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Monday, Sept. 23

School Breakfast: Breakfast sliders.
School Lunch: Turkey gravy, mashed potatoes.
Senior Menu: Hot pork sandwich, cucumber salad, baked beans, sherbert, fruit.
Cross Country at Clear Lake, 4 p.m.
JH Football hosts Oakes, 4:30 p.m., one game
JV Football hosts Oakes, 5:30 p.m.
3rd/4th and 5th/6th Football hosts Redfield - 6PM
Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.
Pantry open, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., community center.
Senior Citizens meet at the community center, potluck, noon to 3 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 24

School Breakfast: egg omelets.
School Lunch: Pasta with meat sauce, bread stick.
Senior Menu: Chicken cordon bleu hotdish, Cauliflower and broccoli, pears, whole wheat bread.
Volleyball hosts Warner: 7th/C at 5 p.m., 8th/JV at 6 p.m., varsity to follow
Common Cents Community Thrift Store open, 209 N Main, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Pantry open, Community Center, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.
United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

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



Wednesday, Sept. 25

School Breakfast: Cereal.
School Lunch: Cheese stuffed breadsticks, marina sauce.
Senior Menu: Beef stew, buttermilk biscuit, waldorf salad, cookie.
Confirmation, 6:30 p.m.
Groton C&MA: Kids' Club, Youth Group, Adult Bible Study at 7 pm.
St. John's Lutheran: Confirmation, 3:45 p.m.
United Methodist: Community coffee hour, 9:30 a.m.

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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.

Three Mile Island to Restart

A Pennsylvania power plant home to the worst nuclear accident in US history will be restarted by early 2028, according to reports. The lone undamaged reactor at Three Mile Island plant will fuel the rapidly growing AI efforts by Microsoft, which signed a 20-year power-purchasing agreement with Constellation Energy.

In 1979, the plant's second reactor suffered a partial nuclear meltdown after a coolant loop failed, causing the reactor core to overheat. No injuries or deaths were caused by the incident, though a small amount of radioactive gas and iodine was released into the atmosphere. No public health effects were identified, and the first reactor—the one to be restarted—continued to operate until 2019 before being shut down due to cost.

Energy-intensive generative AI applications are expected to consume 1.5% of global electricity generation by 2029.

See a deep dive into the power and water demands of AI here.

French Government Unveiled

French President Emmanuel Macron unveiled his new cabinet over the weekend, revealing an administration with a number of centrists and conservatives in key posts. The makeup marks a distinct shift toward the right for the center-left Macron, who is seeking to break through a political impasse following summer elections in which a left-wing alliance led in seats but failed to gain an outright majority.

The news comes roughly two weeks after Macron appointed center-right lawmaker Michel Barnier. Notably, the lineup left out any representatives from the party of leading opposition figure Marine Le Pen, despite the group finishing with the second-most parliamentary seats.

France faces a number of domestic challenges, including a total federal debt load that stands at more than \$3.3T, or 110% of the country's gross domestic product—a violation of the European Union's guideline of 60% and the EU's third-highest behind Greece and Italy.

Israel-Lebanon Escalation

Israel and Lebanon's Iran-backed Hezbollah exchanged hundreds of cross-border missile and rocket attacks Sunday, with leaders signaling the nearly yearlong conflict has entered a new stage.

The escalation in the conflict—initiated by Lebanon in October in support of Hamas in Gaza—comes after Israel is suspected of detonating thousands of mobile communications devices across Lebanon and launched a direct strike Friday in Beirut, killing 45 people, including a Hezbollah commander. In response, Hezbollah launched several direct hits in the coastal city of Haifa amid a barrage of 115 missiles. At least four projectiles were also intercepted from Iran-backed militias in Iraq.

Israeli officials say the attacks will continue until Israelis can return to the border near Lebanon. Lebanon has claimed its attacks on Israel will stop once the war in Gaza ends—a scenario reports claim is less likely before 2025. New reports also suggest Israel may soon deploy siege tactics in northern Gaza.

Separately, Israeli troops shut down news outlet Al Jazeera in Ramallah in the occupied West Bank Sunday.

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Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

Las Vegas Aces star A'ja Wilson named 2024 WNBA MVP; Wilson becomes the second player to be unanimously selected as the league's MVP.

Mercury Morris, three-time NFL Pro Bowler and two-time Super Bowl champion, dies at age 77.

Kathryn Crosby, actress and wife of Bing Crosby, dies at age 90.

Catherine, Princess of Wales, makes first public appearance since announcing she's completed her cancer treatment.

Science & Technology

Social media platform X could return to Brazil as soon as this week after complying with a judge's demand to censor certain posts, appoint a legal representative in the country.

US health regulators approve the first self-administered, at-home influenza vaccine; treatment is delivered via nasal spray.

Engineers demonstrate 3D-printed glass bricks with similar strength to concrete blocks; interlocking structures can be used many times over and repurposed at the end of a building's life.

Business & Markets

Markets end mixed following the Fed's first rate cut in four years Wednesday (Dow +0.1%, S&P 500 -0.2%, Nasdaq -0.4%); Dow finishes at record high.

US officials to propose ban on Chinese-made software and hardware in self-driving cars as soon as today, according to reports; follows a recent tariff of 100% on imported Chinese electric vehicles.

Indian hotel chain Oyo acquires G6 Hospitality, owner of Motel 6, from private equity firm Blackstone for \$525M.

Qualcomm reportedly considering an acquisition bid for rival chipmaker Intel.

Politics & World Affairs

At least four people killed, 17 wounded in late-night mass shooting in Birmingham, Alabama; officials suggest the incident stemmed from a personal dispute.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy visits Scranton, Pennsylvania, ammunition plant to thank workers ahead of this week's United Nations General Assembly.

Leftist candidate Anura Kumara Dissanayake wins Sri Lankan presidential election; results come with the country stuck in a yearslong economic crisis.

"Menopause"

Menopause is one of those things that, let's face it, will ultimately affect everyone with previously functional ovaries. Unfortunately we don't talk about it enough, which makes it a topic riddled with misinformation. So... what is menopause?

Menopause is defined by the permanent cessation of menstrual bleeding for 12 months. This occurs naturally when the ovaries stop reproductive activity and a marked decrease in ovarian hormones (estrogen and progesterone) occurs. Symptoms of menopause are a result of these hormonal changes.

Most women enter menopause "naturally," or just due to aging. The average age of menopause in North America is 51 years, but that can vary by up to 8-10 years on either side. However, menopause can also occur when the ovaries are surgically removed or if a patient needs to take a medication that affects ovarian hormone secretion, for example certain therapies for breast cancer.

