

# Groton Daily Independent

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## Coming up

### Wednesday, Nov. 22

United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.

St. John's Lutheran: Bible Study, 2:45 p.m.; Thanksgiving Eve Service, 7 p.m.

No School - Thanksgiving Break

Groton CM&A: Kids' Club, Youth Group and Adult Bible Study begins at 7 pm

Senior Menu: Oven fried chicken, sweet potatoes, vegetable carpi blend, chocolate pudding with bananas, whole wheat bread.

### Thursday, Nov. 23

THANKSGIVING DAY

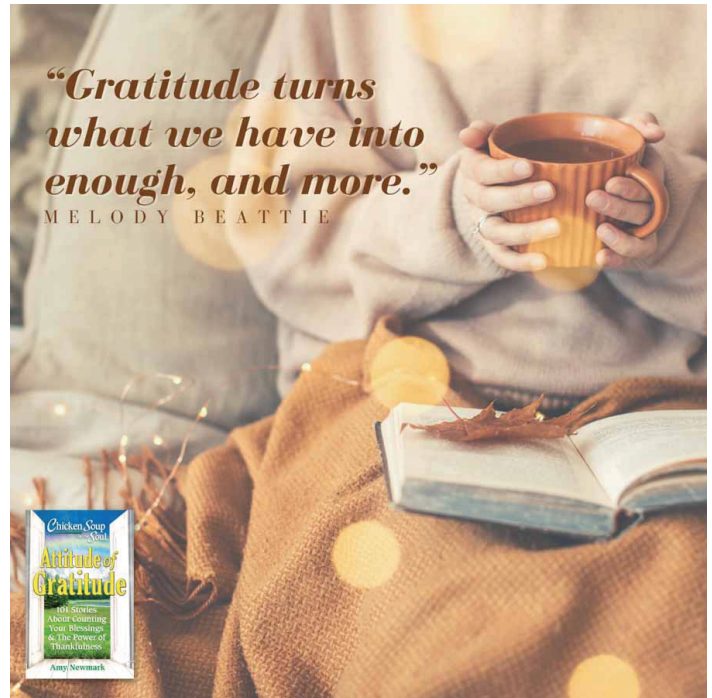
Community Thanksgiving Dinner at the Groton Community Center, 11:30 a.m.

No School - Thanksgiving Break

### Friday, Nov. 24

No School - Thanksgiving Break

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



*"Gratitude turns  
what we have into  
enough, and more."*

MELODY BEATTIE

### Saturday, Nov. 25

Thrift Store open 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Catholic: SEAS Confession, 3:45-4:15 p.m.; SEAS Mass, 4:30 p.m.

### Sunday, Nov. 26

Snow Queen Contest, 4 p.m., GHS Gym

United Methodist: Conde worship, 8:30 a.m.; Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.; Groton worship, 10:30 a.m. (No Sunday school)

St. John's Lutheran: St. John's worship, 9 a.m.; Zion worship, 11 a.m.; Sunday school, 9:45 a.m.

Snow Queen Contest, 4 p.m., GHS Gym

Groton CM&A: Sunday School at 9:15 a.m., Worship Service at 10:30 a.m.

Catholic: SEAS Confession, 7:45-8:15 a.m., SEAS Mass, 8:30 a.m.; Turton Confession, 10:30-10:45 a.m.; Turton Mass, 11 a.m.

First Presbyterian Church: Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.

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

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

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## Groton Area has three on All Conference Volleyball team

Anna Fjeldheim, Elizabeth Flihs and Carly Guthmiller were all named to the All Northeast Conference Volleyball team. Only Aberdeen Roncalli had three members as well and they were Camryn Bain, Jaidyn Feickert and Ava Hanson.

Hamlin had Emily Everson and Addison Neudendorf, Milbank had Rachel Schulte and Skyler Skoog, Sisseton had Chloe Langanger and Krista Langager, Britton-Hecla had Heather Storbakken, Clark/Willow Lake had Shay Michalski, Deuel had Josie Andersen, Redfield had Katie Rozell and Webster had Gracie Cadwell.

The  
**Bulletin**  
by **Newsweek**

## World in Brief

**OpenAI Brings Back Altman:** Sam Altman will return as CEO at OpenAI, the company said, days after a leadership saga began after the board ousted Altman and employees threatened to leave. OpenAI also replaced the board that fired Altman.

**Binance in Trouble:** Binance Chief Executive Changpeng Zhao resigned after pleading guilty to violating money laundering laws as part of a \$4.3 billion settlement between the Justice Department and the world's largest cryptocurrency exchange.

**Vladimir Putin to Attend G20 Summit:** The Russian president will address G20 leaders at a virtual summit today, with former British diplomat John Foreman telling Newsweek that Putin's speech will present a "conundrum" for the West.

**Macy's Misery:** Stephen Miller's conservative group, America First Legal, has filed a civil rights complaint against Macy's, alleging the retail giant violated anti-discrimination laws with a racially biased diversity plan introduced in 2019.

**Hunter Biden Investigation:** House Republicans issued a subpoena to Lesley Wolf, a federal prosecutor involved in the Hunter Biden investigation. They are demanding answers over claims that the Justice Department slow-walked its investigation.

**War in Ukraine:** Ukrainian drones targeting Crimea have been intercepted by Russian air defenses, Moscow said, amid reports that Kyiv is stepping up its strikes on the occupied peninsula.

## Groton saferoom, finances discussed Tuesday

by Elizabeth Varin

### The city is one step closer to a new park saferoom.

The council approved moving forward with the paperwork to apply for federal and state funding to help offset the \$630,000 projected bill for a new tornado shelter and bathroom facility at the City Park.

It might still be a while before work starts on a new building.

The council authorized signing three different documents that will allow Northeast Council of Government to submit the grant funding application before the December 1 deadline.

The timeline presented to the council maps out more than a year for approval of the project by federal and state agencies.

"Unfortunately this won't happen overnight," said Jordan Hintz with NECOG. "FEMA has been taking a full year (for approval), and that's after its been through OEM (South Dakota Office of Emergency Management)."

The project presented to the council would include \$450,000 of work that would be eligible for reimbursement from the federal and state governments. If approved, FEMA would fund 75 percent of that total, with the Office of Emergency Management reimbursing an additional 10 percent of that cost.

The city would make up the remaining 15 percent of project funding, which equals \$67,500. However, there are some costs associated with the project that the federal and state governments will not cover.

That includes larger bathroom facilities and showers included in the building, Hintz said. The city would be responsible for those costs, which are estimated at \$180,000.

### Finance discussion continues

While the Groton swimming pool brought in about \$10,000 more than last year, expenses rose at an even higher rate.

The City Council reviewed a financial wrap-up of the 2023 swimming pool season. Operating revenue for the pool rose from \$43,025 in 2022 to \$53,377.10 in 2023. However, with salary increases and supply costs rising, the city spent nearly \$26,000 more than last year. Salaries totaled \$86,907.63 on salaries for 2023, above the \$64,430.60 salary totals from 2022.

That rise was due to South Dakota minimum wage increasing from \$9.95 in 2022 to \$10.80 in 2023, said Finance Officer Douglas Heinrich. Swimming pool supplies also increased from \$16,572.47 in 2022 to \$28,603.13 in 2023, due to rising cost of pool chemicals and other supplies.

### Some push back on payloader expense

The City Council pushed back on purchasing a new pay loader for the public works department, asking for an additional quote before purchasing the heavy machinery.

The new 2024 John Deere 544P machine has been discussed with the council since late summer. The quote presented to the council Tuesday evening from RDO Equipment Co.'s Aberdeen location includes a five-year plan with annual \$40,992.55 payments for five years followed by a \$1 buyout of the machine after that period of time.

However, the quote presented to the council earlier this month totaled about \$39,000 per year for five years.

And the price will continue to rise, said Finance Officer Douglas Heinrich.

"If we don't lock anything in, the government discount drops," he said. "Basically this price is as cheap as we're going to get it. It's just going up from here."

Council members were concerned, though, about the already-rising cost.

Councilman Jon Cutler added he would like the public works staff to be able to try out the machine before purchasing it.

"I'm not against them getting a new payloader," he said. "They need one."

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He said the equipment company is pushing the machine really aggressively, and it would be worth looking into getting another quote for a different payloader.

Councilman Kevin Nehls agreed about trying to public works staff to try out the payloader as well as looking for a secondary option.

"I just don't understand how in two weeks it went up \$10 grand," he said. "I thought Terry (Herron, public works coordinator,) said the guy was going to honor the price until the first. I thought it was the first of the year, but I may have misunderstood that."

## Police vehicle headaches continue

Before the council could talk about payloaders, though, it discussed another vehicle issue.

City staff plan to look into future options for police department vehicles due to bad reviews some have heard about the Chevy Tahoe.

The council had approved ordering the 2023 vehicle earlier this year, but pushed back a bit earlier this month on sending a check to the vehicle dealer. However, a check had been issued before Tuesday's meeting.

Mayor Scott Hanlon said he's heard some good and some bad about the Tahoes. It might be worth looking into getting rid of the vehicles before their warranties run out, he added.

The city's other Tahoe is currently being repaired, with the engine being replaced in the next few weeks, said Finance Officer Douglas Heinrich.

The new Tahoe still needs extra features added before it can go into police service, with specialized equipment needing to be added. Councilman Kevin Nehls suggested finding a local shop that could add those features instead of having that work done elsewhere.

For the future, though, Councilman Brian Bahr said a different vehicle may be the way to go.

Hanlon added he wants the council to keep this in mind for the next vehicle purchased by the city.

"We're learning on this one," he said. "I hate to say this, but it's a learning process."

In other action:

- A new city website is on the way. The City Council approved a three-year contract with Apptegy to produce a new website and mobile application. Apptegy created the Groton Area School District website and app. Additional discussion took place about the opportunity to streamline the utility billing process through an online format, though that options won't be available until the city changes software companies, Finance Officer Douglas Heinrich said.

- The council approved the city appropriation ordinance for 2024. Changes from the first reading of the ordinance include allocating \$35,000 on top of the annual donation of \$10,000 for baseball to set aside funding for possible construction of a new concession stand. About \$41,000 was also set aside for yearly payment on a new payloader for the public works department.

- The council approved salaries for the 2024 calendar year.
- \$625 monthly for mayor
- \$3,000 yearly for council members, plus \$125 per special City Council meeting
- \$200 yearly for Board of Equalization members
- \$35 per meeting for planning and zoning commission members, plus \$70 per special meeting
- \$300 per full day of additional authorized meetings for elected officials
- \$100 per half day of additional authorized meetings for elected officials
- \$27.79 per hour for finance officer
- \$28.98 per hour for deputy finance officer
- \$23.97 per hour for assistant finance officer
- \$37.02 per hour for public works coordinator, street and water superintendent
- \$33.09 per hour for wastewater superintendent
- \$30.75 per hour assistant street superintendent

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- \$200 per week for public works on call
- \$32.38 per hour for technology specialist
- \$57.09 per hour for electrician superintendent
- \$42.03 per hour for electric lineman
- \$200 per week for electric department on call
- \$36.30 per hour for police chief
- \$33.05 per hour for police officer and assistant chief
- \$30.89 per hour for police officer level 1
- \$30.16 per hour for police officer level 2
- City offices will be closed Nov. 23 and 24 for Thanksgiving.
- The holiday lighting contest will take place Dec. 12, with a \$100 utility bill credit for first place, a \$75 utility bill credit for second place and a \$50 utility bill credit for third place.
- Applications for skating rink employment are due by 5 p.m. Dec. 4.
- Dog licenses for 2024 need to be bought at City Hall by Dec. 29.

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## 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....

22.) Am married with two kids

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## NSU Women's Basketball

### **Wolves Tally First Conference Win Over Marauders**

Bismarck, N.D. – The Northern State women's basketball team cruised to a 77-64 win over the University of Mary on Tuesday. Alayna Benike, Deontee Smith, and Madelyn Bragg each notched career highs in the contest.

#### **THE QUICK DETAILS**

Final Score: NSU 77, MARY 64

Records: NSU 4-1 (NSIC 1-0), MARY 2-5 (NSIC 0-1)

Attendance: 317

#### **HOW IT HAPPENED**

Northern State notched 17 points in the first quarter, 18 in the second, 20 in the third, and 22 in the fourth. The Wolves were efficient offensively in the contest shooting 49.0% from the floor and 70.6% from the 3-point line.

NSU drained 22 points from the bench and grabbed 44 rebounds, while UMARY notched just 22 boards. Northern racked up 16 assists, 12-of-17 made 3-pointers, and three steals in the win, scoring 16 points in the paint and 15 points off 21 offensive boards.

Alayna Benike led the Northern State offense scoring a career high 20 points, draining 5-of-6 from the 3-point line.

Adding a scoring career high of her own, Deontee Smith notched 14 points, going a perfect 3-for-3 from behind the arc.

Rianna Fillipi and Madelyn Bragg tallied 11 points each with Bragg recorded a career high of 12 rebounds.

#### **NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS**

Alayna Benike: 20 points (career high), 83.3 3-point field goal%

Deontee Smith: 14 points (career high), 75.0 field goal%

Rianna Fillipi: 11 points, 8 assists, 100.0 3-point field goal%

Madelyn Bragg: 11 points, 12 rebounds (career high)

#### **UP NEXT**

Northern is set to face off against the University of Sioux Falls and Wisconsin Parkside in a pair of non-conference contests. Tip-off times are set for 3 p.m. on Saturday, November 25 from Wachs Arena against the Cougars and 4 p.m. on Monday, November 27th versus the Rangers. Monday's match-up will be played on a neutral court on the campus of Southwest Minnesota State.

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## Conde National League

**Nov. 20 Team Standings:** Cubs 25, Tigers 23, Braves 23, Mets 22 ½, Giants 21 ½, Pirates 17

**Men's High Games:** Ryan Bethke 211, 184; Chad Furney 190; Butch Farmen 174

**Men's High Series:** Ryan Bethke 530, Butch Farmen 509, Chad Furney 484

**Women's High Games:** Sam Bahr 167, Nancy Radke 161, Suzi Easthouse 157

**Women's High Series:** Suzi Easthouse 460, Sam Bahr 454, Nancy Radke 427

## NSU Men's Basketball

### No. 21 Northern State Offense Ignites in Road Victory

Aberdeen, S.D. – The No. 21 Northern State University men's basketball team broke through Tuesday evening defeating the University of Mary in the 2023-24 NSIC opener. The Wolves shot over 50.0% from the floor and the 3-point line, notching season highs in both categories. In addition, five players scored in double figures in the win.

#### THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 90, MARY 74

Records: NSU 1-4 (1-0 NSIC), MARY 2-2 (0-1 NSIC)

Attendance: 326

#### HOW IT HAPPENED

The Wolves trailed 35-33 at the half, however rallied back with 57 points in the second to secure their first win of the season

Northern shot 56.9% from the floor, 53.3% from the 3-point line, and 72.7% from the foul line in the game

They tallied a game high 20 assists, 16 made 3-pointers, and nine steals, and added 27 rebounds and one block

NSU scored 32 points in the paint, 23 points off 14 forced turnovers, and 11 points off the bench

Jacksen Moni knocked down a season and career high 31 points to lead the team

Josh Dilling and Augustin Reede followed with 19 and 15 points respectively as the pair each recorded five made 3-pointers

Dilling and Moni combined for over half of the team's assists with eight and six respectively

With 11 points, Andrew Bergan led the team off the bench, hitting 4-of-4 from the field, 1-of-1 from the 3-point line, and 2-of-2 from the foul line

#### NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

Jacksen Moni: 31 points, 66.7 field goal%, 6 assists, 4 rebounds

Josh Dilling: 19 points, 85.7 field goal%, 8 assists, 6 rebounds

Augustin Reede: 15 points, 3 assists

Trey Longstreet: 11 points, 62.5 field goal%, 4 steals

Andrew Bergan: 11 points, 100.0 field goal%, 4 rebounds

#### UP NEXT

Northern State will host the Dacotah Bank Classic this Friday and Saturday from Wachs Arena. Tip-off times are set for 7:30 p.m. on Friday against Peru State College and 5 p.m. on Saturday versus Trinity Bible College.





## November Students of the Month

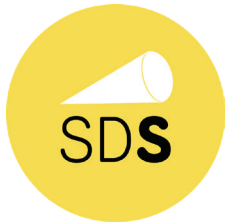
The following Groton Area MS/HS Students have been selected as November's Student of the Month.

Back Left: Liby Althoff (9th), TC Schuster ( 8th), Liam Johnson (6th), Emily Clark (12th)  
Front Left: Gage Sippel (10th), Elizabeth Fliehs (11th), Novalea Warrington (7th)

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

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

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



## SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

### **New policy leads to settlement in ballot petitioner rights lawsuit**

**Judge shot down previous Minnehaha County restrictions on signature gathering**

**BY: JOHN HULT - NOVEMBER 21, 2023 4:14 PM**

SIOUX FALLS — Minnehaha County commissioners signed off on a settlement agreement Tuesday to dismiss a lawsuit accusing them of violating the First Amendment rights of people collecting signatures for ballot questions.

Dakotans for Health sued the county this spring after the commission passed a policy on May 2 that restricted petitioning to a small area near the county administration building and required petitioners to check in with the county auditor before collecting signatures. The group also sued Lawrence County, whose commissioners had considered but did not pass a more restrictive set of petitioner regulations. The group recently asked that the Lawrence County suit be dismissed.

The advocacy group is collecting signatures to put a repeal of the state's sales tax on food and a constitutional amendment reinstating the right to an abortion on the general election ballot in 2024. Abortion became illegal in South Dakota shortly after the U.S. Supreme Court voted to overturn the constitutional right to abortion with its 2022 decision in *Dobbs vs. Jackson*.

U.S. District Judge Roberto Lange signed a temporary restraining order to stop Minnehaha County from enforcing its petitioning policy just one day after the Dakotans for Health lawsuit was filed. Lange agreed with Dakotans for Health's assertion that the policy likely violates free speech rights and clearly encumbered its ability to gather signatures in time to get its measure on the ballot.

"The new policy generally makes it much less likely that those entering or exiting the Minnehaha County buildings will engage at all with petition circulators," Lange wrote in the May 11 order.

The county has since worked to craft a constitutionally defensible alternative policy, Minnehaha County Commission Administrative Officer Tom Greco told commissioners on Tuesday.

"We certainly appreciate citizens who take an active role in government decisions at all levels, but we do want to ensure that the buildings are able to accommodate people every day without any unnecessary delay or inconvenience," Greco said.

The settlement agreement Greco presented, signed on Nov. 15 by Dakotans for Health's Rick Weiland, was grounded in that updated policy.

The only significant difference between the petition-gathering policy in place before this spring's attempt to rein in activity is the creation of a "zone of non-interference" that spans 24 feet of sidewalk from the entryway to the administration. The area creates a clear path from the building's handicap parking spaces to the entrance. Petitioners are free to stand to the south of the doors.

As with the previous policy, petitioners cannot engage with citizens inside the entryway or inside the building itself.

The policy is similar to one passed in Brown County this month, which requires petitioners to be 10 feet from any entrance. Commissioners in the county seat of Aberdeen were concerned about clashes between abortion amendment petitioners and a group called "Decline to Sign," which has deployed people to popular signature-gathering spots to dissuade citizens from signing the abortion rights petition. Decline to Sign representatives also stand outside the Minnehaha County administration building.

Weiland told South Dakota Searchlight that the updated petitioning policy in Minnehaha County is preferable on First Amendment grounds. He also asserted that a wider area for petitioning should help temper the risk of heated confrontations between supporters and opponents of the ballot question.

"If we hadn't challenged the Minnehaha County policy, it would have had us all out there in a box," Weiland said.

Dakotans for Health will need 35,017 signatures from registered voters to put the abortion amendment on the ballot, and 17,508 signatures to put the initiated law on the ballot that would repeal the state sales tax on food.

Minnehaha County commissioners voted Tuesday to sign the settlement agreement with Dakotans for Health, which agreed to drop its claims with the formal adoption of the new petitioning policy. Commissioners will vote formally on the policy on Nov. 28.

The Dakotans for Health measures are among more than a dozen questions that could appear on state-wide ballots in the Nov. 5, 2024, election.

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

## Severe weather becoming larger factor for concert-goers, fair director says

**Insurance saves Sioux Falls event from financial sting of canceled concerts**

**BY: JOHN HULT - NOVEMBER 21, 2023 2:51 PM**

SIoux FALLS — Insurance coverage allowed South Dakota's most well-attended fair to avoid the sting of financial loss in 2023.

Sioux Empire Fair Director Scott Wick told Minnehaha County commissioners on Tuesday that a severe weather shutdown on two separate days could have tanked the fair's profitability, but a \$313,000 insurance payout and strong attendance on days with good weather added up to a net profit of about \$274,400.

That's the fourth-best tally for the fair in the past 13 years, Wick said.

"Being insured was the thing to do, so we ended well," he said.

The severe weather on Aug. 5 closed the gates and quashed a planned performance from the Grammy-winning act Brothers Osborne. Five days later, another round of storms once again shuttered the gates and shut down a grandstand gig for Whiskey Myers.

Refunds were issued to ticket holders for both shows.

The weather is a more significant factor in the grandstand's ticket tallies today than it has been in years past, Wick said. Years ago, about 15% of ticket sales took place on the day of a concert. Over the past few years, that figure has spiked to around 45%.

"There are a lot of people sitting at home and watching the news to see what the weather's going to do," Wick said.

The annual update comes amid a long-simmering discussion adjacent to the fair's operations.

County Commissioners have spent more than a year studying the future of the W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds. A company called Knife River had asked to purchase the land to expand its operations, but the land was willed to the county for the express purpose of hosting the fair. The county voted earlier this month to engage in "appropriate legal action" to determine if it can unshackle the land from its deeded purpose. If sold, the fair would need a new location.

Amid the ongoing exploration of options, the fairgrounds and the fair itself remain a moneymaker for the area. Between the fair and the dozens of events that take place year-round, the fairgrounds generate \$1.1 million in annual sales tax revenue, according to a consultant report on the land's economic impact. The fair alone regularly draws more than a quarter-million visitors a year.

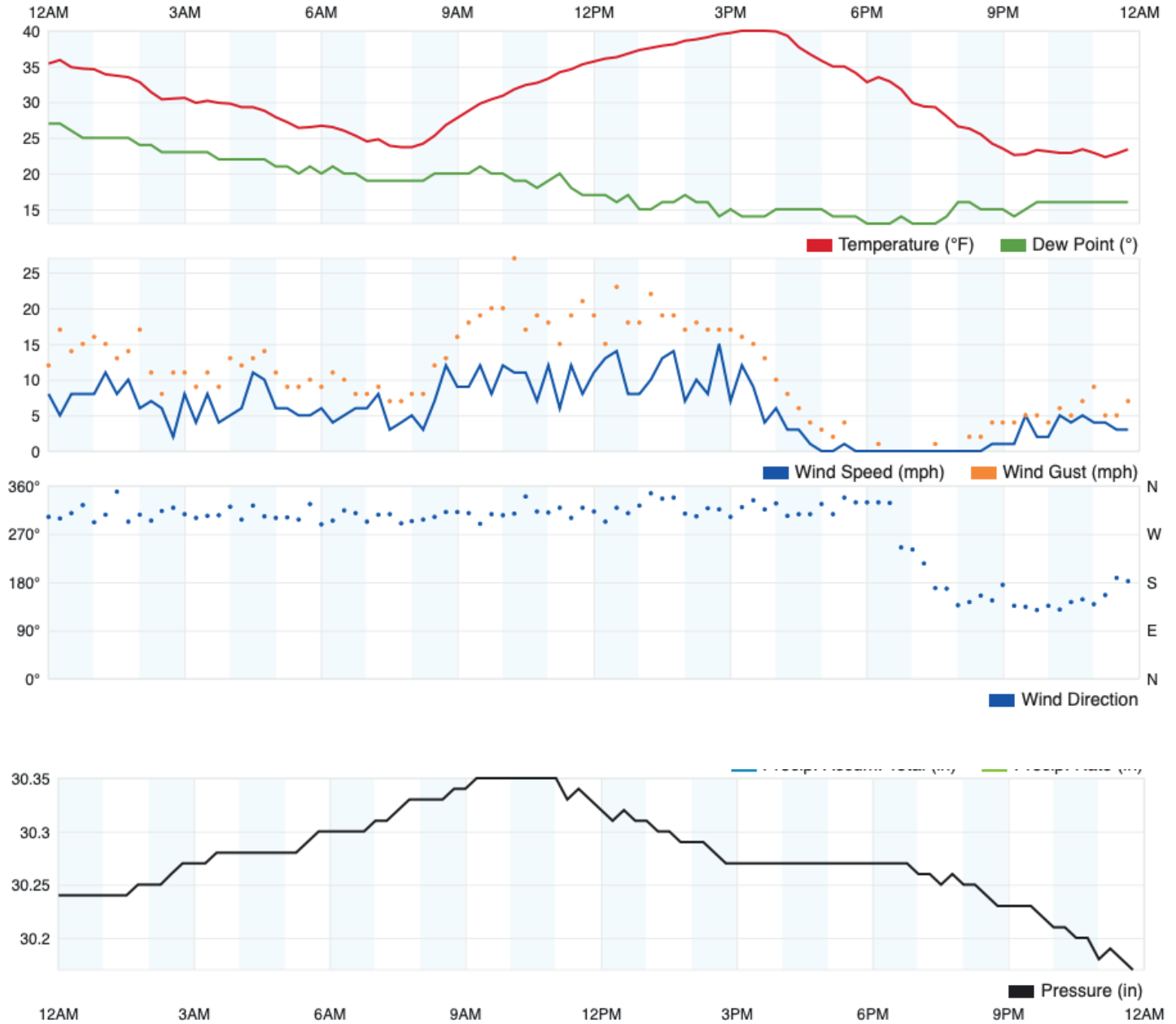
The financial news was welcomed by county commissioners, given the weather.

"Having a fourth-best Sioux Empire Fair under the conditions you went through, frankly, is surprising," said Minnehaha County Commissioner Dean Karsky.

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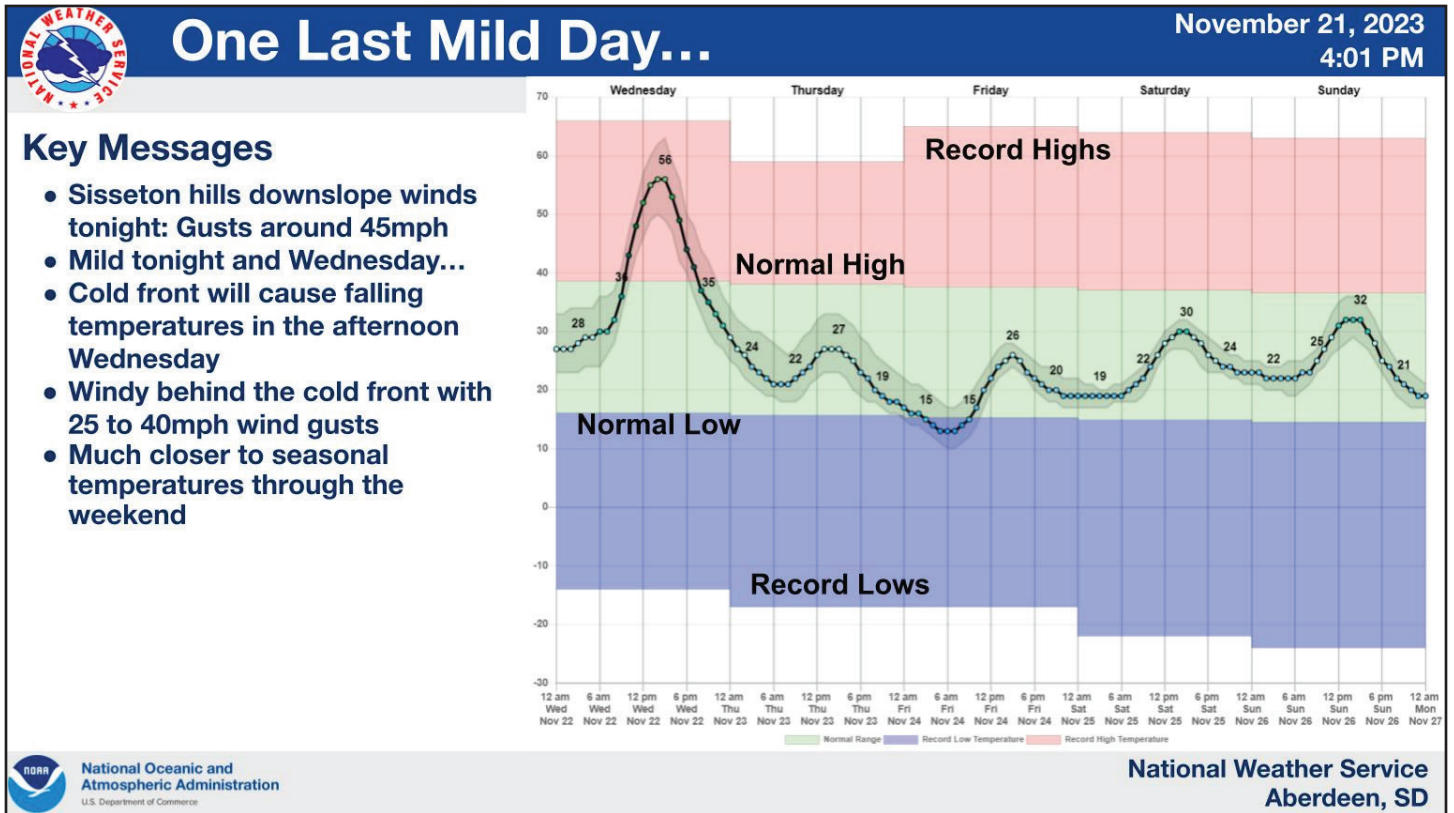
## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Day	Nov 22	Nov 23	Nov 24	Nov 25	Nov 26	Nov 27	Nov 28
Weather							
High	54°F	27°F	26°F	33°F	32°F	33°F	37°F
Low	22°F	10°F	17°F	20°F	15°F	21°F	20°F
Wind	SSW	N	NNE	SSW	NW	NW	S
Speed	13 MPH	12 MPH	5 MPH	13 MPH	20 MPH	8 MPH	16 MPH



Just one more mild day before a cold front brings in much more seasonal air that will persist through the holiday and weekend.

