

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 13, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 142 ~ 1 of 66

- [1- Upcoming Events](#)
- [2- Friendly Fellows & Daisies 4-H Club](#)
- [2- Newsweek Bulletin](#)
- [3- GHS Interns Series: Ava Wienk](#)
- [4- All Over Roofing Ad](#)
- [4- Frost is Back!](#)
- [5- Obit: Douglas Ehrenberg](#)
- [5- Service Notice: Alan Strom](#)
- [6- Weekly Vikings Recap - Vikings vs. Saints](#)
- [7- Prairie Doc: "Stay Safe Out There"](#)
- [8- Brown County Commission Meeting Agenda](#)
- [9- SD SearchLight: Foster families get paid, but not 'kinship' relatives caring for Native children](#)
- [14- EarthTalk - Tires](#)
- [15- Weather Pages](#)
- [19- Daily Devotional](#)
- [20- 2023 Community Events](#)
- [21- Subscription Form](#)
- [22- Lottery Numbers](#)
- [23- News from the Associated Press](#)

Coming up

Monday, Nov. 13

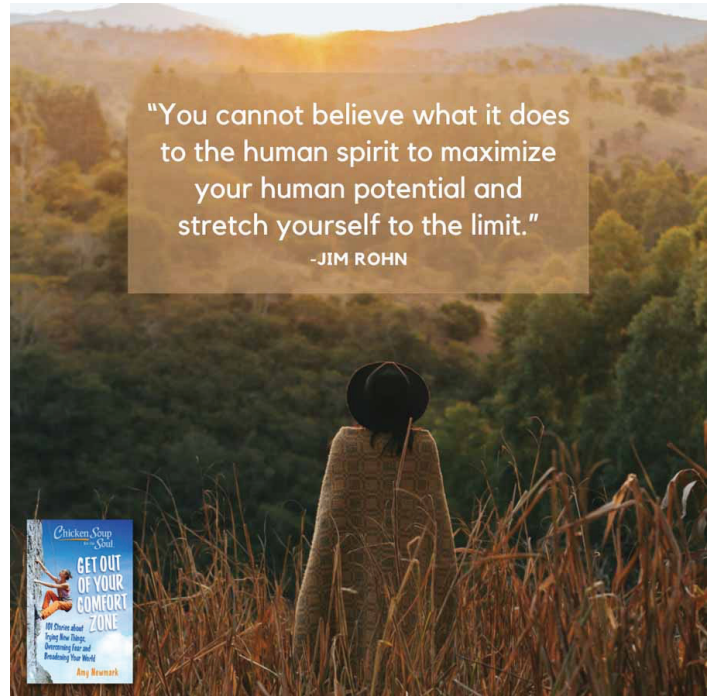
- United Methodist: PEO meeting (outside group), 7 p.m.
- Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.
- Senior Citizens meet at the Groton Community Center, 1 p.m.
- School Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
- Pantry Open 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Senior Menu: Breaded cod, parsley buttered potatoes, creamy coleslaw, rainbow sherbet, whole wheat bread.
- School Breakfast: Pancake on a stick.
- School Lunch: Tater tot hot dish.

Tuesday, Nov. 14

- United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.
- Emmanuel Lutheran: Church Council, 6 p.m.
- Thrift Store open 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.
- Food Pantry open 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- Senior Menu: Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes and gravy, buttered carrots, apricots, whole wheat bread.
- School Breakfast: Scones.
- School Lunch: Chicken legs, vegetable blend.

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

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



Wednesday, Nov. 15

- United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.; Groton Ad Council, 7 p.m.
- St. John's Lutheran: Bible Study, 2:45 p.m.; Confirmation, 3:45 p.m.
- Emmanuel Lutheran: Confirmation, 6 p.m.; League, 6:30 p.m.
- Groton CM&A: Kids' Club, Youth Group and Adult Bible Study begins at 7 pm
- Senior Menu: Teriyaki chicken, almond rice with peas, pineapple-strawberry ambrosia, cookie, dinner roll.
- School Breakfast: Cereal.
- School Lunch: Turkey dinner with all the bells and whistles.

Thursday, Nov. 16

- Emmanuel Lutheran: WELCA Praise and thanksgiving: Program: Nigeria. Hostess: Sarah., 1:30 p.m.
- Blood Drive at the Groton Community Center.
- State Volleyball Tournament at Rapid City
- Senior Menu: Roast beef, mashed potatoes and gravy, carrots, fruit cocktail, whole wheat bread.
- School Breakfast: Breakfast pizza.
- School Lunch: Pasta with meat sauce.

OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

© 2023 Groton Daily Independent

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 13, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 142 ~ 2 of 66

Friendly Fellows & Daisies 4-H Club

The Friendly Fellows and Daisies 4-H Club met November 12, 2023. The meeting was called to order by Logan Warrington. The American flag pledge was led by Walker Zoellner, and the 4-H flag pledge was led by Treyton Smith. The roll call topic for the meeting was Favorite Thanksgiving Food. There was no communications to report. The Treasurer's report was read by Hudson Eichler and approved. The Secretary's report was read by Hailey Pauli. Ashlyn Warrington made a motion to approve the Secretary's report and it was seconded by Arthur Eichler and the motion carried. Old business was talking about the Recognition Event and record books. Hudson Eichler made a motion to approve the old business, and Greyson Warrington seconded the motion, which carried. New Business was discussing the Newshound, photos for the Christmas slide show, Christmas party list, Roll Call topics, and reminding members and leaders to re-enroll. Parker Zoellner made a motion to approve the new business, Treyton Smith seconded the motion, and it was approved by the members. Other business that was discussed was gifts for the Christmas guests. Hudson made the motion to approve other business, Arthur Eichler seconded the motion, and it carried. Talks were given by Ashlyn Warrington on making blankets, Greyson Warrington gave a talk on facts on Pierre, and Logan Warrington gave a talk on his time of being a 4-H legislator. The members then made mug cakes for the Christmas gifts for the seniors who will be attending the December 4H club meeting/party. Lunch was served by Dylan and Sadie Frey.

Submitted by: Parker Zoellner, Club Reporter

The
Bulletin
by **Newsweek**

World in Brief

under siege.

Helicopter Crash: Five U.S. military service people died in a helicopter crash flying above the Mediterranean Sea during a training session, U.S. officials said Sunday. No 'hostile activity' is suspected.

End of 2024 Race: Sen. Tim Scott, the lone Black Republican in the presidential race, announced he is suspending his White House bid following months of burning campaign funds and struggling in the polls.

Bishop Backlash: Pope Francis received backlash for removing Texas Bishop Joseph Strickland—a vocal critic of Francis' efforts to make the church more LGBTQ+ friendly. Strickland responded to the decision as tens of thousands signed a petition backing the conservative bishop.

Xi in California: President Biden and China's President Xi Jinping are scheduled to meet in California on Wednesday as the countries aim to stabilize relations. Biden wants to re-establish "military-to-military ties," National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan said.

Cabinet Reshuffle: U.K. Home Secretary Suella Braverman has been fired by Prime Minister Rishi Sunak following a series of inflammatory comments over the policing of pro-Palestine protests in London.

Anti-Semitism March: More than 180,000 people, including senior politicians, took to the streets in France to protest antisemitism amid a surge in anti-Semitism and anti-Jewish rhetoric amid the Israel-Hamas conflict.

War in Ukraine: Moscow's troops have retreated from a key position in the partially occupied southern Kherson region, days after Ukrainian forces launched a missile attack on the headquarters of a Russian military group.

Government Shutdown: House Speaker Mike Johnson's proposal to help avoid a government shutdown has sparked a backlash from MAGA Republicans. The stopgap bill would extend funding for some agencies and programs until January 19 and fund others until February 2.

War in Gaza: Health officials in Gaza say Israel has laid siege to the Al-Shifa hospital, the region's largest, making it a deathtrap for the thousands of people inside. The World Health Organization said the facility "is not functioning as a hospital anymore." Israel has denied the hospital was

GHS Interns Series

Wienk interns at Groton Veterinary Clinic

by Dorene Nelson

Ava Wienk, a senior at Groton Area High School, is interning at the Groton Veterinary Clinic. "I like to work with animals and to work with those who help them," Wienk explained.

"I belong to FCCLA and 4-H," she listed. "I also participate in dance and FFA. Next year I plan to attend Lake Area Technical College in Watertown and become a vet tech."

"I like to be around animals and find it very interesting to watch the veterinarians as they work with and help many different kinds of animals," Wienk stated. "This hands-on work has helped me to decide on what I want to do after I graduate from high school."

"A lot of different kinds of animals are treated here, and some aren't very happy to be here!" she smiled. "I have found that memorizing the various instruments used in different procedures to be the hardest part of this job. There are also lots of different animals and terms that have to be learned."

"I have learned how carefully instruments must be cleaned in between patients," Wienk explained. "The best part of this job is when I get to shadow the vets as they do many different things such as x-ray the animals, use ultrasound to locate each one's issue, and watch surgery."

Ava is the daughter of Brent and Lisa Wienk.



Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 13, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 142 ~ 4 of 66



ALL OVER ROOFING

RAISING THE ROOFING STANDARDS,
ALL OVER YOUR TOWN!
FREE HAIL STORM ESTIMATES!

605.759.0000
1205 6TH AVE SW SUITE 2, ABERDEEN, SD 57401



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. The Groton Chamber voted to gift Snow Queen \$100 in Chamber Bucks for the winner of the Mystery Frosty competition.



2023 Frosty Clues

I....

13.) Wear glasses/contacts

The Life of Douglas Ehrenberg



Memorial Services for Douglas Ehrenberg, 81 will be held 10 a.m., Saturday, November 25, 2023 at St. John's Lutheran Church, Groton. Rev. Jeremy Yeadon will officiate. Inurnment with military honors will be at Sunset Memorial Gardens, Aberdeen. Services will be broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM and will also be broadcast on GDIRADIO at 89.3 FM, available within 1 mile of Groton.

Doug passed away November 4, 2023 at Hospice of the Valley in Glendale, Arizona surrounded by family.

Douglas Gene was born in Webster, SD on June 3, 1942 to George Fredrick and Catherine Roselie (Byrne) Ehrenberg. He attended school in Andover, graduating from Andover High School in 1960. In September of 1964, Doug enlisted in the US Army and served until his honorable discharge in June of 1966. Doug returned to South Dakota where he was employed at Valley Farmers Elevator, Harry Implement, Aberdeen Equipment and finally Farmers Insurance until retirement.

On November 14th 1970, he was united in marriage with Arlys Ann Johnson and together they made their home in Groton.

Doug was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church where he served as an elder for many years. He was also a member of the Groton American Legion Post #39.

He was famous for the best batch of baked beans you'll ever eat. He enjoyed watching the Twins and Vikings even when the games didn't go well. Besides watching sports, Doug could always tell you what the weather was since he was an avid weather channel viewer. Doug was also known for telling jokes and stories. Family was very important to Doug and he enjoyed attending all of their activities. He was so proud of all of them.

Celebrating his life are his children, Doug W Ehrenberg, Jr. , Peoria, AZ; Brian (Kelly) Ehrenberg, Kansas City, MO; step-children, Val (David) McGannon, Groton, SD; Rick (Sherry) Koehler, Groton, SD; Kris (David) Gilmore, Peoria, AZ; grandchildren, Todd (Lisa Adler) McGannon, Becky McGannon, Travis McGannon, Ryan (Mara) Koehler, Ashleigh Koehler, Nikki (Max) Smith, Katie Koehler, Paige Gilmore, Connor Gilmore, Lilah Ehrenberg; twelve great grandchildren; sisters, Fran Newman, Aberdeen, and Georgia Dohman, Aberdeen, sister-in-law Diana Ehrenberg, Rapid City as well as many nieces and nephews.

Preceding him in death were his parents, wife, brother, William Ehrenberg and sister, Margaret Stewart. Honorary Urn Bearers are his grandchildren.

Condolences can be directed to Rick Koehler, PO 636, Groton, SD 57745.

Service Notice: Alan Strom

Services for Alan Strom, 68, of Groton will be 11:00 a.m., Thursday, November 16th at the United Methodist Church, Groton. Rev. Rob Moorlach will officiate. Burial will follow in Union Cemetery under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

Visitation will be held at the church on Wednesday from 5-7 p.m. with a prayer service at 7:00 p.m.

Alan passed away November 11, 2023 at Avera St. Lukes Hospital, Aberdeen.

Both the prayer service and the funeral service will be broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM and will also be broadcast on GDIRADIO at 89.3 FM, available within 1 mile of Groton.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 13, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 142 ~ 6 of 66

Weekly Vikings Recap - Vikings vs. Saints

By Jack & Duane Kolsrud

The Minnesota Vikings came into their Week 10 matchup against the New Orleans Saints as the hottest team in the NFC with a four-game winning record. Despite injuries to nearly every position on offense, this Vikings team has found a new sense of momentum with the arrival of quarterback Josh Dobbs. For Dobbs, Sunday was his first opportunity to play at home in front of the Vikings fans, and he did not disappoint.

The first half was likely the best half of football the Vikings had played all season. Not only did the team score a season-high 24 points in the first two quarters, but they held the Saints to only 3 points. Like last week, the story for the Vikings was Josh Dobbs' dual-threat performance. For a fanbase who has gotten accustomed to having a lack of mobility at the quarterback position over the past six years with Kirk Cousins, the athleticism and creativity by Dobbs when both in and outside the pocket, has brought a new level of excitement to the Vikings offense. What is most impressive about Dobbs' dual-threat ability is that he never seems to give up on the pass. Often, Dobbs will get outside the pocket only to continue to look down the field, which tends to freeze opposing defenders into having to choose whether to go after Dobbs for a sack or stay in coverage.

The other great performance for the Vikings' offense was TJ Hockenson. Hockenson, who came into the game questionable to play with a rib injury, fought through intense pain for an impressive 11 catches for 134 yards receiving. It was evident in the first half that Dobbs gained immense confidence in throwing to Hockenson, as the tight end caught 10 passes for 128 yards. The problem for Hockenson was that he had to deal with getting hit after every catch. By the end of the first half, you could see the pain on Hockenson's face every time he got up from getting tackled. Impressively, the pain did not slow Hockenson down as he caught a 28-yard touchdown down the middle from Dobbs at the end of the first half to give the Vikings a 24-3 lead over the Saints.

The Saints, who came into Sunday's game in first place in the lowly NFC South, did not go away easily in the second half despite the 21-point deficit. After Derek Carr went out of the game after a big hit from Danielle Hunter, the former first overall pick, Jameis Winston, came in and immediately led the Saints down for their first touchdown of the game - thanks to an amazing catch by Chris Olave over Byron Murphy in the endzone. After the Vikings missed a field goal, the Saints again drove down the field for another touchdown that involved Byron Murphy getting mossed by a Saints' wide receiver, this time A.T. Perry. Thanks to their second consecutive successfully converted two-point conversion, the Vikings found themselves with only a 27-19 lead.

Despite the Vikings intercepting Winston two times in the fourth quarter, the Vikings offense completely stalled in the second half and gave the Saints a chance to complete one Hail Mary pass to tie the game. However, the Saints could not complete their third crazy touchdown catch of the game and the Vikings came away with their fifth straight victory in a row.

Vikings 27 - Saints 19

The Vikings will now head to Denver to face the lowly Denver Broncos on Sunday night. This will be the Vikings' last road game before their bye week in Week 13. The question for the Vikings will be whether Justin Jefferson will play next week. Some say that if the weather is cold in Denver, the Vikings might wait another week to bring back Jefferson as the cold weather might aggravate his hamstring injury.

With the Vikings now at 6-4, the team firmly sits in a position to compete for the NFC North title against the Detroit Lions. That is something I did not think would be said given the Vikings were 1-4 just five weeks ago.

"Stay Safe Out There"

I learned a lot of statistics back in medical school, many of which are outdated and long since forgotten. A few still haunt me, though. One example: over 50% of seniors who suffered a broken hip would be in a nursing home, or in their grave, within a year.

The odds are somewhat better today, but a hip fracture is still a very serious event, especially if your health, or your independence, is already compromised. We may be better at helping people recover, but the best strategy is not break that hip in the first place.

Another lesson that has stayed with me from those days involves a gentleman who had spent his weekend baling hay despite his terrible back pain. He was able to do so with the assistance of handfuls of Tylenol, and a beer or two at the end of each long hot day. Little did he realize he was poisoning himself with all that acetaminophen. By Wednesday, he was on a ventilator in our ICU, in need of a new liver. His story is still common; acetaminophen toxicity is the most common cause for liver transplantation in the United States, and the second most common cause world wide. At appropriate doses, Tylenol is extremely safe. It's just really easy to exceed those doses if you aren't vigilant.

I don't think any American makes it into adulthood without a story or two about a motor vehicle accident involving someone they knew. After all, between 2 and 3 million of our countrymen are injured on our roads each year. About 40,000 of us die, and many others find their lives permanently changed by the injuries they sustain. Nearly 200 Americans die every day from traumatic brain injuries, but even those who survive the initial event face a grim future. If their injury is severe enough to require an inpatient rehabilitation stay, an additional 1 in 5 people die within the next 5 years. Nearly 60% of the others face at least moderate disability.

In 2019, unintentional injuries were the leading cause of death for Americans between the ages of 1 and 44, and the 3rd leading cause overall. Poisoning, motor vehicle accidents, and falls account for the vast majority of those deaths, with all other causes, including suffocation, drowning, and fire making up about 15%.

I think I'll keep nagging people about getting their calcium, about wearing their seatbelts and helmets, and about locking up their firearms. In fact, I'm going to nag YOU right now: go check the batteries in your smoke detectors. Put your phone where it can't tempt you when you get behind the wheel. Slow down a little. Do your part to protect yourself, your family, and your neighbors.

Let's keep ourselves, and each other, safe out there, people.

Debra Johnson, M.D. is part of The Prairie Doc® team of physicians and currently practices family medicine in Brookings, South Dakota. Follow The Prairie Doc® at www.prairiedoc.org and on Facebook featuring On Call with the Prairie Doc® a medical Q&A show providing health information based on science, built on trust for 22 Seasons, on SDPB and streaming live on Facebook most Thursdays at 7 p.m. central.



Debra Johnston, MD

Broton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 13, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 142 ~ 8 of 66

BROWN COUNTY
BROWN COUNTY COMMISSION AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING TUESDAY

November 14, 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. First Reading of Ordinance #260 - Rezone
5. Rachel Kippley – Fair/Fairgrounds/Parks Manager
 - a. Discuss Rental Rates
 - b. Fair Contract
 - i. Lumber Jack Event
 - ii. Electrical Services
 - c. Discuss RFP for Expo Roof
6. Samantha Olson – SDFU Education Specialist
 - a. Potential Agricultural Learning Center at the Brown County Fairgrounds
7. Chris Hemen – Weed & Pest Supervisor
 - a. Approval for FY2025 Weed & Pest Grant
8. Consent Calendar
 - a. Approval of General Meeting Minutes of November 7, 2023
 - b. Claims
 - c. HR Report
 - d. Claim Assignments
 - e. Brown County Race-Track Renewal for 2024 Season
 - f. Travel Requests
9. Other Business
10. Executive Session (if requested per SDCL 1-25-2)
11. 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>

11AM - Department Head Meeting



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

Foster families get paid, but not 'kinship' relatives caring for Native children

BY: MAKENZIE HUBER AND ANNIE TODD - NOVEMBER 12, 2023 6:00 AM

Eighteen-month-old Gabriel slowly fell asleep in his grandmother's arms at the dinner table.

It was mid-morning, and his two siblings were playing quietly with their uncle downstairs. Gabriel didn't need his crib, or a security blanket or sound machine lulling him to sleep. He just needed his grandmother's arms — a safe space. His home.

Gabriel is one of 13 grandchildren living in Jewel Bruner's three-bedroom, brown clapboard house in Eagle Butte on the Cheyenne River Reservation. Eight of those children live permanently with Bruner since she has tribally recognized custody of them. Her daughter, who struggles with a meth addiction, asked her mother to care for the children.

"I've been more of a mother to them than a grandmother," the 55-year-old said.

Bruner's house is crowded, and she struggles to find enough food or supplies for the children at times. But it's a house filled with love.

She will do everything in her power to keep her grandchildren out of foster care, she said, and to keep her family from breaking apart like it was broken decades before when she and her siblings were separated by the foster system.

Aside from Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program payments and emergency food assistance through her tribe, Bruner doesn't receive governmental support payments. Nor does she receive counseling or non-financial support from the state or tribe to relieve the burden of eight children permanently in her care.

Bruner's grandchildren were some of the 345 Native American children in fiscal year 2023 in kinship placements (with a family member who cares for the child instead of being placed into foster programs), according to the state Department of Social Services.

A quarter of all foster children in 2021 were placed in kinship care, with Native American children accounting for 53% of the kinship placements, according to the National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect.

Types of foster placement in South Dakota

Kinship: A family member temporarily cares for the child instead of being placed into foster programs.

Fictive Kinship: A person not related by birth, adoption or marriage temporarily cares for the child instead of being placed into foster programs. This includes a neighbor, family friend, godparent or relative made through a traditional Native American Hunka ceremony.

Emergency: A child is placed in a foster home for a short period of time, typically ranging from a day up to weeks.

Foster family: Non-related adults provide a temporary shelter for a child by offering their own home and serving in a temporary parental role. Foster families can care for the same child for a few months or years, depending on the reunification process.

Group and residential care: A residential living facility that serves foster children with additional support. Staff are trained to work with children and youth in a highly structured environment. Examples include the Children's Home Society and McCrossan Boys Ranch in Sioux Falls.

Foster villages: Trained staff act as foster parents for children in a group of homes operated by a non-profit or tribal entity. Specifically in South Dakota, these villages exist on the Cheyenne River and Crow Creek reservations.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 13, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 142 ~ 10 of 66

Bruner and other kinship families say the lack of support is a massive barrier preventing others from accepting a kinship placement. Foster families also say they don't have the state support needed to properly care for children in the system, leading to burnout and poor retention rates among foster homes.

An Argus Leader/South Dakota Searchlight investigation examined the issues Native families and children face inside South Dakota's child welfare system. Native American children accounted for nearly 74% of the foster care system at the end of fiscal year 2023 — despite accounting for only 13% of the state's overall child population.

Many of those children are placed in non-Native foster homes with family and cultural dynamics different than theirs and potentially hundreds of miles away from their home, since 11% of licensed foster families in South Dakota are Native American.

Kinship placements are the priority placement for all children who are removed from their families, said state DSS Secretary Matt Althoff. Under the federal Indian Child Welfare Act, Native American children, when removed by child welfare services, are to be placed first with relatives and if that is not possible, they should be placed into Native American foster homes.

But oftentimes, Althoff said, family members of Native American children aren't eligible because their house doesn't fit specific criteria, or they may fail the background check. Sometimes relatives can't be found. Those children are then placed in foster homes across the state.

Gov. Kristi Noem's administration has made headway to recruit more foster families through the Stronger Families program, launched in 2021. The Stronger Families website identifies Native American foster families as one of the greatest needs for foster parent recruitment. The need is also advertised at events and on social media.

"There's got to be a point where we start communication of what's best for these children," Noem said. "Our desire is to have these children with family close to home, in a home that mirrors their culture and upbringing as well. We just need it to be a safe environment."

But the state can do much more to incentivize Native American kinship and foster family enlistment and retention, families say.

Kinship families do not receive any financial support for placements

Historically, kinship care is a cultural norm and a traditional family system in Native American communities with grandparents, aunts, uncles and other extended family members serving as caregivers for brief or extended periods of time when biological parents can't provide care.

Studies have found that kinship care provides benefits to children, such as fewer behavioral problems, fewer mental health disorders, and less placement disruption than in the traditional foster care system. Those children are also more likely to be employed or enrolled in formal education at age 21 and less likely to require public assistance, be homeless or be incarcerated compared to youth placed in non-kin foster care.

Natasha Eagle Star and her wife maintain one of the 98 licensed Native American foster homes in the state. Based in Winner, the two became state-licensed foster parents because they wanted children and knew Natasha had family members in the system.

"When we saw that, we knew there was a need right away," she said.