Perimenopause refers to the phase, often lasting 1-2 years, before complete cessation of menses in which a person is likely to experience irregularities in menstrual periods (shorter or longer intervals, lighter or heavier bleeding) and sometimes the start of menopausal symptoms like hot flashes. Some patients will experience problematic or heavy perimenopausal bleeding that warrants medical or surgical treatment.

It is worth noting that laboratory testing is not recommended to diagnose menopause in a patient of typical age range with expected menopausal symptoms. In some cases, especially if a patient is younger than expected, limited testing is warranted to rule out other conditions including pregnancy and thyroid disorders.

Some fortunate women experience no significant symptoms of menopause, but the majority will. The most common symptoms of menopause are the infamous vasomotor symptoms (hot flashes and night sweats) and urogenital symptoms (vaginal dryness and sexual dysfunction). The average duration of vasomotor symptoms after menopause is about 7 years, but approximately 10% of women have symptoms lasting more than 10 years.

Decisions around various options for treatment for these symptoms is highly individualized and depends on how symptoms are affecting a given patient's quality of life. Treatment, if warranted, can involve hormonal therapy (replacing estrogen is the most effective way to reduce hot flashes) or various non-hormonal options. This choice necessitates a conversation about an individual's symptom severity and that patient's risk of hormonal therapy, including breast cancer, blood clots, and cardiovascular events.

In summary, menopause is indeed a part of life. However, if you are really suffering with symptoms of menopause, it is worthwhile to talk to your healthcare provider about potential treatment for your symptoms.

Kelly Evans-Hullinger, MD. is part of The Prairie Doc® team of physicians and currently practices Internal Medicine at Avera Medical Group in Brookings, South Dakota. Follow The Prairie Doc® at www.prairiedoc.org, and on social media. Watch On Call with the Prairie Doc, most Thursday's at 7PM on SDPB and streaming on Facebook and listen to Prairie Doc Radio Sunday's at 6am and 1pm.



Kelly Evans-Hullinger, MD

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Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

Just when you thought the Vikings couldn't possibly have a better win than the one they had against the San Francisco 49ers, they proceeded to dismantle one of the best teams in the AFC, the Houston Texans, by a score of 34-7.

The first quarter set the tone for the entire game. The Texans got the ball to start the game, and the first play of their opening drive was a holding call on the offensive line. On their second play, C.J. Stroud was intercepted by Kamu Grugier-Hill, who was starting in place of injured linebacker Ivan Pace Jr. Six plays later, Sam Darnold found Justin Jefferson for a six-yard touchdown. On their ensuing drive, the Texans ran 13 plays but ultimately missed a 54-yard field goal, giving the ball back to the Vikings who only needed six plays to find the endzone again, this time an eight-yard pass from Darnold to Aaron Jones.

While the first quarter was non-stop fireworks, the second quarter was full of duds by both teams. Both teams punted the ball three times, and the teams went into halftime with the same 14-0 score.

The Vikings got the ball to begin the second half and drove 77 yards in eight plays – ending the drive with a four-yard touchdown pass from Darnold to Jalen Nailor. Both teams traded punts on their ensuing drives, before the Texans finally showed some signs of life halfway through the third quarter, going 72 yards on seven plays and finally finding the endzone (an eight-yard catch from former Vikings running back Cam Akers). The Vikings responded with a field goal, and the score was 24-7 with a quarter left to play.

Needing to get something going if they were going to have any chance at a comeback, the Texans took to the air to score quickly. Unfortunately for them, that just allowed the Vikings' pass rush to pin their ears back and apply constant pressure to Stroud – which led to a Cam Bynum interception. Nursing a large lead and wanting to kill some clock, the Vikings kept it simple and handed the ball off to Aaron Jones five times, which got them down to the two-yard line. On third and goal, Darnold hit tight end Johnny Mundt for a touchdown, bringing the score to 31-7. The Vikings' defense, which was ferocious all game, smelled blood in the air and went into berserker mode, stopping the Texans' offense twice on fourth downs and the Vikings' offense added a field goal just for good measure.

The 34-7 win was the Vikings' largest margin of victory since December 15, 2019 (at the Los Angeles Chargers).

Sam Darnold completed 17 of 28 passes for 181 yards and four touchdowns. Aaron Jones ran the ball 19 times for 102 yards and had five catches for 46 yards and a touchdown. Justin Jefferson had six catches for 81 yards and a touchdown, and Jalen Nailor added three catches for 31 yards and a touchdown.

As a unit, the Vikings' defense held the Texans to only one touchdown while forcing two interceptions and accumulating five sacks. Jonathan Greenard led the way against his old team, notching three of the five sacks and adding three tackles for a loss. Andrew Van Ginkel and Jalen Redmond each had a sack as well.

Looking ahead, the Vikings travel to Green Bay to battle the 2-1 Packers, who just beat the Tennessee Titans 30-14 without their starting quarterback Jordan Love. Whether or not Love plays next week remains to be seen, but it's the Packers' defense that will be the biggest obstacle to overcome. While the Titans' offense isn't on the same level as the Vikings', the Packers still had eight sacks and two interceptions while limiting Tennessee to only 33 yards on the ground. This will be the 128th time the two teams have met, with the Packers holding a 66-58-3 edge. The Vikings have been the more impressive team so far this season, but anything can happen in these divisional border battles.

Names Released in Meade County Fatal Crash

What: Two vehicle fatal crash

Where: 20207 Avalanch Road, five miles north of Sturgis, SD

When: 7:09 p.m., Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Vehicle 1: 1999 Dodge Ram

Driver 1: William Jeffery Westberg, 20-year-old male from Whitewood, SD, no injuries

Seatbelt Use: No

Vehicle 2: 2016 Polaris Ranger EV

Driver 2: Lynn E. Gray, 80-year-old female from Pringle, SD, fatal injuries

Seatbelt/Helmet Use: No

Meade County, S.D.- An 80-year-old woman died Wednesday from injuries sustained in a two-vehicle crash five miles north of Sturgis, SD.

Preliminary crash information indicates William Jeffery Westberg, the driver of a 1999 Dodge Ram, was traveling north on Avalanch Road near Eden Road. Lynn E. Gray, the driver of a Polaris Ranger, was on a private drive and attempted to make a left turn in front of the Dodge to travel south on Avalanche Road. The Dodge collided with the Polaris, ejecting Gray, who sustained fatal injuries. Westberg had no injuries.

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.

