

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, August 23, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 059 ~ 1 of 92

- [1- Upcoming Events](#)
- [2- 1440 Headline News](#)
- [4- We the People: Does Impeachment Clause Deter the Supreme Court from Misbehavior?](#)
- [5- Football Coaches Interviewed on GDILIVE](#)
- [6- Weber retires from education after 35 years](#)
- [7- Boys golf takes third at Milbank](#)
- [8- City Council discusses work at Groton Community Center](#)
- [9- Names Released in Lyman County Fatal Motorcycle Crash](#)
- [9- Fall River County Fatal Crash](#)
- [10- Brule County Fatal Crash](#)
- [11- The SHED Groundbreaking Ceremony](#)
- [12- SD News Watch: Tourism targets next generation of rally-goers](#)
- [16- SD SearchLight: Court ruling complicates carbon pipeline company's push for land](#)
- [18- SD SearchLight: Senator seeks updated formula for tribal law enforcement funding](#)
- [19- SD SearchLight: Noem appoints Joe Fiala to lead economic development office](#)
- [20- SD SearchLight: FDA greenlights new COVID vaccine after a summer of rising numbers of cases](#)
- [21- SD SearchLight: A former high school football coach rises to running mate as Walz accepts VP nomination](#)
- [23- SD SearchLight: 'Let's fight for it': Harris vows to chart a new way forward, defeat Trump](#)
- [27- Weather Pages](#)
- [31- Daily Devotional](#)
- [32- Subscription Form](#)
- [33- Lottery Numbers](#)
- [34- Upcoming Groton Events](#)
- [35- News from the Associated Press](#)

## Friday, Aug. 23

Senior Menu: BBQ riblet on bun, scalloped potatoes, tomato spoon salad, watermelon, cookie.  
School Breakfast: Pancake on a stick.  
School Lunch: French bread pizza, green beans.  
Soccer at Belle Fourche. Girls at 5 p.m., Boys at 7 p.m.

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



## Saturday, Aug. 24

Common Cents Community Thrift Store, 209 N Main, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Catholic: SEAS Confession, 3:45-4:15 p.m.; SEAS Mass, 4:30 p.m.  
Soccer at St. Thomas More: Girls at 11 a.m., Boys at 1 p.m.

## Sunday, Aug. 25

St. John's Lutheran: Worship at St. John's, 9 a.m., and at Zion, 11 a.m.  
Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship, 9 a.m.  
United Methodist: Worship at Conde, 8:30 a.m., and at Groton, 10:30 a.m.; coffee hour, 9:30 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.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, August 23, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 059 ~ 2 of 92

# 1440

**Why 1440? The printing press was invented around the year 1440, spreading knowledge to the masses and changing the course of history. More facts: In every day, there are 1,440 minutes. We're here to make each one count.**

## Harris Accepts Nomination

Vice President Kamala Harris formally accepted the Democratic nomination for president yesterday. The public address capped the four-day Democratic National Convention in Chicago, Illinois.

Harris thanked President Joe Biden, who dropped out of the race last month, endorsing Harris as his successor. She discussed her upbringing and history as a prosecutor and evoked the events of January 6, abortion access, and a failed border security bill in criticizing former President Donald Trump. She also pitched herself as an advocate of working families, promising a middle-class tax cut, and reiterated her calls for an Israel-Hamas ceasefire deal and hostage release.

Recent polls suggest Harris has a two-to-three-point lead over Trump nationally, with tight margins between the two in key swing states. Independent candidate Robert F. Kennedy Jr.—recently polling in mid-to-low single digits—is separately expected to end his candidacy and possibly endorse Trump in a speech today in Phoenix, Arizona.

## Canada Railroad Stoppage

Over 9,000 rail workers were locked out of Canada's two major railroads yesterday amid failed contract negotiations with the Teamsters union. The stoppage is expected to cost roughly \$750M per day and potentially disrupt US-Canada trade, 14% of which stems from Canada's rail network. Canada's government announced it would force the parties into arbitration.

Canadian National Railway and Canadian Pacific Kansas City together operate over 40,000 miles of tracks in Canada, the US, and Mexico, transporting 700 million metric tons of cargo annually, representing \$277B in goods. Shipments of metal, grain, and fuel will be stopped, as well as the vital chlorine supply used to sanitize public water. Tens of thousands of passengers will also likely be impacted.

Union representatives are seeking better wages and safer scheduling to manage fatigue (see negotiations timeline). Both sides indicated Thursday they were not close to an agreement.

## Ready for this Jelly

British researchers have trained a hydrogel to play the 1970s computer game Pong, improving over time. The study builds upon earlier research showcasing the ability to conduct a similar experiment using brain matter.

Researchers at the University of Reading placed a piece of water-based gel between two plates of electrodes. They administered electric currents representing the paddle and ball through the gel, training it to extend the length of time the ball was in play. The gel reached its peak "skill" level after 20 minutes.

The study's authors say their findings do not suggest the material is alive but rather that it can exhibit something akin to memory, not unlike the impression a pillow makes on skin. Their findings may also be useful for the development of AI. Machine learning systems are currently modeled after biological processes; this experiment could provide an alternative example after which to model systems like ChatGPT.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, August 23, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 059 ~ 3 of 92

## Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

The 2024 college football season kicks off tomorrow with limited slate of Week 0 games, including No. 10 Florida State taking on Georgia Tech (12 pm ET, ESPN) from Dublin, Ireland.

Megan Thee Stallion tapped to host 2024 MTV Video Music Awards (Sept. 11).

Stephen Nedoroscik, two-time Paris Olympics bronze medalist from the US popularly known as "Pommel Horse Guy," to appear on Season 33 of "Dancing with the Stars".

National Women's Soccer League and the league's players union agree to collective bargaining agreement eliminating players' draft and raising salary cap.

## Science & Technology

Elon Musk-owned Neuralink says second implant into a human was successful; spinal cord injury patient can now reportedly play video games and operate a 3D printer.

Researchers find the Alzheimer's drug donepezil can be used to put tadpoles in a hibernation-like state; discovery may lead to ways to put patients into states of suspended animation during emergencies.

Fasting-feasting cycle triggers stem cells to repair intestinal damage but also increases the risk of pre-cancerous growths, dietary study finds.

## Business & Markets

US stock markets close lower (S&P 500 -0.9%, Dow -0.4%, Nasdaq -1.7%); investors await Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell's remarks today.

US existing home sales rise 1.3% month-over-month in July, the first increase in five months; median home price of \$422,600 is up 4.2% from a year ago.

Peloton shares close up 35% after beating estimates and reporting year-over-year quarterly sales growth for first time in nine quarters; results come after Peloton cut 15% of staff and its CEO resigned in May.

Media veteran Edgar Bronfman Jr. reportedly raises bid for Paramount Global takeover to \$6B.

Perplexity to introduce ads to AI-assisted search platform in Q4.

General Motors-owned Cruise to partner with Uber to offer driverless rides in 2025.

## Politics & World Affairs

US Supreme Court partially grants Republican National Committee's request to reinstate Arizona's never-enforced 2022 law requiring proof of citizenship for registering to vote.

Body of British tech mogul Mike Lynch recovered, fifth body found from luxury superyacht that sank earlier this week off the coast of Sicily; Lynch's 18-year-old daughter still missing.

Venezuela's top court certifies President Nicolás Maduro's disputed election victory amid allegations of voter fraud; court decision cannot be appealed.

We the People

The South Dakota Humanities Council is making available a weekly column -- "We the People" -- that focuses on the U.S. Constitution. It is written by David Adler, who is president of The Alturas Institute, a non-profit organization created to promote the Constitution, gender equality, and civic education.



By David Adler

## Does Impeachment Clause Deter the Supreme Court from Misbehavior?

Is the threat of impeachment sufficient to deter Supreme Court Justices from abusing power or engaging in other acts of misbehavior that would warrant their removal from the nation's High Bench? The Framers of the Constitution thought so, as Alexander Hamilton explained, but many Americans across our nation doubt the premise. Consequently, they have become advocates for Supreme Court reform. Some lobby for an enforceable ethics code, some seek term limits for the Justices, and some argue for an expansion of the size of the Court, primarily to temper its present direction. Others assert the need for all three reforms.

What was it about impeachment that instilled in the minds of delegates to the Constitutional Convention that suggested its availability would constrain the Justices' behavior? In general, Hamilton explained, the eyes and judgment of the nation would be fixed on those subject to impeachment. Ambition, success and fame--"one's public reputation and existence"--were vitally important to the founders, and the moral opprobrium, embarrassment and indignity of impeachment proceedings, including possible removal from office, would impose discipline on the Justices if their own compass failed them. Impeachment of judges, those in society, as George Washington observed, perceived by the American citizenry to be among the sturdiest and upright among us, carried a particularly harsh stigma, sufficient to ruin careers.

Article II of the Constitution provides for the impeachment of the President, Vice-President and all "civil officers," which was added by drafters of the Constitution to include judges, for treason, bribery and high crimes and misdemeanors. Article III provides an additional standard for judges--tenure on the bench during "good behavior." That standard, which in English legal history dates to the early 14th Century and the reign of King Edward III, has been understood across the centuries to require behavior in accord with the terms and expectations of the office. "Good behavior" was an important criterion for judicial tenure. Obviously, the Framers did not intend that a judge who behaved badly and thus violated the condition of his tenure should remain on the bench. Maintaining a "misbehaving" judge in power would be self-defeating. Chief Justice Thomas McKean told his colleagues at the Pennsylvania Ratifying Convention that "judges may continue for life, if they shall so long behave themselves well." Hamilton, in Federalist No. 65 agreed, and said that "good behavior" was copied from the English model.

Because there are no dead words in the Constitution, as the Court has said since *Marbury v. Madison* (1803), and because, as James Madison explained in Federalist No. 44, that "there is no axiom more clearly established than that wherever the end is required, the means are authorized," it is incumbent on Congress to impeach and remove judges engaged in serious misbehavior. Good behavior is a broader standard than high crimes and misdemeanors, and we are entitled to wonder what conduct would violate that principle. The exercise of judicial review itself, as James Wilson and other founders stated, does not breach the standard, for the declaration that a statute is unconstitutional is part and parcel of the judicial power wielded by the federal judiciary.

Misbehavior that would meet the standard can be glimpsed in two illuminating 20th Century impeachment trials, among the roughly 20 occasions in our history when federal judges have been impeached and removed from the bench. Readers will find this instructive.

In 1936, District Judge Halsted Ritter was convicted by the Senate in his impeachment trial for bringing his court "into scandal and disrepute," in part because he accepted substantial gifts from wealthy



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, August 23, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 059 ~ 5 of 92

residents of his district, even though they had no cases pending before him. The Senate stated that his acts undermined "public confidence in the administration of justice" in his own court, "and to the prejudice of public respect and confidence in the Federal Judiciary." In 1912, Judge Robert W. Archbald was impeached and convicted by the Senate on the charge of speculating in coal properties while serving on the U.S. Commerce Court

The impeachment and removal of these judges for infractions of "good behavior," for misconduct outside the courtroom, the Senate concluded, brought disgrace upon judiciary and undercut public confidence in the fair-mindedness and objectivity of the courts. The offenses were easily avoidable. Judge Ritter, for example, could have rejected gifts from wealthy citizens in the name of protecting the reputation of the judiciary.

*David Adler is president of The Alturas Institute, a non-profit organization created to promote the Constitution, gender equality and civic education. This column is made possible with the support of the South Dakota Humanities Council, South Dakota NewsMedia Association and this newspaper.*



View the interview with Groton Area Coaches Shaun Wanner and Michael Alberts on [GDILIVE.COM](http://GDILIVE.COM) - of course, it's free to watch for GDI subscribers. Look for the link on the black bar.

## Weber retires from education after 35 years

by Dorene Nelson

Kim Weber, the Out of School Time (OST) coordinator and special education para, is retiring after having worked at the elementary school for almost ten years. "Before being hired by the school, I owned a private preschool and daycare in Groton," Weber stated.

"I have two majors, one in elementary education and another in special education. I also have a minor in early childhood," she listed. "I received all of my degrees from Northern State University."

"I started Teddy Bear Day Care and Preschool in 1989 and enjoyed teaching both of my own children as well as all four of my grandchildren," she smiled.

"I had an addition added to the existing building so that I could also include a preschool at Teddy Bear," Weber explained. "I taught the preschool and thankfully had some amazing and excellent helpers at the day care."

"Sandy Tullis, Chairty Hinman, Michelle Fordham, Deb Olson, and Brittney Luttrell were five of my main daycare staff. These individuals handled the daycare work since I was busy teaching preschool," she stated. "We were open from 7 A.M. to 6 P.M. with many children attending our State licensed center every day."

"There were three groups altogether at Teddy Bear. Group one was on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings; group two was only on Tuesday and Thursday mornings; and group three included Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday afternoons," Weber said.

"I owned and operated this facility until 2014 when I accepted the position here," she explained. "I have loved doing my job at the school and will really miss all of the children, their families, and the staff members that I've gotten to know so well in the past several years."

"I feel very privileged to have become acquainted with so many people, and becoming good friends with many of them has been a real blessing in my life," Weber admitted.

In addition to her work for the school, Kim also started the Sugar Babes, Sweet Sensations, and Spice Girls dance groups. They have performed at many area sporting events over the years.

"My retirement plans hopefully include some traveling to see family and friends, some subbing here at the elementary school, and having more time with my family," Weber smiled.



**Kim Weber**



**Golfing at the Milbank Invitational were Jarrett Erdmann, Carter Simon, Logan Pearson, Becker Bosma, Jace Johnson and Brevin Flihs.** (Courtesy Photo)

## **Boys golf takes third at Milbank**

The Groton Area boys golf team placed third at the Milbank Invitational Meet held Thursday.

Watertown took first with a 337 followed by Aberdeen Roncalli with a 339, Groton Area was third at 345, Sioux Valley fourth at 349, Milbank fifth. With a 355, Aberdeen Central was sixth with a 400 and Sisseton was seventh with a 408. Redfield had in incomplete team.

Brevin Flihs placed fifth with an 83, Jace Johnson was sixth with an 83, Carter Simon was 15th with an 89, Logan Pearson was 16th with a 90, Becker Bosma was 27th with a 96 and Jarrett Erdmann was 28th with a 97.

## City Council discusses work at Groton Community Center

by Elizabeth Varin

Repairs and possibly a facelift may be coming for the Groton Community Center.

At Tuesday's meeting, the City Council discussed various issues at the building, including water damage, a leaking roof, broken concrete, missing gutters and a possible snake infestation.

The council reviewed photos, beginning with overgrown landscaping near the sign on the northwest end of the parking lot. That was followed by discussion of a missing gutter, a potential roofing project and a snake issue.

Volunteers at The Pantry have found snakes inside, said Finance Officer Douglas Heinrich. He pointed to an image of a broken gutter, saying that could be part of that problem.

Heinrich continued going through issues at the Community Center, including wooden stairs on the south side of the building looking like they could break, water damage in some areas of the ceiling and a huge leak by the double doors inside that had to be fixed last year. There is even a spot where someone had painted the wall, but hadn't moved a bookcase, so two different colors are on the wall, he said.

"When is the last time we've given it some good TLC?" asked Mayor Scott Hanlon.

Heinrich continued listing issues, including a sink in the maintenance room that has breaks in it, tables that need to be replaced and concrete issues around the building.

A contractor was going to be brought in to handle some of the roof issues, but Councilwoman Karyn Babcock asked that the insurance company be contacted first to make sure some of the damage wasn't caused by hail last year.

"I wouldn't do any of this before you call the insurance company," she said.

She added, they should also look at other city structures, including the warming house and park shelter.

Some additional damage may have been seen at Tuesday's meeting itself. As Heinrich was showing photos of water damage areas, a drop fell on him, showing there may be some water leaking at City Hall as well.

- Local farmer Mark Abeln asked the city to reach out to a contractor who dug up an area of his property for a water line last year as there is sitting water where there wasn't any before. Ken Hier with IMEG said "We can look at it. I can visit with the contractor. It's probably past the warranty date. Sometimes they're good on it. Sometimes they're not." Councilman Jon Cutler added, "Regardless of what Dahme (the contractor) says, it should be made right."

- The council had a second reading of Ordinance 778, dealing with calculating liquor sale tax. The change would put the responsibility for reviewing liquor purchases back on the license holders, not city staff, said Finance Officer Douglas Heinrich.

- The council voted to pay \$700 for labor at the soccer field concession stand that recently was renovated. The council approved \$500 for Jim Lane, \$100 for CJ Lane and \$100 for Steve Rosendahl. Though the hours put in were listed as volunteer hours, the council indicated wanting to pay the three contractors for their time and work put into the building.



## Names Released in Lyman County Fatal Motorcycle Crash

What: Two vehicle fatal crash  
Where: SD Highway 248, mile marker 238, Presho, SD  
When: 2:01 p.m., Monday, August 19, 2024

Vehicle 1: 2023 Harley Davidson motorcycle  
Driver 1: Scott Allan Kashuba, 59-year-old male from Killbuck, OH, fatal injuries  
Helmet Use: Yes

Vehicle 2: 2016 Dodge Ram 1500  
Driver 2: Robert Matthew Lintvedt, 39-year-old male from Presho, SD, no injuries  
Seatbelt Use: Yes

Lyman County, S.D.- A 59-year-old Ohio man died in a two-vehicle motorcycle crash early Monday afternoon in Presho, SD.

Preliminary crash information indicates Scott A. Kashuba, the driver of a 2023 Harley Davidson motorcycle, had exited Interstate 90 and continued northbound on 305th Avenue, where he failed to stop at the stop sign at the intersection of SD Highway 248. As Kashuba entered the intersection, he collided with Robert M. Lintvedt, the driver of a 2016 Dodge Ram, who was traveling westbound on SD 248. The motorcycle entered into a yaw and proceeded into the north ditch where it rolled and Kashuba was separated from the motorcycle. He was wearing a helmet.

Kashuba was transported to a nearby hospital where he was pronounced deceased. The driver of the Dodge truck did not have any injuries.

## Fall River County Fatal Crash

What: Single vehicle fatal crash  
Where: 27697 W. Oral Road, two miles west of Oral, SD  
When: 6:09 p.m., Wednesday, August 21, 2024

Vehicle 1: 2004 Harley Davidson Softail  
Driver 1: 65-year-old male, fatal injuries  
Helmet Use: No

Fall River County, S.D.- A 65-year-old man died in a single motorcycle crash Wednesday evening near Oral, SD.

The name of the person involved has not been released pending notification of family members.

Preliminary crash information indicates the driver of a 2004 Harley Davidson Softail was traveling east on West Oral Road. The motorcycle left the roadway and traveled through the ditch, separating the driver from the motorcycle. The driver sustained fatal injuries from the crash.

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

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

## Brule County Fatal Crash

What: Two vehicle fatal crash

Where: Interstate 90, mile marker 272, one mile southwest of Pukwana, SD

When: 11:40 a.m., Wednesday, August 21, 2024

Vehicle 1: 2007 Ford Mustang

Driver 1: 57-year-old female, no injuries

Seatbelt Use: No

Vehicle 2: 1997 Ford F150

Driver 2: 64-year-old male, fatal injuries

Seatbelt Use: No

Brule County, S.D.- A 64-year-old man died in a two-vehicle crash Wednesday morning near Pukwana, SD.

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

Preliminary crash information indicates the drivers of a 2007 Ford Mustang and a 1997 Ford F150 were traveling westbound on Interstate 90 near mile marker 272. The driver of the Mustang collided with the rear of the F150, causing the driver of the F150 to lose control. The truck entered the north side ditch where it rolled, ejecting the driver. The driver of the Mustang also lost control and entered the north side ditch.

The driver of the F150 was transported to a nearby hospital where he was pronounced deceased. The driver of the Mustang was uninjured. Both drivers were not wearing seatbelts.

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

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

## The SHED Groundbreaking Ceremony

HURON, S.D. – The South Dakota State Fair will host a groundbreaking ceremony for The SHED on Thursday, August 29, 2024, at 2:00 PM. The ceremony will occur near the 4-H Beef Exhibits Building on the South Dakota State Fairgrounds.

This project is a perfect example of what is so great about South Dakota," said Governor Kristi Noem. "It took vision and support from the state, the local community, and stakeholders from across South Dakota to get this project to construction. The SHED will help the State Fair grow and will boost opportunities for our kids and grandkids to get involved in agriculture for years to come."



The SHED will be the new home for Open Class Sheep during the annual State Fair and will serve as a multi-use facility for other livestock and equine events during the non-fair time and will foster further development and growth of our state's future leaders in the agriculture industry. The facility, covered by an acre of rooftop, will include a show arena, space for up to 1,000 sheep, an educational center, bleachers, concrete flooring, and restrooms. The indoor educational center will provide a place for interactive learning about the sheep industry, opportunities in agriculture, and our state's rich agricultural history.

The event is open to the public (state fair gate admission required).

The 2024 South Dakota State Fair kicks off on Channel Seeds Opening Day, Wednesday, August 28, and runs through Monday, September 2. For more information on State Fair events, contact the Fair office at 800-529-0900, visit [www.sdstatefair.com](http://www.sdstatefair.com), or find them on Facebook, Instagram, and X.



## Tourism targets next generation of rally-goers

NEMO, S.D. – South Dakota tourism continues an upward trajectory, even as the largest annual tourist event seeks younger attendees to ensure its future.

The state broke an all-time record last year with 14.7 million total visitors. Those visitors spent \$4.96 billion, marking a nearly 5% increase from the previous year and breaking another record.

The annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally regularly accounts for hundreds of thousands of visitors on its own. That reliable annual boost makes the rally's continued success a priority for local and state entities.

### **Biker breakfast funds first responders**

A winding highway through Vanocker Canyon leads to a small Black Hills town called Nemo. The twisting roads invite thousands of bikers a year during the annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally to pass through.

Jerry and Patsy Hood have made the most of the reliable traffic. For more than 20 years, they've hosted a biker breakfast during the rally: \$13 dollars for an all-you-can-eat meal. The proceeds go to the Nemo Volunteer Fire Department, where Jerry Hood served as long-time fire chief.

The Hoods estimate they raised \$25,000 dollars in 10 days last year. And that's a slower year than usual because it rained the first few days of the 2023 rally.

"This is actually our biggest fundraiser," said Patsy Hood. "Probably two-thirds to three-fourths of our budget is raised during this time. We get very little help from the state or from the counties because we're not a tax district. So we've continued to use the biker breakfast as our main fund drive."

Jerry organizes the feed – working with food vendors, ensuring portable toilets are available, corralling volunteers.

"We got volunteers from the community to do the serving so the fire department can do the cooking and also be able to go on calls," he said. "Because we usually average three to six calls during that week. Wrecks, emergency illness, or whatever."

The Hoods said the breakfast has become its own tradition for some rally-goers. They see many of the same patrons year after year. Patsy Hood said they don't have to advertise much. Rally traffic and word-of-mouth lead to crowds of hungry visitors year after year, sometimes with lines winding across their property. The 75th Sturgis Motorcycle Rally in 2015 was one of their largest crowds.

"They must have had an-hour-and-a-half to two hours in the sun," Patsy remembered. "And they waited. That tells me that we're doing something right."

It will take time to tally the totals from this year's rally, but during the first morning of serving breakfasts, Patsy Hood said multiple people had paid for a couple \$13 breakfasts with hundred dollar bills. The rest is a donation to the Nemo VFD.



**Downtown Sturgis, S.D., welcomes thousands of motorcycles during the 84th Annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally on Aug. 3, 2024.** (Photo: Krystal Schoenbauer/ South Dakota Public Broadcasting)



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, August 23, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 059 ~ 13 of 92



**Jerry and Patsy Hood in Nemo, S.D., on July 18, 2024. They typically serve a few thousand people during their annual biker breakfast, which capitalizes on the increased traffic during the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally.** (Photo: Krystal Schoenbauer / South Dakota Public Broadcasting)

Broadcasting)

"Places around Nemo – a lot of 'em benefit from the rally," Jerry Hood said.

The Sturgis Motorcycle Rally is the largest single tourism event in the state. A 2022 study from Texas A&M University determined it resulted in \$784 million in economic impact in South Dakota. Unlike the Nemo VFD's biker breakfast, plenty of marketing strategies are dedicated to maintaining that economic impact for decades to come.

## **The 'OG' rally and the next generation**

The same 2022 Texas A&M University study of the rally's economic impact also found the average attendee is 50 years old, with 60% of respondents identifying as male.

Data from the Black Hills and Badlands Tourism Association found in the 2023 Post-Rally Summit shows the overwhelming majority of last year's attendees were white, with 37% between the ages of 45 and 64.

However, Deb Holland, the director of communication and outreach for the City of Sturgis, said attendance for the 25-44-year-old age group increased by 3% between 2022 and 2023. Rally organizers hope new events like this year's inaugural Sturgis TT street race attract new and more affordable motorcycle manufacturers to the rally – with younger potential bikers to follow.

"My son is 35, and it's tough for him to afford a new Harley, but he might be able to get in on a different bike," said Holland. She believes the street race – in partnership with the American Motorcycle Association (AMA) and American Flat Track Racing – will also help keep rally-goers in town for the second official weekend, when crowds tend to wane.

"It's catering to that new audience, and I think that race will bring a new audience," she said. "If you're not changing and improving, you're dying."

The South Dakota Department of Tourism is also eyeing younger potential rally-goers. It recently launched its "OG HD" campaign highlighting the live music and party atmosphere of the rally. South Dakota Secretary of Tourism Jim Hagen said the campaign is intentionally broad.

The Department of Tourism's "OG HD campaign" highlights the live entertainment aspects of the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally.

"Whether you're a biker or a non-biker, whether you ride a Harley or an Indian Motorcycle, whether you're male, female, red, yellow, black, white – it doesn't matter," he said in an interview with "South Dakota Focus" last month. "We're really trying to diversify this audience and showcase other aspects of the rally that are fun. You may not ride a motorcycle, but from concerts to doing your own scenic drives in a car, whatever. There's just so much to experience."

Hagen acknowledged the need to build a younger base for the rally but is optimistic that shift is already in progress.

"With the campaigns that we've run the last two years now, 97% of advanced bookings that we see are from people 49 years old and younger," he said. "So, really starting to trend to a younger audience, which

is great because we want to build that next generation of bikers and the excitement. And listen, there is no better place on the planet to ride a motorcycle than this state.”

## **Tourism: 'The front door of economic development'**

Hagen has served the last four South Dakota governors, including as the Department of Tourism and Economic Development secretary during the Rounds administration.

After a few years in the private sector, Hagen was appointed as secretary of the Department of Tourism by Gov. Dennis Daugaard in 2011. Since then, Hagen has led the department through multiple record-breaking years for visitation, but that's not necessarily his focus.

“It's a feather in your cap to say, 'Oh yeah, we set another record this year.' To us, it's more about the economic impact we're having,” he said. “I think about the 58,000 South Dakotans who are either employed directly or indirectly because of tourism. Tourism is creating \$2.2 billion in household income for those South Dakotans. Those are families who are out spending at our local stores, grocery stores, buying new cars, paying mortgages, those sorts of things. That is really what drives us.”

Hagen said the statewide impact of the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally can sometimes be lost on residents in other areas.

“We've got bikers coming in from every corner of this state – down in the southeast, northeast, central South Dakota. They're coming in from all different state highways and county highways, our major interstates. And we have communities throughout the state, whether it be a Sioux Falls, a Yankton, a Mitchell – others that were actually creating events to welcome those bikers.”

That's partly why the Department of Tourism launched the Rally Rush program this year. It's based on the success of the “Rooster Rush” program that welcomes pheasant hunters to communities around the state for pheasant hunting season.

Hagen said 35 communities around the state participated in the inaugural contest – with some financial support from the Department of Tourism – highlighting local hospitality and other attractions for bikers on their way to the rally. The tourism department will bestow one of the participants with the Rally Rush Rumbling Community of the Year award at the Governor's Tourism Conference in January.

Back in small town Nemo, the financial impact of the rally lingers long after the rumble of motorcycles has faded away. Patsy and Jerry Hood like the quiet of their small Black Hills town, but they understand the necessity of the tourism industry in preserving that way of life.

“If we didn't have tourism at Nemo, the Guest Ranch wouldn't be here. The Mercantile couldn't make it,” Patsy said, looking just up the road at the local businesses. “Without the word getting out about a beautiful place to visit, this place would be a ghost town.”

Hagen knows all too well how his industry supports local economies, and how it can even turn visitors into full-time residents.



**Not long into the first morning of this year's biker breakfast on Aug. 2, 2024, in Nemo, S.D., the tip jar benefiting the Nemo Volunteer Fire Department was full.** (Photo:

Jackie Hendry / South Dakota Public Broadcasting)

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, August 23, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 059 ~ 15 of 92

"We call tourism the front door to economic development," he said. "We inspire them to get to the state to experience all that makes us so special, and then we open that front door and let them walk through and dream about what could be."

### How to watch 'South Dakota Focus'

The next episode of "South Dakota Focus" airs on Thursday, Aug. 29, at 8 p.m. Central time / 7 p.m. Mountain time. It can be viewed on SDPB-TV 1, Facebook, YouTube and SD.net

The episode includes:

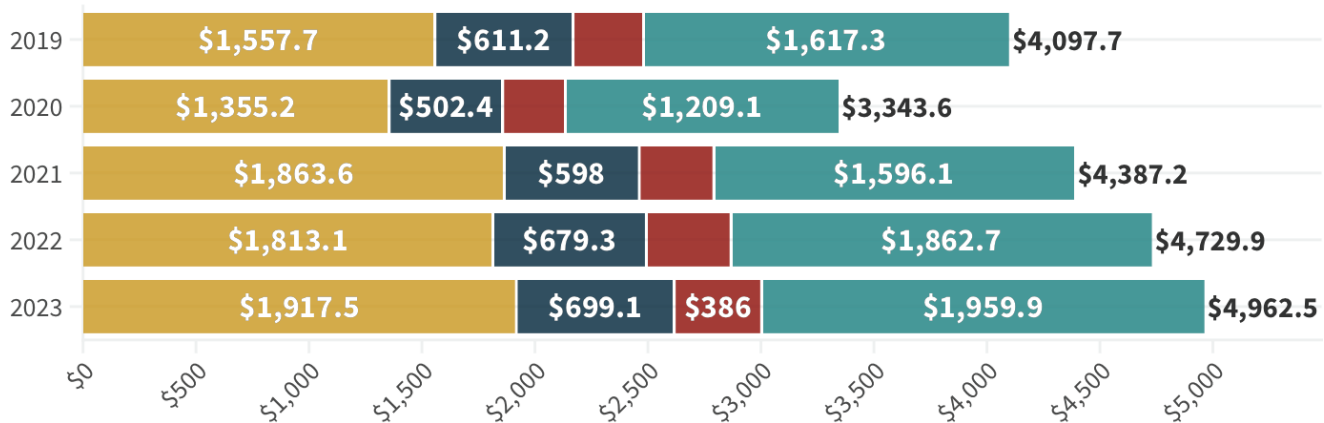
- A group of friends from Minnesota that has been attending the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally for 30 years and counting.
- Advocates for Missing and Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP) raise funds and awareness with the Medicine Wheel Ride.
- The financial impact of the rally on Sturgis and surrounding communities like Nemo, S.D.

Editor's note: This story is part of a series that Jackie Hendry, host and producer of South Dakota Public Broadcasting's "South Dakota Focus," will write to preview the upcoming show on South Dakota News Watch, an independent, nonprofit news organization. Read more in-depth stories at [sdnewswatch.org](http://sdnewswatch.org) and sign up for an email every few days to get stories as soon as they're published. Contact us at [info@sdnewswatch.org](mailto:info@sdnewswatch.org).

## Sturgis Rally tourism spending by region in South Dakota



■ Black Hills/Badlands ■ Glacial Lakes/Prairies ■ Missouri River ■ Southeast



Source: Tourism Economics • Graphic by Michael Klinski / South Dakota News Watch

Note: Numbers in millions; Missouri River includes counties bordering the Missouri River; Glacial Lakes/Prairies covers northeastern S.D.





## SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

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### **Court ruling complicates carbon pipeline company's push for land Justices send matter back to lower courts, saying Summit hasn't proven it's a common carrier**

**BY: JOSHUA HAIAR - AUGUST 22, 2024 4:32 PM**



**Brian Jorde, a lawyer for landowners, argues a carbon pipeline case before the South Dakota Supreme Court on March 19, 2024.** (Dave Bordewyk/South Dakota NewsMedia Association)

Association)

The company trying to build a carbon-capture pipeline through South Dakota has not yet proven it should be allowed to take private land for public use, according to a state Supreme Court ruling issued Thursday.

Landowners who oppose the project hailed the decision as a victory, but the company expressed confidence it could go back to lower courts and prove its case.

Summit Carbon Solutions, of Iowa, is developing an \$8 billion pipeline project. It would capture carbon dioxide produced by 57 ethanol plants in multiple states and transport it to an underground storage site in North Dakota. The company hopes to capitalize on federal tax credits incentivizing the removal of heat-trapping carbon from the atmosphere.

The pipeline would pass through 18 counties in eastern South Dakota. Some landowners along the route sued to stop the company from conducting land surveys.

### **Court decision explained**

Summit says the surveys are justified because the company qualifies as a common carrier, and common carriers are allowed to use eminent domain.

A common carrier transports goods for the general public in exchange for a fee, such as electricity in a transmission line or oil in a pipeline. Common carriers are allowed to use eminent domain to gain land access from unwilling landowners, by going to court and asking a judge to determine fair payments.

The state Supreme Court ruled Summit had not yet proven to lower courts that it's "holding itself out to the general public as transporting a commodity for hire."

"It is thus premature to conclude that SCS is a common carrier, especially where the record before us suggests that CO2 is being shipped and sequestered underground with no apparent productive use," the court ruled.

The Supreme Court sent the matter back to South Dakota's lower courts for further proceedings, adding that the Supreme Court justices "make no judgment as to SCS's ultimate common carrier status."



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, August 23, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 059 ~ 17 of 92

## Summit pledges to continue

Summit spokesperson Sabrina Zenor said in a statement that the company is confident it can provide additional information to lower courts proving its project qualifies as a common carrier.

"The economic impact of carbon capture, utilization, and storage on rural America is significant, and will greatly benefit agriculture and farmers," Zenor said. "We are committed to ensuring that these benefits reach communities across our project footprint as we continue to be a valuable partner in this growing market."

Meanwhile, attorney Brian Jorde, representing more than 1,000 landowners affected by the project, told South Dakota Searchlight the ruling validated what he and his clients have argued for three years.

The project has approval from the Iowa Utilities Board, but that approval is conditioned on Summit gaining permits in North Dakota and South Dakota, which have not been granted. Jorde said the South Dakota Supreme Court decision means Summit is now "in a real bind."

Jorde also alleged broader implications for Summit's business model. He said the company might try to bolster its argument for being a common carrier by citing the possibility that carbon dioxide could be used for enhanced oil recovery. In that process, carbon dioxide is injected into aging oil wells to make crude oil less thick, help it flow better, and cause it to expand toward wells.

Jorde said that would undermine the project's purported benefits for the climate.

"So, what they're now going to do is say they're going to take that carbon and then produce more carbon-intensive fuels," he said. "This is just total nonsense, this whole project."

## Lawmakers claim vindication

Multiple legislative attempts to ban the use of eminent domain for carbon pipelines failed during the past two legislative sessions in Pierre.

One of the lawmakers who supported those bills, Rep. Karla Lems, R-Canton, said the Supreme Court decision is vindication.

"The same arguments that were offered on the House floor are now upheld by the Supreme Court," she said.

House Majority Leader Will Mortenson, R-Fort Pierre, helped to pass legislation last winter that provides additional financial and legal protections for affected local governments and landowners while retaining the ability of pipeline companies to seek a state permit.

Opponent lawmakers and landowners have since filed petition signatures to refer that legislation to voters in the Nov. 5 general election.

Mortenson said he also feels vindicated after saying last year that carbon sequestration pipelines aren't common carriers, aren't carrying commodities, and should not have the ability to use eminent domain.

"For the last two years, I've argued that the carbon pipeline is different from other pipelines and should be treated differently," he said. "They haven't yet proven they are a common carrier, or that carbon dumped in the ground is a commodity. Maybe they can prove that in the future, but with what we know now, they don't have eminent domain authority and never have."

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

## Senator seeks updated formula for tribal law enforcement funding

**Rounds says current formula is 'failing Great Plains reservation communities'**

BY: SETH TUPPER - AUGUST 22, 2024 6:48 PM

A week after attending a roundtable with the nation's top law enforcement official and tribal leaders, U.S. Sen. Mike Rounds, R-South Dakota, is urging the head of a federal department to change the funding formula for tribal law enforcement.

The U.S. Interior Department includes the Bureau of Indian Affairs, which provides policing services for some tribes and funding for other tribes to run their own police departments. Federal support for tribal public safety on reservations in South Dakota is required under the terms of treaties that date to the 1800s.

Rounds' office said Thursday that he sent a letter to Interior Department Secretary Deb Haaland, a member of the Pueblo and Laguna Tribes in New Mexico.

"The funding formula for tribal law enforcement programs is failing Great Plains reservation communities," Rounds wrote.

He said tribal leaders on the Great Plains have reported an increase in violent and drug-related crimes.

Rounds said the current formula for tribal law enforcement funding has only allowed Great Plains tribal law enforcement agencies to receive slight funding increases. The Crow Creek Sioux Tribe received \$1.3 million in law enforcement funding about a decade ago and is funded at the same level today, according to Rounds.

The letter does not propose a specific methodology for modernizing the funding formula but says it should be designed to "deliver appropriated funding to areas with the greatest need."

The BIA's Office of Public Affairs declined to comment on Rounds' letter, saying it does not communicate with members of Congress through the media.

The most recent edition of a congressionally required BIA report says the agency's total spending on tribal law enforcement in 2021 was \$256 million, but the total estimated need was \$1.7 billion. When detention, corrections and tribal courts are also considered, the report says, "Overall, Indian Country BIA public safety and justice is funded at just under 13% of total need."

Public safety funding was a focus last week when Rounds attended a roundtable discussion in Wagner with representatives of all nine tribes in South Dakota and U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland. The



**U.S. Sen. Mike Rounds (center) and leaders from the nine tribal nations within South Dakota speak to the media after a public safety roundtable with U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland (not pictured) on Aug. 14, 2024, in Wagner. With Rounds, from left, are Cheyenne River Chairman Ryan LeBeau, Lower Brule Chairman Clyde Estes, Sisseton Wahpeton Secretary Curtis Bissonette, Wayne Boyd of Rosebud Sioux Tribe, Yankton Chairman Robert Flying Hawk, Oglala President Frank Star Comes out and Crow Creek Chairman Peter Lengkeek.** (Makenzie Huber/South Dakota Searchlight)

U.S. attorneys who work for Garland's Department of Justice prosecute major crimes on reservations.

"I well recognize that our department cannot provide the full level of law enforcement assistance and officers that you need on the reservations, and that BIA needs more money for that purpose," Garland told tribal leaders at the meeting.

Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Chairwoman Janet Alkire was in attendance and said some tribes are dealing with severe public safety problems on a daily basis.

"Until we have adequate law enforcement and public safety, our people are always going to live in fear," Alkire said.

Prior to Garland's visit, public safety on reservations had already been a topic of debate in South Dakota.

Republican Gov. Kristi Noem gave a speech in January claiming that Mexican drug cartels are operating on reservations, and she's repeated those claims many times since, even though law enforcement officials say drugs originating from cartels are a statewide and national problem. Those and other comments by Noem led leaders of all nine tribes in the state to vote in support of banning her from their reservations.

Meanwhile, to address tribal police recruitment and retention problems, Noem worked with Republican South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley to develop a state-run law enforcement training course for tribal recruits, so they don't have to travel to a BIA training center in New Mexico. Rounds has asked the BIA to consider opening a federal tribal law enforcement center in South Dakota.

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

## Noem appoints Joe Fiala to lead economic development office

BY: MAKENZIE HUBER - AUGUST 22, 2024 11:28 AM



**Joe Fiala, partner relations director for the Governor's Office of Economic Development, speaks Sept. 21, 2023, at an Early Learner Summit in Brookings.** (Makenzie Huber/

South Dakota Searchlight)

Gov. Kristi Noem appointed longtime economic development official Joe Fiala as the new Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED) commissioner Wednesday.

The department is charged with recruiting, retaining and expanding business within South Dakota, including funding business projects in the state and incentivizing out-of-state businesses to relocate.

"Joe has been a great member of our economic development team for years. He has helped build the strongest jobs market in America, and we'll keep that work going with him as our Commissioner," Noem said in a news release.

GOED came under fire during the last legislative session when the Legislature's Executive Board questioned the department's selection of an agency for Noem's Freedom Works Here workforce recruitment campaign and when lawmakers questioned uses of the Future Fund, which is held by the department and controlled exclusively by the governor.

The commissioner position has been open since February, when then-Commissioner Chris Schilken stepped down to serve as deputy commissioner. The department website currently lists Schilken and Jesse Fonkert as deputy commissioners.

Fiala, who grew up in the southern Black Hills, worked in the software industry before entering economic development in 2007. He joined GOED in 2012 and has since served as a director in research, community development, business development and partner relations, working on projects totaling billions of dollars in capital investment in the state, according to the news release.

Fiala lives in Miller with his wife and two daughters.

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



## FDA greenlights new COVID vaccine after a summer of rising numbers of cases

BY: JENNIFER SHUTT - AUGUST 22, 2024 3:59 PM

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Food and Drug Administration on Thursday approved an updated COVID-19 vaccine intended to address severe symptoms of the virus ahead of the cold and flu season.

The new booster shots from Moderna and Pfizer follow a summer of increasing COVID-19 cases and are designed to better address the variants that are circulating now.

Peter Marks, director of the FDA's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research, said in a written statement that vaccination "continues to be the cornerstone of COVID-19 prevention."

"These updated vaccines meet the agency's rigorous, scientific standards for safety, effectiveness, and manufacturing quality," Marks said. "Given waning immunity of the population from previous exposure to the virus and from prior vaccination, we strongly encourage those who are eligible to consider receiving an updated COVID-19 vaccine to provide better protection against currently circulating variants."

Wastewater surveillance has been steadily increasing since early May and could rise further now that children throughout the country are returning to school.

The number of emergency department visits began increasing in May as well. And while the death rate from COVID-19 steadily decreased during the first half of the year, it began ticking up slightly in June, according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The FDA announcement said that three doses of the updated Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine or two doses of the updated Moderna vaccine are approved for unvaccinated children between six months and 4 years old.

Children between six months and 4 years old who have already received their COVID-19 vaccine are eligible to receive one or two doses of either updated vaccine. The dosing will depend on the timing and number of doses of their previous vaccination.

Children between 5 and 11 years old can receive a single dose of the updated vaccine, regardless of whether they've been previously vaccinated or not. If a child in that age range has been vaccinated against COVID-19, they need to wait at least two months before getting the updated dose.

Anyone over the age of 12 is eligible for a single dose of the updated vaccine if they've been vaccinated previously. They also must wait at least two months after their last vaccination.

Pfizer wrote in a statement that its "vaccine will begin shipping immediately and be available in pharmacies, hospitals, and clinics across the U.S. beginning in the coming days."

Moderna said it expects its updated vaccine "to be in pharmacies and care settings in the coming days."

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



**Registered Nurse Orlyn Grace administers a COVID-19 booster vaccination to Jeanie Merriman at a COVID-19 vaccination clinic on April 6, 2022, in San Rafael, California.** (Justin Sullivan/Getty Images)



## A former high school football coach rises to running mate as Walz accepts VP nomination

Minnesota governor speaks to Democratic National Convention

BY: JACOB FISCHLER - AUGUST 22, 2024 12:43 AM



**The Democratic vice presidential nominee, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, reacts after accepting the vice presidential nomination during the third day of the Democratic National Convention at the United Center on Aug. 21, 2024, in Chicago.** (Joe Raedle/Getty Images)

CHICAGO — Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz accepted the Democratic nomination for vice president Wednesday, showcasing his appeal on the third night of the Democratic National Convention as a candidate who can fuse a middle-class image to a fairly progressive record and effectively attack the Republican alternative.

A native of a small town in Nebraska, Walz is a former high school teacher, coach and Army National Guardsman whom presidential nominee Vice President Kamala Harris chose just a little more than two weeks ago as her running mate.

In his speech to delegates packed into the United Center, an introduction to millions of Americans, Walz made the case that Democrats' policies were the ones more consistent with heartland values than those of Republicans, led by the presidential ticket of former President Donald Trump and

Ohio Sen. J.D. Vance.

"This is a big part about what this election is about: freedom," he said.

Republicans invoke freedom to pass restrictions on reproductive rights, allow corporations to pollute and permit banks to take advantage of customers, he said.

"But when we Democrats talk about freedom, we mean the freedom to make a better life for yourself and the people that you love, to make your own health care decisions, your kids to go to school without worrying about being shot dead," he said.

### Coach Walz

A night after former President Barack Obama attested to Walz's authentic style by lightly mocking his worn flannel shirts, other speakers sought to brandish Walz's image as a stereotypically sensible Upper Midwesterner.

Minnesota's senior Sen. Amy Klobuchar and Benjamin Ingman, a former student and next-door neighbor of Walz's, introduced the vice-presidential candidate.

"Tim Walz is the kind of the guy you can count on to push you out of a snowbank," Ingman said, referring to the neighborly chore of freeing a vehicle stuck after a heavy snow. "I know this because Tim Walz pushed me out of a snowbank."

While Ingman spoke, former members of Walz-coached football teams took the stage, wearing red-and-white Mankato West High School football jerseys.

Klobuchar praised Walz's progressive policy wins as governor — signing laws to guarantee paid leave,

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, August 23, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 059 ~ 22 of 92

provide school meals and cut taxes for families.

She also made note of Walz's folksy appeal and humble background that is unusual at the highest levels of U.S. politics.

"A former football coach knows how to level the playing field," Klobuchar said. "And a former public school teacher knows how to school the likes of J.D. Vance."

## Freedom theme

Walz argued that Democrats sought to expand freedom, a central theme of the Harris campaign, while Republicans worked to limit rights.

He mentioned fertility treatments, which he and his wife, Gwen, used to conceive their two children. After the U.S. Supreme Court repealed the nationwide right to an abortion, some Republicans have also opposed in vitro fertilization, a common fertility treatment. Gwen Walz clarified this week that the Walzes used a different fertility treatment that is not as controversial with anti-abortion advocates.

Still, Walz said the pain of infertility was "hell," and in an emotional moment, he acknowledged Gwen and children Hope and Gus in the crowd, telling them they were his "entire world."

The crowd cheered as the Walz family's emotion-filled faces appeared on the screens in the United Center.

Walz promoted his record as governor, including the free school meals program and an expansion of reproductive rights, and framed them as in line with traditional American values.

"While other states were banning books from their schools, we were banishing hunger from ours," he said. "We also protected reproductive freedom because in Minnesota, we respect our neighbors and the choices they make. Even if we wouldn't make those same choices for ourselves, we've got a golden rule: Mind your own damn business."

## Project 2025

Walz blasted the Republican agenda, including the 900-plus page proposal published by the conservative think tank the Heritage Foundation.

Republicans, including the Trump campaign, have sought to distance themselves from the document, which includes several provisions that Democrats have been eager to criticize.

Walz said it showed Republicans would gut Social Security and Medicare, repeal the popular health care law known as Obamacare and restrict abortion nationwide.

He characterized Republicans as out of touch, extreme and — and he has for weeks — weird.

"It's an agenda that served nobody except the richest and the most extreme amongst us, and it's an agenda that does nothing for our neighbors in need," he said. "Is it weird? Absolutely."

Walz sought to position Democrats as the party of common sense, including on guns.

As a veteran and hunter, Walz was familiar with guns and supportive of gun rights. But he suggested there must be limits that many Republicans do not accept.

"I believe in the Second Amendment," he said. "But I also believe our first responsibility is to keep our kids safe."

## Call to action

As president, he said, Harris would lower middle-class taxes, rein in drug costs and "stand up and fight for your freedom to live the life that you want to lead."

Using another mainstay of his campaign speeches, Walz urged the Democratic delegates in the audience to work tirelessly until Election Day.

Walz's acceptance pumped up the group of Democratic delegates from Minnesota, who stayed for roughly 30 minutes after the program ended on the United Center floor chanting "U-S-A," "Harris-Walz," "Minnesota" and other cheers.

In another ode to his state, musicians John Legend and Sheila E. performed "Let's Go Crazy" by Minnesota native Prince before Walz took the stage.

## Oprah endorsement

Just before the odes to Walz began, TV talk show legend Oprah Winfrey, whose show was broadcast from Chicago for decades, made a surprise appearance on the convention stage.

Winfrey made the case for Harris as a barrier-breaking candidate and a deeply decent person.

Winfrey, who has backed every Democratic presidential candidate since Obama in 2008 but said she remains an independent voter, urged undecided voters to base their votes on the candidates' character.

"Decency and respect are on the ballot in 2024," she said. "And just plain common sense. Common sense tells you that Kamala Harris and Tim Walz can give us decency and respect."

She criticized Republicans under Trump.

"Let us choose loyalty to the Constitution instead of loyalty to a single person," she said

She appealed for an inclusive vision of politics, rejecting Vance's dismissive description of some Democratic voters as "childless cat ladies."

"Despite what some would have you think, we are not so different from our neighbors," she said. "When a house is on fire, we don't ask about the homeowner's race or religion. We don't wonder who their partner is or how they voted, no. We just try to do the best we can to save them. And if the place happens to belong to a childless cat lady, well, we try to get that cat out too."

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

## 'Let's fight for it': Harris vows to chart a new way forward, defeat Trump

**BY: ARIANA FIGUEROA AND JACOB FISCHLER - AUGUST 23, 2024 12:28 AM**

CHICAGO — Vice President Kamala Harris accepted her party's nomination for president Thursday evening, pitching her candidacy as an opportunity for the nation to move forward, rather than accept a dark future she said would follow a second election of her Republican opponent.

Harris on the last night of the Democratic National Convention took advantage of the largest television audience she's likely to have at least until her first debate with Republican nominee Donald Trump next month.

The vice president told her life story to the millions of Americans watching, saying it informed her agenda meant to boost the country's' middle class.

She characterized herself as a lifelong public servant and unifier, in contrast to what she described as Trump's divisive self-centeredness.

"My entire career, I have only had one client: the people," she said. "And so, on behalf of the people, on behalf of every American, regardless of party, race, gender, or the language your grandmother speaks, on behalf of my mother and everyone who has ever set out on their own unlikely journey, ... on behalf of everyone whose story could only be written in the greatest nation on Earth, I accept your nomination for president of the United States of America."

She professed her patriotism several times in her roughly 40-minute address. Near the close, she urged the Democrats in the arena and viewers at home to work for her election on behalf of the country.

"Let's get out there and let's fight for it," she said "Let us write the next great chapter in the most extraordinary story ever told."

Americans across the nation made their assessments. Yvette Young, a lifelong Philadelphia resident and project manager at SEPTA who attended a watch party at a Harris campaign office, said she thought it was an excellent speech and comprehensive.

"She touched on, I think, every issue," Young said. "She wasn't afraid to call Donald Trump out on his



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, August 23, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 059 ~ 24 of 92

nonsense and put into perspective how he has harmed our country.”

## A middle-class childhood

Harris has downplayed the historic nature of her candidacy — she is the first Black and South Asian woman to lead a major party ticket and would be the first woman president of any race — but expanded Thursday on the values her immigrant mother instilled in her.

Her mother, a scientist from India, “was tough, courageous, a trailblazer in the fight for women’s health,” she said.

Harris described her upbringing as middle class, saying she was raised mainly by her mom after her parents divorced. Harris’ father was a Jamaican student who met her mother at a civil rights meeting, Harris said Thursday.

The vice president promised to be a middle-class champion, creating what she called “an opportunity economy” that would unite labor, small businesses and workers. Additionally, she pledged to “end America’s housing shortage,” to lower the cost of everyday needs.

Ahead of the convention, Harris unveiled policy details to stop price gouging, boost the child tax credit, curb rent hikes and help first-time homebuyers.

“We know a strong middle class has always been critical to America’s success,” she said. “And building that middle class will be a defining goal of my presidency. This is personal to me. The middle class is where I come from.”

Her remarks were applauded by another person at the watch party, Lindsay Davis, a Germantown resident and UX designer.

Davis believes that there’s a particular issue that Harris can talk about that can sway undecided voters.

“A lot of the stuff she’s already said about making it easier for first-time homebuyers to buy a house that was, like, huge,” she said. “I think that’s really big for, like, younger people that aren’t boomers, I guess Gen Z, Gen X, Gen whatever, all the Gens.”

## A sense of justice

Harris’s mother also taught her daughters “never to complain about injustice, but to do something about it,” she said, repeating a line former first lady Michelle Obama used throughout a Tuesday speech.

She said the same sense of justice motivated her to become a prosecutor, which she did as the district attorney of San Francisco and attorney general of California before her election to the U.S. Senate in 2016.

As the top lawyer in California, Harris won a \$20 billion settlement for homeowners in the state as part of a nationwide lawsuit against banks over predatory lending during the 2008 financial crisis.

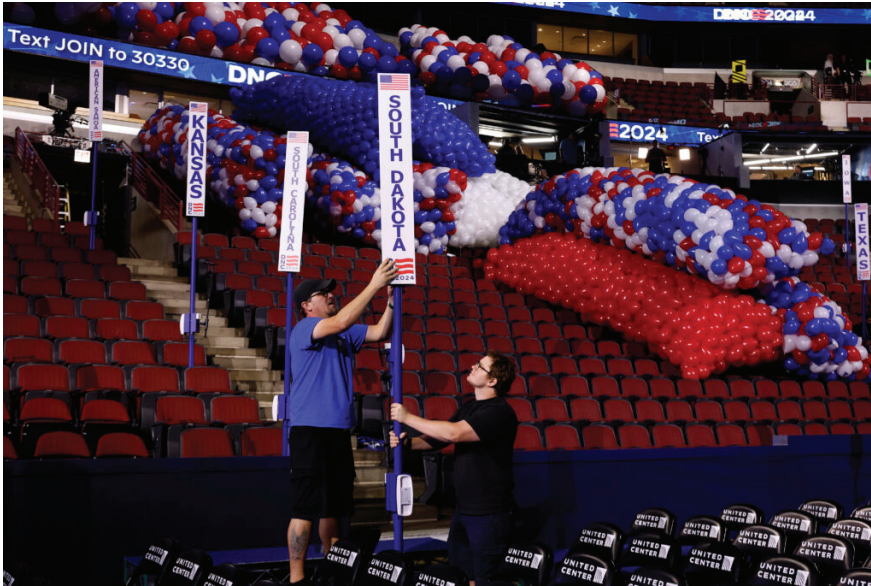


**From left, Second gentleman Doug Emhoff, Democratic presidential nominee and U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris, Democratic vice presidential nominee and Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, and Minnesota first lady Gwen Walz celebrate after Harris accepted the Democratic presidential nomination during the final day of the Democratic National Convention at the United Center on Aug. 22, 2024, in Chicago.** (Chip Somodevilla/Getty Images)



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, August 23, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 059 ~ 25 of 92



**Signs marking states' seating sections are installed and adjusted ahead of the Democratic National Convention at the United Center on Aug. 15, 2024, in Chicago, Illinois.**

(Chip Somodevilla/Getty Images)

"Why is it that they don't trust women?" she asked the packed United Center crowd. "Well, we trust women."

She said if she is elected, and Congress passes a bill restoring the Roe v. Wade abortion decision, she will sign it into law. For that to happen, Democrats would likely need to not only control both chambers, but also have 60 votes in the Senate.

On foreign policy, Harris said Trump wouldn't stand up to dictators, "because he wants to be an autocrat himself."

She described November's election as a "fight for America's future."

The crowd broke out in a chant: "We're not going back."

She also asked the audience to imagine how dangerous Trump would be in office after a July 1 U.S. Supreme Court ruling that said Trump could not be prosecuted for most actions he took in office.

## **Second woman candidate**

Harris addressed a packed crowd in which many women wore white, a nod to the women's suffrage movement.

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who gave a speech Monday, was the first woman to accept the presidential nomination of a major party at the 2016 Democratic National Convention, when she gave her acceptance speech in a white pantsuit.

But Harris dressed head to toe in black.

She took the stage to Beyoncé's "Freedom," a song the campaign has made its anthem. Beyoncé, however, did not appear in person, despite widespread rumors she would show up.

After Harris' speech, what Democratic officials said were 100,000 red, white and blue balloons were released, a convention tradition. Harris and her husband, Doug Emhoff, and her running mate, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz and his wife, Gwen Walz, held hands onstage and acknowledged the cheers of the delegates.

North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper, who was also his state's attorney general at the time, said Thursday in remarks just before Harris spoke that he saw her demand much more than what the banks initially offered.

"America, we've got a lot of big fights ahead of us," he said. "And we've got one hell of a fighter ready to take them on."

## **Trump's 'dark agenda'**

Harris described much of her policy objectives in contrast to her opponent, the former president seeking another term, Trump.

While her administration would work to expand reproductive rights, Trump would further restrict them, she said.

Trump would pursue a nationwide abortion ban "with or without Congress," limit access to birth control and require women to report miscarriages, she said.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, August 23, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 059 ~ 26 of 92

## 'Unexpected' path to nomination

Harris acknowledged her abbreviated path to the nomination, which began just 32 days ago, was highly unusual.

After President Joe Biden dropped his reelection bid and endorsed Harris on July 21, the party quickly coalesced around the vice president.

She racked up the necessary delegates and after a short vetting period tapped Walz. They soon hit the campaign trail in the seven key battleground states – Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin.

Throughout the whirlwind, she has praised Biden for his leadership and accomplishments.

She did again in the opening lines of her speech Thursday.

"Your record is extraordinary, as history will show," she said. "And your character is inspiring."

Republicans have criticized the process that led to Harris' nomination, calling it a "coup" against Biden.

In a written statement ahead of Harris' address Thursday, Republican National Committee Chairman Michael Whatley repeated that claim and slammed Harris' policy proposals as "the most radical agenda ever put forward at a major party convention."

"After staging a coup to take the nomination from Joe Biden just weeks ago, Kamala Harris will take the stage at the DNC to share her dangerously liberal agenda with the Democrats gathered to coronate her in Chicago," he said.

## Convention capstone

Harris' acceptance marked the end of a four-day convention focused on the theme of passing the torch to the next generation that was woven through the speeches of long-established Democrats in the party, such as former President Bill Clinton, who said he loved "seeing all these young leaders."

On the first night, Biden, who dropped out of the race last month, delivered a farewell address to Democrats, endorsing Harris. The Obamas Tuesday made the case for Harris, saying in her candidacy, "hope is making a comeback."

As Harris gave her speech aimed at defining her candidacy and vision for the country as one of freedom and joy, a sit-in protest occurred outside the United Center. Dozens of Uncommitted delegates who advocated for a Palestinian American to have a speaking slot at the DNC said they had their request denied by the Harris campaign.

Inside the arena, Harris said negotiating an end to the war, with a return of Israeli hostages and a lasting cease-fire, was a top administration priority.

"President Biden and I are working to end this war, such that Israel is secure, the hostages are released, the suffering in Gaza ends and the Palestinian people can realize their right to dignity," she said.

At the watch party in Philadelphia, Alina Taylor, a special education teacher who lives in Upper Dublin, said as a Democratic committee person for her area, she plans to volunteer and canvass for the Harris campaign.

"I came down here because I'm fired up and I'm ready to go," she said.

She said prior to Harris' speech that she wants to hear her talk about the economy and what she plans on doing about reproductive rights.

"That's so huge, because I want my daughters to have more rights than me, and I don't want them to have less," she said.

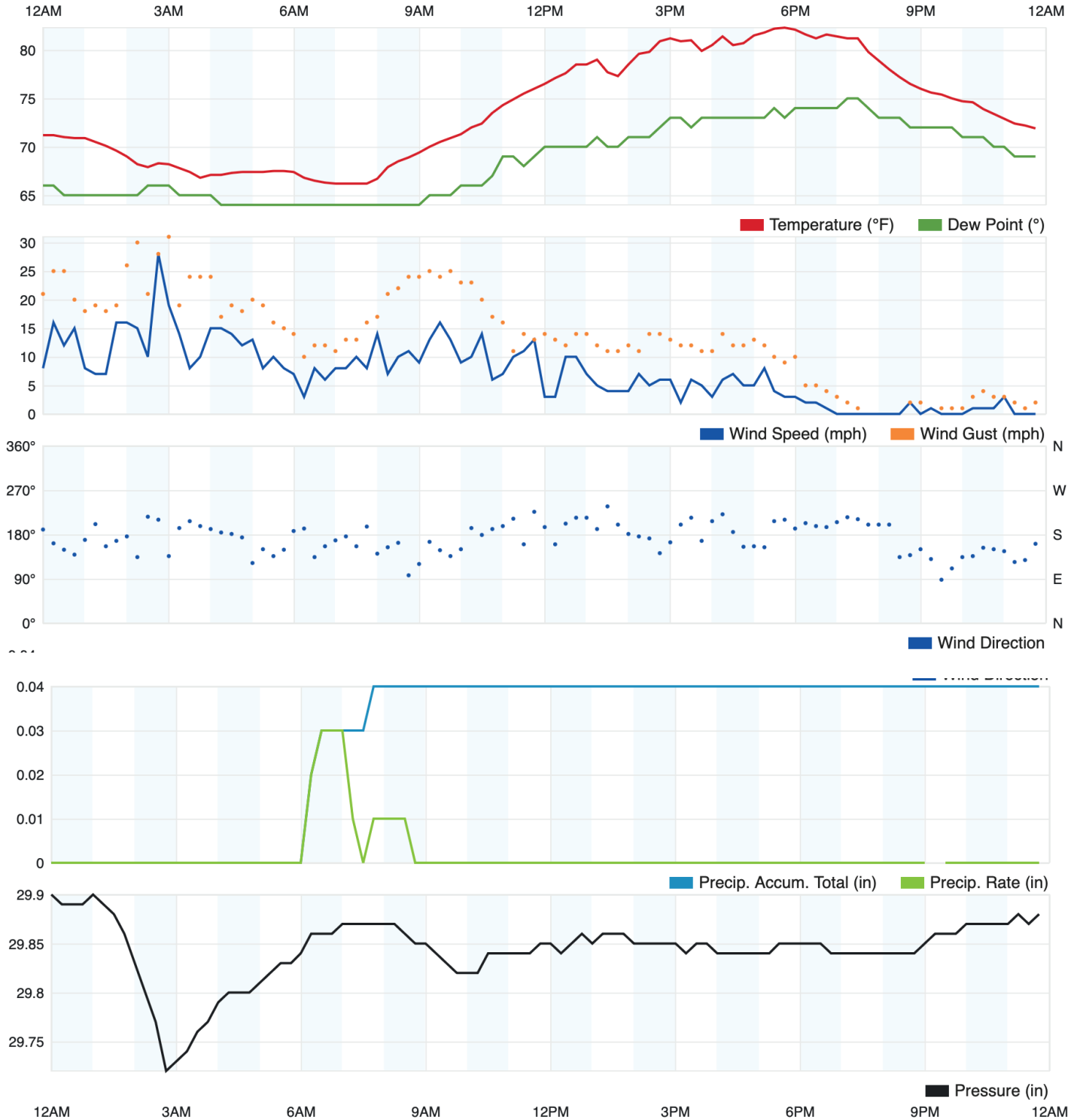
*Pennsylvania Capital-Star reporter John Cole contributed to this report.*

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

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, August 23, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 059 ~ 27 of 92

## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

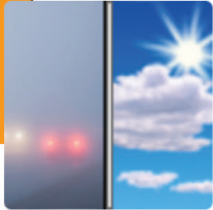




# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, August 23, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 059 ~ 28 of 92

Friday



High: 87 °F

Patchy Fog  
then Mostly  
Sunny

Friday Night



Low: 67 °F

Partly Cloudy

Saturday



High: 89 °F

Mostly Sunny

Saturday Night



Low: 71 °F

Mostly Clear

Sunday



High: 94 °F

Hot

Today



Highs: 83-90°F  
Lows: 65-69°F

Patchy A.M. fog along  
ND/SD border

Saturday



Highs: 82-97°F  
Lows: 69-72°F

After some morning fog along the ND/SD border between the Missouri and James rivers burns off we should see decreasing clouds through the day and highs in the 80s to around 90. Saturday is expected to be a bit warmer west river with highs in the mid 90s.



