the conservative Claremont Institute, said the more important question is the unique requirement in Section Three that it be an insurrection against the Constitution.

"What really needs to be explicated is not the plain vanilla meaning of insurrection but the whole phrase — insurrection against the United States Constitution," Delahunty testified on Friday.

The lawyers seeking to disqualify Trump in Colorado noted that even the former president's own attorney in his impeachment trial for the Jan. 6 attack described it as an insurrection.

"The question before us is not whether there was a violent insurrection of the Capitol — on that point everyone agrees," Trump attorney Michael van der Veen said during the impeachment proceedings in the Senate.

Legal scholars were able to find just one example of the amendment being used in the last century, when it was cited to deny a seat in the House of Representatives to an anti-war socialist elected after World War I.

Following the Jan. 6 attack, however, it's become more common. Free Speech For People unsuccessfully tried to use it to block Republican Rep. Marjorie Taylor-Green from the ballot last year and also targeted former Republican Rep. Madison Cawthorn, though the issue became moot when he lost his GOP primary.

Another liberal group, Citizens for Reforming Ethics in Washington, successfully used Section Three to block from office a rural New Mexico county commissioner after he was convicted in federal court of a misdemeanor for entering the Capitol grounds during the attack. CREW is the group that organized the Colorado case, where testimony is scheduled to wrap up Friday.

During a hearing in that case Thursday, Trump's lawyers tried to show that many who attended the Jan. 6 protests were law-abiding, peaceful people. Tom Bjorklund, treasurer of the Colorado Republican Party, wandered the National Mall that day and approached the Capitol, but said he turned back after seeing tear gas and vandalism.

Bjorklund contended that "antifa" was likely to blame for the violence — a false narrative that has been debunked by research showing the crowd was comprised overwhelmingly of Trump supporters. He said he spotted people who seemed like agent provocateurs in the crowd and said he wanted to testify to make a statement.

"I don't think there was any kind of insurrection — I think it's a ridiculous narrative," Bjorklund said. "I just felt like it's kind of an insult to insurrectionists around the world. Republicans just mad about an election hardly rises to the level of an insurrection."

## **Storm Ciarán brings record rainfall to Italy with at least 6 killed. European death toll rises to 14**

By COLLEEN BARRY Associated Press

MILAN (AP) — Record-breaking rain produced floods in a vast swath of Italy's Tuscany region as Storm Ciarán pushed into the country overnight, trapping residents in their homes, inundating hospitals and overturning cars. At least six people in Italy and one person in Albania were killed on Friday, bringing the storm's death toll to 14 across Europe this week.

Throughout the day, the storm brought more death and destruction as it moved eastward across the continent. In Albania, police said a motorist died when he lost control while driving a car, which slid and hit barriers. Many roads in the country were flooded, including in the capital, Tirana.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 133 ~ 59 of 65

Huge waves pummeled the Adriatic shores of the Balkans, and strong winds uprooted trees and ripped off roofs. Ferries connecting Croatia's islands with the coastline were halted.

Italian Civil Protection authorities said that 200 millimeters (nearly eight inches) of rain fell in a three-hour period, from the coastal city of Livorno to the inland valley of Mugello, and caused riverbanks to overflow. Video showed at least a dozen cars getting swept away down a flooded road.

Tuscany Gov. Eugenio Giani said that six people died in the storm, which dumped an amount of rainfall not recorded in the last 100 years.

"There was a wave of water bombs without precedence," Giani told Italian news channel Sky TG24.

Climate scientists say human-induced climate change has led to heavier rainfall during storms like Ciarán, often resulting in more severe damage.

"If the conditions are different than 20 years ago, it is obvious to everyone," Nello Musumeci, the government's minister for civil protection, told Sky TG24, noting that weather systems in Italy have become more tropical in nature.

The dead in Tuscany included an 85-year-old man found in the flooded ground floor of his home near the city of Prato, north of Florence, and an 84-year-old woman who died while trying to remove water from her home in the same area, according to Italian news agency ANSA.