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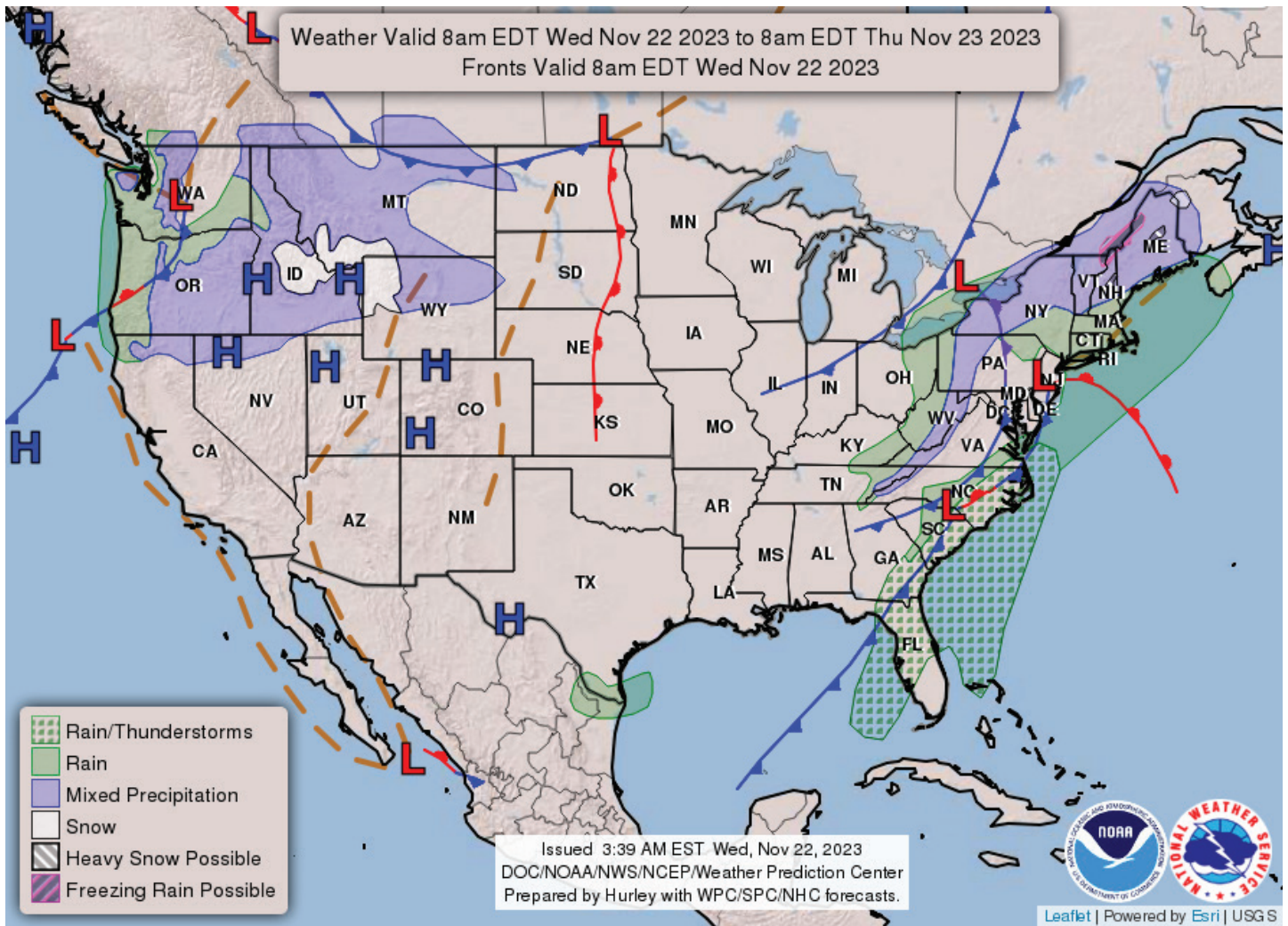
## Yesterday's Groton Weather

**High Temp: 40 °F at 3:27 PM**  
**Low Temp: 22 °F at 11:14 PM**  
**Wind: 27 mph at 10:07 AM**  
**Precip: : 0.00**

Day length: 9 hours, 18 minutes

## Today's Info

Record High: 66 in 1904  
Record Low: -14 in 1895  
Average High: 39  
Average Low: 17  
Average Precip in Nov.: 0.58  
Precip to date in Nov.: 0.19  
Average Precip to date: 21.05  
Precip Year to Date: 23.17  
Sunset Tonight: 4:57:58 PM  
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:40:21 AM



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## Today in Weather History

November 22, 1979: Snow began falling during the morning hours on the 21st and continued until the evening hours on the 22nd. Snowfall totals were in the 6 to 13-inch range with thirteen inches at Sioux Falls being the largest amount reported. Moderate winds of 20 to 35 mph made travel tough. Approximately 50 percent of the corn remained in the fields. The snow did not harm the corn, so most of it was still harvested.

November 22, 1985: Extreme cold temperatures occurred over South Dakota from November 22nd through the 28th, with low temperatures dropping well below zero. Record low temperatures were set in most areas, and Aberdeen set a record low for five of the seven days. Three of those five record lows still stand today: -17 on the 23rd, -18 on the 27th, and -21 on the 28th. The other records set at the time (-16 on both the 24th and 26th), were both broken in November 1996.

November 22, 2003: Heavy snow of 6 to 10 inches fell across Big Stone and Traverse counties in Minnesota, as well as northeastern South Dakota, from the evening of the 22nd to the afternoon of the 23rd. Dumont received 6 inches of snow, with 10 inches reported in Ortonville. Six inches of snow was also reported in Wilmot, White Rock, Estelline, and near Stone Bridge; 7 inches was reported Toronto; 8 inches in Big Stone City; and 9 inches at Clear Lake. Heavy snow of 6 to 9 inches also fell in Corson and Lyman counties in South Dakota. Some other snowfall amounts included 8 inches northwest of Presho, Kennebec, and near Iona; and 9 inches southwest of Keldron.

1641 - An observer at Boston, MA, recorded a great tempest of wind and rain from the southeast all night, as fierce as a hurricane, and thereupon followed the highest tide which we have seen since our arrival here . (David Ludlum)

1957 - Extremely destructive Santa Ana winds blew from Oxnard to San Diego and inland parts of southern California. The high winds produced a 28,000 acre brush fire on a 40-mile front west of Crystal Lake. People were ordered off streets in some areas due to flying debris. (21st-22nd) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Eight cities in the eastern U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date. Elkins, WV, reported a low of 5 degrees above zero. Gale force winds continued along the Northern Atlantic Coast. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Wet and windy weather prevailed across the western U.S., with heavy snow in some of the higher elevations. Winds gusted to 62 mph at Vedauwoo WY, and reached 75 mph at Tillamook OR. Shelter Cove CA was drenched with 4.37 inches of rain in 24 hours. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Strong northerly winds produced squalls along the shore of Lake Michigan, with heavy snow in extreme southeastern Wisconsin. Milwaukee WI received nine inches of snow, and in Racine County there were more than one hundred automobile accidents. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data) 1992: 45 tornadoes touched down in the Tennessee and Ohio Valleys. Georgia was hard hit with two F4, one F3 and three F2 tornadoes that killed six people and injured 144. Indiana had a total of 15 tornadoes on this day to set a record for an outbreak in November and for the month of November. One, an F4 multiple-vortex type, cut a 22-mile path through extreme southeastern Indiana and northern Kentucky. This tornado debunked the myth that twisters don't cross rivers, as this devastating tornado crossed the Ohio River twice. Indiana had a total of 15 tornadoes on this day to set two state records, the largest November tornado outbreak, and the most tornadoes in November. This tornado outbreak made a significant contribution to what was to become the biggest November ever for the U.S. concerning the number of tornadoes.

2010: A rare November ice storm prompts Fairbanks officials to advised residents to stay off the roads. Ice storm advisories are hoisted across a 950 mile stretch of the state that extends from Anchorage to Nome. The 0.39 inches of rain which fall at Fairbanks rates as that city's greatest November rainfall since November 1936.

2010: A strong cold front sweeping through the Midwest brought severe storms, including tornadoes to northern Illinois and southwest Wisconsin. Caledonia, Illinois was hit hard by an EF2 tornado.

Daily Devotionals

## Seeds of Hope

### IN GOD'S IMAGE

Whenever pennies were made in ancient Rome, they were always stamped with the image of the emperor on them. It served as a constant reminder to those who used the coins that they were expected to honor him and obey his laws.

In the opening verses of His Word, God said, "Let us make man to be in our image, to be like us." Moses, quoting God, said that we have the image of our God on us. And, the fact that we have the image of God on us proves our unquestionable worth to God.

People frequently talk about self-worth. And, we often hear of individuals who have low self-esteem. Some people even describe themselves by saying, "I'm certainly not worth very much. I can't do anything right." This unfortunate attitude is a result of believing the opinions of others who influence us - perhaps parents, friends, or teachers. That is unfortunate because they would not want others to make negative statements about them.

However, it is never about our sense of self-worth, no matter who influenced us. It is about our God-worth. Whenever we are tempted to think that we have no significance or importance, we need to remind ourselves that we were created in the image of God. And, even though that image was lost when Adam and Eve disobeyed God, the story does not end there. A few verses later, God begins to reveal His plan to make us a new sin-forgiven creation through the death of His Son on the cross where we can see our true worth - our God-worth - in Christ's work.

Prayer: We admit, Father, that we cannot understand how much You love us. We accept Your grace and ask that through Christ, Your Son, our Savior, we will see our worth to You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Let us make man to be in our image, to be like us. Genesis 1:26-31



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



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## 2023 Community Events

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

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## The Groton Independent Printed & Mailed Weekly Edition

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## WINNING NUMBERS

### MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS: 11.21.23

17 22 25 30 38 24

MegaPlier: 4x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$308,000,000**

NEXT 2 Days 17 Hrs 37  
DRAW: Mins 15 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:

11.20.23

10 14 24 41 51 2

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$2,350,000**

NEXT 16 Hrs 52 Mins 15  
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS: 11.21.23

23 30 36 37 47 15

TOP PRIZE:

**\$7,000/week**

NEXT 17 Hrs 7 Mins 15  
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 11.18.23

2 7 14 15 28

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$61,000**

NEXT 17 Hrs 7 Mins 15  
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:

11.20.23

15 21 39 45 52 12

TOP PRIZE:

**\$10,000,000**

NEXT 17 Hrs 36 Mins 15  
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:

11.20.23

19 26 30 39 63 13

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$313,000,000**

NEXT 17 Hrs 36 Mins 15  
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

## News from the Associated Press

### **The journey of Minnesota's Rutt the moose is tracked by a herd of fans**

By Summer Ballentine Associated Press

A herd of followers are tracking a moose on the loose in southern Minnesota, hoping the majestic animal's journey ends safely after it was spotted Tuesday 140 miles (225 km) northwest of Minneapolis.

Fans have been tracking the young male moose for weeks and posting updates on a Facebook page that as of Tuesday had more than 18,000 followers.

Admirers call the animal "Bullwinkle" or "Rutt," the latter in homage to a scatterbrained moose from the movie "Brother Bear."

A Minnesota Department of Natural Resources big game expert told the Minnesota Star Tribune that moose typically only roam in northern Minnesota, making the now-famous moose's visit to south and central Minnesota a rare treat. Todd Froberg, the agency's big game program coordinator, said the young moose is likely looking for home territory or other moose and is expected to continue moving north.

"He's lost, and he's trying to get home to his family," said Bernie Stang, a moose fan who spotted the animal in late October.

Amateur moose-tracker Brenda Johnson said traffic on the Facebook page, of which she is the administrator, picked up in September when the moose was spotted in Iowa near the border of Minnesota.

She suspects Rutt traveled from North Dakota through South Dakota and Iowa before coming back to Minnesota, based on news reports of moose sightings in South Dakota that match his description.

Johnson said she created the Central MN Moose on the Loose Facebook page in 2018 to track another moose whose life tragically ended when it was fatally struck by a semi while crossing a highway.

Rutt enthusiasts had been monitoring his fan page for weeks hoping for news that the colossal creature would avoid a similar fate and safely cross Interstate 94. (He did.)

Danielle Magnuson began searching for the moose last month as a distraction from stressors in her life. She spent several days a week searching before she finally found him Nov. 13 near Sauk Centre.

"It's almost like seeing a unicorn," Magnuson said. "They're just really beautiful animals, and we don't get a chance to see them around our area."

Stang said seeing Rutt was especially touching for her 26-year-old daughter Holly Stang, who had never seen a moose before. She said Holly Stang first named the creature Rutt.

"This moose has brought so much joy to so many people and so much hope," Bernie Stang said, "because most people in their lifetime never get to see a moose."

### **Live updates | Timing for the Israel-Hamas pause in fighting to be announced in the next 24 hours**

By The Associated Press undefined

A cease-fire agreement between the Hamas militant group and Israel has been confirmed by both parties, along with Washington and Qatar, which helped broker the deal that would bring a temporary halt to the devastating war that is now in its seventh week.

The Israeli government said that under an outline of the deal, Hamas is to free over a four-day period at least 50 of the roughly 240 hostages taken in its Oct. 7 attack on Israel. Qatar later confirmed the deal, saying the start time will be announced in the next 24 hours and it will last four days. The agreement would bring the first respite to war-weary Palestinians in Gaza, where more than 11,000 people have been killed, according to health authorities.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said before the Cabinet voted early Wednesday to back the agreement that the war would continue even if a deal was reached. Some 1,200 people have been killed in Israel, mostly during the initial incursion by Hamas.

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Currently:

- Truce deal raises hopes of freeing hostages in Gaza and halting worst Mideast violence in decades
- South African lawmakers vote in favor of closing Israel's embassy and cutting diplomatic ties
- Bahrain government websites are briefly inaccessible after a cyberattack over the Israel-Hamas war
- Gaza health officials say they lost the ability to count dead as Israeli offensive intensifies
- Find more of AP's coverage at <https://apnews.com/hub/israel-hamas-war>

Here's what's happening in the war:

**WHO STAFF MEMBER, FAMILY ARE KILLED IN STRIKE**

CAIRO — The World Health Organization says one of its local staff members in Gaza was killed along with her family when a strike hit the home where they were sheltering.

It said Dima Abdullatif Mohammed Alhaj, 29, was killed Tuesday along with her husband, their 6-month-old son and her two brothers.

The U.N. health agency said in a statement late Tuesday that over 50 people were reportedly killed in the strike. It was not immediately possible to confirm the report or to determine who carried out the strike.

Israel has launched airstrikes across Gaza in the war triggered by Hamas' Oct. 7 attack on southern Israel. Palestinian militants have fired rockets at Israel, some of which have fallen short.

Dr. Rik Peeperkorn, WHO's representative for the Palestinian territories, said Alhaj "was a wonderful person with a radiant smile, cheerful, positive, respectful. She was a true team player."

Alhaj, who had worked as a patient administrator with WHO since 2019, was among hundreds of thousands of Palestinians who fled from northern Gaza to shelter in the south. She had left her home in Gaza City and was staying with relatives.

WHO said her death "is another example of the senseless loss in this conflict."

**POPE BEGS FOR PEACE AND AN END TO 'TERRORISM'**

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis has met separately with Israeli and Palestinian delegations and begged for peace and an end to what he called terrorism and "passions that are killing everyone."

In encounters arranged before the Israeli-Hamas hostage deal was announced, Francis met Wednesday with relatives of hostages held in Gaza following Hamas' Oct. 7 raid in southern Israel. And he met separately with a delegation of Palestinians with relatives who are prisoners in Israel.

Speaking at the end of his weekly general audience, Francis said he heard from both how much they are suffering and the toll that the war was taking. In the audience were people holding Palestinian flags and scarves as well as small posters showing apparent bodies in a ditch and the word "Genocide" written underneath.

Francis said: "Here we've gone beyond war. This isn't war, this is terrorism. Please, let us go forward for peace. Pray for peace, pray a lot for peace."

He also asked for God to help both Israeli and Palestinian people "resolve problems and not go forward with passions that are killing everyone in the end."

Francis has spoken out repeatedly for an end to the war.

**ISRAEL PUBLISHES LIST OF PALESTINIAN PRISONERS WHO COULD BE RELEASED UNDER HOSTAGE DEAL**

TEL AVIV, Israel -- Israel's Justice Ministry has published a list of 300 Palestinian detainees and prisoners who could potentially be released in a hostage deal.

Most of those on the list published Wednesday are teenagers arrested over the past year for relatively minor offenses, including throwing rocks or alleged incitement. None was convicted of murder, though some served sentences for attempted murder.

The youngest detainee on the list is 14, and it also includes around 40 women. The detainees are to be released to their homes in the West Bank, east Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip.

According to the truce-for-hostages deal announced Wednesday, 50 hostages will be released over four days, likely starting Thursday, during which fighting will pause.

After that, every additional 10 hostages released will result in one additional day in the pause and the release of additional Palestinian prisoners.

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Israel is expected to release 150 Palestinian prisoners in the first four days, though the Ministry of Justice published the list of 300 in case the deal is extended. Under Israeli law, the public has 24 hours to object to any release.

## EVACUATION OF PATIENTS TRAPPED IN SHIFA HOSPITAL BEGINS

CAIRO — The evacuation of patients trapped in Shifa Hospital in Gaza City has begun, the Palestinian Red Crescent says.

The charity said 14 ambulances arrived at the hospital on Wednesday, and the evacuation has been coordinated with the United Nations and Doctors without Borders medical group.

Ashraf al-Qidra, the spokesperson for Gaza's Health Ministry, has said there were over 250 patients at the facility, which was besieged by the Israeli military earlier this month. Over 400 displaced people sheltering in the facility have also been trapped there, he said.

Israel has accused Hamas of using the hospital, the largest in Gaza, to conduct militant operations. Hamas and health officials have denied the allegation.

Over the weekend, the World Health Organization coordinated the evacuation of 31 premature babies from Shifa Hospital to southern Gaza. Of them, 28 babies were later transferred to Egypt.

## EU OFFICIAL SAYS HALT IN FIGHTING MUST BE USED TO FLOOD GAZA WITH AID

BRUSSELS — The European Union's crisis management chief has welcomed the Israeli hostage release agreement and says the halt in fighting that is part of the deal must be used to flood Gaza with desperately needed aid.

"We hope that the agreement on a pause of hostilities that has just been reached will allow for a substantial surge in humanitarian aid delivery into and within Gaza," Crisis Management Commissioner Janez Lenarcic said Wednesday.

"We certainly hope that this will not be a one-off," he told EU lawmakers in Strasbourg, France, and called for "urgent and extended humanitarian pauses throughout Gaza."

The 27-nation EU is the world's biggest aid donor to the Palestinians. Lenarcic said 15 EU aid cargo flights have been sent, with most of that aid already in Gaza, and that more is on the way.

The bloc insists that more trucks must be allowed through the Rafah crossing point with Egypt and other corridors opened.

Lenarcic said getting into Gaza is "extremely challenging" and that fewer than 50 trucks a day make it through, a number which he described as "woefully inadequate." He welcomed Israel's decision to allow some fuel in, but said it only covers about one third of Gaza's basic needs.

## BRITAIN URGES BOTH SIDES TO ENSURE HOSTAGE AGREEMENT IS 'DELIVERED IN FULL'

LONDON — The British government has welcomed an agreement to release some of the Israeli hostages held in Gaza and urged all parties to ensure it is "delivered in full."

Foreign Secretary David Cameron said the agreement was "a crucial step towards providing relief to the families of the hostages and addressing the humanitarian crisis in Gaza."

"This pause provides an important opportunity to ensure much greater volumes of food, fuel and other life-saving aid can reach Gaza on a sustained basis," he said. "The U.K. will continue to work with all partners in the region to secure the release of all hostages, restore security and reach a long-term political solution which enables both Israelis and Palestinians to live in peace."

## CHINA SAYS IT HOPES TRUCE AGREEMENT WILL EASE TENSIONS

BEIJING — The Chinese government says it welcomes the four-day truce reached between Israel and Hamas.

"We welcome the provisional truce reached by the parties concerned and hope it will help to alleviate the humanitarian crisis, de-escalate the conflict and ease tensions," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said at a daily briefing in Beijing on Wednesday.

China has been calling for a cease-fire and refrained from criticizing the initial Hamas attack on Israel that started the latest conflict. A delegation of foreign ministers from Arab nations and Indonesia held talks with China's foreign minister this week as they started a tour to press their case for a cease-fire with

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the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council.

## RUSSIA SAYS TRUCE IS A STEP TOWARD ENDING HOSTILITIES

MOSCOW — The Kremlin on Wednesday hailed a deal between Israel and Hamas for a halt to the war and the release of hostages as step toward ending the hostilities.

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said the announcement of the deal was “the first good news from Gaza in a long time.”

Speaking in a conference call with reporters, he noted that Russia along with most other countries had called for a truce and humanitarian pauses, adding that “only on the basis of such pauses future attempts to find a lasting settlement to the problem could be made.”

## FRANCE HOPEFUL ITS NATIONALS WILL BE AMONG THE FIRST RELEASED UNDER DEAL

PARIS — France’s foreign minister says she’s hopeful that French nationals will be among the first hostages released as part of a truce deal between Israel and Hamas.

“We hope that French nationals are among them and even, if possible, among the first group that will be released,” the minister, Catherine Colonna, said Wednesday on France Inter radio. “We are working for that.”

France counts eight people missing, some of them confirmed as hostages, from the Oct. 7 attack on Israel by Hamas militants that ignited their latest and deadliest war. France also counts 40 killed in the attack. Colonna said that not all the hostages taken on Oct. 7 were captured by Hamas. But she said that in the course of negotiations, the militant group has said that “it could assemble together all of the hostages.”

French President Emmanuel Macron on Wednesday welcomed the truce agreement.

In a message on X, formerly Twitter, Macron said “we are working tirelessly to ensure that all hostages are released.” He also hoped the truce will “enable aid to be brought in” and help the Gaza people.

## RED CROSS SAYS IT’S STANDING BY TO ASSIST SWAP

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — The International Committee of the Red Cross says it is standing by to assist any swap in the Israel-Hamas war.

“Currently, we are actively engaged in talks with the parties to help carry out any humanitarian agreement they reach,” the Red Cross said. “As a neutral intermediary, it is important to clarify that we are not part of the negotiations, and we do not make decisions on the substance of it. Our role is to facilitate the implementation, once the parties agree.”

## US STRIKES BACK AT IRAN-BACKED MILITANTS IN IRAQ

BAGHDAD — The United States military said Wednesday that it has carried out strikes against Iran-backed groups in Iraq that have launched attacks on U.S. forces.

The U.S. Central Command said in a statement Wednesday that its forces had “conducted discrete, precision strikes against two facilities in Iraq ... in direct response to the attacks against U.S. and Coalition forces by Iran and Iran-backed groups,” including one on Tuesday involving the use of close-range ballistic missiles.

Two officials with Iranian-backed militias in Iraq said the strikes hit three locations in the area of Jurf al-Sakhar south of Baghdad, killing eight members of the Kataeb Hezbollah militant group. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media.

Iranian-backed militants have launched dozens of attacks on bases and facilities housing U.S. personnel in Iraq and Syria since Oct. 17. While most of the more than five dozen attacks have been ineffective, at least 60 U.S. personnel have reported minor injuries. The militant groups have said the strikes are in retaliation for U.S. support of Israel in the ongoing Israel-Hamas war.

## Voters offered a clean slate in an election to replace The Netherlands' longest-serving leader

By MIKE CORDER and RAF CASERT Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — There's one thing that's certain for Dutch voters casting ballots Wednesday in a general election: Mark Rutte, the Netherlands' longest-serving prime minister, is on the way out. All the rest is up in the air in a knife-edge vote.

Rutte's replacement after 13 years in office could be the country's first female premier or a social democrat who left his job as the European Union's climate czar to return to national politics. The next prime minister also might turn out to be an anti-Islam lawmaker or a centrist who created his party only three months ago.

"It's time for change in the Netherlands, and I feel there is a large momentum for change at the moment," said Pieter Omtzigt, whose brand-new party New Social Contract, is slated to be finish among the top four in a tightly-contested race.

There are a total of 9,823 polling stations across the nation of nearly 18 million, with voters casting ballots for a total of 1,128 candidates from 26 parties at locations ranging from windmills to churches to the Anne Frank House museum in Amsterdam.

The outcome after polls opened in the morning is hard to predict given what happened in other European elections in recent months. Populist and hard-right parties triumphed in some EU member nations and faltered in others, creating conflicting messages on where democracy on the continent was heading.

Spain set the scene in July, when it looked like the far right together with the conservative Christian Democrats might dislodge Socialist Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez, who has led the country since 2018. Somehow, the incumbent hung on, though it required political acrobatics and a risky alliance with Catalan nationalists.

In September, populist Robert Fico's Smer party won the parliamentary election in Slovakia after campaigning on a pro-Russia and anti-American platform. Fico, returning to power for a fourth time, set up a coalition government that now includes an ultra-nationalist party.

Then the next month, the far-right Alternative for Germany, or AfD, party extended its reach from its dominant base in the country's formerly communist east by making a strong showing in two state elections in the west. Recent national polls have put the party in second place nationwide with support of around 20%, about double its popularity during the 2021 federal election.

By the time Poland voted later in October, the question of whether the country would continue veering away from democratic rule of law principles under the Law and Justice party attracted international interest. The extreme-conservative party received the most votes but not a majority in parliament, ultimately losing control of the Polish government to a coalition led by the moderate and pro-EU veteran Donald Tusk.

Now, it's the election in the Netherlands that has people waiting to see which way the continent's democratic balance will tip.

Polls showed four political parties, including the far-right Party for Freedom of firebrand Geert Wilders, were neck and neck going into Wednesday's election. Forming the next government will require weeks or months of coalition talks between parties.

A poll released Tuesday put Wilders' party very narrowly ahead of Rutte's liberal, pro-free trade People's Party for Freedom and Democracy and a center-left bloc made up of the Labor Party and Green Left.

If the ruling party manages to clip Wilders' wings, it would pave the way for Justice and Security Minister Dilan Yeşilgöz-Zegerius to become the first woman to occupy the prime minister's office known as the Little Tower.

Yeşilgöz-Zegerius was elected leader of the People's Party for Freedom and Democracy, or VVD, after Rutte resigned. Born in Turkey, she is a former refugee who now advocates a crackdown on migration as the Netherlands struggles to accommodate asylum-seekers.

Veteran politician Wilders, whose poll numbers have risen steadily during the campaign, goes much further, calling for what he calls an "asylum stop" and pushbacks of migrants at Dutch borders. He also



wants to organize a referendum on quitting the European Union.

In a final debate Tuesday night, he sought to play down his anti-Islam rhetoric, saying he wanted to be "a premier for all Netherlanders, regardless of their religion or background."

"I have the best intentions for the Dutch people in mind," Wilders said as he voted at city hall in The Hague, flanked by two security guards who shadow his every move due to the numerous death threats he receives. He said his election program "might not be what some of the parties in Europe or other countries ... strive for but, hey, that is democracy."