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, August 23, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 059 ~ 29 of 92

## Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 83 °F at 5:55 PM

Low Temp: 66 °F at 6:52 AM

Wind: 31 mph at 2:54 AM

Precip: : 0.04

Day length: 13 hours, 44 minutes

## Today's Info

Record High: 106 in 2003

Record Low: 39 in 1987

Average High: 82

Average Low: 55

Average Precip in Aug.: 1.67

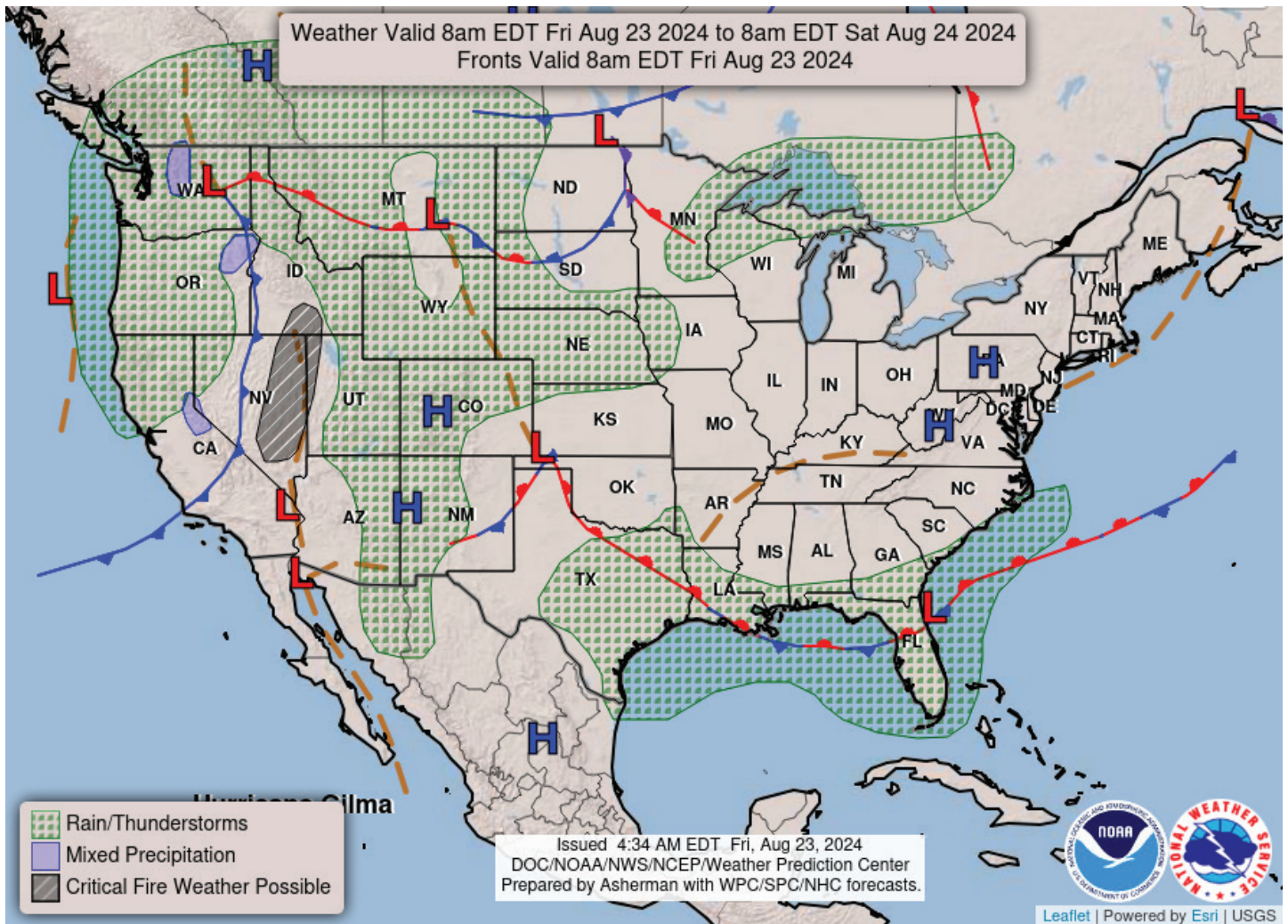
Precip to date in Aug.: 4.29

Average Precip to date: 15.77

Precip Year to Date: 19.18

Sunset Tonight: 8:27:13 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:43:39 am



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, August 23, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 059 ~ 30 of 92

## Today in Weather History

August 23, 1960: Lightning and damaging winds caused damage to occur from Hand and Sanborn Counties to Marshall and Roberts Counties. A small airplane was destroyed, and the high winds broke windows in Miller. Also, roofs, TV antenna, utility lines, and trees were damaged in Kingsbury and Marshall Counties.

August 23, 1998: Winds gusting to 65 mph in and around Milbank, in Grant County, took the roof off a mobile home and wrapped it around a utility pole. The people inside the mobile home were uninjured. The Summit Dairy Barn had sustained significant damage. The high winds also blew a shed and a large tennis court fence down. Several trees along with many large tree branches were down all over town. Strong winds were also reported in Day and Roberts Counties. Winds of 60 mph also downed many tree branches north of Watertown.

1724: An event is known as the "Great Gust of 1724" occurred on this day. Almost all tobacco and much of the corn crops were destroyed by this violent tropical storm, which struck the Chesapeake Bay. Intense floods of rain and a huge gust of wind were seen on the James River. Some homes were wrecked, and several vessels were driven ashore. The storm was likely followed by a second hurricane just five days later causing rain for many straight days that caused the Virginia floods of 1724.

1906 - Thunderstorms deluged Kansas City, MO, with six inches of rain during the early morning, including nearly three inches in thirty minutes. (The Kansas City Weather Almanac)

1921 - Denver, CO, was drenched with 2.20 inches of rain in one hour, a record for that location. (The Weather Channel)

1933: A hurricane made landfall near Nags Head, North Carolina and tracked up the Chesapeake Bay. The Chesapeake-Potomac hurricane moved over Norfolk, Virginia, and Washington, DC. A seven-foot tide flooded businesses in Norfolk, Virginia. Described in the American Meteorological Society's August 1933 weather review as "one of the most severe storms that have ever visited the Middle Atlantic Coast."

1970 - Dry thunderstorms ignited more than one hundred fires in the Wenatchee and Okanogan National Forests of Washington State. Hot, dry, and windy weather spread the fires, a few of which burned out of control through the end of the month. More than 100,000 acres burned. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - A cold front brought autumn-like weather to the Northern and Central Plains Region. Afternoon highs were in the 50s and 60s across parts of Colorado, Kansas and Nebraska that just two days earlier were in the 90s or above 100 degrees. Thunderstorms produced locally heavy rain in New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Thunderstorms produced hail an inch in diameter, wind gusts to 64 mph, and 2.62 inches of rain at Tucson AZ resulting in three million dollars damage. Cool weather prevailed in the northeastern U.S. Hartford CT reported a record low of 42 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced heavy rain with flash flooding in West Virginia. Pickens, WV, reported 4.80 inches of rain in 24 hours. Evening thunderstorms in Mississippi deluged Alta Woods with 4.25 inches of rain in less than an hour. Thunderstorms also produced heavy rain in southeastern Kentucky, and flooding was reported along Big Creek and along Stinking Creek. The Stinking Creek volunteer fire department reported water levels 12 to 14 feet above bankfull. Fort Worth TX hit the 100 degree mark for the first time all year. Strong winds ushering cool air into northwest Utah gusted to 70 mph, raising clouds of dust in the salt flats. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1992: While South Florida residents were preparing for Hurricane Andrew, folks in western Montana were dealing with early season snowfall. Some snowfall amounts include 8.3" in Great Falls, 6.2" in Helena, and 5.1" in Cut Bank. This snowfall is the first significant snowfall on record in western Montana in August.

2005 - Hurricane Katrina formed from Tropical Depression Twelve over the southeastern Bahamas. Katrina would become the costliest (\$81.2 billion) and one of the most deadly hurricanes (1,836 lives) in U.S. history.



## **THIS ISN'T WORKING EITHER!**

It was Mom's "Day-A-Way" and Jake and Dad were having the time of their lives. As soon as she left, the games began and were non-stop until it was time for lunch.

After lunch it was time for a nap. But the activities of the morning were so intense that Jake could not settle down. Shades drawn and lights out were not enough. He'd climb out of his bed and look for Dad expecting the fun and games to start again.

Finally, in desperation, Dad decided to lay down with Jake, expecting eyes to become heavy and sleep to come to his rescue. After a few moments, Jake sat straight up in bed and said proudly, "This isn't working either, is it?"

God in His eternal wisdom gave each of us a conscience – a moral compass that signals what is right or wrong. No matter where we go in the world, from one culture to another, people know deep inside what is right or wrong. All societies have laws that keep people together and set limits on what is appropriate or how to treat others.

And even though we, as well as others, know what is right and what is expected of us, we desire to do what is wrong. God has planted His standards on everyone's heart and when any heart becomes troubled – for whatever reason – it is His Holy Spirit beginning to do His work to convict us of our unrighteousness and to turn to Him.

Prayer: Lord, thank You for "early warning signals" that alert us to Your standards. Make our hearts very sensitive to Your laws and convict us when we do wrong. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: They demonstrate that God's law is written in their hearts, for their own conscience and thoughts either accuse them or tell them they are doing right. Romans 2:15

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



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, August 23, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 059 ~ 32 of 92

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# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, August 23, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 059 ~ 33 of 92



## WINNING NUMBERS

### MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:  
08.20.24

5 20 26 49 51 24

MegaPlier: 4x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$527,000,000**

NEXT 17 Hrs 21 Mins 33  
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS: 08.21.24

6 25 41 45 46 1

All Star Bonus: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$7,540,000**

NEXT 1 Days 16 Hrs 36  
DRAW: Mins 32 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:  
08.22.24

2 5 21 45 47 18

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

NEXT 16 Hrs 51 Mins 32  
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 08.21.24

4 11 12 25 32

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

NEXT 1 Days 16 Hrs 51  
DRAW: Mins 33 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 08.21.24

2 3 28 52 69 3

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

NEXT 1 Days 17 Hrs 20  
DRAW: Mins 33 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS: 08.21.24

27 31 33 38 67 3

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$34,000,000**

NEXT 1 Days 17 Hrs 20  
DRAW: Mins 32 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, August 23, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 059 ~ 34 of 92

## Upcoming Groton Events

- 07/04/2024 Firecracker Couples Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 07/09/2024 FREE SNAP Application Assistance 1-6pm at the Community Center
- 07/14/2024 Lion's Club Summer Fest/Car Show at the City Park 9am-4pm
- 07/17/2024 Legion Auxiliary #39 Salad Buffet & Dessert Bar at the Groton Legion 11am-1pm
- 07/17/2024 Pro Am Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 07/25/2024 Dairy Queen Miracle Treat Day
- 07/25/2024 Summer Downtown Sip & Shop 5-8pm
- 07/25/2024 Treasures Amidst The Trials 6pm at Emmanuel Lutheran Church
- 07/26/2024 Ferney Open Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course 9am Start
- 07/27/2024 1st Annual Celebration in the Park 1-9:30pm
- 08/05/2024 School Supply Drive 4-7pm at the Community Center
- Cancelled:** Wine on 9 at Olive Grove Golf Course 6pm
- 08/08/2024 Family Fun Fest 5:30-7:30pm
- 08/9-11/2024 Jr. Legion State Baseball Tournament
- 08/12/2024 Vitalant Blood Drive at the Community Center 1:15-7pm
- 09/07/2024 Lion's Club Fall Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm
- 09/07-08/2024 Groton Airport Fly-In/Drive-In, Groton Municipal Airport
- 09/08/2024 Sunflower Couples Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course 10am
- 10/05/2024 Pumpkin Fest at the City Park 10am-3pm
- 10/11/2024 Lake Region Marching Band Festival 10am
- 10/31/2024 Downtown Trick or Treat 4-6pm
- 10/31/2024 United Methodist Church Trunk or Treat 5:30-7pm
- 11/16/2024 Groton American Legion "Turkey Raffle" 6:30-11:30pm
- 11/28/2024 Community Thanksgiving at the Community Center 11:30am-1pm
- 12/01/2024 Groton Snow Queen Contest, 4:30 p.m.
- 12/07/2024 Olive Grove 8th Annual Holiday Party & Tour of Homes with Live & Silent Auctions 6pm-close
- 04/12/2025 Lion's Club Easter Egg Hunt at the City Park 10am Sharp
- 05/03/2025 Lion's Club Spring Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm
- 05/26/2025 Memorial Day Services Groton Union Cemetery with lunch at Legion Post #39, 12pm
- 07/04/2025 Firecracker Couples Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 07/13/2025 Lion's Club Summer Fest/Car Show at the City Park 9am-4pm
- 09/06/2025 Lion's Club Fall Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm
- 10/31/2025 Downtown Trick or Treat 4-6pm
- 11/27/2025 Community Thanksgiving at the Community Center 11:30am-1pm

## News from the **AP** Associated Press

### **Harris summons Americans to reject political divisions, warns of consequences posed by a Trump win**

By ZEKE MILLER, WILL WEISSERT and DARLENE SUPERVILLE Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Kamala Harris summoned Americans on Thursday to reject political division and instead chart what she called a “new way forward,” as she accepted her party’s nomination while blending biography with warnings about electing Donald Trump again to the White House.

Taking the stage to a thunderous standing ovation as she closed out the Democratic National Convention in Chicago, the vice president argued that her personal story and background as a prosecutor made her uniquely qualified to protect Americans’ interests against a former president she cast as only having his own interests in mind.

“Our nation with this election has a precious, fleeting opportunity to move past the bitterness, cynicism, and divisive battles of the past,” Harris said. “A chance to chart a new way forward. Not as members of any one party or faction, but as Americans.”

The daughter of Jamaican and Indian immigrants, Harris became the first Black woman and person of South Asian descent to accept a major party’s presidential nomination and she would become the first female president if elected. Harris did not explicitly reference the historic firsts she would set in her 40-minute speech, and she only mentioned the words “Democrat” or “Republican” in the context of discussing a bipartisan border bill that Trump helped scuttle earlier this year, which she promised to sign into law if elected.

Her address — and the Democratic convention at large — was intended to appeal to a broad swath of Americans, not just partisans already energized by Harris’ ascension after President Joe Biden ended his reelection bid. She made several implicit appeals to the large swath of voters who just weeks ago were disaffected with both of their options for the White House, particularly those disaffected with Trump, underscored by the appearances of several people who have broken with the 45th president, while embracing the policies and approach of Biden, the 46th.

She was joined for the traditional balloon drop by a large blended and mixed-race family. Earlier, two of her grandnieces had led the packed United Center in teaching people how to pronounce her name, which means lotus in Sanskrit.

“America, the path that led me here in recent weeks was no doubt unexpected,” Harris said. “But I’m no stranger to unlikely journeys.”

Harris reintroduces herself

Raised primarily by her mother in a small apartment in San Francisco’s East Bay after her parents’ divorce, Harris described being reared as well by friends and caregivers who were “family by love.” She also detailed a key part of her political origin story, when Wanda, her best friend from high school, confided in her that she was being abused by her stepfather and came to live with Harris’ family.

“That is one of the reasons I became a prosecutor. To protect people like Wanda,” Harris said.

Outlining her work as a prosecutor, state attorney general, senator and now vice president, Harris declared, “My entire career I’ve only had one client: the people.” Meanwhile, she said Trump has only ever acted in the interests of “the only client he has ever had: himself.”

As she took the stage, she saw a sea of female delegates and Democratic supporters wearing white — the color of women’s suffrage, the movement that culminated with American women securing the right to vote in 1920.

Harris’ address came on her 10th wedding anniversary to her husband, Doug Emhoff, whom she called “Dougie” on stage and who blew her a kiss from the stands at the start of her remarks.

She and other speakers directly appealed to Republicans

Harris made a direct call to Republicans who don’t support Trump to put aside party labels and to sup-



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, August 23, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 059 ~ 36 of 92

port her over Trump, who denied his loss to Biden in the 2020 election, which inspired the Jan. 6, 2021, Capitol insurrection.

"I know there are people of various political views watching tonight, and I want you to know I promise to be a president for all Americans," Harris said. "I promise to be a president for all Americans to hold sacred America's constitutional principles, fundamental principles, from the rule of law and fair elections to the peaceful transfer of power."

The convention granted a prime speaking slot to former Rep. Adam Kinzinger of Illinois, a Republican critic of Trump's who said: "Whatever policies we disagree on pale in comparison with those fundamental matters of principle. Of decency. Of fidelity to this nation. To my fellow Republicans: If you still pledge allegiance to those principles, I suspect you belong here, too."

Harris invoked her prosecutor's background when she referred several times to Trump's "explicit intent" to free those who assaulted law enforcement officers at the Capitol, jail political opponents and use the military against American citizens.

"Consider what he intends to do if we give him power again," she added.

Trump, calling into Fox News after Harris' speech, responded to the speech by asking, "Why didn't she do the things that she's complaining about?"

"It was a lot of complaining. She didn't talk about China. She didn't talk about fracking. She didn't talk about crime," Trump went on, adding, "Other than that it was a nice-looking room."

Harris promises to defend alliances, abortion access

Delivering her most in-depth remarks on national security since becoming a presidential candidate, Harris promised to strengthen U.S. relationships with NATO allies and said the country must continue to support Ukraine in its war with Russia. Trump and running mate JD Vance have repeatedly questioned U.S. backing for Ukraine.

"I will never waver in defense of America's security and ideals, because in the enduring struggle between democracy and tyranny, I know where I stand and I know where the United States belongs," she said.

The vice president also vowed to work toward an end to Israel's war against Hamas that can stabilize the rest of the region, while not hesitating to protect U.S. forces from aggression by Iran and other adversaries.

While she pledged to "always stand up for Israel's right to defend itself" after Hamas' Oct. 7 attack and pushed for the release of the hostages and the implementation of a cease-fire deal, she highlighted the plight of Palestinian civilians as well. Pro-Palestinian protesters and members of the "uncommitted" movement in the arena sharply criticized convention organizers for not inviting a Palestinian American onstage.

"What has happened in Gaza in the last 10 months is devastating, so many innocent lives lost," Harris said. "Desperate, hungry people fleeing to safety over and over again. The scale of suffering is heartbreaking."

Pledging to restore nationwide access to abortion after the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade, Harris lambasted Trump and Republicans who have enabled abortion bans across two dozen states and have sought to move further.

"They are out of their minds," Harris proclaimed.

Harris has faced scrutiny in the month since she replaced Biden atop the Democratic ticket for avoiding policy specifics. She offered broad promises in a string of key policy areas, from expanding voting rights to lowering housing costs, passing middle-class tax cuts and bolstering border security.

Harris also emphasized her law enforcement background, including her time as San Francisco district attorney and California attorney general. She was later elected to the U.S. Senate and sought the Democratic presidential nomination in 2020.

Her campaign imploded that year before a single primary vote was cast, but Biden chose her as his running mate, catapulting her to the national stage.

Although Harris initially struggled to find her footing as vice president, her reputation grew when she became the administration's leading advocate for abortion rights after the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade. Democrats harnessed anger over the decision to stem their losses in the last midterm elections.

When Biden stumbled in his debate with Trump in June, Harris defended him until he decided to drop out of the race. With the help of his endorsement, she swiftly unified the Democratic Party behind her

candidacy, resetting a presidential race that Trump had appeared on track to win.

Speaking to supporters after her remarks, Harris struck a confident note, but encouraged them to keep campaigning like they were behind.

"Tonight get your party on, for the next 75 days we have a lot of work to do," she said. "We're going to win this."

## **A baby evacuated from Gaza lost an eye and most of his family in the war**

By FATMA KHALED Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — When Mostafa Qadoura was a week old, an Israeli strike on his home in the Gaza Strip last October launched him and his crib into the air, sent shrapnel into his right eye that damaged it beyond repair and killed one of his brothers.

Mostafa was evacuated to Egypt weeks later when the hospital treating him came under siege by the Israeli army, and he has grown into a smiling and active 10-month-old with chubby cheeks. But he still faces huge challenges.

His mother and other brother were killed in a separate Israeli strike just days after he was evacuated. He will need a series of surgeries to adjust his artificial eye as his body grows. And it's unclear whether he will return to Gaza before the war is over.

"I don't know what to tell him when he grows up," said his grandmother and guardian, 40-year-old Amna Abd Rabou, who was allowed in April to travel to Egypt to care for him. She and Mostafa flew to Malaysia last week for a surgery that is scheduled for Monday.

In a war that has claimed the lives of thousands of Palestinian children and injured more, Mostafa's story is both uniquely gut-wrenching and, in many ways, familiar to countless families in Gaza devastated and displaced by the fighting between Israel and Hamas.

Mostafa is one of the roughly 3,500 Palestinians, mostly children, who have been evacuated from the Gaza Strip for medical treatment. Families there have submitted requests to have at least twice that number of injured children evacuated, according to the World Health Organization.

More than 12,000 children have been injured in the war, according to Palestinian health officials, and aid groups say many who have not been allowed to leave Gaza face health outcomes far less hopeful than Mostafa's.

"We meet children whose lives are hanging by a thread because of the injuries of war or their inability to receive medical care for conditions like cancer," said Tess Ingram, a spokesperson for UNICEF, the U.N.'s agency for children.

More medical evacuations would save lives and improve the futures of wounded children, Ingram said, "but above anything else, we need a cease-fire. It is the only way to stop the killing and maiming of children."

The war began on Oct. 7, when Hamas fighters attacked southern Israel, killing some 1,200 people and taking roughly 250 hostages into Gaza. More than 40,000 Palestinians have been killed in the fighting since then, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which does not distinguish in its count between civilians and militants. At least a quarter were children, according to the ministry.

At the Administrative Capital Hospital in Cairo, Mostafa recently sat on his grandmother's lap, playing with a rattle and grinning at the nurse who escorted him on his journey from Gaza to Egypt. His grandmother also smiled, saying she would take care of him as a promise to her deceased daughter.

After the late October strike that killed his 4-year-old brother, Ayes, and badly wounded his then 22-year-old mother, Halimah, Mostafa was found meters away from the destroyed home in Jabaliya in northern Gaza — and still inside his crib, according to his grandmother.

What followed was a familiar story of separation amid the chaos of the war, which has displaced close to 2 million Palestinians from their homes.

While Mostafa was receiving treatment for his injured eye and forehead at Shifa Hospital in Gaza City, his mother was having a leg amputated at a different hospital in northern Gaza, where she was also being

treated for severe injuries to her neck, chest, and eyes.

"Relatives around me would tell me to pray and ask God to take her life to relieve her from pain, but I would tell them that she's my daughter and I'll take care of her and keep her the way she is regardless of her condition," said Abd Rabou, who left two teenage children back in Gaza in the care of her husband.

While still recovering from her injuries, Mostafa's mother moved to a large family home in Jabaliya, where a Nov. 22 strike killed her, her 6-year-old son, Bassam, and 50 other family members.

Abd Rabou said she doesn't know what happened to Mostafa's father, but she remembers what his mother said the day before she died.

"She grabbed my hand and told me she wanted to see Mostafa. She said she was afraid that she would never see him again," Abd Rabou recalled.

The Qadoura family is not the only one in Gaza to have been nearly wiped out by the war.

The Israeli military, which rarely comments on individual strikes, has said it tries to avoid harming Palestinian civilians and blames their injuries and deaths on Hamas for operating in dense residential areas and sometimes sheltering in and launching attacks from homes, schools and mosques.

This month, the Israeli military acknowledged it struck a school-turned-shelter in central Gaza City, saying it hit a Hamas command center in the area without providing evidence.

In response to a query about the two strikes that hit the Qadoura family, a spokesman for the Israeli military said, "In stark contrast to Hamas' intentional attacks on Israeli men, women and children, the (army) follows international law and takes feasible precautions to mitigate civilian harm."

Mostafa's family was unaware of his whereabouts after he and more than two dozen other babies were evacuated in November from Shifa Hospital. They thought he might have died until an uncle came across a local news story that mentioned an orphaned baby he suspected was Mostafa.

The uncle learned that Mostafa was first transferred to a hospital in Rafah, and that he was to be evacuated to Egypt along with 30 other sick and weak babies.

Bilal Tabasi, a nurse who traveled with Mostafa and the other evacuees, said they wrapped the premature babies who should have been in incubators in blankets to try to keep them warm. Three died before reaching the Egyptian border.

Mostafa was malnourished and dehydrated when he arrived at the border. He had also survived antibiotic-resistant bacteria that had infected his shrapnel wounds, Tabasi said.

"Mostafa was the most critical case I came across," said Ramzy Mounir, director of the Administrative Capital Hospital in Cairo.

It's unclear where Mostafa and his grandmother will go after his surgery in Malaysia, but she is hoping they can return to Egypt and stay there until the war ends. Wherever they land, Abd Rabou said she would never leave Mostafa's side as she recalled some of his mother's last words.

"She told me, 'If anything happened to him, I'll never forgive you,'" Abd Rabou said.

## **Indian Prime Minister Modi arrives in Kyiv for talks with Ukrainian President Zelenskyy**

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived on Friday in Kyiv, where he will meet with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

Officials in India and Ukraine say the visit will focus on boosting economic ties and cooperation in defense, science and technology. But analysts say the visit could also be an attempt to have India strike a more neutral stance after what has been seen as a lean toward Russia.

Ukrainian media reported that Modi met with representatives of the Indian diaspora after arriving. The crowd gathered around the Indian prime minister cheering "Modi, Modi, Modi."

"The Indian community accorded a very warm welcome," Modi said on the social media platform X.

The chief of Ukraine's Presidential Office, Andriy Yermak, called Modi's visit "historic" and emphasized Ukraine's expectation that India could play a role in ending the war between Russia and Ukraine with a "just peace," referring to Ukraine's peace formula.



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, August 23, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 059 ~ 39 of 92

"We respect India as a very big democracy in the world and a powerful country," Yermak said in an interview with India Today. "But now it's necessary to say who is the aggressor, who is the victim."

Before arriving in Ukraine, Modi urged diplomatic efforts to end the war during a visit to Poland on Thursday, pledging India's support and saying that no conflict can be solved on a battlefield.

Modi's arrival came a month and a half after Zelenskyy criticized his visit to Moscow in July, when he met with Putin on the day Russian missiles struck across Ukraine, killing scores of people.

Zelenskyy described that meeting as a "huge disappointment and a devastating blow to peace efforts." He also chided Modi for hugging Putin during their meeting.

India has avoided condemning Russia's invasion and instead has urged Russia and Ukraine to resolve the conflict through dialogue and diplomacy.

Modi's visit is the first by an Indian prime minister to Ukraine since the two countries established diplomatic relations over 30 years ago.

## How fast will interest rates fall? Fed Chair Powell may provide clues in high-profile speech

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER AP Economics Writer

JACKSON HOLE, Wyoming (AP) — With the Federal Reserve considered certain to start cutting its benchmark interest rate next month, Chair Jerome Powell's highly anticipated speech Friday morning at an economic conference will be closely watched for any hints about how many additional rate cuts might be in the pipeline.

Powell is expected to say the Fed has become more confident that inflation is nearing its 2% target, more than two years after it hit a painful four-decade high. Yet the Fed chair may take an overall cautious approach in his remarks at an annual conference of central bankers in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Economists note that forthcoming economic data, including a monthly jobs report on Sept. 6, will help determine the size of future Fed rate cuts — whether a typical quarter-point cut or a more aggressive half-point drop — and how fast they occur.

"We think he will seek to dampen expectations of (a half-point cut) as well as reiterate that the Fed is data-dependent and does not make decisions in advance," Ian Shepherdson, chief economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics, wrote in a research note.

Powell's speech comes as the central bank is moving toward achieving a much sought-after "soft landing," in which its rate hikes — 11 of them in 2022 and 2023 — manage to curb inflation without causing a recession. Inflation was just 2.5% in July, according to the Fed's preferred measure, having tumbled from a 7.1% peak two years ago.

The progress made on inflation has likely made many Fed officials more open to cutting rates several times this year now that elevated borrowing costs have largely succeeded in cooling the economy and taming inflation.

Still, a slowdown in hiring and an uptick in the unemployment rate last month heightened concern that the Fed could soon make a mistake in the other direction — by keeping rates too high for too long, throttling growth and plunging the economy into recession. Powell will likely refer to that balancing act in his speech Friday.

On Wednesday, minutes from the Fed's most recent meeting, held July 30-31, showed that the "vast majority" of policymakers said at the time that they would likely support a rate reduction at the next meeting in mid-September as long as inflation stayed low. Several of the Fed's 19 officials even supported a rate cut at that meeting, the minutes showed.

Also Wednesday, the Labor Department revised its estimate of job growth for the 12 months that ended in March: It said that 818,000 fewer jobs were added during that year than it had earlier reported. The revisions, which were preliminary, will be finalized in February.

Hiring over that period was still solid, averaging 174,000 a month rather than 242,000, the government

said. Yet because the figures show that hiring wasn't as robust as was previously thought, a Fed rate cut next month is "a certainty," Shepherdson wrote.

Economists generally agree that the Fed is getting closer to conquering high inflation, which brought hardship to millions of households beginning three years ago as the economy rebounded from the pandemic recession. Yet few economists think Powell or any other Fed official is prepared to declare "mission accomplished."

After the government reported this month that hiring in July was much less than expected and that the jobless rate reached 4.3%, the highest in three years, stock prices plunged for two days on fears that the U.S. might fall into a recession. Some economists began speculating about a half-point Fed rate cut in September and perhaps another identical cut in November.

But healthier economic reports last week, including another decline in inflation and a robust gain in retail sales, partly dispelled those concerns. Wall Street traders now expect the Fed to cut its benchmark rate by a quarter-point in both September and November and by a half-point in December. Mortgage rates have already started to decline in anticipation of rate reductions.

A half-point Fed rate cut in September would become more likely if there were signs of a further slowdown in hiring, some officials have said.

Raphael Bostic, president of the Fed's Atlanta branch, said in an interview Monday with The Associated Press that "evidence of accelerating weakness in labor markets may warrant a more rapid move, either in terms of the increments of movement or the speed at which we try to get back" to a level of rates that no longer restricts the economy.

"I've got more confidence that we are likely to get to our target for inflation," he said. "And we've seen labor markets weaken considerably relative to where they were" last year. "We might need to shift our policy stance sooner than I would have thought before." Several months earlier, Bostic had said he would likely support just one rate cut in the final three months of the year.

## **Tropical storm forecast to bring strong winds and heavy rain to Hawaii this weekend**

By AUDREY McAVOY Associated Press

HONOLULU (AP) — A tropical storm is expected to deliver strong winds and heavy rain to Hawaii this weekend, particularly to the Big Island and Maui, as it passes south of the island chain.

The National Weather Service on Thursday evening issued a tropical storm watch for Hawaii County, which includes all of the Big Island, in anticipation of Tropical Storm Hone.

In an 8 p.m. advisory, the weather service said the storm was located about 770 miles (1,240 kilometers) east-southeast of Hilo and about 980 miles (1,575 kilometers) east-southeast of Honolulu. The storm was moving west at 14 mph (23 kph) with maximum sustained winds of 40 mph (65 kph).

The August storm has evoked memories of the powerful hurricane south of Hawaii that helped fuel a deadly wildfire that destroyed Maui's Lahaina town last summer, but the weather service said Thursday that Hone was not creating the same conditions.

Separately, to Hone's east, Hurricane Gilma was moving west across the Pacific, but it was too early to tell whether it would affect the islands.

Hone, which means "sweet and soft" in Hawaiian and is pronounced hoe-NEH, was expected to bring sustained winds of 20 to 30 mph (32 to 48 kph) and gusts of 50 mph (80 mph) to Maui and the Big Island. Oahu and Kauai were forecast to get slightly weaker winds.