The other victims were a couple who had been missing near the town of Vinci and a person in Livorno province. Italian newspaper Corriere della Sera said Friday evening that the wife of the man whose body was found earlier in the town near Prato also perished.

At least two people were missing Friday in Tuscany, along with an off-duty firefighter reported missing in the mountains of Veneto, north of Venice. Other regions were on high-alert and authorities warned that the storm was heading toward southern Italy.

At least 48,000 utility customers were without electricity, Transport and Infrastructure Minister Matteo Salvini said. High-speed train service between Florence and Milan as well as along smaller rail lines in Tuscany were affected.

Ciarán left at least seven people dead as it swept across Spain, France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany on Thursday. The storm devastated homes, caused travel mayhem and cut power to a vast number of people.

As the storm pushed through, it flooded at least four hospitals, including in Pisa and Mugello. Throughout Tuscany, train lines and highways were disrupted and schools were closed. Hundreds of people were unable to get home, including about 150 stranded in Prato after a train line was suspended Thursday night. Around 40,000 people were without electricity on Friday.

The mayor of Prato expressed shock at the force of the flood that devastated the city overnight. By early Friday, residents were working to clean the damage.

"A blow to the stomach, a pain that brings tears. But even after an evening and night of devastation, we are pulling up our sleeves to clean and bring our city back to normality," Mayor Matteo Biffoni posted on social media.

Florence Mayor Dario Nardella told Sky TG24 that the Arno River, which runs through the center of the city, had reached the first level of alert, with the highest levels forecast for midday. Neither he nor the governor expected the river to overrun its banks.

"The psychological fear is high, considering that tomorrow is the anniversary of the 1966 flood," Nardella said, recalling a flood that killed 101 people and damaged or destroyed millions of artistic masterpieces and rare books.

In Austria's southern Carinthia province, which borders Italy and Slovenia, wind and heavy rain on Thursday night led to landslides, blocked roads and power cuts. About 1,600 households were without electricity early Friday, the Austria Press Agency reported.

The storm receded in northern France and the Atlantic coast on Friday, but heavy rains continued in some regions as emergency workers cleared away debris from the day before. Meanwhile, Corsica in the Mediterranean faced unusually fierce winds Friday — up to 140 kph (87 mph) — and regions in the Pyr-

nees in the southwest were under flood warnings.

More than a half-million French households remained without electricity for a second day, mainly in the western region of Brittany. Trains were halted in several areas and many roads remained closed.

French President Emmanuel Macron traveled Friday to storm-ravaged areas of Brittany, and Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne was traveling to hard-hit areas of Normandy.

## **In the wake of Matthew Perry's death, Chinese fans mourn an old friend**

By FU TING Associated Press

Long before "Friends" made its official debut in China, the show was a word-of-mouth phenomenon in the country. In the wake of Matthew Perry's death at 54, fans in China are mourning the loss of the star who felt less like a distant celebrity and more like an old friend.

A Wednesday evening memorial at a cafe in Shenzhen, a busy city across the border of Hong Kong, was one of several held throughout the country for the actor who played Chandler Bing and died Saturday in Los Angeles. The coffee shop — an homage to the 10-season sitcom, from its name (Smelly Cat) to the Central Perk sign on its glass wall — was packed with people and floral arrangements as the TV mounted in the corner played an episode of "Friends."

"There are more people who showed up than we expected," said cafe manager Nie Yanxia. "People shared their own memories about Chandler and 'Friends' and many teared up."

A large poster displayed on the bar featured pictures of Perry over the years. "We love you, friend," read the message at the bottom.

While "Friends" didn't debut in China until 2012 — through Sohu, a streaming platform — the show had become popular more than a decade earlier thanks to bootleg DVD and hard drive copies. Once Chinese fans added Mandarin subtitles to the show, which ran in the U.S. from 1994 to 2004, it quickly gained a following.

"China was experiencing this drastic historical change marked by the rise of consumerism and also individualism and urbanization back then," said Xian Wang, a professor on modern Chinese literature and popular culture at the University of Notre Dame. "This TV show actually offered a way to imagine this kind of so-called metropolitan utopian imagination."