Minnehaha County Fatal Crash

What: Two vehicle fatal crash
Where: Interstate 29, mile marker 77, Sioux Falls, SD
When: 1:24 a.m., Sunday, September 22, 2024

Vehicle 1: 2013 Victory Cross Country motorcycle
Driver 1: 39-year-old male, fatal injuries
Helmet Use: No

Vehicle 2: 2020 Freightliner Cascadia 126
Driver 2: 39-year-old male, no injuries
Seatbelt Use: Yes
Passenger 1: 41-year-old male, no injuries
Seatbelt Use: Yes

Minnehaha County, S.D.- A 39-year-old man died early Sunday morning after colliding with a semi on Interstate 29 in Sioux Falls, SD.

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

Preliminary crash information indicates the driver of a 2020 Freightliner Cascadia was traveling southbound on Interstate 29 near mile marker 77 in the far right lane and slowing down to take the 26th Street exit. The driver of a 2013 Victory Cross Country motorcycle was traveling the same direction and rear-ended the semi.

The driver and a passenger in the semi were not injured. The driver of the motorcycle sustained fatal injuries.

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.

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2024 South Dakota HS Soccer Coaches Poll

September 22, 2024 - SDHSSCA Coaches Poll for Boys and Girls soccer. The soccer coaches association will be releasing our rankings every two weeks during the season.

Boys AA

1. Sioux Falls Lincoln
2. Sioux Falls Christian
- T3. Rapid City Christian
- T3. Sioux Falls Jefferson
5. Watertown

Receiving Votes: Aberdeen Central, O'Gorman

Girls AA

1. Harrisburg
2. Rapid City Stevens
3. Pierre T.F. Riggs
4. Sioux Falls Roosevelt
5. O'Gorman

Receiving Votes: Aberdeen Central, Brookings, Sioux Falls Lincoln, Sioux Falls Washington, Yankton

Boys A

1. Vermillion
2. James Valley Christian
3. Rapid City Christian
4. Belle Fourche
5. Freeman Academy

Receiving Votes: St. Thomas More, West Central

Girls A

1. Sioux Falls Christian
2. Groton Area
- T3. West Central
- T3. Dakota Valley
5. St. Thomas More

Receiving Votes: Belle Fourche

EARTHTALK ™

Dear EarthTalk: What's the story with so-called "deadbeat dams" causing ecosystem problems across the country?
- George H., Seattle, WA

The invention of dams was certainly one of humanity's most innovative feats of engineering. Able to harness power from the water currents, reserving water and effectively controlling floods, dams have been crucial to civilizations since 3,000 B.C. Modern dams are made of concrete and steel, built to withstand tons of water pressure. But over time, many dams have fallen into disrepair and no longer serve their intended purposes. These dams lost to time are called "deadbeat dams."



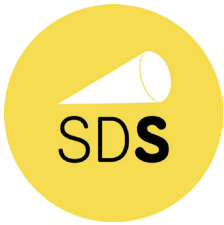
Defunct old dams can disrupt surrounding ecosystems by altering water temperature and hindering fish migration patterns.

Deadbeat dams disrupt surrounding ecosystems by altering water temperature and hindering fish migration patterns. When dams impede river the flows, water temperatures increase, decimating fish sensitive to temperature changes and prevent fish migrations, further damaging their chances of survival.

Loss of fish populations can devastate the entire surrounding ecosystem as they are the primary food source for many animals including birds and mammals, so they are integral to maintaining balance in the food web. Communities that rely on fish in their diet can also be largely affected. The Kwoneesum Dam was abandoned in the 1980s and has since then obstructed 6.5 miles of the Washougal River, preventing the Native nations' access to the salmon and steelhead population that nourished them for generations.

Effective and safe dam removal is a large and costly challenge, often taking many years and millions of dollars. When removing dams, workers must be careful to ensure debris and sediment from the construction site are not released into the environment, and to test for possible contaminants within the sediment. In 1973, the Fort Edward Dam on New York's Hudson River was removed without its sediments tested for contaminants. According to the Columbia Climate School, this resulted in "tons of sediment laden with toxic PCBs" washing downstream and "affecting human and wildlife health."

Across the U.S., 20,000 of the 90,000 total dams are considered unsafe. But due to logistical and financial difficulties, dam removal has been slow: Since 1912, only 2,000 dams have been removed. In recent years, native communities have made headway in advocating for deadbeat dam removals. Through extensive efforts on their part and that of policymakers, millions of dollars have been raised to fund dam removal across the Pacific Northwest. The Seattle Times reports that, in 2024, \$40 million from a \$75 million Washington state act will go towards "nine [dam removal] projects led by tribal nations." To ensure the longevity of our precious natural resources, deadbeat dams is an issue we can no longer overlook. Their presence is a constant disruption to nature and to those dependent on nature.



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

Navajo family brings story of resistance to Black Hills Film Festival

BY: JOHN HULT - SEPTEMBER 22, 2024 10:00 AM

Until recently, many members of the Tsinigine family lacked details about the life of their ancestor, Hastiin Taadidini, which translates from Navajo (Diné) as "Corn Pollen Man."

Family lore told the story in broad brushstrokes: He was strong, respected by his people and shot to death by white men.

But big pieces of the story were missing.

What they found when they set out to learn more – a journey aided by a Diné journalist investigating boarding school abuses – was a medicine man and community leader tagged

by the press at the time as a "renegade Indian" for his refusal to submit to the federal government's reservations and boarding schools.

In other words, they found a hero.

South Dakotans will soon have the chance to see the Tsinigine family's story of resistance on the big screen in the documentary "Bad Indian: Hiding in Antelope Canyon."

At the Black Hills Film Festival, which begins Sept. 27 in Hill City, Logan Tsinigine and others from the crew will be on hand for a question and answer session. The film is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 29.

Tsinigine and his family run a company called Taadidiin Tours, guiding visitors through the painted rock formations of Arizona's Antelope Canyon. "Taadidiin" is a nod to Hastiin Taadidini, who was Logan's great-grandfather.

Tadidini was among the Diné who escaped "The Long Walk" of the 1860s, a forced removal that pushed around 10,000 Indigenous people hundreds of miles across New Mexico. He hid in Antelope Canyon, performing ceremonies for prisoners and aiding those who fled or were freed. His killing in 1916 was sparked by his decision to pull a daughter from a boarding school, prompting a directive from the school's superintendent to bring him in, "on a stretcher, if necessary."

Today, the boarding school era is widely regarded as a stain on American history that ripped apart families and left generational scars on Indigenous people across the U.S. and Canada. Some children were beaten and berated for speaking their own language, and some children who died at the schools were buried in unmarked graves.



Still from the documentary film "Bad Indian: Hiding in Antelope Canyon," which will screen at the Black Hills Film Festival on Sunday, Sept. 29, 2024. (Courtesy photo)

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The movie tells the story of Tadidini, but also serves as an exploration of the ways the boarding school system and its abuses have colored the last century of Indigenous history.