The couple have adopted four of the children and have guardianship over two other children they've cared for in the last seven years — three of the four adopted children had family ties to them. They now only accept emergency foster placements.

Eagle Star explained that having a familial connection to her children is culturally important. Before the adoption process started, she spoke with the children's direct family to ensure adoption was best for them.

"That's important for the kids to understand who they are, where they came from," she said. "We make sure that those families are involved. They either talk to the children still or they get updates from my wife."

Kinship families in South Dakota do not get a Title IV-E payment like foster families do. The federal program is meant to financially support foster care and out-of-home placement for children. Nor does the state offer financial support for kinship families, Althoff confirmed.

"The problem with those placements is they're not fully eligible, meaning the family can't get foster care

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 13, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 142 ~ 11 of 66

money," said BJ Jones, director of the Tribal Judicial Institute at the University of North Dakota. "And ICWA actually says that when a tribe licenses a home, the state has to honor that."

Comparatively, a foster family is paid between \$670 and \$1,300 a month to cover a child's expenses — clothing, food, medical needs or even a new bed for them to sleep in when they first move in — depending on their age. Kinship families get nothing.

The Eagle Stars are state licensed foster parents, but they never received financial support for the children they took on as kinship placements — even though the children were already in the foster care system, and their previous placements received a monthly stipend. They did however, receive foster stipends for non-relative foster placements that stayed with them.

If the kinship member watches the child for a set period of time and becomes the child's guardian, kinship families are eligible for federal Kinship Guardian Assistance Program funding. On average, 29 South Dakota children received Kin-GAP funds each month in 2021, collecting \$80,385 for the year.

In Bruner's household, she participates in SNAP, which has helped her buy food, and she also receives social security benefits. She has no other income since she's retired while her co-parent has a part-time job.

Some other states, including Wisconsin and Arizona, offer financial assistance for kinship families without requiring them to become licensed foster families. But it's still less than what foster families receive.

The state could implement its own kinship payment rates to support families, Gov. Noem told South Dakota Searchlight and the Argus Leader, but that would be a discussion for state lawmakers to have during the legislative session, which starts in January.

Foster parent burnout and turnover lead to farther displacement for children

Holly Christensen, executive director of the Foster Network in Sioux Falls, has found state support for foster families in South Dakota lacking — whether that be financial support, accessing supplies or getting foster and kinship families connected to counseling services. She's not the only one — both Eagle Star and Bruner echoed the sentiment.

Support for foster families looks different based on where they are in the state. The same things that are speedily reimbursed by the local DSS office in Sioux Falls may not be reimbursed by the Rapid City office, Christensen said. It depends on who is working in the office, the amount of staff turnover and what the process is like there.

"As a foster parent, I know a lot of others who won't take kids from Rapid City anymore," Christensen said.

Christensen was never reimbursed for \$500 in medical expenses her adopted twin sons needed while she was fostering them during the COVID pandemic. The twins were originally from the Rapid City area and are Native American, though Christensen, who is non-Native, was never able to confirm if they're enrolled members of the Rosebud or Oglala Sioux Tribes.

That lack of support creates an imbalance of foster families across South Dakota, she said.

Over one-third of all foster kids in the state, 514 children, come from Pennington County. Yet only 103 foster families are licensed in the county, according to August 2023 statistics from South Dakota Kids Belong. Two other regions in the state, which include Standing Rock, Cheyenne River, Rosebud, Lower Brule and Crow Creek reservations, have more foster children than they do licensed foster families — even if each household took in two foster children each.

That means a significant number of children are shipped hundreds of miles across the state — even so far as from Rapid City to Sioux Falls.

The southeast region of the state, which includes Sioux Falls, accounts for 53% of the state's foster homes.

"Why are we sending so many kids to Sioux Falls instead of advocating in Rapid City? Because there is a need," Christensen said. "It's obvious the kids are not being placed in or near their own communities."

That same lack of support is why Christensen says South Dakota has low foster parent retention rates. It's more difficult for kinship families, she added, because they are emotionally connected to the child's parents and don't have the same resources.

"There's no support from the system," she said, adding that it can be difficult for kinship families to find

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 13, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 142 ~ 12 of 66

resources or nonprofits without the same help foster parents get from the state.

The state recently created a kinship navigator role and is hiring for the position, which will help kinship families find resource options.

Difficulties recruiting foster families: Mistrust in the system

Christian Blackbird is the ICWA director for the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe in central South Dakota. He works with the state to coordinate placements for children who are tribal citizens and ensure ICWA guidelines are followed.

He's seen a disconnect between efforts at the tribal and state level to find kinship placements.

"I've been to a couple of court hearings where the caseworkers would tell us that they exhausted all their efforts finding relatives," he said. "Then I come to find out that some of the relatives weren't even being notified, like distant relatives or aunts or uncles, so we ended up having to intervene and send out letters saying we did find relatives of the children."

Grandparents are often left out of the foster care system and from decisions regarding child placements, said Madonna Thunder Hawk, a Lakota activist and member of the Cheyenne River grandmothers group. Grandparents aren't usually selected as kinship placements – oftentimes without an explanation from authorities, she said – and state social workers prefer to interact with the child's parents. For example, foster parents may not normally contact family beyond parents.

Jones, who served as a South Dakota lawyer and tribal judge before working at UND's Tribal Judicial Institute, said he was usually able to find a family member to care for the child.

"But that didn't necessarily mean the state would license a family member," he added.

In South Dakota, foster families must be licensed through the state unless they are located on a reservation. Families living on a reservation can become tribally licensed foster families. But for enrolled tribal members who want to be foster parents and who live off reservation land, they must register with the state to receive placements.

A 2004 state ICWA commission determined allowing tribes to license homes on and off reservations would lower the number of children in foster care.

Both tribes and the state are working in the best interest of the children, said Jessica Morson, the South Dakota ICWA Coalition director and ICWA director for the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe.

"We do the same work, we have the same education, but yet you're still going to question where I'm coming from in regards to keeping this child safe, saying this is a safe family," she said. "The same background checks are run."

The federal Native American Children's Safety Act, which was passed in 2016, imposes "more onerous" requirements on tribes when licensing foster homes in the state, Jones said — meaning the standards should be just as good, if not better, than the state.

Native kinship and foster family recruitment remains one of the "bigger problems" in South Dakota, Jones said.

"They can't find enough homes to place these kids in," he said.

Some Indigenous families are hesitant to let the state tour their houses, Eagle Star said, afraid the state will see how they live and take their own children — warranted or not. Many households on the Rosebud Reservation have between eight and 13 family members living together, Eagle Star said.

"I can understand from the tribal side why someone wouldn't want to be a state foster parent," said Eagle Star, the state-licensed foster parent. "No one wants DSS in your house every month. And it's a lot of work to have non-Natives come into your home to judge and inspect it. A non-Native person may not understand the Native way of thinking or life. To have them come into your home, your sacred space where you raise your children and feel most comfortable, is hard."

What's being done about it

Eagle Star and Christensen are working in their networks to recruit and support foster families across South Dakota. The South Dakota ICWA Coalition and members of the state DSS participated in a joint foster parent recruitment training in Rapid City in September.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 13, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 142 ~ 13 of 66

The state is also taking an active effort through Noem's Stronger Families program. The program was successful in its first year of implementation, recruiting 302 new foster families in fiscal year 2022 – up 85% from the year before.

"It's been challenging at times to continue to keep that type of momentum, but the awareness factor, I think, is important," Noem said.

The growth in Native American foster families, however, increased from 90 in fiscal year 2020 to 98 in fiscal year 2022 — though Noem did say that the increase in Native foster homes during her tenure has been more pronounced than years prior. A 2013 report found there were 65 licensed Native American foster homes in July 2011.

"Our focus has dramatically improved the situation," Noem said.

But a state constantly recruiting foster families may be a sign there's a problem within the child welfare system, said David Simmons, the director of government affairs and advocacy for the National Indian Child Welfare Association.

"We know there are families and relatives who want to help, but if you're not using those resources and tools you're just going to be stuck," Simmons said. "There's no amount of money, there's no amount of additional commitment to removing children that's ever going to change or fix the child welfare system."

'When you go through that you become more protective'

Looking down at Gabriel, whose slow puffs of breath caress Bruner's cheek, the grandmother was transported back 40 years, to a memory of holding her younger brother in the same way.

They were in a caseworker's office, where she and her eight siblings were separated into foster homes across the state.

Bruner was in and out of foster care in the 1970s and '80s due to her mother's alcoholism. When her mother's parental rights were terminated, Bruner was shipped to Oregon to live with her uncle while her other siblings were split between South Dakota and Illinois. And while Bruner and some of her siblings returned to Eagle Butte, the physical distance from their childhood fractured their emotional connections.

"When you go through that," she said, her voice thick with tears, "you become more protective. I can say it does eat at you, because even though it was years ago, it still chokes me up today when I think about my brothers hanging on to me, crying and not wanting to go with the caseworker."

And while Bruner doesn't want her eight grandchildren to go through what she did, she's struggling without the support she needs.

She knows the children are cared for and loved, and that she'll support them through whatever may come their way.

But her daughter is pregnant with her ninth child, still struggling with a meth addiction and going in and out of jail. With so many lives depending on her already, Bruner is unsure if she'll take the newborn. But if it comes down to it, Bruner said she'll do it to keep from losing the baby to the foster care system.

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

Annie Todd covers state politics for the Argus Leader in Sioux Falls. She was born and raised in Colorado and graduated from the University of Wyoming.

EARTHTALK ™

Dear EarthTalk: What kinds of pollution do automobile tires cause? -- B.L., San Francisco, CA

Tire wear pollution was in the news recently after a group of Native American tribes in the Pacific Northwest asked the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to investigate a possible link between tire pollution and declining populations of wild coho salmon there. The tribes blame the chemical 6PPD, which has been used in motor vehicle tires for over six decades to make them more durable. It is also widely used in other rubber products such as footwear, synthetic turf and playgrounds. While it might make rubber stronger, 6PPD can react with ozone pollution in the air to form a byproduct called 6PPD-quinone. Stormwater runoff containing 6PPD-quinone inevitably runs off into streams and other water bodies during rain, when aquatic organisms are exposed to it. Concentrations of 6PPD-quinone in storm water in the Pacific Northwest were found to be lethal to coho salmon after only a few hours of exposure.

6PPD isn't the only bad stuff coming off tires. Another is microplastics, also used to strengthen the rubber in tires but linked to a wide range of toxic effects that can make their way up the food chain to our dinner plates. Another major consequence of tire wear and tear is the release of airborne pollutants. When tires roll over roads, they generate friction, which leads to the production of tiny particles and chemical compounds that can become airborne. These pollutants can include fine particulate matter (PM2.5), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs).

Particulate matter from tire wear is an especially concerning pollutant because it can be inhaled by humans and animals, causing respiratory problems and other issues. Fine particulate matter can also contribute to the formation of smog and haze, reducing air quality in urban areas. VOCs and PAHs emitted from tire wear can react with other pollutants in the atmosphere to create ground-level ozone, a key component of smog. Ground-level ozone is harmful to human health and can cause respiratory issues, especially in vulnerable populations, such as children and the elderly.

Tire wear and tear also pollutes water, and not only in salmon habitat. When it rains, the water washes tire particles into stormwater drains and eventually into rivers, lakes, and oceans. The runoff can contain not only microplastics but also a variety of chemicals used in tire manufacturing and those generated during tire wear. These chemicals may include heavy metals, such as zinc and cadmium, which can have toxic effects on aquatic life and disrupt ecosystems. Furthermore, the leaching of chemicals from tires into water bodies can lead to long-term contamination of aquatic environments.

Tiremakers are working on more durable and eco-friendly tire materials that emit fewer pollutants. To wit, low rolling resistance tires can help improve fuel efficiency and reduce both tire wear and associated pollution. Meanwhile, we can all help by getting maintaining our vehicles regularly and making sure the tires are inflated to recommended levels. Getting out of our cars altogether and walking, biking and taking public transit are also great ways to reduce reliance on cars and all the environmental evils they cause.

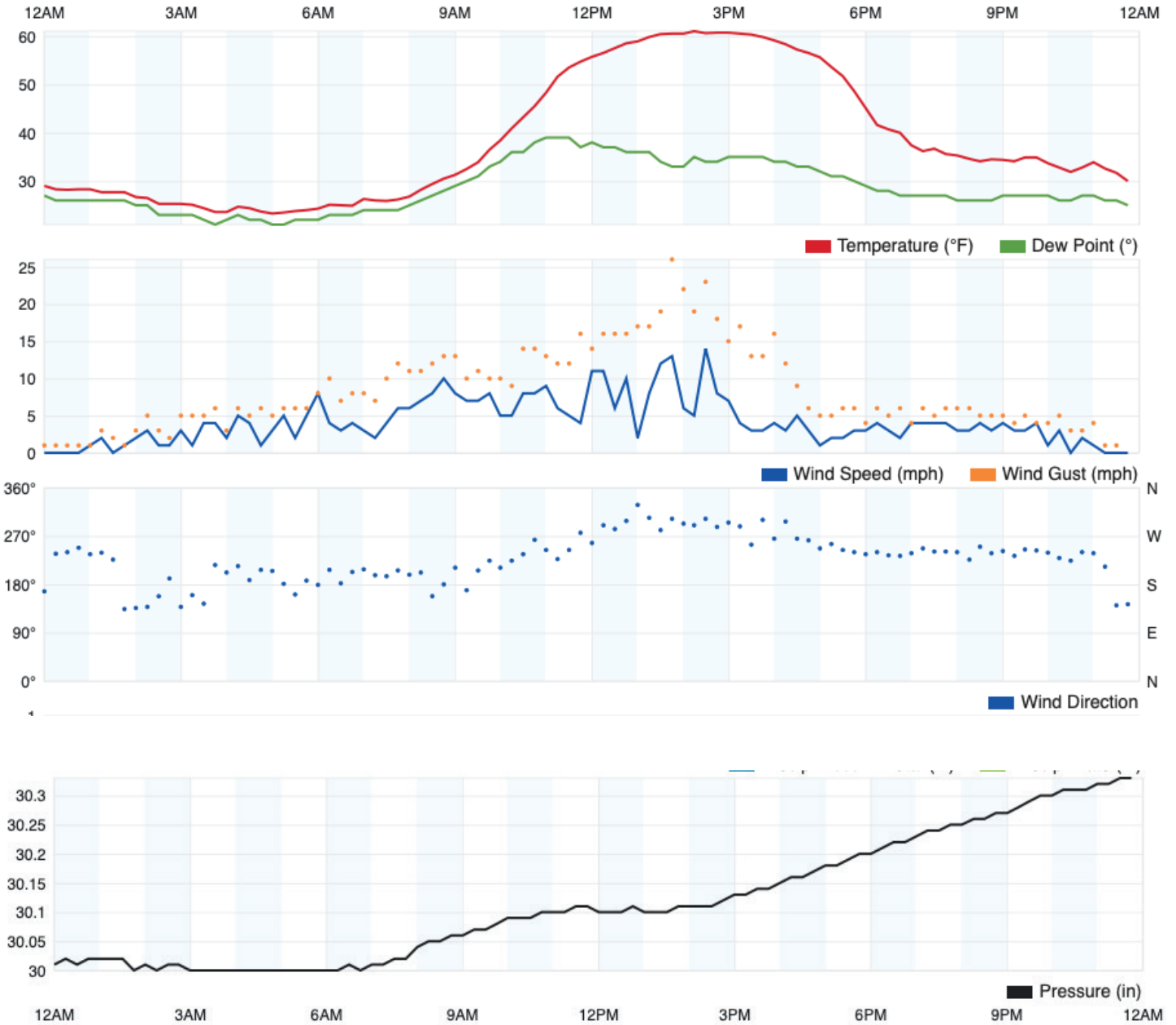


Microplastics, 6PPD and particulate matter are a few of the nasties that come off your tires as you roll merrily down the road...

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 13, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 142 ~ 15 of 66

Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



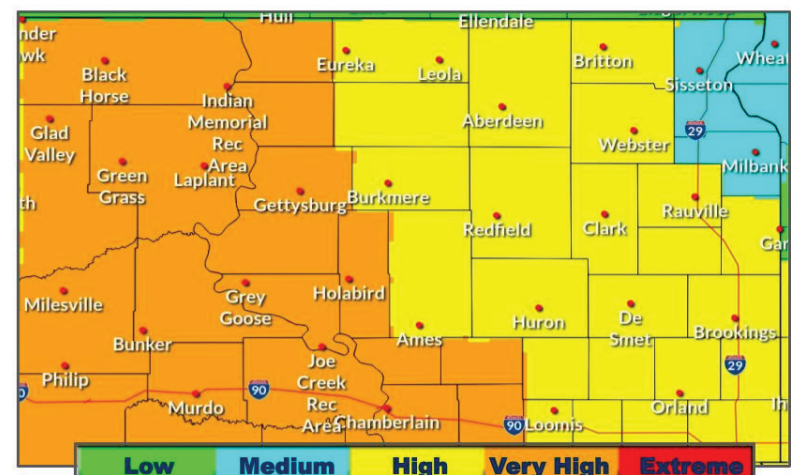
Broton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 13, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 142 ~ 16 of 66

Mon Nov 13	Tue Nov 14	Wed Nov 15	Thu Nov 16	Fri Nov 17	Sat Nov 18	Sun Nov 19
62°F	62°F	57°F	56°F	52°F	54°F	53°F
43°F	31°F	43°F	28°F	30°F	36°F	36°F
SSE	S	ENE	SSW	SW	W	SE
24 MPH	18 MPH	10 MPH	19 MPH	16 MPH	9 MPH	13 MPH
						20%

Today: Mild With South Winds November 13, 2023 4:30 AM

- ### Key Messages
- Highs: Upper 50s to Mid 60s (15 to 25 degrees above average)
 - South Winds 25 to 40 mph
 - High to Very High Fire Danger ⬇



Forecast Wind Gusts

	Mon					Tue						
	9am	12pm	3pm	6pm	9pm	12am	3am	6am	9am	12pm	3pm	6pm
Aberdeen	14	25	33	33	35	31	23	21	20	14	13	10
Britton	10	23	29	35	37	37	31	31	30	24	16	10
Brookings	12	21	24	32	37	37	37	37	41	41	36	25
Chamberlain	22	32	31	32	32	31	20	23	24	23	20	10
Clark	16	25	30	33	37	36	31	33	33	26	21	13
Eagle Butte	30	35	33	22	15	13	9	10	15	17	17	10
Ellendale	14	24	30	28	30	29	21	17	16	13	12	12
Eureka	29	38	39	28	24	18	13	9	10	13	13	12
Gettysburg	29	36	39	32	31	21	15	14	13	14	13	10
Huron	20	29	32	36	36	33	32	30	31	29	23	14
Kennebec	24	35	36	29	31	31	21	24	20	20	17	12
McIntosh	37	40	36	18	14	14	13	10	16	21	18	10
Milbank	7	15	18	21	29	30	29	33	32	30	22	12
Miller	21	30	35	33	36	31	28	26	25	18	14	10
Mobridge	26	31	32	23	21	12	7	7	10	15	15	12
Murdo	30	37	37	32	33	29	22	21	21	21	18	10
Pierre	22	30	31	29	22	15	10	9	13	14	14	10
Redfield	17	28	33	31	31	25	21	21	20	17	14	10
Sisseton	10	17	22	28	37	38	37	37	32	26	18	14
Watertown	12	21	26	31	37	36	32	33	33	31	25	14
Webster	14	24	31	37	37	37	33	36	33	28	21	13
Wheaton	7	14	21	25	25	24	22	21	20	18	16	10

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

Warm, windy conditions are expected today, which will raise the fire danger into the high to very high category for much of South Dakota. Temperatures topping out in the upper 50s to mid 60s will be 15 to 25 degrees above normal. Mild temperatures will continue through Thursday as well.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 13, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 142 ~ 17 of 66

Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 61 °F at 2:17 PM

Low Temp: 23 °F at 4:54 AM

Wind: 28 mph at 1:36 PM

Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 9 hours, 39 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 71 in 2016

Record Low: -11 in 1919

Average High: 44

Average Low: 20

Average Precip in Nov.: 0.38

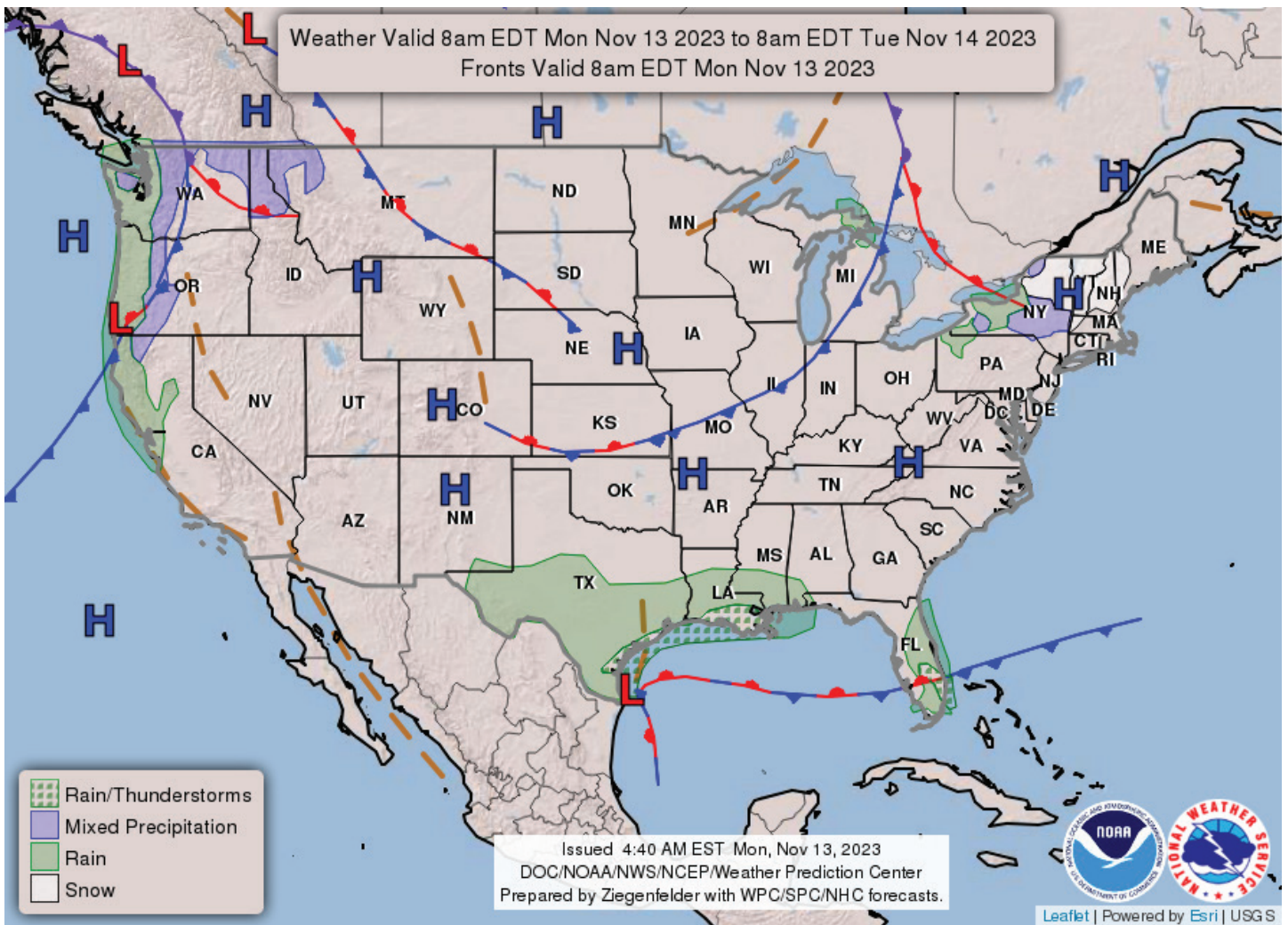
Precip to date in Nov.: 0.17

Average Precip to date: 20.85

Precip Year to Date: 23.15

Sunset Tonight: 5:06:23 PM

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:28:20 AM



Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 13, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 142 ~ 18 of 66

Today in Weather History

November 13, 1985: Snowfall of 4 to 8 inches spread from the southwest part of South Dakota on the morning of the 13th to the northeast part of the state by early morning on the 14th. Winds gusted to 35 mph in the western half of the state and produced considerable blowing and drifting snow, which significantly reduced visibilities. The snowfall caused many accidents, including a four-vehicle pileup that occurred three miles east of De Smet in Kingsbury County, during the afternoon of the 13th. Some snowfall amounts include; 7.0 inches in Britton; 5.5 inches in Timber Lake and 5.0 inches in Leola.