The Big Island's east coast and southeastern corner were expected to get 4 to 8 inches (10 to 20 centimeters) of rain Saturday night through Sunday night. Maui could get 2 to 4 inches (5 to 10 centimeters) of rain.

These predictions could change depending on the storm's course. Late Thursday, the storm was about 815 miles (1,310 kilometers) east-southeast of Hilo. It was moving west at 16 mph (26 kph).

The Aug. 8, 2023, Lahaina fire was fueled by powerful winds whipped up by a combination of a hur-

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, August 23, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 059 ~ 41 of 92

ricane passing some 500 miles (800 kilometers) to the south and a very strong high pressure system to the north of the islands. The National Weather Service issued a red flag warning at the time, something it does when warm temperatures, very low humidity and strong winds combine to raise fire danger.

Laura Farris, a National Weather Service meteorologist in Honolulu, said some drier air was expected to move in to the western end of the state this weekend, which presents some concerns about fire risk. "But it's not even close to what we saw last year," Farris said.

The pressure system to the north is not as strong now as last year and the tropical system to the south is a storm not a hurricane, said Pao-Shin Chu, a University of Hawaii professor and the state's climatologist. "We do see something similar but not as dramatic as the Lahaina case we saw last year," Chu said.

Hurricane Gilma was packing maximum sustained winds near 120 mph (193 kph), making it a Category 3 hurricane. It was slowly moving west. The National Weather Service said Gilma was expected to slowly weaken this weekend.

The cause of Lahaina blaze, the deadliest in the United States in over a century, hasn't been determined, but it's possible it was ignited by bare electrical wire and leaning power poles toppled by the strong winds.

To reduce the risk of wildfires, the state's electric utilities, Hawaiian Electric and the Kauai Island Utility Cooperative, have since started shutting off power during high winds and dry conditions.

Last year, Maui County officials failed to activate outdoor sirens that would have warned Lahaina's people of the approaching flames. They instead relied on a series of sometimes confusing social media posts that reached a much smaller audience.

Amos Lonokailua-Hewett, who took over as the new administrator of the Maui Emergency Management Agency on Jan. 1, said in the event of a wildfire threat, his agency would send alerts over radio and television broadcasts, via cellphones and with the sirens.

The sirens sound a steady tone and no message.

"The outdoor warning siren is typically used when there is an imminent threat to public safety and the situation requires the public to seek more information," Lonokailua-Hewett said in an emailed statement.

## **An Iceland volcano erupts again but spares the nearby town of Grindavik for now**

By MARCO DI MARCO and DAVID KEYTON Associated Press

GRINDAVIK, Iceland (AP) — A volcano in southwestern Iceland erupted Thursday evening for the sixth time since December, spewing red lava through a new fissure on the Reykjanes Peninsula.

The eruption began shortly after 9 p.m. following a series of strong earthquakes and within the hour a 4-kilometer (2.4-mile) fissure cut through the Sundhnúkur crater.

Iceland authorities say the eruption's effects remain localized with road closures but do not threaten the population.

Halldór Björnsson, head of weather and climate at the Norwegian Meteorological Agency, told the Icelandic news portal Vísir, that unlike previous eruptions, the lava flow is not heading for the town of Grindavik that was largely evacuated in December when the volcano came to life after being dormant for 800 years.

Magnús Tuma Guðmundsson, a geophysicist, who flew over the eruption centers this evening told the website that "if this continues like this, Grindavik is not in danger because of this. Of course, we don't know what will happen in the near future, but it is likely that this has reached its peak and then it will start to subside like the other eruptions."

As news of the eruption spread, hundreds of curious onlookers drove to nearby vantage points for a view of the stunning natural phenomenon that has become a key tourism attraction.

"We just thought that it was the northern lights," said Mahnoor Ali, visiting from Maryland in the U.S. "It's like the coolest thing I've seen in my whole life, honestly."

Friends Ameerul Awalludin from Malaysia and Shohei Miyamoto from Japan were with an Icelandic friend when they heard the news and quickly rushed to near the eruption.

"We have like a volcano as well," said Miyamoto, but "we cannot see lava like this."



But for people living and working on the Reykjanes Peninsula, the regular eruptions and ensuing evacuation orders will undoubtedly be met with frustration.

The repeated volcanic eruptions close to Grindavík, a town of 3,800 people about 50 kilometers (30 miles) southwest of the capital, Reykjavik, have damaged infrastructure and property and forced many residents to relocate to guarantee their safety.

The few who had returned were forced out once again Thursday night as strong winds blew plumes of toxic gas over the town.

The nearby Blue Lagoon geothermal spa — one of Iceland's biggest tourist attractions — was also evacuated with social media videos showing sirens blasting around dusk.

Iceland, which sits above a volcanic hot spot in the North Atlantic, averages one eruption every four to five years. The most disruptive in recent times was the 2010 eruption of the Eyjafjallajökull volcano, which spewed clouds of ash into the atmosphere and disrupted trans-Atlantic air travel for months.

The eruption is not expected to impact air travel.

## The 'joyful' Democratic convention is over. The real test for Kamala Harris' campaign now begins

By STEVE PEOPLES and ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Over and over, from the massive stage in the electric convention hall, the Democrats this week predicted that Kamala Harris would defeat Donald Trump. They described her as a historic figure, the embodiment of hope, "the president of joy."

But amid the extraordinary optimism, former first lady Michelle Obama offered a sober warning: "No matter how good we feel tonight or tomorrow or the next day, this is going to be an uphill battle."

The word of caution was quickly drowned out by the excitement that overwhelmed the standing-room-only 17,000-person arena in downtown Chicago. But as activists, operatives and party leaders leave the Democratic National Convention and fan out across America, a stark reality exists: The real test for Harris has only just begun.

More than a month after President Joe Biden stepped aside and endorsed her, Harris has barely started to outline detailed plans she would pursue as president to address the nation's biggest challenges — immigration, crime and climate change, among them. She has yet to sit down for even one comprehensive media interview to face difficult questions about her flip-flops on policy in recent years, her leadership style and the focus on race and gender that looms over her historic candidacy.

"We can't put our heads in the sand. She's a Black woman. The bar is going to be higher for everything," said John Anzalone, a pollster who has served the last three Democratic presidential nominees. "And guess what? That means, even mistakes. Mistakes are going to be magnified."

At the same time, Harris' allies acknowledge she remains largely undefined in the minds of many voters, having operated in Biden's shadow for much the last four years. The relative anonymity offers both opportunity and risk.

"The bad thing about vice presidents is that nobody knows who you are. The good thing about vice presidents is nobody knows who you are," said David Axelrod, who served as former President Barack Obama's chief strategist.

Harris now has just over two weeks to prepare for what could be her only presidential debate against Trump, a Sept. 10 showdown that could dramatically shift the direction of the race. The first presidential debate, of course, effectively forced Biden to drop out of the race.

For now, Harris' team feels no urgency to roll out a comprehensive policy platform or sit for media interviews that might jeopardize the positive vibes that have defined her nascent campaign and produced a flood of campaign donations and a growing army of swing-state volunteers.

During a series of meetings throughout the convention week, her advisers cast her policy agenda as a continuation and expansion on Biden's first term achievements, particularly on economic matters, even if it may look and sound different in some cases.

Harris has notably dropped her opposition to fracking and her support for Medicare for All, which were defining features of her 2019 presidential campaign. Her aides insist her values remain the same, but she's embraced more centrist policies out of pragmatism.

Meanwhile, Harris' allies believe it's only a matter of time before Trump settles on an effective line of attack.

In recent days, the Republican former president has adopted a kitchen-sink approach against Harris that includes attacks about her racial identity, her laugh, her record as vice president and her history as a "San Francisco liberal."

"He'll figure out how to get a message and land a political punch," Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro, who delivered a prime-time convention speech this week, said of Trump.

Polling reveals that voters' views of Harris have shifted relatively rapidly in the month since Biden stepped aside and she became the de facto nominee.

In a June AP-NORC poll, just 39% of Americans said they had a favorable opinion of Harris and 12% said they didn't know enough to say.

After Biden stepped aside, an August AP-NORC poll found that 48% of Americans had a favorable opinion of Harris with just 6% saying they didn't know enough to have an opinion. The latest poll also showed that 27% of adults have a "very" favorable opinion of Harris, up from 14% in June.

The sharp shift raises the possibility that public opinion could change again as voters learn more.

It also raises the possibility that Harris' momentum has less to do with her candidacy than a sense of relief among Democrats that Biden stepped aside. Shortly before he left the race, an AP-NORC poll found that nearly two-thirds of Democrats said they didn't want Biden to run again, and about half said they'd be dissatisfied if he was the nominee.

Young Democrats of America president Quentin Wathum-Ocama said his enthusiasm is based on a combination of relief that Biden stepped aside and excitement about Harris. Given her relatively low profile over the last four years, he conceded that even he does not know much about her governing plans.

As a public school teacher, he said he'd like to hear more about her education policy, for example.

"Do people know her? People are aware of her," Wathum-Ocama said. "I can be excited, but I still want more."

## **Kamala Harris' racial and cultural firsts were onstage throughout the Democratic convention**

By MATT BROWN and AARON MORRISON Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Vice President Kamala Harris, on the night she became the first woman of Black and South Asian heritage to be a major party's presidential nominee, didn't explicitly mention the racial and gender firsts she would set if elected to the White House.

Instead, she opted for direct mentions of her multiracial background and upbringing. She paid tribute to her roots as the daughter of a brown woman and Caribbean man. She honored the multicultural village of "aunties" and "uncles" in California's Bay Area. And following her speech, the relatives who joined her onstage for the traditional balloon drop included people of different and often multiple, overlapping races, like Harris herself. Western attire and saris were worn side by side.

It was a way for Harris and others at the convention to display her personal story while offering a visual political message that could appeal to a broad swath of people who see themselves in families like hers. Around 12.5% of U.S. residents identified as two or more races in 2022, up from 3% a decade earlier, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's most comprehensive survey of American life.

The United States is a nation that enslaved African Americans for centuries, then enforced legal, economic and social apartheid for a century more, and once denied equal representation to Black Americans at political party conventions. The nation's immigration system long held explicit racial preferences for white immigrants. It denied voting rights to women until a century ago.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, August 23, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 059 ~ 44 of 92

Those issues weren't far from the minds of many inside the Chicago arena. Many in the audience wore white in homage to the suffrage movement.

Former President Donald Trump, Harris' Republican opponent, has questioned her Black heritage and falsely suggested to a gathering of Black journalists that she changed how she presented her racial roots when convenient. Sen. JD Vance of Ohio, Trump's running mate, calls Harris a "chameleon," which his allies argue is a reference to her shifts on policy, and has suggested she adopts a "fake Southern accent."

"I think the thing that we cannot forget is oftentimes these pendulum swings that we see, the word that continues to force the pendulum swing is race," Maryland Gov. Wes Moore said in an interview.

Moore, who addressed the convention on Wednesday, said the country has gone "through fits and starts" with conversations about diversity and racial progress since its founding.

"That's the underlying issue that I think we still very much wrestle with as a society," he said later.

During the convention roll call, in which delegates pledged votes to nominate Harris, some speakers announced the vice president's middle name, Devi, as nod to her South Asian heritage.

Several speakers proudly noted Harris' race. Civil rights leader Rev. Al Sharpton, president and CEO of the National Action Network, noted that Shirley Chisholm, the first Black woman elected to Congress who then ran for president in 1972, would be proud of Harris' accomplishment.

"I know she's watching us tonight, as a Black woman stands up to accept the nomination for president of the United States," Sharpton said.

Comedian D.L. Hughley, speaking before Harris on Thursday, went after Trump's suggestion that Harris had once downplayed being Black despite going to historically Black Howard University and often talking about her African American heritage in her early political career.

"Kamala has been Black longer than Trump has been a Republican," he quipped.

Barack Obama, when he became the first Black man to accept a Democratic nomination in 2008, mentioned his Kenyan father and Kansan mother. Hillary Clinton, meanwhile, told the 2016 convention that they had "reached a milestone in our nation's march toward a more perfect union: the first time that a major party has nominated a woman for President."

Harris, the daughter of immigrants from Jamaica and India, was born and raised in Oakland, California, a working-class town and once-thriving African American enclave known as a birthplace of the Black Panther Party for Self Defense.

"My mother was a brilliant, five-foot-tall, brown woman with an accent, and as the eldest child, I saw how the world would sometimes treat her," Harris said. "But my mother never lost her cool."

She added: "She taught us to never complain about injustice but to do something about it. And she also told us to never do something 'half-assed.' And that is a direct quote."

Although her mother and father's marriage was short-lived, she said, her father always encouraged her to take risks. "Run Kamala! Run! Don't be afraid. Don't let anything stop you," Harris said.

At the beginning of the convention's closing night program, Harris' voice was heard in a biographical video played to delegates about the vice president and her sister's upbringing. Their Indian mother, the vice president explained, raised her daughters as Black because she felt that was how the world would see them first.

Harris has maintained close ties to Howard, her alma mater, and to her sorority, Alpha Kappa Alpha.

Many of her "sorors" — how members of Alpha Kappa Alpha refer to each other — and fellow Divine Nine members were watching in Chicago, as well as in her native San Francisco Bay Area.

Shannon Nash traveled from the Bay Area to Chicago because it was "important to be here to really witness history."

"The last two weeks have been energetic, hopeful, joyful and just to be a part of this movement," said Nash, co-founder of the group Tech for Kamala and a member of the AKA sorority. "To be able to tell my grandkids I was here when it happened is just super important."

Nash, who is Black, said she has older relatives who saw Harris become the vice president. But some, like her late grandmother, would have loved to see the first Black woman accept a presidential nomination.

Pat Pullar, a delegate from Clayton County, Georgia, said witnessing Harris make history was something



she wanted to experience "before I leave this earth."

"It is like my ancestors are dancing," she said Wednesday.

## Archaeologists in Virginia unearth colonial-era garden with clues about its enslaved gardeners

By BEN FINLEY Associated Press

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. (AP) — Archaeologists in Virginia are uncovering one of colonial America's most lavish displays of opulence: An ornamental garden where a wealthy politician and enslaved gardeners grew exotic plants from around the world.

Such plots of land dotted Britain's colonies and served as status symbols for the elite. They were the 18th-century equivalent of buying a Lamborghini.

The garden in Williamsburg belonged to John Custis IV, a tobacco plantation owner who served in Virginia's colonial legislature. He is perhaps best known as the first father-in-law of Martha Washington. She married future U.S. President George Washington after Custis' son Daniel died.

Historians also have been intrigued by the elder Custis' botanical adventures, which were well-documented in letters and later in books. And yet this excavation is as much about the people who cultivated the land as it is about Custis.

"The garden may have been Custis' vision, but he wasn't the one doing the work," said Jack Gary, executive director of archaeology at Colonial Williamsburg, a living history museum that now owns the property. "Everything we see in the ground that's related to the garden is the work of enslaved gardeners, many of whom must have been very skilled."

Archaeologists have pulled up fence posts that were 3 feet (1 meter) thick and carved from red cedar. Gravel paths were uncovered, including a large central walkway. Stains in the soil show where plants grew in rows.

The dig also has unearthed a pierced coin that was typically worn as a good-luck charm by young African Americans. Another find is the shards of an earthenware chamber pot, which was a portable toilet, that likely was used by people who were enslaved.

Animals appear to have been intentionally buried under some fence posts. They included two chickens with their heads removed, as well as a single cow's foot. A snake without a skull was found in a shallow hole that had likely contained a plant.

"We have to wonder if we're seeing traditions that are non-European," Gary said. "Are they West African traditions? We need to do more research. But it's features like those that make us continue to try and understand the enslaved people who were in this space."

The museum tells the story of Virginia's colonial capital through interpreters and restored buildings on 300 acres (120 hectares), which include parts of the original city. Founded in 1926, the museum did not start telling stories about Black Americans until 1979, even though more than half of the 2,000 people who lived there were Black, the majority enslaved.

In recent years, the museum has boosted efforts to tell a more complete story, while trying to attract more Black visitors. It plans to reconstruct one of the nation's oldest Black churches and is restoring what is believed to be the country's oldest surviving schoolhouse for Black children.

There also are plans to recreate Custis' Williamsburg home and garden, known then as Custis Square. Unlike some historic gardens, the restoration will be done without the benefit of surviving maps or diagrams, relying instead on what Gary described as the most detailed landscape archaeology effort in the museum's history.

The garden disappeared after Custis' death in 1749. But the dig has determined it was about two-thirds the size of a football field, while descriptions from the time reference lead statues of Greek gods and topiaries trimmed into balls and pyramids.

The garden's legacy has lived on through Custis' correspondence with British botanist Peter Collinson,

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, August 23, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 059 ~ 46 of 92

who traded plants with other horticulturalists around the globe. From 1734 to 1746, Custis and Collinson exchanged seeds and letters on merchant ships crossing the Atlantic.

The men possibly introduced new plants to their respective communities, said Eve Otmar, Colonial Williamsburg's master of historic gardening. For instance, Custis is believed to have made one of Williamsburg's earliest written mentions of growing tomatoes, known then as "apples of love" and native to Mexico and Central and South America.

Custis's gardeners also planted strawberries, pistachios and almonds, among 100 other imported plants. It's not always clear from his letters which were successful in the Virginia climate. A recent pollen analysis of the soil indicates the past presence of stone fruits, such as peaches and cherries, which weren't a big surprise.

The garden existed at a time when European empires and slavery were still expanding. Botanical gardens often were used for discovering new cash crops that could enrich colonial powers.

But Custis' garden was primarily about showing off his own wealth. A study of the area's topography placed his garden in direct view of Williamsburg's only church house at the time. Everyone would have seen the garden's fence, but few were invited inside.

Custis delighted his guests with the likes of the crown imperial lily, which was native to the Middle East and parts of Asia, and boasted clusters of drooping, bell-shaped flowers.

"In the 18th century, those were unusual things," Otmar said. "Only certain classes of people got to experience that. A wealthy person today — they buy a Lamborghini."

The museum is still trying to learn more about the people who worked in the garden.

Crystal Castleberry, Colonial Williamsburg's public archaeologist, has met with descendants of the more than 200 people who were enslaved by the Custis family on his various plantations. But there is too little information in surviving documents to determine if an ancestor lived and worked at Custis Square.

Two people, named Cornelia and Beck, were listed as property with the Williamsburg estate after Daniel Custis died in 1757. But their names prompt only more questions about who they were and what happened to them.

"Are they related to one another?" Castleberry asked. "Do they fear being split up or sold? Or are they going to be reunited with loved ones on other properties?"

## For many Asian Americans, Ferguson unrest set them on a path of resistance and reflection

By TERRY TANG Associated Press

Like a lot of people, Ellen Lo Hoffman was shocked and disturbed by the shooting death of Michael Brown, a Black teenager, at the hands of a Ferguson, Missouri, police officer a decade ago this month.

Hoffman — an assistant regional director for the national campus ministry InterVarsity Christian Fellowship — held a gathering at her Seattle-area home a month later, inviting all employees of color to talk. It sparked a pivotal moment for the Chinese American progressive when a Black staff member questioned: "Are Asian Americans our allies?"

"At that moment I felt caught. I felt called out in an appropriate way," Hoffman recalled. "He was really asking, are you on our side or are you going to align yourselves with us? Or will you just be bystanders?"

Asian American staffers responded with regret, renewed their alignment with their Black colleagues and vowed to "lead out."

"It was both affirmation to the Black staff, to say we are with you, and it is a choice now that we make to let go of our fear and insecurity and whatever cultural ways that might hinder us from really standing with you," Hoffman said.

Brown's death and the treatment of Black Lives Matter protesters in the days following led many Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders to an internal reckoning. Organizations and individuals of all ages were galvanized to get off the sidelines and show solidarity, whether it be through statements, demonstrations or educational talks.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, August 23, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 059 ~ 47 of 92

The events roused a younger generation of Asian Americans who had never been part of any high-stakes movement. The ripples from those experiences were felt again in the wake of George Floyd's murder and pandemic-driven anti-Asian hate. Today, many Asian American and Pacific Islanders continue to speak out not just for themselves, but for other groups.

This story is part of an AP ongoing series exploring the impact, legacy and ripples of what is widely called the "Ferguson uprising," which has sparked nationwide outcries over police violence and calls for broader solutions to entrenched racial injustices.

Gregg Orton, director of the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans, a coalition of over 40 Asian Pacific American organizations, looks back on that summer in 2014 as a seminal time.

"It did feel like a moment where, collectively, the Asian American Pacific community was kind of examining and interrogating our position on what it meant to be in solidarity," said Orton, who was working for Democratic U.S. Rep. Al Green, a member of the Congressional Black Caucus.

At the time, New York City residents were still coming to grips with the death of Eric Garner roughly three weeks before Brown was killed. Garner, a 43-year-old Black man, died after a Staten Island police officer used a prohibited chokehold on him. His cries of "I can't breathe" became a rallying cry.

In December 2014, Beatrice Chen, then a programming director at the Museum of Chinese in America in Manhattan, responded to Brown and Garner's deaths by organizing a panel on the history of race and police brutality through the lens of current events. Panelists included journalists and social justice advocates as well as college-age activists. Chen remembers the evening was well attended, proving the issues weighed heavily. It showed that even institutions like museums couldn't always stay neutral.

"It made me realize that people wanted to talk about it and to hear what others have to say, not necessarily coming in with a confrontational mindset," Chen said. "For a lot of them, it was like the first time they'd been able to talk about it in an open space with people they don't know."

Chen, who now heads a nonprofit helping immigrants in Manhattan's Chinatown, also saw a lot of Chinese American youths trying to impart to their immigrant parents why the issues were important.

"Their cultural historical reference is still Asia. They still read the Chinese newspapers. They don't necessarily read the mainstream or English media. And then you have the younger generation, who I think come out of a different societal view on race," Chen said. "I saw some of the 20-something activists really trying to explain and interpret and translate into Chinese 'Black Lives Matter.'"

Orton said the conversations were almost like a precursor to 2020. He noticed far stronger, more pronounced efforts to get people within the community involved.

"I would say the collective response to COVID-19, anti-Asian racism was a moment for our movement where folks really came together, organized a little bit differently," Orton said. "There was this sort of existential circumstance with the whole pandemic that was looming over all of us. I saw it as a moment where we kind of took our next big step forward."

The lows of the last decade — including the 2021 Atlanta spa shootings that left eight dead, including six Asian women — reignited advocacy for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. People who had never stopped to think about visibility, representation and safety were participating in protests, taking bystander workshops or starting their own advocacy groups. Just two days after the Atlanta attacks, California state education officials approved the nation's first statewide ethnic studies curriculum for high schools. Since then, states including Wisconsin, Florida and New Jersey have passed legislation mandating AAPI history in K-12 education.

In addition to demonstrations, data has also become an effective tool. Organizations like AAPI Data have been tracking information such as socioeconomic status to reveal trends and disparities among Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander groups. Historically, federal, state and local governments have dismissed some subgroups as "statistically insignificant," according to AAPI Data.

The U.S. Office of Management and Budget's directive in March to better disaggregate data among Asian

Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders was also a significant win, Orton said, as was getting rid of outdated wording like "Far East."

"There's still growing pains that we are going through," Orton said, adding that young people want to see change now, while older Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders who've been doing the work for a long time move at a different pace.

"We're trying to figure out how that all fits," Orton said.

## **Despite smaller crowds, activists at Democrats' convention call Chicago anti-war protests a success**

By SOPHIA TAREEN, LEA SKENE, JAKE OFFENHARTZ and JOEY CAPPELLETTI Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — As far as Chicago's storied protests go, the numbers outside the Democratic National Convention were unremarkable. But organizers say they did something leaders inside didn't: Make the war in Gaza part of the agenda.

The stakes were high for Chicago. Despite hosting more political conventions than any other American city, comparisons to the infamous 1968 convention, when police clashed with protesters on live television, were hard to shake. And one small unsanctioned protest that resulted in dozens of arrests and tense police standoffs didn't help.

But organizers who won the right to protest near the United Center, and police, who spent more than a year preparing, say they were successful in broadcasting different narratives about the nation's third-largest city.

"This is a very large contingent of people who are not willing to stand by quietly while people who are committing genocide are in our city," said student organizer Liz Rathburn. "We showed the world that."

Expectations for massive protests in Chicago — which came a month after the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee — were high. The largest protest in Milwaukee during the convention was roughly 1,000 people.

Chicago is known for its mass mobilizations, including in 2006 when nearly half a million people took to the streets to call for immigrant rights.

Organizers had predicted that as many as 20,000 would come to a march and rally on the convention's opening day. While they conceded that the numbers didn't end up that high, they disagreed with the city's much lower estimate of about 3,500 participants.

Hatem Abudayyeh, a lead organizer and co-founder of the U.S. Palestinian Community Network, said he was pleased with the turnout and the message of the largely family-friendly demonstrations that drew on the Chicago area's large Palestinian population.

While activists backing numerous progressive causes came to Chicago, they united on a pro-Palestinian, anti-war message.

"We were the show," Abudayyeh said. "The excitement was happening out here in the streets."

Most of the large protests were relatively peaceful, but there were dozens of arrests after one group broke part of the security fence around the United Center and following an unsanctioned demonstration outside the Israeli Consulate.

Chicago Police Superintendent Larry Snelling, who was highly visible at all of the major protests, said law enforcement leadership and communication with protest organizers contributed to the calm around convention. While Chicago had out-of-town police agencies helping with convention security, Chicago's force alone handled the protests.

During the largest marches, hundreds of Chicago officers on bicycles lined the streets and guided protesters through residential streets surrounding the United Center.

"What we learned here is that preparation is everything," Snelling said Thursday. "Two things you need for success: opportunity and preparation. We had the opportunity to respond to the Democratic National Convention, and we were prepared for it."



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, August 23, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 059 ~ 49 of 92

However, police also faced criticism for their tactics and what some called excessive officer presence. In Milwaukee, police were notably absent at the largest convention protests.

During one demonstration outside the Israeli Consulate in downtown Chicago — organized by a group that was not part of the main activist coalition — police far outnumbered the dozens of protesters.

Rows of officers in riot gear and with wooden clubs closed off a busy downtown street to block in protesters. At one point, police surrounded protesters at a plaza, which resulted in several minor injuries and dozens of arrests.

Snelling, who praised officers' handling, denied that police had "kettled" protesters — when police corral demonstrators in a confined area, a tactic that is banned under a Chicago consent decree. He called the response "proportional."

Still, the images of Chicago police and protesters facing off brought back flashes of 1968.

The demonstration outside the consulate was promoted with the slogan "Make it great like 68." Whenever police and protesters came close, activists would start chanting "The whole world is watching," a phrase used in the 1968 protests.

Snelling and city leaders have repeatedly said Chicago has evolved in the more than 50 years since, including by hosting the 1996 Democratic National Convention that largely went off without a hitch.

"Let's get off of 1968," Snelling told reporters. "Let's stop talking about 1968. This is 2024."

Activists also took credit for the largely peaceful protests, saying they had their own security and followed city protocols.

A small group of delegates who are part of the "uncommitted" movement expressed dissatisfaction with not being able to speak inside the convention and complained that mentions of Palestinians — who make up the vast majority of the 40,000 killed in Gaza since October — were sparse. During Wednesday's convention program, the parents of a 23-year-old American who was taken hostage by Hamas during the Oct. 7 attack in southern Israel spoke.

Still, activists acknowledged smaller crowds than anticipated.

Some protesters speculated that having Vice President Kamala Harris as the new Democratic nominee might have kept some people home. While signs and chants during the protests called her complicit in the war, many said they would wait for her to announce her plans for U.S. involvement in the war.

"I am excited to see what she does for healthcare. I am worried about her policy regarding Palestine and Gaza," said pharmacist Fedaa Balouta, who is Palestinian. "Our vote matters."

Bayan Ruyyashi, a 30-year-old biologist from the Chicago suburbs, said she had little hope that the protests, regardless of size, would have a meaningful impact on those inside the convention.

Rather, she said she attended a march on Wednesday so that her three children — ages 8, 5, and six months old — could witness the display of community and solidarity.

"I want them to feel that we have support. It's not just what we're hearing from Democrats," said Ruyyashi, whose family is Palestinian and Jordanian. "I need them to know that we're fighting for our homeland."

## Weeks after blistering Georgia's GOP governor, Donald Trump warms to Brian Kemp

By JEFF AMY and JILL COLVIN Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Donald Trump is changing his tune on Georgia's Republican governor after delivering a series of blistering attacks at a rally just weeks ago.

In a social media post, Trump thanked Gov. Brian Kemp "for all of your help and support in Georgia, where a win is so important to the success of our Party and, most importantly, our Country."

"I look forward to working with you, your team, and all of my friends in Georgia to help MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN!" he wrote.

Trump's words marked a major departure from his comments at a rally earlier this month, where Trump tore into the governor in an Atlanta arena that is only blocks from the Georgia Capitol, blaming him for his narrow 2020 loss in the state.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, August 23, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 059 ~ 50 of 92

In a roughly 10-minute tirade on Aug. 3, Trump railed against Kemp for not giving into his false theories of election fraud. He also blamed the governor for not stopping a local district attorney from prosecuting him and others for their efforts to overturn the results.

"He's a bad guy. He's a disloyal guy. And he's a very average governor," Trump said then. "Little Brian, little Brian Kemp. Bad guy."

Trump's Thursday statement came moments after Kemp appeared on Fox News and told host Sean Hannity that he continues to support Trump and will help him win Georgia's 16 electoral votes.

"We need to send Donald Trump back to the White House," Kemp said.

That could include Kemp using his own well-funded political organization to turn out Republican voters statewide, even as some GOP operatives continue to fear that Trump's own field brigade could be ineffective. Thus far, Kemp has said his organization is only working in a handful of state legislative districts.

Kemp's support could also be a helpful signal to moderate and conservative voters who have backed Kemp but have misgivings about Trump.

Both could be crucial as Democratic nominee and Vice President Kamala Harris' campaign has put Georgia back on a path to another extremely close election.

Trump, calling into Fox News after Harris' Democratic National Convention speech, was asked if he is making a specific effort to make up with Kemp.

"Well I just saw Brian on a very good man — did you ever hear of a man named Sean Hannity? And he was interviewed by Sean Hannity and he was very nice and he said he wants Trump to win and he's going to work with me 100% and I think we're going to have a very good relationship with Brian Kemp," Trump said.

A spokesperson for Kemp declined to comment.

Republican vice presidential nominee and Ohio Sen. JD Vance, who campaigned in the south Georgia city of Valdosta on Thursday, said he had earlier spoken "very briefly" to Kemp.

"I read the headlines," Vance told reporters. "Brian Kemp and Donald Trump have had some disagreements. I 100% guarantee you that Brian Kemp is behind this ticket."

Kemp had recoiled against Trump singling out his wife by name after Marty Kemp told an interviewer Trump had not earned her vote. On X, Kemp told Trump to "leave my family out of it" and urged him to stop "engaging in petty personal insults, attacking fellow Republicans, or dwelling on the past."

But Kemp never wavered in his support for the Republican ticket and kept up steady attacks against Harris.

"We've got to win from the top of the ticket on down," Kemp said Thursday on Fox. "I've been saying consistently for a long time, we cannot afford another four years of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris. And I think Kamala Harris and Tim Walz would be even worse."

That's in part because it's clear that Kemp, who has raised his national profile as vice chair of the Republican Governors Association, is still eyeing political possibilities that could include a 2026 run for the Senate against Democrat Jon Ossoff, or maybe even his own 2028 bid for president. Abandoning Trump could complicate Kemp's chances of winning a Senate bid and obliterate his chance of becoming the nominee of what is now firmly Trump's Republican Party.

But Kemp has also been unwilling to abase himself before Trump. The two have a long history of differences dating back to when Kemp appointed Kelly Loeffler to the U.S. Senate in 2019 over Trump's preferred pick of then-Rep. Doug Collins. It continued through Trump's criticism of Kemp's handling of the pandemic. Trump has repeatedly argued that Kemp owed his initial election as governor in 2018 to Trump's endorsement during the Republican primary runoff, although Kemp was already surging at the time.