Many Chinese fans learned English through watching the show and got a peek into American life and culture. The uncensored underground version of "Friends" also opened a window into topics that weren't commonly broached on Chinese television, like LGBTQ+ themes and sexual content. (While "Friends" wasn't initially censored on Sohu, the platform — and others that later began officially distributing the show in China — would increasingly cut out scenes.)

Wang said many young people in China identified with Perry's character and his fictional friends as they navigated living independently and developing their own identity in a big city.

"It's kind of like the loss of one of their own friends," Wang said. "So that's emotional because there was a sense of the childhood or youth memory, a sense of nostalgia."

In the bustling neon city of Shanghai on Wednesday night, more than 30 people packed a petite rendition of the Central Perk cafe. There was barely room to stand, and just space for three to sit on a replica of the iconic orange sofa. Those who couldn't fit inside the cafe spilled out the door, peering in, while others sat on chairs outside. Inside, fans took turns reading articles about Perry. Some choked up.

Nilufar Arkin, who lives in Tianjin, says she and her boyfriend have been described by their friends as the real-life Monica and Chandler. The couple even got matching tattoos two years ago with the lyrics from the theme song "I'll Be There For You," performed by The Rembrandts. The artwork on their arms also depict the classic Thanksgiving scene where Monica dances in front of Chandler wearing a turkey on her head. It was the first time Chandler told Monica that he loved her.

"I think Chandler and Monica is the model as a couple," Arkin, 27, said. "This is what I admire for a couple, I love both of them. He's my type as a husband."

Arkin heard about Perry's death when she woke up at her friend's home in Xinjiang and broke down in

tears.

"I couldn't believe it and had to verify it again and again until I found it was true, then I just cried," Arkin said. "He's my top one character in the show."

Fu Xueying has watched the series repeatedly; each time, it grows on her more. The 20-year-old student has visited three Central Perk-themed cafes, in Shanghai, Shenzhen and Guangzhou, where she felt like she was part of the show.

"Friends' has been a haven for my life," Fu said. "Every time I have too much pressure from school or being unhappy, I watch it and forget the things that happened to me."

For mechanical engineer Zhang Fengguang and his fiancée Sun Tiantian, both 30, Perry and the show will always be a part of their lives. In September, Zhang recreated Chandler and Monica's proposal scene; Sun said yes.

"I used his scene and his line," Zhang said. "It feels like I just got to know this long-lost friend, but he's just gone."

## **Trapped in hell: Palestinian civilians try to survive in northern Gaza, focus of Israel's offensive**

By ISABEL DEBRE, KAREEM CHEHAYEB and WAFAA SHURAFSA Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — When Israeli warplanes bombed the crowded Jabaliya refugee camp in northern Gaza this week, neonatal nurse Hudaa Ali Eldaor felt the vibration in her ward at the nearby Kamal Adwan Hospital. She heard the thunder and saw the smoke.

Then the wounded flooded in. Patients young and old filled the beds and then covered the floors — burns and shrapnel wounds, life-threatening abdominal bleeds, traumatic amputations. Eldaor snapped into crisis mode: Halt the bleeding. Resuscitate. Clean just enough to prevent sepsis.

During the bedlam Wednesday, Eldaor caught a glimpse of two familiar faces coated with gray dust. She ran toward them, screaming. They were her boys, 7-year-old Kenan and 9-year-old Haidar.

She buried them later that day, along with her sister, two brothers and three uncles.

On Thursday, Eldaor was back at work, weeping between hospital rounds. "What was their fault? What was their guilt?" she asked.

Weeks after ordering northern Gaza's 1.1 million inhabitants to evacuate south, the Israeli army is intensifying its bombardment of the area that stretches down toward the wetlands of Wadi Gaza, in the central strip. Israeli soldiers are also battling Hamas militants in close quarters just north of Gaza City — the start of what is expected to be a long and bloody ground invasion.

Israel's ground operation, under cover of heavy tank and artillery fire, has stranded hundreds of thousands of Palestinians who remain in northern Gaza.

Residents say they are trapped in hell.