Once Wednesday's votes have been counted, party leaders will have to negotiate the makeup of the next governing coalition. After the 2021 election, it took more than nine months for them to put together a four-party arrangement that was the same as the previous government's.

Rutte's fourth and final coalition resigned in July after failing to agree on measures to rein in migration. The issue was one of the dominant themes of the campaign along with how to restore trust in the central government that was eroded by a series of scandals that tarnished Rutte's time in office.

The leader of the movement to reform government is Omtzigt, a Dutch lawmaker who set up his over the summer. The party shot up in opinion polls ahead of the election.

The former Christian Democrat has long campaigned for more transparency in government and better protection for whistleblowers. He also has worked on behalf of victims of scandals, ranging from child benefit recipients who were wrongly labeled fraudsters by tax inspectors to people in the northern Groningen province whose houses were damaged by earthquakes caused by gas extraction.

"After years of scandals with the current government, they have the choice of doing more of the same or taking a new way," Omtzigt said after casting his vote early in the morning.

The heavyweight on the political left is former EU Climate Commissioner Frans Timmermans, who left his international career to return to his socialist roots and head the Labor Party-Green Left bloc. Even if his bloc wins the most seats, he could have trouble building a left-of-center coalition in the politically splintered Netherlands.

## Truce deal set to free hostages in swap, raising hopes of halting worst Mideast violence in decades

By JOSEF FEDERMAN, TIA GOLDENBERG and SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel and Hamas have reached an agreement for a four-day halt to the devastating war in Gaza, accompanied by the release of dozens of hostages held by the militant group in return for Palestinians imprisoned by Israel, mediators said Wednesday.

The truce marks the biggest diplomatic breakthrough since Hamas' Oct. 7 rampage into southern Israel ignited a war that has devastated vast swaths of Gaza, fueled a surge of violence in the occupied West Bank and raised fears of a wider conflict across the Middle East.

The Persian Gulf nation of Qatar, which has played a key role in mediating with Hamas, announced the deal without saying when it would go into effect. Fifty hostages will be released in stages, in exchange for what Hamas said would be 150 Palestinian prisoners.

Both sides will release women and children first, and the supply of humanitarian aid flowing into the besieged territory will be ramped up.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel would resume the war after the truce and keep fighting "until we achieve all our goals," including the defeat of Hamas and the return of all hostages.

Residents in Gaza City said the fighting there had intensified overnight into Wednesday, with gunfire, heavy artillery and airstrikes in central neighborhoods.

"They are mad. Apparently they want to advance before the truce," said Nasser al-Sheikh, who is sheltering with relatives in the Sheikh Radwan neighborhood.

A DIPLOMATIC BREAKTHROUGH

The announcement capped weeks of indirect Qatari-led negotiations between Israel and Hamas, an Islamic militant group that seized Gaza from the internationally recognized Palestinian Authority in 2007.

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The United States and Egypt were also involved in stop-and-go talks to free some of the roughly 240 hostages captured by Hamas and other militants during their wide-ranging Oct. 7 raid.

President Joe Biden welcomed the deal, saying Netanyahu has committed to supporting an “extended pause” to make sure that the hostages are released and humanitarian aid can be sent to Gaza.

Qatar’s prime minister and top diplomat, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, said he hoped the deal would eventually lead to a permanent cease-fire and “serious talks” on resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Israel said that the truce would be extended an extra day for every additional 10 hostages released by Hamas. The International Committee of the Red Cross said it is standing by to assist any swap.

Israel’s Justice Ministry published a list of 300 prisoners eligible for release as part of the deal, mainly teenagers detained over the past year for rock-throwing and other minor offenses. Under Israeli law, the public has 24 hours to object to any release.

The Israeli military says it has detained more than 1,850 Palestinians in the West Bank since the war began, mostly suspected Hamas members. More than 200 Palestinians have been killed there, mostly during gunbattles triggered by army raids.

## WILL THE WAR RESUME?

As the full extent of the devastation becomes known and as hostages are released, pressure could grow on Israel to end its war without achieving its goal of crushing Hamas. Even the U.S., Israel’s chief backer, has expressed concerns about the heavy toll on Gaza’s civilian population.

An airstrike overnight hit a residential building in the southern town of Khan Younis, killing 17 people, including children, said Ahmad Balouny, a relative of the deceased. An Associated Press reporter saw the bodies of two children pulled from the rubble, one of them badly burned.

In northern Gaza, about 60 bodies and 200 people wounded by heavy fighting were brought into the Kamal Adwan Hospital overnight, hospital director Dr. Ahmed al-Kahlout told Al-Jazeera television on Wednesday. He said the hospital is using cooking oil to keep its generator running.

Despite the massive destruction across Gaza and the killing of thousands of Palestinian civilians, Hamas leader Yehya Sinwar will likely present the release of the prisoners — seen by most Palestinians as heroes resisting occupation — as a major achievement, and declare victory if the war ends without removing Hamas from power.

Hamas said hundreds of trucks carrying humanitarian aid — including fuel — would be allowed to enter Gaza. It said Israeli aircraft would stop flying over southern Gaza for the duration of the four-day cease-fire and for six hours daily in the north.

The war erupted in early October, when several thousand Hamas militants broke through Israel’s formidable defenses and poured into the south, killing at least 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and capturing scores more. Israel responded with weeks of devastating airstrikes on Gaza, followed by a ground invasion.

More than 11,000 Palestinians have been killed during the Israeli offensive, according to the Health Ministry in the Hamas-run territory. It does not differentiate between civilians and militants, though some two-thirds of the dead have been identified as women and minors.

The invasion has caused vast destruction in northern Gaza, including Gaza City, displaced over 1.7 million people and caused severe shortages of food, medicine and other basics throughout the territory. Israel cut off all fuel imports at the start of the war, causing a territory-wide power blackout.

## DEAL COULD DIVIDE ISRAELIS

The return of hostages could lift spirits in Israel, where their plight has gripped the country. Families of the hostages — who include babies and toddlers, women and children, and people in their 80s with health issues — have staged mass demonstrations and pressured the government to bring them home.

But they could also find themselves divided as some hostages are freed and others remain in Gaza. Soldiers are likely to be the last to be freed, and their families may press the government to extend the truce until they return home.

Ofri Bibas Levy, whose brother, sister-in-law and two nephews — aged 4 and 10 months — are among

the captives, said the deal puts the families in an "inhumane" situation. Her brother, 34, is not expected to be among the first groups released.

"Who will be released, who won't? Will the kids be freed? Will they be freed with their mothers or not?" she told The Associated Press before the deal was announced. "No matter which way it happens, there will still be families that will remain worried and sad and angry."

#### PAUSE COULD HELP HAMAS REGROUP

The structure of the deal could limit Israel's ability to press its offensive, even after the truce expires.

Any pause would give Hamas a chance to regroup after suffering heavy losses, especially if it drags things out with additional hostage releases. Israeli troops and tanks are expected to remain in place, despite the risks of being stationary behind enemy lines.

Israel claims to have killed thousands of Hamas fighters and destroyed parts of the group's tunnel system. But Israeli officials acknowledge much of Hamas' infrastructure remains intact. The military says 68 soldiers have been killed in ground operations.

Some three-quarters of Gaza's population has been uprooted from their homes, with most packing into overcrowded shelters. Many, if not most, will be unable to return home because of the vast damage in the north and the continued presence of Israeli troops there.

Iran-backed armed groups across the Middle East have been drawn into the war, with Lebanon's Hezbollah trading fire with Israel on a daily basis along the border and Yemen's Houthi rebels launching drones and missiles as well as seizing an Israeli-linked cargo ship.

## Sam Altman is back as OpenAI CEO just days after being removed, along with a new board

By MATT O'BRIEN AP Technology Writer

The ousted leader of ChatGPT-maker OpenAI is returning to the company that fired him late last week, culminating a days-long power struggle that shocked the tech industry and brought attention to the conflicts around how to safely build artificial intelligence.

San Francisco-based OpenAI said in a statement late Tuesday: "We have reached an agreement in principle for Sam Altman to return to OpenAI as CEO with a new initial board."

The board, which replaces the one that fired Altman on Friday, will be led by former Salesforce co-CEO Bret Taylor, who also chaired Twitter's board before its takeover by Elon Musk last year. The other members will be former U.S. Treasury Secretary Larry Summers and Quora CEO Adam D'Angelo.

OpenAI's previous board of directors, which included D'Angelo, had refused to give specific reasons for why it fired Altman, leading to a weekend of internal conflict at the company and growing outside pressure from the startup's investors.

The chaos also accentuated the differences between Altman — who's become the face of generative AI's rapid commercialization since ChatGPT's arrival a year ago — and members of the company's board who have expressed deep reservations about the safety risks posed by AI as it gets more advanced.

Microsoft, which has invested billions of dollars in OpenAI and has rights to its current technology, quickly moved to hire Altman on Monday, as well as another co-founder and former president, Greg Brockman, who had quit in protest after Altman's removal. That emboldened a threatened exodus of nearly all of the startup's 770 employees who signed a letter calling for the board's resignation and Altman's return.

One of the four board members who participated in Altman's ouster, OpenAI co-founder and chief scientist Ilya Sutskever, later expressed regret and joined the call for the board's resignation.

Microsoft in recent days had pledged to welcome all employees who wanted to follow Altman and Brockman to a new AI research unit at the software giant. Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella also made clear in a series of interviews Monday that he was still open to the possibility of Altman returning to OpenAI, so long as the startup's governance problems are solved.

"We are encouraged by the changes to the OpenAI board," Nadella posted on X late Tuesday. "We believe this is a first essential step on a path to more stable, well-informed, and effective governance."

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In his own post, Altman said that “with the new board and (with) Satya’s support, I’m looking forward to returning to OpenAI, and building on our strong partnership with (Microsoft).”

Co-founded by Altman as a nonprofit with a mission to safely build so-called artificial general intelligence that outperforms humans and benefits humanity, OpenAI later became a for-profit business but one still run by its nonprofit board of directors. It’s not clear yet if the board’s structure will change with its newly appointed members.

“We are collaborating to figure out the details,” OpenAI posted on X. “Thank you so much for your patience through this.”

Nadella said Brockman, who was OpenAI’s board chairman until Altman’s firing, will also have a key role to play in ensuring the group “continues to thrive and build on its mission.”

Hours earlier, Brockman returned to social media as if it were business as usual, touting a feature called ChatGPT Voice that was rolling out to users.

“Give it a try — totally changes the ChatGPT experience,” Brockman wrote, flagging a post from OpenAI’s main X account that featured a demonstration of the technology and playfully winking at recent turmoil.

“It’s been a long night for the team and we’re hungry. How many 16-inch pizzas should I order for 778 people,” the person asks, using the number of people who work at OpenAI. ChatGPT’s synthetic voice responded by recommending around 195 pizzas, ensuring everyone gets three slices.

As for OpenAI’s short-lived interim CEO Emmett Shear, the second interim CEO in the days since Altman’s ouster, he posted on X that he was “deeply pleased by this result, after (tilde)72 very intense hours of work.”

“Coming into OpenAI, I wasn’t sure what the right path would be,” wrote Shear, the former head of Twitch. “This was the pathway that maximized safety alongside doing right by all stakeholders involved. I’m glad to have been a part of the solution.”

## **U.S. fighter aircraft strike Iraqi Hezbollah targets after attacks on bases**

By TARA COPP Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. fighter aircraft struck two operations centers belonging to Iraqi Hezbollah in response to attacks on U.S. bases that have escalated alongside Israel’s operations against Hamas in Gaza, two defense officials said.

They said attacks on U.S. bases included the first use of a short-range ballistic missile against U.S. troops, which happened Tuesday.

The U.S. fighter jets struck Kataib Hezbollah operations center and a Kataib Hezbollah Command and Control node near Al Anbar and Jurf al Saqr, south of Baghdad, on Tuesday, the officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity to provide additional sensitive details of the attacks. There were Kataib Hezbollah personnel at both sites at the time of the strikes but the officials said they could not yet confirm whether anyone there was killed.

The U.S. strike followed another immediate, unplanned retaliatory strike by an AC-130 gunship that was in the air when the Iranian-backed militants fired two short-range ballistic missiles at Al-Asad Air Base in Iraq late Monday evening. The gunship was able to locate the origin of the missiles, and fired on several militants who had fled in a vehicle.

The officials said the U.S. is trying to communicate that it does not seek wider conflict but that the Iran-backed attacks against American forces must stop, and that the U.S. will take further action if needed.

To date, U.S. bases in Iraq and Syria have been struck 66 times since Oct. 17, the day a blast at a hospital in Gaza killed hundreds.

## 3 dead and 3 missing after landslide rips through remote Alaska fishing community

By BECKY BOHRER, MARK THIESSEN and JOHN RABY Associated Press

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) — Three people were killed and three were missing after a landslide barreled down a heavily forested, rain-soaked mountainside and smashed into homes in a remote fishing community in southeast Alaska.

The slide — estimated to be 450 feet (137 meters) wide — occurred at about 9 p.m. Monday during a significant rain and windstorm near Wrangell, an island community of 2,000 people some 155 miles (250 kilometers) south of the state capital of Juneau.

Rescue crews found the body of a girl in an initial search and late Tuesday the bodies of two adults were found by a drone operator. Searchers used a cadaver-sniffing dog and heat-sensing drones to search for two children and one adult unaccounted for after the disaster, while the Coast Guard and other vessels looked along a waterfront littered with rocks, trees and mud.

Alaska State Troopers spokesperson Austin McDaniel said a woman who had been on the upper floor of a home was rescued. She was in good condition and receiving medical care. One of the three homes that was struck was unoccupied, McDaniel said.

"Our community is resilient," Wrangell interim borough manager Mason Villarma told The Associated Press in a phone interview. "And it always comes together for tragedies like this. We're broken, but resilient and determined to find everybody that's missing."

Gov. Mike Dunleavy issued a disaster declaration for Wrangell, saying he and his wife were heartbroken and praying for all those affected.

The landslide left a scar of barren earth from near the top of the mountain down to the ocean. A wide swath of evergreen trees were ripped out of the ground and a highway was buried by debris, cutting off access and power to approximately 75 homes.

Troopers said a large-scale search and rescue mission wasn't initially possible because the site was unstable and hazardous. A geologist from the state transportation department was flown in from Juneau and conducted a preliminary assessment, clearing some areas of the debris field for ground searches.

Troopers warned of the threat of additional landslides. They urged people caught on the other side of the slide, away from Wrangell, to evacuate by water taxi.

Wrangell received about 2 inches (5 centimeters) of rain between 1 a.m. and 8 p.m. Monday, with wind gusts up to 60 mph (96 kph) at higher elevations, said Aaron Jacobs, a hydrologist and meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Juneau.

It was part of a strong storm system that moved through southeast Alaska, bringing heavy snow in places and blizzard-like conditions to Juneau and rainfall with minor flooding to areas farther south. Landslides also were reported in the Ketchikan area and on Prince of Wales Island, he said.

Rainfall amounts like what Wrangell received Monday are not unusual, Jacobs said, but strong winds could have helped trigger the slide. Saturated soil can give way when gusts blow trees on a slope, said Barrett Salisbury, a geologist with the Alaska Department of Natural Resources.

Another storm system is expected in the Wrangell area late Wednesday into Thursday.

Wrangell is one of the oldest non-Alaska Native settlements in the state, founded in 1811 when Russians began trading with Tlingits, according to a state database of Alaska communities. Tlingits, Russians, the British and Americans all accounted for historical influences on Wrangell. Timber once was a major economic driver, but that has shifted to commercial fishing.

In December 2020, torrential rains prompted a landslide in another southeast Alaska city, claiming two lives. The 200-yard-wide (183-meter-wide) slide slammed into a neighborhood in the community of Haines, leaving about 9 feet (2.7 meters) of mud and trees covering city streets.

## South Korea partially suspends inter-Korean agreement after North says it put spy satellite in orbit

By HYUNG-JIN KIM Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korea will partially suspend an inter-Korean agreement Wednesday to restart frontline aerial surveillance of North Korea, after the North said it launched a military spy satellite in violation of United Nations bans, Seoul officials said.

The South Korean announcement — which will likely infuriate North Korea — came hours after the North claimed to have placed a military reconnaissance satellite into orbit in its third such launch attempt this year.

The North's claim hasn't been independently verified; the Pentagon said it was still assessing the success of the launch, while Japan stated there has been no confirmation that the North Korean satellite entered orbit. But the United States and its allies still quickly condemned the North Korean launch, which they believe was meant to improve the country's missile technology as well as establish a space-based surveillance system.

North Korea says it has sovereign, legitimate rights to launch spy satellites to cope with what it calls intensifying U.S.-led threats. But U.N. Security Council resolutions still prohibit any satellite liftoff by North Korea, viewing them as covers for testing its long-range missile technology.

Heo Tae-keun, South Korea's deputy minister of national defense policy, told a televised briefing that the North's latest satellite launch was not only a clear violation of U.N. resolutions but also "a grave provocation that threatens our national security."

Heo said South Korea will respond by partially suspending the 2018 inter-Korean tension-reduction agreement later Wednesday to resume aerial surveillance activities at the border. He said the decision was approved at South Korea's Cabinet Council meeting earlier Wednesday.

He added that based on the solid military alliance with the U.S., South Korea will "promptly and strongly punish" North Korea if it uses the South Korean step as a pretext to launch another provocation.

The 2018 agreement, struck during a short-lived era of reconciliation between the rival Koreas, created buffer and no-fly zones along the countries' heavily fortified border. Under the deal, the Koreas were required to halt frontline aerial reconnaissance of each other and live-firing exercises and removed some of their guard posts and landmines at border areas.

The deal invited withering conservative criticism in South Korea with critics saying it significantly restricted the operation of the country's aerial surveillance assets, which are much more superior to North Korea's. They also accused the deal of heavily benefiting North Korea, because it only called for mutual reductions of conventional military strength while leaving the North's growing nuclear arsenal intact. South Korea has no nuclear weapons.

The brief Korean rapprochement period later evaporated soon after the collapse of broader nuclear diplomacy between North Korea and the U.S. in 2019. North Korea has since ramped up missile tests to modernize its weapons arsenal, prompting the U.S. and South Korea to expand their defense exercises in response.

When the North's National Aerospace Technology Administration announced what it called a successful launch of its "Malligyong-1" spy satellite, it said the satellite would help improve the North's war readiness in the face of "the enemies' dangerous military moves." The agency said North Korea will soon launch several more spy satellites to better monitor South Korea and other areas.

North Korea used the same satellite in its two failed launches in May and August. South Korea's military retrieved debris from the first launch and called the satellite too crude to perform military reconnaissance.

The North's space agency said the "Malligyong-1" satellite was placed in its orbit on Tuesday night, about 12 minutes after it was launched aboard the new "Chollima-1" carrier rocket. But the North's neighbors said they haven't confirmed whether the launch was successful.

"Our understanding is that so far there is no confirmation of a satellite placed into Earth's orbit," Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno said. He still avoided calling the launch a failure, saying it would

take "a fair amount of time" to verify the fate of the North's launch.

Pentagon deputy press secretary, Sabrina Singh, said, "we're still assessing the success of the launch."

In 2012 and 2016, North Korea placed Earth observation satellites into orbit after repeated failures, but experts say neither has ever transmitted imagery back to North Korea.

Before Tuesday's launch, South Korean officials said North Korea was likely receiving Russian technological support for its spy satellite launch program as part of the two countries' pushes to boost their partnerships.

The U.S., South Korea and others accuse North Korea of shipping conventional arms to support Russia's war in Ukraine in exchange for receiving high-tech Russian technologies to enhance its own military programs. Both North Korea and Russia have denied the accusations.

A spy satellite is among an array of sophisticated weapons systems that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un wants to introduce. Experts say Kim would eventually aim to use his enlarged arsenal to win sanctions relief and other concessions from the U.S. when diplomacy resumes.

Some civilian experts said North Korea's Malligyong-1 satellite is likely capable of only detecting big targets like warships or planes. But by operating several such satellites, North Korea could still observe South Korea at all times, they said.

## Maui wildfire survivors camp on the beach to push mayor to convert vacation rentals into housing

By AUDREY McAVOY Associated Press

LAHAINA, Hawaii (AP) — A group of Lahaina wildfire survivors is vowing to camp on a popular resort beach until the mayor uses his emergency powers to shut down unpermitted vacation rentals and make the properties available for residents in desperate need of housing.

Organizers with the group Lahaina Strong are focusing on 2,500 vacation rental properties they've identified in West Maui that don't have the usual county permits to be rented out for less than 30 days at a time. For years their owners have legally rented the units to travelers anyway because the county granted them an exemption from the standard rules.

Lahaina Strong says the mayor should use his emergency powers to suspend this exemption.

"I'm kind of at the point where I'm like 'too bad, so sad,'" said organizer Jordan Ruidas. "We never knew our town was going to burn down and our people need housing,"

The group says they are staying on Kaanapali Beach, exercising their Native Hawaiian rights to fish 24 hours a day, seven days a week. They planted fishing poles in the sand and are calling their action "Fishing for Housing."

Lance Collins, a Maui attorney, said the mayor has the authority to suspend the county ordinance that has allowed the 2,500 short-term vacation rentals. Similar action was taken during the COVID-19 pandemic when Hawaii's governor prohibited landlords from raising rents and when both the federal and state governments banned evictions, Collins said.

"Temporary alterations to the market to protect the common good and the welfare of our community as a whole is permitted on a temporary basis in the face of an emergency," he said.

Permanently eliminating the exemption would require the county council to pass new legislation.

Ruidas said the 2,500 units at issue could house a large share of the 7,000 Lahaina residents who are still staying in hotels months after the Aug. 8 fire destroyed their town.

Vacationers have other options for places to stay, but Lahaina's residents don't, she said.

Maui, like much of Hawaii, had a severe housing shortage even before the fire killed 100 people and destroyed more than 2,000 structures. The blaze only amplified the crisis.

The U.S. government, through the Federal Emergency Management Agency, has been putting survivors up in hotel rooms. They are also helping people pay rent, but the housing shortage means many survivors can't find apartments or homes to move into.

West Maui is one of the state's biggest tourist destinations, second only to Waikiki. Just north of historic Lahaina, large hotels and timeshare properties line a miles-long stretch of white sand beach in the com-

munities of Kaanapali and Napili-Honokowai. Condominiums there are rented to vacationers on a short-term basis.

At Kaanapali Beach during a recent weekday, about a dozen people sat under tents talking, eating lunch and explaining what they were doing to tourists who stopped to ask. Upside down Hawaiian flags, a sign distress, billowed in gusty winds.

Ruidas said the group will stay until the mayor suspends the vacation property exemptions.

"We're at the point where we're going to fight for everything and anything because a lot of us feel like we have nothing. We have nothing to lose," she said.

Maui Mayor Richard Bissen said in a statement that he is considering all options, but declaring a moratorium on short-term rentals would invite legal challenges and could have unintended consequences. His office is working with property managers who handle a significant number of short-term rentals, and Bissen said he has been encouraged by their willingness to cooperate.

"Shared sacrifice is necessary at this crucial time as we work to incentivize interim housing," Bissen said.

Some in the tourism industry support the residents' protest.

"We thank them for what they're doing because in order for us to even think of tourism, we need our workers," said Kawika Freitas, director of public and cultural relations at the Old Lahaina Luau.

Freitas' company puts on shows featuring traditional Hawaiian music, dance and food. The business is still standing, but the company says decisions about reopening depend on when employees and the Lahaina community are ready.

Freitas told a recent Native Hawaiian convention that Maui's people will leave if they don't have housing and will be replaced by workers from out of state.

"And all of a sudden, the beauty and what Maui stands for is not there," Freitas said. "We need to get our people back into housing."

## Republican Celeste Maloy wins Utah special election to replace her former boss US Rep. Chris Stewart

By MEAD GRUVER and JESSE BEDAYN Associated Press

Republican Celeste Maloy won a Utah special election Tuesday to replace her former boss, U.S. Rep. Chris Stewart, in a race that will put a woman back among Utah's five-member congressional delegation for the first time since 2019.

Maloy beat state Sen. Kathleen Riebe, who as minority whip is the Utah Senate's second-ranking Democrat.

"I think the fact that a girl from a teeny-tiny town with an unknown name and no budget can jump into a congressional race is a sign that the American Dream is alive and well," said Maloy Tuesday night. "And I hope other people see me, and realize that."

Stewart resigned in September after 10 years in Congress because his wife is ill. Maloy was Stewart's chief legal counsel. She had Stewart's endorsement and that of former Utah U.S. Rep. Rob Bishop, and was favored to win in the reliably Republican 2nd District, which sprawls from Salt Lake City to the state's western and southern edges.

Maloy will be only the fifth woman in history to represent Utah in the U.S. House. The most recent was Mia Love, who served from 2015-2019 and was the state's first Black congresswoman. Utah has never had a woman in the U.S. Senate.

A southern Nevada native and current resident of southwestern Utah, Maloy campaigned on improving security on the U.S.-Mexico border, reining in what she calls "out of control" federal spending, protecting religious freedom and putting Utah more in control of natural resources on its federal lands.

Maloy will enter a U.S. House of Representatives controlled by Republicans who in recent months have been roiled by infighting over government spending.

"I know congress is a bit of a mess right now and I feel like I can go and be helpful, and be a good solid member who is even keeled and low drama," Maloy said after her victory.



While she thinks the heated debates over spending are good, she said she's hoping she can be "a uniter in the conference."

She will join Utah's three other Republican U.S. House members. The state's two U.S. senators are also Republican.

Maloy dominated Riebe in fundraising, bringing in almost \$600,000 and spending more than three-quarters of that over the seven months leading up to the election. Riebe brought in half that amount and spent about 90%, according to candidate reports filed with the Federal Election Commission.

After her loss, Riebe said she was focused on the smaller victories of her campaign.

"We brought the Democratic Party together, we are more cohesive than ever and people are really frustrated with reproductive rights," she said in an interview.

Riebe kept the door open to running again, and said she was hopeful Utah was shifting from a red state to a purple one.

"I feel really good about ... building the base of the Democratic Party and trying to turn this state purple."

A six-term congressman and U.S. Air Force veteran, Stewart set off a Republican scramble to fill his seat after his announcement in May he was resigning. At a Republican convention in June, Maloy was the top vote-getter among more than 10 candidates seeking the job.

Maloy went on to ride a wave of rural support and win a three-way Republican special primary Sept. 5, beating former state Rep. Becky Edwards and businessperson Bruce Hough.

The primary was a rare gauge this year of how Republican voters feel about a string of indictments against Donald Trump. Maloy, a Trump supporter, beat Edwards, a critic of the former president.

Maloy highlighted her experience working for Stewart in an Oct. 26 debate with Riebe.

"I've been working for this district. I've been solving issues that people in this district have called their congressman about and asked for help," Maloy said in the debate. "Congress is struggling right now. ... We really need somebody to get into this state who knows how Congress works."

## **Qatar announces Israel-Hamas truce-for-hostages deal that would pause Gaza fighting, bring more aid**

By JOSEF FEDERMAN and JACK JEFFERY Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Qatar on Wednesday announced a truce-for-hostages deal between Israel and Hamas that would bring a four-day halt in fighting in a devastating six-week war, win freedom for dozens of hostages held in the Gaza Strip, and also lead to the release of dozens of Palestinian prisoners.

Qatar's Foreign Ministry said it would announce within a day when the clock will start ticking on the truce, during which 50 hostages will be released in stages in exchange for what Hamas said would be 150 Palestinians prisoners held by Israel. Those freed by both sides will be women and children.

Humanitarian aid to besieged Gaza would also increase.

The announcement came hours after Israel's Cabinet approved the deal. It capped weeks of indirect Qatari-led negotiations between Israel and Hamas, an Islamic militant group that has ruled Gaza for 16 years. The United States and Egypt were also involved in stop-and-go talks to free some of the roughly 240 hostages held by Hamas and other militants in Gaza.

Hostage releases will begin roughly 24 hours after the deal is approved by all parties, said a senior White House official who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the sensitive matters.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office made no mention of the release of Palestinian prisoners or increased humanitarian aid when it confirmed the Cabinet had approved the deal.

"The government of Israel is committed to bringing all of the hostages home. Tonight, the government approved the outline for the first stage of achieving this goal," the office said in a statement.

Ahead of the Cabinet vote, which came after a six-hour meeting stretching into the early morning, Netanyahu said the war against Hamas would resume after the truce expires.

"We are at war, and we will continue the war," he said. "We will continue until we achieve all our goals."

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In welcoming the deal, President Joe Biden emphasized that Netanyahu has committed to supporting an "extended pause" to make sure not only all hostages are released but that humanitarian assistance can be sent to Palestinians in Gaza.

Biden, who is in Nantucket, Massachusetts, for the Thanksgiving holiday, said the agreement should release some American hostages, and added: "I will not stop until they are all released."