1833: In 1833, observers were familiar with the Leonid meteor shower, but the event that year was very intense and leads to the first formulation of a theory on the origin of meteors. By some estimates, the 1833 Leonid meteor shower had 240,000 meteors in a nine-hour period.

1933 - The first dust storm of the great dust bowl era of the 1930s occurred. The dust storm, which had spread from Montana to the Ohio Valley the day before, prevailed from Georgia to Maine resulting in a black rain over New York and a brown snow in Vermont. Parts of South Dakota, Minnesota and Iowa reported zero visibility on the 12th. On the 13th, dust reduced the visibility to half a mile in Tennessee. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1946: General Electric scientists produced snow in the Massachusetts Berkshires in the first modern-day cloud seeding experiment. Scientist Vincent Schaefer dropped six pounds of dry ice pellets into a cloud over Pittsfield, MA. The cloud seeding experiment produced snowfall, as a 4-mile long cloud was converted into snow flurries. The success of the experiment became the basis of many weather modification projects.

1953 - Strong southeasterly winds associated with a Pacific cold front reached 70 mph at Sacramento CA to equal their all-time record. The previous record had been established in a similar weather pattern on December 12th of the previous year. (The Weather Channel)

1981 - A powerful cyclone brought high winds to Washington State and Oregon. The cyclone, which formed about 1000 miles west of San Francisco, intensified rapidly as it approached the Oregon coast with the central pressure reaching 28.22 inches (956 millibars). A wind trace from the Whiskey Run Turbine Site, about 12 miles south of Coos Bay in Oregon, showed peak gusts to 97 mph fifty feet above ground level. The wind caused widespread damage in Washington and Oregon, with 12 deaths reported. As much as four feet of snow fell in the Sierra Nevada Range of northern California. (Storm Data)

1987 - A storm moving off the Pacific Ocean produced rain and gale force winds along the northern and central Pacific coast, and heavy snow in the Cascade Mountains. Cold weather prevailed in the southeastern U.S. Five cities reported record low temperatures for the date, including Asheville NC with a reading of 21 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Low pressure brought rain and snow and gusty winds to the northeastern U.S. A thunderstorm drenched Agawam MA with 1.25 inches of rain in fifteen minutes. Winds gusted to 58 mph at Nantucket MA. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Thirty-two cities in the central and eastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date as readings warmed into the 70s as far north as Michigan and Pennsylvania. Afternoon highs in the 80s were reported from the Southern Plains to the southern Atlantic coast. Columbia SC reported a record high of 86 degrees, and the high of 71 degrees at Flint MI was their warmest of record for so late in the season. (The National Weather Summary)

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 13, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 142 ~ 19 of 66

Daily Devotionals

Seeds of Hope

ONLY ONE WAY

Janie was having lunch with her friend Margie who had just started a new job. Anxiously, she asked, "How do you like your new boss?"

"Well, he's O.K.," said Margie. Then continued, "He's kind of bigoted, though."

"What do you mean, bigoted?" she wondered.

"Well," answered Margie, "he thinks that words can only be spelled one way."

Being bigoted is not always wrong. Sometimes it is necessary and important, even critical. Though we often think a bigoted person is unreasonable and unwholesome, there are times when it is essential to be fanatical about some things in life.

One of those "things" is the "way to the Father." Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me!"

Peter was also bigoted when he said, "There is salvation in no one else! There is no other name in all of heaven for people to call on to save them."

There are those whom we encounter every day that refuse to accept the fact that there is only one Name and one Person who can be called upon for salvation. This one way to eternal life did not come from a church or the disciples but from Jesus Himself.

God designated His Jesus – His One and only Son - to be the Savior of the world. There is no one else or any other way. Accept that "Way" today!

Prayer: Lord, help us to realize how important it is to fully accept, believe, and declare that You alone are the only way to God and eternal life. May we never waver. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me." John 14:1-6



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

Monday, Nov. 13, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 142 ~ 20 of 66

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

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 13, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 142 ~ 21 of 66

The Groton Independent Printed & Mailed Weekly Edition

Subscription Form

All prices listed include 6.5% Sales Tax

- Black & White \$48.99/year
- Colored \$79.88/year
- Colored \$42.60/6 months
- E-Weekly* \$31.95/year

* The E-Weekly is a PDF file emailed to you each week. It does not grant you access to the GDI/Video Archives.

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City _____

State, Zip Code _____

E-mail _____

Phone Number _____

Mail Completed Form to:

Groton Independent

P.O. Box 34

Groton, SD 57445-0034

or scan and email to paperpaul@grotonsd.net

Groton Daily Independent

www.397news.com

Subscription Form

This option will grant you access to the GDI/Video Archives.

- 1 Month \$15.98
- 3 Months..... \$26.63
- 6 Months..... \$31.95
- 9 Months..... \$42.60
- 12 Months..... \$53.25

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City _____

State, Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____

The following will be used for your log-in information.

E-mail _____

Password _____

Pay with Paypal. Type the following into your browser window:

paypal.me/paperpaul



Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 13, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 142 ~ 22 of 66



WINNING NUMBERS

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS: 11.10.23

13 33 59 68 70 8

MegaPlier: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$245,000,000

NEXT 1 Days 17 Hrs 22
DRAW: Mins 46 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS: 11.11.23

5 25 27 38 50 7

All Star Bonus: 4x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$2,150,000

NEXT 16 Hrs 37 Mins 46
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS: 11.12.23

2 13 27 28 34 18

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT 16 Hrs 52 Mins
DRAW: 46 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 11.11.23

8 9 17 30 34

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$53,000

NEXT 2 Days 16 Hrs 52
DRAW: Mins 46 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 11.11.23

5 17 19 41 49 5

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT 17 Hrs 21 Mins 46
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS: 11.11.23

1 12 14 24 57 7

Power Play: 4x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$235,000,000

NEXT 17 Hrs 21 Mins 46
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

News from the Associated Press

Thousands flee Gaza hospital, health officials say, but many, including babies, still trapped

By WAFAA SHURAFI and SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — Thousands of people have fled Gaza's largest hospital as Israeli forces and Palestinian militants battle outside its gates, but hundreds of patients, including dozens of babies at risk of dying because of a power blackout, remained inside, health officials said Monday.

With only intermittent communications, it was difficult to reconcile competing claims from the Israeli military, which said it was providing safe corridors for people to escape intense fighting in the north and move south, and Palestinian health officials inside Shifa Hospital, who said the compound was surrounded by constant heavy gunfire.

The military also said it had placed 300 liters (79 gallons) of fuel near the hospital to help power its generators, but that Hamas militants had prevented staff from reaching it. The Health Ministry in Hamas-ruled Gaza disputed that and said the fuel would have provided less than an hour of electricity.

World Health Organization Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said Shifa has been without water for three days and "is not functioning as a hospital anymore," in a post on social media.

Another hospital in Gaza City, Al-Quds, was forced to shut down on Sunday because it ran out of fuel. The Palestinian Red Crescent, which operates the facility, said Israeli forces are stationed nearby and that preparations are being made to evacuate some 6,000 patients, medics and displaced people.

Both sides have seized on the plight of hospitals, particularly Shifa's, as a symbol of the larger war, now in its sixth week. The fighting was triggered by Hamas' unprecedented Oct. 7 surprise attack into Israel, and Israel's response has brought unseen levels of death and destruction to Gaza's 2.3 million Palestinian residents, nearly two-thirds of whom have had to flee their homes with no safe refuge available in the besieged territory.

For Palestinians, Shifa evokes the suffering of civilians. Thousands of people displaced by airstrikes that have destroyed entire city blocks have sought shelter in its darkened corridors. Doctors running low on supplies perform surgery there on war-wounded patients, including children, without anesthesia.

Israel says the hospital is the prime example of its allegation that Hamas uses human shields, claiming that the militants have a command center and other military infrastructure in and beneath the medical compound. It has not provided photos or videos to back up these claims. Hamas and hospital staff deny them.

Mohammed Zaqout, the director of hospitals in Gaza, says there are about 650 patients and critically wounded people in Shifa being treated by around 500 medical staff. He estimated that around 2,500 displaced Palestinians are sheltering inside hospital buildings.

On Saturday, the Health Ministry estimated that some 3,000 medics and patients, as well as 15,000 to 20,000 displaced people, were sheltering there.

A U.N. health official said many displaced families and patients with moderate injuries fled Shifa as Israeli forces encircled the hospital over the weekend. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief reporters, said most of the remaining patients could only be relocated with ambulances and other special procedures.

It's unclear where they would go, as several hospitals and clinics in Gaza have been forced to shut down, while others are already working at full capacity with dwindling supplies.

The Health Ministry says 20 patients, including three babies, have died since the hospital's emergency generator ran out of fuel on Saturday. It said another 36 babies and other patients are at risk of dying because there is no way to power life-saving medical equipment.

The military said troops would assist in moving babies out of Shifa on Sunday, without saying how it would transport them or where they would be relocated. There was no indication Monday that any had

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 13, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 142 ~ 24 of 66

been moved.

Medical Aid for Palestinians, a U.K.-based charity that has supported Shifa's neonatal intensive care unit, said transferring critically ill infants is complex. "With ambulances unable to reach the hospital ... and no hospital with capacity to receive them, there is no indication of how this can be done safely," CEO Melanie Ward said. She said the only option was to pause the fighting and allow in fuel.

Christos Christou, the president of international aid group Doctors Without Borders, told CBS' "Face the Nation" it would take weeks to evacuate the patients.

The U.S. has pushed for temporary pauses that would allow for wider distribution of badly needed aid to civilians in the territory, where conditions are increasingly dire.

But Israel has only agreed to brief daily periods during which civilians can flee ground combat in northern Gaza and head south on foot along two main roads. Israel continues to strike what it says are militant targets across southern Gaza, often killing women and children.

More than 11,000 Palestinians, two-thirds of them women and minors, have been killed since the war began, according to the Health Ministry in Gaza, which does not differentiate between civilian and militant deaths. About 2,700 people have been reported missing.

Health officials, many of whom work out of Shifa, have not updated that toll since Friday because of the difficulty of accessing hard-hit areas and collecting information.

At least 1,200 people have died on the Israeli side, mostly civilians killed in the initial Hamas attack. Palestinian militants are holding nearly 240 hostages seized in the raid, including men, women, children and older adults. The military says 44 soldiers have been killed in ground operations in Gaza.

About 250,000 Israelis have evacuated from communities near Gaza, where Palestinian militants are still firing barrages of rockets, and along the northern border with Lebanon, where Israel and the Hezbollah militant group have repeatedly traded fire, including on Monday.

Long-haul carrier Emirates opens Dubai Air Show with \$52 billion aircraft purchase from Boeing

By JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Long-haul carrier Emirates opened the Dubai Air Show with a \$52 billion purchase of Boeing Co. aircraft, showing how aviation has bounced back after the groundings of the coronavirus pandemic, even as Israel's war with Hamas clouds regional security.

Its low-cost sister airline, FlyDubai, followed up with an order of 30 Boeing 787-9 Dreamliners, the first wide-body aircraft in its fleet. Both sales together marked a significant win for the Virginia-based Boeing Co. out of the gates on the first day of the air show, as airlines appear poised for even more billion-dollar deals this year.

Emirates made the announcement witnessed by the crown prince of Dubai, Sheikh Hamad bin Mohammed Al Maktoum, at a news conference Monday afternoon. Emirates CEO and Chairman Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum said the deal would see the carrier purchase 90 Boeing 777 aircraft, 55 of them its 777-9 variants and 35 of them 777-8s.

Emirates will also add an additional five aircraft 787 Dreamliners to a previous order of 30 aircraft, Sheikh Saeed said.

"This is a long-term commitment that supports hundreds of thousands of jobs, not only at Boeing but also throughout the global aviation supply chain," he said. "The 777 is at the center of Emirates' strategy to connect cities on all continents nonstop to Dubai."

Stan Deal, an executive vice president at Boeing, praised the deal.

"All these products point to the future of Emirates," Deal said.

Emirates officials stressed that FlyDubai's order was separate from the long-haul carrier. Boeing and the carrier did not offer a cash value for the deal. However, it represents a major change for FlyDubai, which to this point has only flown Boeing 737 single-aisle aircraft on shorter distances.

Both Deal and Sheikh Saeed left the news conference without taking questions, which represented a

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 13, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 142 ~ 25 of 66

departure from previous Dubai Air Shows.

The air show this year comes amid the Israel-Hamas war, as well as Russia's war on Ukraine, which will likely influence the five-day show at Al Maktoum Airport at Dubai World Central. It is the city-state's second airfield after Dubai International Airport, which is the world's busiest for international travel and the home base for Emirates.

While commercial aviation takes much of the attention, arms manufacturers also have exhibitions at the show. Two major Israeli firms — Rafael Advanced Defense Systems Ltd. and Israel Aerospace Industries had been slated to participate.

But the IAI stand, bearing the slogan "Where Courage Meets Technology," was roped off and empty Monday morning as people poured into the show. A stand for Rafael handed out coffee, though there were no salespeople there. A request for comment left with an attendant there was not immediately returned.

Rafael also sponsored a meeting of air force commanders Sunday at a luxury Dubai hotel, highlighting the balancing act being struck by the UAE amid anger in the Arab world over the Israel-Hamas war.

The UAE, a federation of seven sheikhdoms, established diplomatic relations with Israel in 2020.

The firm Russian Helicopters had listed their staff would be on hand for the air show after appearing at the Abu Dhabi arms fair earlier this year despite being sanctioned by the U.S. and others over Moscow's attack on Ukraine. ROSCOSMOS, the Russian state space company, is also at the show.

Global aviation is booming after the coronavirus pandemic saw worldwide lockdowns and aircraft grounded — particularly at Al Maktoum Airport, which served for months as a parking lot for Emirates double-decker Airbus 380s.

Air traffic is now at 97% of pre-COVID levels, according to the International Air Transport Association. Middle Eastern airlines, which supply key East-West routes for global travel, saw a 26.6% increase in September traffic compared to a year earlier, IATA says.

Emirates, a main economic engine for Dubai amid its booming real estate market, announced record half-year profits of \$2.7 billion Thursday. That is up from \$1.2 billion for the same period last year, potentially putting the airline on track for another record-breaking year. The airline says it has repaid some \$2.5 billion of the loans it received during the height of the pandemic to stay afloat.

Also in the market for aircraft is Riyadh Air, a new Saudi carrier being created as part of trillions of dollars worth of spending planned in the kingdom. In March, the airline announced an order of up to 72 Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner jetliners and has further plans to expand.

Turkish Airlines may also make a record-shattering purchase of 355 aircraft from Airbus, including 250 A321neo aircraft, according to the state-run Anadolu news agency.

By Monday afternoon, Boeing Co. announced that SunExpress, an airline jointly owned by Turkish Airlines and Lufthansa, made a commitment to purchase up to 90 single-aisle Boeing 737 MAX aircraft. The deal includes 28 Boeing 737-8s and 17 Boeing 737-10s models, as well as the opportunity for another 45 Boeing 737 MAX aircraft. The companies did not offer a dollar figure for the deal.

Ex-Prime Minister David Cameron makes shock return to UK government as foreign secretary

By JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Former British Prime Minister David Cameron made a shock return to high office on Monday, becoming foreign secretary in a major shakeup of the Conservative government that also saw the firing of divisive Home Secretary Suella Braverman.

Cameron, who led the government between 2010 and 2016, was appointed by Prime Minister Rishi Sunak in a Cabinet shuffle in which he sacked Braverman, a divisive figure who drew anger for accusing police of being too lenient with pro-Palestinian protesters.

She was replaced by James Cleverly, who had been foreign secretary.

Cameron's appointment came as a surprise to seasoned politics-watchers. It's rare for a non-lawmaker to take a senior government post, and it has been decades since a former prime minister held a Cabinet job.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 13, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 142 ~ 26 of 66

The government said Cameron will be appointed to Parliament's unelected upper chamber, the House of Lords. The last foreign secretary to serve in the Lords, rather than the elected House of Commons, was Peter Carrington, who was part of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's government in the 1980s.

It marks the return to government of a leader brought down by Britain's decision to leave the European Union. Cameron called the 2016 EU membership referendum, confident the country would vote to stay in the bloc. He resigned the day after voters opted to leave.

Sunak was a strong backer of the winning "leave" side in the referendum.

Braverman's exit was less surprising. Sunak had been under growing pressure to fire Braverman — a hard-liner popular with the authoritarian wing of the governing Conservative Party — from one of the most senior jobs in government, responsible for handling immigration and policing.

In a highly unusual attack on the police last week, Braverman said London's police force was ignoring lawbreaking by "pro-Palestinian mobs." She described demonstrators calling for a cease-fire in Gaza as "hate marchers."

On Saturday, far-right protesters scuffled with police and tried to confront a large pro-Palestinian march by hundreds of thousands through the streets of London. Critics accused Braverman of helping to inflame tensions.

Last week Braverman wrote an article for the Times of London in which she said police "play favorites when it comes to protesters" and acted more leniently toward pro-Palestinian demonstrators and Black Lives Matter supporters than to right-wing protesters or soccer hooligans.

The article was not approved in advance by the prime minister's office, as would usually be the case.

Braverman said Monday "it has been the greatest privilege of my life to serve as home secretary," adding that she would "have more to say in due course."

Braverman, a 43-year-old lawyer, has become a leader of the party's populist wing by advocating ever-tougher curbs on migration and a war on human rights protections, liberal social values and what she has called the "tofu-eating wokerati."

Last month she called migration a "hurricane" that would bring "millions more immigrants to these shores, uncontrolled and unmanageable."

As home secretary Braverman championed the government's stalled plan to send asylum-seekers who arrive in Britain in boats on a one-way trip to Rwanda. A U.K. Supreme Court ruling on whether the policy is legal is due on Wednesday.

Critics say Braverman has been building her profile to position herself for a party leadership contest that could come if the Conservatives lose power in an election expected next year. Opinion polls for months have put the party 15 to 20 points behind the opposition Labour Party.

Biden's early certitude on Israel gives way to the complexities and casualties of a brutal war

By ZEKE MILLER AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — In the early days and hours after the horrific Hamas attack on Israeli civilians on Oct. 7, President Joe Biden spoke with stark declarations and unqualified support for the longtime U.S. ally.

Now, a month on, that unambiguous backing has given way to the complexities and haunting casualties of the war, and the Biden administration is imploring Israel to rein in some of its tactics to ease civilian suffering in Gaza.

As condemnation of the conflict has grown around the world, stoking anti-Israel sentiment, the president is also confronting the limits of the U.S. ability to direct the outcome — not only about the war, but what comes after it.

"There's no going back to the status quo as it stood on October the 6th," Biden said three weeks after the attack. But even if Israel is successful in crippling or eradicating Hamas, there will also need to be a shift in Washington, where successive U.S. administrations have sought to manage the Middle East conflict and where the political will has been lacking to devise ways to end it.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 13, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 142 ~ 27 of 66

And yet the path forward is uncertain, at best. "It's entirely unclear if there is a 'morning after,'" said Shibley Telhami, the Anwar Sadat Professor for Peace and Development at the University of Maryland. He noted this could be "an extended period of violence at a different scale for many, many months or years to come."

"But if there is something possible, they can't just put a plan on the table," he added. "They have to take new American positions of their own, that are transformative, that are different, that are like something we have not seen."

Telhami said after his staunch support for Israel, the president would need to take equally dramatic steps to secure buy-in from Palestinians to bring about a political resolution to the conflict, starting with reining in Israeli settlements in the West Bank that Palestinians view as infringing on their future state.

In recent weeks, U.S. officials have held internal discussions and talks with allies on post-Hamas governance in Gaza, and resurrected talk of working toward a two state solution, with, as Biden expressed Sunday to Qatar's emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, a "future Palestinian state where Israelis and Palestinians can live side by side with equal measures of stability and dignity."

Yet there has been little progress on how to get there, and some in the Biden administration have grown increasingly worried that the mounting death toll in Gaza will make that aim even more difficult.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, who last week appeared to criticize Israel for not doing enough to minimize harm to civilians among whom Hamas has sought shelter, has called for a return to unified Palestinian governance over the West Bank and Gaza under the beleaguered Palestinian Authority. The internationally recognized group lost control over Gaza to Hamas in 2007, and is viewed skeptically among its own populace for perceived cooperation with Israel.

Jake Sullivan, Biden's national security adviser, on Sunday went further, laying out a vision of what the U.S. sees as a path forward, but one that still has no buy-in from key players in the region.

In an interview on CBS' "Face the Nation," Sullivan said that "the basic principles of the way forward are straightforward." That path, he said, included "no reoccupation of Gaza, no forcible displacement of the Palestinian people. Gaza can never be used as a base for terrorism in the future and Gaza's territory should not be reduced."

The Palestinian Authority has openly dismissed that notion. "We are not going to go to Gaza on an Israeli military tank," Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh told PBS recently.

"The Palestinian Authority is saying it doesn't want to take on the task that the Biden administration is pushing unless it gets some kind of real commitment to a major diplomatic initiative leading to a two-state outcome," said Nathan Brown, professor of political science and international affairs at George Washington University.

Within the Democratic Party, there are also clear signs of discord. Nearly half of Democrats disapprove of how President Joe Biden is handling the Israel-Hamas conflict, according to a new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research — showing a deep divide within his party over the war.

In Congress, so far there is no consensus about Biden's proposal to pass an aid package that includes assistance to Israel, Ukraine and Taiwan, and additional money to address issues at the southern border of the U.S.

There are also emerging signs of division between the U.S. and Israeli positions on the war's endgame, with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu insisting that Israel will retain security control over Gaza for the long term, a stance the White House has rejected, and ruling out alternatives like an international monitoring force.

"The only force right now that can guarantee that Hamas, that terrorism is not — does not reappear and take over Gaza, again, is the Israeli military," Netanyahu told NBC's "Meet the Press." "So overall, military responsibility will have to be in Israel."

And in an interview with CNN's "State of the Union," Netanyahu appeared to rule out returning Gaza to the Palestinian Authority, saying whatever group takes over must "demilitarize" and "de-radicalize Gaza."

"There has to be a reconstructed civilian authority," he said of the Palestinian Authority. "There has to

be something else.”

More than 1,200 Israelis, mostly civilians, were killed when Hamas fighters launched a surprise attack on Israeli border communities, in the deadliest day for Jews since the Holocaust. Nearly 240 — including children and the elderly — remain captive in Gaza, Israeli officials say. Israel’s war to “destroy” Hamas in Gaza has killed over 11,000, the Hamas-run health ministry in Gaza says, though it doesn’t differentiate between civilians and fighters. The U.S. believes thousands of women and children are among the dead.

Until Hamas’ attack, Biden’s administration had largely relegated the region on the back burner, as it focused first on a pivot to Asia then on responding to Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. Now, Biden faces a challenge that has splintered his political support at home and the unity of U.S. allies abroad.

“Clearly, Israel has the military ability to take out Hamas,” said Senate Intelligence committee chairman Sen. Mark Warner, D-Va., on “Fox News Sunday.” “But this is also a battle about hearts and minds -- hearts and minds in terms of maintaining support for Israel in this country, in the world and in the region.”

Live updates | Fighting outside Gaza’s largest hospital prompts thousands to flee

By The Associated Press undefined

Fighting between Israeli forces and Palestinian militants outside Gaza’s largest hospital has prompted thousands of people to flee from the sprawling medical facility, but hundreds of patients and others displaced by the war remained inside, health officials said Monday.

World Health Organization Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said a day earlier that the UN agency was in contact with Shifa hospital, which he said had been without electricity and water for three days, and noted that gunfire and bombings outside the compound “have exacerbated the already critical circumstances.”