But the relationship disintegrated when Kemp repeatedly rebuffed Trump's push for him to intervene after Democrat Joe Biden narrowly won Georgia in 2020. Kemp, for example spurned Trump's request for Kemp to call Georgia lawmakers into special session to replace Biden's electors with those pledged to Trump.

Trump retaliated by recruiting former U.S. Sen. David Perdue to try to sink Kemp's reelection bid in 2022's GOP primary. But Kemp embarrassed Perdue, and Trump by extension, winning nearly 75% of the primary vote. After going on to defeat Democrat Stacey Abrams by a comfortable margin, Kemp has spent the last two years pushing Republicans and Trump to stop litigating their grievances over the 2020

election and instead look ahead by appealing to voters on economic issues.

Some Republicans had been trying to patch up the feud.

"Kemp made it very clear he was 100% for Trump," said Georgia Republican Party Chairman Josh McKeon, a former state senator who has tried to bridge the divide between Kemp and Trump.

Loeffler, who remains a huge Republican donor and hosted a fundraiser for Trump in April, was among those who issued celebratory statements Thursday.

"No one fights harder for America than Donald Trump," Loeffler wrote on X. "No one works harder for Georgia than Brian Kemp. And there's nothing more uniting than saving this country from the threat of Kamala's communist takeover. Proud to stand with them in the fight to Make America Great Again!"

## **With their massive resources, corporations could be champions of racial equity but often waiver**

By GLENN GAMBOA and THALIA BEATY Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Forward Through Ferguson has made its mark on its community and the St. Louis region by focusing on justice and education, racial equity and policing reform.

The Missouri nonprofit was founded in 2015 to enact the societal changes outlined in the Ferguson Commission report to address the issues that contributed to the police shooting death of Michael Brown Jr. and the riots that followed in Ferguson, Missouri.

The new nonprofit and similar organizations looking to support the community saw money pour in from corporations like St. Louis-based Anheuser-Busch and major philanthropic organizations ranging from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to the NBA Players Association Foundation.

It didn't last, Anissa McCaskill, Forward Through Ferguson's executive director, told The Associated Press.

She doesn't want to dwell on the negative because so many have generously helped the organization. But she won't forget the community group that pledged her nonprofit multiyear support and then decided after the first year that they didn't want to pay anymore. "Our priorities have shifted," the group said. Local companies that initially supported the group also stopped, "shifting priorities" again.

It's not like her organization was ever getting the million-dollar donations that many businesses like to tout. In fact, experts say following where money from corporations and their foundations goes is very difficult.

"In many instances, it is piecemeal," McCaskill said. "But when you put pennies in a jar, it starts to add up. Sure, I think, 'How many things do I need to do in order to get this fund endowed?'"

That lament is common throughout philanthropy, especially among organizations that rely on public donations each year rather than those, like Ivy League colleges, for example, that have large endowments that generate steady annual income. It's also not unusual for nonprofits to see a surge in giving while their cause, from protests to weather events, is in the spotlight, only to see donations quickly dry up.

However, the racial reckoning sparked in Ferguson was supposed to be different.

This story is part of an AP ongoing series exploring the impact, legacy and ripple effects of what is widely called the Ferguson uprising, sparked a decade ago by Brown's death.

Emerson Electric, a Fortune 500 company headquartered 1 mile (1.6 kilometers) from where Brown was killed, announced its "Ferguson Forward" initiative a month after the protests. The initiative allocated about \$4 million over five years to improve education, offer scholarships to colleges and trade schools and provide business development for people in the community, hoping other area companies would match it. In 2014, Emerson earned about \$2.1 billion in profit on sales of \$25 billion.

Experts say there is a wide variety of reasons companies get involved with community donations, from altruistic, civic-minded ones to business-related ones including employee retention and building a stronger customer and employee base.

Recent trends suggest more corporations are providing goods and services at a reduced rate in addition to donations, rather than solely giving money to communities, said Kari Niedfeldt-Thomas, managing director and chief operations officer for Chief Executives for Corporate Purpose, a coalition that advises

companies on sustainability and corporate responsibility issues.

According to CECF research, a wide-ranging definition of giving including volunteerism, community donations and providing services and products to nonprofits has jumped from 24% of a company's overall corporate or social responsibility budgets in 2021 to 35% of those budget in 2023, Niedfeldt-Thomas said.

But the current backlash against anything that could be perceived as a diversity, equity or inclusion program is making it more difficult to measure corporate commitments, even if companies are dedicating more resources toward them, she said.

Earl Lewis, a professor and director of the Center for Social Solutions at the University of Michigan, found that lack of transparency especially striking after the outpouring of corporate pledges and statements following the murder of George Floyd in 2020.

Along with his research team, Lewis, who formerly led the Mellon Foundation, designed a database to make information about the commitments and actions taken by major U.S. corporations around racial equity more accessible.

"Maybe there was a way to actually take people at their word, that they were going to do something and then, try to figure out whether in the public domain, we could find data that would support their claims," Lewis said, explaining they reached out to all the companies on their list and will update the results if they respond with public information.

There are few requirements for companies to make this information public, though if they give through a corporate foundation they will report outgoing grants on tax forms.

Lewis' team, led by data scientist Brad Bottoms, searched for statements and reports from 51 of the largest U.S. companies from 2020. Just over half, or 27 of the 51 companies, made a public pledge around racial equity that year. Of the companies that didn't make a pledge, the researchers found 10 mentioned racial equity when reporting about their donations.

Six companies that made pledges did not report in detail about how they fulfilled them, which Lewis and his team thought was a priority.

One of those companies, AT&T, did not respond to questions about whether it has fulfilled its \$10 million pledge to historically Black colleges and universities.

The social media giant Meta said it fulfilled its promise to give \$10 million to organizations that work on racial equity. The company also said it granted \$20 million in cash and \$12 million in advertising credits to 400 nonprofits serving Black communities, which Meta had not previously publicly disclosed.

Consumer giant Johnson & Johnson said by the end of 2023 it had spent \$80 million out of a pledged \$100 million to "community-led organizations and programs" to improve racial health inequities but did not specify what organizations.

## **Harris' big moment, Dems' rising stars, Gaza protesters shut out.**

### **Takeaways from DNC's last night**

By JOSH BOAK, BRIAN SLODYSKO and NICHOLAS RICCARDI Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Vice President Kamala Harris urged Americans to seize a "precious, fleeting opportunity" to move beyond political divisions and the threat of Republican Donald Trump on Thursday as she closed out the Democratic National Convention.

Harris is the first Black woman and first person of South Asian descent to be nominated, and supporters throughout the convention crowd turned out in white to mark the moment. The convention also featured rising stars of the Democratic party, survivors of mass shootings and others who showcased pressing issues in American life.

The crowded lineup reflected the immense work Democrats have before them as they've stood up a fresh presidential campaign in just under a month since President Joe Biden bowed out of the race.

Here are some takeaways from the Democrats' final night.

Democrats for change

Harris' speech completed a remarkable four-day effort by the party in the White House to contend that



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, August 23, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 059 ~ 53 of 92

it is the real change agent in this election.

Democrats were helped in making that argument by Trump's outsized presence in the political dialogue over the past nine years. They got another boost when Biden stepped aside for Harris, giving voters a fresh choice.

Harris tried to capitalize on that, telling delegates and the nation: "With this election, our nation has a precious, fleeting opportunity to move past the bitterness, cynicism and divisive battles of the past."

Her running mate, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, made a similar pitch a day earlier when he wrapped up his speech by slamming Trump and his running mate, Ohio Sen. JD Vance, saying, "I don't know about you, I'm about ready to turn the page on these guys."

The Trump campaign, for its part, argues that voters want to turn the page on the Biden-Harris administration and the past four years.

Playing to fear as much as joy

As much as her campaign is about joy, Harris devoted a considerable chunk of her speech to what she said were the risks of another Trump term, calling the election "one of the most important in the life of our nation."

Her focus on Trump showed that fear remains a powerful motivator for many voters and she wants to tap into that.

Harris described how Trump inspired the Jan. 6, 2021, assault on the U.S. Capitol and his fraud conviction. She talked about his willingness to deploy the military against U.S. citizens — and the ability to do so with immunity from criminal consequences due to a recent Supreme Court ruling.

"Just imagine: Donald Trump with no guardrails," she warned.

Job One: Telling her origin story

Harris' first order of business upon taking the convention stage was introducing herself.

Her sudden elevation after Biden's abrupt withdrawal from the race means many people are just now starting to size her up.

That presents an opportunity for her — and a risk if Trump and his allies succeed in defining her first. On the convention stage, Harris told her origin story with warmth, humor and intensity.

She detailed the unlikely pairing of her parents: two students — one from India, the other from Jamaica. Her family's many moves across the U.S. And her own desire to become a lawyer after discovering a high school friend had been sexually abused.

And she placed particular emphasis on the work ethic that her mother instilled in her.

"Never do anything half-assed," Harris said her mother would tell her.

Firsts not mentioned

Harris would be the first woman president if she wins, as well as the first South Asian, the first Black woman. That's been brought up by dozens of convention speakers. But the candidate herself didn't mention it.

Harris acknowledged that hers was an "uncertain journey," the daughter of Indian and Jamaican immigrants who was raised by a single mother after her parents split up. But she didn't dwell on the historic nature of her candidacy.

That's in stark contrast to the last woman to lose to Trump, Hillary Clinton, who made breaking the glass ceiling a key part of her campaign. Instead, Harris seems to be following the path of Barack Obama, who didn't have to tell everyone he'd be the first Black president, but threaded his life story into an argument for why voters should back him.

A new generation gets its moment in the spotlight

The convention didn't just formally mark the exit of 81-year-old Biden from the campaign. It served as a showcase for the younger Democrats in the political talent pool.

Speakers included swing state up-and-comers like Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, who painted Trump as out of touch and told delegates that "with Kamala Harris, she gets us. She sees us. She is us." Others featured during the week: Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro and Arizona Sen. Mark Kelly, both of whom made the shortlist when Harris was searching for a running mate.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, August 23, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 059 ~ 54 of 92

Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel brought down the house with her address earlier in the week when she warned Republicans and the U.S. Supreme Court, "You can pry this wedding band from my cold, dead, gay hand!"

There were also rising blue-state celebrities like California Gov. Gavin Newsom, Maryland Gov. Wes Moore, Angela Alsobrooks, Maryland's Democratic nominee for an open Senate seat, and 34-year-old New York Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez — all of whom are seen as representing a new generation of Democrats.

It was only a few years ago that Democrats worried they had too little talent in the pipeline, after scores of officeholders were wiped out in the off-year elections under President Barack Obama. But they've seen a resurgence in the Trump era.

Palestinian supporters never got to address the convention

Pro-Palestinian delegates never got the chance to take the stage and address the convention. It was a reflection of how the party has tried to avoid one of the more divisive issues of this election season as the U.S. alliance with Israel has become a political flashpoint.

Israel's response to the Oct. 7, 2023, attack by Hamas has spurred outrage over mass casualties and human rights violations in Gaza, and pro-Palestinian demonstrators have marched outside the arena each day.

"Uncommitted" delegate Abbas Alawieh had been in talks with DNC officials about speaking to the hall. After being rejected, he and other delegates chose to spend Wednesday night on the sidewalk outside the convention hall in protest.

"When we ran out of options as uncommitted delegates, we just sat down," Alawieh said Thursday.

Harris declared she would "always stand up for Israel's right to defend itself," while saying "at the same time" that the "scale of suffering" in Gaza is "heartbreaking." She indicated that the suffering could end with a cease-fire and the release of hostages taken in the October raid. On Wednesday, the parents of one of the young men being held hostage in Gaza addressed the convention.

Convention reflects the party's emotional whiplash since Biden dropped out

Harris' nominating convention has been a four-day romp imbued with a party-like atmosphere and a sense of optimism. It's safe to say that it would have been a much different gathering were Biden the party's nominee.

Democrats have been through emotional whiplash since Biden bowed out of the race last month, clearing the path for Harris.

For months Democrats had been despondent about Biden's polling and his underwhelming speaking appearances. And many Democrats were convinced that Trump could run away with the election.

Contrast that with the convention being held to nominate Harris in Chicago: Laughter filled the air, the mood was electric and searing jokes at Trump's expense flowed freely. The event has also drawn an A-list slate of talent, from John Legend to Pink.

Not to be forgotten: There also have been words of caution about the hard work ahead.

Turning social issues into economic policies

Polling shows voters have consistently felt Republicans are better on the economy — a perception that Democrats are trying to fix.

High inflation hounded Biden's popularity. Now Trump is trying to assign the blame to Harris as well, going so far as to call her a communist by nicknaming her "Comrade Kamala" and misleadingly claiming a relatively healthy economy is actually in tatters.

It's not clear how well Trump's criticism will stick to Harris, but Democrats tried to show her economic credentials on Thursday.

The Democrats argue that Harris can do more for the middle class and entrepreneurs as the party tries to reframe social issues as economic ones.

Harris wants to provide \$25,000 in down payment assistance for first-time homebuyers. "She knows housing is a human right and a pathway to the middle class," Marcia Fudge, the former secretary of Housing and Urban Development, told the convention.

Harris also wants a \$6,000 tax break for new parents and an expanded child tax credit. "Child care makes our economy run," Rep. Katherine Clark, D-Mass., told delegates.

## With their massive resources, corporations could be champions of racial equity but often waiver

By GLENN GAMBOA and THALIA BEATY Associated Press

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The Missouri nonprofit was founded in 2015 to enact the societal changes outlined in the Ferguson Commission report to address the issues that contributed to the police shooting death of Michael Brown Jr. and the riots that followed in Ferguson, Missouri.

The new nonprofit and similar organizations looking to support the community saw money pour in from corporations like St. Louis-based Anheuser-Busch and major philanthropic organizations ranging from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to the NBA Players Association Foundation.

It didn't last, Anissa McCaskill, Forward Through Ferguson's executive director, told The Associated Press.

She doesn't want to dwell on the negative because many have generously helped the organization. But she won't forget the community group that pledged her nonprofit multiyear support and then decided after the first year that they didn't want to pay anymore. "Our priorities have shifted," the group said. Local companies that initially supported the group also stopped, "shifting priorities" again.

It's not like her organization was ever getting the million-dollar donations that many businesses like to tout. In fact, experts say following where money from corporations and their foundations goes is very difficult.

"The largest donation we've ever gotten from a business is \$210,000; the largest donation we've ever gotten from a foundation is \$150,000," said McCaskill, adding that those gifts and other high-profile ones followed the police killing of George Floyd in 2020.

Between those donations and the revenue the group is generating through racial equity training for government departments and businesses, Forward Through Ferguson was able to expand from five full-time employees to 10 employees last year.

"In many instances, it is piecemeal," McCaskill said. "But when you put pennies in a jar, it starts to add up. Sure, I think, 'How many things do I need to do in order to get this fund endowed for us to be able to have general operating money as opposed to being so program-specific?'"

That lament is common throughout philanthropy, especially among organizations that rely on public donations each year rather than those, like Ivy League colleges, for example, that have large endowments that generate steady annual income. It's also not unusual for nonprofits to see a surge in giving while their cause, from protests to weather events, is in the spotlight, only to see donations quickly dry up.

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"Ferguson is our home and has been for the last 70 years," Emerson Chairman and CEO David N. Farr said when announcing the plan. "We choose to be here and are committed to this community, especially now in its increased time of need. We believe in hope and opportunity and want to help remove barriers so that more of our neighbors can succeed."

Experts say there is a wide variety of reasons companies get involved with community donations, from altruistic and civic-minded ones to business-related ones including employee retention and building a stronger customer and employee base.

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# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, August 23, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 059 ~ 56 of 92

director and chief operations officer for Chief Executives for Corporate Purpose, a coalition that advises companies on sustainability and corporate responsibility issues.

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But the current backlash against anything that could be perceived as a diversity, equity or inclusion program is making it more difficult to measure corporate commitments, even if companies are dedicating more resources toward them, she said.

"I would say that we're seeing fewer public companies feeling that they have to call that out," she said.

Earl Lewis, a professor and director of the Center for Social Solutions at the University of Michigan, found that lack of transparency especially striking after the outpouring of corporate pledges and statements following the murder of George Floyd in 2020.

Along with his research team, Lewis, who formerly led the Mellon Foundation, designed a database to make information about the commitments and actions taken by major U.S. corporations around racial equity more accessible.

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Six companies that made pledges did not report in detail about how they fulfilled them, which Lewis and his team thought was a priority.

"A lot of enterprises, I would say, understand the need to be accountable, but accountable and transparent may not be thought of as synonymous," Lewis said.

One of those companies, AT&T, did not respond to questions about whether it has fulfilled its \$10 million pledge to historically Black colleges and universities.

The social media giant Meta said it fulfilled its promise to give \$10 million to organizations that work on racial equity. The company also said it granted \$20 million in cash and \$12 million in advertising credits to 400 nonprofits serving Black communities, which Meta had not previously publicly disclosed.

Consumer giant Johnson & Johnson said by the end of 2023 it had spent \$80 million out of a pledged \$100 million to "community-led organizations and programs" to improve racial health inequities but did not specify what organizations.

It's hard to independently confirm these figures from publicly available information, especially if corporations make donations through their corporate entities rather than their foundations.

Other corporations often consider as charity some business decisions that can still generate a profit for them, such as banks offering loans to minority-owned businesses. Even the organizations that help distribute those kinds of donations become hybridized, which are often known as community development financial institutions, or CDFIs.

CDFIs take money from corporations, government departments and philanthropic sources and deploy it either as loans or grants to help community groups and businesses.

Harold Pettigrew, president and CEO of the Opportunity Finance Network, which is a coalition of more than 400 CDFIs across the country, calls the organizations the financial first responders of major events because they know their communities and can quickly mobilize resources.

CDFIs have struggled to convince companies of the importance of using them to donate or even invest



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, August 23, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 059 ~ 57 of 92

in communities they say they care about, although Pettigrew said that is starting to change.

"Certainly, corporations, philanthropy and other institutions are starting to understand that for impact and economic power, CDFIs are those independent channels they are looking for, especially in recent years," he said. "I think performance matters, right? I think ultimately what you're seeing is recognition that, as an industry, we know how to get it done."

Forward Through Ferguson's McCaskill is eager to show what her group can get done. The Ferguson Commission's report outlined 189 calls to action to change the systems that led to Brown's death and the community's rage in the protests that followed.

McCaskill recognizes that many of those calls to action remain incomplete. But she is proud to say a large number of them are currently being tackled by community groups, many of which have been supported by her organization's Racial Healing + Justice Fund.

"We recognize that some things may come a lot sooner than others," McCaskill said. "But we know that policing is now a thing that people are paying much more attention to, and are much more engaged about than they ever probably were before Michael was killed."

She sees other progress in how her 20-year-old son and his friends view the world.

"They're educated, they're organized, and they are very, very clear about what has to occur," McCaskill said. "It's different than it was 10 years ago because they've gotten to the point where they understand how the system moves. And so you see them in different positions, in different places chiseling away at that, in some instances in protest and in others, literally being in organizations and moving into positions of power where they can shift the cultures."

She said it took generations for Ferguson to reach the problematic point it found itself in 2014 and it was always going to take longer than 10 years to get out. But they have started.

"How do you eat an elephant?" she said, smiling. "One bite at a time."

## **RFK Jr. withdraws from Arizona ballot as questions swirl around a possible alliance with Trump**

By JONATHAN J. COOPER and ALI SWENSON Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — Robert F. Kennedy Jr. withdrew from the ballot in Arizona late Thursday, a day before he and Donald Trump were set to appear miles apart in the Phoenix area as speculation grows that Kennedy could drop his independent presidential bid and endorse the Republican nominee.

Kennedy is scheduled to speak at 2 p.m. Eastern time in Phoenix "about the present historical moment and his path forward," according to his campaign. Hours later, Trump will hold a rally in neighboring Glendale.

Trump, campaigning Thursday in southern Arizona at the U.S.-Mexico border, said that "no plans have been made" for Kennedy to appear with him on Friday. But he noted they would be in the same city at the same time.

On Thursday evening, Trump's campaign made an unusual announcement, teasing that he would be joined by "a special guest" at his Glendale event.

Hours later when he called into Fox News Channel after the Democratic National Convention wrapped, Trump said of Kennedy, "I have no idea if he's going to endorse me."

But he noted that they were going to be in the same state and said, "It's possible we will be meeting tomorrow and we'll be discussing it."

Representatives for Trump's campaign did not respond to messages about whether Kennedy would be the guest and the Kennedy campaign did not immediately return a message seeking comment if he would be joining Trump.

Kennedy's Arizona withdrawal, confirmed by a spokesperson for the secretary of state, came less than a week after Kennedy submitted well more than the required number of signatures to appear on the ballot. His critics raised questions about the validity of some of the signatures after a pro-Kennedy super PAC was heavily involved in his effort to collect them, potentially running afoul of rules against coordination between candidates and independent political groups.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, August 23, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 059 ~ 58 of 92

But on Thursday, Kennedy, his running mate, Nicole Shanahan and all of their electors submitted notarized letters dated that day, withdrawing from the race in the state.

A year ago, some would have thought it inconceivable that Kennedy — a member of the most storied family in Democratic politics — would work with Trump to keep a Democrat out of the White House. Even in recent months, Kennedy has accused Trump of betraying his followers, while Trump has criticized Kennedy as “the most radical left candidate in the race.”

But the two campaigns have ramped up their compliments to each other and engaged in behind-the-scenes discussions in recent weeks, according to those familiar with the efforts. Both campaigns have spent months accusing Democrats of weaponizing the legal system for their own benefit. And both have hinted publicly that they could be open to joining forces, with the shared goal of limiting the election chances of Democratic presidential nominee Kamala Harris.

Last month, during the Republican National Convention, Kennedy’s son posted and then quickly deleted a video showing a phone call between Kennedy and Trump, in which the former president appeared to try to talk Kennedy into siding with him.

Talks between the two camps have continued, with close Trump allies quietly lobbying Kennedy to drop out of the race and support the Republican nominee, according to a person familiar with the efforts who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss private conversations.

Trump told CNN on Tuesday that he would “love” an endorsement from Kennedy, whom he called a “brilliant guy.” He also said he would “certainly” be open to Kennedy playing a role in his administration if Kennedy drops out and endorses him.

Shanahan, also openly suggested on a podcast this week that his campaign might “walk away right now and join forces with Donald Trump.” While she clarified that she is not personally in talks with Trump, she entertained the idea that Kennedy could join Trump’s administration as secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services.

“I think that Bobby in a role like that would be excellent,” Shanahan said. “I fully support it. I have high hopes.”

Kennedy, a son of former Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy and a nephew of former President John F. Kennedy, hasn’t disclosed the reason for his Friday remarks, but they come as his campaign’s momentum has slipped.

Kennedy Jr. first entered the 2024 presidential race as a Democrat but left the party last fall to run as an independent. He built an unusually strong base for a third-party bid, fueled in part by anti-establishment voters and vaccine skeptics who have followed his anti-vaccine work since the COVID-19 pandemic. But he has since faced strained campaign finances and mounting legal challenges, including a recent ruling from a New York judge that he should not appear on the ballot in the state because he listed a “sham” address on nominating petitions.

Recent polls put his support in the mid-single digits. And it’s unclear if he’d get even that in a general election, since third-party candidates frequently don’t live up to their early poll numbers when voters actually cast their ballots.

There’s some evidence that Kennedy’s staying in the race would hurt Trump more than Harris. According to a July AP-NORC poll, Republicans were significantly more likely than Democrats to have a favorable view of Kennedy. And those with a positive impression of Kennedy were significantly more likely to also have a favorable view of Trump (52%) than Harris (37%).

In an interview with MSNBC at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago on Thursday, Harris communications director Michael Tyler said her campaign welcomes Kennedy voters should the independent candidate drop out.

For voters who see Trump as a threat, who are looking for a new way forward, or who want “government to get the hell out of the way of their own personal decisions, there’s a home for you in Kamala Harris’ campaign,” Tyler said.

For Trump, Friday will mark the end of a week’s worth of battleground state visits in which he has sought

to draw attention away from Democrats' celebration of Harris' presidential nomination in Chicago.

He traveled to Pennsylvania, Michigan, North Carolina and Arizona's U.S.-Mexico border for events focused on his policy proposals on the economy, crime and safety, national security and the border. He will close out the week Friday with stops in Las Vegas and Glendale.

## **Andrew Tate placed under house arrest as new human trafficking allegations emerge involving minors**

By STEPHEN McGRATH and NICOLAE DUMITRACHE Associated Press

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP) — A court in Romania's capital Thursday placed the divisive internet influencer Andrew Tate under house arrest for 30 days, as prosecutors investigate a sprawling new case that involves allegations of human trafficking of minors and sex with a minor.

The Bucharest Tribunal's decision comes a day after prosecutors detained six people including Tate, 37, and his brother Tristan Tate, 36, after masked police raided four homes in Bucharest and nearby Ilfov county. Prosecutors had asked the court to remand the brothers in custody for 30 days. Tristan has been placed under judicial control, which typically involves geographical restrictions and reporting periodically to the police.

The brothers' spokesperson, Mateea Petrescu, responded to the decision by saying the judge denied prosecutors' request due to the brothers' "exemplary behavior" while previously under preventative arrest measures in a separate case, and that they firmly deny all of the allegations against them and "remain steadfast in proving their innocence."

The Tate brothers, both former kickboxers and dual British-U.S. citizens, are already awaiting trial in Romania in a separate human trafficking case along with two Romanian women. Romanian prosecutors formally indicted all four last year.

In the new case, Romania's anti-organized crime agency DIICOT said it is investigating allegations of human trafficking, including the trafficking of minors, sexual intercourse with a minor, forming an organized criminal group, money laundering, and influencing statements. The alleged crimes date between 2014 and 2024.

DIICOT said the defendants used the coercive "loverboy" method to exploit 34 vulnerable victims who were forced to produce pornographic materials for a fee online, and that more than \$2.8 million (2.5 million euros) it generated was kept by the defendants.

An unnamed foreign man also sexually exploited a 17-year-old foreigner, DIICOT alleges, and said he kept all of the \$1.5 million (1.3 million euros) made from the criminal activity. The same man "repeatedly had sexual relations and acts" with a 15-year-old, the agency alleges.

Outside the court after the judge issued his house arrest measure, Andrew Tate told reporters that many of the alleged victims in the new case have statements in the Tate brother's defense. "This is a set-up, it's absolutely disgusting, fair play to that judge who saw through the bullshit and let us free," he said.

Andrew Tate, who has 9.9 million followers on the social media platform X, is known for expressing misogynistic views online and has repeatedly claimed that prosecutors have no evidence against him and that there is a political conspiracy to silence him. He was previously banned from various social media platforms for misogynistic views and hate speech.

"During the entire criminal process, the investigated persons benefit from the procedural rights and guarantees provided by the Code of Criminal Procedure, as well as the presumption of innocence," DIICOT said.

During the police raids on Wednesday, which also involved scouring the Tate brothers' large property near Bucharest, authorities seized 16 luxury vehicles, a motorbike, laptops, thousands of dollars in cash, luxury watches, and data storage drives.

The latest case against the Tates adds to a litany of legal woes against them.

After the Tate brothers' arrest in December 2022, they were held for three months in police detention before being moved to house arrest. They were later restricted to Bucharest municipality and nearby Ilfov county, and then to Romania.

In April, the Bucharest Tribunal ruled in that case that prosecutors' case file against them met the legal criteria and that a trial could start but did not set a date for it to begin.

Last month, a court overturned an earlier decision that allowed the Tate brothers to leave Romania as they await trial. The earlier court ruled on July 5 that they could leave the country as long as they remained within the 27-member European Union. The decision was final.

In March, the Tate brothers also appeared at the Bucharest Court of Appeal in a separate case, after British authorities issued arrest warrants over allegations of sexual aggression in a U.K. case dating back to 2012-2015. The appeals court granted the British request to extradite the the Tates to the U.K., but only after legal proceedings in Romania have concluded.

## **Southern Arizona man arrested after alleged threats against Trump as candidate visited border**

BISBEE, Ariz. (AP) — A southern Arizona man was arrested for allegedly making death threats against Donald Trump on social media, authorities said Thursday, the same day the Republican former president and 2024 candidate was in the area to visit the U.S.-Mexico border.

The Cochise County Sheriff's Office identified the suspect as Ronald Lee Syvrud, 66, from the city of Benson. It's in the same county as the border area that Trump was visiting in the afternoon and that his running mate Sen. JD Vance went to in recent weeks.

The sheriff's office said Syvrud was arrested around 2:30 p.m. during a traffic stop.

"As part of the operations plan in place for the visit of candidate Donald Trump on today's date, locating this subject was a priority," the agency said in a statement.

An online search failed to turn up any social media accounts in Syvrud's name or any contact information for him. His name did not immediately appear on the list of inmates at the county jail, and there was no word yet on whether he had a court date or an attorney who could speak on his behalf.

The sheriff's office said Syvrud was booked on several outstanding warrants in Wisconsin for driving under the influence and failure to appear in court, as well as a felony hit and run charge in Graham County, Arizona, and failure to register as a sex offender in Coconino County, Arizona.

Trump survived an assassination attempt July 13. This Wednesday, at his first outdoor rally since the attempt, he spoke from behind bulletproof glass in North Carolina at an event focused on national security.

## **Surprise text focuses murder trial of ex-politician accused of killing Las Vegas reporter**

By KEN RITTER Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — A surprise text ended a prosecutor's questioning Thursday of a former Las Vegas-area politician standing trial in the killing of a veteran investigative reporter, after a long day of sometimes rambling testimony during which the defendant declared that he never killed anyone.

In a hushed courtroom, before a rapt jury with a murder conviction on the line, prosecutor Christopher Hamner asked defendant Robert Telles to read a message showing that Telles' wife wondered where he was about the time reporter Jeff German was ambushed and killed outside his home nearly two years ago.

"It says, 'Where are you?'" Telles responded.

Telles testified earlier that he ignored several text, email and voice messages while he was at home, went for a walk and then to a gym the day German was killed. Prosecutors have suggested he left the phone at home as he executed a meticulously planned fatal attack on the journalist.

Hamner zeroed in on cellphone records presented Wednesday by a defense witness that included no listing of the text from Telles' wife. The prosecutor said it was found separately, on her Apple watch device.

Telles conceded Thursday that as the owner of the phone, he could have deleted the message. He did not admit that he did.

Hamner noted the time — 10:30 a.m. on Sept. 2, 2022 — was the time security video presented earlier



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, August 23, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 059 ~ 61 of 92

to the jury showed a maroon SUV that Telles has agreed looked just like his in German's neighborhood. It was driven by a person wearing an orange outfit and a big straw hat. Telles himself referred several times Thursday to that person as German's killer.

Where Telles was when German was fatally attacked has been a key question since the trial started — including during 2 1/2 hours of unusual stream-of-consciousness testimony from Telles.

Telles, a former Democratic administrator of a Clark County office that handles unclaimed estates, has spent almost two years in jail since his arrest in German's killing. He denies killing German and faces the possibility of life in prison if he's convicted.

He will return to the witness stand Friday for prosecution rebuttal questioning of police detectives he cited in his testimony, a second round of self-guided testimony and possibly another round of follow-up questioning by prosecutors.

His attorney, Robert Draskovich, said Thursday there were no additional witnesses planned for the defense.

Both sides said they expect closing arguments will come Monday, two weeks after jury selection began.

Draskovich signaled a behind-the-scenes rift with his client on Tuesday, when he got permission from the judge to let Telles testify "by way of narration." That removed Draskovich from the usual question-and-answer format.

Telles told the jury he had been "framed" for blame in German's death by a political and social "old guard" real estate network resisting his efforts to fight corruption in his office.

"How Mr. German was murdered ... speaks to, I think, something or someone who knows what they're doing," he testified. "You know, the idea that Mr. German's throat was slashed and his heart was stabbed."

"I am not the kind of person who would stab someone," Telles said as he ended his soliloquy on Thursday. "I didn't kill Mr. German. And that's my testimony."

Telles is accused of plotting to kill German, 69, a respected journalist who spent 44 years covering crime, courts and corruption in Sin City, after German authored several articles for the Las Vegas Review-Journal about a county office in turmoil under Telles' leadership.