The Israeli government statement said that the truce would be extended an extra day for every additional 10 hostages released by Hamas.

A longer-term lull could lead to pressure, both international and domestic, for Israel to end its war without achieving its goal of destroying Hamas' military capabilities.

The International Committee of the Red Cross said it is standing by to assist any swap in the Israel-Hamas war. Red Cross President Mirjana Spoljaric met with Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh in Qatar, as well as Qatari political leaders, earlier this week.

The war erupted on Oct. 7 when several thousand Hamas militants burst across the border into Israel, killing at least 1,200 people and taking hundreds hostage. Most of the dead were civilians, while the hostages include small children, women and older people.

Israel responded with weeks of devastating airstrikes on Gaza, followed by a ground invasion that began over three weeks ago.

More than 11,000 Palestinians have been killed during the Israeli offensive, according to the Health Ministry in the Hamas-run territory. It does not differentiate between civilians and militants, though some two-thirds of the dead have been identified as women and minors. Israel says thousands of Hamas militants have been killed.

The invasion has caused vast destruction in northern Gaza, including Gaza City, displaced an estimated 1.7 million people and caused a humanitarian crisis with shortages of food, medicines, fuel and other key supplies throughout the territory.

Israel has rejected growing international criticism and vowed to press ahead until it destroys Hamas' military and governing capabilities and all hostages are freed. Hamas, an Islamic militant group sworn to Israel's destruction, has ruled Gaza since ousting the internationally recognized Palestinian Authority in 2007.

The return of any of the hostages could lift spirits in Israel, where the plight of the captives has gripped the country's attention. Airwaves are filled with interviews with families of the hostages, who include babies and toddlers, women and children and people in their 80s with health issues.

The families have become a powerful force in Israel, staging mass demonstrations and marches pressuring the government to bring home their loved ones. They have made a central Tel Aviv square their headquarters, where evocative displays like a long white table with seats for all 240 hostages are meant to keep their plight in the public eye.

But the structure of the deal could weaken Israel from various directions.

Any pause would give Hamas and its shadowy leader, Yehya Sinwar, a chance to regroup after suffering heavy losses during the fighting, especially if Hamas drags things out with additional hostage releases.

Israel claims to have killed thousands of Hamas fighters, though it has not presented evidence, and destroyed parts of the group's underground tunnel system. But Israeli officials acknowledge much of the group's infrastructure remains intact.

A cease-fire could also add to the already growing international pressure on Israel to halt its offensive as the full extent of damage in Gaza becomes apparent. Even the U.S., Israel's chief backer, has expressed concerns about the heavy toll on Gaza's civilian population.

Some three-quarters of Gaza's population has been uprooted from their homes and are staying in overcrowded and unsanitary shelters.

Many, if not most, will be unable to return home because of the vast damage in the north and the continued presence of Israeli troops there. That could lead to an even worse humanitarian disaster as people remain in shelters or are forced to live in tents through the cold, rainy winter.

And in Israel, the staggered releases of hostages risks triggering divisions between families of those who are freed and those who remain in captivity. Soldiers, for instance, are likely to be among the last to

be freed. Families of the soldiers, who include young women who served as spotters along the border, are likely to press the government not to resume the offensive until their loved ones return home as well.

"There are many families and many opinions," Hadas Kalderon, whose two young children were abducted with their father, told Israel's Channel 12 TV.

A lengthy truce could also affect Israel's battle readiness. While Israeli troops are expected to remain in place and the Israeli military said its battle plans remain intact, it will be difficult and risky for the army to leave its forces stationary behind enemy lines.

Asked about a cease-fire, the army's chief spokesman, Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari, said: "The army will know how to maintain its operational achievements."

Hamas may try to declare a victory, but Sinwar will have little to celebrate. Even if he survives and Hamas maintains power, he will emerge to vast destruction that will take years, if not decades, to repair.

In the meantime, fighting continued on Tuesday, with the front line of the war shifting to the Jabaliya refugee camp, a dense warren of concrete buildings near Gaza City that houses families displaced in the 1948 war surrounding Israel's creation.

Israel has bombarded the area for weeks, and the military said Hamas fighters have regrouped there and in other eastern districts after being pushed out of much of Gaza City.

In southern Lebanon, an Israeli strike killed two journalists with Al-Mayadeen TV, according to the Hezbollah-allied Pan-Arab network and Lebanese officials. There was no immediate comment from the Israeli military. A separate Israeli drone strike in Lebanon killed four Hamas members, a Palestinian official and a Lebanon security official said.

The Israeli military has been trading fire almost daily across the border with Lebanon's Hezbollah group and Palestinian militants since the outbreak of the war.

On Tuesday, Gaza's Health Ministry said that as of Nov. 11 it had lost the ability to count the dead because of the collapse of large parts of the health system.

It believes the actual death toll has risen sharply above the official number of 11,000. Some 2,700 people are missing and believed to be buried under rubble, and hospitals have continued to report deaths from daily strikes, often dozens at a time.

The Israeli military says 68 soldiers have been killed in the ground offensive.

## **At Black Lives Matter house, families are welcomed into space of freedom and healing**

By AARON MORRISON Associated Press

STUDIO CITY, California (AP) — Some of the mystery and controversy shrouding a sprawling Los Angeles-area property owned by a national Black Lives Matter nonprofit have dissipated for dozens of families grieving a loved one killed by police.

The Black Lives Matter Global Network Foundation Inc., which was widely criticized last year for purchasing a \$6 million compound with donations that followed racial justice protests in 2020, hosted the families for a dinner at the home this fall. The event coincided with an annual conference in southern California, where hundreds who are affected by police violence meet to find support in their journeys to healing, accountability and justice.

More than 150 dinner guests, including some who previously accused the foundation of using their loved ones' names to raise tens of millions of dollars over the last decade, were not just fed and sent on their way. They were given tours of the gated property that has six bedrooms and bathrooms, a swimming pool, a soundstage and office space.

"It was laid out, it was beautiful, it was welcoming," said Beatrice X Johnson, co-founder of Families United 4 Justice Network, the grassroots social justice group that convened the Sept. 28 to Oct. 1 conference.

She is an aunt to Oscar Grant, the young Black man fatally shot while restrained on an Oakland, California, transit station platform in 2009, and is married to fellow Justice Network founder Cephus X Johnson. The two are affectionately known as Uncle Bobby and Auntie Bee within the community of families — and they

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once counted themselves among the skeptics of the BLM foundation's decision to purchase the property.

"There's been a lot of controversy around this spot, even with families," Auntie Bee said in an interview after the dinner. "The families wanted to see this place. That's a no brainer. And who else would be invited to dinner there, if not the families impacted by police?"

As many of these families gather nationwide for another holiday season with empty chairs at their dinner tables, the BLM foundation says the Studio City home will continue to be a refuge for those grieving loved ones killed in incidents of police violence. It'll also continue to serve as a campus for the foundation's Black artists fellowship.

They officially call it the "Creators House."

"I personally call it a home for freedom, because it is where Black people's gifts and talents can be nurtured in order to flourish," said Shalomyah Bowers, a BLM foundation board member.

"It's where we've kept our activists and organizers safe. It's where we plan and organize outside of the confines of white supremacy. And it's where healing happens," he added.

For nearly two years, Bowers and other board members have faced intense scrutiny over the foundation's finances — a scrutiny accentuated by revelations that the \$6 million property had been purchased with little input from the movement's grassroots organizers or families of police brutality victims, whose names rallied the larger movement. After revealing in 2021 that more than \$90 million in donations poured into the foundation following worldwide protests over the murder of George Floyd, the latest nonprofit tax filings showed the foundation with \$30 million in assets.

In recent interviews with The Associated Press, the foundation continued to defend itself against accusations of mismanagement of its funds.

"I was telling the families that were here, when foundations purchase property, folks laud it as an achievement and a safe investment that builds wealth for the sake of the mission, which is pushing out money to the community," Bowers said. "But when a Black foundation does it, when we do it, it's unwise and ill-informed."

That's not the crux of the criticism that had come from families, movement supporters and staunch opponents. In 2022, grassroots racial justice activists from all over the U.S. filed a civil lawsuit against the foundation in a California court, alleging leaders had engaged in fraud and broke an agreement to turn over the donated funds to local organizers. In June, a judge dismissed the complaint filed by Black Lives Matter Grassroots Inc., after finding the plaintiffs failed to prove their allegations.

As the dust settled, the foundation sought to reframe the property as part of a larger history of Black activists and artists creating spaces of safety and liberty that are harder to find in white-owned or white-run spaces. Houses of worship and restaurants have featured prominently in historical narratives of Black civil rights leadership and artists movements.

But other kinds of real property, too, served as hubs for organizing resistance and creating art, music, literature and political thought. During the Harlem Renaissance in the 1920s and 1930s, overlapping with iterations of the Black struggle for civil rights, the Harlem YMCA was considered a living room for the Black artists movement. Renowned Black novelists Richard Wright and Ralph Ellison often stayed or worked from the Y. The Black Panther Party purchased buildings and homes that served as safehouses and centers for their community survival programs.

That legacy is not lost on Osayi Endolyn, the inaugural artist-in-residence for the BLM foundation's Black Joy Creators Fellowship. She curated the families' dinner at the Studio City house, with the help of Shenarri Freeman, a Black chef and restaurateur known for her vegetarian and vegan cuisine, and Brittney Williams, an accomplished private chef who cooked the protein dishes.

"There have always been, you could call them, third spaces, where folks could gather to plan to organize, to rest, to retreat," said Endolyn, a James Beard Award-winning writer, editor and producer widely known for her work in Black food traditions.

"When we look at so many different symbols of Black resistance, of civil rights, of liberation movements, there's always some kind of art story being told," she said.

And that's the story Endolyn wanted to tell at dinner. The menu included jerk pork, scotch bonnet roasted chicken and grilled suya steak, a dish from West Africa. They also provided baked beans, collard greens, mac 'n cheese, potato salad, maple buttermilk cornbread and hibiscus lemonade.

It was all a hit with dinner guests.

"Being here, knowing that someone cares about these families and that the families are not left behind, is a really, really good feeling," said Yolanda Price, whose stepson Jeffrey Price Jr. was killed in a 2018 crash involving a Metropolitan Police Department vehicle in the nation's capital.

"It lets people know that they are not left behind," she added.

By the end of the dinner, guests young and old danced to music curated by DJ Francesca Harding. And a sense of trust was bridged between the movement's directly impacted families and the foundation that has stewardship over BLM's multimillion dollar endowment.

"Black Lives Matter was a mystery," said Uncle Bobby, who helped convene the dinner under the banner of the Justice Network's "Love Not Blood Campaign." In 2021, the campaign received a five-year, multimillion dollar grant from the foundation.

"Many said, 'We deserve this.' We were able to break bread together with the foundation, to claim it as ours."

## **Biden's plan would raise salaries for Head Start teachers but could leave fewer spots for kids**

By AMANDA SEITZ Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A new plan from the Biden administration could significantly increase salaries for thousands of low-paid early childhood teachers caring for the country's poorest children but might force some centers to reduce their enrollment.

The Health and Human Services agency's proposed federal rule would require Head Start programs, which are struggling nationwide with staffing shortages, to raise teachers' salaries to put them on par with local public schoolteachers, and to beef up benefits. The requirement could raise wages by as much as \$10,000 for Head Start teachers over the next seven years, the agency estimates.

"Early educators make poverty wages in many places," said Anna Markowitz, a University of California Los Angeles professor who has studied Head Start turnover and wages. "There are real consequences to these low wages." She said "it's unfortunate we had to wait for the turnover to become a major crisis."

Head Start teachers, many of whom are required to have a bachelor's degree, make about \$39,000 a year on average — far less than educators with similar credentials. Head Start teacher turnover has doubled over the last decade, with the federal government estimating 1 out of every 5 Head Start teachers left their classroom last year.

That's created problems for the country's youngest learners: Waitlists are ballooning and classrooms are closing. As many as 275,000 infants, toddlers and preschoolers are on waitlists nationwide, according to the National Head Start Association. The federally funded program is designed to give free education and care to infants, toddlers and preschoolers in locally run classrooms situated in public schools, community centers and private daycares or preschools. Taxpayers spend about \$12 billion for Head Start to serve roughly 1 million children.

The number of kids in classrooms could shrink, though, if teacher salaries are raised and Congress doesn't grant more money for the program. Biden asked Congress for an additional \$1 billion for Head Start this year.

"As a result of these necessary reforms, one potential impact could be a reduction in Head Start slots in some programs in order to ensure the quality of services delivered," the rule says.

In Cincinnati, Head Start should be able to help nearly 2,000 students but right now just over 1,500 kids are in classrooms because of staffing shortages, said Renee Daniel, vice president for early childhood education at the Cincinnati-Hamilton County Community Action Agency.

Daniel was "jumping up and down" when she read the administration's proposal to raise wages and add

heartier benefits for Head Start staff. But without additional federal money, she would have to permanently cut as many as 800 seats to pay for those increases.

"Right now we're suffering, and we're not serving the children anyway, because we don't have the staff," Daniel said.

Daniel said in recent years, teachers have left to work in the health care sector or at Amazon. Daniel recently raised teacher salaries to start at \$21 an hour. But to match local public school teacher salaries, pay will need to be about \$33 per hour. The rule also suggests adding retirement benefits to teacher compensation, a new perk she'd have to offer.

"How am I going to create parity with that, if I don't get any new money?" she asked. Daniel said she plans to weigh in on the proposed rule, with the federal government accepting comments on the plan until Jan. 19.

Health and Human Services is counting on Congress to provide additional money to Head Start, which is why it's giving programs until 2031 to fully up their salaries to match local teacher pay. The administration also believes the program can "maintain its current capacity" with the wage increases, Katie Hamm, deputy assistant secretary for the Office of Early Childhood Development, said in an email.

"The proposed changes are necessary to stabilize the Head Start program, which is facing a severe workforce shortage because staff can earn higher wages from other employers," Hamm said.

If Head Start programs do raise their wages, their jobs could become coveted in communities where daycare workers and early childhood educators are meagerly paid, said Markowitz, the UCLA researcher. The average median wage for childcare workers sat at \$13.71 per hour in May 2022, falling behind average pay for retail or food and beverage workers.

"It's definitely going to have impacts throughout the sector," Markowitz said. "Ideally, it's going to be part of a broader sea change where child care educators are compensated at a fair level."

## Nearly half of Americans think the US is spending too much on Ukraine aid, an AP-NORC poll says

By SEUNG MIN KIM and LINLEY SANDERS Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — As lawmakers in Washington weigh sending billions more in federal support to Kyiv to help fight off Russian aggression, close to half of the U.S. public thinks the country is spending too much on aid to Ukraine, according to polling from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

Those sentiments, driven primarily by Republicans, help explain the hardening opposition among conservative GOP lawmakers on Capitol Hill who are rebuffing efforts from President Joe Biden to approve a new tranche of Ukraine aid, arguing that the money would be better spent for domestic priorities.

Yet opposition to aid is down slightly from where it was a month ago in another AP-NORC poll. Now, 45% say the U.S. government is spending too much on aid to Ukraine in the war against Russia, compared with 52% in October. That shift appears to come mostly from Republicans: 59% now say too much is spent on Ukraine aid, but that's down from 69% in October.

Nonetheless, the Republican resistance to continued Ukraine aid remains strong.

"I understand the citizens need help, but I feel like we're spending way too much money on Ukraine when we have our issues here, on our own soil, that we need to deal with," said Eric Mondello, 40, from Fountain, Colorado. Pointing to needs such as health care for veterans and homelessness in communities, Mondello added: "I understand the U.S. has been an ally to others, but I feel like, let's take care of our people first."

More than one-third (38%) of U.S. adults say that current spending is "about the right amount," which is up slightly from last month (31%). Among Republicans, nearly 3 in 10 (29%) say the current spending is about right, up from 20% last month.

Paula Graves, 69, is among those who says the amount of spending for Ukraine is the right amount.

"Putin, he's straight up evil. I don't think there should be any question in anyone's mind," said Graves, of

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Clovis, California. "He's a dictator. He's infringed on human rights, he's a very scary person and if Ukraine falls to him, who's next? What country's next?"

Graves, who says she is not affiliated with a political party but leans more conservative, said she believes the U.S. has a leadership role on the global stage and added: "I think we definitely need to put America first, but I don't think that needs to be first and only."

The White House has been repeatedly pressing lawmakers to pass Biden's nearly \$106 billion emergency spending package that he proposed in October, which includes more than \$61 billion specifically for the war in Ukraine. The rest of Biden's request has aid for Israel as it battles Hamas, money for various priorities in the Indo-Pacific region and additional resources to help manage migration at the southern border.

On Ukraine, the Biden administration is increasingly warning that the well of aid is running dry. In an unannounced visit to Kyiv on Monday, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said Ukraine's effort to defeat Russian forces "matters to the rest of the world" and pledged that U.S. support would continue "for the long haul."

That message was reinforced at the White House.

"As President Biden has said, when aggressors don't pay a price for their aggression, they'll cause more chaos and death and destruction," John Kirby, spokesman for the National Security Council, told the White House press briefing Monday. "They just keep on going, and the cost and the threats to America and to the world will keep rising."

But Congress has rebuffed the White House efforts at bolstering Ukraine support at least twice in recent months. First, it ignored a roughly \$40 billion supplemental request before a Sept. 30 funding deadline. Then last week, it passed a stopgap funding measure that keeps the government operating through early next year, but with no additional Ukraine aid.

In the Senate, a small bipartisan group is working on legislation that would combine fresh Ukraine assistance with stricter border measures to address concerns from Republicans that the U.S. was focused on needs abroad at the expense of issues closer to home. A broad majority of senators remains supportive of Ukraine aid, with Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., being one of the most stalwart supporters despite the isolationist strain in his party.

South Dakota Sen. John Thune, the No. 2 Republican in the Senate, said lawmakers will continue to work on the Ukraine-border package over the Thanksgiving break and won't wait until mid-January — when Congress faces another government funding deadline — to act on Ukraine.

The big question mark is in the House, where still-new Speaker Mike Johnson — who had voted against Ukraine aid as a rank-and-file conservative — has spoken broadly of the need to counter Russian aggression yet faces unruly GOP lawmakers who have shown more hostility to continued support for Kyiv.

Johnson, too, is insisting that additional Ukraine aid be paired with tougher border measures, although it is far from certain that any immigration agreement that clears the Democratic-led Senate could pass the GOP-controlled House.

Half of U.S. adults are extremely or very concerned that Russia's influence poses a direct threat to the United States. Democrats (53%) and Republicans (51%) are similarly concerned about Russian power — but Democrats are more likely than Republicans to see Ukraine as a nation of shared values to the U.S. and to support more aid for Ukraine.

About half of the public (48%) endorses providing weapons to Ukraine (57% among Democrats, 42% among Republicans). About 4 in 10 favor sending government funds directly to Ukraine (54% for Democrats, 24% for Republicans).

Americans have grown slightly more likely to say the U.S. should take "a less active role" in solving the world's problems, compared with a September poll from AP-NORC and Pearson. Slightly fewer than half (45%) now say the U.S. should be less involved, up from 33% in September. Just 16% of Democrats now say the U.S. should take a more active role, down from 29% in September.

Peter Einsig, a Republican from Tulsa, Oklahoma, said he still believes the U.S. has a role to play abroad, but that he remains concerned about excessive government spending and federal debt.

Yet Einsig said he would be more inclined to support aid to Ukraine if there were more oversight into

how the money was being used abroad, as well as a timeline of how much longer the U.S. would be providing support.

"We don't have transparency on where the money is really, really going," said Einsig, 40. "It's a big lump sum."

Four in 10 U.S. adults say Ukraine is an ally that shares U.S. interests and values. That view is most common among Democrats (53%), who are much more likely than independents (28%), Republicans (29%) and Americans overall to see Ukraine as a nation with similar values and needs. About half of Republicans say Ukraine is a partner that the U.S. should cooperate with, but say it is not a nation that shares U.S. values.

## **JFK assassination remembered 60 years later by surviving witnesses to history, including AP reporter**

By JAMIE STENGLE Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — Just minutes after President John F. Kennedy was fatally shot as his motorcade rolled through downtown Dallas, Associated Press reporter Peggy Simpson rushed to the scene and immediately attached herself to the police officers who had converged on the building from which a sniper's bullets had been fired.

"I was sort of under their armpit," Simpson said, noting that every time she was able to get any information from them, she would rush to a pay phone to call her editors, and then "go back to the cops."

Simpson, now 84, is among the last surviving witnesses who are sharing their stories as the nation marks the 60th anniversary of the Nov. 22, 1963, assassination on Wednesday.

"A tangible link to the past is going to be lost when the last voices from that time period are gone," said Stephen Fagin, curator at The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza, which tells the story of the assassination from the Texas School Book Depository, where Lee Harvey Oswald's sniper's perch was found.

"So many of the voices that were here, even 10 years ago, to share their memories — law enforcement officials, reporters, eyewitnesses — so many of those folks have passed away," he said.

Simpson, former U.S. Secret Service Agent Clint Hill and others are featured in "JFK: One Day in America," a three-part series from National Geographic released this month that pairs their recollections with archival footage, some of which has been colorized for the first time. Director Ella Wright said that hearing from those who were there helps tell the "behind the scenes" story that augments archival footage.

"We wanted people to really understand what it felt like to be back there and to experience the emotional impact of those events," Wright said.

People still flock to Dealey Plaza, which the presidential motorcade was passing through when Kennedy was killed.

"The assassination certainly defined a generation," Fagin said. "For those people who lived through it and came of age in the 1960s, it represented a significant shift in American culture."

On the day of the assassination, Simpson had originally been assigned to attend an evening fundraising dinner for Kennedy in Austin. With time on her hands before she needed to leave Dallas, she was sent to watch the presidential motorcade, but she wasn't near Dealey Plaza.

Simpson had no idea that anything out of the ordinary had happened until she arrived at The Dallas Times Herald's building where the AP's office was located. Stepping off an elevator, she heard a newspaper receptionist say, "All we know is that the president has been shot," and then heard the paper's editor briefing the staff.

She raced to the AP office in time to watch over the bureau chief's shoulder as he filed the news to the world, and then ran out to the Texas School Book Depository to track down more information.

Later, at police headquarters, she said, she witnessed "just a wild, crazy chaotic, unfathomable scene." Reporters had filled the hallways where an officer walked through with Lee Harvey Oswald's rifle held aloft. The suspect's mother and wife arrived, and at one point authorities held a news conference where Oswald was asked questions by reporters.

"I was just with a great mass of other reporters, just trying to find any bit of information," she said.



Two days later, Simpson was covering Oswald's transfer from police headquarters to the county jail, when nightclub owner Jack Ruby burst forth from a gaggle of news reporters and shot the suspect dead.

As police officers wrestled with Ruby on the floor, Simpson rushed to a nearby bank of phones "and started dictating everything I saw to the AP editors," she said. In that moment, she was just thinking about getting out the news.

"As an AP reporter, you just go for the phone, you can't process anything at that point," she said.

Simpson said she must have heard the gunshot but she can't remember it.

"Probably Ruby was 2 or 3 feet away from me but I didn't know him, didn't see him, didn't see him come out from the crowd of reporters," she said.

Simpson's recollections are included in an oral history collection at the Sixth Floor Museum that now includes about 2,500 recordings, according to Fagin.

The museum curator said Simpson is "a terrific example of somebody who was just where the action was that weekend and got caught up in truly historic events while simply doing her job as a professional journalist."

Fagin said oral histories are still being recorded. Many of the more recent ones have been with people who were children in the '60s and remembered hearing about the assassination while at school.

"It's a race against time really to try to capture these recollections," Fagin said.

## Meet the influential women behind Argentina's President-elect Javier Milei

By DÉBORA REY Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — When right-wing populist Javier Milei became Argentina's president-elect, he dedicated his victory to "The boss," the nickname he uses for his enigmatic sister, Karina Milei. She is the most important of a trio of influential women surrounding the fiery outsider who shot to the presidency of South America's second-largest economy.

Karina Milei, who barely speaks in public, was tasked with introducing her brother Sunday night after he won a presidential runoff election with 55.7% of the vote, the highest percentage in a general election since the return of democracy in 1983.

"Without her, none of this would have been possible," Milei told the crowd that chanted "Olé, olé, boss, boss."

Milei enjoyed a meteoric rise to the presidency, making the leap from television commentator to lawmaker two years ago. Lacking a group of well-known political advisers, he has surrounded himself with a group of women who are set to be key players in his administration.

Milei rose to the presidency advocating for several unconventional measures, including a proposal to eliminate the Central Bank of Argentina and replace the country's currency with the U.S. dollar.

In interviews, Milei has characterized his sister Karina as "the great architect" of his campaign. She raised funds and oversaw the entire operation, managing her brother's daily schedule. More importantly, she was part of the negotiations with former President Mauricio Macri to seal an alliance with the country's largest center-right coalition ahead of the runoff.

It is unclear whether Karina, who has a degree in public relations, will hold a formal position in her brother's government, but few doubt that she'll continue to play a key role.

A more public presence in Milei's administration might be Fátima Flórez, an actress and dancer who gained fame for her impersonation of former President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, the outgoing vice president. Milei has been in a relationship with Flórez for a few months.

Flórez's role in the administration is unclear and she has said she has no plans to abandon the stage.

"I can combine my artistic career with the role of first lady," she said after Milei's victory.

The president-elect has said he has no plans to ask Flórez to abandon her career, saying in an interview that "I don't see why I should be so selfish as to deprive Argentines of seeing a show of such magnitude as Fátima's."

Also set to play a key role is Vice President-elect Victoria Villarruel, one of the most controversial figures in the new government for her opposition to abortion and marriage equality. She has spoken up in favor of reopening the discussion that led Argentina to legalize abortion in 2020.

Villarruel, a lawyer, has also questioned the legal processes that led to the conviction of former officers for crimes against humanity during the country's last brutal military dictatorship that ended in 1983.

The daughter of an Army colonel, Villarruel has worked for years to change the narrative about the last military dictatorship. She founded an organization that defended former military officers who were put on trial and participated in rallies involving relatives of victims of terrorist attacks committed in the 1970s by leftist guerilla groups.

During the campaign, Villarruel accompanied Milei in several television interviews, taking the floor to explain several of his proposals. "She is a brilliant woman," he has said about her.

Milei has said Villarruel will be in charge of the defense and security policies of the future government, saying that "obviously, she will not have a decorative role."

## Live updates | An Israel-Hamas deal for hostages and a four-day cease-fire has been approved

By The Associated Press undefined

Israel's Cabinet approved a cease-fire agreement with the Hamas militant group that would bring a temporary halt to the devastating war that is now in its seventh week.

The Israeli government said that under an outline of the deal, Hamas is to free at least 50 of the roughly 240 hostages taken in Hamas' Oct. 7 attack over a four-day period. Qatar, which mediates with Hamas, later confirmed the deal, saying the start time will be announced in the next 24 hours and that it will last for four days.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said before the Cabinet voted early Wednesday that the war would continue even if a deal was reached.

Israel, the United States and Qatar have been negotiating for weeks over a hostage release that would be paired with a temporary cease-fire in Gaza and the entry of more humanitarian aid.

Israel says Hamas uses civilians and hospitals as shields, while critics say Israel's siege and relentless aerial bombardment amount to collective punishment of the territory's 2.3 million Palestinians after Hamas' Oct. 7 rampage into southern Israel.

Currently:

— Israel's Cabinet approves a cease-fire for hostages deal with Hamas. Palestinian prisoners also to be freed.

— South Africa's president accuses Israel of war crimes and acts "tantamount to genocide" in Gaza.

— South African lawmakers vote in favor of closing Israel's embassy and cutting diplomatic ties.

— Bahrain government websites are briefly inaccessible after a cyberattack over the Israel-Hamas war.

— Find more of AP's coverage at <https://apnews.com/hub/israel-hamas-war>

Here's what's happening in the war:

**BIDEN PRAISES HOSTAGE DEAL AND SAYS HE WON'T STOP UNTIL THEY'RE ALL RELEASED**

NANTUCKET, Mass. — United States President Joe Biden said in a statement late Tuesday that he welcomes the agreement to release at least 50 hostages being held in Gaza and stressed that "it is important that all aspects of this deal be fully implemented."

"I am extraordinarily gratified that some of these brave souls, who have endured weeks of captivity and an unspeakable ordeal, will be reunited with their families once this deal is fully implemented," said Biden, who was in Nantucket, Massachusetts, for the Thanksgiving holiday. Biden said the agreement should release some American hostages, and added, "I will not stop until they are all released."

Biden emphasized that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has committed to supporting an "extended pause" to make sure not only all hostages are released but that humanitarian assistance can be sent to Palestinians in Gaza.

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"Today's deal is a testament to the tireless diplomacy and determination of many dedicated individuals across the United States Government to bring Americans home," Biden said.