“Regrettably, the hospital is not functioning as a hospital anymore,” he said in a post on X, formerly known as Twitter.

Patients inside the hospital include dozens of babies at risk of dying because of a lack of electricity, health officials at the facility said.

More than two-thirds of Gaza’s population of 2.3 million have fled their homes since the war began.

Gaza City, the largest urban area in the territory, is the focus of Israel’s campaign to crush Hamas following the militant group’s deadly Oct. 7 incursion into southern Israel that set off the war.

More than 11,000 Palestinians, two-thirds of them women and minors, have been killed since the war began, according to the Health Ministry in Gaza, which does not differentiate between civilian and militant deaths. About 2,700 people have been reported missing.

More than 1,200 people in Israel died, most of them in the Hamas attack, and about 240 hostages were taken from Israel into Gaza by Palestinian militants.

Currently:

- Thousands flee Gaza’s main hospital but hundreds, including babies, still trapped by fighting
- Hospitals have special protection under the rules of war. Why are they in the crosshairs in Gaza?
- Biden’s certitude on Israel gives way to the complexities and casualties of a brutal war
- Attacks by Lebanon’s Hezbollah group wound 7 Israeli troops, 10 others along border with Israel
- US conducts airstrikes against Iran-backed groups in Syria, retaliating for attacks on US troops
- Find more of AP’s coverage at <https://apnews.com/hub/israel-hamas-war>

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

UN AGENCY FOR PALESTINIAN REFUGEES SAYS ITS FACILITY HIT IN SOUTHERN GAZA

CAIRO — The U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees said Monday that Israel’s navy struck one of its facilities in southern Gaza, despite sharing coordinates with warring parties.

The agency, known as UNRWA, said Sunday’s strike caused “significant damage” to its guesthouse in Rafah, adding that no casualties were reported since U.N. staff left the facility 90 minutes before the attack.

There was no immediate comment from the Israeli military.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 13, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 142 ~ 29 of 66

"This recent attack is yet another indication that nowhere in Gaza is safe. Not the north, not the middle areas and not the south," said UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini.

UNRWA says it has shared the coordinates of the UN international staff guesthouse twice with the warring parties, including on Nov. 10.

GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTER PUSHES FOR 'HUMANITARIAN PAUSES' WHILE REJECTING CALLS FOR CEASE-FIRE

BRUSSELS — Germany's foreign minister is pushing anew for reliable "humanitarian pauses" in the war between Israel and Hamas, but is rejecting calls for a cease-fire that ends the fighting.

Germany has staunchly backed Israel since Hamas' attack on Oct. 7 while also pushing for humanitarian aid for civilians in Gaza.

Arriving Monday at a meeting with European Union counterparts, Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock said she understands "the impetus for a cease-fire," but questioned how those who seek one can guarantee Israel's security in "this terrible situation" and wondered about the fate of the people Hamas has taken hostage.

Baerbock defended the less far-reaching approach of humanitarian pauses, saying while it "breaks one's heart, is from my point of view the only possible policy to really curb this suffering in this situation."

MANY PALESTINIANS HAVE LEFT GAZA'S LARGEST HOSPITAL, UN SAYS

CAIRO — Many displaced Palestinians, along with some medical patients, have left Gaza's largest hospital, which is surrounded by Israeli forces, a U.N. health official said Monday.

About 650 patients, 500 healthcare workers and an estimated 2,500 displaced people remain in the sprawling Shifa hospital compound, said Mohammed Zaqout, director of hospitals in Gaza. This would signal a significant departure since the weekend when Gaza health officials had said about 1,500 patients, along with 1,500 medical workers and 15,000 displaced people were at Shifa.

Israeli forces and Hamas gunmen have waged heavy battles outside Shifa, and some hospital officials have said Shifa was under siege, with those inside being pinned down by Israeli fire. Israel has said it had offered safe passage to those wanting to leave.

The situation at Shifa deteriorated over the weekend, with doctors reporting that the last generator had run out of fuel, leading to the deaths of several patients, including premature babies.

The U.N. official said Monday that many of the displaced fled the compound and that some families took relatives with moderate injuries with them. He said remaining patients require special procedures for evacuation including equipped ambulances to take them to Egyptian hospitals. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to journalists.

Associated Press writer Samy Magdy contributed.

ISRAEL BLOCKS HEZBOLLAH-AFFILIATED, BEIRUT-BASED TV CHANNEL

JERUSALEM — The Israeli government has blocked the Hezbollah-affiliated, Beirut-based Al Mayadeen TV news channel from broadcasting in Israel.

"Broadcasts that identify with the enemy are harmful to the state's security and should be blocked," Communications Minister Shlomo Karhi wrote in a joint statement with Defense Minister Yoav Gallant.

Last month, the government approved emergency regulations allowing it to block the wartime operations of foreign channels it deems hostile to the state. Karhi had also pressed to shut down the Israeli office of Qatar-based Al Jazeera, but Doha is leading efforts to release hostages captured from southern Israel during Hamas' bloody Oct. 7 incursion, and the Israeli government hasn't moved ahead on his plan.

WHO DIRECTOR-GENERAL SAYS SHIFA 'NOT FUNCTIONING AS A HOSPITAL'

BEIRUT — World Health Organization Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the UN agency was in contact with Shifa Hospital late Sunday, which he said had been without electricity and water for three days.

"The constant gunfire and bombings in the area have exacerbated the already critical circumstances," he said in a post on X, formerly known as Twitter. "Regrettably, the hospital is not functioning as a hospital

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 13, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 142 ~ 30 of 66

anymore.”

Several charities and humanitarian agencies that support Shifa have told The Associated Press they were unable to reach the hospital throughout the day.

MORE FOREIGN NATIONALS EVACUATED FROM GAZA

BUCHAREST, Romania — A group of 86 Romanian citizens were evacuated on Sunday from the Gaza Strip into Egypt, Romania’s Foreign Ministry said.

The latest group of evacuees left Gaza through the Rafah border crossing and were on their way to Cairo, it said. Earlier Sunday, 41 Romanians were flown to Romania from Egypt after being evacuated from Gaza, bringing the total to 134 since the conflict with Israel started.

Since Hamas launched its attack on Israel on Oct. 7, at least five Romanian citizens have been confirmed killed. Six Romanians who hold dual Romanian-Israeli citizenship are also among the hostages held by Hamas.

Meanwhile, Albania’s foreign minister said Sunday that the first Albanian citizens, a mother and her four children, were evacuated from Gaza. Igli Hasani posted on X, formerly known as Twitter, that the five people were safe in Egypt “while we continue the procedures for their return to Albania as soon as possible.”

Hasani thanked Israel and Egypt for their cooperation and UN migration and the International Committee of the Red Cross for their support “in this complex operation.”

Also Sunday, a group of 32 Brazilians was en route to Cairo after they were allowed to cross from Gaza into Egypt, according to a statement from Brazil’s Foreign Ministry posted on X. From Cairo, the group will fly to Brazil on a plane belonging to the Brazilian armed forces. They are scheduled to arrive Monday evening.

JORDAN CALLS ON EU TO HOLD ISRAEL TO ACCOUNT

BEIRUT — Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi said Sunday that he asked European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell to apply the same “legal, moral grounds” for its support of Ukraine to “define its stand on Israel’s war crimes.”

“Israel crossed every legal, ethical (and) humanitarian red line in its barbaric war on Gazans,” Safadi said on X, formerly known as Twitter. “Message to the region: Identity of aggressor & victim determines applicability of Int’l law.”

A contest erupts in Uganda over the tainted legacy of late dictator Idi Amin

By RODNEY MUHUMUZA Associated Press

KAMPALA, Uganda (AP) — Can Idi Amin be rehabilitated?

The question is animating some in this East African country two decades after the death of one of Africa’s most infamous leaders.

Amin, who took power by force in Uganda in 1971 and ruled until he was removed by armed groups of exiles in 1979, died in Saudi Arabia in 2003. His passing was barely acknowledged in Uganda, and some of Amin’s supporters over the years have unsuccessfully lobbied for his remains to be returned home, underscoring his tainted legacy.

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, whose rebel group was among those that ousted Amin with the help of Tanzanian troops, regularly dismisses Amin, and once even described him as “a primitive dictator.” There are no monuments to Amin in Kampala, the capital, where not even a street is named after him.

But some Ugandans want to change that — not to emphasize Amin’s tyrannical rule but to highlight any positive aspects of it, including what they say was his commitment to local industry as well as African solidarity. They have incited fierce debate over Amin’s legacy at a time when many Ugandans are hungry for political change after nearly four decades of Museveni’s presidency. Museveni, in power since 1986, has not said when he would retire.

The effort to memorialize Amin is led by a former lawmaker from Amin’s home region who asserts that Amin was defamed by international reporters who sometimes falsified stories about him. He says Amin deserves a more balanced verdict but he faces resistance from those who say Amin should just be forgotten.

An Amin memorial lecture, the first of its kind, failed to happen as planned in September, because the

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 13, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 142 ~ 31 of 66

event didn't receive approval from the education ministry. Hassan Kaps Fungaroo, the former lawmaker leading the effort, later wrote to education officials asking for support in the creation of an Idi Amin Memorial Institute. The matter reached Museveni, who characterized Amin's rule as "clearly illegal" and then rejected the idea of such an institute.

"It is not acceptable to license an institute to promote or study the work of Idi Amin," Museveni said in his response to the education ministry. "It is enough that forgiving Ugandans forgave the surviving colleagues of Idi Amin. Let that history be forgotten."

That verdict has sparked rebuttals from Ugandans who see some similarities between Amin and Museveni. Like Amin, Museveni took power by force and is heavily reliant on military authority to remain in power. And the president's critics cite rampant corruption, abuse of public resources, police brutality, and the shrinking space for perceived government opponents, arguing that Museveni has no moral authority to judge Amin.

"Mr. Museveni thinks this country started with him and that he has performed miracles," Joel Ssenyonyi, a lawmaker who is a spokesman for the opposition National Unity Platform party, told The Associated Press. "Our past leaders made mistakes, without a doubt, which Museveni likes to capitalize on, but he has done worse."

While Amin was a semi-illiterate leader who never pretended to be a democrat, Museveni has "captured all institutions" in the course of nearly four decades in power, Ssenyonyi said.

Responding to criticism online of Museveni's directive, government spokesman Ofwono Opondo charged that a memorial to Amin may "glorify him but cannot undo his terrible deeds done in full view of many people, some still alive."

The suggested institute is an attempt to "whitewash" Amin's legacy, Opondo said.

Amin's supporters and some academics point out that he was instrumental in acquiring or maintaining national assets at home and abroad, including a railway service, a national carrier, and multiple buildings housing Uganda's foreign missions. They say he also was committed to the nurturing of local talent in music and sports.

But Amin's crimes are widely documented. A one-time heavyweight boxing champ and soldier in the British colonial army, Amin seized power in a coup d'état and then became the paranoid dictator whose government was accused of carrying out extrajudicial killings, forced disappearances and public executions. Between 100,000 and 500,000 people were killed during Amin's rule, according to Human Rights Watch.

Some of Amin's actions drew harsh international attention upon Uganda. In 1972 he ordered the expulsion of tens of thousands of Asians who had controlled the country's economy, sparking economic chaos.

In the most notorious international incident of Amin's reign, a Palestinian group hijacked an Air France airliner to Uganda's Entebbe Airport in 1976 and kept its Israeli passengers as hostages. Israeli commandos flew to Entebbe under cover of darkness and rescued the captives, with Amin claiming he wanted to help negotiate a peaceful resolution despite some evidence he had been collaborating with the hijackers.

Amin had almost no allies in the international community at the time he lost power. He fled to Libya, then Iraq and finally Saudi Arabia, where he was allowed to quietly settle down.

Yet Museveni, a U.S. ally whose government regularly receives substantial foreign aid, insists that Uganda would be stronger economically if Amin had never been president. Some Ugandans frown at that, saying Museveni has had plenty of time to make his own mark.

"The debate surrounding the proposed Amin institute shows how Museveni's rule has polarized Ugandans," said Gerald Bareebe, a Ugandan academic who is an assistant professor of politics at York University in Canada.

"While many Ugandans abhor Amin, there are some who see similarities with Museveni's rule, especially given the rising cases of forced disappearance, torture, extra-judicial killing and detention without trial under Museveni's regime."

Rescuers dig to reach 40 workers trapped in collapsed road tunnel in north India

By BISWAJEET BANERJEE Associated Press

LUCKNOW, India (AP) — Rescuers were digging through dirt and parts of a collapsed road tunnel Monday to reach 40 workers trapped by a landslide at the construction project in northern India.

All of the construction workers are safe, police officer Prashant Kumar said, adding that they have been supplied with oxygen and water. He said the rescuers had established contact with the trapped individuals.

The collapse occurred Sunday in Uttarakhand, a mountainous state dotted with Hindu temples that attracts many pilgrims and tourists.

Massive construction of buildings and roadways have taken place in recent years in Uttarakhand. The trapped workers were building part of the Chardham all-weather road, a flagship federal government project connecting various Hindu pilgrimage sites.

The number of workers trapped was confirmed Monday by Rajesh Pawar, the project manager at the Navyug Construction Company, which is overseeing the construction of the tunnel.

Rescue efforts began Sunday, with authorities pumping oxygen through a pipe into the collapsed section of the tunnel to help workers breathe.

"The team has progressed 15 meters (yards) into the tunnel, with an additional 35 meters (yards) yet to cover," Kumar said, adding that more than 150 rescuers had used drilling equipment and excavators to clear debris through the night.

The collapsed portion of the 4.5-kilometer (2.7-mile) tunnel is about 200 meters (500 feet) from the entrance, officials told the Press Trust of India news agency.

In January, Uttarakhand state authorities moved hundreds of people to temporary shelters after a temple collapsed and cracks appeared in over 600 houses because of the sinking of land in and around Joshimath town in the region.

Heavy fighting rages near main Gaza hospital and people trapped inside say they cannot flee

By WAFAA SHURAF and SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

KHAN YOUNIS, Gaza Strip (AP) — Health officials and people trapped inside Gaza's largest hospital rejected Israel's claims that it was helping babies and others evacuate Sunday, saying fighting continued just outside the facility where incubators lay idle with no electricity and critical supplies were running out.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has dismissed urgent calls for a cease-fire unless it includes the release of all the nearly 240 hostages captured by Hamas in the Oct. 7 rampage that triggered the war.

A day after Netanyahu said Israel was bringing its "full force" with the aim of ending Hamas' 16-year rule in Gaza, residents reported heavy airstrikes and shelling, including around Shifa Hospital. Israel, without providing evidence, has accused Hamas of concealing a command post inside and under the compound, allegations denied by Hamas and hospital staff.

"They are outside, not far from the gates," said Ahmed al-Boursh, a resident sheltering there.

The hospital's last generator ran out of fuel Saturday, leading to the deaths of three premature babies and four other patients, according to the Health Ministry. It said another 36 babies are at risk of dying.

Israel's military asserted it placed 300 liters (79 gallons) of fuel near Shifa overnight for an emergency generator powering incubators for premature babies and coordinated the delivery with hospital officials. But the military said Hamas prevented the hospital from receiving the fuel.

A Health Ministry spokesperson, Ashraf al-Qidra, disputed the account and also told Al Jazeera the fuel would not be enough to operate the generator an hour. "This is a mockery towards the patients and children," Al-Qidra said.

Speaking to CNN, Netanyahu asserted that "100 or so" people had been evacuated from Shifa and that Israel had created safe corridors.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 13, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 142 ~ 33 of 66

But Health Ministry Undersecretary Munir al-Boursh said Israeli snipers have deployed around Shifa, firing at any movement.

"There are wounded in the house, and we can't reach them," he told Al Jazeera. "We can't stick our heads out of the window."

The military said troops would assist in moving babies on Sunday. But Medical Aid for Palestinians, a U.K.-based charity that has supported Shifa's neonatal intensive care unit, said transferring critically ill infants is complex. "With ambulances unable to reach the hospital ... and no hospital with capacity to receive them, there is no indication of how this can be done safely," CEO Melanie Ward said.

The only option is for Israel to stop its assault and allow fuel into the hospital, Ward said.

The Health Ministry said there are 1,500 patients at Shifa, along with 1,500 medical personnel and between 15,000 and 20,000 people seeking shelter.

The president of Doctors Without Borders International, Christos Christou, told CBS' "Face the Nation" it would take weeks to evacuate the patients.

World Health Organization Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said on the social media platform X that Shifa has been without water for three days and "is not functioning as a hospital anymore." Several humanitarian groups told The Associated Press they weren't able to reach the hospital Sunday.

The Palestinian Red Crescent rescue service said another Gaza City hospital, Al-Quds, is "no longer operational" because it was out of fuel with 6,000 people trapped there. Gaza's sole power plant shut down a month ago, and Israel has barred fuel imports to prevent Hamas from using them.

One woman fleeing northern Gaza, Fedaa Shangan, said she'd had a cesarean section at Al-Quds: "The wound is still fresh." She said the Israeli army near the hospital "did not care about the presence of patients, children, women and the elderly. They did not care about anyone."

Alarm was growing. "We do not want to see a firefight in a hospital where innocent people, helpless people, people seeking medical care are caught in the crossfire," President Joe Biden's national security adviser, Jake Sullivan, told ABC's "This Week."

"Decisive international action is needed now to secure an immediate humanitarian cease-fire" amid attacks on health care, the U.N. regional directors of the World Health Organization and others said in a statement, adding that more than half of Gaza's hospitals are closed.

Muhammed Zaqout, director of hospitals in Gaza, said the Health Ministry has been unable to update the death toll since Friday as medics are unable to reach areas hit by Israeli bombardment.

About 2.3 million Palestinians remain in the besieged territory.

Netanyahu has said the responsibility for any harm to civilians lies with Hamas. Israel has long accused the group, which operates in dense residential neighborhoods, of using civilians as human shields.

EVACUATION WINDOWS, BUT NO PAUSES

The U.S. has pushed for temporary pauses that would allow for wider distribution of badly needed aid to civilians in the territory, where conditions are increasingly dire.

But Israel has only agreed to brief daily periods during which civilians can flee ground combat in northern Gaza and head south on foot along two main roads. Israel continues to strike what it says are militant targets across southern Gaza, often killing women and children.

Hospital officials said at least 13 were killed after an Israeli airstrike in the southern town of Khan Younis.

The war has displaced over two-thirds of Gaza's population.

Wael Abu Omar, spokesperson for Gaza's border crossings, said 846 people left Gaza to Egypt through the Rafah crossing Sunday. Nearly all were foreigners while a few were patients from Gaza's hospitals and their caretakers.

He said 76 aid trucks entered Gaza. The U.N. and partners have said much more were needed daily.

Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi said on X that he asked European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell to apply the same "legal, moral grounds" for EU support of Ukraine to "define its stand on Israel's war crimes."

More than 11,000 Palestinians, two-thirds of them women and minors, have been killed since the war

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 13, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 142 ~ 34 of 66

began, according to the Health Ministry in Gaza, which does not differentiate between civilian and militant deaths. About 2,700 people have been reported missing.

At least 1,200 people have been killed on the Israeli side, mostly civilians killed in the initial Hamas attack. The Israeli military said two more of its soldiers were killed in Gaza, bringing the total to 48 since the ground offensive began.

About 250,000 Israelis have evacuated from communities near Gaza, where Palestinian militants are still firing barrages of rockets, and along the northern border with Lebanon.

NETANYAHU REJECTS U.S. POSTWAR VISION

Netanyahu has begun to outline Israel's postwar plans for Gaza, which contrast sharply with the vision of the United States.

He said Gaza would be demilitarized and Israel would retain the ability to enter Gaza freely to hunt down militants. He rejected the idea that the Palestinian Authority, which administers parts of the Israeli-occupied West Bank, would at some stage control Gaza.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken has said the U.S. opposes an Israeli reoccupation of Gaza and envisions a unified Palestinian government in Gaza and the West Bank as a step toward a Palestinian state, long opposed by Netanyahu's government.

The war threatens to trigger a wider conflict, with Israel and Hezbollah militants in Lebanon trading fire along the border. Attacks by Hezbollah on Sunday wounded seven Israeli troops and 10 others, Israel's military and rescue services said.

Donald Trump Jr. returning to stand as defense looks to undercut New York civil fraud claims

By MICHAEL R. SISAK Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Foiled in their longshot bid for an early verdict, Donald Trump's lawyers will start calling witnesses of their own Monday in the New York civil fraud trial that threatens the former president's real estate empire.

First up: Donald Trump Jr., who'll be returning to the witness stand two weeks after state lawyers quizzed him during a major stretch of the trial that also featured testimony from his father and siblings Eric and Ivanka Trump.

Trump's oldest son, a Trump Organization executive vice president, originally testified on Nov. 1 and 2. He said he never worked on the annual financial statements at the heart of New York Attorney General Letitia James' lawsuit. He said he relied on the company's longtime finance chief and outside accounts to verify their accuracy.

James alleges Donald Trump, his company and executives including Eric and Donald Jr. exaggerated his wealth by billions of dollars on financial statements given to banks, insurers and others. The documents were used to secure loans and make deals. She is seeking more than \$300 million in what she says were ill-gotten gains and a ban on defendants doing business in New York.

Before the trial, Judge Arthur Engoron ruled that the defendants committed fraud by inflating his net worth and the value of assets on his financial statements. He imposed a punishment that could strip Trump of marquee properties like Trump Tower, though an appeals court is allowing him to remain in control for now.

The Trumps have denied wrongdoing. Their lawyers contend that the state failed to meet "any legal standard" to prove allegations of conspiracy, insurance fraud and falsifying business records. The state rested its case last Wednesday after six weeks of testimony from more than two dozen witnesses. Among them: company insiders, accountants, bank officials and Trump's fixer-turned-foe Michael Cohen.

The trial is proceeding after Engoron rebuffed the defense's request last week to end it early through what's known as a directed verdict. Engoron did not rule on the request, but indicated the trial would move ahead as scheduled.

Trump lawyer Christopher Kise, seeking a verdict clearing Trump and other defendants, argued last Thursday that the state's case involved only "successful and profitable loan transactions" and that "there

is no victim. There is no complainant. There is no injury.”

After testifying in early November, Donald Trump Jr. echoed his father’s claims that the case was “purely a political persecution” brought by James, a Democrat, to blunt Trump’s chances as the front-runner for the 2024 Republican presidential nomination.

“I think it’s a truly scary precedent for New York — for me, for example, before even having a day in court, I’m apparently guilty of fraud for relying on my accountants to do, wait for it: accounting,” Trump Jr. told reporters on Nov. 2.

On Monday, Trump Jr. will be questioned first by the defense lawyers representing him, his father and other defendants. A state lawyer is also expected to question him on cross-examination. Trump Jr. is expected to testify Monday and Tuesday, followed by a tax lawyer who also testified as a state witness.

The defense also plans to call several expert witnesses as part of their case in an attempt to refute testimony from state witnesses that Trump’s financial statements afforded him better loan terms, insurance premiums and were a factor in dealmaking.

When he became president in 2017, Donald Trump handed day-to-day management of his company to Eric and Donald Trump Jr. and named Trump Jr. as a trustee of a trust he established to hold his assets while in office.

In Donald Trump Jr.’s prior testimony, when asked if he ever worked on his father’s “statement of financial condition,” the scion said: “Not that I recall.” Trump Jr. said he signed off on statements as a trustee, but left the work to outside accountants and the company’s then-finance chief and co-trustee, Allen Weisselberg.

“I had an obligation to listen to the people with intimate knowledge of those things,” Trump Jr. testified. “If they put something forward, I wasn’t working on the document, but if they tell me that it’s accurate, based on their accounting assessment of all of the materials. ... These people had an incredible intimate knowledge, and I relied on it.”

Nikki Haley will launch a \$10M ad campaign to try to overtake Ron DeSantis in the GOP primary

By STEVE PEOPLES AP National Political Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Nikki Haley’s presidential campaign will reserve \$10 million in television, radio and digital advertising across Iowa and New Hampshire beginning in the first week of December, a massive investment designed to give the former United Nations ambassador an advantage over Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis at a critical moment in the GOP nomination fight.