"We are living in constant terror," said Anas al-Sharif, a freelance journalist in Jabaliya who covered the heavy bombardment of the camp Tuesday and Wednesday. "It's not one or two airstrikes. We are talking about eight, nine, 10 — I can't even count, all in the same place. It's a catastrophe."

The strikes killed dozens of people and reduced parts of the camp to ruins, pocked by massive bomb craters.

The Israeli military said Wednesday's strike took out a Hamas control center and that Tuesday's hit a high-level Hamas commander who helped plan the Oct. 7 attack that killed more than 1,400 people in southern Israel. It also said the strikes hit a network of Hamas tunnels beneath the neighborhood, causing the buildings above to collapse.

Critics say the vast destruction is evidence that Israel's attacks are disproportionate and don't take precautions to avoid civilians. Israel says it does not target civilians and blames Hamas for conducting military operations and launching rockets from crowded residential areas.

"Even if there is a Hamas commander there, there is no justification to kill that many civilians and to create destruction like that," said Shawan Jabarin, director of the Palestinian human rights group Al-Haq.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 133 ~ 62 of 65

Images from the strikes — blood-splattered children climbing over giant mounds of rubble, buildings sliced in half or flattened altogether, once-bustling streets erased by yawning craters — have resonated around the world. They have also struck a nerve within Gaza, where the Jabaliya camp is known for its violent resistance to Israeli military rule during the first and second Palestinian uprisings, starting in 1987.

Jabaliya is the largest of the refugee camps in Gaza, where two-thirds of the population are descendants of Palestinians who fled or were driven from their homes during the war surrounding Israel's creation in 1948. At the time, some 700,000 Palestinians were uprooted.

Over the generations, Jabaliya has grown into an overcrowded neighborhood of cement-block buildings that are home to 116,000 people, the U.N. Palestinian refugee agency estimates, squeezed into just half a square mile (1.4 square kilometers).

"Jabaliya is more than a place, it's a part of me. It's one massive family," said Yousef Hammash, an aid worker with the Norwegian Refugee Council who was born in the camp. "It's somewhere that as a Palestinian, you are proud to live and be from."

Those refusing Israeli military evacuation orders and staying in northern Gaza say they have their reasons. Eldaor, like most medics struggling to save lives despite fuel and supply shortages, said she can't bear abandoning her patients.

Some families don't have cars, or fuel to power them. Some have nowhere to go in the south, with its overflowing shelters and displacement camps. Palestinians are also hesitant to move where they don't know the lay of the land, for fear of finding themselves next to Hamas-affiliated buildings as Israel's bombardment escalates across both ends of the strip.

Roughly 30,000 Palestinian evacuees returned to their homes in northern Gaza after concluding the south was no safer, the U.N. humanitarian office says.

"We have nothing to do with this war. So when it intensified and we got voice messages urging us to leave the north, we did," said Nabil Saqallah, a radio journalist. He sought refuge with his large extended family in the southern city of Khan Younis only to watch Israeli airstrikes kill 18 of his relatives, ranging in age from 10 months to 47 years old.

"And then what happened? Israeli warplanes turned our hope into the worst kind of sorrow."

Now with Israeli tanks spotted on the northern edges of Gaza City, it's far too risky for residents to venture south. Israeli shelling from the ground and sea has repeatedly targeted motorists on the strip's main north-south routes.

Israel says it has made every possible effort to persuade Palestinian civilians to head south. In a meeting with visiting U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Friday, Israel's figurehead president, Isaac Herzog, said the military had gone to great lengths to persuade hundreds of thousands of Palestinian civilians to leave northern Gaza by showering the area with pamphlets urging evacuation and sending thousands of warnings by text.

But Palestinians say the roads south are fraught with peril.

On Friday, Israeli shells hit a convoy of evacuees, killing roughly a dozen Palestinians, doctors said. Footage from the road shows dead bodies of children encrusted with blood laying in the soft sand. All of their remaining personal belongings were scattered beside them — a few backpacks, a big stuffed animal and some canned food. Among the dead was a girl with her hair in a ponytail wearing a purple velvet sweater.