Those stories also included allegations that Telles had a romantic relationship with a female employee. Telles admitted for the first time Thursday those reports were true. German was working on another report about that relationship when he was killed.

Telles, 47, is an attorney who practiced civil law before he was elected in 2018. His law license was suspended following his arrest several days after German was killed. He lost his 2022 Democratic primary bid for a second elected term.

Hamner and prosecutor Pamela Weckerly rested the prosecution case Monday after four days, 28 witnesses and hundreds of pages of photos, police reports and video evidence.

Under questioning by Hamner on Thursday, Telles said he could not explain how and why his DNA was found beneath German's fingernails. Autopsy photos show knife or slash marks on German's arms that police said stemmed from German's fight for his life.

Telles said he didn't know how people he alleged conspired to frame him for murder were able to put key pieces of evidence in his home including cut-up pieces of a broad straw hat and a gray athletic shoe. Similar items were worn by the person in orange captured on neighborhood security video near German's home before the reporter was ambushed and left dead.

Hamner acknowledged that two key pieces of evidence were never found: The orange work shirt and the knife used to attack German. He wondered why people out to frame Telles would have left them out of the evidence inventory.

"Why wouldn't they put the murder weapon in your house?" Hamner asked. "Does that make any sense?"

"I don't know," Telles responded.

## Nicaragua closes US Chamber of Commerce and 150 other organizations

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Nicaragua's government closed another 151 nongovernmental organizations Thursday, among them some of the most important trade organizations, including the American Chamber of Commerce, coming just days after the government shuttered some 1,500 nongovernmental organizations, many of them religious in nature.

The Interior Ministry also cancelled the legal status of the umbrella organization for European countries' chambers of commerce in Nicaragua.

The U.S. chamber, known locally as AMCHAM, had been in existence in Nicaragua for 47 years. It focused on promoting investment and bilateral trade with Nicaragua's most important trade partner. The Associated Press left messages with the chamber seeking comment on the move.

The relationship between the U.S. and Nicaragua has been strained for years, especially since President Daniel Ortega's deadly crackdown on massive street protests in 2018, but commerce continued.

Other groups closed in the decree were the National Union of Farmers and Ranchers, as well as chambers of commerce from various other countries including Mexico, Panama and Uruguay.

Ortega has targeted nongovernmental organizations since the 2018 uprising, alleging that organizations receiving foreign funds were involved in what he considered an attempt to oust him from office. To date, his government has closed more than 5,000.

On Monday, Ortega decreed that 1,500 organizations, mostly religious and including churches, be closed. Officially, the government said they had not correctly reported their financial statements to the government.

Enrique Sáenz, an economist and political analyst, said that the closure of organizations tied to the private sector, which he characterized as "absolutely irrational."

"They're shooting themselves in the foot with a shotgun," he said, noting that the government is reducing public spending and now will lose the jobs those organizations created.

"It sends a disturbing message" to businesses and overseas and displays "a climate of uncertainty for trade and investment," he said.

The closures impact Nicaraguans as well since many of the organizations provide some form of relief to people in need, he said.

## At DNC, Gabrielle Giffords joins survivors of gun violence and families of those killed in shootings

By MICHELLE L. PRICE Associated Press

Survivors and family members of victims of gun violence attested at the Democratic National Convention on Thursday to the ways shootings impacted their lives and spurred them to advocacy.

One of the most potent speeches came from Gabrielle Giffords, the former Democratic congresswoman who was wounded in a 2011 shooting in her Arizona district.

Giffords, who was shot in the head while out greeting constituents, spoke Thursday about her long road to recovery.

"I learned to walk again, one step at a time. I learned to talk again, one word at a time," said Giffords, who appeared with her husband, Arizona Sen. Mark Kelly.

"I almost died, but I fought for life and I survived," Giffords said, thrusting her arm into the air and drawing cheers from the crowd.

She praised Vice President Kamala Harris and endorsed her.

"Kamala can beat the gun lobby and can beat gun trafficking," said Giffords, who opened the Giffords Law Center to track and analyze firearm legislation in all 50 states.

Harris, a former prosecutor, has advocated for more laws to stop gun violence, including reinstating a ban on assault weapons. President Joe Biden in 2023 tapped Harris to lead the first-ever federal office of gun violence prevention.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, August 23, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 059 ~ 63 of 92

Republican nominee Donald Trump has positioned himself directly against gun-control measures and downplayed a ban he instituted on bump stocks, the attachments that allow semi-automatic weapons to fire like machine guns and were used during the October 2017 shooting massacre in Las Vegas.

Harris has changed her position on some gun issues. Since becoming vice president, she has backed away from her previous support for mandatory gun buy-back programs. The policies, which she backed in 2019 while running in the Democratic presidential primary, would force millions of gun owners to sell their AR-15s and similar firearms to the government.

Harris now supports more moderate proposals such as universal background checks on gun sales.

The other survivors and family members turned advocates each told their stories Thursday, at times becoming emotional. Democrats in the arena could be seen wiping their eyes at one point as a screen behind the speakers projected the words, "Freedom From Gun Violence."

The advocates were led by Georgia Rep. Lucy McBath, who became an activist against gun violence after her 17-year-old son was shot in 2012 by a white man who was angry over the loud music the Black teenager and his friends were playing.

McBath said she was moved to run for office after the 2018 shooting massacre at Parkland, Florida's Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, where 17 were killed. The Georgia Democrat won her election, flipping a House seat long held by Republicans.

"Our losses do not weaken us," McBath said. They strengthen our resolve."

Abbey Clements, who was teaching second grade at the Sandy Hook school in Newtown, Connecticut when a gunman in 2012 killed 26 people, 20 of them first grade children, described the day and the sounds of more than 150 gunshots ringing out.

"Hiding in the coats, trying to sing with my students, trying to read to them, trying to drown out the sounds. Terror. Crying. Running. I carry that horrific day with me," Clements said.

As she spoke about the children and her coworkers who were killed, Clements' voice caught as she said, "They should still be here."

Kimberly Rubio, whose 10-year-old daughter Lexi was among the 19 children killed in the 2022 shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, became emotional as she described her daughter, right before she was killed, with her "smile that lights up the room."

Other speakers included Melody McFadden of Charleston, South Carolina, whose mother and niece were both killed by gun violence, and Edgar Vilchez of Chicago, Illinois, who as a high school student in 2022, witnessed the drive-by shooting of a classmate. The classmate survived.

## **Harris' family members are popping up around Chicago this week during the DNC. Here's who's who**

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Kamala Harris has a husband, Doug Emhoff, who could make history as America's first gentleman spouse. Two stepchildren who call her "Momala." A politically connected sister who is a top adviser and sounding board. A brother-in-law who temporarily stepped away from a top private sector gig to help elect her. A niece who is the mother of two daughters that Harris dotes on. There's also her husband's ex-wife, who defends Harris and Emhoff and their blended family.

They've been popping up around Chicago and on social media this week during the Democratic National Convention, where Harris will formally accept the party's presidential nomination.

A look at members of Harris' blended family:

Doug Emhoff: Husband

He would become America's first first gentleman if his wife is elected president.

Emhoff, 59, is already the first second gentleman of the U.S. and the first Jewish spouse of a U.S. president or vice president. He has been a leader of the Biden administration's efforts against antisemitism. Emhoff gave up a lucrative career as an entertainment and intellectual property lawyer in California to avoid conflicts of interest and support his wife after she became vice president.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, August 23, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 059 ~ 64 of 92

In a speech to the Democratic National Convention on Tuesday night, Emhoff told the story of how he and Harris met on a blind date in 2013; she was California's attorney general at the time. They wed in 2014, her first marriage and his second. Emhoff has two adult children, Ella and Cole, from a previous marriage and they call Harris "Momala."

Ella Emhoff: Stepdaughter

Ella, 25, is the daughter of Emhoff and his first wife, Kerstin.

Ella is an artist, model and fashion designer who lives in New York. Her parents named her after jazz singer Ella Fitzgerald. She's a 2021 graduate of The New School's Parsons School of Design in New York. She made her debut at the annual Met Gala in 2021 in a red mesh bodysuit and matching pants by Stella McCartney. After her dad's convention speech, she flashed a heart figure made with her hands. Ella recently drew criticism after posting on a personal social media account a fundraising link to the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees.

Cole Emhoff: Stepson

Cole, 29, is the son of Emhoff and his former wife.

Cole is a film assistant and producer at Plan B Entertainment, a production company in Los Angeles that was co-founded by Brad Pitt. His parents named him after saxophonist John Coltrane. He introduced his father to the convention on Tuesday night as "the glue that keeps this family together." Cole graduated from Colorado College in 2017 with a degree in psychology. Harris officiated in October 2023 when Cole married longtime girlfriend Greenley Littlejohn.

Maya Harris: Sister

Maya, 57, is the vice president's younger sister and her only sibling. She talked about her sister's "fighting spirit" and instinct to protect the people she's close to in a brief video shown during the convention. Maya is a lawyer, policy advocate, speaker and writer who chaired her sister's 2020 presidential campaign. She then became a national surrogate for the Biden-Harris ticket after her sister became Joe Biden's running mate. In 2016, she was a senior adviser for Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign. Maya lives in California and New York with her husband, Tony West.

Tony West: Brother-in-law

West, 59, recently went on leave from his job as Uber's chief legal officer to work on Harris' campaign. West spoke about his sister-in-law at the convention on Wednesday night, telling delegates that she is motivated "by a belief in equal opportunity." He has advised Harris' campaigns since her race for San Francisco district attorney in 2003, and has accompanied her on some recent trips. A graduate of Stanford University law school, West was general counsel of PepsiCo before he joined Uber in 2017. He served in the Justice Department under Presidents Bill Clinton and Barack Obama. West and Maya Harris met at Stanford and married in 1998.

Meena Harris, Alexander Hudlin, Jasper Emhoff, Arden Emhoff: Nieces and Nephews

Meena, 39, is Maya Harris' daughter from a previous relationship. She is the founder and CEO of Phenomenal, a consumer and media company. Meena is also a lawyer, author and theater producer who worked on her aunt's 2020 presidential campaign. She lives in the California Bay Area with her husband, Nikolas Ajagu, and their daughters Amara, 8, and Leela, 6. The vice president likes to dote on her young nieces and recently took them for ice cream at model Tyra Banks' new shop in Washington, D.C. Meena and the vice president share an Oct. 20 birthday.

Hudlin and Jasper Emhoff and Arden Emhoff spoke about their "auntie" at the convention on Wednesday night. Hudlin called her a "baller" and said "she'll lift us up." Jasper Emhoff said Kamala Harris will make time "for what matters" even though "no one is busier than my auntie." Arden Emhoff said Harris will treat everyone with respect because, "even as a kid, auntie made me feel that I was seen, that my words are important, that I am important and loved."

Kerstin Emhoff: Doug's former wife, Ella and Cole's mother

Kerstin, 57, is a film producer and co-founder and CEO of a commercial production company and a creative studio in California. She is attending the Democratic convention and produced a short introductory film about her former husband that was shown before he spoke at the convention on Tuesday night,



according to her social media posts. Kerstin and Doug married in 1992 and split in 2009, but remain on good terms. Ella, their daughter, has described the Emhoffs and Harris as a “three-headed parenting machine.” Kerstin has stood up for their blended family and recently defended Harris after Republican vice presidential candidate JD Vance’s previous comments resurfaced about “childless cat ladies” who run the U.S. government. She also defended Doug after he acknowledged an extramarital affair that he said contributed to the breakup of their marriage.

Shyamala Gopalan and Donald Harris: Kamala’s and Maya’s parents

Gopalan was a renowned breast cancer scientist who came to the United States from India at 19. She earned a Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1964. She and Donald Harris, who was born in Jamaica, met there as graduate students who participated in the civil rights movement. They got married in 1963 and had two daughters, but had divorced by the time Kamala Harris was 7. Gopalan died of cancer in 2009 at age 70.

Donald Harris, 85, became a prominent economist. He was an economics professor at Stanford University from 1972 to 1998, and currently is a professor emeritus. He also was an economic consultant to the government of Jamaica and several of its prime ministers.

Republicans have tried to tie Donald Harris’ writings on Marxist theories to their own false claims that the vice president is a communist. But his academic work also had a more pragmatic bent about options for achieving growth.

## **Supreme Court rejects GOP push to block 41K Arizona voters, but partly OKs proof of citizenship law**

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST and JACQUES BILLEAUD Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A divided Supreme Court on Thursday rejected a Republican push that could have blocked more than 41,000 Arizona voters from casting ballots for president in the closely contested swing state, but allowed some parts of a law requiring proof of citizenship to be enforced.

The 5-4 order came after emergency appeal filed by state and national Republicans. It sought to give full effect to voting measures that were enacted after President Joe Biden won the state over Republican Donald Trump with less than 11,000 votes. The measures have drawn fierce opposition from voting rights advocates.

The case could be one of multiple election disputes to come before the high court with the November election less than 90 days away.

Conservative Justices Clarence Thomas, Samuel Alito and Neil Gorsuch would have allowed the law to be fully enforced. But Justice Amy Coney Barrett would have joined with the court’s three liberals in fully rejecting the push, the order states.

The justices did not detail their reasoning in a brief order, as is typical in emergency appeals.

Trump applauded the high court’s decision, saying the high court has “great courage in doing what they’re doing.”

The high court’s order allows the enforcement of restrictions that bar people from voting in state and local elections if they don’t provide proof of citizenship when they register while the legal fight continues in lower courts.

State voter registration forms submitted without “documentary proof of citizenship” will now be rejected by Arizona counties, Secretary of State Adrian Fontes said. People can still register to vote in presidential and congressional elections with a different federal form that requires people to swear they are citizens under penalty of perjury, but does not require proof.

“My concern is that changes to the process should not occur this close to an election, it creates confusion for voters,” Fontes said in a statement. “We respect the Court’s decision and will implement these changes while continuing to protect voter access and make a voting simple process.”

Rick Hasen, an election law expert and professor at the University of California, Los Angeles, wrote in a blog post that proof of citizenship laws “matter a lot. They stand to literally disenfranchise thousands of

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, August 23, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 059 ~ 66 of 92

eligible voters for no good reason.”

Proponents say the measure is about eliminating opportunities for fraud. National and state Republicans had asked the Supreme Court to get involved in a legal fight over voter registration restrictions that Republicans enacted in Arizona in 2022 following Biden’s narrow victory in the state in 2020.

The court’s action came after a lower court had blocked a requirement that called for state voter registration forms to be rejected if they are not accompanied by documents proving U.S. citizenship. A second measure would have prohibited voting in presidential elections or by mail if registrants don’t prove they are U.S. citizens.

An appellate panel of three Trump appointees initially blocked the lower court ruling in part and allowed enforcement of a provision dealing with state voter registration forms. But another appellate panel voted 2-1 to keep both provisions on hold, with two Bill Clinton appointees allowing the voter registrations to go forward over the dissent of a Trump appointee.

The measures were passed on party-line votes and signed into law by then-Gov. Doug Ducey, a Republican, amid a wave of proposals that Republicans introduced around the country after Biden’s 2020 victory over Trump, including in Arizona.

For state and local elections, voters must provide proof of citizenship when they register or have it on file with the state. Since that isn’t a requirement for federal elections for Congress or president, tens of thousands of voters who haven’t provided proof of citizenship are registered only for federal elections.

There were 41,352 of those voters registered as of August 9 in Arizona, Fontes, a Democrat, said.

The GOP push to block those voters would most impact military service members, students and Native Americans, Fontes said. About 27% of those voters are registered Democrats and 15% are Republicans. More than half, 54%, are registered independents, according to state data.

Voting rights groups and the Biden administration had sued over the Arizona laws.

Kansas Attorney General Kris Kobach led Republican attorneys general in 24 states in supporting the restrictions.

Arizona House Speaker Ben Toma, who along with Senate President Warren Petersen had asked the court to take up the issue, said in a statement that Thursday’s order was “a step in the right direction to require proof of citizenship in all our elections.” Toma and Petersen are both Republicans.

Federal-only voters have been a subject of political wrangling since the Supreme Court ruled in 2013 that Arizona cannot require documentary proof of citizenship for people to vote in national elections. The state responded by creating two classes of voters: those who can vote in all races and those who can vote only in federal elections.

There is no evidence that the existence of federal-only voters has allowed noncitizens to illegally vote, but Republican skeptics have nonetheless worked aggressively to crack down on federal-only voting.

One of the new laws sought to further divide voters, allowing votes in congressional elections without proof of citizenship, but denying the vote in presidential contests.

The Legislature’s own lawyers had said much of the measure was unconstitutional, directly contradicted the earlier Supreme Court decision and was likely to be thrown out in court.

Meanwhile, the Arizona Supreme Court ruled on a handful of other election-related cases Thursday, clearing the way for ballot measures that were facing legal challenges to now appear before voters. Arizona voters will have a chance to decide on whether they want to establish open primary elections in which all candidates compete regardless of their party affiliation — changing the state’s primaries from closed to open.

The justices bucked two of opponents’ multiple arguments. The measure faces one pending challenge, but if it is not ruled on by early Friday morning, the measure will officially be kept on the ballot.

Voters in other states, including Idaho, South Dakota and Nevada, will also decide on similar ballot measures concerning open primary elections this November.

The high court also ruled the title of a measure to decrease workers’ wages up to 25% per hour if they are tipped was not misleading, placing it on the November ballot.

## **Mexico City assembly OKs strongest rent control since the 1940s, limiting rises to inflation rate**

MEXICO CITY (AP) — The legislature of Mexico City approved the most ambitious rent control law since the 1940s Thursday, limiting rent increases to the rate of inflation in the previous year.

Rents in the vast city of 9 million inhabitants were essentially frozen in the 1940s, and remained so for decades on older buildings. Those controls were largely lifted in the 1990s.

The new law will also require landlords to register all rental agreements with the city. It was unclear whether the new law will allow landlords to charge more for improvements on their properties.

Mexico City, like many around the world, had seen complaints that rents were shooting up because of digital nomads and short-term rentals. But it appears that largely affected only a handful of touristy neighborhoods near the center of the sprawling metropolis.

"A lot of people with higher incomes are willing to pay more for housing, both by buying and renting it," said legislator Martha Soledad Avila Ventura of the governing Morena party. "Moreover, short-term rentals on the internet have made it a question of profit, which has resulted in the expulsion of the traditional residents of the capital."

In recent years, a shortage of land and saleable properties has sparked a cut-throat real estate market in which property prices increased well above the rate of inflation.

However, the new law doesn't address the city's real problem: a shortage of housing units. Legislators estimated there are about 2.7 million houses and apartments in the city, but it needs about 800,000 more.

The city has long depended on private developers to build housing, and it is unclear whether the new law could discourage investment in residential construction.

Rent control has a complex history in Mexico City. Under the 1940s fixed-rent laws, inflation quickly decimated rents in real terms, resulting in people paying pocket change for apartments. Landlords gradually abandoned the buildings, because the rental income was insufficient to pay for even routine maintenance.

Old rental laws also made it hard to evict tenants for non-payment and gave some tenants the right of first refusal if the units they lived in were put up for sale. That caused a distortion in rental markets, with many landlords preferring to rent to foreigners, who were viewed as less likely to invoke those protections.

In the 1950s and '60s, the government built several large housing complexes in the city, though rarely for renting. Those apartments were almost always put up for sale to new buyers once completed.

The current city government has no real plans for constructing large numbers of its own rental units, nor does it have the money or construction know-how to do so.

Moreover, almost any new construction is out of reach for the poorest residents. Mexico's minimum wage is equivalent to about \$1.50 per hour and the median wage is only about \$4 per hour.

President-elect Claudia Sheinbaum, also of the Morena party, has said she hopes to implement a rent-to-buy program. Poorer tenants would pay a reduced-rate rent, and if they obtained a government housing loan, the rent they paid previously would be applied to the purchase price.

She also wants the federal housing agency, which is financed through payroll deductions funding individual accounts for each worker, to start building housing itself. At present, the agency acts largely as a financing agency, granting loans to acquire homes built by private developers.

## **Venezuela's Supreme Court certifies Maduro's claims that he won presidential election**

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Venezuela's Supreme Court has backed President Nicolás Maduro's claims that he won last month's presidential election and said voting tallies published online showing he lost by a landslide were forged.

The ruling is the latest attempt by Maduro to blunt protests and international criticism that erupted after the contested July 28 vote in which the self-proclaimed socialist leader was seeking a third, six-year term.

The high court is packed with Maduro loyalists and has almost never ruled against the government.

Its decision, read Thursday in an event attended by senior officials and foreign diplomats, came in response to a request by Maduro to review vote totals showing he had won by more than 1 million votes.

The main opposition coalition has accused Maduro of trying to steal the vote.

Thanks to a superb ground game on election day, opposition volunteers managed to collect copies of voting tallies from 80% of the 30,000 polling booths nationwide and which show opposition candidate Edmundo González won by a more than 2-to-1 margin.

The official tally sheets printed by each voting machine carry a QR code that makes it easy for anyone to verify the results and are almost impossible to replicate.

"An attempt to judicialize the results doesn't change the truth: we won overwhelmingly and we have the voting records to prove it," González, standing before a Venezuelan flag, said in a video posted on social media.

The high court's ruling certifying the results contradicts the findings of experts from the United Nations and the Carter Center who were invited to observe the election and which both determined the results announced by authorities lacked credibility. Specifically, the outside experts noted that authorities didn't release a breakdown of results by each of the 30,000 voting booths nationwide, as they have in almost every previous election.

The government has claimed — without evidence — that a foreign cyberattack staged by hackers from North Macedonia delayed the vote counting on election night and publication of the disaggregated results.

González was the only one of 10 candidates who did not participate in the Supreme Court's audit, a fact noted by the justices, who in their ruling accused him of trying to spread panic.

The former diplomat and his chief backer, opposition powerhouse Maria Corina Machado, went into hiding after the election as security forces arrested more than 2,000 people and cracked down on demonstrations that erupted spontaneously throughout the country protesting the results.

Numerous foreign governments, including the U.S. as well as several allies of Maduro, have called on authorities to release the full breakdown of results.

Gabriel Boric, the leftist president of Chile and one of the main critics of Maduro's election gambit, lambasted the high court's certification.

"Today, Venezuela's TSJ has finally consolidated the fraud," he said on his X account referring to the initials of the high court. "The Maduro regime obviously welcomes with enthusiasm its ruling... there is no doubt that we are facing a dictatorship that falsifies elections." \_\_\_\_\_

Follow AP's coverage of Latin America and the Caribbean at <https://apnews.com/hub/latin-america>

## **Canada forces arbitration in freight train labor dispute to avert economic crisis. Union cries foul**

By ROB GILLIES and JOSH FUNK Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — Freight trains in Canada could be running again within days after the government forced the country's two major railroads into arbitration with their labor union Thursday, a move aimed at averting potentially dire economic consequences across the country and in the U.S. if the trains are sidelined for a long period.

The government's action came more than 16 hours after Canadian National and CPKC locked out workers over a labor agreement impasse. Both railroads said they would work to get trains moving again as soon as possible.

The union representing 10,000 engineers, conductors and dispatchers responded angrily to the order, accusing the railroads of intentionally creating a crisis to force the government to intervene. It also said it would keep its picket lines in place while reviewing the decision.

The government ordered the railroads into arbitration with the Teamsters Canada Rail Conference to end the lockout that began at 12:01 a.m. Thursday after the two sides were unable to resolve the contract dispute.

Labour Minister Steven MacKinnon announced the decision to order the arbitration at a news conference



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, August 23, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 059 ~ 69 of 92

Thursday. MacKinnon said he expects the trains will resume moving within days. Ending the lockouts is the first step.

The arbitration process was moving quickly, with the railroads meeting with the Canada Industrial Relations Board on Thursday night, according to a person familiar with the schedule who spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to discuss it. The Teamsters confirmed that the union was also meeting with the board Thursday night.

Throughout the day Thursday, both sides negotiated unsuccessfully while workers picketed outside and business groups urged the government to force the arbitration.

Teamsters Canada Rail Conference President Paul Boucher criticized the government's decision to step in so soon.

"The two major railways in Canada manufactured this crisis, took the country hostage, and manipulated the government to once again disregard the rights afforded to working-class Canadians," Boucher said. "The Teamsters Canada Rail Conference (TCRC) is deeply disappointed by this shameful decision."

The railroad companies hailed the decision, saying the government had no choice.

"The Canadian government has recognized the immense consequences of a railway work stoppage for the Canadian economy, North American supply chains and all Canadians," said Keith Creel, CPKC President and CEO. "The government has acted to protect Canada's national interest. We regret that the government had to intervene because we fundamentally believe in and respect collective bargaining; however, given the stakes for all involved, this situation required action."

MacKinnon said the government wanted to give negotiations every chance to succeed, but ultimately the economic risk was too great to allow the lockouts to continue. He had declined to order arbitration a week ago.

"Canada's economy cannot wait for an agreement that has been delayed for a very long time and when there is a fundamental disagreement between the parties," he said.

All of Canada's freight handled by rail — worth more than \$1 billion Canadian (US\$730 million) a day and adding up to more than 375 million tons of freight last year — stopped Thursday along with rail shipments crossing the U.S. border. About 30,000 commuters in Canada were also affected because their trains use CPKC's lines. CPKC and CN's trains continued operating in the U.S. and Mexico during the lockout.

Many companies in both countries and across all industries rely on railroads to deliver their raw materials and finished products, so they were concerned about a crisis without regular rail service. Billions of dollars of goods move between Canada and the U.S. via rail each month, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Trudeau decided not to force the parties into binding arbitration before the deadline passed for fear of offending unions and the leftist NDP party that his government relies on for support to remain in power, but he ultimately decided he didn't have a choice.

"Collective bargaining is always the best way forward. When that is no longer a foreseeable option — when we are facing serious consequences to our supply chains and the workers who depend on it — governments must act," Trudeau said.

Most businesses probably have enough supplies on hand and room to store finished products to withstand a brief disruption. But ports and other railroads would have quickly become clogged with stranded shipments that Canadian National and CPKC won't pick up.

Many companies made supply chain changes after the COVID-19 pandemic that can help them withstand a short disruption, said Edward Jones analyst Jeff Windau. The real trouble starts if it drags on, he said.

Most previous Canadian rail stoppages have only lasted a day or two and usually involved only one of the big railroads, but some have stretched as long as eight or nine days. The impact was magnified this time because both railroads had stopped.

"They are so integrated and tied into the economy," Windau said. "Just the breadth of products that they haul. ... Ultimately, I think we need the rails to continue to be running."

Chemical businesses and food distributors would have been the first to be affected. The railroads stopped

accepting new shipments of hazardous materials and perishable goods as they began gradually shutting down last week, but most chemical plants had said they would be OK for about a week.

The auto industry also may have seen problems quickly because it relies on just-in-time shipments, with significant cross-border deliveries of engines, parts and finished vehicles. Flavio Volpe, President of the Automotive Parts Manufacturers' Association, posted on X that about four of every five cars made in Canada are exported to the U.S. almost exclusively by rail. He said a prolonged lockout could cause temporary work stoppages similar to the impact of the five-day 2022 Ambassador Bridge blockade.

More than 30,000 commuters in Vancouver, Toronto and Montreal were the first to feel the pain of the lockouts and they may be stuck taking the bus again Friday. Their commuter trains aren't able to operate while CPKC dispatchers are locked out.

CN had been negotiating with the Teamsters for nine months while CPKC had been trying to reach an agreement for a year, the union said.

The Canadian negotiations are stuck on issues related to the way rail workers are scheduled and concerns about rules designed to prevent fatigue and provide adequate rest to train crews. Both railroads had proposed shifting away from the existing system, which pays workers based on the miles in a trip, to an hourly system that they said would make it easier to provide predictable time off. The union said it doesn't want to lose hard-fought fatigue protections.

The railroads said their contract offers have included raises consistent with recent deals in the industry. Engineers already make about \$150,000 a year on Canadian National while conductors earn \$120,000, and CPKC says its wages are comparable.

## The biggest diamond in over a century is found in Botswana — a whopping 2,492 carats

By SELLO MOTSETA Associated Press  
GABORONE, Botswana (AP) — The largest diamond found in more than a century has been unearthed at a mine in Botswana, and the country's president showed off the fist-sized stone to the world at a viewing ceremony Thursday.

The Botswana government says the huge 2,492-carat diamond is the second-biggest ever discovered in a mine. It's the biggest diamond found since 1905.

The as-yet-unnamed diamond was presented to the world at the office of Botswana President Mokgweetsi Masisi. It weighs approximately half a kilogram and Masisi was one of the first to get to hold it.

"It is overwhelming," Masisi said. "I am lucky to have seen it in my time."

He gasped and said "wow" before calling senior government officials over to take a closer look.

Officials said it was too early to value the stone or decide how it would be sold. Another smaller diamond from the same mine in Botswana was sold for \$63 million in 2016, a record for a rough gem.

"This is history in the making," said Naseem Lahri, Botswana managing director for Lucara Diamond Corp., the Canadian mining company that found the diamond. "I am very proud. It is a product of Botswana."



**A person holds a 2,492-carat diamond which was found in the country and on show, in Gaborone, Botswana, Thursday, Aug. 22, 2024.** (AP Photo)

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, August 23, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 059 ~ 71 of 92

Lucara said in a statement Wednesday that it recovered the “exceptional” rough diamond from its Karowe Mine in central Botswana. Lucara said it was a “high-quality” stone and was found intact. It was located using X-ray technology designed to find large, high-value diamonds.

“We are ecstatic about the recovery of this extraordinary 2,492-carat diamond,” Lucara President and CEO William Lamb said in a statement.

The weight would make it the largest diamond found in 119 years and the second-largest ever dug out of a mine after the Cullinan Diamond that was discovered in South Africa in 1905. The famous Cullinan was 3,106 carats and was cut into gems, some of which form part of the British Crown Jewels.

A bigger, less pure black diamond was discovered in Brazil in the late 1800s, but it was found above ground and was believed to have been part of a meteorite.

Botswana, a country of 2.6 million people in southern Africa, is the second-biggest producer of natural diamonds behind Russia and has unearthed all of the world’s biggest stones in recent years. The Karowe Mine has produced four other diamonds over 1,000 carats in the last decade.

Before this discovery, the Sewelo diamond, which was found at the Karowe Mine in 2019, was recognized as the second-biggest mined diamond in the world at 1,758 carats. It was bought by French fashion house Louis Vuitton for an undisclosed amount.

The 1,111-carat Lesedi La Rona diamond, also from Botswana’s Karowe Mine, was bought by a British jeweler for \$53 million in 2017. Another diamond from Karowe, The Constellation, was sold for the record \$63 million.

Diamonds are formed when carbon atoms are squeezed together under high pressure deep underground. Scientists say most diamonds are at least a billion years old and some of them more than 3 billion years old.

## Canada’s freight trains will soon roll again after labor lockouts.

### Here’s what to know

By ROB GILLIES and JOSH FUNK Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — Canada’s two largest railroads are expected to soon start rolling their trains again after the government intervened to end a shutdown that arose from a labor dispute.

After Canadian National and CPKC failed to reach new agreements with the Teamsters Canada Rail Conference union by an overnight deadline early Thursday, both freight railroads locked out their workers — halting all rail traffic in Canada and shipments into the U.S. But, less than a day into the full stop, the Canadian government ordered both freight railroads to enter binding arbitration.

Labour Minister Steven MacKinnon expects trains to be running again within days. Meanwhile, the union representing 10,000 engineers, conductors and dispatchers responded angrily to the order, accusing CN and CBKC of intentionally creating a crisis to force government intervention. Its picket lines remain in place.

Here’s what to know.

What led to Thursday’s shutdown — and its resolution?

It comes down to a labor-contract dispute and responding government intervention.

CN and CPKC railroads both locked out their employees after a 12:01 a.m. EDT deadline to resolve a dispute with Teamsters Canada Rail Conference passed without agreements. As a result, all of their trains in Canada stopped moving along with shipments crossing through the U.S. border. That posed the potential of significant economic harm to business and consumers across both countries, which rely on billions of dollars of goods running on rails each month.