## THE RED CROSS STANDS BY TO ASSIST ANY SWAP

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — The International Committee of the Red Cross says it is standing by to assist any swap in the Israel-Hamas war.

"Currently, we are actively engaged in talks with the parties to help carry out any humanitarian agreement they reach," the Red Cross said. "As a neutral intermediary, it is important to clarify that we are not part of the negotiations, and we do not make decisions on the substance of it. Our role is to facilitate the implementation, once the parties agree."

## QATAR CONFIRMS THE ISRAEL-HAMAS CEASE-FIRE AND HOSTAGE DEAL

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Qatar has confirmed an agreement for a cease-fire and swap between Israel and Hamas, saying the start time will be announced in the next 24 hours and that it will last for four days.

The statement early Wednesday morning from Qatar's Foreign Ministry described the talks that produced the agreement as a mediation by Egypt, the United States and Qatar for a "humanitarian pause."

"The starting time of the pause will be announced within the next 24 hours and last for four days, subject to extension," the statement said. "The agreement includes the release of 50 civilian women and children hostages currently held in the Gaza Strip in exchange for the release of a number of Palestinian women and children detained in Israeli prisons, the number of those released will be increased in later stages of implementing the agreement."

It added that the cease-fire will "allow the entry of a larger number of humanitarian convoys and relief aid, including fuel designated for humanitarian needs." It offered no specifics on that, however.

## HOSTAGES TO START BEING RELEASED ROUGHLY 24 HOURS AFTER DEAL OK'D BY ALL PARTIES, WHITE HOUSE OFFICIAL SAYS

Hostage releases will begin roughly 24 hours after the cease-fire deal is approved by all parties, said a senior White House official who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the sensitive matters. The government of Qatar, which mediates with Hamas, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Israel's Cabinet on Wednesday approved the cease-fire deal that would bring a temporary halt to the devastating war

The effort to free all of the roughly 240 hostages seized by Hamas in its brazen Oct. 7 attack began when Qatar approached the U.S. and Israel and quietly established a group to coordinate, the official said.

The group's efforts led to the release of two American citizens, Natalie and Judith Raanan. Their release proved their system could work and that intensified the process for larger-scale release, according to the official. Intense negotiations have continued since.

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Associated Press reporter Colleen Long contributed from Washington.

## ISRAEL'S CABINET APPROVES CEASE-FIRE WITH HAMAS INCLUDING RELEASE OF SOME 50 HOSTAGES

Israel's Cabinet on Wednesday approved a cease-fire deal with the Hamas militant group that would bring a temporary halt to the devastating war and release dozens of hostages being held in the Gaza Strip.

Under what the government called an outline of the deal, Hamas is to free at least 50 of the roughly 240 hostages it is holding in the Gaza Strip over a four-day period. It said it would extend the lull by an additional day for every 10 hostages released.

The government said the first hostages to be released would be women and children. It was not immediately clear when the truce would go into effect.

Netanyahu convened his Cabinet for the vote late Tuesday. The meeting stretched well into the early hours Wednesday.

## FIGHTING IN JABALIYA SPILLS OVER TO HOSPITALS, AND STRIKE KILLS 3 DOCTORS

GAZA CITY — Four people, including three doctors, were killed when a hospital was struck amid intense fighting Tuesday in the Jabaliya refugee camp, the hospital director told Al-Jazeera TV.

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The director of al-Awda hospital, Ahmed Mahna, blamed the strike on Israel, a claim that The Associated Press could not independently confirm. The medical aid group Doctors Without Borders confirmed that two of the doctors killed worked for it.

The group called for better protection of medical facilities, staff and patients in the besieged enclave. "Seeing doctors killed next to hospital beds is beyond tragic, and this must stop now," The aid group said in a post on X.

The Israeli military said Hamas fighters had retrenched in Jabaliya, a densely built district of concrete buildings near Gaza City that houses families displaced in the 1948 war surrounding Israel's creation. Israel has bombarded the area for weeks.

## NETANYAHU SAYS WAR WILL CONTINUE AFTER ANY CEASE-FIRE

JERUSALEM — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Tuesday that Israel will continue its war against Hamas, even if a temporary cease-fire is reached with the Islamic militant group to release hostages.

In comments ahead of an expected Cabinet vote on a cease-fire proposal, Netanyahu vowed to press ahead.

"We are at war, and we will continue the war," he said. "We will continue until we achieve all our goals."

The Cabinet was expected to vote on a plan that would halt Israel's offensive in Gaza for several days in exchange for the release of about 50 of the 240 hostages held by Hamas.

Israel has vowed to continue the war until it destroys Hamas' military capabilities and returns all hostages.

EGYPT WILL TAKE 'ALL MEASURES' TO KEEP PALESTINIANS FROM ENTERING, PRIME MINISTER SAYS  
CAIRO — Egypt's prime minister said Tuesday that Egypt will take "all measures" to prevent Palestinians from crossing into Egypt, as the Israeli army makes preparations to enter the south of besieged Gaza.

The comments by Mostafa Madbouly in a speech in Parliament were the strongest warning yet, hinting that military force could be used.

"Egypt will not hesitate in taking all measures that guarantees the protection of its borders," Madbouly said.

Since the start of the conflict, Egypt has continually ruled out becoming a host nation for displaced Palestinians.

The North African country fears that a mass exodus of Palestinians onto Egyptian soil would nullify Palestinian demands for statehood, and jeopardies Egypt's security and economy,

However, Egypt has allowed thousands of dual nationals and hundreds of injured and sick Palestinians to enter through the Rafah crossing from Gaza during past weeks.

## HOSTAGES DEAL COULD BUILD TRUST, SAYS WOMAN WHOSE HUSBAND AND CHILDREN WERE TAKEN

TEL AVIV, Israel — A woman whose husband and two young children were abducted when Hamas fighters stormed Israel on Oct. 7 said that a deal to bring home some hostages now could pave the way for future deals.

Hadas Kalderon talked to N12 News Israel amid reports that Hamas and Israel were close to a cease-fire that would include freeing some hostages as well as some Palestinians held in Israeli prisons. Kalderon said negotiators should save whoever they can right now — "because we don't know what will happen."

"Who would dare vote against a deal?" she asked.

Kalderon said "she is in every dilemma possible," acknowledging that Offer, the father of her children, could remain in captivity even if her children are released under the proposed deal.

"I still say: we are morally obligated — our responsibility is to return everyone," she said. "But let's be realistic."

## EU OFFICIAL: AID MONEY NOT BEING DIVERTED TO HAMAS

STRASBOURG, France — A senior European Union official said the bloc will continue to provide financial aid to the Palestinians after an investigation found that no money has been diverted to Hamas.

"The review found no indications of EU money having directly or indirectly benefited the terrorist organization Hamas," EU Commission Vice President Valdis Dombrovskis told reporters.

"Payment to Palestinian beneficiaries and UNRWA will continue without payment delays. Finally, for

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those projects in Gaza that are not feasible due to the war, the money will be reallocated to Gaza either as humanitarian or development aid."

## BIDEN: 'VERY CLOSE' TO DEAL ON RELEASING SOME HOSTAGES

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden said Tuesday that a deal on releasing some hostages was "very close" to being finalized, and that he was hopeful they can get home to their families "very soon."

"We're now very close, very close. We could bring some of these hostages home very soon," Biden said at an unrelated appearance at the White House. "Things are looking good at the moment."

## TURKEY, ALGERIA LEADERS HIT ISRAEL FOR 'CRIMES' IN GAZA

ALGIERS, Algeria - The presidents of Turkey and Algeria had harsh words for Israel's actions in Gaza on Tuesday as they said they hoped for successful negotiations on the release of hostages and risoners.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, whose government maintains ties with Hamas officials, said Turkey's foreign minister and intelligence chief were working with Qatari officials to negotiate releases.

"We are engaged in constant talks and our expectation is to receive a positive result," Erdogan said in a joint news conference with Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune.

Tebboune said as regional powers, he and Erdogan would continue to push to stop "the human tragedy resulting from the crimes perpetrated by the Zionist entity in Gaza."

Tebboune reiterated his calls to take Israel to the International Criminal Court and said "the denunciation of Israel's crimes must be accompanied by an urgent initiative to halt the expansion of colonization in the West Bank."

Erdogan said Israel's actions had "turned into collective punishment and constitute war crimes."

## STRIKE HITS BASE WITH U.S. TROOPS; INJURIES MINOR

BAGHDAD — A strike hit a base housing U.S. troops in Iraq early Tuesday, causing "minor injuries to U.S. personnel and damage to infrastructure," a U.S. military official in the country said.

The official said U.S. forces "responded in self-defense against those who carried out the strike" on al-Asad military base in western Iraq. A second defense official said "multiple" militants were killed in a strike carried out by a special operations AC-130 gunship that was already operating in the area.

Both officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly on the matter.

Also early Tuesday, a drone strike on a highway west of Baghdad targeted two pickup trucks linked to the Kataeb Hezbollah militia, killing one militia member and injuring at least three others, two militia officials said.

The militia officials, who also spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media, said the strike hit a convoy traveling from Anbar to Baghdad. Later on Tuesday, the Islamic Resistance in Iraq, a coalition of Iran-backed militias, issued a statement announcing the death of one of its members in Iraq in what it said was a U.S. airstrike.

It was not immediately clear if the strike that killed the Kataeb Hezbollah member was the same one launched in retaliation to the attack on the al-Assad base.

The two incidents come as Iranian-backed militants have launched dozens of attacks on bases and facilities housing U.S. personnel in Iraq and Syria since Oct. 17. While most of the more than five dozen attacks have been ineffective, at least 60 U.S. personnel have reported minor injuries. The militant groups have said that the strikes are in retaliation for U.S. support of Israel in the ongoing Israel-Hamas war.

—By Qassim Abdul-Zahra in Baghdad, Bassem Mroue in Beirut and Tara Copp in Washington

## KEY ISRAELI DECISION-MAKING BODIES TO DISCUSS 'ISSUE OF RELEASE OF HOSTAGES'

JERUSALEM — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office has announced meetings of three key decision-making bodies late Tuesday to discuss "the issue of the release of hostages."

A statement released by Netanyahu's office said the special war Cabinet will convene at 6 p.m. (1600 GMT), followed by meetings of the broader Security Cabinet and then the full Cabinet.

It gave no further details, but the various bodies are required to approve important government decisions.

## OFFICIALS OF MUSLIM NATIONS VISIT SECURITY COUNCIL MEMBERS TO PUSH FOR CEASE-FIRE

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MOSCOW — Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on Tuesday hosted counterparts from the Arab League and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation to discuss the Israel-Hamas war.

Officials from eight Muslim countries and territories are visiting the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council and other nations in an attempt to secure an immediate cease-fire in Gaza and ensure the delivery of humanitarian aid.

Speaking at the start of the talks in Moscow, Lavrov said Russia condemns any form of terrorism, but added that “terrorism must be fought using methods that don’t amount to collective punishment and don’t contradict, or to put it bluntly, rudely violate the norms of international humanitarian law.”

## ISRAELI STRIKE KILLS TWO TV JOURNALISTS ALONG LEBANON-ISRAEL BORDER

BEIRUT -- An Israeli strike in southern Lebanon killed two journalists for Beirut-based Al-Mayadeen TV who were reporting on violence along the tense Lebanon-Israel border, Lebanese Information Minister Ziad Makary and the station said Tuesday.

The Pan-Arab Al-Mayadeen TV identified the journalists as correspondent Farah Omar and cameraman Rabih Maamari. The station is politically allied with the militant Hezbollah group.

Hezbollah’s media office vowed that the killing of the journalists “will not pass without retaliation.” Hours later, Hezbollah said it fired two missiles that struck an Israeli intelligence unit inside a home near Kibbutz Manara in northern Israel, killing and wounding those inside. It said the attack was in retaliation for the killing of the journalists and civilians on the Lebanese side of the border.

The Israeli military said it was looking into the matter. In a statement earlier Tuesday, it said its aircraft “struck three armed terrorist cells in the area of the border with Lebanon” in addition to Hezbollah infrastructure.

Lebanon’s state-run National News Agency reported that an Israeli strike on a home in the border village of Kfar Kila killed an 80-year-old woman, Laiqa Serhan, and wounded her granddaughter.

Last week, the Israeli government blocked Al-Mayadeen TV from broadcasting in Israel.

Israeli shelling of southern Lebanon on Oct. 14 killed Reuters videojournalist Issam Abdullah and wounded other journalists from Agence France-Presse and Qatar’s Al-Jazeera TV.

## IRAN-BACKED YEMEN REBELS’ ATTACK ON SHIP RAISES RISKS IN RED SEA

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — The helicopter-borne Houthi attack on an Israel-linked ship in the Red Sea highlights the danger now lurking in one of the world’s key shipping routes as the Israel-Hamas war rages, as well as the rebels’ tactics mirroring those of its chief sponsor, Iran.

While Tehran has denied aiding the Yemen rebel group in launching their attack Sunday, the targeted ship before the assault passed by an American-sanctioned Iranian cargo vessel suspected as serving as a forward spying base in the Red Sea. The rebels, dressed commando-style in bulletproof vests carrying assault rifles, covered each other and moved in military formation before quickly seizing control of the bridge of the Galaxy Leader.

While their body-camera footage serves as a propaganda coup to bolster their own position in Yemen amid some protests against their rule, it also signals a new maritime front has opened in a region long focused on the Persian Gulf and its narrow mouth at the Strait of Hormuz. It also puts new pressure on commercial shippers traveling through those waters, threatens to increase insurance costs that will get passed onto consumers and likely further stretches the U.S. Navy as it tries to serve as the region’s security guarantor.

## HAMAS OFFICIAL SAYS AGREEMENT ON HOSTAGE RELEASE COULD COME SOON

BEIRUT -- Israel, the United States and Qatar, which mediates with Hamas, have been negotiating for weeks over a hostage release that would be paired with a temporary cease-fire in Gaza and the entry of more humanitarian aid.

Hamas has released four hostages, Israel has rescued one, and the bodies of two were found near Shifa.

Izzat Rishq, a senior Hamas official, said Tuesday that an agreement could be reached “in the coming hours” in which Hamas would release captives and Israel would release Palestinian prisoners. Hamas’ leader in exile, Ismail Haniyeh, also said they were close to a deal, but similar predictions in recent weeks have proven premature.

Hamas gunmen and their allies captured more 240 hostages during their deadly Oct. 7 attack on southern Israel in which they also killed about 1,200 people, most of them civilians.

## AWARD-WINNING PALESTINIAN POET ARRESTED BY ISRAELI TROOPS, BROTHER SAYS

TEL AVIV, Israel — The brother of an award-winning Palestinian poet in Gaza says he has been arrested by Israeli troops and his whereabouts are unknown.

Mosab Abu Toha has been contributing pieces to Western media since the start of the Israel-Hamas war, painting a dire image of its toll on civilians through his personal experience. His brother, Hamza Abu Toha, posted on X, formerly Twitter, on Monday that Mosab was arrested while evacuating to southern Gaza, following Israeli military orders. Hamza said his brother's wife and children were allowed to continue south, but "the military detained my brother."

Mosab Abu Toha last posted on X on Nov. 15, writing "Alive. Thanks for your prayers."

The literary and free expression organization PEN said it was concerned about the arrest and demanded to know Abu Toha's whereabouts and the reason for his arrest. The New Yorker magazine, to which Abu Toha has contributed multiple articles, called for his safe return.

The Israeli military said it was looking into the reports.

## Brawling fans in stands delay start of Argentina-Brazil World Cup qualifying match for 27 minutes

By MAURICIO SAVARESE AP Sports Writer

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Lionel Messi led his Argentina lineup off the field because of a brawl between rival fans in Brazil, delaying the start of their South American World Cup qualifier by 27 minutes Tuesday at the Maracana Stadium.

Messi's squad returned from the locker room after it was deemed to be safe and went on to win a tense match 1-0, staying on the pitch to celebrate with their fans long after the final whistle.

"There was family of the players (there). We were more worried about that than playing the match," Messi said after the match. "We did that (going to the locker room) because that was the way to make it all calm. From below, we couldn't do much, we saw how they (police) hit people."

Players of both teams had earlier asked fans for calm, with Argentina goalkeeper Dibu Martinez racing to one of the rails in front of the visiting fans and urging police to stop the violence.

Police used batons to break up the fights in the crowd, which started minutes after the national anthems echoed around the stadium.

Parts of seating and other objects were thrown from both sides and hit some spectators behind one of the goals, and at least one fan left the stadium bleeding from his head.

Argentina returned after 22 minutes in the locker rooms, and warmed up for several minutes before the game was finally started.

Dozens of police surrounded Argentina fans as they cheered during the match, and even more security faced toward them on the pitch. Police gathered around the section that can hold about 3,000 fans.

Col. Vagner Ferreira, the highest-ranking police officer in the stadium, blamed organizers for the lack of a barrier between home and visiting fans. He defended the actions of police.

"Every action demands a reaction. There is a history of confrontation here. At first we spoke to them. Then, we had to use our batons. There was no lethal force involved, no rubber bullets, no tear gas. This was a very technical approach," Ferreira told TV channel SporTV.

All 69,000 tickets for the match in Rio de Janeiro were sold. Brazil fans, who jeered and applauded Messi before the brawl began, chanted against him when he returned to the pitch.

Brazil players remained on the pitch and warmed up while waiting for the Argentina team to return.

Argentina leads South American World Cup qualifying with 15 points from six games. Brazil is in sixth position. Both teams had lost their previous games in the 10-team round-robin competition.

The rivalry between Brazil and Argentina started at the club level and grew after the Argentinians won their first World Cup title in 1978. The Brazilians beat Argentina 3-1 in the second phase of the 1982 World

Cup, and the Argentines responded with a 1-0 victory eight years later in the round of 16.

The regional rivals have since played fierce matches in World Cup qualifying and in Copa America, but not in World Cups.

They were expected to face off in the semifinals last year in Qatar, but Brazil was knocked out by Croatia in the quarterfinals before Argentina went on to win the title for a third time.

The heated debate over who is the best footballer in history, with most Brazilians going for Pelé and Argentinians split between Messi and Diego Maradona, has also intensified the rivalry.

On Nov. 4, Brazil's Fluminense won the Copa Libertadores final at the Maracana Stadium after a week of street fights between some of its supporters and those of Argentina's Boca Juniors.

## Record crowds are expected to take to the air and roads for Thanksgiving

By DAVID KOENIG AP Airlines Writer

DALLAS (AP) — Despite inflation and memories of past holiday travel meltdowns, millions of people are expected to hit airports and highways in record numbers over the Thanksgiving break.

The busiest days to fly will be Tuesday and Wednesday as well as the Sunday after Thanksgiving. The Transportation Security Administration expects to screen 2.6 million passengers on Tuesday and 2.7 million passengers on Wednesday. Sunday will draw the largest crowds with an estimated 2.9 million passengers, which would narrowly eclipse a record set on June 30.

Meanwhile, AAA forecasts that 55.4 million Americans will travel at least 50 miles (80 kilometers) from home between next Wednesday and the Sunday after Thanksgiving, with roads likely to be the most clogged on Wednesday.

The weather could snarl air and road traffic. A storm system was expected to move from the southern Plains to the Northeast on Tuesday and Wednesday. Parts of Maine, Vermont and northern New Hampshire are expected to get 3 to 7 inches (7 to 17 centimeters) of snow between Tuesday night and Wednesday.

U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg said during a news conference Monday that the government has tried to better prepare for holiday travel by hiring more air traffic controllers, opening new air routes along the East Coast and providing grants to airports for snowplows and deicing equipment. He warned travelers to check road conditions and flight times before leaving home.

"Mother Nature, of course, is the X factor in all of this," he said.

The good news for travelers by plane and car alike: Prices are coming down.

Airfares are averaging \$268 per ticket, down 14% from a year ago, according to the travel site Hopper.

Gasoline prices are down about 37 cents a gallon from this time last year. The national average was \$3.29 per gallon on Tuesday, according to AAA, down from \$3.66 a year ago.

A survey of GasBuddy users found that despite cheaper pump prices, the number of people planning to take a long driving trip this Thanksgiving hasn't changed much from last year. Patrick De Haan, an analyst for the price-tracking service, said inflation has cooled but some things like food are still getting more expensive. Consumers are also charging more on credit cards and saving less.

"Sure, they love the falling gas prices, but a lot of Americans spent in other ways this summer and they may not be ready to open their wallets for Thanksgiving travel just yet," De Haan said.

Jennifer Bonham opted to take the train from New York to Kansas City to spend Thanksgiving with her fiancée after checking out flights and finding them "astronomically expensive."

"My fiancée had an idea. He's like, I wonder if there are trains? So we go to looking and it was honestly the best price that we got. I don't have any money. I'm a single mom. The cheaper, the better," said Bonham, while switching trains at Chicago's Union Station with her teenage daughter.

Thanksgiving marks the start of the holiday travel season, and many still haven't shaken last December's nightmare before Christmas, when severe winter storms knocked out thousands of flights and left millions of passengers stranded.

Scott Keyes, founder of the travel site Going, is cautiously optimistic that holiday air travel won't be the



same mess. So far this year, he said, airlines have avoided massive disruptions.

"Everyone understands that airlines can't control Mother Nature," Keyes said. "What really irks people are the controllable cancellations — those widespread disruptions because the airline couldn't get their act together because their system melted down the way Southwest did over Christmas."

Indeed, Southwest didn't recover as quickly as other carriers from last year's storm when its planes, pilots and flight attendants were trapped out of position and its crew-rescheduling system got bogged down. The airline canceled nearly 17,000 flights before fixing the operation. Federal regulators told Southwest recently that it could be fined for failing to help stranded travelers.

Southwest officials say they have since purchased additional deicing trucks and heating equipment and will add staff at cold-weather airports depending on the forecast. The company said it has also updated its crew-scheduling technology.

U.S. airlines as a whole have been better about stranding passengers. Through October, they canceled 38% fewer flights than during the same period in 2022. From June through August — when thunderstorms can snarl air traffic — the rate of cancellations fell 18% compared to 2022.

Even still, consumer complaints about airline service have soared, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation. There have been so many complaints, the agency says, that it has only compiled figures through May.

The airlines, in turn, have heaped blame on the Federal Aviation Administration, which they say can't keep up with the growing air traffic. In fact, the Transportation Department's inspector general reported this summer that the FAA has made only "limited efforts" to fix a shortage of air traffic controllers, especially at key facilities in New York, Miami and Jacksonville, Florida.

Meanwhile, staffing levels in other parts of the airline industry have largely recovered since shedding tens of thousands of workers early on in the pandemic. Passenger airlines have added more than 140,000 workers — an increase of nearly 40% — according to government figures updated last week. The number of people working in the business is the largest since 2001, when there were many more airlines.

## **Trump has long praised autocrats and populists. He's now embracing Argentina's new president**

By NICHOLAS RICCARDI and JILL COLVIN Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Donald Trump has long praised a particular type of foreign leader — men he describes as "tough" and "strong," even if they have chipped away at their countries' democratic norms.

The former president and GOP front-runner is now celebrating the newly elected leader of Argentina, Javier Milei, a wild-haired, chainsaw-wielding, self-described "anarcho-capitalist" dubbed "the madman" by his admirers.

"A very special congratulations to Javier Milei on a great race for president of Argentina," Trump exulted in a video posted Tuesday on his social media site that echoed an earlier statement. "I am very proud of you. You will turn your country around and truly Make Argentina Great Again!"

Milei's resounding win gives Trump a new potential ally if he wins the White House again — and underscores his enduring influence on global politics in the near-decade since he launched his first bid for the presidency. It's also the latest example of the potency of right-wing populism that flirts with authoritarianism, and an anti-incumbency fever that has spread across much of the world.

"It's just so much easier to be a populist than it used to be," said Steven Levitsky, a Harvard University political scientist and co-author of "How Democracies Die."

Levitsky cited several global trends that have reshaped both Argentine and U.S. politics. Among them: the repeat economic shocks the world has suffered since 2008, the fallout from the coronavirus pandemic and the reach of social media.

Rising populism and anger at the perceived establishment could shape not just next year's U.S. presidential election, but votes across the world. The United Kingdom, Mexico, India, Pakistan and Taiwan are all expected to vote on new leaders in 2024.

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"Voters want figures from recognizably outside the political establishment who basically want to punch the establishment," Levitsky said.

Milei often stoked comparisons to Trump during his campaign, praising him in an interview with former Fox News host Tucker Carlson and promoting unproven theories about election fraud in his own race before he won. Many of Milei's supporters made "Make Argentina Great Again" hats and T-shirts a common sight during the campaign, echoing Trump's slogan.

He spoke of taking a chainsaw to government and abolishing Argentina's Central Bank and key ministries including those of health and education — just as Trump has proposed slashing government agencies criticized by some conservatives

His calls to purge the "political caste" from Argentina's government follow Trump's calls to "drain the swamp" and obliterate a "deep state" he claims is against him in Washington.

Milei won all but three of Argentina's 24 provinces, and his opponent conceded even before the electoral authority began announcing the preliminary results. But prior to winning the runoff election, he promoted unproven claims of irregularities in the election's first round, suggesting "that they put the result in doubt."

He also vowed in a radio interview Monday to privatize state-run media outlets that covered him negatively and which he deemed "a covert ministry of propaganda."

Trump continues to promote lies about the election he lost to President Joe Biden and has attacked media outlets he deems unfriendly as "enemies of the people."

"There is definitely a feeding off each other," said Gimena Sánchez-Garzoli, the director for the Andes at the Washington Office on Latin America, a human rights organization. She said both men are products of the same economic and social forces.

Sánchez-Garzoli, who went to Argentina to observe the elections, described broad discontent with the political order across the region as liberal democracies fail to meet the basic needs of their populations. That is driving a sense of disillusionment and mass polarization, she said, especially among younger generations who have responded by saying, "Let's burn it down and go with something completely different."

"They feel that this person is different so somehow it has to be different," she said.

Beyond sharing policy goals, she said, Trump and Milei are also stylistically similar — both seen as celebrities who project a sense of machismo and thrive on "being as outlandish as possible, to keep ratings going."

"What Trump did was he broke the rules of how you talk about things," she said. "I think he made it OK to go after your opponents in a very no-holds-barred, no respect, exterminate them at any point way," which, she said, wasn't the kind of rhetoric "you saw to this level in Latin America before."

It's unclear if Trump and Milei might forge a friendship, as Trump did with another South American leader, Brazil's ex-president, Jair Bolsonaro, who was once labeled the "Trump of the Tropics."

Bolsonaro, who made visits to the U.S. as president and spent time at Trump's Mar-a-Lago club in Florida, also ran unabashedly pro-Trump campaign that emulated the former president's tone and style. He, too, made unsupported allegations of fraud after his loss last year, which culminated in an attack on the Brazilian Capitol eerily reminiscent of the Jan. 6, 2021, assault in the United States.

But while Trump is now the front-runner for the Republican nomination, Bolsonaro was barred from running for any political office until 2030 for abusing his power.

Trump's campaign did not respond to questions about whether he and Milei had spoken since Milei's victory or whether they intend to.

But Trump has long had an affinity and respect for authoritarian leaders and populist strongmen, explaining, at times, that "the tougher and meaner they are, the better I get along with them."

Among the leaders he's praised are Hungary's Viktor Orbán, China's Xi Jinping, Russia's Vladimir Putin and North Korea's Kim Jong Un.

He has been particularly enamored of late by Orbán after an interview in which the Hungarian leader blasted the Biden administration and said the only path to ending the war in Ukraine would be Trump's reelection to the White House.

Speaking Saturday at an event in Fort Dodge, Iowa, Trump spent several minutes praising Orbán, saying

he was "very honored" by the comments from a man he called "one of the strongest leaders."

"He's a very strong man, very strong, powerful man, and one of the most respected leaders in the world. Tough. No games, right? Hungary," Trump said of the country, which European Union lawmakers last year declared was no longer a democracy and had instead become "a hybrid regime of electoral autocracy" under the leadership of its nationalist government.

Trump also continued to praise Xi, describing him as "a man who looks like a piece of granite, right? He's strong like granite. He's strong."

"He's a fierce person. Now the press doesn't like it when I say good things about (him), but what can I say?" Trump went on. "He runs 1.4 billion people with an iron hand."

He has used similar language to describe Putin, drawing criticism from his rivals in the GOP primary.

Trump has long defended his use of such language, insisting his comments are statements of fact, not flattery.

"If I say a certain leader is smart that's controlling a big part of the world, the press gets upset that I say smart because that's a good thing. No no," he said. "These are very smart people."

## **Native American storytellers enjoying a rare spotlight, a moment they hope can be more than that**

By MARK KENNEDY AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The financial crisis of 2008 hit Mary Kathryn Nagle differently. As a playwright and a citizen of the Cherokee Nation, she saw parallels to events that negatively impacted Indigenous people centuries ago.