Tsinigine has never been to South Dakota, but he knows the state is full of people who have their own family histories of forced removal and boarding school abuse.

In a recent interview with South Dakota Searchlight, Tsinigine said he wants to hear those stories as he tells his family's own.

The following conversation has been edited for length and clarity.

What inspired you to tell this story in a documentary format?

How did this project come about?

We've been collecting Tadidini information for maybe 10 years. We had heard oral stories from our elders about who he was and what he did, but as we got older, it's one of those things where you're trying to just know more about who you are. He was almost supernatural, from the stories on how big he was, how strong he was, but we didn't have that much information other than the stories. There was a journalist, Alastair Lee Bitsóí, who is in the documentary, and he got a lead about this man who was having issues with the boarding schools, that he was murdered, and that his family is still around. So he contacted us.

We had a sit down with him, and he published an article in High Country News. He was basically the catalyst for all of this. Other people started coming to us with information, just different tidbits, and all of a sudden we had just this giant drop box of information that we were trying to figure out what to do with it. At one of our family get-togethers, someone brought it up and said, "This is enough for a documentary."

In the film, you talk about Tadidini as a leader, as someone to look up to, but there's very little about him online. How well-known is this story?

Where we lived, in that era of the early 1900s, was one of the most remote areas in all of the United States. And we are finding that we are the most documented family out there.

We were down at the University of Arizona about three months ago, and a woman from a trader family had written her master's thesis and included the Grand Old Indian in there. Then we found "The Vanishing American," which is a (1925) novel by Zane Grey, and he mentions my family story in that book.

When the University of Utah was doing archeology work down in that area, Professor Byron Cummings (d. 1954) also documented his interactions with my family. In October, in California, one of the descendants of the traders from the area is going to be doing a presentation called "The Grand Old Indian," and it's about us. So as you go through, it's amazing that all these other people documented their interactions.

So there's information, and there are people who've been uncovering this stuff, but it's not necessarily widely known, even in your neighborhood?

It isn't, because our elders, they always talked about sad times like "let's just let it go. You can't change it. Don't dwell on it." But us, being the generation that we are, we're so curious, and everyone's wanting to know more.

Now we have younger people in our family looking at several different things in his life. We actually have the indictments (in the murder trial), the investigation, and almost all of the court files. It was huge on the reservation, and the papers were afraid of an uprising, a sort of a revolt. Then people on our side said, "no, it really wasn't that bad," and it was kind of like a smear campaign to make him seem like this larger-than-life criminal. But on our end, it was just like, "no, he was just responding to things that he thought weren't correct." Some of that was digging up our historical sites, some of our burial sites. He didn't like that. And then there was the abuse in the boarding schools.

In South Dakota, we've had a lot of controversy over how to incorporate Native American history and culture into social studies curricula. Do you see films like yours playing some role in influencing the history our kids are exposed to?

I think, as with all other movements, that once you get enough information that you can make a curriculum and teach with it, and have it be fact-based, that it helps out. The issue that we have is that we're oral-based. You don't have your bibliography with all these things and where it came from. The difference

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in our story is that we were very documented. We can reference those things, and we've actually created a bibliography. It's going to take time, because that's not traditional academia. But as you go forward, it's just one of those things where once we start writing it, and then the generations behind us can start referencing that, it'll legitimize it eventually, however long that takes.

You say in the film you'd like viewers to take a more curious approach to Native history and culture. What else might you hope that viewers, maybe specifically in South Dakota, take from this film?

After the Phoenix film festival, one of the people that went to the screening came up for a tour, and I didn't realize he recognized me or had even seen the documentary. But he sat down by me on the bench, and we had almost a 45-minute conversation.

He was apologizing, because his family was actually part of the assimilation movement. And I explained to him that I have no hard feelings, there's no animosity, there's nothing. We don't want to make people feel bad. We're just talking. And I said, "our conversation here, I feel like that's healing." And we connected. We just talked about different things, and we ended up talking about our kids and what they're doing.

For me, that's where this is going. Hopefully it brings more people together, rather than disagreeing with the history or talking about who's at fault. In my view, it's just history, and we review it and learn from it.

I was really struck by the discussions in the film about canyons and mountains as churches, and that really reminded me of the Black Hills and their importance to our folks up here. Can you talk a little bit about the role your company plays in educating visitors on the importance of spaces like these?

When we have visitors come, our tour guides try to pack as much culture and history into the tour as we can, to go along with the cool Instagram photos and the amazing colors of the rocks. So we tell them about who we are, the things that we've done, and talk about the four sacred mountains, and that we're still here, in that perimeter. A lot of times they have other questions, and we've actually had people that have come like three different times, wanting to learn something else, or hoping to learn more.