Throughout the day Thursday, both sides negotiated unsuccessfully while workers picketed outside. Business groups urged the government to force the arbitration.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau initially declined to force the parties into binding arbitration, for fear of offending unions and the leftist NDP party that his Liberal government relies on for support to remain in power. But the government’s approach changed by late afternoon, when MacKinnon announced the decision to order arbitration.

MacKinnon, who had declined arbitration a week ago, said the government wanted to give negotiations

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, August 23, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 059 ~ 72 of 92

every chance to succeed — but ultimately the economic risk was too great to allow the lockouts to continue.

“Collective bargaining is always the best way forward,” Trudeau said later in a post on X. “When that is no longer a foreseeable option — when we are facing serious consequences to our supply chains and the workers who depend on it — governments must act.”

Both CN and CPKC hailed the decision, saying that the government had no choice. But Teamsters Canada Rail Conference President Paul Boucher strongly criticized the order.

“The two major railways in Canada manufactured this crisis, took the country hostage, and manipulated the government to once again disregard the rights afforded to working-class Canadians,” Boucher said, adding that the union is “deeply disappointed by this shameful decision.”

What happens next?

CN said it ended its lockout immediately Thursday evening as part of an effort to get its trains running again as soon as possible. CPKC railroad said in a statement that it will follow the direction of the Canada Industrial Relations Board that is overseeing the arbitration but it didn’t say exactly when it’s lockout will end.

Mackinnon said earlier that he expects the trains will be running within days. Ending the lockouts is the first step.

Teamsters Canada Rail Conference, meanwhile, said picket lines will remain in place while the union reviews the formal arbitration order and decides on next steps.

Most previous Canadian rail stoppages have only lasted a day or two and usually involved only one of the big railroads, but some have stretched as long as eight or nine days. The impact was magnified this time because both railroads had stopped.

Were businesses and travelers impacted?

Billions of dollars of goods move between Canada and the U.S. via rail each month. And while the end of the lockouts may be near, some consumers and businesses were already feeling impacts Thursday.

More than 30,000 commuters in Vancouver, Toronto and Montreal were the first to feel the pain of the lockouts and they may be stuck taking the bus again Friday. Their commuter trains aren’t able to operate while CPKC dispatchers are locked out.

Most businesses probably have enough supplies on hand and room to store finished products to withstand a brief disruption. But ports and other railroads would have quickly become clogged with stranded shipments that CN and CPKC won’t pick up.

Chemical businesses and food distributors would have been the first to be affected. The railroads stopped accepting new shipments of hazardous materials and perishable goods as they began gradually shutting down last week, in anticipation of Thursday’s full stop, but most chemical plants had said they would be OK for about a week.

The auto industry was also bracing for potential spot shortages. That’s because General Motors, Stellantis, Ford, Honda and Toyota either assemble whole vehicles in Canada or ship engines and other components across the border. About 80% of vehicles put together in Canada are shipped to the U.S., largely by rail. Michael Robinet, executive director at S&P Global Mobility, explained that most auto assembly plants operate on “just-in-time” inventories of parts — making it difficult to stockpile for more than a couple of weeks.

## Female delegates at the DNC are wearing white to honor women’s suffrage on night of Harris’ speech

By MEG KINNARD Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — If you think you’re seeing a lot of women wearing white during the final night of the Democratic National Convention in Chicago, you don’t need to adjust your television set.

There appeared to be a coordinated effort among female delegates and Democratic supporters as they arrived at the United Center on Thursday afternoon, with security lines and convention floor seats filling up with women clad in white suits, dresses and other attire.

So when Vice President Kamala Harris takes the stage for to accept the Democratic presidential nomi-



nation — becoming the first Black woman, and only the second woman overall, to do so — she will be looking out across a sea filled with the color of women’s suffrage, the movement that culminated with American women securing the right to vote in 1920.

The homage is a couture callback to other momentous political events in which women wearing white has played a role, particularly for other glass ceiling moments.

Hillary Clinton donned a white suit when she accepted the Democratic Party’s 2016 presidential nomination. And Geraldine Ferraro — the first female candidate for vice president — wore white when she accepted that nomination at Democrats’ 1984 convention.

There have been other moments, too. In 2019, the women of the U.S. House put on a visual display of solidarity during the State of the Union, joined by some of their male colleagues clad in white jackets or ribbons in support. A year later, on the 100-year anniversary of women’s suffrage, congressional women yet again donned white, as a commitment to defending women’s rights overall.

And again, earlier this year, the Democratic Women’s Caucus announced that many of its members would wear white to the State of the Union, intended as a message in support of reproductive rights.

Kate Gallego, mayor of Phoenix, said party officials had asked delegates to wear white Thursday night in honor of Harris’ nomination.

“A lot of women fought for us to get where we are tonight, and we wanted to be part of the celebration,” Gallego said. “So it’s a forward-looking gesture, but also remembering a lot of people fought hard for today.”

## **Trump uses a stretch of border wall and a pile of steel beams in Arizona to contrast with Democrats**

By JONATHAN J. COOPER and ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON Associated Press

SIERRA VISTA, Ariz. (AP) — On a dirt road below the shrub-dotted hills of Arizona, Donald Trump used a stretch of wall and a pile of steel beams to draw a visual contrast between his approach to securing the border and that of his Democratic opponent, Vice President Kamala Harris.

Trump brought along grieving mothers, the sheriff of Cochise County and the head of the Border Patrol union to echo his tough-on-border security message at Thursday’s visit, which was themed “Make America Safe Again.”

“To my right is what we call Trump wall. This was wall that was built under President Trump,” said Paul Perez, the president of the Border Patrol union. “To my left, we have what we call Kamala wall. It’s just sitting there doing nothing, lying down.”

The visit was the fourth in a series of events held in battleground states this week to try to draw the focus away from Democrats’ celebration of Harris’ presidential nomination in Chicago. Speakers at the convention on Wednesday night accused Trump of using the border to stir up his base by demonizing immigrants.

Joining Thursday’s border visit were the mothers of children who were killed during the Biden administration in cases where the suspects are immigrants in the country illegally. Trump frequently highlights attacks involving immigrants to fuel concerns about the Biden administration policies, though some studies have found that people living in the U.S. illegally are less likely than native-born Americans to have been arrested for violent, drug and property crimes.

“I just really, really, really want everybody to please take into consideration how important border control is because we’re losing very innocent people to heinous crimes,” said Alexis Nungaray, the mother of 12-year-old Jocelyn Nungaray, who was strangled to death in Houston in June.

At the Arizona event, snipers stood nearby at an elevated position, their eyes and weapons pointed toward Mexico, a day after Trump held his first outdoor rally since an assassination attempt last month. Security forces were also visible on the Mexican side of the border, including several men with rifles and tactical gear. Others wore uniforms identifying them as members of the Mexican state police.

“What Biden and Kamala have done to the families here with me and so many others, thousands and

thousands of others, not only killed, but also really badly hurt, badly hurt to a point where they'll never lead a normal life again. It's shameful, and it's evil," Trump said.

The Biden administration did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the wall materials that were lying there at the site during the visit.

In his tour of battleground states this week, Trump has traveled to Pennsylvania, Michigan and North Carolina and will hold events in Las Vegas and the Phoenix suburb of Glendale on Friday. His running mate, Sen. JD Vance of Ohio, spoke at the same location near the border a few weeks ago.

Elected Democratic officials argued Wednesday night at the convention that their party is the one offering real leadership on border issues.

"When it comes to the border, hear me when I say, 'You know nothing, Donald Trump,'" said U.S. Rep. Veronica Escobar, who represents the border city of El Paso, Texas. "He and his Republican imitators see the border and immigration as a political opportunity to exploit instead of an issue to address."

U.S. Sen. Chris Murphy, a Connecticut Democrat, spoke after a video played showing Republican opposition to a bipartisan border deal earlier this year. Murphy was the top Democrat negotiating the proposal with conservative senators and said the bill would have had unanimous support if it weren't for Trump.

Trump was asked about the deal, and he called it "weak" and "ineffective," adding a bill was not needed for President Joe Biden to take action.

"He didn't need a bill. He knows that," he said. "You know I didn't have a bill. I said 'close the border.'"

## **'The answer is no': Pro-Palestinian delegates say their request for a speaker at DNC was shut down**

By JOEY CAPPELLETTI Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Leaders of an "Uncommitted" movement, which garnered hundreds of thousands of votes in Democratic primaries across the nation in protest of the Israel-Hamas war, have been negotiating for weeks to secure a speaking slot for a Palestinian American at the Democratic National Convention this week.

The negotiations stalled late Wednesday when leaders with the Uncommitted National Movement say a Democratic National Committee official called and delivered a firm response: "The answer is no."

The leader, Abbas Alawieh, an "Uncommitted" delegate to the convention and co-founder of the movement, described the call as shocking after weeks of talks that he felt were positive. In response, he and other delegates decided to stage a sit-in outside Chicago's United Center, where the convention is being held. They spent the night on the sidewalk on Wednesday, and vowed to remain until their request was granted or the convention ended Thursday night.

"When we ran out of options — doing everything we can and working from the inside, when we ran out of options as uncommitted delegates, we just sat down," Alawieh said in an interview Thursday.

The Harris campaign declined to comment.

The sit-in outside the United Center has exposed cracks in a Democratic Party that otherwise has rallied around the Harris campaign that has energized the vast majority of party members this week.

The news that the DNC had denied the request of a Palestinian American speaker, just a day after featuring the parents of an Israeli American hostage held by Hamas, ignited fresh criticism from some on the left. The politically powerful United Autoworkers Union, which has endorsed Vice President Kamala Harris' presidential campaign, said the party "must allow a Palestinian American speaker to be heard from the DNC stage tonight."

Cook County, where Chicago and the convention is located, holds the largest population of Palestinian Americans in the country.

The party, however, has not budged. The Senate's top Democrat shrugged off the potential political impact of the sit-in outside the convention. New York Sen. Chuck Schumer recalled Harris saying when protesters interrupted her at a recent rally in Michigan that their disruptions might be benefiting Republican Donald Trump.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, August 23, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 059 ~ 75 of 92

"She said, 'Be quiet unless you want to elect Trump,'" Schumer told a small group of reporters on Thursday, ahead of the convention's final evening.

"We believe we need unity, and there's overwhelming — I have never seen such unity," he said. "A small handful of people does not represent close to even a sliver of where the Democratic Party is right now."

Tensions over the war in Gaza have at times escalated outside the convention center this week, as thousands marched through Chicago demanding a cease-fire. A smaller group of activists clashed with police outside the Israeli Consulate on Tuesday night, leading to 56 arrests.

Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison, a Muslim Democrat, spoke Wednesday at the convention and praised Harris for saying "we need a cease-fire and an end to the loss of innocent lives in Gaza and to bring hostages home." In an interview Thursday, he said that "not only is the content of the message important, the messenger is also important."

"A Palestinian-American sharing his or her story, calling for cease-fire and release of all hostages, and calling everyone to support the ticket against fascism would be powerful," Ellison said on social media Thursday.

Many other Democratic leaders urged the party to reconsider the request. In a statement, California Rep. Ro Khanna said that "the Democratic Party, which aspires to be the party of human rights, must not in 2024 perpetuate this erasure of the Palestinian story."

When asked at a roundtable discussion Thursday whether he agreed with the "Uncommitted" delegates' demand to add a Palestinian American speaker to the DNC lineup, Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson said, "Yes, of course."

"We're talking about thousands of babies and elderly people being brutalized by an act of war," said Johnson. "You have to have a voice that can call for peace as well as the releasing of hostages."

According to Alawieh, the "Uncommitted" movement provided a number of potential Palestinian Americans who could speak at the convention, including Georgia State Rep. Ruwa Romman.

Romman on Thursday released a draft of the speech she said she planned to deliver if asked. In it, she calls for electing Harris, defeating Donald Trump — and outlines demands for a cease-fire and to "end the killing of Palestinians, free all the Israeli and Palestinian hostages."

Earlier this week, activists were granted unprecedented space at the convention to hold a forum addressing the plight of Gaza residents, who have been under Israeli bombardment since Hamas' Oct. 7 attack and its taking of hostages, as well as to share deeply personal stories about family members lost in the conflict. The panel was viewed as an olive branch from the Harris campaign, with hopes that other requests might be fulfilled later in the week.

The convention has officially made Harris the Democratic Party's presidential nominee, with the vast majority of the nearly 4,000 delegates enthusiastically casting their votes for her.

But those calling for a cease-fire in the Israel-Hamas war — among other demands, such as an arms embargo on Israel — believe they will have an outsized influence in the November election, now just over 70 days away.

Michigan, one of the key swing states, has the largest percentage of Arab Americans in the country. The UAW, which hosted Harris at a union hall event earlier this month, also has its largest membership base in Michigan. In a statement, the leader of the state Democratic Party, Lavora Barnes, said "a Palestinian American should have a speaking role Thursday night so that their voices can be heard — all of our delegates are part of our Michigan Democratic Party family."

Through Thursday, Democrats on their way into the convention stopped by the sit-in. Rep. Cori Bush, a member of the progressive congressional group known as the "Squad," who lost her primary earlier this month, stopped to mingle with "Uncommitted" delegates.

"We are Democrats. We are a part of this party. And we are just saying, 'hear us because it matters,'" said Bush.

## Sudden fame for Tim Walz's son focuses attention on challenges of people with learning disabilities

By STEVE KARNOWSKI Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — An unexpected highlight of the Democratic National Convention on Night Three was an outburst of pride from the son of vice presidential candidate Tim Walz.

"That's my dad!" 17-year-old Gus Walz could be seen exclaiming Wednesday night. He stood, tears streaming down his face, and pointed to his father, the governor of Minnesota, who accepted the party nomination for vice president.

Gus wept through much of the 16-minute speech, and took the stage with his family afterward, wrapping his dad in a tight bear hug, burying his face in his shoulder.

The high school senior's joy quickly went viral. He was still trending Thursday on X, the social media platform formerly known as Twitter. And his newfound fame is focusing attention on the challenges of people with learning disabilities. His parents recently revealed to People magazine that Gus has ADHD, an anxiety disorder and something called a non-verbal learning disorder. Searches on Google have spiked for the disorder and for the teen's name.

There's no standard definition for non-verbal learning disorder. It doesn't mean people with it can't talk. But according to the NVLD Project at Columbia University, people with it "struggle with a range of conditions that include social and spatial disabilities. Often they are marginalized and isolated; consequently, they can experience social barriers throughout their lives."

There has long been tension between Washington and local school districts over federal funding of special education. Federal law requires schools to provide special education services, but doesn't come close to covering the costs. When passed in 1975, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) committed the federal government to paying 40% of the average per-pupil expenditure for special education. But currently it's more like 13%.

That's one reason the Democratic Party platform adopted at the convention this week says, "We support fully funding IDEA to prioritize students with disabilities and the special educator workforce." This year's Republican Party platform doesn't mention special education. But dozens of national education groups have long called for fully funding the costs that IDEA imposes on local schools.

The actual prospects for more money under a Harris-Walz administration are unclear. Much would depend on the future federal budget picture and the composition of the next Congress. And platforms aren't binding on candidates.

But Walz as governor has approved large increases in education funding, including special education. The two-year budget he signed in 2024 included a 6% increase in per-pupil funding for local schools, and it indexes future funding to inflation. It also included a large boost in state support for special education to help fill the gap in federal funding.

Securing full funding for special education on the national level is the "number one public policy priority" of the National Association of State Directors of Special Education, said John Eisenberg, the group's executive director. The association calls the federal act "first and foremost a civil rights law, meant to protect the right of students with disabilities to be educated in the nation's public schools."

Eisenberg said the unkept federal commitment is a problem across the country. He said the most that Washington has provided over the years has been 16%, which means local districts and states have had to bear most of the costs of the mandates under the act.

"The costs of educating students with disabilities is massively on the rise," Eisenberg said. "The number of students with disabilities has doubled since 1975. The types of student needs have exponentially grown since 1975."

While bills to mandate full funding have attracted bipartisan support over the years, they've failed to become law.

Governor Walz, a former social studies teacher, and first lady Gwen Walz, a former English teacher, revealed Gus' learning issues in a statement to People magazine that was published this week.



"When our youngest Gus was growing up, it became increasingly clear that he was different from his classmates," they said. "Gus preferred video games and spending more time by himself." They went on to say, "When he was becoming a teenager, we learned that Gus has a non-verbal learning disorder in addition to an anxiety disorder and ADHD, conditions that millions of Americans also have."

The Walzes told People that it took time to figure out how to set Gus up for future success, "but what became so immediately clear to us was that Gus' condition is not a setback — it's his secret power."

They also said he's "brilliant, hyper-aware of details that many of us pass by, and above all else, he's an excellent son." They didn't go into detail about how his condition has affected his life, however, and the Walz campaign did not immediately respond to a request for comment Thursday. They have previously noted that Gus got his driver's license last fall.

## FDA approves updated COVID-19 vaccines, shots should be available in days

By LAURAN NEERGAARD AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. regulators approved updated COVID-19 vaccines on Thursday, shots designed to more closely target recent virus strains -- and hopefully whatever variants cause trouble this winter, too.

With the Food and Drug Administration's clearance, Pfizer and Moderna are set to begin shipping millions of doses. A third U.S. manufacturer, Novavax, expects its modified vaccine version to be available a little later.

"We strongly encourage those who are eligible to consider receiving an updated COVID-19 vaccine to provide better protection against currently circulating variants," said FDA vaccine chief Dr. Peter Marks.

The agency's decision came a bit earlier than last year's rollout of updated COVID-19 vaccines, as a summer wave of the virus continues in most of the country. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention already has recommended this fall's shot for everyone age 6 months and older. Vaccinations could be available within days.

While most Americans have some degree of immunity from prior infections or vaccinations or both, that protection wanes. Last fall's shots targeted a different part of the coronavirus family tree, a strain that's no longer circulating -- and CDC data shows only about 22.5% of adults and 14% of children received it.

Skipping the new shot is "a hazardous way to go," because even if your last infection was mild, your next might be worse or leave you with long COVID symptoms, said Dr. Robert Hopkins Jr. of the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases.

This fall's vaccine recipe is tailored to a newer branch of omicron descendants. The Pfizer and Moderna shots target a subtype called KP.2 that was common earlier this year. While additional offshoots, particularly KP.3.1.1, now are spreading, they're closely enough related that the vaccines promise cross-protection. A Pfizer spokesman said the company submitted data to FDA showing its updated vaccine "generates a substantially improved response" against multiple virus subtypes compared to last fall's vaccine.

The big question: How soon to get vaccinated? This summer's wave of COVID-19 isn't over but the inevitable winter surges tend to be worse. And while COVID-19 vaccines do a good job preventing severe disease, hospitalization and death, protection against mild infection lasts only a few months.

People who are at high risk from the virus shouldn't wait but instead schedule vaccinations once shots are available in their area, Hopkins advised.

That includes older adults, people with weak immune systems or other serious medical problems, nursing home residents and pregnant women.

Healthy younger adults and children "can get vaccinated anytime. I don't think there's a real reason to wait," Hopkins said -- although it's OK to seek the shots in the fall, when plenty of doses will have arrived at pharmacies and doctor's offices.

The exception: The CDC says anyone who recently had COVID-19 can wait three months after they recover before getting vaccinated, until immunity from that infection begins to wane.

Hopkins, who sees patients at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, calls it vital for more

youngsters to get vaccinated this year – especially with schools starting as coronavirus levels are high around the country.

“COVID does not kill many children, thank goodness, but it kills far more children than influenza does,” Hopkins said, adding that teachers, too, should quickly get up to date with the vaccine.

Health authorities say it’s fine to get a COVID-19 and flu vaccination at the same time, a convenience so people don’t have to make two trips. But while many drugstores already are advertising flu shots, the prime time for that vaccination tends to be late September through October, just before flu typically starts its cold weather climb.

## **A 2nd ex-Memphis officer accused in the fatal beating of Tyre Nichols is changing his plea**

By ADRIAN SAINZ and JONATHAN MATTISE Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — A second former Memphis police officer charged with federal civil rights violations in the fatal beating of Tyre Nichols last year is changing his not-guilty plea, in a case that sparked outrage and calls for police reform.

Emmitt Martin is scheduled to appear before U.S. District Judge Mark Norris on Friday to change his plea as part of an agreement with prosecutors, according to a court document filed Thursday.

Jury selection in his trial had been scheduled for Sept. 9. Three other former officers are still scheduled to go on trial then.

In November, another former Memphis officer, Desmond Mills Jr., also changed his plea to guilty to federal charges of excessive force and obstruction of justice. Mills agreed to cooperate with prosecutors, who recommended a 15-year prison sentence, and could be called to testify at trial against the others accused in Nichols’ killing.

Martin, Mills and three other former officers were indicted in September on federal charges that they deprived Nichols of his rights through excessive force and failure to intervene, and obstructed justice through witness tampering. They also were charged in state court with second-degree murder.

It was not immediately clear whether Martin also plans to change his not guilty plea to the state charges. Mills’ lawyer has said he will plead guilty in state court. An attorney for Mills declined to comment on the upcoming change of plea hearing for Martin.

The three other fired officers — Tadarrius Bean, Demetrius Haley and Justin Smith — remain charged with federal civil rights violations, in addition to second-degree murder and other offenses in state court. They have pleaded not guilty to all the charges. The state trial has been postponed until after the federal trial.

Erica Williams, a spokesperson for Shelby County District Attorney Steven Mulroy, said their office will continue coordinating with federal authorities and “will share more updates as soon as possible — ensuring that it does not compromise the investigation.”

An attorney for Martin, William Massey, didn’t immediately return a phone message seeking comment. Attorneys for Bean and Smith also did not immediately respond to emails or phone messages requesting a comment. Haley’s attorney declined to comment.

Nichols died in a hospital on Jan. 10, 2023, three days after he was kicked, punched and hit with a police baton after a traffic stop. Police video released later that month showed five officers beating Nichols as he yelled for his mother about a block from his house. Video also showed the officers milling about and talking with each other as Nichols sat on the ground, struggling with his injuries.

Nichols was Black. The five officers also are Black. They were fired for violations of Memphis Police Department policies.

An autopsy report showed Nichols died from blows to the head, and that the manner of death was homicide. The report described brain injuries, cuts and bruises to the head and other parts of the body.

Martin was the second officer to have contact with Nichols and he assisted Haley in forcing Nichols from his vehicle at the traffic stop, according to documents filed in the case to permanently ban Martin from working as a law enforcement officer in the state.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, August 23, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 059 ~ 79 of 92

Nichols ran from Martin and his two partners but was apprehended within six minutes by other officers. As other officers were attempting to handcuff Nichols, Martin kicked him in the upper torso while he was on the ground, and Martin punched Nichols in the face while two other officers held Nichols' arms, the documents show.

Memphis' police chief has said the department couldn't substantiate any reason for officers to pull Nichols over.

The criminal charges are separate from the U.S. Department of Justice's "patterns and practices" investigation into how Memphis officers use force and conduct arrests, and whether the department in the majority-Black city engages in racially discriminatory policing.

The Justice Department also has announced a separate review concerning use of force, de-escalation strategies and specialized units within Memphis police.

Additionally, Nichols' mother has filed a \$550 million lawsuit against the city and its police chief.

## **The US is sending \$125 million in new military aid to Ukraine, officials say**

By LOLITA C. BALDOR and MATTHEW LEE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Biden administration will send about \$125 million in new military aid to Ukraine, U.S. officials said Thursday, even as Washington works to get a better understanding of Kyiv's incursion into Russia and how it advances the broader battlefield goals more than two years into the war.

U.S. officials said the latest package of aid includes air defense missiles, munitions for High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS), Javelins and an array of other anti-armor missiles, counter-drone and counter-electronic warfare systems and equipment, 155mm and 105mm artillery ammunition, vehicles and other equipment.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because the aid has not been publicly announced. The formal announcement could come as soon as Friday, which is the eve of Ukraine's Independence Day.

The weapons are being provided through presidential drawdown authority, which means they are taken from Pentagon stockpiles and can be delivered more quickly.

The aid comes as Ukrainian forces continue to broaden their surprise offensive into Russia, where officials say they have taken about 100 square kilometers (62 square miles) of territory around Kursk. Russian troops, meanwhile, are making gains in the east, around the Ukrainian city of Pokrovsk, a critical logistics hub.

Pentagon officials have said repeatedly that the U.S. has been talking with Ukrainian leaders to get a better assessment of their longer-term goals for the Kursk operation, particularly as they see Russia advancing near Pokrovsk.

If Pokrovsk falls, the defeat would imperil Ukraine's defenses and bring Russia closer to its stated aim of capturing the Donetsk region. Russian soldiers are now just 10 kilometers (6.2 miles) away.

Asked about the Kursk operation, Pentagon spokeswoman Sabrina Singh said Thursday that "we are still working with Ukraine on how that fits into their strategic objectives on the battlefield itself."

The U.S., she said, understands that Ukraine wants to build a buffer zone along the border, but the administration still has more questions about how it furthers Ukraine's broader war effort.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy made his first visit Thursday to the border area where his forces launched the offensive on Aug. 6. He said Kyiv's military had taken control of another Russian village and captured more prisoners of war.

The latest package of aid brings the total amount of U.S. security assistance to Ukraine to more than \$55.7 billion since Russia's invasion in February 2022.

## **US government indicts Guatemalan suspect on smuggling charges over deaths of 53 migrants in trailer**

By SONIA PÉREZ D. and JIM VERTUNO Associated Press

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, August 23, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 059 ~ 80 of 92

A suspect arrested in Guatemala has been charged with helping coordinate the 2022 smuggling attempt that ended in the deaths of 53 migrants in Texas, the Justice Department announced Thursday, marking what U.S. officials called a significant expansion of their investigation into the horrific discovery inside an abandoned tractor-trailer on a back road.

U.S. authorities they will seek the extradition of Rigoberto Román Miranda Orozco, who is charged with six counts of migrant smuggling resulting in death or serious injury in the deadliest human smuggling attempt across the U.S.-Mexico border. Authorities alleged he can be connected to four Guatemalan migrants in the trailer, three of whom died, and faces up to life in prison if convicted.

"We will pursue you, whether you are hiding in the United States or you're hiding elsewhere," U.S. Attorney Jaime Esparza said at a news conference in San Antonio.

Miranda Orozco, 47, is the first person arrested outside of the country to face charges in the U.S. in connection with the investigation. Esparza said seven people have been arrested in the U.S. Guatemalan officials announced the arrests of Miranda Orozco and six more people accused of helping smuggle the migrants Wednesday. Of those, only Miranda Orozco faces extradition to the U.S. and the others will be tried in Guatemala, Esparza said.

Carlos Merida, a lawyer for Miranda Orozco in Guatemala, said his client did not accept the charges, instead saying he was a regular citizen "who was a migrant in the north (U.S.) for 15 years."

Those who were charged previously include Homero Zamorano Jr., who authorities say drove the truck, and Christian Martinez. Both are from Texas and were arrested shortly after the migrants were found. Martinez has since pleaded guilty to smuggling-related charges, while Zamorano pleaded not guilty and is awaiting trial.

Four Mexican nationals were also arrested in 2023.

Authorities say the men were aware that the trailer's air-conditioning unit was malfunctioning and would not blow cool air to the migrants trapped inside during the sweltering, three-hour ride from the border city of Laredo to San Antonio. Temperatures reached 100 degrees Fahrenheit (38 Celsius) while migrants screamed and banged the walls of the trailer for help or tried to claw their way out, investigators said.

According to the indictment against Miranda Orozco that was unsealed Wednesday, the smugglers had forced the migrants to give up their cellphones before getting inside the trailer, leaving them no way to call for help. An unknown powder was spread around the trailer to prevent the smell of human cargo from being detected by patrol dogs at border inspection stations.

When the trailer was opened in San Antonio, 48 migrants were already dead. Another 16 were taken to hospitals, where five more died. The dead included 27 people from Mexico, 14 from Honduras, seven from Guatemala and two from El Salvador. President Joe Biden called the tragedy "horrifying and heartbreaking."

Authorities allege that the men worked with human smuggling operations in Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico, and shared routes, guides, stash houses, trucks and trailers, some of which were stored at a private parking lot in San Antonio.

Migrants paid the organization up to \$15,000 each to be taken across the border. The fee would cover up to three attempts to get into the country.

Guatemalan officials accuse the group of housing and transferring hundreds of migrants to the United States over several years.

Guatemala Interior Minister Francisco Jiménez told The Associated Press the arrests were made after 13 raids in three of the country's departments. Police also seized vehicles and cash and rescued other migrants during the operations, Guatemalan officials said in a statement.

Santiago Palomo, spokesman for Guatemala's presidency, said the arrest "reflects the commitment of the Guatemalan government to the fight against organized crime" and collaborate with international agencies.



## Zelenskyy makes 1st visit to border area where Ukrainian forces launched offensive into Russia

By ILLIA NOVIKOV Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy made his first visit Thursday to the border area where his forces launched their surprise offensive into Russia, saying that Kyiv's military had taken control of another Russian village and captured more prisoners of war.

While in Ukraine's northern Sumy region, Zelenskyy said the new POWs from the Russian region of Kursk would help build an "exchange fund" to swap for captured Ukrainians.

"Another settlement in the Kursk region is now under Ukrainian control, and we have replenished the exchange fund," Zelenskyy wrote on the social media platform X after hearing a report from his country's top military commander, Col. Gen. Oleksandr Syrskyi.

Zelenskyy did not name the newly captured village and did not cross over into Russia, which would be regarded by Moscow as a provocation. He previously has said that Ukraine has no plans to occupy the area long term but wants to create a buffer zone to prevent further attacks from that area into Ukraine.

Zelenskyy said the Kursk operation launched Aug. 6 has reduced Russian shelling and civilian casualties in the Sumy region.

In another example of Ukraine's intensifying attacks on Russia, emergency authorities in Russia's Krasnodar region said a Ukrainian strike hit a cargo ferry loaded with fuel tanks at the port of Kavkaz, sparking a blaze. The port is on the Kerch Strait linking the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov.

Russian Telegram channels posted videos purportedly showing a huge fire caused by the strike.

The daring Ukrainian foray has rattled the Kremlin, showing Russia's vulnerability and shattering President Vladimir Putin's efforts to pretend that the country has been largely unaffected by the 2 1/2-year war.

Ukraine's push into Russia marks the first capture of Russian territory since World War II, but it comes as Kyiv continues to lose ground in eastern Ukraine.

Authorities in the city of Kursk, the capital of the Kursk region, began to put up concrete shelters at bus stops and other locations to protect against shelling. They plan similar work in Zheleznogorsk and Kurchatov, where a nuclear power plant is located, the region's acting Gov. Alexei Smirnov said on his Telegram channel.

The International Atomic Energy Agency said it received a report from Russia that fragments of an intercepted drone were found Thursday on the plant's territory.

"Military activity in the vicinity of a nuclear power plant is a serious risk to nuclear safety and security," said IAEA Director Rafael Grossi, who plans to visit the site next week.

Putin has ordered the creation of self-defense units in Russian regions bordering Ukraine, the Russian leader said in a video call with officials.

Smirnov reported to Putin that over 133,000 people have left areas affected by the fighting in the Kursk region, while more than 19,000 have stayed.

The governor of Bryansk, another Russian region bordering Ukraine, said authorities there have conducted training for emergency evacuation as a precaution.

Separately, the Russian Defense Ministry reported repelling Ukrainian attacks near the villages of Komarovka, Malaya Loknya, Korenevka and several other settlements in the Kursk region.

Education Minister Sergey Kravtsov said 114 schools in Russia's border regions will start teaching remotely when the school year begins at the start of September.

Elsewhere, the Defense Ministry said Thursday that its military has claimed control of the Ukrainian village of Mezbove in Donetsk, part of the industrial Donbas region that Moscow seeks to take entirely.

Both sides in the war have been using drones to attack deep behind enemy lines.

Ukraine attacked Russia overnight with 28 drones, the Defense Ministry said. Thirteen were shot down over the Volgograd region, seven over the Rostov region, four over the Belgorod region, two over the Voronezh region, and one each over the Bryansk and Kursk regions, the ministry said.

Andrei Bocharov, governor of the Volgograd region, said Thursday that a military facility caught fire

after being attacked by drones in the area of Marinovka, where Russia has a military air base. He did not specify what was damaged.