Details of the advertising plans, which represent the Haley campaign’s first official advertising reservation, were obtained by The Associated Press ahead of a public announcement expected Monday. Haley’s planned investment, as of now, is more than five times larger than DeSantis’ current advertising reserves for the same time period, according to the media tracking firm AdImpact.

Haley’s move comes as she fights to emerge as the clear alternative to former President Donald Trump to represent the GOP against President Joe Biden next fall. DeSantis stands as Haley’s strongest competition for her party’s second-place slot, although the Florida governor’s campaign has shown signs of financial strain following a tumultuous summer.

Trump remains the overwhelming front-runner in the GOP primary. Rival campaigns are betting that if they can emerge as the main alternative to Trump that they can consolidate enough support to mount a strong challenge against him or replace him if he falters. Trump faces four criminal indictments, including a case focusing on his efforts to overturn his 2020 general election defeat in Georgia and another on felony charges for working to overturn the results of the 2020 election in the run-up to the violent Jan. 6, 2021 riot by his supporters at the U.S. Capitol.

In U.S. politics, fundraising and advertising strategy can often be more consequential than a candidate’s policies or personality. But money raised and spent by campaigns only tell part of the story in the 2024 election.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 13, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 142 ~ 36 of 66

South Carolina Sen. Tim Scott, whose allied super PAC had booked \$7.5 million in ads through Iowa's Jan. 15 caucuses, dropped out of the race late Sunday. Scott had struggled to register in polls nationally and October polls found him trailing far behind Trump and Haley, his fellow South Carolinian.

Haley will run her advertising through Iowa's Jan. 15 caucuses and New Hampshire's primary to follow. As of now, the DeSantis campaign is spending only in Iowa.

Haley's campaign declined to say whether the ads would attack DeSantis or Trump directly. But campaign manager Betsy Ankney called out DeSantis' campaign, which after winning the endorsement of Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds argued that Haley and others in the GOP field could only be "spoilers."

"Nikki Haley's momentum and path to victory are clear," Ankney said. "The same can't be said for Ron DeSantis, who, even with a decent showing in Iowa, can't afford a cup of coffee at the Red Arrow diner in New Hampshire and is a mere tourist in South Carolina."

DeSantis' campaign reported just \$5 million available to spend in the primary at the end of September, although spokesman Andrew Romeo said DeSantis raised millions more last month, including \$1 million since last week's GOP presidential debate.

The DeSantis campaign, which has gone through two rounds of layoffs already, continues to look to an allied super PAC to help build out campaign infrastructure and supplement advertising spending. Haley's campaign has also leaned on an allied super PAC to keep pace with DeSantis' allies in recent months. The rival super PACs have largely kept pace with each other.

As of Sunday, Haley's super PAC had reserved nearly \$4.9 million in advertising from Monday through January compared to almost \$4 million reserved by DeSantis' super PAC, according to AdImpact.

DeSantis' opponents flagged another shift in spending as a potential sign of financial stress. The pro-DeSantis Never Back Down moved late last week to shift roughly \$700,000 in advertising initially set to run over the next two weeks into January instead.

Kristin Davison, who leads Never Back Down, said no advertising dollars were "cut." Instead, she said they were "optimized and placed to complement (the) campaign and get January started."

Future advertising reserves don't require payment until just before the ads run, while the bill for this month's ads were about to come due. In short, the maneuver could have been a way to save money in the short term, although Davison described the decision as standard operating procedure.

Davison expressed optimism about the direction of the DeSantis campaign, pointing to Reynolds' endorsement last week, which was "not only a huge endorsement and validator for Gov. DeSantis, but also a real setback for Nikki Haley."

"I think it effectively kills her in Iowa not to have the governor's support," Davison said.

As DeSantis and Haley intensify their rivalry, Trump continues to dominate in polling and fundraising.

In his most recent federal filing, Trump's campaign committee reported more than \$37.5 million cash on hand at the end of September, which was more than DeSantis and Haley combined.

Haley acknowledged Trump's political strength on Sunday, but she also outlined her path forward.

"We have plenty of money that we're going to be on TV with," she said on "Fox News Sunday." "We're going to be strong in New Hampshire. We're going to be strong in South Carolina, because we spent our money well. We've got great ground games in every one of those states. And we're going to keep surging."

International students have returned to US colleges, fueled by a surge from India

By COLLIN BINKLEY AP Education Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — International students attended U.S. universities in surging numbers last year, rebounding from a pandemic slump with the help of a 35% jump in students coming from India, according to a study released Monday.

Overall, the number of international students in the U.S. grew by 12% in the 2022-23 academic year, the largest single-year increase in more than 40 years, according to findings from the State Department

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 13, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 142 ~ 37 of 66

and the nonprofit Institute of International Education. More than 1 million students came from abroad, the most since the 2019-20 school year.

"This reinforces that the U.S. remains the destination of choice for international students wishing to study abroad, as it has been for more than a century," said Allan E. Goodman, CEO of the Institute of International Education.

American colleges enrolled nearly 269,000 students from India, more than ever and second only to China. Most came for graduate programs, often in science, technology and business.

"The U.S. maintains a strong relationship with India on education, which I think is getting even stronger and even more connected," said Marianne Craven, the State Department's acting deputy assistant secretary for academic exchange.

China still accounted for the most foreign students in the U.S. with 290,000, but its numbers decreased for a third consecutive year.

It reflects a gradual shift. After years of booming demand from China, interest has ebbed amid chilly international relations and increased competition from universities in the United Kingdom and Canada. Officials behind the new study also blame prolonged travel restrictions in Asia during the pandemic.

At the same time, U.S. universities have focused on recruiting in India, hoping to tap a growing population that the United Nations predicted would overtake China as the world's largest this year. Students from India now outnumber those from China in 24 U.S. states, including Illinois, Texas and Michigan, which rank among the top destinations for international students.

For the second consecutive year, America's graduate programs were the main attraction for international students, the study finds. Graduate enrollment grew by 21%, while undergraduate numbers ticked up 1%. It reverses a trend from the previous decade, which saw undergraduates come in larger numbers.

Much of last year's growth is credited to math and computer science programs, which attracted more students than any other subject and saw a 20% boost in enrollment over the previous year. Engineering and business followed behind. Taken together, those three fields account for more than half of all international students in the United States.

The surge nearly brings international numbers back to their pre-pandemic highs, with a peak of almost 1.1 million students in 2018. Enrollment fell precipitously over the following two years as COVID-19 stifled academic exchange.

The rebound appears to be continuing, with an 8% increase in international enrollment this fall, according to a smaller survey meant to give a snapshot of recent trends.

Overall, international students made up just 5.6% of all college students in the 2022-23 year, but they play an outsized role in U.S. higher education. University leaders say they're important for global exchange, and they're also important for revenue — international students are usually charged higher tuition rates, effectively subsidizing college for U.S. students.

Behind China and India, nations sending the most students to the U.S. were South Korea, Canada, Vietnam, Taiwan and Nigeria. Last school year saw a record number of students come from Bangladesh, Colombia, Ghana, India, Italy, Nepal, Pakistan and Spain.

While more students come from abroad, many colleges are struggling to attract students at home. Total enrollment across all colleges has stayed in a slump in the wake of pandemic decreases, and freshman enrollment decreased by 3.6% in fall 2023, according to a separate study by the National Student Clearinghouse.

Biden sees hopeful signs for his reelection in Democrats' 2023 wins. Others in his party are worried

By SEUNG MIN KIM and STEVE PEOPLES Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Surrounded by dozens of Democratic donors at a glass art gallery space in Chicago last week, President Joe Biden urged them to look beyond negative poll numbers and feel assured their donations were not being wasted.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 13, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 142 ~ 38 of 66

Then Biden joked to the crowd: "I could still screw up."

The attendees at his campaign fundraiser laughed. Yet many Democrats are fearful there is a serious disconnect between the popularity of Biden's agenda and the man himself, as the president's approval ratings remain stubbornly low and voters continue to register concerns about his age.

Some of those worries were tempered by the results of Tuesday's election, when Democrats romped to victory in Kentucky, Virginia, Ohio and Pennsylvania. Inside the White House, the Democrats' big night was a bright spot in an otherwise dim week as it grapples with the response to two wars and tries to minimize the president's flagging poll numbers. Just 38% of adults approve of Biden's job performance, according to a November Associated Press-NORC poll.

But few outsiders are confident that the off-year wins will necessarily lead to Biden's reelection or broader Democratic success next year.

Nowhere is that disconnect more apparent than Ohio, where a Democrat-backed measure to establish a constitutional right to abortion prevailed by 13% last Tuesday. While it was once the nation's premier swing state, Ohio was carried easily by Donald Trump in the last two elections. And Ohio Democrats don't expect Biden to compete in the state next year.

"This ain't the yellow brick road to the presidency just because Ohio pushed back against Republican overreach," said Nina Turner, an Ohio-based progressive leader who served as Sen. Bernie Sanders' national campaign co-chair in 2020.

Turner warned that Biden is losing support among young voters, especially from communities of color. The president's supporters are "delusional," she said, if they think he's in a strong position heading into 2024.

"The people in the bubble — I call them the brunch bunch — can continue to spin this. They do that at their own peril," she said. "What is happening on the streets is a lot different."

Former Rep. John Yarmuth, D-Ky., said the idea that Tuesday's victories would translate into electoral successes for Biden next year was "wishful thinking." He said he's worried that Biden is faring far worse than a generic Democrat would against Trump, although major Democrats have so far declined to challenge Biden.

"I think I'd be stupid not to be somewhat concerned," Yarmuth said. Noting Biden's increasingly aggressive posture against his predecessor, Yarmuth added: "I think that's an indication that he realizes that he's got to knock Trump down, not just tout his own record."

Still, Biden's team argues that Tuesday's results only validated the broad popularity of issues that will be core to the president's reelection campaign, such as abortion rights, democracy and legislative accomplishments including Biden's nearly two-year-old infrastructure law.

"We've heard the press and pundits count Joe Biden out time and time again, but we know that he always proves them wrong," Julie Chavez Rodriguez, Biden's campaign manager, told reporters last week. "If we want a real window into where voters actually are, we know the best way to measure that is to see how they're actually voting."

Indeed, that has been the mantra from Biden's broader orbit since Tuesday night: Polls don't matter, but voters do.

In the Biden campaign's view, the off-year election results are more analogous than current polling to the resources, investment and direct communication with voters that will go into the elections next year. To Biden aides, the results validated the strategy of sharpening the contrast with "MAGA Republicans" that helped Democrats outperform expectations in 2022. Biden watched Tuesday's returns with interest and wanted to swiftly call the winning Democrats to congratulate them.

In Kentucky, Democratic Gov. Andy Beshear defeated Republican Daniel Cameron, overcoming the state's increasingly conservative bent, by highlighting local issues and hammering Cameron on his support of Kentucky's near-total abortion ban.

Cameron's campaign tried repeatedly to tie Beshear to Biden, focusing heavily on inflation — a vulnerable point for the White House — and running commercials featuring a photo of both Democrats together. Beshear, meanwhile, often talked about the millions of dollars in federal aid that came to Kentucky for infrastructure and for COVID-19 relief. He also has his own political brand in Kentucky and is the son of

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 13, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 142 ~ 39 of 66

a former two-term governor.

At the Chicago fundraiser, Biden noted that Beshear won reelection while "running on all the programs that were Biden initiatives."

Beshear kept some distance from Biden the day after he won. Asked Wednesday in an interview with The Associated Press if he wants Biden to be the Democratic nominee next year, he replied: "I think President Biden is going to be the Democratic nominee in 2024."

When asked if he is concerned about Biden's age and poll numbers, Beshear replied: "He's going to be the nominee. And I'm pretty sure that this is going to be a rematch from before. So it's just going to be a choice between the two for people."

In Pennsylvania, Democrat Dan McCaffery won election to the state's Supreme Court on a campaign centered on abortion and other rights. And Virginia Democrats took full control of the statehouse and dealt Republican Gov. Glenn Youngkin a public setback by making abortion access a focus of legislative campaigns.

Jim Messina, who managed Barack Obama's successful reelection against Republican Mitt Romney in 2012, said the Biden campaign does not need to change its tactics. Obama also struggled with low approval ratings the year before he won a second term.

"They need it to become a choice pretty soon between them and Trump," Messina said. "Right now, the Republican primary is kind of allowing people to think, 'Well, it could be Nikki Haley, it could be someone else.' Our election got much easier once Romney got the nomination."

For now, the Biden campaign should continue to reinforce the president's record with voters rather than focusing wholly on Trump, Messina said.

"The easiest way to build the poll numbers would be to go kick the hell out of Trump and make it a two-person race. I think that's sort of sugar candy. It's a nice rush," he said. But "you're supposed to be on a diet. And your diet is telling the economic narrative. And then you get to Trump in the general and then you whale away on him."

The Biden campaign has already laid that groundwork, particularly with a 16-week, \$25 million advertising blitz that began in September in battleground states that seeks to educate voters on Biden's accomplishments while reinforcing what the Biden campaign calls the "messaging contrast that will be core to this election."

Rep. Ro Khanna, D-Calif., who co-chaired Bernie Sanders' presidential campaign in 2020 but now supports Biden, said the president needs a stronger economic message focused on domestic issues — not global affairs — heading into 2024. He noted that many voters are dissatisfied with Biden's leadership on the economy. The November AP-NORC poll found Biden's approval on the economy was just 33%.

"I believe that we should rally around the president for reelection, but we should be clear-eyed that it's going to be a very hard fight," Khanna said. "People are anxious about the future."

In Pennsylvania, where Biden was born and spent part of his childhood, former Gov. Ed Rendell said the persistent concerns about Biden's age from voters in both parties represent a serious challenge.

Rendell is hopeful, however, that Biden will benefit from a matchup against Trump, who faces four criminal indictments and is also unpopular with much of the American public. He suggested that the president would not fare so well against another Republican nominee.

"He is old, he does stumble a little bit," Rendell said of Biden. "I pray every night for the health of two people: Joe Biden and Donald Trump."

The APEC summit is happening this week in San Francisco.

What is APEC, anyway?

By COLLEEN LONG and AAMER MADHANI Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States is hosting the annual APEC summit of world leaders this week for the first time since 2011. Leaders from the 21-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation group will gather in San Francisco to talk about how to better spur trade and economic growth across the Pacific region.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 13, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 142 ~ 40 of 66

But the main summit event will actually be on the sidelines: A face-to-face meeting between President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping. This year's conference is happening against the backdrop of the frosty relationship between China and the U.S. and global turmoil from the Israel-Hamas war and Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

A look at what APEC is and how it works:

WHAT IS APEC?

APEC stands for Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation. It's a forum to promote trade, investment and economic development among nations around the Pacific Ocean.

The group started with 12 members in 1989, but has since grown to 21 including China, Russia, Japan, the U.S. and Australia. Those member nations pack a lot of punch, accounting for nearly 40% of the global population and almost half the world's trade.

The annual leaders' conference brings together heads of nations and other top economic and diplomatic leaders. (Don't expect much of a presence from Russia this year; it's a pariah as Russian President Vladimir Putin presses his country's invasion of Ukraine and will have lower-level representation.)

White House aides say the goal for this year's summit is to try to make APEC economies more resilient, particularly in the face of growing climate issues and following a global pandemic that killed millions of people and strained supply chains.

THE MAIN EVENT

The main event of this summit is unfolding on the sidelines: a meeting between Biden and Xi. The two leaders haven't spoken in person since they met last November during the Group of 20 summit in Bali, Indonesia. A lot has happened since then to ratchet up tensions between the superpowers.

The Biden administration shot down a Chinese spy balloon that traversed the continental U.S. earlier this year. The Chinese government hacked the emails of Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo. The U.S. government restricted the export of advanced computer chips to China, and has pushed to provide development aid to other nations to counter China's influence.

The differences also have been exacerbated by Russia's war in Ukraine and China's increasing assertiveness in the Taiwan Strait. But representatives from the U.S. and China have been meeting with increasing frequency lately, working to thaw relations. Still, the Biden-Xi meeting isn't expected to substantially alter the trajectory of U.S.-China relations.

HOW EFFECTIVE IS APEC?

The forum has limited scope. It is centered on trade and the economy. There is no military component and it wasn't forged by a world-altering event like a war.

It technically has member "economies" rather than countries. That allows room for participation by both China-ruled Hong Kong and self-ruled Taiwan.

APEC's strength lies in its ability to get countries to work together on big initiatives and to ease business relations without binding agreements. Economists point to how APEC contributed to a reduction of tariffs and other barriers to trade.

But the trade landscape is different now than when APEC began in a period of increased globalization. The U.S. strategy has been focused on economic competition with China rather than cooperation, even as U.S. leaders continue to stress the importance of cooperation. Biden is seeking partnerships with other nations in the region to develop alternatives to Chinese manufacturing imports such as electronic equipment, machinery, furniture, textiles and other goods.

Biden also is trying to highlight progress on the new Indo-Pacific trade deal, started last year after President Donald Trump withdrew from the more popular Trans-Pacific Partnership.

FRICITION

The conference has had its challenges and moments of drama in recent years.

The group met virtually in 2020 and 2021 because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Leaders did gather in Bangkok last year, but Biden skipped the summit because his granddaughter was getting married and he sent Vice President Kamala Harris in his place. That decision was regarded as a snub by some APEC leaders. Then, delegates from the United States and four other nations walked out to protest Russia's invasion

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 13, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 142 ~ 41 of 66

of Ukraine as the Russian representative to the conference began to speak.

Chile withdrew as APEC host in 2019 due to mass protests. Last year, when Thailand hosted the summit in Bangkok, pro-democracy protesters challenged the legitimacy of the Thai prime minister, prompting police to fire at the crowd with rubber bullets that injured several protesters and a Reuters journalist.

This year may give rise to friction over the Israel-Hamas war. The variety of nations involved in the summit have strong views on both sides of the conflict. Typically at the close of a summit there is some kind of joint statement by all the nations, but that's not a given this year, in part because of those differences.

There is also some participation intrigue: Taiwan will once again be represented at the summit by Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. founder Morris Chang. The 92-year-old's lack of a domestic political role allows him to meet with world leaders without fear of repercussions from China.

Hong Kong, meanwhile, will be represented by Financial Secretary Paul Chan. Chief executive John Lee, who is under U.S. sanctions for his role in a political crackdown in Hong Kong, opted out of the summit, citing scheduling issues.

A potential U.S. government shutdown also could loom over the conference: The government will run out of money on Friday without a funding agreement between Congress and the president. It's a persistent reminder of U.S. political dysfunction just as Biden seeks to project American reliability. The credit rating agency Moody's Investors Service lowered its outlook on the U.S. government's debt on Friday to "negative," citing rising interest rates and political polarization in Congress.

FORUM FASHION

At the end of APEC summits, the leaders typically pose together for a "family photo." At the first leader-level meeting three decades ago, President Bill Clinton, hosting in Seattle, handed out matching leather bomber jackets similar to those worn by American fighter pilots. He apparently wanted his fellow VIPs to feel relaxed, and a tradition was launched.

Since then, the APEC leaders have posed together in batik shirts (Malaysia, 1998), Chinese jackets (Shanghai, 2001), flowing ponchos (Chile, 2004) and "ao dai" tunics (Vietnam, 2006.) The Philippines' barong tagalog, a partially see-through, embroidered shirt sewn from pineapple fiber and silk, was featured in the 1996 summit and again in 2015.

It's not clear if the matching outfits will be back this year. The last time the U.S. hosted the conference, in Hawaii in 2011, President Barack Obama nixed the idea. A reporter asked whether it was scrapped because the tradition felt too light-hearted amid ongoing concerns about the economy.

No. Obama just thought they looked embarrassing.

For news organizations, the flood of Gaza war video is proving both illuminating and troubling

By DAVID BAUDER AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A camera livestreaming the skyline of Gaza City captures streaks of light. Dash-cam video from a car in Israel spots a killer coming into view. A satellite identifies tank tracks in the dirt, and a mall security camera catches the moment a bomb in Gaza detonates.

While journalists' access to the war in Gaza is limited, a flood of video from all sorts of sources documents what is — and isn't — going on.

At news organizations, sifting through material found online to determine what is real, and to unearth the sometimes unexpected clues that can be used to tie stories together, are increasingly important — and often emotionally overwhelming — jobs.

"It has become a key part of doing journalism in the modern age," said Katie Polglase, a London-based investigative producer for CNN.

CBS News last week announced the launch of "CBS News Confirmed," the formation of a team to use data and technology to study online evidence. Earlier this year, the similar "BBC Verify" unit was formed to bring more open source reporting methods to the worldwide news outlet.

The buildup of this capability was seen most prominently when The New York Times, Washington Post,

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 13, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 142 ~ 42 of 66

Wall Street Journal, CNN and The Associated Press did in-depth analyses of video evidence — including those streaks in the sky — to try and determine the disputed cause of a deadly Oct. 17 explosion at Gaza's al-Ahli Arab Hospital.

There was no unanimity — and some caution about drawing conclusions absent an ability to examine evidence on the ground.

NO LONGER JUST ON THE SCENE

In an earlier era, viewers generally saw the aftermath of a news event unless television cameras happened to be on the scene. Now, with millions of people carrying phones that have video cameras, the aftermath isn't good enough. The buzzword is "now."

"The reality is that audiences expect to participate in a shared viewing experience, to learn what is going on along with anchors and reporters," said Wendy McMahon, president of CBS News and Stations.

That means combing through an endless supply of video posted on sources like X (formerly Twitter), YouTube, Instagram, Telegram and Facebook. Much is harrowing: images of mangled bodies, bloodied children carried out of rubble, people distraught at the loss of loved ones. The effect of seeing such images is known by those who must watch them frequently as "vicarious trauma."

Combatants know well the power of such images, which explains why some Hamas members wore cameras to document their Oct. 7 killing spree in Israel. Meanwhile, Israel compiled and has been showing grisly images of that day to journalists.

"The degree to which social media has been used is very sophisticated," said Rhona Tarrant, senior editor at the investigative site Storyful. "There's so much information. There's so much content."

News organizations are constantly weighing their job to convey reality against the concern that violent images are too traumatizing for consumers to see. Too much can desensitize viewers. Yet sometimes the repetition — the ongoing grind of war — is a story in itself.

Through images that have appeared online in recent weeks, people "learned" about Bella Hadid, a model of Palestinian descent, denouncing Hamas' attack in Israel; a row of supposed bodies of dead Palestinians covered in white shrouds where one mysteriously moved; and a Palestinian "actor" seriously wounded in a hospital bed one day and walking unharmed the next.

None of it happened. All of the images were fake.

Video of Hadid accepting an award for activism in Lyme Disease was manipulated to make it seem like different words were coming from her mouth. The "moving body" video came from a 2013 protest rally in Egypt. The supposed "actor" was two separate people, and the image of one in a hospital bed preceded the start of the war.

That's where the sleuthing skills of journalists studying video comes into play. Much of what is online now comes from past conflicts, including in Gaza itself, being passed off as new; search engines exist to help determine the truth. Sometimes images from video games are passed off as real, but experts can usually spot them.

"This war in many respects has confirmed our working assumption, that news organizations would see an influx of deep fakes and misinformation at a scale that was never seen before," McMahon said.

HOW POTENT IS AI'S POWER?

Although the advance of artificial intelligence is a great fear, some experts says its use so far in this war has been limited in comparison to, say, old video being passed off as new. "People believe that AI is more powerful than it is at the moment," said James Law, editor-in-chief at Storyful.

While debunking falsehoods is a big part of what journalists are doing, the use of video and other publicly available material — the definition of open-source reporting — has also come into its own in recent weeks.

Storyful, which formed in 2009 to help news organizations make sense of all that is out there, is particularly adept at this new form of detective work. Its investigators use many tools, including mapping software, flight-tracking, security cameras, news agency videos.

Often people are shooting footage, and something else that happens to be there — like leftover fragments from a bomb — can be clues for another story entirely, Polglase said.

Maps, video and audio from different sources can be pulled together for stories on how particular events unfolded, such as the Hamas attack on an outdoor concert the morning of Oct. 7. CNN's investigation of this event, for example, illustrated how concertgoers were directed toward shelters they thought would be safe but turned out to be killing grounds.

The New York Times used video and Telegram postings to show how false claims that Israelis were going to settle in a Muslim area of Russia led to a mob attacking a plane.