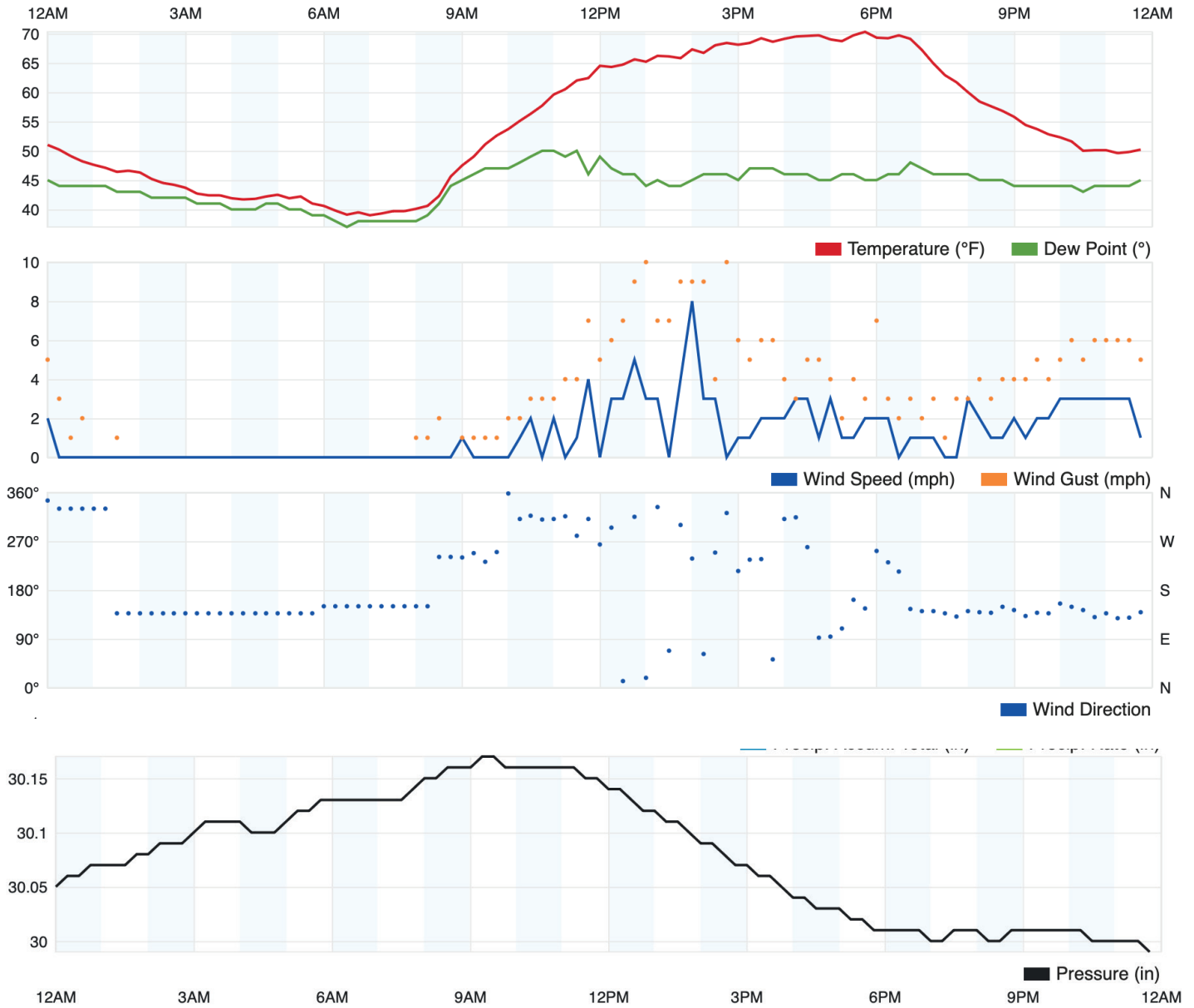
That's just kind of the role we're taking. Ours is more of a cultural tour than just a sightseeing tour now. There's some people that couldn't care less about the rocks, or their pictures. We've had prayers with some of our guests down there, like, "can we hear a prayer? Can we hear a song?" And we've had people break down and cry, all sorts of stuff. We have engagements, proposals down there. So it's changed into this whole big thing, rather than just getting this cool picture.

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

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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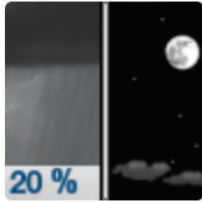
Today



High: 74 °F

Sunny then
Mostly Sunny
and Breezy

Tonight



Low: 48 °F

Slight Chance
Showers then
Mostly Clear

Tuesday



High: 73 °F

Mostly Sunny

Tuesday Night



Low: 47 °F

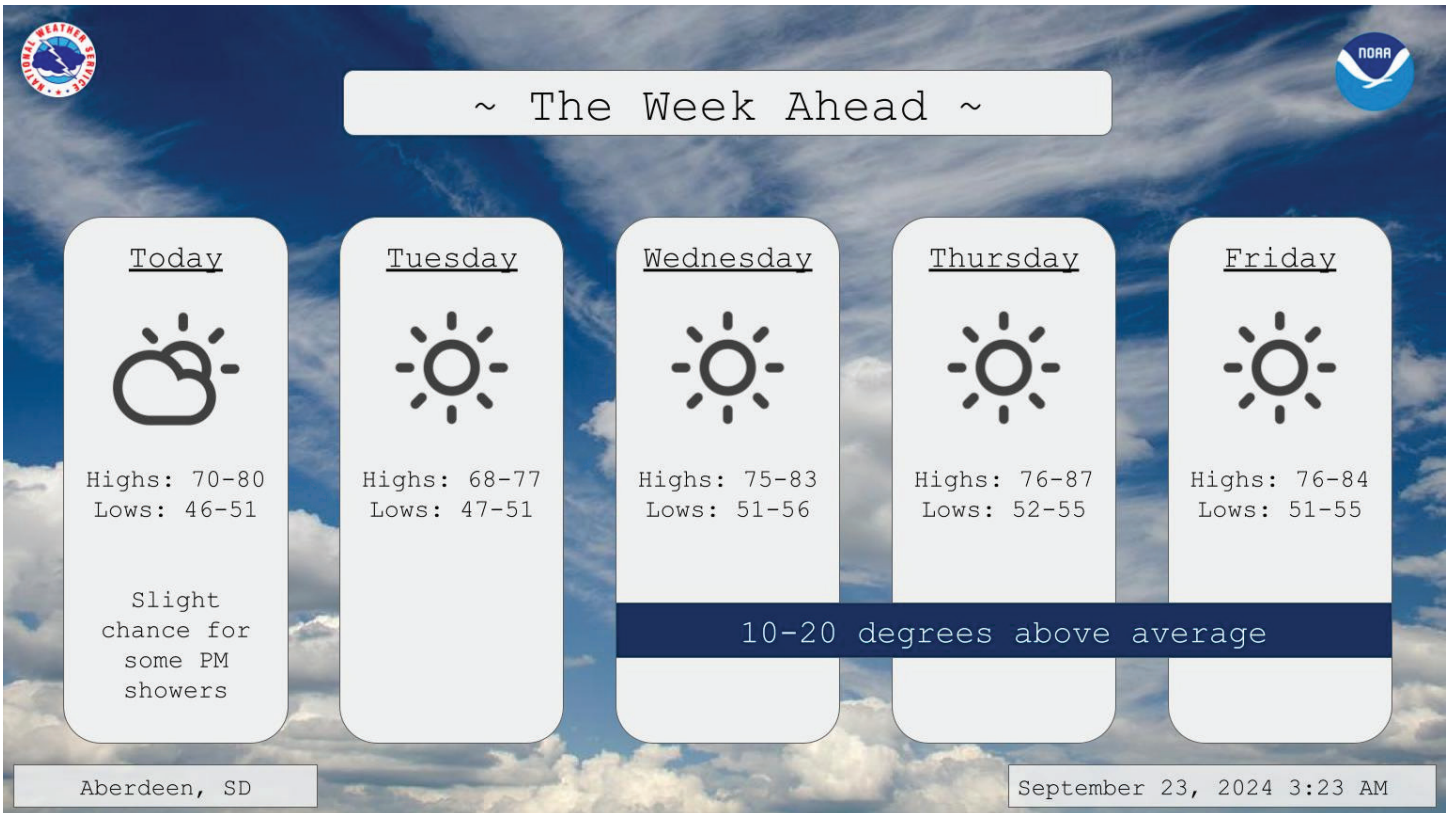
Clear

Wednesday



High: 79 °F

Sunny



Some clouds move in today along with some slight chances (15-25%) for showers this afternoon. The rest of the week will have sunny skies and above average temperatures.