Videos shared on Russian social media showed an explosion in the night sky, reportedly near the base. Marinovka is about 300 kilometers (185 miles) east of the Ukrainian border.

Ukraine claimed responsibility for the attack. Ukraine's security service and its special operation forces conducted the drone attack Wednesday night, striking the Marinovka airfield, a law enforcement official told The Associated Press. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak publicly.

The Baza Telegram channel, which is close to Russian law enforcement, said one drone was taken down several kilometers (miles) from the airfield near Marinovka and that wreckage from another fell on a trailer near the air base, causing it to catch fire.

Data from NASA fire-watching satellites, which monitor Earth for forest blazes, showed fires breaking out around the air base's apron, where fighter jets were previously seen parked.

Another fire burned Thursday in Russia's Rostov region, where firefighters struggled for a fifth day to put out flames at an oil depot following a Ukrainian attack in the town of Proletarsk. State news agency Tass said 47 firefighters have been injured while putting out the blaze.

Satellite photos from Planet Labs PBC analyzed Thursday by The Associated Press showed the fire at the oil depot still intensely burning as of Wednesday. Storage tanks at the facility appeared engulfed in flames. Flames could be seen in the images, with a thick black smoke cloud drifting west over the city of Proletarsk.

## **Poorly trained recruits contribute to loss of Ukrainian territory on eastern front, commanders say**

By SAMYA KULLAB Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Some new Ukrainian soldiers refuse to fire at the enemy. Others, according to commanders and fellow fighters, struggle to assemble weapons or to coordinate basic combat movements. A few have even walked away from their posts, abandoning the battlefield altogether.

While Ukraine presses on with its incursion into Russia's Kursk region, its troops are still losing precious ground along the country's eastern front — a grim erosion that military commanders blame in part on poorly trained recruits drawn from a recent mobilization drive, as well as Russia's clear superiority in ammunition and air power.

"Some people don't want to shoot. They see the enemy in the firing position in trenches but don't open fire. ... That is why our men are dying," said a frustrated battalion commander in Ukraine's 47th Brigade. "When they don't use the weapon, they are ineffective."

The accounts come from commanders and soldiers who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity in order to speak freely about sensitive military matters. Others spoke on the condition that they be identified only by their call signs in keeping with Ukrainian military protocol.

Commanders say the recruits have contributed to a string of territorial losses that enabled Russia's army to advance, including near the city of Pokrovsk, a critical logistics hub. If it falls, the defeat would imperil Ukraine's defenses and bring Russia closer to its stated aim of capturing the Donetsk region. Russian soldiers are now just 10 kilometers (6.2 miles) away.

Adding to Ukraine's woes are Russia's huge advantage in manpower and its willingness to accept staggering losses in return for capturing small objectives.

The recently conscripted Ukrainians are a far cry from the battle-hardened fighters who flocked to join the war in the first year of the full-scale invasion. The new troops lack even a minimal level of training, commanders and soldiers from four brigades defending the Pokrovsk area said.

They described having to plan operations with infantry who are unable to shoot targets and uninformed about basic topography. Some recruits simply lacked faith in the battle plans of their superiors and walked

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, August 23, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 059 ~ 83 of 92

away from prepared positions.

Frustrated with the quality of the new conscripts sent to the front line by territorial recruitment centers, commanders are now seeking to conduct their own mobilization drives to better screen and train new fighters, multiple commanders and soldiers said.

"The main problem is the survival instinct of newcomers. Before, people could stand until the last moment to hold the position. Now, even when there is light shelling of firing positions, they are retreating," said a soldier with the 110th Brigade.

Not everyone is turning around and running away from battle, he added.

"No, there are motivated people, but they are just very, very few," he said. "The position is held as far as there are these people who are motivated and committed."

Following the implementation of a controversial mobilization law in May that established clearer regulations for territorial recruitment centers, Ukraine is reportedly drafting tens of thousands of fighters per month. Demand is highest in the infantry.

But there are logistical hurdles to train, equip and pay so many incoming people, and commanders constantly demand new soldiers. To ease that pressure, military leaders have had to take units from brigades in one region and transfer them to different areas to stabilize weak spots.

Some point the finger back at commanders who single out recent recruits for losses.

Viktor Kevliuk, a military expert with the Ukraine-based Center for Defense Strategies think tank, said the training offered to recruits is adequate. He said brigade commanders "are looking for an explanation for tactical failures."

"Likewise, the brigade commander has the appropriate tools to influence morale. If all these processes are established in the brigade, there will be no significant problems. If these mechanisms fail, we read about the negativity in social networks," he added.

And in intense fights such as the one in Pokrovsk, "it is the timely tactical decisions of commanders that make the difference, Kevliuk said.

In some instances, terrified new recruits have fled from the fight.

"This fear creates panic and chaos," said the battalion commander in the 47th Brigade. "This is also the reason we have lost."

The loss of the village of Prohres last month in the Pokrovsk region is the most recent example of territorial loss blamed on new recruits, commanders said. Units from the 31st Brigade left in a poorly coordinated frenzy, prompting the 47th Brigade to enter the battle and attempt to stabilize the line. A similar scenario unfolded in the village of Ocheretyne in May.

Not enough is done to train newcomers, the battalion commander said. "They don't receive even the lowest standard of training required for our (combat) actions," he said.

The new men do not have enough practice assembling and shooting their rifles, he said. They also have not learned how to coordinate combat tasks in small groups or to use even simple tactics, he added.

"From the command point, I would like to issue orders to small (infantry) groups, but I am not sure if they are capable of executing these orders because they lack coordination and communication," he said, adding, "Sometimes, I want to shoot myself."

Ukraine's sudden foray into Russia initially stirred hopes that the Kremlin might be forced to divide its military resources to respond. But so far, Russian forces have not wavered in their push toward Pokrovsk and other potential conquests.

Meanwhile, Ukraine's lightning advance into Russian territory has slowed after two weeks, making only small gains, a possible sign that Moscow is counter-attacking more effectively.

Commanders in the east report that battles have only intensified since the incursion. Local authorities on Monday ordered Pokrovsk's nearly 53,000 residents to evacuate within two weeks. In the neighboring town of Myrnohrad, even closer to Russian positions, residents were given only days.

The capture of Pokrovsk would undermine Ukrainian supply routes to the Donetsk region and ease Russia's advance to the eastern cities of Sloviansk and Kostiantynivka. It would also mark Russia's first major

strategic win after months of painfully fought marginal gains.

In the last three months, the majority of Ukrainian territorial losses were recorded in the Pokrovsk area, according to three open-source monitoring groups, with fighting intensifying in the vicinity of the towns of Toretsk and Chasiv Yar. Russian forces dialed up the attacks in an attempt to capitalize on troop fatigue and shortages.

The offensive has also come at a huge cost to Moscow, with an estimated 70,000 troops lost in two months, according to the U.K. Defense Ministry, which posted the projection last month on X. Heavy losses have continued as Russian forces gradually approach Pokrovsk from the east and southeast.

Another challenge for Ukraine is a new tactic in which Russia deploys recurrent waves of smaller infantry units of two to four men. That has flummoxed Ukrainian drone operators, who find it difficult to target them, according to a drone operator with the 25th Brigade who uses the call sign Groot.

"This is one of the main reasons for (Russia's) success in Pokrovsk," he said. "It's harder to detect them," especially under the cover of leafy trees.

"As soon as the infantry get under the tree lines, it's really hard to get them out of there with drones, and that's why we depend a lot on our infantry."

## **Bangladesh court sends 2 journalists to police custody for questioning as chaos continues**

By JULHAS ALAM Associated Press

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — A court in Bangladesh's capital Thursday allowed police to interrogate two journalists in their custody for four days in connection with the murder of a garment worker, who joined recent student protests against former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina that forced her to step down and flee to India earlier this month.

Ekattor TV's former Head of News Shakil Ahmed and former Principal Correspondent Farzana Rupa were arrested on Wednesday when the couple, along with their young daughter, went to Dhaka's main Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport to travel overseas.

After hours of questioning at the airport, the couple was taken into custody. They had attempted to board a Turkish Airlines flight to Paris via Istanbul. The two journalists worked for the pro-Hasina TV channel and were fired by authorities after her government's fall, apparently under pressure from student leaders who are regularly issuing ultimatums to remove people from various sectors.

On Thursday, Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Ahmed Humayun Kabir granted four days of police remand after hearing an application filed by police official Mohaiminur Rahman, who had sought a 10-day remand for questioning them.

Names of Ahmed and Rupa were not initially included in a murder case of the garment worker who died during a demonstration on Aug. 5 in Dhaka's Uttara. The case named 39 accused including Hasina for murder. The journalists were arrested as two of the unnamed accused.

Police said Thursday that the journalist couple had instigated the government of former Hasina to kill protesters.

"We came to know based on a tip-off that the accused had instigated the (former) government to crush the students in the quota reform movement. The misery behind the incident will be revealed if police interrogate the accused thoroughly," according to the police petition to the court.

The development came as interim leader Muhammad Yunus, a Nobel laureate, is overhauling the bureaucracy, judiciary and other public sectors, including the central bank and universities, by changing their heads.

Yunus-led government has also fired more than 1,800 elected local government representatives across the country since he took over on Aug. 8 after Hasina stepped down on Aug. 5 in the face of a mass uprising that followed attacks, vandalism and killings of many people loyal to Hasina. The parliament was also dissolved after she quit.



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, August 23, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 059 ~ 85 of 92

The United Nations said in a report recently that more than 650 people died in the violence. It said nearly 400 deaths were reported between July 16 and August 4, while around 250 people were reportedly killed following the new wave of violence between Aug. 5 and 6 after Hasina's downfall.

On Thursday, the New York-based Human Rights Watch expressed concern over the arrest of the journalist couple.

"It is extremely concerning that the justice system is replicating its abusive and partisan behavior since the fall of the Awami League government (of Hasina), with arbitrary arrests and failure in due process, merely reversing those targeted," said Meenakshi Ganguly, deputy director of the agency's Asia Division, in an email to The Associated Press.

"While there is legitimate anger over the abuses under Sheikh Hasina's authoritarian governance, the focus should be on reform, not reprisal, which will only serve to undermine the pledges of the interim government," she said.

The student protests, which began against a quota system for government jobs, were initially peaceful but turned violent on July 15. Later they morphed into a movement against what was considered Hasina's increasingly autocratic administration. The uprising eventually forced Hasina to leave office, ending her 15-year rule.

Hasina, 76, was elected to a fourth consecutive term in January, but the vote was boycotted by her main opponents, with thousands of opposition activists detained beforehand.

On Thursday, a team from the United Nations arrived in Bangladesh to discuss the process of investigating alleged human rights violations during the deadly violence in the country.

The U.N. office in Bangladesh said the team will visit Dhaka on Aug. 22-29. "The purpose of this visit is to understand their priorities for assistance in promoting human rights," it added.

Referring to the attack on at least seven TV stations and newspapers in recent weeks, A U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said Wednesday that any such attacks should be accountable.

"The safety and well-being of journalists anywhere in the world is of critical importance for any country, especially for countries going through a transition. It is important that journalists be allowed to do their work, and that those who commit violence against journalists be held to account," Dujarric said.

## Takeaways from AP's report on what the US can learn from other nations about maternal deaths

By LAURA UNGAR AP Science Writer

How can the U.S. solve its growing maternal mortality crisis? Health experts say one way is to look to other countries.

The U.S. has one of the highest maternal death rates of any wealthy nation — hovering around 20 per 100,000 live births overall and 50 for Black moms, according to the World Health Organization and U.S. health officials. Several European countries have rates in the single digits.

Research shows the vast majority of pregnancy-related deaths are preventable. Public health experts blame the United States' high rates on a range of problems, such as inequities in getting needed health care, systemic racism, at times poor-quality medical care and a rise in chronic conditions among women of childbearing age.

But experts believe solutions abroad can be translated to the U.S. They say that's already happening in some places.

The Associated Press examined what the U.S. can learn from Europe about tackling maternal mortality. Here are key takeaways.

Many European countries use proven methods. And Norway stands out

Maternal mortality — which refers to the death of a woman from pregnancy or childbirth complications during or within 42 days of a pregnancy — generally has been rising in the U.S.

There are proven ways to prevent maternal deaths and injuries, such as ensuring quality medical care

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, August 23, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 059 ~ 86 of 92

at delivery; getting to know patients; addressing issues like addiction or poor nutrition; and providing care and support after the baby is born.

One of the most important things is making sure everyone can get regular prenatal checkups, which requires having enough health care providers.

Consider Norway, which has the lowest maternal mortality rate in the world: zero. Through its universal health care system, people get free prenatal appointments at health centers near their homes.

For every 1,000 live births, Norway has 13 OB-GYNs and 54 midwives, the Commonwealth Fund found, compared with 12 OB-GYNs and four midwives in the U.S.

Regular care means problems are spotted and treated early, said Roosa Sofia Tikkanen, a doctoral candidate at the Center for Global Health Inequalities Research in Norway.

"Maternal mortality is an entirely preventable event providing you have access to basic health care," Tikkanen said. "Not high-tech health care but basic health care."

What happens during and after delivery also makes a difference. The national rate for cesarean sections, which are more likely than vaginal births to lead to complications, is about 16% in Norway compared to 32% in the U.S. The Scandinavian country also mandates generous paid leave, which research links to better postpartum health.

A successful U.S. program is based on European models

Commonsense Childbirth, which has locations in Orlando and Winter Garden, Florida, offers a small-scale model of European care. It has clinics, a birthing center and training for health professionals.

The midwives who run the program welcome vulnerable patients that other practices turn away, such as those who are uninsured or haven't had prenatal care until late in pregnancy.

Founded by British immigrant Jennie Joseph about 26 years ago, it has never had a maternal death.

"We have these four tenets that go with my model: access, connection, knowledge and empowerment," she said. Some patients "cry because they've never had that kind of care or respect."

Joseph's organization relies heavily on philanthropy, which makes up about half its \$3.5 million budget. This allows the clinics to accept patients who can pay little or nothing.

For women with no major health problems, research shows midwifery is cheaper globally than care led by OB-GYNs and leads to fewer medical procedures like C-sections, said Marian Knight, a professor of maternal and child population health at the University of Oxford in England.

Some of Commonsense Childbirth's patients with complications are referred to specialists. Most choose to give birth at a local hospital, where Joseph has forged strong ties. They then return to a midwife for postpartum care.

"It's Jennie's National Health Service," Joseph said with a sly smile.

## Europe offers clues for solving America's maternal mortality crisis

By LAURA UNGAR AP Science Writer

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Midwife Jennie Joseph touched Husna Mixon's pregnant belly, turned to the 7-year-old boy in the room with them and asked: "Want to help me check the baby?"

With his small hand on hers, Joseph used a fetal monitor to find a heartbeat. "I hear it!" he said. A quick, steady thumping filled the room.

It was a full-circle moment for the midwife and patient, who first met when Mixon was an uninsured teenager seeking prenatal care halfway through her pregnancy with the little boy. Joseph has been on a decades-long mission to usher patients like Mixon safely into parenthood through a nonprofit that relies on best practices she learned in Europe, a place that experts say offers answers to an American crisis.

"I consider maternal health to be in a state of emergency here," said Joseph, a British immigrant. "It's more than frustrating. It's criminal."

The Biden administration, which in part is focusing on maternal mortality in this election year, acknowledges the U.S. has one of the highest rates of any wealthy nation — hovering around 20 per 100,000 live births overall and 50 for Black moms, according to the World Health Organization and U.S. health officials.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, August 23, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 059 ~ 87 of 92

Several European countries have rates in the single digits.

Research shows the vast majority of pregnancy-related deaths are preventable. Public health experts blame the United States' high rates on a range of problems, such as inequities in getting needed health care, systemic racism, at times poor-quality medical care and a rise in chronic health conditions among women of childbearing age.

Solutions abroad can be translated to the U.S., experts believe. For example, many European countries make it easier to get prenatal and postpartum care that involves both doctors and non-physicians like midwives, said Dr. Laurie Zephyrin, a senior vice president at the nonprofit Commonwealth Fund who studies maternal care across nations.

Joseph's organization — called Commonsense Childbirth — is a smaller-scale example of that type of care. It has clinics, a birthing center and training for health professionals. The midwives who run the program welcome vulnerable patients that other practices turn away, such as those who are uninsured or haven't had prenatal care until late in pregnancy.

About half the patients and much of the staff, including Joseph, are people of color. Research shows Black Americans are more likely to distrust the medical system than their white counterparts, but Joseph stresses building trust.

"We have these four tenets that go with my model: access, connection, knowledge and empowerment," she said. Some patients "cry because they've never had that kind of care or respect."

All of this, Joseph said, contributes to better outcomes. With thousands of patients over about 26 years, she and her colleagues have never had a maternal death.

Getting to zero

Maternal mortality — which refers to the death of a woman from pregnancy or childbirth complications during or within 42 days of a pregnancy — generally has been rising in the U.S. About 700 women die each year, with another 60,000 suffering related injuries or severe complications.

A controversial study recently attributed the increase to a change in how they're recorded: a "pregnancy checkbox" on death certificates recommended by the National Center for Health Statistics partly to fix an undercount. But the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and many doctors pushed back against that research, which suggested the rate is about 10 in 100,000 live births. Some say the true rate may be somewhere in between — meaning it's still higher than other wealthy nations.

U.S. rates remain high despite proven ways to prevent maternal deaths and injuries, experts say — things like ensuring quality medical care at delivery; getting to know patients; addressing issues like addiction or poor nutrition; and providing care and support after the baby is born.

One of the most important things is making sure everyone can get regular prenatal checkups, which requires having enough health care providers.

Consider Norway, which has the lowest maternal mortality rate in the world: zero. Through its universal health care system, people get free prenatal appointments at health centers near their homes. And like Sweden, Germany, France and the U.K., it has a robust supply of midwives.

For every 1,000 live births, Norway has 13 OB-GYNs and 54 midwives, the Commonwealth Fund found, compared with 12 OB-GYNs and four midwives in the U.S. The March of Dimes deems more than a third of American counties maternity care deserts and recommends integrating and expanding midwifery in all states.

Regular care — for every pregnant person, no matter their financial or legal status — means problems are spotted and treated early, said Roosa Sofia Tikkanen, a doctoral candidate at the Center for Global Health Inequalities Research in Norway. She said immigrants lacking permanent legal status are entitled to the same prenatal care as others, plus translation services if necessary.

"Maternal mortality is an entirely preventable event providing you have access to basic health care," Tikkanen said. "Not high-tech health care but basic health care."

What happens during and after delivery also makes a difference. The national rate for cesarean sections, which are more likely than vaginal births to lead to complications, is about 16% in Norway and 32% in the U.S.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, August 23, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 059 ~ 88 of 92

The Scandinavian country and many other European nations also have generous paid leave, which research links to better postpartum health. Norway mandates a total of 86 weeks between maternity, parental and home care leave. The U.S. requires none.

Virginia Kotzias, who grew up in the U.S. but now lives in Norway, suffered two first-trimester miscarriages. She had the option to stay in the hospital, which she chose to do the first time because she was scared.

"For the entire 13 hours that I was going through the process of the miscarriage, I had midwives that were there on call," Kotzias said. "I had access to pain medication. And then when I walked out, there was no bill."

For her two full-term pregnancies, she could have prenatal visits with a doctor, a midwife or both. She had additional regular appointments with a high-risk OB-GYN because of a chronic health condition, and said she "felt very well cared for."

Kotzias was also able to take "graded" sick leave when she felt nauseous and tired, working 80% of the time, with a national benefits program paying the balance of her salary. A few days after her babies were born, midwives visited her home to assess her for any physical or mental postpartum issues and check on the infant.

"I feel incredibly grateful for the way that Norway takes care of families and prioritizes them," she said. "From the time that the stick turns pink ... there's this really robust system of support to try and make it as easy as possible for families to succeed."

'We have to start somewhere'

But even within America's fragmented health care system, experts say reducing the death toll is possible. In Florida, where maternal mortality is higher than the national average, Joseph's organization relies heavily on philanthropy, which makes up about half its \$3.5 million budget. This allows the clinics to accept patients who can pay little or nothing — and midwives to spend more time with them than most OB-GYNs could.

For women with no major health problems, research shows midwifery is cheaper globally than care led by OB-GYNs and leads to fewer medical procedures like C-sections, said Marian Knight, a professor of maternal and child population health at the University of Oxford in England. There are U.S.-based studies that have found the same trend.

Some of Commonsense Childbirth's patients with complications are referred to specialists, and most choose to give birth at a local hospital, where Joseph has forged strong ties, instead of in Commonsense's on-site birthing rooms. They then return to a midwife for postpartum care.

"It's Jennie's National Health Service," Joseph said with a sly smile.

At her Orlando and Winter Garden locations, she instructs front desk staff to greet patients warmly, even during busy times. Women are encouraged to bring their children to appointments instead of struggling to find child care. Toys fill corners of the waiting areas.

"They actually care for what else you've got going on, not only the pregnancy," said Mixon, 24, who is now enrolled in Medicaid and began prenatal visits this time at about eight weeks' gestation.

Joseph hires midwives who can relate to patients. One gave birth to the first of her six children at 16 years old with the help of a midwife. Another was born to a teen mom, grew up without much money and joined the organization to help people who often don't get access to midwifery care.

On a recent afternoon, Kayleigh Sturup arrived for a clinic checkup a few weeks before giving birth to her first child. During the pregnancy, she had uterine fibroids, ligament pain and shortness of breath. She said the midwives gave her "a layer of support."

Experts say health care providers are more likely to spot potential problems when they listen closely to patients and take what they say seriously.

Before examining Sturup, midwife Celena Brown asked: "How we feeling?"

"Nervous and excited," the 31-year-old replied. "As it comes closer, I worry: Am I going to be able to cope with the pain?"

"It's normal to feel nervous," Brown assured her. "You want to be open to the entire process. You got



this. You can do it!"

Brown said she's constantly awed by her patients' strength. She recalled a teen just out of jail who overcame addiction and wound up giving birth vaginally without pain medication.

Joseph has no intention of returning to Europe. She has started a midwifery school, put together training programs for other health care professionals and convenes a national group of professionals and advocates who share ideas to improve maternal health and eliminate disparities over videoconference.

She figures America needs her more.

"This is literally my life's work," she said. "I'm not stopping until it's done."

## **School choice and a history of segregation collide as one Florida county shutter its rural schools**

By KATE PAYNE Associated Press/Report for America

MADISON, Fla. (AP) — Tens of thousands of students have left Florida's public schools in recent years amid an explosive expansion in school choice. Now, districts large and small are grappling with the harsh financial realities of empty seats in aging classrooms.

As some districts are being forced to close schools, administrators are facing another long-avoided reckoning: how to integrate students in buildings that remain racially and economically segregated.

In the Florida panhandle, one tiny district plans to consolidate its last three stand-alone elementary schools into one campus because there aren't enough students to cover the costs of keeping the doors open. But the Madison County School District's decision to do so has exposed tensions around race in a community where for years some white families have resisted integrating public schools.

"It's the elephant in the room that nobody wants to talk about," county school board member Katie Knight told The Associated Press.

"At the end of the day, these kids are going to have to interact with all people of races, skill sets, personality types," she said. "Trying to segregate our children is not an option."

Segregation, integration, consolidation

Shirley Joseph is a product of Florida's segregated schools — and was a Black student in some of the first integrated classes at one of the local high schools.

Now, as superintendent of Madison County's public schools, it's her job to close some of them.

There are fewer than 1,700 students left in traditional public schools in this rural county in the state's old cotton belt. Many families have moved away to places with more jobs and housing — or chosen other kinds of schooling. For those who remain, the schools provide more than just an education: All of Madison's students qualify for free meals because of the county's poverty rate. One in three children there live in poverty.

"If we are to survive as a district," Joseph said, "we have got to make the hard decisions."

Earlier this month, Joseph walked the halls of the elementary campuses on their last first day of school, pointing out classroom after empty classroom.

One of the schools slated to close is Greenville Elementary, which has fewer than 100 students — roughly a third of the school's capacity. When Florida schools were officially segregated, Joseph attended classes there at what was then called the Greenville Training School.

Generations of Black residents cherish the school's legacy in the tiny town of Greenville where music legend Ray Charles grew up.

More than 50 years after desegregation, the school remains 85% Black. Class sizes have dwindled as the school struggles to hold onto certified teachers. State ratings of the school have fluctuated, but Greenville has been rated an "F" five times over the past decade for low rates of student achievement.

Fourth grade teacher Mannika Hopkins had just eight students in her class when an Associated Press reporter visited recently.

"I hate it that it's closing. This is my heart. This is our community. ... This is us," Hopkins said. "Who

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, August 23, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 059 ~ 90 of 92

wants to move into a community that doesn't have a school that's close by?"

Starting next year, Greenville will consolidate with Lee and Pinetta Elementary Schools, which are predominantly white. All those students will be sent to Madison County Central School, a majority Black K-8 campus that's a 15- to 20-minute drive from the outlying elementary schools. The district hasn't announced yet which teachers will move to the consolidated school and which ones will be out of job.

School choice fuels declining enrollment

Madison County sits an hour east of Tallahassee in a region once dominated by cotton and tobacco plantations. A statue of a Confederate soldier still towers over the central park in the county seat of Madison.

The area has been losing students for years as birth rates decline, businesses close and families move to places with more jobs other than in the timber industry, trucking and working at the nearby state prison.

Other families have stayed but simply left the public schools.

For decades, Aucilla Christian Academy in neighboring Jefferson County has attracted some of the area's wealthiest families. Established in 1970, Aucilla opened as a wave of new private schools sprang up across the South, founded by white people who opposed integration. Researchers call these "segregation academies," and many of them remain mostly white. As of the 2021-2022 school year, Aucilla's student body was more than 90% white, according to federal data.

Madison families have pushed back against consolidation in the past: In 1998, the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights stepped in when residents resisted plans to send students from predominantly white Lee Elementary to Central, the school that will soon receive the county's elementary schoolers. After the department got involved, the district went ahead with the plan.

Today, it's arguably never been easier to leave Florida's public schools. The chaos of COVID-19 pushed many families to try homeschooling or microschooling — tiny, private learning environments that often serve multiple families. And now, under Gov. Ron DeSantis, all Florida students can qualify for taxpayer-funded vouchers worth about \$8,000 a year to cover private school tuition, regardless of household income.

For families opposed to Madison's consolidation, Aucilla is a possible destination, along with Madison Creative Arts Academy, a public charter school.

Nine-year-old Noel Brouillette's parents hope she gets a seat at the Academy. It's not about race, mom Nicole Brouillette said, but rather the majority Black Central school's reputation of having more fights. If Noel doesn't get into the charter school, the family might leave Madison County entirely.

The fourth grader says she's heartbroken she can't stay at Pinetta Elementary.

"If I never went here, I would have never met my best friend," she said.

Other parents are considering homeschooling, like Alexis Molden. She said her sons love going to Lee Elementary, but she's heard rumors about Central — that multiracial kids like hers get bullied there.

"I've heard that ... it's pretty much segregated," Molden said. "You've got the white kids, the Black kids and then the mixed kids pretty much have to decide which side they're going to."

Katie Knight, the school board member, said that if she had a dollar for every rumor she heard about Central, she could retire.

Still, the county has a history.

When now-Superintendent Shirley Joseph taught at Madison County High School a couple of decades ago, she said her students would sort themselves when they filed into her classroom — white kids on one side, Black kids on the other — until she'd make them change seats.

"Somehow we've got to find out: How do we mesh the communities?" Joseph said.

There's always talk about leaving the public schools, Joseph said, but she believes most families will stay. In the meantime, she's focused on delivering the best education possible for the students she has — the ones who can't leave.

## Explosion and fire at a pharmaceutical plant in India kill at least 18 workers

By OMER FAROOQ Associated Press

HYDERABAD, India (AP) — A big explosion triggered a fire at a pharmaceutical plant in southern India, killing at least 18 workers, police said Thursday.

The death toll rose from 15 as three of the 40 injured in the fire Wednesday in the chemical reactor of the plant in Andhra Pradesh state died in hospital on Thursday, police officer M. Deepika said, adding that some of the injured were in critical condition.

The Press Trust of India news agency reported distressing scenes with the skin of several workers peeling off. Ambulances transported them to the hospital.

Officials suspect the fire was caused by an electrical fault at the plant, according to media reports. State authorities have ordered an investigation.

The explosion occurred at the Escientia Company in the Anakapalle district. The plant is about 350 kilometers (220 miles) northeast of Amaravati, the capital of Andhra Pradesh.

The 5-year-old company manufactures intermediate chemicals and active pharmaceutical ingredients.

As the news of the blast spread, hundreds of people from families of workers rushed to the plant to find out what happened to their loved ones.

Around 380 employees work two shifts at the plant. Many escaped because they were on lunch break when the explosion started the fire.

The plant is in the state's special economic zone at Atchutapuram village, which was established in 2009 with over 200 companies. Anakapalli is adjacent to the port city of Vishakhapatnam, a highly industrialized area with many mishaps, including hazardous chemical leakages.

In the most extensive industrial mishap in the region, 22 people were killed when a blast occurred in the refinery of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation in Visakhapatnam in 1997.

Fires are common in India, where builders and residents often flout building laws and safety norms. Some don't even install firefighting equipment.

In 2019, a fire caused by an electrical short circuit in a New Delhi factory producing handbags and other items killed 43 people.

## Today in History: August 23, farm workers' "Salad Bowl strike"

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Friday, Aug. 23, the 236th day of 2024. There are 130 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Aug 23, 1970, the Salad Bowl strike began, organized by farm labor leader Cesar Chavez; between 5,000-10,000 laborers walked off the job, leading to the largest farm worker strike in U.S. history.

Also on this date:

In 1305, Scottish rebel leader Sir William Wallace was executed by the English for treason.

In 1775, Britain's King George III proclaimed the American colonies to be in a state of "open and avowed rebellion."

In 1914, Japan declared war against Germany in World War I.

In 1927, amid worldwide protests, Italian-born anarchists Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti were executed in Boston for the murders of two men during a 1920 robbery. (On the 50th anniversary of their executions, then-Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis issued a proclamation that Sacco and Vanzetti had been unfairly tried and convicted.)

In 1939, Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union agreed to a non-aggression treaty, the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, in Moscow.

In 2000, A Gulf Air Airbus crashed into the Persian Gulf near Bahrain, killing all 143 people aboard.

In 2003, former priest John Geoghan (GAY-gun), the convicted child molester whose prosecution sparked

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, August 23, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 059 ~ 92 of 92

the sex abuse scandal that shook the Roman Catholic Church nationwide, died after another inmate attacked him in a Massachusetts prison.

In 2011, a magnitude-5.8 earthquake centered near Mineral, Virginia, the strongest on the East Coast since 1944, caused cracks in the Washington Monument and damaged Washington National Cathedral.

In 2013, a military jury convicted Maj. Nidal Hasan in the deadly 2009 shooting rampage at Fort Hood, Texas, that claimed 13 lives; the Army psychiatrist was later sentenced to death.

In 2020, a white police officer in Kenosha, Wisconsin, shot a Black man, Jacob Blake, seven times as officers tried to arrest Blake on an outstanding warrant; the shooting left Blake partially paralyzed and triggered several nights of violent protests.

In 2022, a jury convicted two men of conspiring to kidnap Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer in 2020, a victory for prosecutors in a plot that was broken up by the FBI and described as a rallying cry for a U.S. civil war by anti-government extremists.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Vera Miles is 95. Actor Barbara Eden is 93. Football Hall of Famer Sonny Jurgensen is 90. Ballerina Patricia McBride is 82. Author Nelson DeMille is 81. Former Surgeon General Antonia Novello is 80. Singer-songwriter Linda Thompson is 77. Author and motivational speaker Rudy Ruettiger is 76. Actor Shelley Long is 75. Actor-singer Rick Springfield is 75. Noor al-Hussein (Queen Noor of Jordan) is 73. Film composer Alexandre Desplat is 63. Actor Jay Mohr is 54. Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer is 53. Actor Ray Park is 50. Actor Scott Caan is 48. Rock singer Julian Casablancas (The Strokes) is 46. Actor Joanne Froggatt is 44. Olympic gold medal swimmer Natalie Coughlin Hall is 42. Musician Lil Yachty is 27.