Her play "Manahatta" juxtaposes the recent mortgage meltdown when thousands lost their homes to predatory lenders with the shady 17th-century Dutch who swindled and violently pushed Native Americans off their ancestral lands.

"A lot of times history does repeat itself," Nagle says. "I'm really interested in the ways in which we can connect to our past, carry it with us, learn from it, and maybe change outcomes so that we're not just doomed to repeat the past in the present."

Nagle's 2018 play has landed in New York City at the prestigious Public Theater this winter and it's just the latest in a flowering of Native storytelling. From "Reservation Dogs," "Dark Winds" and "Rutherford Falls" on TV to "Prey" on the big screen and Larissa FastHorse becoming the first Indigenous female playwright on Broadway, barriers are being broken.

"I hope it's not a moment. I hope it's the beginning of an era," says FastHorse, a member of the Sicangu Lakota Nation and a 2020 MacArthur Fellow. "We stand on the shoulders of so many folks that came before us."

In 2020, the University of California, Los Angeles published a diversity report that examined media content from 2018-2019 and found Native representation to be between 0.3%–0.5% in film. In television or on stage, Native representation was virtually nonexistent. ( According to the Census, 9.7 million Americans claimed some Indigenous heritage in 2020, or 2.9% of the total U.S. population.)

"The truth was most theaters had never produced a single play by a Native playwright. Most Hollywood film studios had never produced any content actually written or produced by Natives. It may have been about some Native people, but it was not written by Native people. And we've just seen that flipped on its head," Nagle said.

Non-Native storytellers are also exploring the history of white atrocities on Native Americans with Martin Scorsese's "Killers of the Flower Moon" telling the story of the Reign of Terror in Oklahoma, and documentary-maker Ken Burns examining an animal central to the Great Plains with "The American Buffalo."

Nagle recalls moving to New York in 2010 and asking artistic directors of theaters why they weren't producing Native work. They would answer that they didn't know any Native playwrights or that there weren't enough Native audiences to power ticket sales.

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"Good storytelling is good storytelling, whether the protagonist is white, Black, Asian, LGBTQ — it doesn't matter," said Nagle, who is on the board of IllumiNative, a nonprofit working to deal with the erasure of Native people.

"There's a lot of projects out there that are changing the narrative and that are proving that our stories are powerful and that non-Natives are really moved by them because they're good stories."

Madeline Sayet, a playwright and professor at Arizona State University who also runs the Yale Indigenous Performing Arts Program, sees the contemporary Native theater movement flowing from the Civil Rights Movement of the '60s and '70s and an increase in awareness of Indigenous issues ever since Native people won the right to legally practice their culture, art and religion.

She connects the Wounded Knee occupation of 1973 to the Standing Rock standoff over the Dakota Access Pipeline in 2016 to Ned Blackhawk's "The Rediscovery of America: Native Peoples and the Unmaking of U.S History" winning the National Book Award this year.

Sayet, a member of the Mohegan Tribe who became the first Native playwright produced at the Public when her "Where We Belong" made it in 2020, said keeping Indigenous stories being produced depends on changing funding structures and getting long-term commitments from theaters and programs like Young Native Playwrights Contest.

"Part of what's really helping right now is us all creating more opportunities for each other instead of in competition with each other," she said.

FastHorse, who made history on Broadway in 2023 with her satirical comedy "The Thanksgiving Play," which follows white liberals trying to devise a culturally sensitive Thanksgiving play, has since turned her attention to helping rewrite some classic stage musicals to be more culturally sensitive.

"Native people have been exoticized in a way that keeps us othered and separate, sometimes in a negative way, as in, 'We just kill all the Indians' and sometimes in a 'positive' way where they're this special, magical thing."

She has recently reworked the book for an upcoming touring musical revival of the 1954 classic "Peter Pan," which was adapted by Jerome Robbins and has a score by Moose Charlap-Carolyn Leigh and additional songs by Jule Styne, Betty Comden and Adolph Green.

FastHorse found the character of Peter Pan complex, the pirates funny, the music enchanting but the depictions of Indigenous people and women appalling. There were references to "redskins" throughout, a nonsense song called "Ugh-A-Wug" and Tiger Lily fends off randy braves "with a hatchet."

"I was like, 'What? We're having little kids read this? This is just rape culture written out, exoticized with a Native person to boot,'" she said. "This is what makes you a good woman? If you fight hard enough to keep the men away?"

FastHorse widened the concept of Native in the musical to encompass members of several under-pressure Indigenous cultures from all over the globe — Africa, Japan and Eastern Europe, among them — who have retreated to Neverland to preserve their culture until they can find a way back.

The playwright said one of her guiding principles in the reworking was to make sure a little Native girl in South Dakota could see herself and celebrate. "Then we've done our job and she can join the magic instead of having to armor herself against the magic."

Nagle is enjoying making her debut at the Public Theater — her play runs through Dec. 23 — but is realistic that no one play is going to teach everyone every single lesson they need to know about Native people after hundreds of years of misinformation.

"I think one thing I'm just hoping that people take away from this play is like, 'Wow, Native stories are really compelling. Native people are incredible. They're incredibly resilient. They're incredibly brilliant. Yes, there's tragedy, but they have such incredible senses of humor,'" she said.

"I want them to love my characters the way I love them. I want them to feel the heartache. I want them to feel the laughter. I want them to feel the love," she said. "And I want them to leave the theater just wanting to know more about our tribal nations and our Native people."

## Fund to compensate developing nations for climate change is unfinished business at COP28

By GAURAV SAINI and SIBI ARASU, Press Trust of India undefined

NEW DELHI (AP) — Sunil Kumar watched helplessly in July as his home and 14 others were washed away by intense monsoon rains lashing the Indian Himalayas.

"All my life's work vanished in an instant. Starting over feels impossible, especially with my three children relying on me," said Kumar, a waste collector in the village of Bhiuli, in the mountainous state of Himachal Pradesh.

This year's monsoon season in India was devastating, with local governments estimating 428 deaths and more than \$1.42 billion in property damage in the region. But India was just one of many developing nations to suffer from extreme weather made worse or more likely by climate change, caused largely by greenhouse gas emissions that result from the burning of fossil fuels.

Tropical storm Daniel hammered Libya with massive flooding in September, and Cyclone Freddy battered several African nations early in the year. Activists say all three disasters show how poorer nations, which historically have contributed less to climate change because they have emitted fewer planet-warming gases than developed countries, are often hit hardest by the impacts of global warming.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This article is part of a series produced under the India Climate Journalism Program, a collaboration between The Associated Press, the Stanley Center for Peace and Security and the Press Trust of India.

Developing nations had long sought to address the problem, and finally broke through with an agreement at last year's annual United Nations climate talks, known as COP27, to create what's known as a loss and damage fund. But many details were left unresolved, and dozens of contentious meetings were held in the year since to negotiate things like who would contribute to it, how large it would be, who would administer it, and more.

A draft agreement was finally reached earlier this month, just a few weeks before this year's COP28 talks open Nov. 30 in Dubai. The agreement will be up for final approval at the climate talks, and dissatisfaction from both wealthy and developing nations could block approval or require additional negotiations.

"For us, it's a matter of justice," said New Delhi-based Harjeet Singh, head of global political strategy at Climate Action Network International, a group that spent the past decade lobbying to compensate those nations. "Poor communities in developing countries are losing their farms, homes, and incomes due to a crisis caused by developed countries and corporations."

A recent report by the United Nations estimates that up to \$387 billion will be needed annually if developing countries are to adapt to climate-driven changes. Even if details of a loss and damage fund are worked out, some are skeptical that it will raise anything close to that amount. A Green Climate Fund that was first proposed at the 2009 climate talks in Copenhagen, and began raising money in 2014, hasn't come close to its goal of \$100 billion annually.

Chandra Bhushan, head of New Delhi-based climate think tank International Forum for Environment, Sustainability and Technology, said he doesn't expect countries to contribute more than a few billion dollars to the loss and damage fund.

"Developing countries should be ready to manage these events independently, as seen with COVID-19. They can't always rely on others," Bhushan said.

The draft agreement calls for the World Bank to temporarily host the fund for the next four years. It lays out basic goals for the fund, including its planned launch in 2024, and specifies how it will be administered and who will oversee it, with a requirement that developing countries get a seat on the board.

The agreement asks developed countries to contribute to the fund but says other countries and private parties can, too. It says allocations will prioritize those most vulnerable to climate change, but any climate-affected community or country is eligible.

Developing nations were disappointed that the agreement didn't specify a scale for the fund, and wasn't more specific about who must contribute.

They also wanted a new and independent entity to host the fund, accepting the World Bank only reluctantly. They see the organization, whose president is typically appointed by the United States, as part of a global finance system that has often saddled them with crushing loans that make it more difficult to cope with the costs of climate change. They have long argued that there is a need for a larger, better coordinated pool of money that's available without deepening debt crises.

"This arrangement won't provide the new fund with true independence, will obstruct direct access to vulnerable communities, and will lack full accountability to governments and those most affected by climate change," said RR Rashmi, a former climate negotiator with the Indian government who is now a distinguished fellow at New Delhi-based think-tank The Energy Resources Institute.

Meanwhile, wealthy nations sought to limit countries eligible for payments from the fund to the most vulnerable, like Afghanistan and Bangladesh in Asia, several African countries as well as island nations such as Kiribati, Samoa and Barbados. They also said all nations should contribute, particularly rapidly growing countries like China and Saudi Arabia.

"It's important that the fund focuses on the poorest and most vulnerable. Those who have the strength and resources to contribute should do so," said Dan Jørgensen, Denmark's minister for global climate policy.

The U.S. State Department expressed disappointment that the draft agreement didn't specifically describe donations as voluntary despite what it said was broad consensus among negotiators.

Brandon Wu is director of policy and campaigns at ActionAid USA, a nonprofit that pressed the U.S. to help reach a recommended agreement that could be taken to COP28. He said that unhappiness could still lead to discussions on the fund being re-opened in Dubai, but negotiators are under heavy pressure to deliver.

"Many believe this COP will be judged a success or failure based on whether or not it happens," Wu said. "The UAE presidency has a huge interest in ensuring it does."

Representatives from developing countries say it was critical to get the draft agreement in early November, and failure to approve it at COP28 would be the worst outcome.

Samoa's U.N. ambassador, Fatumanava-o-Upolu III Pa'olelei Luteru, also chairs the Alliance of Small Island States. He said the world's most industrialized nations have a "moral responsibility" to move as quickly as possible on climate reparations.

"We cannot continue with the path that we have taken over the last 30 years," he said.

## How a massive all-granite, hand-carved Hindu temple ended up on Hawaii's lush Kauai Island

By DEEPA BHARATH Associated Press

KAPAA, Hawaii (AP) — It is the only all-granite, hand-carved Hindu temple in the West built without power tools or electricity, and it's nestled on one of the smaller islands in Hawaii surrounded by lush gardens and forests.

On the island of Kauai, the presence of the Iraivan Temple — a white granite edifice with gold-leafed domes, modeled after millennia-old temples in South India — is unexpected and stunning. Less than 1% of Hawaii's 1.4 million residents are Hindus and on Kauai, the number of Hindus may not even exceed 50, according to some estimates.

But that hasn't deterred the two dozen monks living at the Kauai Aadheenam campus from being good neighbors and stewards of their faith tradition, drawing pilgrims and seekers from around the globe. In this all-male temple-monastery complex, the monks study and practice Shaivism, a major tradition within Hinduism, which holds Lord Shiva as the supreme being.

One of the order's monks, who has spent decades supervising the temple's construction and tending to its gardens, is Paramacharya Sadasivanatha Palaniswami, who came to the Kauai community of Kapaa in 1968 with his teacher and the center's founder, the late Satguru Sivaya Subramuniaswami. He says the

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Iraivan Temple was inspired by the founder's mystical vision of Lord Shiva seated on a large boulder on these grounds. Its construction began in 1990 and continued after the founder's death in 2001. The word "Iraivan" means "he who is worshipped" in Tamil, a language spoken about 8,000 miles away in southern India.

The monks created an entire village in India for the artisans who hand-built the temple over the last 33 years, said Palaniswami.

"Our guru believed that electricity brings a magnetic force field and a psychic impact," he said. "It's like when the power goes out during a storm, something different happens when there is no electricity. There is a certain quiet, a calmness."

Illuminated only by oil lamps, Iraivan has no fans or air-conditioning. Its architectural style is from the Chola Dynasty, which ruled parts of what is now South India and Sri Lanka for about 1,500 years, starting in 300 B.C.

The main deity is the 700-pound quartz crystal shivalingam, an abstract representation of Shiva. The campus also houses Kadavul Temple dedicated to Shiva in the cosmic dancer form, or Nataraja.

Priest Pravinkumar Vasudeva arrived in March, when the temple — 3,600 stones, pillars and beams made with roughly 3.2 million pounds of granite — was consecrated. He is still amazed it stands on this tiny island.

"In India, you could possibly build something like this, but it hasn't been done," he said. "Here, it is nearly impossible, but it has been done."

The order's origin story began in 1948 with founder Subramuniaswami, a former San Francisco ballet dancer who sought out a spiritual teacher. In northern Sri Lanka, Guru Yogaswami initiated him into Shaivism and instructed him to build "a bridge between the east and west," said Palaniswami, the garden-tending monk.

Based in San Francisco in 1969, the founder "felt the sacred pull" of the Kauai property while on a retreat there, the monk said. It was a rundown Tropical Inn resort at the time.

To Native Hawaiians, the plot of land was known as Pihanakalani, or "the fullness of heaven." Cognizant of that connection, Subramuniaswami wanted to make sure the new temple aligned with Native Hawaiian spirits.

So 35 years ago, he reached out to Lynn Muramoto, a local Buddhist leader who had navigated a similar situation. She is the president of the Lawai International Center on Kauai, which is home to 88 Shingon Buddhist shrines on an ancient sacred site where Hawaiians once came for healing.

She visited the temple site with the late Abraham Kawai'i, a revered Hawaiian spiritual practitioner, or kahu, and witnessed the "deeply moving" moment when Kawai'i called the location "perfect."

Sabra Kauka, a Native Hawaiian cultural practitioner on Kauai, said she was "a little aghast" in the beginning, but then consulted Auntie Momi Mo'okini Lum, her calabash aunt who is descended from Moikeha, the chief from Tahiti who built Pihanakalani some 1,000 years ago. Lum told her the monks had the means to take care of the land in perpetuity. "And so I laid down my concerns," she said.

Kauka praised the monks' landscaping, from plant choices to controlling invasive species.

"The very fact that we have people on this island who care for our historic places, realize the value of them and are taking care of them in an exquisite way is remarkable," Kauka said.

Subramuniaswami prioritized fostering connections across the island's faith traditions. These relationships have stretched beyond Kauai, and continue today. Following the deadly Maui wildfires in August, Palaniswami said, the temple helped connect Hindu donors to local groups leading recovery efforts.

The monastery-temple complex, accessible via a public gate, also helps connect visitors to something greater. Devajyothi Kondapi from Portland, Oregon, has only heard stories about great saints and sages in ancient India who blessed and sanctified the land.

"Here, I feel their presence," she said during a recent visit, a trip she makes a couple times a year. "What makes this a divine place is the monks' discipline."

The monks, who take vows of celibacy, nonviolence and vegetarianism, are guided and inspired by the philosophy of Shaivism. They live in huts, and begin their day with 4 a.m. worship and meditation, followed by gardening, woodworking, cooking and other tasks. They do not speak about their prior lives.

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Beyond the temple itself, one of their most significant projects took eight years to complete. In the 1990s, the monks digitized agamas, or ancient Shaivite texts etched on palm leaves, Palaniswami said.

They preserved these fragile texts, or as Palaniswami calls them, a Shaivite "user manual of sorts," and made the digitized version public. Now anyone can read Shaivite instructions on everything from running a temple and celebrating festivals to preparing meals and managing a family.

The Shaivite tradition is one that blends theism (belief in gods) and monism, the belief in one, supreme being, said Satguru Bodhinatha Veylanswami, the order's current leader. The end goal is to attain oneness with the supreme being.

"A beautiful, holy place has the catalytic power to help you find that sacredness within."

Sannyasin Tillainathaswami, a monk who has lived here for more than a decade, said the ancient practice drew him in because it delves deep into the meaning of one's existence.

"If you find the center of yourself, you've found that which is the center of everything," he said.

Over the last 50 years, Palaniswami, who knows every sector of the 382-acre grounds, has carved out tranquil spaces conducive to meditation and reflection. The monk wears flowing saffron robes and a fluffy silver beard. His hair is gathered in a bun atop his head, adorned with a red hibiscus bloom. Streaks of sacred ash mark his forehead, accentuated with a vermilion dot in the middle.

On most days, Palaniswami, who also runs the order's website and publications department, drives a golf cart along the winding pathways tending to the flora — plumeria, orchids, hibiscus, passion fruit, redwood, lotuses and herbs.

Along with his guru, he planted 108 Rudraksha trees, which are native to Nepal and rarely seen in the West. The word "Rudraksha" in Sanskrit means "the tear of Shiva." The trees bear cerulean fruit, and its seeds are used for prayer, meditation and protection.

"Shiva was in heaven and looked down on the earth, and when he saw the plight of humans, it so moved him that he wept a tear that rolled off his cheek and fell to the earth," Palaniswami said. "From that tear grew the first Rudraksha tree."

The trees started as 3-inch seedlings about 45 years ago, and now tower over 100 feet with thick roots. The monks pressure-wash the seeds, stringing them into meditation malas, worn as a reminder of Shiva's compassion, said Palaniswami, who plans to build a public meditation room.

For Veylanswami, the order's leader, his favorite campus meditation spot is where a gentle waterfall meets the gushing Wailua River, which is sacred to some Native Hawaiians.

There, he says, he feels a transformative power, especially when he chants Shiva's name.

## Judge imposes stricter bond conditions on Trump co-defendant in Georgia election subversion case

By KATE BRUMBACK Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — The Georgia judge overseeing the election subversion case against former President Donald Trump and others declined a request to revoke the bond of one of the defendants but did impose stricter bond conditions after prosecutors complained about his social media posts that mentioned witnesses and co-defendants.

Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis made a rare appearance in the courtroom to argue for the revocation of the bond of Harrison Floyd, who was a leader in the organization Black Voices for Trump. Floyd was one of 18 people accused along with the former president of participating in a wide-ranging scheme to illegally try to overturn the 2020 election.

Willis filed a motion last week asking Superior Court Judge Scott McAfee to revoke Floyd's bond. In her first in-person appearance in this case since the indictment, she argued in court that Floyd has been attempting to intimidate and contact likely witnesses and his co-defendants in violation of the terms of his release.

Floyd's lawyers argued that his social media posts are constitutionally protected speech and that he was in no way trying to communicate with or intimidate any witness or co-defendant.



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McAfee said there is no constitutional right to bail and that bond orders can contain conditions that curtail a defendant's rights, but he also noted that people are generally allowed to publicly criticize the merits of the case but cannot cross a line. He said Floyd appears "very boldly willing to explore where that line is" in this case.

McAfee said he did believe there had been a "technical violation" of Floyd's bond conditions but that not all violations merit revocation.

McAfee said he didn't believe that Floyd's posts amounted to intimidation, pointing out that they didn't include posting of personal information or any explicit wording that something should be done about the people he mentioned. But he said the question was much closer when it comes to whether Floyd was trying to directly or indirectly communicate with witnesses or codefendants, noting that the people did end up seeing his posts.

"I think the public safety interests raised as a result of today's hearing indicate that his actions have a consequence," the judge said.

After discussion with the lawyers, and over some objections from Floyd's attorneys, McAfee signed a modified bond order proposed by prosecutors.

The new bond conditions say Floyd shall have "no contact" with or do anything to intimidate any co-defendant, witness or person named in the indictment. They also prohibit him from making any public statement about any of those people and from posting anything about them or contacting them in any way on social media. That includes not interacting with a post by any other user that would violate the order if he had been the one who posted it.

Floyd attorney Chris Kachouroff complained that the order would effectively "muzzle" his client. McAfee said rushing to modify the order while sitting there could cause problems but that he was open to modifying the terms in the coming weeks.

"I think what the judge did was fair," Kachouroff said after the hearing. "I don't like it, but he's within the realm of reason."

The charges against Floyd relate to allegations of harassment toward Ruby Freeman, a Fulton County election worker who had been falsely accused of election fraud by Trump and his Republican supporters. Floyd took part in a Jan. 4, 2021, conversation in which Freeman was told she "needed protection" and was pressured to lie and say she had participated in election fraud, the indictment says.

Floyd was among 18 people charged along with Trump and accused of participating in a wide-ranging scheme to illegally try to keep the Republican incumbent in power even after he lost the presidential election to Democrat Joe Biden.

Four defendants have pleaded guilty after reaching a deal with prosecutors that includes a promise to testify in any trials in the case. Trump and the others have pleaded not guilty. No trial date has been set, but Willis last week asked McAfee to set it for Aug. 5, 2024.

Floyd was the only defendant in the case who spent time in jail after his indictment because he's the only one who didn't have a lawyer reach an agreement on bond conditions before he turned himself in at the Fulton County Jail. The conditions of his release include not communicating directly or indirectly about the facts of the case with any of his co-defendants or any known witnesses.

Willis stressed that her concern was protecting witnesses and making sure the defendants get a fair trial. "He can publicly criticize me all he wants. I don't value his opinion. It doesn't matter," Willis said. "But what he may not do is publicly do things that intimidate witnesses, and so that needs to be clear."

She called three witnesses during Tuesday's hearing — an investigator in her office, a high-ranking official in the Georgia secretary of state's office and an attorney for Freeman. She walked them through numerous posts Floyd had made on social media.

The investigator testified that he had communicated with a lawyer for Jenna Ellis, a co-defendant who pleaded guilty last month. The lawyer said Ellis had seen Floyd's post accusing her of lying and believed that it was meant to harass or intimidate her or to encourage others to do so.

Gabriel Sterling, a top secretary of state's office official who strenuously defended the legitimacy of the state's 2020 vote count against Trump's false claims that he won said he had seen Floyd's posts insulting

him and Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger. But he said posts like that are “par for the course” for a public official.

Freeman’s lawyer, Von Dubose, said a service his team pays to monitor threats to Freeman and her daughter had noticed a spike in such activity related to Floyd’s posts. Floyd’s attorneys disputed that the threat activity in that report could be reasonably attributed to his posts.

They also noted that while Trump’s bond order specifically puts limits on certain social media posts as part of his bond conditions, Floyd’s does not. They argued that Floyd’s posts were protected speech and that attempting to communicate with anyone by tagging them on social media is analogous to shouting to someone across a crowded stadium. They also argued that Floyd didn’t attack Freeman and views her as a favorable witness for his defense.

## **Bahrain government websites briefly inaccessible after cyberattack over Israel-Hamas war**

By JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The websites of two government ministries in Bahrain briefly became inaccessible Tuesday night after a cyberattack took them down, purportedly over the island kingdom’s stance on the ongoing Israel-Hamas war.

A statement posted online by a self-described group calling itself Al-Toufan, or “The Flood” in Arabic, claimed hacking the Foreign Ministry and the Information Affairs Ministry’s websites. Both later became accessible.

Another statement included scans of passports for American citizens and a top Russian diplomat in Bahrain that allegedly came from the hack.

The statement said the hacks came in retaliation for “the abnormal statements issued” by the island’s Al Khalifa ruling family, without elaborating. Bahrain’s Crown Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa opened a summit last week in the kingdom with a call for a swap between Hamas and Israel for the hostages and a halt in the bloodshed.

A Bahrain government statement sent later Tuesday night to The Associated Press acknowledged that “a number of government agency websites have today been the target of malicious cyberattacks.”

“The government of Bahrain has implemented a comprehensive cybersecurity strategy and framework to address such threats,” the statement said. “Government operations were unaffected by the attacks, and work is ongoing to restore access to the targeted websites.”

In February, the self-described group issued a claim that it had taken down the websites of Bahrain’s international airport, state news agency and chamber of commerce to mark the 12-year anniversary of an Arab Spring uprising in the small Gulf country. The same shadowy self-described group targeted government websites during elections held last year that were boycotted by a banned Shiite opposition group and others.

Bahrain reached a diplomatic recognition deal with Israel in 2020 alongside the United Arab Emirates. The island kingdom, home to the U.S. Navy’s 5th Fleet, has drawn repeated criticism from Iran, its regional arch rival, over that.

## **After the dollar-loving Milei wins the presidency, Argentines anxiously watch the exchange rate**

By DAVID BILLER and DANIEL POLITI Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — As soon as Leandro Francisco Diana woke up Tuesday, he reached for his phone like many Argentines on the first business day after the election victory of President-elect Javier Milei.

“I opened my eyes, got my phone and looked for the price of the dollar to see how the country had awakened,” said the 26-year-old Diana, who owns a hardware store with his father in Villa Crespo, a

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middle-class neighborhood of Buenos Aires.

The exchange rate of the peso with the U.S. dollar has become a widely watched barometer of the nation's economic health, and is top of mind for millions of Argentines coping with triple-digit inflation. Knowing a further depreciation of the peso will boost the price of consumer goods, they are anxious for signs of what Milei's victory on Sunday meant for the value of the currency that has tanked against the U.S. dollar in the past year.

Diana, who loves traveling to New York and visited Miami last month, said he had feared he would find on his phone news of a major run on the currency as Argentina emerged from a long weekend. A large depreciation didn't fully materialize; rather, the dollar's value in the parallel retail market – popularly known as the “blue dollar” – increased some 13%. He was relieved.

Inflation is running at an annual rate of more than 140%. Uncertainty about prices was rampant this campaign season, with many Argentines stocking up on goods and lining up at gas stations to beat potential post-election price increases. On Tuesday morning, local media were reporting that wholesalers were sharply increasing prices.

Prices are pushed higher by a weaker currency that makes imports more expensive. Milei, an outsider and right-wing populist, has also accused the Central Bank of recklessly printing money in order to fund public spending. Inflation is a chief reason voters elected Milei, who promised drastic measures to curb price hikes including deep public spending cuts and dollarization of the economy.

The morning after his victory, Milei told Radio Mitre that inflation is so entrenched it could take him as much as half his four-year term to fix.

An existing government program forces major supermarket chains to keep prices of certain basic goods roughly one-third below their market value to minimize inflation's impact on consumers. Still, price increases are common.

On Monday, a national holiday, many clients in one such market stocked up on nonperishables — tuna, water, pasta — in anticipation of a post-election surge, said its manager, Javier, who declined to provide his last name because he was not authorized to speak publicly. The next morning, his market raised prices somewhat for basic goods including milk, butter cheese and pasta.

Milei, a self-described anarcho capitalist, has said he will abolish the Central Bank and has promoted replacing the local currency with the dollar to rein in inflation. He associated his campaign so closely with the idea that supporters at rallies carried giant 100-dollar bills bearing his face.

The government has made access to foreign currency increasingly more stringent, which has caused the parallel market to flourish. While the Central Bank-set price of the dollar is 356 pesos, it is nearly triple that in the main cash exchange, the “blue dollar.”

To obtain that rate, tourists in particular head to the pedestrian Florida street in Buenos Aires, where illegal money changers muttering “Exchange” can be heard every few steps. Officials from the tax agency are scattered along the street, too, but their presence doesn't serve as much of a deterrent.

Giselle, one illegal vendor, says “Exchange” in several languages to attract potential clients. She voted for Milei and said she is hopeful his dollarization plan will work, even though it would put her out of a job. She sees herself working in health care, perhaps doing patient administration in a hospital.

And she stuffed her freezer with meat before recent price increases, planning for it to last at least through year-end holidays.

“It isn't exactly full, but there's a lot in there,” she said, declining to provide her last name because trading foreign currency under the table is illegal. She said she earns a 20% commission on each client she manages to find. “Nowadays, being an employee here in Argentina isn't really worth it because they pay you so little.”

Among his first statements as president-elect, Milei signaled he will focus first on fixing the numerous distortions plaguing Argentina's economy, said Maria Castiglioni, director of economist consultancy C&T Asesores Económicos.

Milei has said he wants to implement broad deregulation that would get rid of restrictions on buying foreign currency that hampered foreign trade and led to the proliferation of exchange rates, and unwind

price controls. He also said he plans to put the Central Bank's balance sheet in order and boost its dollar reserves that have been virtually depleted – and then extinguish it.

"It is crucial that the incoming government builds trust to minimize the inflationary impact of all the corrective measures that need to be addressed and implemented in the short term," Castiglioni said.

Even without a sharp depreciation on Tuesday, Argentines are waiting to see what's in store for the peso.

Alexi Hoyos, the manager of a butcher shop in a middle-class neighborhood of Buenos Aires, said people already stocked up on beef and are now holding back amid the uncertainty.