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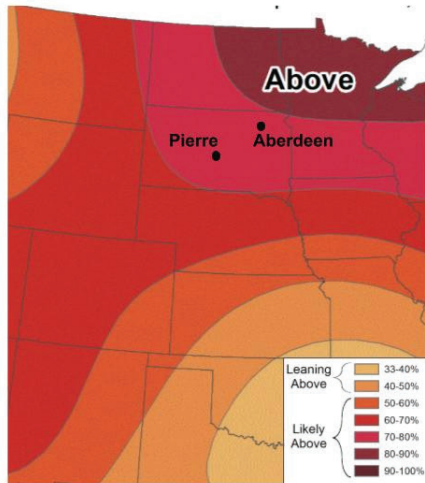
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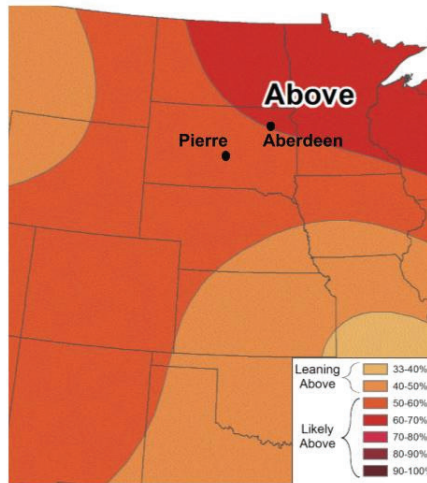
Generally Warmer Than Normal To Start Fall

Temperatures will trend back above climatological normals this week and odds favor that continuing the first half of October. *Average highs decrease from ~67-74° during the last week of September to ~57-62° by the middle of October.* The maps below show the probability (percent chance) for above normal temperatures on the whole through the specified time ranges. Probabilities (33-40%) also lean towards below normal precipitation through Oct 5th.

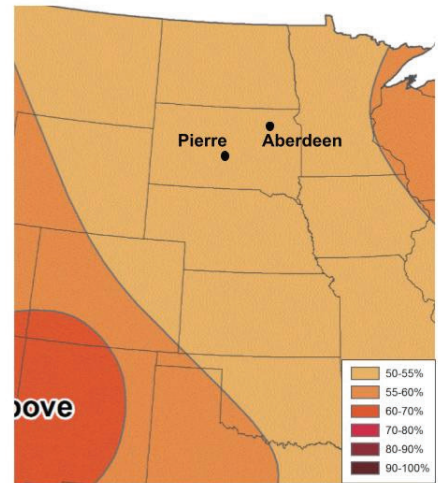
Sept 27th - Oct 1st, 2024



Sept 29th - Oct 5th, 2024



Oct 5-18th, 2024



National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD

Updated: September 22, 2024 2:35 PM

Temperatures will warm back to above normal values this week and the probabilities point to them remaining above normal as we head into October. Probabilities (33-40% chance) are also pointing towards below normal precipitation through the first week of October.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 71 °F at 5:42 PM

Low Temp: 39 °F at 6:33 AM

Wind: 10 mph at 1:00 PM

Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 12 hours, 8 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 94 in 1935

Record Low: 22 in 2012

Average High: 72

Average Low: 44

Average Precip in Sept.: 1.53

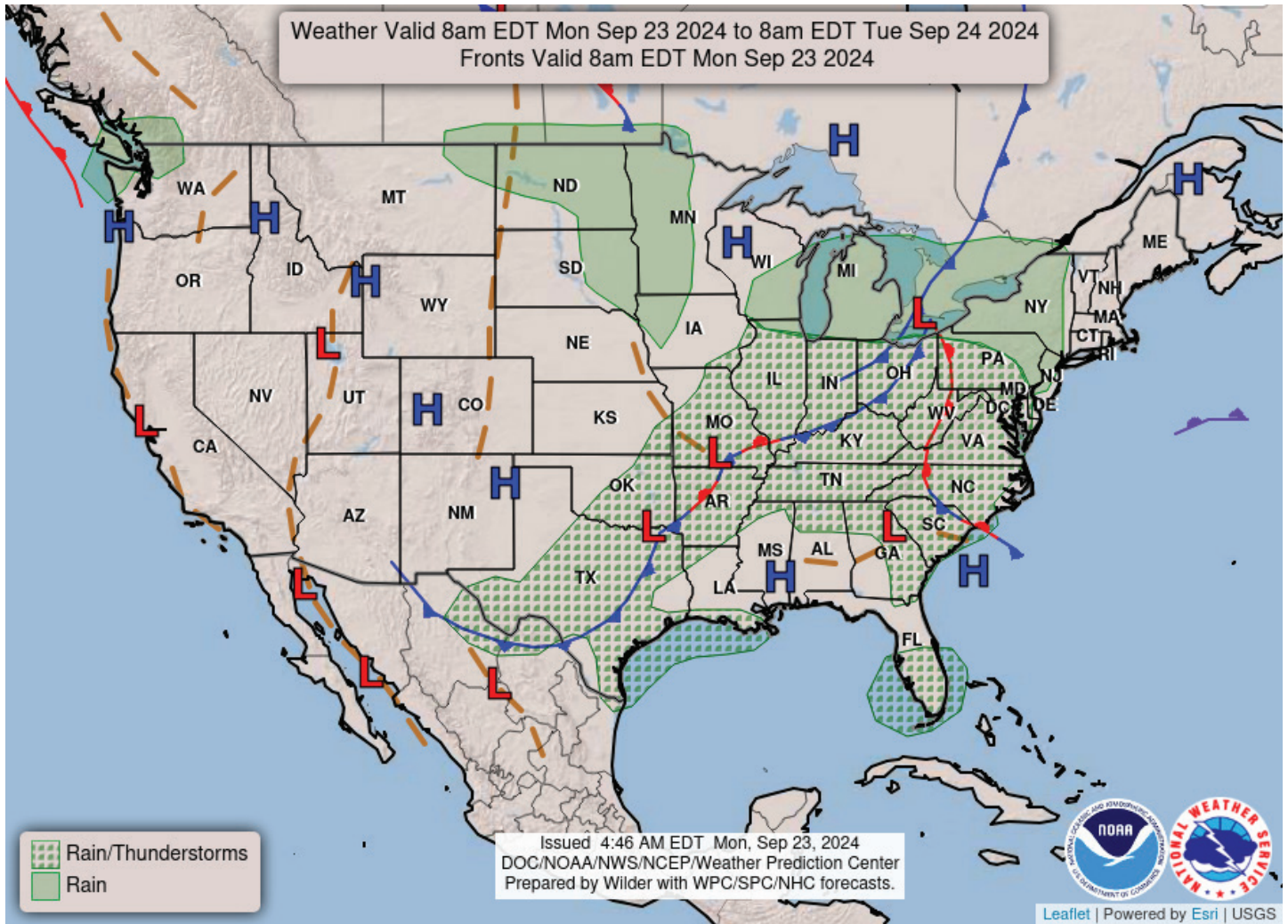
Precip to date in Sept.: 0.24

Average Precip to date: 17.87

Precip Year to Date: 19.66

Sunset Tonight: 7:28:46 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:21:26 am