"The medics had to leave more bodies in the middle of the road because they were coming under fire," said freelance journalist Fuad Abu Khamad, who traveled with emergency workers to the site.

The dangers have isolated northern Gaza. Truckloads of aid gradually crossing into the southern strip from Egypt can't make it north. Frequent internet and mobile network outages exacerbate the problems.

"Israeli forces have cut Gaza into two parts," said Hammash, the Jabaliya aid worker. "That means that the north gets less resources, less help, less food."

Thousands of desperate Palestinians who fled their homes in the north or lost them to Israeli airstrikes have packed into hospitals in the area. Schools run by the U.N. Palestinian refugee agency in the north are also bursting at the seams, with 30,000 displaced Palestinians in the Jabaliya shelters.

"Across the Gaza Strip, these shelters should be a safe haven, under the flag of the United Nations," said Philippe Lazzarini, the agency's commissioner general.

On Thursday an explosion ripped through one of the shelters in Jabaliya, he said, killing 20 people who had sought refuge.

## As billions roll in to fight the US opioid epidemic, one county shows how recovery can work

By GEOFF MULVIHILL and CARLA K. JOHNSON Associated Press  
FINDLAY, Ohio (AP) — Communities ravaged by America's opioid epidemic are starting to get their share of a \$50 billion pie from legal settlements.

Most of that money comes with a requirement that it be used to address the overdose crisis and prevent more deaths.

But how?

It could mean that places look more like the area around Findlay. Here, conservative Hancock County has built a comprehensive system focused on both treatment and recovery.

"People recover in a community," said Precia Stuby, the official who heads the county's addiction and mental health efforts. "We have to build recovery-oriented communities that support individuals."

It was 2007 when Stuby began hearing from officials about prescription opioids being misused. That was about the same time Jesse Johnson, then 14, was prescribed the painkiller Percocet.

The Findlay native was pregnant when she needed stents put into her kidneys as treatment for infections and kidney stones. After seven months on the opioid medication, she gave birth to a healthy daughter. Then she underwent an operation to remove the stents. The prescriptions stopped and she became sick from withdrawal.

"I remember not even being able to hold my daughter," said Johnson, now 31. "It just hurt."

Alcohol, marijuana and, a few years later, cocaine and opioids from the black market helped Johnson ease the pain.

By then, county officials were seeing the area's fatal opioid overdose toll tick up. The recovery system then included only some outpatient services and Alcoholics Anonymous.

From 1999 through 2020, 131 deaths in the county were attributed to opioids. Across the country, it was more than 500,000. The county's opioid-linked death rate over that period paralleled the nation's as the crisis moved from pain pills to heroin to even more potent fentanyl.

But the county took a path that many places did not.

Officials created a plan with the help of the federally funded Addiction Technology Transfer Center that stressed recovery and built upon a local recognition that "this is our family, our friends, our brothers, our sisters," Stuby said.

The settlement funds from drugmakers, wholesalers and pharmacies will not be enough for every harm reduction, treatment, recovery and prevention program that might be needed to fight the nation's opioid epidemic.

But it could be enough to jumpstart major changes to the efforts.

The county's approach, which echoes experts' recommendations for use of the settlement money, is that people with the right support can recover from addiction.

Since its implementation began a decade ago, Hancock County has brought in more than \$19 million in grants, largely from the federal government. Other funding comes from a county tax levy and the state. Health insurance helps pay for treatment.

Among the steps Hancock County has taken:

1. Like hundreds of communities, it's launched a drug court where people can avoid jail if they work on recovery.

2. The University of Findlay began offering classes on addiction. They can lead to an entry-level certificate for work in the field.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 133 ~ 64 of 65

3. It's added three recovery homes and a community center where people can attend 12-step meetings, play video games or learn to crochet — and a similar place for teens.

4. The county launched a needle exchange, providing supplies to reduce needle sharing and the risk of HIV and hepatitis C. These are policy staples in larger cities, but less common in smaller ones.

5. At the Family Resource Center, the quick response team identifies and reaches out to overdose survivors and people with substance use disorder who are being released from jail or prison.