Satellite images, video and photos helped The Washington Post track where Israeli forces went during their initial incursion into Gaza. Through videos and reporting, the BBC told about four sites in southern Gaza that were bombed and checked to see what kind of warning Israel offered to civilians that it was coming.

Part of the "CBS News Confirmed" initiative involves the hiring of journalists who are skilled in this type of reporting. Beyond concentrating on specific teams, organizations like the AP and BBC are training journalists throughout the world in some of these techniques.

Yet some of this work comes with a price. News outlets have long worried about the physical safety of journalists stationed in war zones, and are now becoming cognizant that spending hours watching disturbing video can be an emotional drain.

The investigative site Bellingcat tells employees to protect their mental health. "Always ask yourself if there is a genuine reason you need to view this footage," advises Charlotte Maher, its social media critic. And one expert offers this advice: Turn off the sound after hearing something once because the audio can be as disturbing as what can be seen.

At Storyful, employees are encouraged to talk about what they're going through and take advantage of counseling services if needed, all under a common message: You don't need to just suck it up. Says Tarrant: "It certainly does take a toll on the team."

South Carolina Sen. Tim Scott abruptly ends 2024 presidential bid, shocking even his campaign staff

By MEG KINNARD Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — Republican presidential candidate Tim Scott abruptly announced late Sunday that he was dropping out of the 2024 race, a development that surprised his donors and stunned his campaign staff just two months before the start of voting in Iowa's leadoff GOP caucuses.

The South Carolina senator, who entered the race in May with high hopes, made the surprise announcement on Fox News Channel's "Sunday Night in America" with Trey Gowdy, one of his closest friends. The news was so unanticipated that one campaign worker told The Associated Press that campaign staff found out Scott was dropping out by watching the show.

"I love America more today than I did on May 22," Scott said Sunday. "But when I go back to Iowa, it will not be as a presidential candidate. I am suspending my campaign. I think the voters who are the most remarkable people on the planet have been really clear that they're telling me, 'Not now, Tim.'"

Scott's impending departure comes as he and the rest of the GOP field have struggled in a race that has been dominated by former President Donald Trump. Despite four criminal indictments and a slew of other legal challenges, Trump continues to poll far ahead of his rivals, leading many in the party to conclude the race is effectively over, barring some stunning change of fortune.

Scott, in particular, has had trouble gaining traction in the polls, despite millions spent on his behalf by high-profile donors. In his efforts to run a positive campaign, he was often overshadowed by other candidates — particularly on the debate stage, where he seemed to disappear as others sparred. It was unclear whether Scott would qualify for the upcoming fourth debate, which will require higher polling numbers and more donors.

Scott is the second major candidate to leave the race since the end of October. Former Vice President Mike Pence suspended his campaign two weeks ago, announcing at a Republican Jewish Coalition gathering in Las Vegas that "This is not my time." Pence, however, was polling behind Scott and was in a far more precarious financial position.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 13, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 142 ~ 44 of 66

Scott said he wouldn't immediately be endorsing any of his remaining Republican rivals.

"The voters are really smart," Scott said. "The best way for me to be helpful is to not weigh in on who they should endorse."

He also appeared to rule out serving as vice president, saying the No. 2 slot "has never been on my to-do list for this campaign, and it's certainly not there now."

Scott's departure leaves Nikki Haley, Trump's first United Nations ambassador and the former South Carolina governor, as the sole South Carolinian in the race. As governor, Haley appointed Scott — then newly elected to his second U.S. House term — to the Senate in 2012, and the fact that both were in the 2024 race had created an uncomfortable situation for many of the donors and voters who had supported them both through the years.

It also sparked some unpleasant on-stage moments during the first three GOP debates, with the long-time allies — who for a time had also shared political consultants — trading tense jabs. After the surprise announcement, some of Scott's donors said they would be switching to back Haley in the primary.

In a post on X on Sunday night, Haley called Scott "a good man of faith and an inspiration to so many," adding that the GOP primary "was made better by his participation in it."

Scott's team was so surprised by his exit that just 13 minutes before he announced his departure, his campaign sent out an email soliciting supporters for donations to further Scott's "strong leadership and optimistic, positive vision to lead our country forward." Saying that "EVERYTHING is on the line" to win the White House, the email went on offering readers "ONE LAST CHANCE to donate this weekend and help Tim reach his campaign goal."

Campaign staffers expressed their extreme irritation to the AP in light of the candidate recently shifting staff and money from New Hampshire to Iowa in an effort to boost his standing in the leadoff caucus.

A senior staffer characterized the experience as incredibly frustrating, saying that staff had been working around the clock to accommodate the move, only to completely reverse it. As with the campaign worker who said Scott's staff found out about his departure by watching the senator on TV, the worker was not authorized to discuss the internal deliberations publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Many donors were surprised and saddened by Scott's announcement, though they praised him for stepping aside to give Republicans a chance to coalesce behind a Trump alternative.

Eric Levine, a New York-based donor who was raising money for Scott, said he was caught totally off-guard.

"He stepped aside with dignity. He is a true patriot. I could not have been prouder to have supported him," said Levine, a vocal Trump critic. He said he would now be supporting Haley.

"She is our last best hope to defeat Donald Trump and then take back the White House," Levine said.

Chad Walldorf, a South Carolina businessman and longtime Scott supporter and donor, thought Scott's decision was in the best interest of the Republican Party.

"I've always thought the field needs to winnow quickly so we can get behind a good alternative to Trump, so I greatly respect Tim for unselfishly stepping aside rather than waiting until too late," said Walldorf, who added he's now backing Haley.

Mikee Johnson, a South Carolina businessman and Scott donor who served as his national finance co-chairman, told the AP that he knew before Scott's TV appearance that he would be suspending his campaign.

"He is honorable, knows his supporters were prepared to support him for the duration, and was not going to ask that of his friends and supporters," said Johnson. "He is energized and ready for the next phase. ... I told him I did not have a single regret."

Many of Scott's former 2024 rivals issued statements Sunday night wishing him well.

On social media, DeSantis commended him as a "strong conservative with bold ideas about how to get our country back on track," adding, "I respect his courage to run this campaign and thank him for his service to America and the U.S. Senate."

Pence called Scott "a man of faith and integrity who brought his optimistic vision and inspiring personal story to people all across this country."

Trump's campaign did not immediately respond to news of Scott's exit. But Trump has been careful not to criticize the senator, leading some in his orbit to consider Scott a potential vice presidential pick.

The former president and his team had welcomed a large field of rivals, believing they would splinter the anti-Trump vote and prevent a clear challenger from emerging.

Scott's next move is unclear. He has said that his 2022 Senate reelection would be his last and has at times been mentioned as a possible candidate for South Carolina governor, which is next up in 2026. Gov. Henry McMaster, a Trump backer, is term-limited, and the GOP primary is expected to be heated.

GOP hopeful Chris Christie visits Israel, says the US must show solidarity in war against Hamas

By MOSHE EDRI Associated Press

KFAR AZZA, Israel (AP) — Republican presidential hopeful Chris Christie on Sunday visited Israel, saying the U.S. must stand "shoulder to shoulder" with Israel in its war against the Hamas militant group.

Christie toured a kibbutz that was ravaged in the Oct. 7 rampage by Hamas militants that triggered the war and was meeting Israeli leaders, wounded soldiers and families of Israeli hostages during his one-day visit. The former New Jersey governor is the first candidate for the 2024 Republican nomination to visit Israel.

"I came here because I wanted to see this for myself," Christie said during a tour of Kfar Azza, one of more than 20 towns and villages attacked by Hamas militants on Oct. 7. Israel says over 1,200 people were killed and 239 others are being held hostage in Gaza.

Jets buzzed overhead as Christie toured the kibbutz alongside the speaker of Israel's parliament, Amir Ohana.

Christie, donning a flak jacket and flanked by an entourage of Israeli soldiers, made his way through homes with walls riddled by bullet holes and couches stained with blood. Over a month since the attack, many Kfar Azza houses are burnt-out and destroyed — structures left standing are scribbled with Arabic graffiti.

"To be able to walk through a neighborhood like this and see what was done to the people, to still be able to walk into one of these homes and smell the death still, a month later, is something that I think the American people need to know."

Christie, the 2024 race's most vocal critic of former president, Donald J. Trump, has cast himself as the only Republican willing to directly take him on. Trump has not visited Israel during the current campaign cycle, though President Joe Biden has.

The Republican candidates have all lined up behind Israel, even as the country comes under growing international pressure to halt or scale back an offensive in the Gaza Strip in which more than 11,000 Palestinians, two-thirds of them women and minors, have been killed, according to the Health Ministry in Hamas-run Gaza, which does not differentiate between civilian and militant deaths. About 2,700 people have been reported missing and are thought to be trapped or dead under the rubble.

Christie praised the way that Biden has handled relations with Israel during wartime. As widespread protests of Israel's bombardment of Gaza in major cities like New York and Los Angeles attract thousands, the Biden administration has sought to increase humanitarian aid into Gaza while backing the Israeli war effort by moving US troops and defense systems into the region. Biden has largely ducked calls to pressure Israel into a ceasefire.

Christie said that he thought protesters calling for a ceasefire did not represent the vast majority of Americans.

"I don't think it's the role of the United States to instruct the state of Israel on how to provide safety and security for its people," he said. "I think we can give advice, as friends give advice in private. But publicly, my view is that we need to stand with Israel."

During his visit, Christie watched a film of gruesome footage pulled from the body cameras of Hamas militants on Oct. 7 and compiled by the Israeli army. The military has screened the film to international

press and multiple world leaders who have visited Israel since the start of the war.

"I want the people of Israel to know that there are hundreds of millions of Americans who stand with them, who understand the atrocities that were committed, and why in the future we need to stand absolutely shoulder to shoulder with Israel," Christie said.

Christie has positioned himself as someone who if elected would defend U.S. interests and democracy abroad. He has previously visited Ukraine to meet with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

The trip marks his second trip to a warring country since the start of his presidential bid, after a visit to Ukraine in August.

By far the most strident critic of Trump in the Republican field, Christie has consistently been in the low single digits in national polls, far behind the former president.

Millions of Indians set a world record celebrating Diwali as worries about air pollution rise

By BISWAJEET BANERJEE Associated Press

LUCKNOW, India (AP) — Millions of Indians celebrated Diwali on Sunday with a Guinness World Record number of bright earthen oil lamps as concerns about air pollution soared in the South Asian country.

Across the country, dazzling multi-colored lights decked homes and streets as devotees celebrated the annual Hindu festival of light symbolizing the victory of light over darkness.

But the spectacular and much-awaited massive lighting of the oil lamps took place — as usual — at Saryu River, in Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh state, the birthplace of their most revered deity, the god Ram.

At dusk on Saturday, devotees lit over 2.22 million lamps and kept them burning for 45 minutes as Hindu religious hymns filled the air at the banks of the river, setting a new world Record. Last year, over 1.5 million earthen lamps were lit.

After counting the lamps, Guinness Book of World Records representatives presented a record certificate to the state's top elected official Yogi Adityanath.

Over 24,000 volunteers, mostly college students, helped prepare for the new record, said Pratibha Goyal, vice-chancellor of Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Avadh University, in Ayodhya.

Diwali, a national holiday across India, is celebrated by socializing and exchanging gifts with family and friends. Many light earthen oil lamps or candles, and fireworks are set off as part of the celebrations. In the evening, a special prayer is dedicated to the Hindu goddess Lakshmi, who is believed to bring luck and prosperity.

Over the weekend, authorities ran extra trains to accommodate the huge numbers trying to reach their hometowns to join family celebrations.

The festival came as worries about air quality in India rose. A "hazardous" 400-500 level was recorded on the air quality index last week, more than 10 times the global safety threshold, which can cause acute and chronic bronchitis and asthma attacks. But on Saturday, unexpected rain and a strong wind improved the levels to 220, according to the government-run Central Pollution Control Board.

Air pollution level is expected to soar again after the celebrations end Sunday night because of the fireworks used.

Last week, officials in New Delhi shut down primary schools and banned polluting vehicles and construction work in an attempt to reduce the worst haze and smog of the season, which has posed respiratory problems for people and enveloped monuments and high-rise buildings in and around India's capital.

Authorities deployed water sprinklers and anti-smog guns to control the haze and many people used masks to escape the air pollution.

New Delhi tops the list almost every year among the many Indian cities with poor air quality, particularly in the winter, when the burning of crop residues in neighboring states coincides with cooler temperatures that trap deadly smoke.

Some Indian states have banned the sale of fireworks and imposed other restrictions to stem the pollution. Authorities have also urged residents to light "green crackers" that emit less pollutants than normal

firecrackers. But similar bans have often been disregarded in the past.

The Diwali celebrations this year were marked as authorities prepared to inaugurate in January an under-construction and long-awaited temple of the Hindu god Ram at the site of a demolished 16th-century Babri mosque in Ayodhya city in Uttar Pradesh state.

The Babri Masjid mosque was destroyed by a Hindu mob with pickaxes and crowbars in December 1992, sparking massive Hindu-Muslim violence that left some 2,000 people dead, most of them Muslims. The Supreme Court's verdict in 2019 allowed a temple to be built in place of the demolished mosque.

Military training efforts for Ukraine hit major milestones even as attention shifts to Gaza

By JOHN LEICESTER Associated Press

A FRENCH ARMY BASE, France (AP) — Battle cries pierce the smoke and rat-a-tat-tat of gunfire as Ukrainian soldiers fight through and take enemy trenches and dugouts that hide gruesome, bloody remains.

"Grenade!" one screams in Ukrainian. Another yells: "Let's go, let's go, let's go, let's go!"

This time, no lives or limbs were lost. Because this time, the rounds fired were blanks and the "enemy" troops were, in fact, French soldiers whose intention was not to kill the Ukrainians but instead to help shape them into better, more lethal warriors.

But soon, the war games these troops played in the mud in France will become all too real, when the Ukrainians return home and are sent to the front lines against Russia's forces.

As the Russian invasion grinds into a second winter and casualties — already estimated in the hundreds of thousands — continue to mount on both sides, combat training programs provided by Ukraine's allies are helping it hold out and its odds of eventual victory. By continuing to prepare Ukrainian troops for battle even as the Israel-Hamas war diverts global attention, Ukraine's backers also are making concrete their promises to stick with it for the long haul.

France is on course to have trained 7,000 Ukrainians this year — some in Poland, others at French bases — as part of a European Union military assistance mission for Ukraine that launched a year ago this week. The French army granted The Associated Press access to a training base in rural France last week to observe the latest class of Ukrainian infantrymen being put through its paces at the tail end of a four-week course.

The EU mission's initial goal was to train 15,000 soldiers, but it has far exceeded that target and now expects to hit 35,000 by the end of this year. All but three of the EU's 27 member countries, plus non-member Norway, have provided training courses or instructors, the EU Commission says.

The United States has trained about 18,000, mostly in Germany, with an additional 1,000 in the pipeline, the Pentagon says.

In Britain, 30,000 have learned soldiering in the past 17 months, a training program the U.K. government says is unprecedented since World War II.

As well as basic training with weapons, battlefield first aid and other skills, instructors are also imparting specialized military know-how, ranging from clearing mines and launching waterborne attacks aboard small boats to equipment repair, officer training and even help for Ukrainian military chaplains.

With their return to Ukraine just days away, the grimness of the future that awaits the trainees at the French base was perceptible in the men's determined, unsmiling looks. Civilians not long ago, they now carried themselves like soldiers. They addressed each other with nicknames. There was liberal swearing as the men caught their breaths after storming trenches with fake grenades and blank rounds.

French instructors left animal remains in the complex of dugouts and ditches to harden the troops to battlefield bloodshed. Only the officers had previous front-line experience, the chief French training officer said.

He said Ukraine is looking to France for tactics and know-how that could help its forces bust through Russian defenses. Because of French military concerns for the base's security, the officer, Lt. Col. Even, could only be identified by his rank and first name.

"One can clearly see in Ukraine that the front line is relatively frozen, with two belligerents who employ very similar doctrines," he said. "So today, one of the keys being sought in an attempt to break this inertia is to try to develop maneuvering schemes that can bother and even shake up the adversary."

As well as seeing their assault on freshly dug trenches, the AP also observed Ukrainians vigorously defending a mock-up village against a French "enemy" attack and concealing themselves in rain-drenched woodlands. Translators bridged the language gap between the soldiers and their French hosts.

French trainers said they've learned through experience that it's unwise to get too friendly with the trainees — because some of them are sure to be killed back home. Despite sharing the bonding discomforts of long days and nights in the French wilds, they sever ties when the training is done, with soldiers under orders not to swap phone numbers or other contacts.

"You have to burn bridges because otherwise you ask yourselves too many questions. When you find out that this or that person is dead, you're bound to ask yourself what you did wrong: 'Did we work enough on this or that tactic? Should I have insisted more on this point?'" said one of the instructors, Capt. Xavier.

"We're doing our utmost," he said. "Asking yourself afterward what you did wrong or could have done better is torturing yourself for nothing."

Attacks by Lebanon's Hezbollah group wound 7 Israeli troops, 10 others along border with Israel

By AMY TEIBEL Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Attacks by Lebanon's Hezbollah group Sunday wounded seven Israeli troops and 10 other people, Israel's military and rescue services said.

The clashes came as skirmishes between the Iran-backed group and Israeli military continue to intensify along the Lebanon-Israel border, threatening to escalate into another front in the Mideast's latest war.

The assault was the most serious incident involving civilians along the Lebanon-Israel border since an Israeli airstrike in south Lebanon on Nov. 5 killed a woman and three children.

The Israeli army's chief spokesman, Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari, said the Hezbollah attack on Israeli civilians was "very serious."

He said Israel is focused on its war in Gaza but it also remains at a "very high level of preparedness in the north" and ready to take further action.

The Israeli military "has operational plans to change the security status in the north," he told reporters. "The security status will not remain such that the civilians of the north do not feel safe returning to their homes."

The Israeli military said in a statement that "seven IDF soldiers were lightly injured as a result of the mortar shell launches in the area of Manara in northern Israel earlier today." Israeli rescue services did not identify the location or provide information about the 10 others wounded by rocket blasts and shrapnel, but said two of them were in critical condition.

The Israeli military said they identified 15 launches from Lebanon over the past hour and their defense systems intercepted four of them. The rest fell into open areas.

Hamas' military wing, meanwhile, claimed responsibility for shelling the northern Haifa and the Israeli border towns of Na'ura and Shlomi from southern Lebanon without giving any further details.

Hezbollah first fired antitank missiles at an Israeli community just over the border on Sunday, Israeli officials said, badly wounding utility workers. The Israeli military said it was striking the origin of the launch with artillery fire. The Israel Electric Corp. said workers in the rural community of Dovev were wounded while repairing lines damaged in a previous attack. Israeli media reported that six people were wounded, including one critically.

Israel struck several southern Lebanese towns, including Yaroun, Mays el-Jabal, and Alma al-Shaab.

The Israeli military Sunday night shared an aerial video showing strikes on what it said was Hezbollah militant infrastructure including a "military compound with a warehouse of weapons and military infrastructure." It did not give any additional details. Hezbollah said it launched guided missiles against a "logistical

force belonging to the occupation army that was about to install transmission poles and eavesdropping and spying devices near the Dovev barracks." It said it hit an Israeli military bulldozer in a separate strike. Shortly after the attack, air raid sirens were heard in northern Israel. Army Radio reported that another antitank missile had been fired from Lebanon.

Hezbollah later announced attacks on Israeli military gatherings and barracks in border areas Birket Riche and Zareit, as clashes continue to intensify.

Israeli troops and Hezbollah militants and their allies have been clashing along the border since the Israel-Hamas war started five weeks ago with a bloody incursion into southern Israel by Hezbollah ally Hamas. While largely contained, clashes have increased in intensity as Israel conducts a ground offensive in Gaza against Hamas.

Also Sunday, the United Nations peacekeeping force in south Lebanon, UNIFIL, said one of its peacekeepers had been wounded by gunfire overnight near the Lebanese town of al-Qawza. It was not immediately clear where the shooting had come from or whether the peacekeepers were targeted or caught in crossfire. UNIFIL said it was investigating.

Long walk to school: 30 years into freedom, many kids in South Africa still walk miles to class

By MOGOMOTSI MAGOME Associated Press

DUNDEE, South Africa (AP) — On weekdays, 14-year-old Luyanda Hlali gets up before dawn to fetch firewood and cow dung to start a fire and boil some water before her four siblings and parents wake up.

The mornings are a hive of activity in the Nhlangothi home, in the tiny village of Stratford in South Africa's KwaZulu-Natal province. Once her chores are done, Luyanda embarks on a 10-kilometer (6-mile) walk to her school.

There are no school buses. There is only the long, dusty road where thieves and bad men can accost her.

Luyanda is one of tens of thousands of children in South Africa's poorest and most remote rural communities who still face long walks to the nearest public school, nearly 30 years after the nation ushered in democratic change.

The hardships underscore the children's unequal access to education; the lack of government-funded school transportation has exacerbated myriad dangers.

Girls face the threat of assault and robberies are rampant. Parents, local leaders and activists say the situation perpetuates already existing inequalities in a country described by the World Bank as the most unequal in the world.

In KwaZulu-Natal, campaigners and activists are pressing authorities to provide transport for over 200,000 schoolchildren like Luyanda — kids who have to walk 3 kilometers or more to school.

That distance, under President Cyril Ramaphosa's government policy, requires authorities to provide transportation for the students. But with poverty soaring and unemployment in the country of 56 million people at over 25%, school buses are low on the list of priorities.

Psychologist Melinda du Toit says the lack of school transportation is indicative of the socio-economic realities of South Africa and its inherent inequality. Those who cannot afford to live in urban areas will continue to lack basic services.

A 2020 Amnesty International report said children's experience in South Africa "still very much depends on where they are born, how wealthy they are, and the color of their skin."

South Africa's education system, the report said, "continues to be dogged by stark inequalities and chronic underperformance that have deep roots in the legacy of apartheid, but which are also not being effectively tackled" by the government.

In KwaZulu-Natal, where more than 30% of the province's 12.4 million people are unemployed and on welfare, many say they have to choose between buying food or paying 350 South African rands, roughly \$19, a month for public transport.

"Sometimes these children go to school without eating breakfast," said Bongwiwe Nhlangothi, Luyanda's

grandmother.

She says she fears the most when her grandchildren are on the road.

"There are drug addicts around here, when they come across the children in the early hours of the morning, they rob them of their phones, threaten them with knives and try to rape them," Nhlangothi said.

A school principal in a village located about 50 kilometers (31 miles) from the coalmining town of Dundee, recounted his struggle to get more school buses approved after some of his students, girls, were raped by local thugs.

"The bus was full and they had to walk to school," the principal said, speaking on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisal.

The school has two old buses but they can only take about 65 children — and he has more than 400 students in his school. The principal said he fears one of the buses could permanently break down — or crash.

In September 2022, 18 students were killed in the province when their overcrowded minivan crashed on the way to school in the town of Pongola.

Matthew Ngcobo, a councilman in the municipality of Endumeni, took The Associated Press to a ravine where children have to cross a shallow but rapid river on foot.

"This place is very dangerous," Ngcobo said. "The last time when it rained heavily, a motorist had to be rescued after his car was swept away."

"Imagine children having to go through this daily to get access to education," he added.

Some parents have resorted to boarding their children to live closer to their schools — but that can be costly and leaves them without precious help at home.

Bayanda Hlongwane, a ninth grader at the Ebusi Combined School in the village of Wasbank, said he was often late and "the teachers would not let me in."

He begged his parents to let him live closer. They relented and he is now staying with relatives, only about 2 kilometers (1.2 miles) from his school.

Activist Tebogo Tshesane who works for Equal Education, a nonprofit organization, says the campaign for better school transportation across KwaZulu-Natal started back in 2014, sparked by letters from students who were walking for up to two hours to school.

The latest government figures have 1,148 schools in KwaZulu-Natal on a waiting list for government-funded school transportation.

The provincial department of education declined to be interviewed for this story.

The consistent answer from the education department is that there is no money, so the children keep walking.

"It is a day to day challenge," said Tshesane.