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Today in Weather History

September 23, 1984: Snow fell from the early morning to the late evening hours across northwest South Dakota bringing more than a foot of snow to some locations. Camp Crook in Harding County reported 14 inches. Amounts between six and twelve inches were common across Harding and Perkins Counties as well as parts of Meade and Butte Counties. Roads in these areas were slushy with icy bridges. The snow covered much of the western third of South Dakota with depths an inch or less.

September 23, 2004: A tornado touched down northeast of Browns Valley, MN during the late afternoon. This tornado traveled through a cornfield and a farmstead before dissipating. The tornado damaged several sheds and a trailer along with toppling a large grain bin. Another tornado touched down south and southwest of Rosholt in Roberts County in the late afternoon. This F2 tornado destroyed a house, a mobile home, and a travel trailer. The tornado also killed three cattle.

1551: The Grand Harbour at Valetta, Malta, was hit by a waterspout which then moved inland. This waterspout sunk four ships, killing at least 600 people. It should be noted, the year of the event could also be 1555, or 1556 as sources conflict.

1722: La Nouvelle-Orléans (New Orleans) was founded May 7, 1718, by the French Mississippi Company, under the direction of Jean-Baptiste Le Moyne de Bienville, on land inhabited by the Chitimacha. Four years later, a hurricane destroys nearly every building in the village, including the only church and hospital.

1815 - One of the greatest hurricanes to strike New England made landfall at Long Island and crossed Massachusetts and New Hampshire. It was the worst tempest in nearly two hundred years, equal to the hurricane which struck in 1938, and one of a series of severe summer and autumn storms to affect shipping lanes that year. (David Ludlum)

1904 - The temperature at Charlotteburg, NJ, dipped to 23 degrees, the coldest reading of record for so early in the autumn for the state. (The Weather Channel)

1975: On September 22, Hurricane Eloise intensified to attain Category 2 strength, and became a major hurricane of Category 3 status shortly after that as it turned towards the northeast. Several ships penetrated the storm's center during its passage through the Gulf. Hurricane Eloise continued to strengthen until it reached its peak winds of 125 mph and a minimum barometric pressure of about 955 mbar. It moved ashore along the Florida Panhandle near Panama City on September 23.

1987 - Autumn began on a rather pleasant note for much of the nation. Showers and thunderstorms were confined to Florida and the southwestern deserts. Warm weather continued in the western U.S., and began to spread into the Great Plains Region, but even in the southwestern deserts readings remained below 100 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Seventeen cities in the north central U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date, including Devils Lake ND with a reading of 22 degrees. Jackson KY reported a record low of 41 degrees during the late afternoon. Strong northwesterly winds ushering cold air into the central and northeastern U.S. gusted to 55 mph at Indianapolis IND. Winds along the cold front gusted to 65 mph at Norfolk VA, and thunderstorms along the cold front deluged Roseland NJ with 2.25 inches of rain in one hour. The temperature at Richmond VA plunged from 84 degrees to 54 degrees in two hours. Snow and sleet was reported at Binghamton NY. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

2005 - Hurricane Rita reached the Texas/Louisiana border area near Sabine Pass as a category-3 hurricane with maximum sustained winds near 120 mph. A storm surge of at least 15 feet flooded parts of Cameron, Jefferson Davis, Terrebonne and Vermilion parishes, where sugar cane crop losses were estimated near \$300 million. An 8-foot storm surge in New Orleans overtopped the provisionally-repaired levees (from Hurricane Katrina damage) and caused additional flooding. A total of 10 fatalities were reported, and preliminary damage estimates ranged between \$4-5 billion.

2009: A massive dust storm swept 725 miles across the outback to engulf Sydney, New South Wales producing a red hue across the region from the 22nd through the 24th. Wind gusts topped 60 mph as the storm transported an estimated 5,000 metric tons of dust, spreading it into the southern region of Queensland.



"We Really Need You, God!"

Little Jeanie and her Mom were saying their "Good Night Prayers" together. Suddenly, she said in a bold voice, "God, please take care of Yourself. If anything happens to You, we're in a mess. We really need You, God."

Thankfully, Isaiah had some comforting words for Little Jeanie. Knowing others would have the same concern, God inspired him to write, "Don't you know that the Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the earth? He never grows faint or weary!"

What encouraging words from the Lord Himself! Here we see Isaiah describing our God's power to create, His power to sustain what He creates and His presence to help when we call upon Him. Our God is almighty and all powerful. Yet, with all of His greatness, He cares for each of us individually and our concerns and cares are not beneath Him or beyond Him.

Our God is beyond description and when we try to describe Him with our limited vocabulary, we only limit our understanding of Him. But this we know:

There is no limit to His love and no end to His forgiveness. No problem is too large for Him to solve nor any person too small for Him to recognize. He is not kind one moment and hateful the next. He is not strong one hour and weak the next. He does not want what is best for us one moment and then forgetful of us the next.

Prayer: Thank You God, for being our God. Thank You for being present today and every day and for Your promise of never leaving us nor forsaking us. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. Isaiah 40:27-31

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

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WINNING NUMBERS

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:

09.20.24

20 21 40 49 55 11

MegaPlier: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$62,000,000

NEXT 1 Days 16 Hrs 45
DRAW: Mins 47 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:

09.21.24

1 4 8 37 45 7

All Star Bonus: 4x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$9,560,000

NEXT 16 Hrs 47
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:

09.22.24

5 13 27 35 48 14

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT 16 Hrs 15 Mins
DRAW: 47 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:

09.21.24

6 16 26 30 31

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$38,000

NEXT 2 Days 16 Hrs 15
DRAW: Mins 46 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:

09.21.24

4 17 37 46 49 19

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT 16 Hrs 44 Mins
DRAW: 46 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:

09.21.24

17 19 21 37 45 14

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$208,000,000

NEXT 16 Hrs 44 Mins
DRAW: 47 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

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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
07/09/2025 Legion Auxiliary Salad Luncheon
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

Israel warns civilians to evacuate as it strikes wide swaths of southern Lebanon

By MELANIE LIDMAN and BASSEM MROUE Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel on Monday urged residents of southern Lebanon to evacuate from homes and other buildings where it claimed Hezbollah has stored weapons, saying the military would conduct “extensive strikes” against the militant group.