6. The county deployed outreach workers to help people who survive overdoses, those who are incarcerated and others navigate the recovery system.

There's evidence that the efforts are helping. After 28 overdose deaths from all drugs last year, Hancock County has three confirmed overdose deaths and five suspected ones so far in 2023.

"It's not just about how to get people off of opioids, but how do we keep them in remission and increase their stable recovery?" said John F. Kelly, of Harvard Medical School. His research has shown that recovery support services — such as housing, community centers and peer coaching — can help.

It's worked for Johnson.

After she was released from a hospital following an overdose when she was 27, a peer support worker tracked her down in Findlay's homeless shelter.

Now 31, she's still in recovery, has two of her children living with her and regularly sees two others who live with her stepfather.

Earlier this year, she started a peer support job with the Family Resource Center, the same organization that employed the worker who was so instrumental in her own early recovery.

"It's something that I've always wanted to do," she said, "because I wanted to be that person that reached out to me and then found me at one of the worst times in my life and pulled me together somehow."

## Today in History: November 4

### Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is assassinated

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Saturday, Nov. 4, the 308th day of 2023. There are 57 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 4, 1995, Yitzhak Rabin, prime minister of Israel, was assassinated by a right-wing Israeli minutes after attending a peace rally.

On this date:

In 1842, Abraham Lincoln married Mary Todd in Springfield, Illinois.

In 1879, humorist Will Rogers was born in Oologah, Oklahoma.

In 1922, the entrance to King Tutankhamen's tomb was discovered in Egypt.

In 1942, during World War II, Axis forces retreated from El Alamein in North Africa in a major victory for British forces commanded by Lt. Gen. Bernard Montgomery.

In 1956, Soviet troops moved in to crush the Hungarian Revolution.

In 1979, the Iran hostage crisis began as militants stormed the United States Embassy in Tehran, seizing its occupants; for some of the hostages, it was the start of 444 days of captivity.

In 1980, Republican Ronald Reagan won the White House as he defeated President Jimmy Carter by a strong margin.

In 1985, to the shock and dismay of U.S. officials, Soviet defector Vitaly Yurchenko announced he was returning to the Soviet Union, charging he had been kidnapped by the CIA.

In 1991, Ronald Reagan opened his presidential library in Simi Valley, California; attending were President George H.W. Bush and former Presidents Jimmy Carter, Gerald R. Ford and Richard Nixon — the first-ever gathering of five past and present U.S. chief executives.

In 2007, King Tutankhamen's face was unveiled for the first time to the public more than 3,000 years after the pharaoh was buried in his Egyptian tomb.



# Groton Daily Independent

**Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 133 ~ 65 of 65**

In 2008, Democrat Barack Obama was elected the first Black president of the United States, defeating Republican John McCain.

In 2020, a day after the presidential election, victories in Michigan and Wisconsin left Joe Biden one battleground state short of winning the White House. President Donald Trump falsely claimed victory in several key states and called the election process "a major fraud on our nation."

In 2021, the Biden administration issued a rule requiring tens of millions of Americans who worked at companies with 100 or more employees to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or get tested for the virus weekly. (The Supreme Court rejected that rule in January 2022.)

Today's Birthdays: Actor Loretta Swit is 86. R&B singer Harry Elston (Friends of Distinction) is 85. Blues singer Delbert McClinton is 83. Former first lady Laura Bush is 77. Actor Ivonne Coll is 76. Rock singer-musician Chris Difford (Squeeze) is 69. Country singer Kim Forester (The Forester Sisters) is 63. Actor-comedian Kathy Griffin is 63. Actor Ralph Macchio is 62. "Survivor" host Jeff Probst is 62. Actor Matthew McConaughey is 54. Rapper-producer Sean "Puffy" Combs is 54. TV personality Bethenny Frankel is 53. Actor Anthony Ruivivar is 53. Soul/jazz singer Gregory Porter is 52. Celebrity chef Curtis Stone is 48. Actor Heather Tom is 48. R&B/gospel singer George Huff is 43. Actor Emme Rylan is 43. Actor Chris Greene (Film: "Loving") is 41.