Protesters demonstrate against world leaders, Israel-Hamas war as APEC comes to San Francisco

By JANIE HAR and HAVEN DALEY Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Activists protesting corporate profits, environmental abuses, poor working conditions and the Israel-Hamas war marched in downtown San Francisco on Sunday, united in their opposition to a global trade summit that will draw President Joe Biden and leaders from nearly two dozen countries.

Protests are expected throughout this week's Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation leaders' conference, which could draw more than 20,000 attendees, including hundreds of international journalists. The No to APEC coalition, made up of more than 100 grassroots groups, says trade deals struck at summits such as APEC exploit workers and their families.

It's unlikely world leaders will even glimpse the protests given the strict security zones accessible only to attendees at the Moscone Center conference hall and other summit sites. But Suzanne Ali, an organizer for the Palestinian Youth Movement, says the U.S. government needs to be held to account for supplying weapons to Israel in its war against Hamas.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 13, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 142 ~ 51 of 66

"Even if they cannot see us, as we're mobilizing and marching together, they will know that we're out there," she said.

Thousands of demonstrators gathered Sunday to hear speeches from activists supporting various causes, followed by a march through downtown. Among the voices were environmentalists chanting "Rise up" and carrying banners that read "People and planet over profit and plunder!"

They're opposed to the framing of "supposed 'clean' and 'green' economies that are really propping up corporate profits," said Nik Evasco, an organizer with the climate block of the No to APEC coalition.

"Any time there are so-called free trade deals, what we've seen historically is that it's really about opening up pristine lands that go toward making money for corporations," Evasco said.

San Francisco has a long tradition of loud and vigorous protests, as do trade talks. In 1999, tens of thousands of protesters took to the streets of Seattle during a World Trade Organization conference. Protesters succeeded in delaying the start of that conference and captured global attention as overwhelmed police fired tear gas and plastic bullets and arrested hundreds of people.

Chile withdrew as APEC host in 2019 due to mass protests. Last year, when Thailand hosted the summit in Bangkok, pro-democracy protesters challenged the legitimacy of the Thai prime minister. Police fired at the crowd with rubber bullets that injured several protesters and a Reuters journalist.

Chief Bill Scott of the San Francisco Police Department said he expects several protests a day, although it's uncertain how many will materialize. He warned against criminal behavior.

"People are welcome to exercise their constitutional rights in San Francisco, but we will not tolerate people committing acts of violence, or property destruction or any other crime," Scott said. "We will make arrests when necessary."

APEC, a regional economic forum, was established in 1989 and has 21 member countries, including the world's two largest economic superpowers — China and the U.S — as well as Mexico, Brazil and the Philippines. An accompanying CEO summit is scheduled for this week, which critics also plan to protest Wednesday.

Headlining the summit is a highly anticipated meeting between Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping, who rarely — if at all — encounters protesters on home soil.

China has heavy security ahead of any events within its borders to ensure no protests occur. It also steps up border checks at city limits and at transit points such as railway stations and airports. Human rights activists based in China will often receive visits or phone calls from police ahead of important events as reminders to not demonstrate.

Rory McVeigh, sociology professor and director of the Center for the Study of Social Movements at the University of Notre Dame, said politicians use protests to gauge public opinion and that media attention helps.

"Probably a lot of protests just don't make much difference, but occasionally they do, and occasionally they can make a huge difference," he said.

The United Vietnamese American Community of Northern California plans to protest Xi and Vietnam President Vo Van Thuong. The International Coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines will be rallying for the rights of Indigenous Filipinos and protesting the presence of President Bongbong Marcos, the son of dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

Protesters are disappointed that San Francisco, with its rich history of standing up for the working class, would host CEOs of companies and leaders of countries that they say do great harm.

"It's silly, from the mayor to the governor to the president, they want to say this is a great idea to have all these people who have been profiting off the intersecting crises of our time," Evasco said. "It's just sickening."

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 13, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 142 ~ 52 of 66

AP Top 25: Georgia's No. 1 streak hits 22, second-best ever.

Louisville, Oregon State enter top 10

By RALPH D. RUSSO AP College Football Writer

Georgia extended its streak of weeks being top-ranked in the AP Top 25 to 22 on Sunday, giving the Bulldogs the second-longest run of being No. 1 in the 87-year history of the college football poll.

The Bulldogs received 54 first-place votes after they routed Mississippi in what was a top-10 matchup on Saturday night. Georgia broke a tie with Miami, which made 21 straight appearances at No. 1 from 2001-02.

The longest No. 1 streak belongs to Southern California. The Trojans spent 33 straight polls at No. 1 from 2003-2005.

The entire top eight of this week's Top 25 remained unchanged, with No. 2 Michigan receiving seven first-place votes and No. 3 Ohio State getting one.

Florida State was No. 4, followed by No. 5 Washington. The top five in the rankings are all 10-0, marking the first time in the BCS/CFP era that five teams from so-called power conferences have been perfect after 10 games.

Oregon was No. 6, followed by Texas and Alabama.

POLL POINTS

New to the top 10 this week were No. 9 Louisville and No. 10 Oregon State, both with season-high rankings.

The Cardinals have their highest rankings since reaching No. 3 on Nov. 13, 2016, with Heisman Trophy winner Lamar Jackson.

The Beavers are in the top 10 for the first time since Oct. 21, 2012.

No. 11 Missouri has its best ranking since finishing No. 5 in 2013.

The teams that fell out of the top 10 this week were the losers of Saturday's big games.

Penn State slipped three spots to No. 12 after falling at home to Michigan. Mississippi also dropped three places to No. 13 after losing at Georgia.

IN-N-OUT

Kansas was the only team to drop out of the rankings this week. The Jayhawks were upset at home by Texas Tech.

Replacing them was rival Kansas State at No. 23.

The Wildcats visit Kansas on Saturday.

CONFERENCE CALL

SEC — 6 (Nos. 1, 8, 11, 13, 15, 21).

Pac-12 — 5 (Nos. 5, 6, 10, 16, 19).

Big 12 — 4 (Nos. 7, 14, 23, 24).

Big Ten — 3 (Nos. 2, 3, 12).

ACC — 3 (Nos. 4, 9, 22).

American — 1 (No. 17).

Conference USA — 1 (No. 25).

Sun Belt — 1 (No. 18).

Independent — 1 (No. 20).

RANKED vs. RANKED

No. 1 Georgia at No. 21 Tennessee. Was No. 1-vs.-No. 2 last season.

No. 5 Washington at No. 10 Oregon State. Last time the Huskies and Beavers played with both ranked was 2000. Only three ranked matchups in 94 overall meetings.

No. 16 Utah at No. 19 Arizona. Third ranked matchup and second since the Utes moved to the Pac-12 in 2011.

What they want: Biden and Xi are looking for clarity in an increasingly difficult relationship

By AAMER MADHANI and DIDI TANG Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden and China's Xi Jinping have no shortage of difficult issues to discuss when they sit down for their first talks in a year, even if expectations are low that their meeting will lead to major breakthroughs.

Each leader has clear objectives for the highly anticipated talks Wednesday on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit, a meeting that comes after what's been a fractious year for the world's two biggest economies.

Both Biden and Xi are looking to bring a greater measure of stability to a relationship that is being defined by differences over export controls, tensions over Taiwan, the wars in the Middle East and Europe, and more.

A look at what each president is hoping to achieve during their talks:

WHAT BIDEN WANTS

The White House has made clear that the U.S.-China relationship is beyond the days where a meeting ends with a long list of announcements and agreements.

Instead, Biden comes to San Francisco focused on managing the countries' increasingly fierce economic competition and keeping open lines of communication to prevent misunderstandings that could lead to direct conflict between the two powers.

Expect Biden to defend U.S. expansion of export controls on semiconductor chips. At the same time, he will assure Xi that he is not trying to wage economic war with Beijing amid continuing signs that China's economy is struggling to recover from the economic disruptions of the pandemic.

"The United States has no desire to decouple from China. A full separation of our economies would be economically disastrous for both our countries, and for the world," Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen told Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng when they met this past week. "We seek a healthy economic relationship with China that benefits both countries over time."

The Biden administration has signaled it wants to reopen military-to-military communications that have largely ceased after then-House Speaker Nancy Pelosi visited Taiwan in August 2022, the first visit by a U.S. House speaker to the self-ruled island since Rep. Newt Gingrich in 1997. Beijing considers Taiwan, a self-governed island of 23 million people, to be part of Chinese territory and vows to unify with it, by force if necessary.

Biden "is determined to see the reestablishment of military-to-military ties because he believes it's in the U.S. national security interest," his national security adviser, Jake Sullivan, said Sunday on CBS' "Face the Nation." The top U.S. military officer told reporters Friday in Tokyo that he has conveyed to China his hopes to resume that stalled communication. "I'm hopeful," said the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. CQ Brown Jr.

Meanwhile, the U.S. administration has signaled it will hammer home that it seeks no change to the status quo in Taiwan. Washington recognizes Beijing as the government of China and does not have diplomatic relations with Taiwan. But China has perceived American contact with Taiwan as encouragement to make the island's decades-old de facto independence permanent. Concern about the issue is heightened as Taiwan prepares to hold presidential elections in January.

Biden is also expected to let Xi know that he wants China to use its burgeoning sway over Iran to make clear that Tehran or its proxies should not take action that could lead to expansion of the Israel-Hamas war. Biden's administration believes the Chinese, a big buyer of Iranian oil, have considerable leverage with Iran, which is a major backer of Hamas.

With the U.S. presidential election less than a year away, administration officials said Biden will make clear that Chinese interference in the vote will not be tolerated.

Disinformation experts warn that Beijing could aim to target the U.S., sowing discord that might influence election results at the local level, especially in districts with large numbers of Chinese American voters.

WHAT XI WANTS

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 13, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 142 ~ 54 of 66

Xi is looking for assurances from Biden. Xi wants to hear from Biden that the American president will not support Taiwan independence, will not start a new cold war and will not suppress China's economic growth.

"A good host needs to avoid creating any new trouble or obstacles," Xie Feng, the Chinese ambassador, said at a forum in Hong Kong last week.

Beijing's demands were made clear last November when Xi and Biden met in Bali, Indonesia, during the Group of 20 summit. Relations, however, had hardly stabilized when the U.S. shot down a Chinese spy balloon in February, plunging diplomatic relations to another low.

Now, the two countries "need to return to what was agreed between the two presidents in Bali and truly act on it," said Wang Wenbin, a spokesman of the Chinese foreign ministry.

Last year, Xi told Biden the Taiwan question was "at the core of China's core interests, the bedrock of the political foundation of China-U.S. relations, and the first red line that must not be crossed in China-U.S. relations."

This time Xi will be looking for strong language from Washington opposing Taiwan's independence.

Xi said in Bali that U.S.-China interactions should be defined by dialogue and win-win cooperation, not confrontation and zero-sum competition. That was a rejoinder to the Biden administration mantra that the two nations should compete vigorously while not looking for conflict. Beijing has bristled at export controls and other measures imposed by the Biden administration, perceiving them as designed to stifle China's economic growth.

Zhu Feng, dean of the School of International Studies of Nanjing University, said punitive measures from both the Trump and Biden administrations, such as tariffs on Chinese goods, sanctions against Chinese companies and export restrictions on high-tech products such as advanced chips, have become "the most important issue" for China.

Beijing does not want a cold war or geopolitical opposition because it hurts China's development, Zhu said, and China "will reject and cannot accept those crazy suppression acts of the U.S."

Beijing has demanded rollbacks in tariffs and sanctions. But Xi, this time, is likely to seek assurance from Biden that the U.S. will not pile new ones onto China.

Xi, who is expected to address American business leaders while in San Francisco, will also look to bolster confidence that China is a safe place to invest as Beijing needs foreign investment to help revive its economy.

In an alarming sign, the country recorded a foreign direct investment deficit during the July-September period, the first time since 1998. Foreign investments have driven much of China's growth for the past three decades, and a net outflow could indicate Beijing's inability to attract and retain foreign investments.

A fragile global economy is at stake as US and China seek to cool tensions at APEC summit

By PAUL WISEMAN AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States and China are the two global economic heavyweights. Combined, they produce more than 40% of the world's goods and services.

So when Washington and Beijing do economic battle, as they have for five years running, the rest of the world suffers, too. And when they hold a rare high-level summit, as Presidents Joe Biden and Xi Jinping will this week, it can have global consequences.

The world's economy could surely benefit from a U.S.-China détente. Since 2020, it has suffered one crisis after another — the COVID-19 pandemic, soaring inflation, surging interest rates, violent conflicts in Ukraine and now Gaza. The global economy is expected to grow a lackluster 3% this year and 2.9% in 2024, according to the International Monetary Fund.

"Having the world's two largest economies at loggerheads at such a fraught moment," said Eswar Prasad, senior professor of trade policy at Cornell University, "exacerbates the negative impact of various geopolitical shocks that have hit the world economy."

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 13, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 142 ~ 55 of 66

Hopes have risen that Washington and Beijing can at least cool some of their economic tensions at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit, which starts Sunday in San Francisco. The meeting will bring together 21 Pacific Rim countries, which collectively represent 40% of the world's people and nearly half of global trade.

The marquee event will be the Biden-Xi meeting Wednesday on the sidelines of the summit, the first time the two leaders will have spoken in a year, during which time frictions between the two nations have worsened. The White House has sought to tamp down expectations, saying to expect no breakthroughs.

At the same time, Prasad suggested that the threshold for declaring a successful outcome is relatively low. "Preventing any further deterioration in the bilateral economic relationship," he said, "would already be a victory for both sides."

The U.S.-China economic relationship had been deteriorating for years before it erupted in 2018, at the instigation of President Donald Trump, into an all-out trade war. The Trump administration charged that China had violated the commitments it made, in joining the World Trade Organization in 2001, to open its vast market to U.S. and other foreign companies that wanted to sell their goods and services there.

In 2018, the Trump administration began imposing tariffs on Chinese imports to punish Beijing for its actions in trying to supplant U.S. technological supremacy. Many experts agreed with the administration that Beijing had engaged in cyberespionage and had improperly demanded that foreign companies turn over trade secrets as the price of gaining access to the Chinese market. Beijing punched back against Trump's sanctions with its own retaliatory tariffs, making U.S. goods more expensive for Chinese buyers.

Sen. Mark Warner, chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, said the U.S. must keep pressuring on China over the theft of intellectual property and enlist the support of allies in the region. "National security now is not simply who's got the most tanks and guns and ships and planes. It's who's going to win the battle for artificial intelligence, quantum computing, advanced telecommunications, 5G and beyond," Warner, D-Va., said on "Fox News Sunday."

When Biden took office in 2021, he kept much of Trump's confrontational trade policy, including the China tariffs. The U.S. tax rate on Chinese imports now exceeds 19%, versus 3% at the start of 2018, before Trump imposed his tariffs. Likewise, Chinese import taxes on U.S. goods are up to 21%, from 8% before the trade war began, according to calculations by Chad Bown of the Peterson Institute for International Economics.

One of the tenets of Biden's economic policy has been to reduce America's economic reliance on Chinese factories, which came under strain when COVID-19 disrupted global supply chains, and to solidify partnerships with other Asian nations. As part of that policy, the Biden administration last year forged the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity with 14 countries.

In some ways, U.S.-China trade tensions are even higher under Biden than they were under Trump. Beijing is seething over the Biden administration's decision to impose — and then broaden — export controls that are designed to prevent China from acquiring advanced computer chips and the equipment to produce them. In August, Beijing countered with its own trade curbs: It began requiring that Chinese exporters of gallium and germanium, metals used in computer chips and solar cells, obtain government licenses to send those metals overseas.

Beijing has also taken aggressive actions against foreign companies in China. Orchestrating what appears to be a counterespionage campaign, its authorities this year raided the Chinese offices of the U.S. consulting firms Capvision and the Mintz Group, questioned Shanghai employees of the Bain & Co. consultancy and announced a security review of the chipmaker Micron.

Some analysts speak of a "decoupling" of the world's two biggest economies after decades in which they relied deeply on each other for trade. Indeed, imports of Chinese goods to the United States were down 24% through September compared with the same period of 2022.

The rift between Beijing and Washington has forced many other countries into a delicate predicament: deciding which side they're on when they actually want to do business with both countries.

The IMF says such economic "fragmentation" is damaging to the world. The 190-country lending agency

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 13, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 142 ~ 56 of 66

estimates that higher trade barriers will subtract \$7.4 trillion from global economic output after the world has adjusted to the higher trade barriers.

And those barriers are rising. Last year, the IMF said, countries imposed nearly 3,000 new restrictions on trade, up from fewer than 1,000 in 2019. The agency foresees international trade growing just 0.9% this year and 3.5% in 2024 — down sharply from the 2000-2019 annual average of 4.9%.

The Biden administration insists it isn't trying to undermine China's economy. On Friday, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen met with her Chinese counterpart, Vice Premier He Lifeng, in San Francisco and sought to set the stage for Biden-Xi summit.

"Our mutual desire — both China and the United States — is to create a level playing field and ongoing, meaningful and mutually beneficial economic relations," Yellen said.

Xi has reason to try to restore economic cooperation with the United States. The Chinese economy is under heavy strain. Its real estate market has collapsed, youth unemployment is rampant and consumer spirits are low. The raids on foreign businesses have spooked international companies and investors.

"With serious headwinds facing the Chinese economy and many U.S. firms packing up their bags and leaving China, Xi needs to convince investors that China is still a profitable place to conduct business," said Wendy Cutler, vice president of the Asia Society Institute and a former U.S. trade negotiator. "This will not be an easy sell."

Complicating matters is that the tensions between Washington and Beijing go well beyond economics. Under Xi, the Chinese Communist Party has punished dissent in Hong Kong and the autonomous Muslim region of Xinjiang. His government made aggressive territorial demands in Asia, engaging in deadly border clashes with India and bullying the Philippines and other neighbors in parts of the South China Sea it claims as its own. It has increasingly threatened Taiwan, which it considers a renegade Chinese province.

U.S.-China tensions could intensify next year with presidential elections in Taiwan and the United States, where criticism of Beijing is among the few areas that unite Democrats and Republicans.

Xi's policies appear to be costing China in the battle for world opinion. In a recent survey of people in 24 countries, the Pew Research Center reported that the United States was viewed more favorably than China in all but two (Kenya and Nigeria) nations.

Could China change course?

Speaking at the Center for Strategic and International Studies think tank in Washington, Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi, an Illinois Democrat who serves on a House committee that monitors China, noted optimistically that Xi has reversed himself before — notably in declaring a sudden end to the draconian zero-COVID policies that crippled China's economy last year.

"We have to give that possibility a chance, even at the same time that we hedge and protect our interests," Krishnamoorthi said. "That's what I'm hoping we also see come out of this meeting."

Russia ramps up attacks on key cities in eastern Ukraine

By FELIPE DANA Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russian forces have ramped up attacks in eastern Ukraine in an attempt to gain ground near two key front line cities, Ukrainian military officials said Sunday.

Moscow's troops have begun a push to regain territory near Bakhmut, the eastern mining city that was the site of the war's bloodiest battle before falling into Russian hands in May, the head of Ukraine's ground forces wrote on the Telegram messaging app.

Ukrainian troops had recaptured the heights over Bakhmut and made some advances west, north and south of the city since Kyiv launched its summer counteroffensive.

"Toward Bakhmut, the Russians have become more active and are trying to recapture previously lost positions. ... Enemy attacks are being repelled," Col. Gen. Oleksandr Syrskyi wrote in a Telegram update on Sunday afternoon.

A Russian Defense Ministry spokesman said Sunday that Russian forces over the previous day repelled five Ukrainian attacks near Klischiivka and Kurdyumivka, two small settlements lying south of Bakhmut.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 13, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 142 ~ 57 of 66

Lt. Gen. Igor Konashenkov made the claim at the latest of regular press briefings.

Ukraine's long-awaited counteroffensive has so far resulted in only incremental gains and heavy losses, with Ukrainian troops struggling to punch through Russian lines in the south. Meanwhile, Moscow's forces have attempted to press forward in the northeast, likely with a view to distract Kyiv and minimize the number of troops Ukraine is able to send to key southern and eastern battles.

Ukraine's General Staff said that Russian troops were also continuing their weeklong push to encircle Avdiivka, a Ukrainian stronghold south of Bakhmut and a key target since the beginning of the war. It's considered the gateway to parts of the eastern Donetsk region under Kyiv's control. The General Staff said Russia's air force was playing a key part in the latest assault.

Gen. Oleksandr Tarnavskiy, who leads Ukrainian troops fighting in and near Avdiivka, said Sunday that the attacking Russian forces were ramping up airstrikes, particularly those using guided bombs. He wrote on Telegram that Russian troops had launched 30 airstrikes and 712 artillery barrages at the city and surrounding areas over the previous day, and clashed almost 50 times with Ukrainian units.

Also on Sunday, Ukraine's intelligence agency claimed responsibility for a powerful blast in the country's occupied south the day before that they said killed "at least three" officers serving with Russia's internal military force.

In an online statement, the Main Intelligence Directorate (GUR) of Ukraine's Ministry of Defense called the explosion, which rocked the headquarters of the Russian occupation authorities in the city of Melitopol on Saturday, "an act of revenge (...) carried out by representatives of the local resistance movement."

"At least three officers of the Russian (National) Guard were eliminated," the statement said, referring to Russia's internal military agency that reports directly to the Kremlin.

It added that the strike was carried out "during a meeting of the occupiers" attended by National Guard officers as well as operatives from Russia's main security agency, the FSB.

Melitopol, a city in Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia region that had a pre-war population of over 150,000, was captured by Russian troops just days into the war. It now lies well behind its southern front line, even as a Ukrainian counteroffensive continues to grind on in Zaporizhzhia.

Russian authorities did not immediately respond to the Ukrainian claims, which could not be independently verified. The announcement came just over a day after more than a dozen freight cars carrying cargo in Russia's western Ryazan region were derailed by an improvised explosive device, according to Russian law enforcement.

Nineteen carriages traveling from the town of Rybnoye were thrown from the tracks and 15 were damaged, investigators wrote in a statement on social media. They said they would be opening a criminal investigation on terrorism charges.

A regional branch of Ukraine's public broadcaster, Suspilne, on Saturday cited anonymous sources from Ukraine's GUR as claiming that the intelligence agency was behind the blast. A spokesman for the GUR, Andriy Yusov, that same day refused to confirm or deny the agency's involvement, but said that similar strikes within Russia "will continue." Yusov made the remarks in an interview with the Ukrainian armed forces' official news service, ArmyInform.

Russian officials have previously blamed pro-Ukrainian saboteurs for several attacks on the country's railway system since Moscow invaded the country in February 2022, although no group has claimed responsibility for the damage.

In the southern Ukrainian city of Kherson, a 64-year-old man was killed when Russian shells slammed into his yard, Ukrainian regional Gov. Oleksandr Prokudin said. Prokudin added that the man's wife was hospitalized with a skull injury, concussion and shrapnel wounds to her legs.

Prokudin said that Russian forces shelled Kherson and the surrounding region 62 times over the previous 24 hours, wounding four civilians and damaging one of the city's libraries. The city has come under near-daily attacks since Ukraine recaptured it a year ago.

Greta Thunberg brushes off interruption at massive Dutch climate march days before election

By MIKE CORDER Associated Press

AMSTERDAM (AP) — Climate activist Greta Thunberg was briefly interrupted Sunday by a man who approached her on stage after she invited a Palestinian and an Afghan woman to speak at a climate protest in the Dutch capital.

Thunberg was speaking to a crowd of tens of thousands when she invited the women onto the stage.

"As a climate justice movement, we have to listen to the voices of those who are being oppressed and those who are fighting for freedom and for justice. Otherwise, there can be no climate justice without international solidarity," Thunberg said.

After the Palestinian and Afghan women spoke and Thunberg resumed her speech, a man came onto the stage and told her: "I have come here for a climate demonstration, not a political view," before he was ushered off the stage.

The man's identity was not immediately clear. He was wearing a jacket with the name of a group called Water Natuurlijk that has elected members in Dutch water boards.

The Afghan woman, Sahar Shirzad, told The Associated Press that Thunberg allowed them to take the stage with her.