Hoyos shared his own prediction: "The increase is for sure coming."

Diana, the hardware store owner, also expects an increase – at least until Argentina does away with parallel exchange rates and the Central Bank builds up reserves. But he is hopeful things will get better.

"Listening to the radio and looking on the internet, there isn't any craziness about dollar, dollar, dollar," he said. "If you don't see that, it's an indication of tranquility."

## **Largest crypto exchange Binance fined \$4 billion, CEO pleads guilty to not stopping money laundering**

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST, GENE JOHNSON, FATIMA HUSSEIN and ERIC TUCKER Associated Press  
WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. government dealt a massive blow to Binance, the world's largest cryptocurrency exchange, which agreed to pay a roughly \$4 billion settlement Tuesday as its founder and CEO Changpeng Zhao pleaded guilty to a felony related to his failure to prevent money laundering on the platform.

Zhao stepped down as the company's chief executive and Binance admitted to violations of the Bank Secrecy Act and apparent violations of sanctions programs, including its failure to implement reporting programs for suspicious transactions.

"Using new technology to break the law does not make you a disruptor, it makes you a criminal," said U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland, who called the settlement one of the largest corporate penalties in the nation's history.

As part of the settlement agreement, the U.S. Treasury said Binance will be subject to five years of monitoring and "significant compliance undertakings, including to ensure Binance's complete exit from the United States." Binance is a Cayman Islands limited liability company.

The cryptocurrency industry has been marred by scandals and market meltdowns.

Zhao was perhaps best known as the chief rival to Sam Bankman-Fried, the 31-year-old founder of the FTX, which was the second-largest crypto exchange before it collapsed last November. Bankman-Fried was convicted earlier this month of fraud for stealing at least \$10 billion from customers and investors.

Zhao, meanwhile, pleaded guilty in a federal court in Seattle on Tuesday to one count of failure to maintain an effective anti-money-laundering program.

Magistrate Judge Brian A. Tsuchida questioned Zhao to make sure he understood the plea agreement, saying at one point: "You knew you didn't have controls in place."

"Yes, your honor," he replied.

Binance wrote in a statement that it made "misguided decisions" as it quickly grew to become the world's biggest crypto exchange, and said the settlement acknowledges its "responsibility for historical, criminal compliance violations."

U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said Binance processed transactions by illicit actors, "supporting activities from child sexual abuse, to illegal narcotics, to terrorism, across more than 100,000 transactions."

Binance did not file a single suspicious activity report on those transactions, Yellen said, and the company allowed over 1.5 million virtual currency trades that violated U.S. sanctions — including ones involving Hamas' al-Qassam Brigades, al-Qaeda and other criminals.

The judge set Zhao's sentencing for Feb. 23, however it's likely to be delayed. He faces a possible guideline sentence range of up to 18 months.

One of his attorneys, Mark Bartlett, noted that Zhao had been aware of the investigation since Decem-

ber 2020, and surrendered willingly even though the United Arab Emirates — where Zhao lives — has no extradition treaty with the U.S.

“He decided to come here and face the consequences,” Bartlett said. “He’s sitting here. He pled guilty.”

Zhao, who is married and has young children in the UAE, promised he would return to the U.S. for sentencing if allowed to stay there in the meantime.

“I want to take responsibility and close this chapter in my life,” Zhao said. “I want to come back. Otherwise I wouldn’t be here today.”

Zhao previously faced allegations of diverting customer funds, concealing the fact that the company was commingling billions of dollars in investor assets and sending them to a third party that Zhao also owned.

Over the summer, Binance was accused of operating as an unregistered securities exchange and violating a slew of U.S. securities laws in a lawsuit from regulators. That case was similar to practices uncovered after the collapse of FTX.

Zhao and Bankman-Fried were originally friendly competitors in the industry, with Binance investing in FTX when Bankman-Fried launched the exchange in 2019. However, the relationship between the two deteriorated, culminating in Zhao announcing he was selling all of his cryptocurrency investments in FTX in early November 2022. FTX filed for bankruptcy a week later.

At this trial and in later public statements, Bankman-Fried tried cast blame on Binance and Zhao for allegedly orchestrating a run on the bank at FTX.

A jury found Bankman-Fried guilty of wire fraud and several other charges. He is expected to be sentenced in March, where he could face decades in prison.

## Turkey rules the table. But an AP-NORC poll finds disagreement over other Thanksgiving classics

By MARK KENNEDY and LINLEY SANDERS Associated Press

Thanksgiving may be a time for Americans to come together, but opinion is divided over what’s on the crowded dinner table. We mostly agree on the deliciousness of pumpkin pie, say, but are split over the eternal turkey question of dark meat versus white meat.

And don’t even ask if marshmallows belong on sweet potatoes — it could cause a ruckus.

### THE BIRD

About 3 in 10 U.S. adults (32%) who will celebrate Thanksgiving this year say turkey is their favorite dish in the holiday feast, according to a new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

Stuffing or dressing (19%) and mashed potatoes (6%) come in second and third.

“Thanksgiving — it’s about turkey,” said Ralph Caya, 71, from Pensacola, Florida, who participated in the survey.

On the other hand, Vaidehi Upadhyaya, a 27-year-old pharmacist in Glen Rock, New Jersey, is a lifelong vegetarian. It’s all about the side dishes for her.

Although turkey is tops across U.S. regions and ages, there’s a slight generational divide. Americans 45 or older are especially likely to call turkey the best thing on the Thanksgiving table (39%), while younger adults who agree come in at 24%.

Once the turkey is carved, about 4 in 10 celebrators (43%) prefer white meat over dark (28%), and about one in five (21%) have no preference. Older people are more likely than those under 45 to prefer dark meat (31% vs. 24%).

About 1 in 10 adults under 45 don’t like the big bird at all.

“I have to go with the white meat,” says Carlos Stallworth, 58, of Los Angeles, who also thinks ahead to leftovers. “You’re not going to get a great slice of dark meat to go on a sandwich. But with the white meat, you get that.”

### THE SAUCE

As for the least favorite dishes on the Thanksgiving table, look no further than cranberries. About 2

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in 10 celebrators say cranberries or cranberry sauce wouldn't be missed. (For the record, KRC Research reports 80 million pounds of cranberries are eaten during Thanksgiving week.)

Caya says cranberries on the table are "important," but Upadhyaya is "pretty indifferent," adding: "I'll eat it if it's there but it's like not exciting by any means."

Stallworth, who has taken a few culinary courses, appreciates what cranberries do on the big day: "You definitely want a clash with the salty and the gaminess of the meat. So to me, cranberry is a must."

Thanksgiving celebrators are generally divided on whether it's better to have cranberry sauce from a can or homemade. About one-quarter (24%) say the canned sauce is preferable, while 22% want it made from scratch. About one-third (35%) just don't like cranberry sauce, with those under 45 being more likely than older adults to dislike it.

## THE PIE

According to the poll, pumpkin pie is the safe bet if you want to make the average guest happy. One-third of U.S. adults who will celebrate Thanksgiving say that's their preferred dessert.

Pecan pie got 17%, apple pie was right behind with 15% and sweet potato pie was at 12%. Chocolate pie and cherry or berry pie were in the single digits.

Caya, in Florida, bypasses the pumpkin to go with a regional delicacy. "Being this close to Georgia, I've got to go with pecan," he says.

## OH, AND ABOUT THE SWEET POTATOES...

One of the holiday's biggest divides is whether marshmallows belong on sweet potato dishes. About one-third (32%) say they prefer that whoever is cooking nix the marshmallows, while 26% want them added. Another one-quarter don't like sweet potato dishes at all, and 16% have no preference.

There are some regional differences over marshmallows, according to the data. Northeasterners (42%) are more likely than Midwesterners (29%) or Southerners (29%) to say no to them.

Upadhyaya has eaten sweet potatoes both ways and says there's not much difference: "I feel like it really doesn't affect the taste that much because the dish is already sweet enough without the marshmallows. It's good both ways."

## THE COOK'S TOUCH

Lauren Feldman, 39, of Indianapolis, suggests another key ingredient for a successful meal. Every year, she goes home and her mom makes turkey, lots of sides, cranberry sauce from scratch, and a pumpkin pie with homemade crust.

That human touch — mom's touch, actually — makes all the difference, says Feldman: "I think if those things were store-bought, I probably wouldn't like them as much."

So who IS doing the cooking?

Among those celebrating Thanksgiving, women (34%) are more likely than men (19%) to say they will do all or most of the cooking. Slightly fewer than half of men (46%) who plan to celebrate Thanksgiving say they will do hardly any or none of the cooking. Just one-quarter of women participants say the same.

## Authorities say 31 dead after a stampede at a military recruitment event in Republic of Congo

By LOUIS OKAMBA Associated Press

BRAZZAVILLE, Republic of Congo (AP) — A late night stampede at a military stadium in Republic of Congo where large crowds of young people waited hours to register at a recruitment event left 31 people dead, authorities said Tuesday.

The Congolese Armed Forces Command announced that all recruitment operations were suspended in the capital, Brazzaville, until further notice following the tragedy late Monday.

Adelard Yvon Bonga, director of Brazzaville's main morgue, told official broadcaster Radio Congo that the death toll stood at 31. The prime minister's office put the figure at 37 earlier in the day, but six of the deaths turned out to have occurred somewhere else, Bonga said.

Brandon Tsetou, a young graduate who escaped the crush that caused some victims to suffocate, said

he joined the line in front of Ornado stadium on Monday morning.

"According to the organizers, it was the last day. That's why many of us decided to wait until late into the night, hoping to register," he told The Associated Press. "Some were so impatient that they had to force their way in, causing a stampede that left a number of people dead or injured, which we deplore."

Long lines formed daily outside military recruitment centers over the past week as young people ages 18 to 25 sought to join the army, one of the few institutions offering work in Republic of Congo. As many as 700 people a day registered, though there were only a total of 1,500 spots available.

Among the victims was 23-year-old Chancelvie Oko, according to her uncle Germain Ndzale. Oko wanted to join the military to help her support her two children following her husband's death in a traffic accident two years ago, Ndzale said.

In Republic of Congo, the youth unemployment rate is about 42%, according to World Bank statistics. Despite being an oil-producing country, poverty is widespread in the nation of 5.61 million people, with only 15% of those living in rural areas having access to electricity.

Tresor Nzila, executive director of the nongovernmental organization Action Center for Development, called for a full investigation and for the government to publish a list of victims.

"This human tragedy reflects the distress of a sacrificed youth," he said. "The Congolese government is incapable of creating other employment. The defense and security forces have become the main job providers."

"The government must be held directly responsible, because it did not assess the risks of its actions," Nzila said.

Public prosecutor Oko Ngakala said that an investigation would be launched and questioned why the event was still going on at midnight.

## **NFL's look changing as more women move into prominent roles at teams across league**

By TOM WITHERS AP Sports Writer

CLEVELAND (AP) — Catherine Raïche can remember hearing the doubt and disbelief over the phone when she said she was a college scout for the NFL.

In her first role with the Philadelphia Eagles in 2019, Raïche would regularly reach out to schools across the country to inquire about prospective players. More than once, her requests were met with suspicion.

"I was asked to send a picture of my business card because they didn't believe I was a scout," said Raïche, currently Cleveland Browns assistant general manager and vice president of football operations. "That happened multiple times, and it's not like it was 10 years ago."

Those awkward conversations and questions come far less frequently these days.

Now the highest-ranking female executive in league history, Raïche is one of the vanguard of women helping bring overdue balance to hiring in the NFL and opening doors in a world once ruled exclusively by men. After years of slow, sometimes sideways steps toward progress, record numbers of women are reshaping America's most popular sport.

But despite the dramatic improvements in less than a decade, the NFL has more work to do as women still lag in equal representation and the league faces allegations ranging from gender discrimination to toxic workplace cultures.

The Browns, who have been at the forefront of creating positive growth for women, were also widely condemned last season for signing quarterback Deshaun Watson to a fully guaranteed \$230 million contract despite accusations of sexual misconduct and harassment brought against him by two dozen women.

Though Watson served an 11-game league suspension, his connection to Cleveland perhaps underscores deeper issues that merit attention.

"We've only scratched the surface so far, but when you zoom out and look at the progress the NFL has seen in the last seven years compared to its first 100 years of existence, it is remarkable," said Sam Rapoport, the league's senior director of diversity, equity and inclusion, and a driving force in its hiring

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equality efforts.

In recent years, more women have moved into prominent positions throughout the league, with several rising to decision-making executive roles to redraw pro football's hierarchy.

And it's not just at the top. In front offices, personnel departments, coaching staffs, officiating crews, equipment and training rooms and on down to the sidelines, the league is finally beginning to mirror society as women get jobs that once went only to men.

This season, 223 women are working in full-time coaching or football operations roles in the NFL, a modest jump from 199 last year but a 141% gain since 2020. Ten women hold full-season coaching positions, the most in history, and 11 clubs had women in coaching roles during training camp this summer, another high.

According to the Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport, the overall percentage of women in the NFL's league office was 41.3% in 2022, an all-time high and increase from 29.6% in 2014.

It's taken time, but women, who make up more than half the U.S. population and nearly half the NFL's fan base — roughly 80 million — are at last seeing more opportunities when it comes to hiring.

Rapoport spearheaded the first NFL Women's Forum in 2017 with the goal of connecting female candidates to teams. It had always bothered her that women couldn't pursue careers in a game they enjoyed.

"There were no women in coaching," said Rapoport, who like Raïche grew up in Canada obsessed with football. "There were no women in scouting, and many of us looked around and said, 'This has to change.'"

Determined to make a difference, Rapoport cornered Commissioner Roger Goodell at a youth flag football tournament he was hosting and pitched her dream of bridging the league's gender gap — with the Women's Forum at its core.

"In 2017, there were nine clubs, two owners, one head coach and no general managers" at the forum, she said. "Fast forward seven years now, and at this year's program we had all 32 teams. We literally had standing room only."

In the past few years, Rapoport has heard anecdotes of how women have improved pro football's product. She said one general manager told her balancing his scouting operation with an equal number of men and women had a profound effect: It made the men better.

"It became more reflective of society and it allowed men to just do their jobs instead of just heavily competing against each other. I thought it was such an interesting observation because it really proves what considering the entire population does. It's not just about bringing women in. When you consider everyone, everyone does better because you get better people in your office," Rapoport said.

Although Raïche may be the top-ranking female employed by the Browns, she's got plenty of company within the organization.

Co-owner Dee Haslam has been among the league's most fervent supporters of female equality. The Browns have hired more candidates from the NFL's Women's Forum than any team, and a quick look at one of the team's practices — with women working all over the field — underscores progress.

"There's a lot of pluses about having females involved, but really it's just that we hire the best people and they happen to be women," Haslam said. "I came up in a generation where I had to fight for everything. It's so nice to see that women don't have to do that anymore."

Thanks to women like Dawn Aponte, those barriers are easier to navigate.

"The godmother," Rapoport said of Aponte. "We're all standing on Dawn's shoulders."

Now the NFL's chief football administrative officer, Aponte began in the NFL in the early 1990s, when women barely felt welcome and were often ignored or overlooked.

"There were no professional females at the New York Jets," said Aponte, who began in the team's accounting department.

Maybe naive, but full of ambition, Aponte was determined to climb the football side of New York's organization. There were plenty of moments of failure and frustration, such as when she was asked to leave the team's draft room after a Jets executive excused her by saying, "I don't think she has anything to contribute here."

Aponte pushed forward and persevered. She credits several male mentors, including Hall of Fame coach



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Bill Parcels, who hired her in 2010 with Miami, for helping open doors once off limits to women in the NFL. "They make the difference," she said. "There's only so much you can do. You want to be recognized for what you're able to contribute, but those individuals give you the credibility."

Browns coach Kevin Stefanski is following that lead. When he was hired by Cleveland, Stefanski's initial addition was to make Callie Brownson his chief of staff. It was a role Stefanski had in Minnesota, and he felt an obligation to jump-start someone else's career the same way.

In this case it was a woman, and Brownson has since been promoted to assistant coach.

"We've tried to be very intentional about including women in all areas of our organization because this is not just a boys' game," Stefanski said. "This is a kids' game and that's boys and girls. We want all the young girls that fall in love with the game to see examples of women on our coaching staff, on our personnel staff, maybe doing P.R., whatever it is, this is not something where we are exclusionary."

Perhaps more than anyone, Aponte feels a personal sense of satisfaction at how different things are for women today. Her daughter, Madison, is a college scouting director with the Kansas City Chiefs.

At last year's Super Bowl, things came full circle as she watched her daughter work with the defensive coaches on the practice field.

"That was a picture in my mind and a moment in time where I was like, 'Wow, things have changed,' where you could see that that would have never happened," she said. "That wouldn't have happened 10 years ago, quite frankly."

## **Giving thanks isn't just a holiday tradition.**

### **It's part of how humans evolved**

By MADDIE BURAKOFF AP Science Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — It's the season of giving thanks — and it turns out humans have been doing it for a long, long time.

As more researchers dig into the science of gratitude, they've found the feeling likely played a key role in helping our ancestors band together and survive.

That legacy continues today, as being in the mood for gratitude shapes who we are as a species and how we connect with the people around us.

"This is something that is part of our human DNA," said Sarah Schnitker, a psychologist at Baylor University. "It is a glue, in a sense, that holds us together."

How we got grateful

Humans are social animals. That's how we've lasted so long; not by being the biggest or the strongest, but by figuring out how to work together.

A key part of building relationships is the idea of reciprocity: "If you like me and do nice things for me, then I like you and do nice things for you," said Michael Tomasello, a developmental psychologist at Duke University.

The animal kingdom has some parallel give-and-take behaviors, said Malini Suchak, an animal behavior researcher at Canisius University. In experiments with capuchin monkeys and chimpanzees, Suchak found the primates became more willing to help out a partner if that individual had helped them in the past.

Some scientists think the feeling of gratitude evolved to keep the helping exchanges going. In other words, if you were helped, you'd feel like you should repay the debt with a good deed in return, said Jenae Nelson, who researches gratitude at Baylor and Harvard universities.

"This give and take — this is very, very primal and very important to a cooperative society," Nelson said. "Otherwise, you just get a culture of takers."

In animals and in humans, these aren't always one-to-one transactions. Sometimes, an ape that gets groomed by another will later back that partner up in a fight, Suchak said, showing that reciprocity might not be about keeping exact scores, but forming broader emotional ties.

Though we can't "speak chimp" well enough to know if they're actually saying thanks, Suchak added, it

makes sense that some form of this social debt showed up early in our lineage.

"It didn't just pop out of nowhere when humans evolved," Suchak said.

And how we stayed grateful

## **Thousands of years later, gratitude has taken root in humans.**

Studies have found gratitude may show up in a few spots in our genes and brains — including ones linked to social bonding, feeling reward and seeing other people's point of view.

And the feeling emerges early on: Children as young as 2 and 3 demonstrate they want to return favors, said Amrisha Vaish, who studies moral development at the University of Virginia. At age 4, children also show a tendency to "pay it forward," she added.

In a study, Vaish found that when kids got help completing a task — in this case, finding a key to unlock a box of stickers — they were more likely to share their sticker reward with a new person.

It's that kind of behavior that shows gratitude is more than simple exchange, Schnitker said. It can make us more generous with other people in general — even if they didn't help us first.

Giving thanks might be good for you, too: A 2016 study found that people who wrote letters of gratitude reported better mental health and saw changes in their brain activity — even months down the line.

But Nelson pointed out that recognizing the giver, not just the gift, is key.

So, if Thanksgiving has you in a mood for gratitude, she suggested focusing on thanking the people in your life, rather than just making "gratitude lists" of the stuff you have. This is more in line with why the feeling evolved in the first place, she said.

"It's not just about stuff and materialism," Nelson said. "It's about relationships, and the things that people do for you, and then the things that you can in turn do back for other people."

## **Israeli airstrikes on Lebanon kill 2 journalists for a pan-Arab TV channel, 4 Palestinian militants**

By BASSEM MROUE and ABBY SEWELL Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — An Israeli strike in southern Lebanon on Tuesday killed two journalists who were reporting for a Beirut-based TV station on military activity along the border with Israel, according to Lebanese officials and the broadcaster. A separate strike killed four militants with the Palestinian group Hamas, officials said.

The Pan-Arab TV channel Al-Mayadeen, which is politically allied with the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah, identified the journalists killed in the town of Tair Harfa as correspondent Farah Omar and cameraman Rabih Maamari. It said they were "martyred by treacherous Israeli targeting."

The airstrike that hit the journalists also killed a Lebanese civilian, Hussein Akil, according to Al-Mayadeen and Lebanon's state media.

The Israeli military said its soldiers took action against an alleged threat posed by a weapons launching area in southern Lebanon. It said the attack was under review.

"We are aware of a claim regarding journalists in the area who were killed as a result," the military said. "This is an area with active hostilities, where exchanges of fire occur. Presence in the area is dangerous."

The deaths bring the number of journalists who have been killed since the Israel-Hamas war began last month to at least 50, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists. Most were Palestinian journalists working in the Gaza Strip.

Israeli shelling in southern Lebanon on Oct. 14 killed Reuters videojournalist Issam Abdullah and wounded other journalists from France's international news agency, Agence France-Presse, and Qatar's Al-Jazeera TV.

The first month of the Israel-Gaza war is now the deadliest month for journalists since the Committee to Protect Journalists began documenting journalist fatalities in 1992.

Elsewhere in southern Lebanon on Tuesday, an Israeli drone strike in the village of Chaatiyeh near the Mediterranean coast killed four members of Hamas, the Palestinian official and Lebanese security official said.

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The Palestinian official identified the four as members of the Qassam Brigades, Hamas' military wing. The Lebanese security official also confirmed that they were members of Hamas but did not say if they were from the group's military wing.

Another Lebanese security official said the dead included Khalil Kharraz, the deputy chief of Qassam Brigades in Lebanon. Lebanese authorities briefly detained Kharraz in 2014 after he was blamed for firing rockets into Israel from Lebanon.

A Hamas official in Lebanon said there were "a number of martyrs from the Palestinian resistance," without confirming the number or identities. All three officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to reveal military information.

The Israeli military did not immediately comment on the reported drone strike.

The Lebanon-Israel border has seen daily exchanges of fire between Hezbollah and Israeli troops. The clashes began a day after the Oct. 7 Hamas attack on southern Israel and have raised concerns that Iran-backed Hezbollah will join the Hamas-Israel war.

Hezbollah's media office vowed in a statement that the killing of the journalists "will not pass without retaliation."

Hours later, Hezbollah said in a statement that it struck an Israeli intelligence unit inside a home in northern Israel with two missiles in retaliation for the killing of journalists and civilians on the Lebanese side of the border. It said the people inside the home located near Kibbutz Manara were killed or wounded.

Hamas has a significant presence in Lebanon, which is home to tens of thousands of Palestinians, many of whom live in the country's 12 refugee camps. On Oct. 14, Hamas said three of its fighters were killed along the border and their bodies held by Israel.

The deaths of the Al-Mayadeen journalists Tuesday spurred a widespread outcry in Lebanon.

"It was direct targeting. It was not a coincidence," Al-Mayadeen director Ghassan bin Jiddo said while holding back tears during a live broadcast. They join "the martyrs of Gaza," he said.

Last week, the Israeli government blocked the Al-Mayadeen channel from broadcasting in Israel.

Lebanon's caretaker Prime Minister Najib Mikati condemned the strike, saying that "this aggression proves again that there are no limits to Israel's crimes whose main goal is to silence the media that is revealing its crimes."

"Traacherous Israel is targeting media crews in south Lebanon," Lebanese Information Minister Ziad Makary said, describing the strike as "outrageous."

Hamas also condemned the attack, calling it in a statement "a continuation of the savage war on our Palestinian people and our Arab and Muslim nation."

In her last live report shortly before her death, Omar cited a Hezbollah statement issued Tuesday morning claiming a strike on a house in the northern Israeli city of Metula, where Israeli soldiers were stationed. Hezbollah said the attack was in retaliation for Israel targeting civilian homes in south Lebanon.

"We are still in the early hours of the day, and we are following any developments that might happen," the correspondent said, speaking some of the last words.

Local media reported several other Israeli strikes in southern Lebanon on Tuesday.

State-run National News Agency said Israel's military struck the outskirts of the villages of Teir Harfa and Majdal Zoun. It also reported that another strike on a home in the border village of Kfar Kila killed a woman and wounded her granddaughter.

## **Analysis: Iran-backed Yemen rebels' helicopter-borne attack on ship raises risks in crucial Red Sea**

By JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The helicopter-borne Houthi attack on an Israel-linked ship in the Red Sea highlights the danger now lurking in one of the world's key shipping routes as the Israel-Hamas war rages, as well as the rebels' tactics mirroring those of its chief sponsor, Iran.

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While Tehran has denied aiding the Yemen rebel group in launching their attack Sunday, the targeted ship before the assault passed by an American-sanctioned Iranian cargo vessel suspected as serving as a forward spying base in the Red Sea. The rebels, dressed commando-style in bulletproof vests carrying assault rifles, covered each other and moved in military formation before quickly seizing control of the bridge of the Galaxy Leader.

While their body-camera footage serves as a propaganda coup to bolster their own position in Yemen amid some protests against their rule, it also signals a new maritime front has opened in a region long focused on the Persian Gulf and its narrow mouth at the Strait of Hormuz. It also puts new pressure on commercial shippers traveling through those waters, threatens to increase insurance costs that will get passed onto consumers and likely further stretches the U.S. Navy as it tries to serve as the region's security guarantor.

"This has all the signs these people were trained by a professional military, which could clearly be Iran," an American defense official told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity to discuss intelligence matters. "This looks like something we haven't seen before."

It's not just the U.S. and Israel suspecting Iranian involvement, however.

The risk intelligence firm RANE referred to the tactics employed by the Houthis as reminiscent of those used by Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard when seizing vessels in the past over years of tensions regarding Tehran's collapsed nuclear deal with world powers. Ambrey, a private intelligence firm, similarly referred to the operation as an "Iranian-style vessel seizure" that "provides the Houthis with a negotiation lever" in much the same way Hamas' taking of some 240 hostages in their Oct. 7 attack on Israel did.

"The incident displayed a significant increase in the Houthis' capability to disrupt merchant shipping," Ambrey said. "In the past, the Houthis had only used sea mines, missiles and remote-controlled improvised explosive devices in the Red Sea."

It added: "The sophistication of the operation suggests that Iranian involvement is highly likely."

The Galaxy Leader, linked to Israeli billionaire Abraham "Rami" Ungar, also passed by the Iranian cargo vessel Behshad before the attack Sunday, according to satellite imagery first reported by the firm Tanker Trackers.

The Behshad has been in the Red Sea since 2021 off Eritrea's Dahlak archipelago. It arrived there after Iran removed the Saviz, another suspected spy base in the Red Sea that had suffered damage in an attack that analysts attributed to Israel amid a wider shadow war of ship attacks in the region.

Satellite images Tuesday from Planet Labs PBC and analyzed by the AP showed the Galaxy Leader off Yemen's port city of Hodeida, which is held by the Houthis.

Iran, for its part, denied Monday having anything to do with the attacks.

"Those accusations are void, and a result of the complicated situation the Zionist regime is struggling with," Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani said. "We have said many times that resistance groups in the region represent their own countries and people, and they make decisions based on the interests of their own countries and nations."

However, Hamas has Iran as one of its main sponsors. The Lebanese Shiite militia Hezbollah, another Iranian-backed group, has engaged in cross-border fire for weeks with Israel. Iraqi militias have claimed drone attacks on U.S. bases there. Syria, another Iranian beneficiary, has launched sporadic attacks too.

It remains unclear just how much control the Iranians exert over the Houthis. However, the rebel group has seen its ballistic missile and drone program rapidly advance despite being targeted by a yearslong United Nations arms embargo. Analysts attribute that to Iranian weapons shipments, of which some have been previously seized by the U.S. and allied navies.

Houthi weapon sophistication has grown in other ways as well.

The Houthis have been able to fly this year a Soviet-era MiG-29 fighter jet over the capital, Sanaa, during a military parade, along with a Northrop F-5 Tiger combat aircraft at another. A Houthi parade also saw Soviet-era Mil Mi-17 helicopters flying through the sky — the same helicopter used in Sunday's attack. A Saudi-led coalition fighting the Houthis had targeted Yemen's air force with airstrikes at the start of the war and the Houthis have yet to explain how they got these aircraft flying again.

The Houthis also have shot down an American MQ-9 Reaper drone during the Israel-Hamas war with a surface-to-air missile, as well as have fired drones and missiles toward Israel.

All of this makes the Red Sea, which stretches from Egypt's Suez Canal down to the Bab el-Mandeb Strait separating East Africa from the Arabian Peninsula, increasingly dangerous for shipping. That narrow strait, some 29 kilometers (18 miles) across at its tightest point, is crucial for cargo and energy shipments.