"Basically, she gave her time to us," she said.

Before Thunberg took the stage, the event was briefly interrupted as a small group of activists at the front of the crowd waved Palestinian flags and chanted pro-Palestinian slogans.

She appeared undeterred and was later seen dancing behind the stage as band played.

The incident came after tens of thousands of people marched through the streets of Amsterdam calling for more action to tackle climate change, in a mass protest just 10 days before a national election.

Organizers claimed that 70,000 people took part in the march and called it the biggest climate protest ever in the Netherlands.

Thunberg was among those walking through the historic heart of the Dutch capital.

Political leaders including former European Union climate chief Frans Timmermans, who now leads a center-left, two-party bloc in the election campaign, later addressed the crowd gathered on a square behind the landmark Rijksmuseum.

"We live in a time of crises, all of which are the result of the political choices that have been made. It has to be done and it can be done differently," organizer the Climate Crisis Coalition said in a statement.

While the coalition included the Fridays for Future youth movement, protesters were all ages and included a large contingent of medics in white coats carrying a banner emblazoned with the text: "Climate crisis = health crisis."

"I am a pediatrician. I'm here standing up for the rights of children," said Laura Sonneveld. "Children are the first to be affected by climate change."

Tackling climate change is one of the key policy areas for political parties contesting the Nov. 22 general election.

"It is time for us to protest about government decisions," said Margje Weijs, a Spanish teacher and youth coach. "I hope this influences the election."

Joe Biden wants to complete his goals on civil rights, taxes, and social services if he's reelected

By CHRIS MEGERIAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden has a simple reelection pitch to voters — let him "finish the job."

So what does that mean? What's left for him to get done?

Unlike Donald Trump, the front-runner for the 2024 Republican presidential nomination who has been releasing videos and statements detailing his agenda, Biden hasn't formally released his plans as part of

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 13, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 142 ~ 59 of 66

his campaign.

But his ambitions are no secret, and his goals for child care, community college and prescription drugs have been laid out in detail during the Democrat's first term. He also has unfulfilled promises on civil rights, such as protecting access to the ballot box, preventing police misconduct and restoring the nationwide right to abortion. Banning firearms known as assault rifles remains a priority as well.

The result is a second-term agenda that could look a lot like Biden's first-term agenda, with some of the same political challenges. Almost none of this can get done without cooperation from Congress, and many of these goals already have been blocked or pared down because of opposition on Capitol Hill.

Biden has achieved bipartisan victories on infrastructure projects and public funding for the domestic computer chip industry. But Democrats would need to win wide majorities in both the House and the Senate to clear a path for the rest of his plans.

"We're going to finish as much of the job as we can in the next year," said Bruce Reed, Biden's deputy chief of staff. "And finish the rest after that."

Biden's campaign expressed confidence that the president's agenda would stack up well against Republicans in next year's election. Kevin Munoz, a spokesman, described the election as "a choice between fighting for the middle class or shilling for rich special interests" and he said "it's a contrast we are more than happy to make."

One other difference between Biden and Trump doesn't fit neatly into policy white papers, but it's core to their political foundation. Biden has made defending American democracy a cornerstone of his administration, while Trump tried to overturn his election loss in 2020.

The result of the 2024 campaign could reshape not only government policy but the future of the country's bedrock institutions.

TAXES

Biden's plans are expensive and he doesn't want to increase the deficit, so that means he's looking to raise taxes on the wealthy.

He already has succeeded in implementing a 15% minimum tax on companies with annual income exceeding \$1 billion.

Biden has proposed raising the top tax rate to 39.6%, the corporate tax rate to 28% and the stock buyback tax to 4%.

He wants a minimum tax of 25% on the wealthiest Americans, a levy that would be applied not only to income but unrealized capital gains. The idea, which Biden called the "billionaire minimum income tax," could prove difficult to put in place, not to mention extremely hard to push through Congress, given Republican opposition to higher taxes.

SOCIAL SERVICES AND HEALTH CARE

Biden's original signature plan was known as Build Back Better, a cornucopia of proposals that would have dramatically changed the role of the federal government in Americans' lives.

It was pared down because of resistance from Sen. Joe Manchin, a West Virginia Democrat who is a key vote in the narrowly divided Senate and announced this past week that he will not seek reelection. The result was the Inflation Reduction Act, which included financial incentives for clean energy and limits on prescription drug costs, but not many other programs.

Biden will want to bring back the ideas that were left on the cutting room floor. That includes making two years of community college tuition free, offering universal preschool and limiting the cost of child care to 7% of income for most families.

He also wants to resuscitate the expanded child tax credit. The American Rescue Plan, the pandemic-era relief legislation, boosted the credit to \$3,000 for children over six and \$3,600 for children younger than age 6. The expansion lapsed after a year, returning the credit to \$2,000 per child, when his original package stalled.

More work is left on prescription drugs. The monthly cost of insulin was capped at \$35 for Medicare recipients. Biden wants the same limit for all patients.

GUN VIOLENCE

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 13, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 142 ~ 60 of 66

The White House recently announced a new office dedicated to preventing gun violence. Biden also signed legislation that's intended to help officials keep guns out of the hands of domestic abusers and other dangerous people.

But Biden's biggest goal, a ban on so-called assault weapons, remains out of reach because of Republican opposition. Such a ban was in place from 1994 to 2004, but it wasn't extended after it expired. Although the proposal hasn't been spelled out in detail, it would likely affect popular high-powered weapons such as the AR-15, which can shoot dozens of bullets at a fast pace.

Another item on the wish list is universal background checks, which increase scrutiny of sales conducted through gun shows or other unlicensed avenues.

CIVIL RIGHTS

Biden took office at a time of national upheaval over the role of racism in policing and the future of democracy. George Floyd, a Black man in Minneapolis, was murdered by a white police officer, and Trump tried to overturn Biden's election victory, leading to the riot on Jan. 6, 2021, at the U.S. Capitol.

Biden promised to address both of these issues through landmark legislation, but he came up short of his goals.

On policing, bipartisan negotiations on Capitol Hill failed to reach a deal, particularly when it came to making it easier to sue over allegations of misconduct. So Biden instead crafted an executive order with input from activists and police. The final version changes rules for federal law enforcement, but it does little to alter how local departments do their jobs.

He similarly issued an executive order on voting rights that aims to expand registration efforts. But Democratic legislation intended to solidify access to the ballot box failed to advance when some members of the party refused to sidestep Senate filibuster rules to pass it.

Biden's presidency was upended by the Supreme Court's decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, which guaranteed nationwide access to abortion. It's proved to be a potential campaign issue for Democrats, but they have had less success in Congress. Biden said that if his party picks up more seats, he will push for legislation codifying the right to abortion.

IMMIGRATION

On Biden's first day in office, he sent Congress his proposal for overhauling the country's immigration system. The idea went nowhere.

But the president would want to take another swing at the issue in a second term. It will prove an especially urgent topic as migrants continue crossing the U.S.-Mexico border and the country looks for the next generation of workers to achieve its economic goals.

Biden wants to allow people who are in the United States illegally to apply for legal status and eventually citizenship. He also wants a smoother and expanded visa process, particularly for foreign graduates of American universities. These steps would be paired with additional resources for border enforcement.

UKRAINE AND ISRAEL

Biden is facing two wars on two continents, and the fallout from each conflict will shape a second term even if the fighting ends before that.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine has been going on for almost two years, and Israel and Hamas began their latest clash about a month ago. Biden wants to send military support to Ukraine and Israel, something that he describes as "vital" to U.S. national security interests.

"History has taught us when terrorists don't pay a price for their terror, when dictators don't pay a price for their aggression, they cause more chaos and death and more destruction," he said in a recent Oval Office address.

His plans will require challenging congressional negotiations. Some Republicans are resisting more assistance for Ukraine after Congress has already approved \$113 billion in security, economic and humanitarian resistance.

Both conflicts will likely require years of U.S. involvement. For example, Biden is looking for a new opportunity to push for a two-state solution in the Middle East, creating an independent Palestinian country alongside Israel.

CLIMATE

Fighting global warming is one of the areas where Biden has had the most success. The Inflation Reduction Act includes nearly \$375 billion for climate change, much of it going toward financial incentives for electric cars, clean energy and other initiatives. Biden is also pushing stricter regulations on vehicles and power plants.

But the U.S. is not yet on track to meet Biden's ambitious target for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, according to independent analysts. And there's a lot of work ahead to ensure new programs reach their potential.

One hurdle is red tape for energy projects. The White House argues that it's too hard to build infrastructure such as transmission lines, but legislation to address the issue would likely require compromises with Republicans, who see an opportunity to grease the skids for additional fossil fuel development.

Bestselling spiritual author Marianne Williamson presses on with against-the-odds presidential run

By LUIS ANDRES HENAO Associated Press

Marianne Williamson has kept barnstorming for months across America — to audiences large and small, from churches and colleges to spiritual centers and soup kitchens — in a demanding schedule of appearances in her second tenacious, against-the-odds run for the presidency.

The bestselling spiritual author and one-time advisor to Oprah Winfrey didn't make it to the 2020 primaries in a wide-open Democratic field. Now she is running against a sitting president from her own party, and the Democratic establishment has closed ranks behind Joe Biden.

Even some of her most devoted followers doubt she can be elected. So why is Williamson even running? She says it's the faith she has in herself and the American people.

"The most important things you do in life, not because there's guaranteed success on some external level, but because you feel in your heart it's the right thing to do," Williamson, 71, said during an interview in New York City.

She admits it has been grueling at times — not just the punishing campaign schedule, but more so the emotional bruising from a barrage of unflattering characterizations.

For her, it's "the ultimate challenge to have tough skin, but a soft and open heart," she said. But Williamson worries that negative perceptions detract from her policy positions, which include financial reparations for Black Americans and creation of a Department of Peace.

"What are the words they use? Wacky, kooky, crystal lady," she said, listing the names she's called. "People will take one line out of a book, completely out of context. That has certainly been done to me. Plus, you know, they lie."

Born in Houston to a Jewish family, Judaism remains her core belief, and she also embraces universal spiritual themes, like loving one another. Williamson came into the spotlight with her popular 1992 book, "A Return to Love." Oprah, highlighting it on her own site, wrote: "I have never been more moved by a book."

Williamson, the author of more than a dozen titles and well-known for supporting LGBTQ people, retains a legion of dedicated fans. Millions buy her books, attend her lectures and engage with her on TikTok.

"She is extremely sincere in her beliefs, wise in many ways even," said Issac Bailey, a communications professor at Davidson College in North Carolina who has written about Williamson's faith and politics. "But she also has a streak that takes her beyond the pale."

He pointed to her wariness and sharp criticism of government vaccine mandates that came up during her last campaign. She later said she supports vaccines.

"I'm a socially middle of the road Jew who goes to the doctor," she said. "I'm not a crystal lady. I understand how important science is."

Williamson entered politics with an unsuccessful independent congressional campaign in California in 2014, then broke onto the national stage two years later as a vocal supporter of Bernie Sanders' failed presidential bid.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 13, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 142 ~ 62 of 66

In 2020, she entered the race herself. She acknowledges making what she calls “cringeworthy” comments back then, like how she would harness love to defeat former President Donald Trump.

“Once they could be contextualized in a way that made me appear silly, there was almost no getting past the mockery,” she said.

People may embrace quasi-spiritual language in their private lives, but if it’s from political candidates, it typically doesn’t play well on the campaign trail, said Galen Watts, a sociology and legal studies professor at the University of Waterloo in Canada.

But this is not new territory for Williamson. For years, she has been under fire from intellectuals who call her theology too shallow, from politicians who mock her ideas, and more recently from some former campaign staff who say she’s irascible and is only trying to sell more books. She concedes that she probably swore more than she should have in her last campaign, but scoffs at the book-selling gibe.

“The way to sell books is by going on a book tour, not a presidential campaign,” she said. “The way to sell books in my field is to never mention politics.”

Some have questioned her political inexperience. But she dismisses that: “I reject the notion that only those whose careers have been ensconced in the car that drove us into this ditch are the only people we should consider qualified to drive us out of the ditch.”

She announced her candidacy in February, and now is arguably the best-known Democrat still challenging Biden for the party’s 2024 presidential nomination. But recent polls show her running more than 60 percentage points behind.

She is well-liked by many young people, including Jose Serna, a 21-year-old at Augustana University in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Serna hopes she stays in the race “because she is illuminating the ideas that young people care about” including Medicare for all, equitable wages and affordable housing.

“While I do believe that it is unlikely that Marianne will win the nomination, it is not because of her policies,” he said, citing a common complaint by Williamson and her backers about a lack of media attention.

Marie Griffith, a professor of women, gender and sexuality studies at Washington University in St. Louis, says there’s a practical reason why Williamson stands no chance of winning.

“She has no connection that I know of to Democratic machine politics — meaning the people who raise all the money and make or break the political careers of those identifying as Democrats,” Griffith said.

Williamson talks at times in religious and spiritual terms to describe America as a nation in need of confession and atonement. She worries about vast economic inequality and wants to declare a climate emergency.

One of her signature policy proposals would have the government pay Black citizens reparations for centuries of enslavement and discrimination. She advocated for this in her 1997 book “The Healing of America.” Today, she proposes creating a council of Black academic, cultural and political leaders to disperse at least \$1 trillion to Black Americans over two decades.

Author and rabbi Jay Michaelson lauded Williamson for raising the issue before other political candidates, and for her work during the AIDS crisis, but in 2019 he wrote a scathing critique of her bid for president. He called her “selfish, deluded and dumb by denigrating science” and said she gives spiritually a bad name.

Michaelson, in a recent interview, said he agreed with Williamson “that our spiritual commitments and our religious commitments should impact our political lives.” But he says she will remain a fringe candidate because some of her policy positions are too radical for many.

“To say, ‘We need a politics of love’ without explaining what that is,” he said. “Or that we need a new paradigm, or that we need some kind of revolution — that doesn’t play on Main Street.”

Williamson denies denigrating science and disputes broader criticisms of her campaign.

“This idea that I am unserious — my campaign is the one talking about one in four Americans living with medical debt. My campaign is the one talking about the fact that the majority of Americans are living paycheck to paycheck,” she said.

“My campaign is the most serious campaign.”

Trump's plans if he returns to the White House include deportation raids, tariffs and mass firings

By JILL COLVIN Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A mass deportation operation. A new Muslim ban. Tariffs on all imported goods and “freedom cities” built on federal land.

Much of the 2024 presidential campaign has been dominated by the myriad investigations into former President Donald Trump and the subsequent charges against him. But with less than a year until Election Day, Trump is dominating the race for the Republican nomination and has already laid out a sweeping set of policy goals should he win a second term.

His ideas, and even the issues he focuses on most, are wildly different from President Joe Biden's proposals. If implemented, Trump's plans would represent a dramatic government overhaul arguably more consequential than that of his first term. His presidency, especially the early days, was marked by chaos, infighting and a wave of hastily written executive orders that were quickly overturned by the courts.

Some of his current ideas would probably end up in court or impeded by Congress. But Trump's campaign and allied groups are assembling policy books with detailed plans.

A look at his agenda:

DISMANTLING THE 'DEEP STATE'

Trump would try to strip tens of thousands of career employees of their civil service protections. That way, they could be fired as he seeks to “totally obliterate the deep state.”

He would try to accomplish that by reissuing a 2020 executive order known as “Schedule F.” That would allow him to reclassify masses of employees, with a particular focus, he has said, on “corrupt bureaucrats who have weaponized our justice system” and “corrupt actors in our national security and intelligence apparatus.” Given his anger at the FBI and federal prosecutors pursuing criminal cases against him, Trump probably would target people linked to those prosecutions for retribution.

Beyond the firings, he wants to crack down on government officials who leak to reporters. He also wants to require that federal employees pass a new civil service test.

THE U.S.-MEXICO BORDER

Trump has pledged to “immediately stop the invasion of our southern border” and end illegal immigration.

As part of that plan, he says he would immediately direct U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to undertake the largest domestic deportation operation in American history. He would target people who are legally living in the United States but harbor “jihadist sympathies” and revoke the student visas of those who espouse anti-American and antisemitic views.

In a bid to secure the U.S.-Mexico border, Trump says he will move thousands of troops currently stationed overseas and shift federal agents, including those at the Drug Enforcement Administration and FBI, to immigration enforcement. He also wants to build more of the border wall.

Trump wants to reimpose his travel ban that originally targeted seven Muslim-majority countries and expand it to “keep radical Islamic terrorists out of the country.” In the wake of the Hamas attack on Israel, he has pledged to put in place “ideological screening” for immigrants. His aim: bar “dangerous lunatics, haters, bigots, and maniacs,” as well as those who “empathize with radical Islamic terrorists and extremists.”

To deter migrants, he has said he would end birthright citizenship, using an executive order that would introduce a legally untested interpretation of the 14th Amendment. The order would prevent federal agencies from granting automatic citizenship to the children of people who are in the U.S. illegally. It would require that at least one parent be a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident for their children to be eligible for passports, Social Security numbers and other benefits.

TRADE

Trump says he will institute a system of tariffs of perhaps 10% on most foreign goods. Penalties would increase if trade partners manipulate their currencies or engage in other unfair trading practices.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 13, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 142 ~ 64 of 66

He will urge that Congress pass a "Trump Reciprocal Trade Act," giving the president authority to impose a reciprocal tariff on any country that imposes one on the U.S.

Much of the agenda focuses on China. Trump has proposed a four-year plan to phase out Chinese imports of essential goods, including electronics, steel and pharmaceuticals. He wants to ban Chinese companies from owning vital U.S. infrastructure in sectors such as energy, technology and agriculture, and says he will force Chinese owners to sell any holdings "that jeopardize America's national security."

FOREIGN POLICY

Trump claims that even before he is inaugurated, he will have settled the war between Russia and Ukraine. That includes, he says, ending the "endless flow of American treasure to Ukraine" and asking European allies to reimburse the U.S. for the cost of rebuilding stockpiles.

It is unclear whether he would insist that Russia withdraw from territory in Ukraine it seized in the war that it launched in February 2022.

Trump has said he will stand with Israel in its war with Hamas and support Israel's efforts to "destroy" the militant group. He says he will continue to "fundamentally reevaluate" NATO's purpose and mission.

TRANSGENDER RIGHTS

Trump says he will ask Congress to pass a bill establishing that "only two genders," as determined at birth, are recognized by the United States.

As part of his crackdown on gender-affirming care, he will declare that hospitals and health care providers that offer transitional hormones or surgery no longer meet federal health and safety standards and will be blocked from receiving federal funds, including Medicaid and Medicare dollars.

He would push Congress to prohibit hormonal or surgical intervention for transgender minors in all 50 states.

Doctors typically guide kids toward therapy before medical intervention. At that point, hormone treatments such as puberty blockers are far more common than surgery. They have been available in the U.S. for more than a decade and are standard treatments backed by major doctors' organizations, including the American Medical Association.

ENERGY

Trump's goal, he says, is for the U.S. to have the lowest-cost energy and electricity of any nation in the world, including China.

Under the mantra "DRILL, BABY, DRILL," he says he would ramp up oil drilling on public lands and offer tax breaks to oil, gas, and coal producers. He would roll back Biden administration efforts to encourage the adoption of electric cars and reverse proposed new pollution limits that would require at least 54% of new vehicles sold in the U.S. to be electric by 2030.

And again, he says, he will exit the Paris Climate Accords, end wind subsidies and eliminate regulations imposed and proposed by the Biden administration targeting incandescent lightbulbs, gas stoves, dishwashers and shower heads.

EDUCATION

Trump has pledged to terminate the Department of Education, but he also wants to exert enormous influence over local school districts and colleges.

He would push the federal government to give funding preference to states and school districts that abolish teacher tenure, adopt merit pay to reward good teachers and allow the direct election of school principals by parents.

He has said he would cut funding for any school that has a vaccine or mask mandate and will promote prayer in public schools.

Trump also wants a say in school curricula, vowing to fight for "patriotic education." He says that under his administration, schools will "teach students to love their country, not to hate their country like they're taught right now" and will promote "the nuclear family" including "the roles of mothers and fathers" and the "things that make men and women different and unique."

To protect students, he says he will support school districts that allow trained teachers to carry concealed weapons. He would provide federal funding so schools can hire veterans, retired police officers, and other

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 13, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 142 ~ 65 of 66

trained gun owners as armed school guards.

HOMELESSNESS

Trump wants to force the homeless off city streets by building tent cities on large open parcels of inexpensive land. At the same time, he says he will work with states to ban urban camping, giving violators the choice between being arrested or receiving treatment.

He also wants to bring back large mental institutions to reinstitutionalize those who are "severely mentally ill" or "dangerously deranged."

PUBLIC SAFETY

Trump would again push to send the National Guard to cities such as Chicago that are struggling with violence. He would use the federal government's funding and prosecution authorities to strong-arm local governments.

He says he will require local law enforcement agencies that receive Justice Department grants to use controversial policing measures such as stop-and-frisk. As a deterrent, he says local police should be empowered to shoot suspected shoplifters in the act. "Very simply, if you rob a store, you can fully expect to be shot as you are leaving that store," he said in one recent speech.

Trump has called for the death penalty for drug smugglers and those who traffic women and children. He has also pledged a federal takeover of the nation's capital, calling Washington a "dirty, crime-ridden death trap" unbecoming of the country.

Today in History: November 13 130 people killed in attacks across Paris

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Monday, Nov. 13, the 317th day of 2023. There are 48 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 13, 2015, Islamic State militants carried out a set of coordinated attacks in Paris at the national stadium, in a crowded concert hall, in restaurants and on streets, killing 130 people in the worst attack on French soil since World War II.

On this date:

In 1775, during the American Revolution, the Continental Army captured Montreal.

In 1789, Benjamin Franklin wrote, in a letter to a friend, Jean-Baptiste Leroy: "In this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes."

In 1909, 259 men and boys were killed when fire erupted inside a coal mine in Cherry, Illinois.

In 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a measure lowering the minimum draft age from 21 to 18.

In 1956, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down laws calling for racial segregation on public buses.

In 1971, the U.S. space probe Mariner 9 went into orbit around Mars.

In 1974, Karen Silkwood, a 28-year-old technician and union activist at the Kerr-McGee Cimarron plutonium plant near Crescent, Oklahoma, died in a car crash while on her way to meet a reporter.

In 1979, former California Gov. Ronald Reagan announced his candidacy for the Republican presidential nomination in New York.

In 1982, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was dedicated on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

In 1985, some 23,000 residents of Armero, Colombia, died when a volcanic mudslide buried the city.

In 2017, the Oakland Raiders broke ground on a 65,000-seat domed stadium in Las Vegas.

In 2019, the House Intelligence Committee opened two weeks of public impeachment hearings, with a dozen current and former career foreign service officials and political appointees scheduled to testify about efforts by President Donald Trump and others to pressure Ukraine to investigate Trump's political rivals.

In 2020, speaking publicly for the first time since his defeat by Joe Biden, President Donald Trump refused to concede the election.

Today's Birthdays: Journalist-author Peter Arnett is 89. Actor Jimmy Hawkins is 82. Blues singer John

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 13, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 142 ~ 66 of 66

Hammond is 81. Country singer-songwriter Ray Wylie Hubbard is 77. Actor Joe Mantegna is 76. Actor Sheila Frazier is 75. Actor Tracy Scoggins is 70. Actor Chris Noth is 69. Actor-comedian Whoopi Goldberg is 68. Actor Rex Linn is 67. Actor Caroline Goodall is 64. Actor Neil Flynn is 63. Former NFL quarterback and College Football Hall of Famer Vinny Testaverde (tehs-teh-VUR'-dee) is 60. Rock musician Walter Kibby (Fishbone) is 59. Talk show host Jimmy Kimmel is 56. Actor Steve Zahn is 56. Actor Gerard Butler is 54. Writer-activist Ayaan Hirsi Ali is 54. Actor Jordan Bridges is 50. Actor Aisha Hinds is 48. Rock musician Nikolai Fraiture is 45. Former NBA All-Star Metta Sandiford-Artest (formerly Ron Artest and Metta World Peace) is 44. Actor Monique Coleman is 43. Actor Rahul Kohli is 38. Actor Devon Bostick is 32.