The U.S. has sent more vessels into and through the Red Sea, including the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower aircraft carrier and its strike group. The Eisenhower is now in the Gulf of Oman, according to satellite images, meaning there are fewer U.S. Navy assets in the Red Sea to deter any possible new attacks.

And if the next attack sees fatalities — particularly of U.S. or Israeli nationals — that raises the risk of a wider war breaking out on the seas.

"Significant Houthi interference with commercial shipping through the Strait is almost certain to trigger U.S. intervention due to the political and potentially economic implications," the New York-based Soufan Center warned.

## 60 years after JFK's death, today's Kennedys choose other paths to public service

By HILLEL ITALIE AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Patrick Kennedy, son of Sen. Ted Kennedy and nephew of President John F. Kennedy, remembers being a young state legislator in Rhode Island some 30 years ago and hearing encouraging words from the opposition leader at the time.

"I just want you to know that no matter what you do, nothing's going to take away from everyone's memory and appreciation of what your family has done for this country," Republican David Dumas told him.

"He meant that 'Don't preoccupy yourself with worrying about whether you're a good representative of your family or not,'" Patrick Kennedy, now a former congressman, said in a recent Zoom interview.

Kennedy spoke shortly before the 60th anniversary of the assassination of President Kennedy, a seismic national event that predates most American lives but remains an inflection point in the country's history — as a wellspring of modern conspiracy theories, as a debate over what JFK might have achieved, as an emotional cornerstone of the Kennedy story.

The anniversary arrives at an unusual moment for the Kennedys. It is a moment when the family's mission to uphold a legacy of public service and high ideals competes for attention with the presidential candidacy of Robert F. Kennedy Jr., whose anti-vaccine advocacy and inflammatory comments about everything from the Holocaust to the pandemic have led to a rare public family breach.

Robert's sister Kerry Kennedy has cited her differences with him "on many issues," while Jack Schlossberg, grandson of President Kennedy, has called Robert's candidacy "an embarrassment."

"We haven't seen this happening before in the Kennedy family," says historian Thurston Clarke, author of books on President Kennedy and his brother Robert. "In the past," Clarke says, "they were very reluctant to attack each other."

### A LONG TRADITION IN THE PUBLIC EYE

The current prominence of Robert Kennedy Jr. — what Patrick expects will be a footnote to a larger narrative — doesn't stand out merely because of what he says and how it departs from family history. It stands out because he is the rare Kennedy these days engaged in national electoral politics.

For generations, the Kennedy dynasty ranked with the Adamses, the Roosevelts and the Bushes. Their time in public office dates to the 1890s, to Rep. (and future Boston Mayor) John Francis "Honey Fitz" Fitzgerald, JFK's grandfather, and grew throughout the first half of the 20th century.

During JFK's 1960-63 presidency, governing was decidedly a family affair. Robert Kennedy was attorney general and the president's closest adviser, brother-in-law Sargent Shriver was heading the newly formed Peace Corps and brother-in-law Stephen Smith was White House chief of staff. Youngest brother Ted Kennedy was elected to John F. Kennedy's former Senate seat in Massachusetts.

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The death of President Kennedy, and Jacqueline Kennedy's remembrance of his administration as a lost golden age, "Camelot," intensified feelings about the family and longings for their presence. Ted Kennedy became a revered liberal voice and legislator, while Shriver was chosen as George McGovern's running mate in their unsuccessful 1972 presidential campaign.

Patrick Kennedy was an eight-term congressman from Rhode Island; Joseph Kennedy II, Robert's son, served six terms as a congressman from Massachusetts; and Joseph's sibling Kathleen Kennedy Townsend was a two-term Maryland lieutenant governor. Arnold Schwarzenegger, married at the time to JFK's niece Maria Shriver, was California's governor for two terms.

But the Kennedys have mostly withdrawn from electoral politics in the 21st century; no Kennedy or Kennedy in-law currently serves in Congress or as a governor. Caroline Kennedy, JFK's daughter and only surviving child, had been open in 2009 to replacing Hillary Clinton in the U.S. Senate after Clinton was appointed secretary of state by President Barack Obama. She soon stepped back amid signs New York Gov. David Paterson would not select her. He didn't.

"Given what happened to their father and uncle, and given the tough road Ted Kennedy had to travel, who can blame them for finding another road?" says historian Sean Wilentz. He says the assassinations of JFK and Robert Kennedy may have led to there being "too much of a burden on the next generation to carry on and complete what was left unfinished."

Patrick Kennedy, who left Congress in 2011 amid struggles with substance abuse and bipolar disorder, agrees the current political atmosphere is far removed from the 1960s, when leaders such as JFK had a sense of "common purpose." But he still believes public office worth pursuing and notes that his wife, Amy, ran for Congress in 2020 — unsuccessfully.

"When we got out there and campaigned, it was very inspiring," Patrick Kennedy says. "There were tons of people in the grass roots who were so inspiring — to see how they were so passionate about changing the world."

## AN ADMINISTRATION REMEMBERED IN SPIRIT

The Kennedy administration now lives on more in spirit than in firsthand memory. One of the last prominent White House aides, speechwriter Richard Goodwin, died in 2018. The last of President Kennedy's surviving siblings, former U.S. ambassador to Ireland Jean Smith, died in 2020. Robert F. Kennedy's widow, Ethel, is in her 90s and rarely comments publicly.

Starting in 1968, after the assassination of Robert Kennedy, Ted Kennedy was the family's standard bearer and chosen orator. But no one has succeeded him since his death in 2009. The death of Caroline's brother, John F. Kennedy Jr., in a 1999 plane crash ended the life of his generation's most prominent family member, the one most discussed as a possible presidential candidate. Caroline Kennedy has maintained a low profile as ambassador to Japan during the Obama administration and ambassador to Australia in the Biden administration.

"That's an awesome responsibility and a huge yoke around your neck to try and have to carry that," Patrick Kennedy says of his father's stature. "And Dad really did it — he really kept it together. But it was an incredible personal toll it took on him."

Asked if he would have liked to take on his father's role, Kennedy says no: "That chapter is closed."

In the absence of any old-style family elder, the Kennedy most talked about is RFK Jr., who has attracted a larger following than most independent candidates. Historian Julian E. Zelizer, author of numerous works on contemporary politics, sees JFK and his brother Robert as "unifying figures" while finding Robert Jr. a symbol of "division, distrust, and a kind of skepticism about the public culture."

Patrick Kennedy, who otherwise declined to discuss his cousin at length, called Zelizer's comments "a pretty fair statement." Robert F. Kennedy Jr. did not immediately respond to requests for comment but issued a statement on the anniversary and on his uncle's legacy.

"During his term in office, he upheld a vision of America as a nation of peace, a vision that was abandoned after his death," said Kennedy, who promised to "put us back on the road to peace."

Other family members remain active in various causes, though in a less publicized way than in JFK's time.

Besides Caroline, several Kennedys hold positions in the Biden administration, including Joseph Kennedy III, grandson of Robert Kennedy, who is special envoy to Northern Ireland; and Victoria Reggie Kennedy, Ted Kennedy's widow and now ambassador to Austria.

Patrick Kennedy is founder of the mental health advocacy group Alignment for Progress and notes that the last bill signed into law by JFK, the Community Mental Health Act, is "the foundation of a modern day movement to restore a community based approach to our mental health and addiction crisis."

Timothy Shriver chairs the board of the Special Olympics, which his mother (and President Kennedy's sister), Eunice Shriver, helped establish in the 1960s. Kerry Kennedy, Robert's daughter, is a human rights lawyer who heads the nonprofit RFK Human Rights. Kerry's sister Rory Kennedy is a prize-winning documentary maker whose subjects have ranged from rural Mississippi and the Iraq War to a film about her mother, Ethel.

"There are many other ways to serve the public than running for elective office," says political analyst Larry Sabato. "No one could say the Kennedy family hasn't made many contributions to public life — and sacrifices, too."

"I can literally go through all of my family and there isn't one who's not out there doing something," says Patrick Kennedy, who finds his name still holds great influence in his current work. "I've been out of office since 2011, and I can get anyone to return my call."

## Rosalynn Carter's advocacy for mental health was rooted in compassion and perseverance

By HOLLY RAMER Associated Press

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) — The sun was shining in June 1979 as Rosalynn Carter made her way through an enthusiastic crowd in Laconia, New Hampshire.

"She shook my hand!" yelled one delighted participant.

The first lady was in the state for her husband's reelection campaign, but this was no political rally. Instead, she was at a sprawling 75-year-old institution founded for "feebleminded" children that the U.S. Justice Department had deemed "a classic example of warehousing." She was joined by Gov. Hugh Gallen, a kindred spirit who had been pushing to correct the deplorable conditions there and at the state's psychiatric hospital.

"Going to a place like the Laconia State School and talking not to voters but to people dealing with a very acute issue — well, it doesn't happen very often. It didn't then, and it certainly doesn't at all now," recalled Dayton Duncan, who was there as Gallen's press secretary.

"She could have just given a good speech about what the administration was hoping to do and left it at that," Duncan said. "But the fact that she would go to the Laconia State School and meet with the people who work there, the children who were warehoused there and the parents, was special."

After leaving the White House, Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter launched programs that have, among other things, monitored elections in at least 113 countries and nearly eradicated the Guinea worm parasite in the developing world. But the former president has said that The Carter Center would have been a success had it accomplished nothing but his wife's mental health work.

That's according to Kathy Cade, vice chair of Atlanta-based center and a longtime aide to Rosalynn Carter, and others who know the couple. They spoke to The Associated Press in the months leading up to Rosalynn Carter's death Sunday at age 96.

"I do not think there has ever been another sort of leader in the mental health field who has had as much of an impact on mental health care and access to care and how we think about mental health and mental illness as Mrs. Carter," Cade said. "And I think it has to do with her incredible concern about the issue and her perseverance for more than 50 years."

What evolved into a lifelong crusade began during Carter's 1966 gubernatorial campaign in Georgia. Almost daily, Rosalynn was approached by voters distressed about loved ones housed at an overcrowded psychiatric hospital. Early one morning, she spoke to a weary cotton mill worker who explained that she

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and her husband worked opposite shifts to care for their mentally ill daughter.

"The image of the woman haunted me all day," Rosalynn Carter wrote in her 2010 book, "Within Our Reach: Ending the Mental Health Crisis." That night, she went to her husband's campaign rally and waited in line to shake his hand.

"I came to see what you are going to do to help people with mental illness when you are governor," she told the surprised candidate.

Jimmy Carter responded by creating a state commission to improve services for those with mental illness. Then, as president, he created a national commission on mental health, which led to the passage of the Mental Health Systems Act of 1980, a major revamping of federal policy that sought to treat people with mental illness in their communities.

Rosalynn Carter was that commission's honorary co-chair and a driving force behind the legislation, traveling around the country to hear from experts and everyday citizens alike and sharing her findings with Congress. Though it was effectively repealed during the Reagan administration, advocates say it created a framework for much of the progress since then.

At The Carter Center, she created a program devoted solely to mental health in 1991 and eventually established fellowships for journalists who cover the topic. Years later, she lobbied Congress to create a landmark law requiring insurers to provide equality in mental health coverage.

Those who worked with her over the decades say Carter's accomplishments were rooted in her compassion and listening skills.

"Her power comes from her heart," said Cynthia Wainscott, a former board chair of Mental Health America, a national nonprofit organization. "She's very, very, very kind, and she listens to people. When you're talking to her, there can be three conversations going on around you, but you know she's keyed on you, and she hears you."

She also was an effective and inspiring mobilizer with sharp instincts, Wainscott said.

Preparing for an annual mental health symposium, Carter once suggested contacting a pollster to refine a key message: that 20% of Americans will have a psychiatric disorder in any given year. The pollster conducted focus groups and found that people didn't believe the statistic, but if it was restated as one in five Americans instead, they did.

"When you hear 20%, you have to visualize 100 people and 20 of them are sick, and it's complex and impersonal. If you say one in five, people think about their workplace, their school, their neighborhood," said Wainscott, who also led the National Mental Health Association of Georgia.

"If she hadn't been in that room, none of us would have thought of asking a pollster to tell us how to phrase it," she said. "It was brilliant."

Journalist Bill Lichtenstein considered Rosalynn Carter "the patron saint of all who are dealing with mental health or behavioral issues."

Lichtenstein, who runs a media production company in Boston, was an investigative reporter for ABC News when he fell ill with manic depression in 1986. He went on to produce award-winning programs on recovery from mental illness, but he still remembers feeling shunned when he disclosed his own struggles. Carter's desire to reduce such stigma is at the heart of her accomplishments, he said.

"At the end of the day, whether it's talking about more money for research or people with a mental health history being on a level playing field when it comes to employment or renting an apartment, the thing that's the most insidious, difficult obstacle to all of it is stigma," he said.

Lichtenstein serves on the board of advisers for The Carter Center's mental health journalism fellowship program, which has provided support to more than 220 journalists from the U.S. and six other countries over the years.

Marion Scher, a freelance journalist and author in South Africa, was awarded a fellowship in 2005. Her first article, headlined "When is it more than just a bad day?" was published in a men's health magazine along with the phone number for a mental health organization. The response, in a country where stigma remains strong, was massive, she said.

"The phone was ringing off the hook for three weeks," she said. "They had to bring in extra counselors



to man the phones.”

Scher now offers mental health journalism fellowships in South Africa, using local sponsorships. That kind of multiplier effect illustrates the impact of The Carter Center fellowships, and it wouldn't have happened without her tenacity, Cade said.

Carter was a “woman of action” — unsatisfied with just bringing together experts for discussions, she brainstormed ways to change policy by changing attitudes, Cade said, recalling how she'd sit with her advisers and say “What can we do? What else could we be doing?”

## Teachers and students grapple with fears and confusion about new laws restricting pronoun use

By ANDREW DeMILLO and RICK CALLAHAN The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Indianapolis high school senior Caston Peters had used they and them or he and him pronouns at school for three years without a problem, but they came home a few days into this school year and told their mother that the situation had changed.

Peters, 18 and nonbinary, heard from a teacher that a new state law meant they wouldn't be able to use those pronouns, or the first name they've used for years, without explicit permission from a parent because the pronouns and name don't correspond with their sex assigned at birth.

This was news to Caston's mother, Kim Michaelis-Peters, who immediately sent teachers, a counselor and the principal an email asking them to comply with Caston's wishes, and the school staff did. But even though her own child's wishes are being respected, Michaelis-Peters said she has deep concerns about what Indiana's law could mean for students whose parents might not be understanding if they learn from school officials that their child is transgender or nonbinary.

“It makes me feel like there's going to be a child out there who's not going to feel safe at home to tell their parents and the school's going to rat them out for wanting to be called a different name or different pronouns,” she said.

Indiana is among at least 10 states that have enacted laws prohibiting or restricting students from using pronouns or names that don't match their sex assigned at birth, a restriction that opponents say further marginalizes transgender and nonbinary students. Most of the laws were enacted this year and are part of a historic wave of new restrictions on transgender youth approved by Republican states.

The measures are creating fear for transgender students and sowing confusion for teachers on how to comply but still offer a welcoming environment for everyone in their classes.

“The things that are passing are so vague and so hard to understand that (teachers) don't know what to do,” said Cheryl Greene, senior director of the Welcoming Schools Program for the Human Rights Campaign Foundation, which advocates for LGBTQ+ rights. “It just creates this ambiguity and fear with educators because it's not clear.”

Supporters of the laws have argued that parents should have a say if children are using pronouns or names different than those assigned at birth. Republican lawmakers describe it as a parental rights issue alongside efforts to restrict how gender identity is addressed in the classroom or in library materials.

“School districts can't shut a parent out of their child's decision about their gender identity because the child objects or because the school believes the parent isn't supportive enough of an immediate gender transition,” according to a brief signed by nearly two dozen Republican attorneys general and filed in a lawsuit stemming from a California school district's policy.

Mental health experts and advocates say that requiring parental consent or notification of pronouns forcibly outs trans students, who already face a high risk of bullying and abuse.

Similar restrictions have sparked some opposition in Virginia, where Republican Gov. Glenn Youngkin unveiled new model policies over the summer that include a requirement that minors must be referred to by the names and pronouns in their official records unless a parent approves something else. Some school boards have begun to adopt policies consistent with Youngkin's guidelines while others have balked.

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Some teachers in other states are finding ways around the requirements or defying the restrictions, saying they don't want to put their students at risk. Since the laws are being enacted in states where teachers have little job protection, few are willing to talk on the record.

Jillian Spain, who teaches social studies at a middle school in Yanceyville, North Carolina, said she's continued to address her students by the names and pronouns they use. Spain said outing a child, which is what the law would do to transgender and nonbinary students, "is not in the job description."

Spain said the fear of being outed just adds to the pressures students already face, especially after the COVID-19 pandemic that devastated their well-being and academics.

"I am absolutely never, ever, ever going to out a child," Spain said. "School is supposed to be their safe place. It's supposed to be a place where they can be who they truly are."

Teachers' groups say educators have been given little to no guidance on how to comply with the new restrictions, including basic steps like how to get permission from parents of students who use pronouns or names not listed on their birth certificates.

Indiana, like other states, leaves the specifics up to school districts.

The state's teachers union says Indiana's new parental notification law, which also bars teachers from providing instruction on human sexuality to students from pre-K through the third grade, is aimed at a problem that doesn't exist.

"We have heard concerns anecdotally about the potential impact of this law," Indiana State Teachers Association President Keith Gambill said in a statement. "Teachers are worried that it will create confusion and additional administrative burdens in an already demanding educational environment."

Kentucky's new law says teachers and school staff cannot be compelled to use a student's pronouns if they don't "conform to the student's biological sex."

The law, which includes other provisions dealing with student bathroom assignment and parental consent, has prompted confusion among educators, said Chris Hartman, director of the Fairness Campaign, the state's highest-profile LGBTQ+ advocacy group. Hartman said it allows educators to ignore students' wishes about pronouns even if their parents have asked the district not to let it happen.

"The mental health impact on trans kids being willfully misgendered by the adults in the room is disastrous," Hartman said. He said supportive adults are crucial to keeping transgender students from slipping into depression and considering suicide.

Jefferson County Schools, the state's largest district with 90,000 students, struggled to comply with the new state law. After a third try, the school board in Louisville adopted a policy that includes giving students with gender dysphoria an exception for bathroom accommodations and adds potential punishment for teachers and staff who willfully and repeatedly misgender a student.

A group of parents and students in Lexington have sued over the Kentucky law. One of the families alleges a school office employee intentionally refused to use their child's name and pronouns while speaking with them in April. The parents, who are identified by a pseudonym, decided to legally change the child's name after that encounter, according to the lawsuit, which was filed in late September. The suit asks a judge to declare Kentucky's new law unconstitutional.

In Indiana, Caston Peters said they think other students will suffer because of that state's law.

"School is supposed to be a safe spot for us where we can be ourselves without having to deal with being called out, without being bullied or name-called or anything like that," they said. "And I think for some of us being able to be called the name or pronouns that we prefer it's something we need. And if we can't get that at home then having it in another safe place like school — if that's the only place we can get it — well now it's being taken away from us. "

## New Hampshire man had no car and no furniture, but died with a big secret, leaving his town millions

By KATHY McCORMACK and ROBERT F. BUKATY Associated Press

HINSDALE, N.H. (AP) — Geoffrey Holt was unassuming as the caretaker of a mobile home park in Hinsdale, New Hampshire, where he lived a simple, but curious life.

Residents would see Holt around town in threadbare clothes — riding his lawn mower, headed to the convenience store, parked along the main road reading a newspaper or watching cars pass.

He did odd jobs for others, but rarely left town. Despite having taught driver's ed to high schoolers, Holt had given up driving a car. He opted for a bicycle instead and finally the mower. His mobile home in the park was mostly empty of furniture -- no TV and no computer, either. The legs of the bed went through the floor.

"He seemed to have what he wanted, but he didn't want much," said Edwin "Smokey" Smith, Holt's best friend and former employer.

But Holt died earlier this year with a secret: He was a multimillionaire. And what's more, he gave it all away to this community of 4,200 people.

His will had brief instructions: \$3.8 million to the town of Hinsdale to benefit the community in the areas of education, health, recreation and culture.

"I don't think anyone had any idea that he was that successful," said Steve Diorio, chairperson of the town selectboard who'd occasionally wave at Holt from his car. "I know he didn't have a whole lot of family, but nonetheless, to leave it to the town where he lived in ... It's a tremendous gift."

The money could go far in this Connecticut River town sandwiched between Vermont and Massachusetts with abundant hiking and fishing opportunities and small businesses. It's named for Ebenezer Hinsdale, an officer in the French and Indian Wars who built a fort and a grist mill. In addition to Hinsdale's house, built in 1759, the town has the nation's oldest continually operating post office, dating back to 1816.

There's been no formal gathering to discuss ideas for the money since local officials were notified in September. Some residents have proposed upgrading the town hall clock, restoring buildings, maybe buying a new ballot counting machine in honor of Holt, who always made sure he voted. Another possibility is setting up an online drivers' education course.

Organizations would be able to apply for grants via a trust through the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, drawing from the interest, roughly about \$150,000 annually.

Hinsdale will "utilize the money left very frugally as Mr. Holt did," said Kathryn Lynch, town administrator.

Holt's best friend Smith, a former state legislator who became the executor of Holt's estate, had learned about his fortune in recent years.

He knew Holt, who died in June at age 82, had varied interests, like collecting hundreds of model cars and train sets that filled his rooms, covered the couch and extended into a shed. He also collected books about history, with Henry Ford and World War II among his favorite topics. Holt had an extensive record collection too, including Handel and Mozart.

Smith also knew that Holt, who earlier in life had worked as a production manager at a grain mill that closed in nearby Brattleboro, Vermont, invested his money. Holt would find a quiet place to sit near a brook and study financial publications.

Holt confided to Smith that his investments were doing better than he had ever expected and wasn't sure what to do with the money. Smith suggested that he remember the town.

"I was sort of dumbfounded when I found out that all of it went to the town," he said.

One of Holt's first investments into a mutual fund was in communications, Smith said. That was before cellphones.

Holt's sister, 81-year-old Alison Holt of Laguna Woods, California, said she knew her brother invested and remembered that not wasting money and investing were important to their father.

"Geoffrey had a learning disability. He had dyslexia," she said. "He was very smart in certain ways. When it came to writing or spelling, he was a lost cause. And my father was a professor. So, I think that Geoff

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felt like he was disappointing my dad. But maybe socking away all that money was a way to compete.”

She and her brother grew up in Springfield, Massachusetts. Their father, Lee Holt, taught English and world literature at American International College. Their mother, Margaret Holt, had a Shakespearean scholar for a dad. She was an artist who “absorbed the values of the Quaker Society of Friends,” according to her obituary. Both parents were peace activists who eventually moved to Amherst and took part in a weekly town vigil that addressed local to global peace and justice issues.

Their children were well-educated. Geoffrey went to boarding schools and attended the former Marlboro College in Vermont, where students had self-designed degree plans. He graduated in 1963 and served in the U.S. Navy before earning a master’s degree from the college where his father taught in 1968. In addition to driver’s ed, he briefly taught social studies at Thayer High School in Winchester, New Hampshire, before getting his job at the mill.

Alison remembers their father reading Russian novels to them at bedtime. Geoffrey could remember all those long names of multiple characters.

He seemed to borrow a page from his own upbringing, which was strict and frugal, according to his sister, a retired librarian. His parents had a vegetable garden, kept the thermostat low, and accepted donated clothes for their children from a friend.

She said Geoffrey didn’t need a lot to be happy, didn’t want to draw attention to himself, and might have been afraid of moving. He once declined a promotion at the mill that would have required him to relocate.

“He always told me that his main goal in life was to make sure that nobody noticed anything,” she said, adding that he’d say “or you might get into trouble.”

They didn’t talk much about money, though he would ask her often if she needed anything.

“I just feel so sad that he didn’t indulge himself just a little bit,” she said.

But he never seemed to complain. He also always wasn’t on his own, either. As a young man, he was briefly married and divorced. Years later, he grew close to a woman at the mobile home park and moved in with her. She died in 2017.

Neither Alison nor Geoffrey had any children.

Holt suffered a stroke a couple of years ago, and worked with therapist Jim Ferry, who described him as thoughtful, intellectual and genteel, but not comfortable with following the academic route that family members took.

Holt had developed mobility issues following his stroke, and missed riding his mower.

“I think for Geoff, lawn mowing was relaxation, it was a way for him to kind of connect with the outdoors,” Ferry said. “I think he saw it as service to people that he cared about, which were the people in the trailer park that I think he really liked because they were not fancy people.”

Residents are hoping Hinsdale will get noticed a bit more because of the gift.

“It’s actually a forgotten corner in New Hampshire,” said Ann Diorio, who’s married to Steve Diorio and is on the local planning board. “So maybe this will put it on the map a little bit.”

## Today in History: November 22 John F. Kennedy is assassinated in Dallas

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, Nov. 22, the 326th day of 2023. There are 39 days left in the year.

Today’s Highlight in History:

On Nov. 22, 1963, John F. Kennedy, the 35th President of the United States, was shot to death during a motorcade in Dallas; Texas Gov. John B. Connally, riding in the same car as Kennedy, was seriously wounded. Suspected gunman Lee Harvey Oswald was arrested. Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson was sworn in as president.

On this date:

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In 1718, English pirate Edward Teach — better known as “Blackbeard” — was killed during a battle off what is now North Carolina.

In 1906, the “S-O-S” distress signal was adopted at the International Radio Telegraphic Convention in Berlin.

In 1935, a flying boat, the China Clipper, took off from Alameda, California, carrying more than 100,000 pieces of mail on the first trans-Pacific airmail flight.

In 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Chinese leader Chiang Kai-shek met in Cairo to discuss measures for defeating Japan.

In 1967, the U.N. Security Council approved Resolution 242, which called for Israel to withdraw from territories it had captured the previous June, and implicitly called on adversaries to recognize Israel’s right to exist.

In 1975, Juan Carlos was proclaimed King of Spain.

In 1977, regular passenger service between New York and Europe on the supersonic Concorde began on a trial basis.

In 1990, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, having failed to win reelection to the Conservative Party leadership on the first ballot, announced she would resign.

In 1995, acting swiftly to boost the Balkan peace accord, the U.N. Security Council suspended economic sanctions against Serbia and eased the arms embargo against the states of the former Yugoslavia.

In 2005, Angela Merkel (AHN’-geh-lah MEHR’-kuhl) took power as Germany’s first female chancellor.

In 2010, thousands of people stampeded during a festival in the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh, leaving some 350 dead and hundreds injured in what the prime minister called the country’s biggest tragedy since the 1970s reign of terror by the Khmer Rouge.

In 2014, a 12-year-old Black youth, Tamir Rice, was shot and killed by police outside a Cleveland recreation center after brandishing what turned out to be a pellet gun. (A grand jury declined to indict either the patrolman who fired the fatal shot or a training officer.)

In 2017, Ratko Mladic, the Bosnian Serb general whose forces carried out the worst massacre in Europe since World War II, was convicted of genocide and other crimes by the United Nations’ Yugoslav war crimes tribunal and sentenced to life behind bars.

Today’s Birthdays: Animator and movie director Terry Gilliam is 83. Actor Tom Conti is 82. Singer Jesse Colin Young is 82. Astronaut Guion (GEYE’-uhn) Bluford is 81. International Tennis Hall of Famer Billie Jean King is 80. Rock musician-actor Steve Van Zandt (a.k.a. Little Steven) is 73. Rock musician Tina Weymouth (The Heads; Talking Heads; The Tom Tom Club) is 73. Retired MLB All-Star Greg Luzinski is 73. Rock musician Lawrence Gowan is 67. Actor Richard Kind is 67. Actor Jamie Lee Curtis is 65. Alt-country singer Jason Ringenberg (Jason & the Scorchers) is 65. Actor Mariel Hemingway is 62. Actor Winsor Harmon is 60. Actor-turned-producer Brian Robbins is 60. Actor Stephen Geoffreys is 59. Rock musician Charlie Colin is 57. Actor Nicholas Rowe is 57. Actor Mark Ruffalo is 56. International Tennis Hall of Famer Boris Becker is 56. Actor Sidse (SIH’-sa) Babett Knudsen is 55. Country musician Chris Fryar (Zac Brown Band) is 53. Actor Josh Cooke is 44. Actor-singer Tyler Hilton is 40. Actor Scarlett Johansson is 39. Actor Jamie Campbell Bower is 35. Singer Candice Glover (TV: “American Idol”) is 34. Actor Alden Ehrenreich is 34. Actor Dacre Montgomery is 29. Actor Mackenzie Lintz is 27.