It was the first warning of its kind in nearly a year of steadily escalating conflict and came after a particularly heavy exchange of fire on Sunday. Hezbollah launched around 150 rockets, missiles and drones into northern Israel in retaliation for strikes that killed a top commander and dozens of fighters.

There was no sign of an immediate exodus from the villages of southern Lebanon, and the warning left open the possibility that some residents could live in or near targeted structures without knowing that they are risk.

The increasing strikes and counterstrikes have raised fears of an all-out war, even as Israel is still battling Hamas in Gaza and trying to return scores of hostages taken in Hamas’ Oct. 7 attack. Hezbollah has vowed to continue its strikes in solidarity with the Palestinians and Hamas, a fellow Iran-backed militant group. Israel says it is committed to returning calm to its northern border.

Associated Press journalists in southern Lebanon reported heavy airstrikes targeting many areas Monday morning, including some far from the border.

Lebanon’s state-run National News Agency said the strikes hit a forested area in the central province of Byblos, about 130 kilometers (81 miles) north of the Israeli-Lebanese border, for the first time since the exchanges began in October. No injuries were reported there. Israel also bombed targets in the northeastern Baalbek and Hermel regions, where a shepherd was killed and two family members were wounded, according to the news agency. It said a total of 30 people were wounded in strikes.

The Lebanese Health Ministry asked hospitals in southern Lebanon and the eastern Bekaa valley to postpone surgeries that could be done later. The ministry said in a statement that its request aimed to keep hospitals ready to deal with people wounded by “Israel’s expanding aggression on Lebanon.”

An Israeli military official said Israel is focused on aerial operations and has no immediate plans for a ground operation. The official, speaking on condition of anonymity in keeping with regulations, said the strikes are aimed at curbing Hezbollah’s ability to launch more strikes into Israel.

Lebanese media reported that residents received text messages urging them to move away from any building where Hezbollah stores arms until further notice.

“If you are in a building housing weapons for Hezbollah, move away from the village until further notice,” the Arabic message reads, according to Lebanese media.

Lebanon’s information minister, Ziad Makary, said in a statement that his office in Beirut had received a recorded message telling people to leave the building.

“This comes in the framework of the psychological war implemented by the enemy,” Makary said, and urged people “not to give the matter more attention than it deserves.”

It was not immediately clear how many people would be affected by the Israeli orders. Communities on both sides of the border have largely emptied out because of the near-daily exchanges of fire.

Israel has accused Hezbollah of transforming entire communities in the south into militant bases, with hidden rocket launchers and other infrastructure. That could lead the Israeli military to wage an especially heavy bombing campaign, even if no ground forces move in.

The military said it had targeted more than 150 militant sites early Monday. Residents of different villages in southern Lebanon posted photos on social media of airstrikes and large plumes of smoke. The state-run National News Agency also reported airstrikes on different areas.

An Israeli airstrike on a Beirut suburb on Friday killed a top Hezbollah military commander and more

than a dozen fighters, as well as dozens of civilians, including women and children.

Last week, thousands of communications devices, used mainly by Hezbollah members, exploded in different parts of Lebanon, killing 39 people and wounding nearly 3,000. Lebanon blamed Israel for the attacks, but Israel did not confirm or deny any responsibility.

Hezbollah began firing into Israel a day after the Oct. 7 attack in what it said was an attempt to pin down Israeli forces to help Palestinian fighters in Gaza. Israel has retaliated with airstrikes, and the conflict has steadily intensified over the past year.

The fighting has killed hundreds of people in Lebanon, dozens in Israel and displaced tens of thousands on both sides of the border. It has also sparked brush fires that have destroyed agriculture and scarred the landscape.

Israel has vowed to push Hezbollah back from the border so its citizens can return to their homes, saying it prefers to do so diplomatically but is willing to use force. Hezbollah has said it will keep up its attacks until there is a cease-fire in Gaza, but that appears increasingly elusive as the war nears its anniversary.

Hamas-led militants stormed into southern Israel on Oct. 7, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting around 250. Some 100 captives are still held in Gaza, a third of whom are believed to be dead, after most of the rest were released during a weeklong cease-fire in November.

Israel's offensive has killed over 41,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which does not differentiate between civilians and fighters in its count. It says women and children make up a little over half of those killed. Israel says it has killed over 17,000 militants, without providing evidence.

Search underway for suspects in Alabama mass shooting that killed 4 and injured 17

By KIM CHANDLER Associated Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) — Authorities have reported no arrests after a weekend mass shooting killed four people and left 17 others injured in what police described as a targeted "hit" by multiple shooters who opened fire outside a popular Alabama nightspot.

The shooting late Saturday in the popular Five Points South entertainment district of Birmingham rocked an area of restaurants and bars that is often bustling on weekend nights. The mass shooting, one of several this year in the city, unnerved residents and left officials at home and beyond pleading for help to both solve the crime and address the broader problem of gun violence.

"The priority is to find these shooters and get them off our streets," Birmingham Mayor Randall Woodfin said a day after the shooting.

The mayor planned a morning news conference Monday to provide updates on the case.

The shooting occurred on the sidewalk and street outside Hush, a lounge in the entertainment district, where blood stains were still visible on the sidewalk outside the venue on Sunday morning.

Birmingham Police Chief Scott Thurmond said authorities believe the shooting targeted one of the people who was killed, possibly in a murder-for-hire. A vehicle pulled up and "multiple shooters" got out and began firing, then fled the scene, he said.

"We believe that there was a 'hit,' if you will, on that particular person," Thurmond said.

Police said about 100 shell casings were recovered. Thurmond said law enforcement was working to determine what weapons were used, but they believe some of the gunfire was "fully automatic." Investigators also were trying to determine whether anyone fired back, creating a crossfire.

In a statement late Sunday, police said the shooters are believed to have used "machine gun conversion devices" that make semiautomatic weapons fire more rapidly.

Some surviving victims critically injured

Officers found two men and a woman on a sidewalk with gunshot wounds and they were pronounced dead there. An additional male gunshot victim was pronounced dead at a hospital, according to police.

Police identified the three victims found on the sidewalk as Anitra Holloman, 21, of the Birmingham suburb of Bessemer, Tahj Booker, 27, of Birmingham, and Carlos McCain, 27, of Birmingham. The fourth

victim pronounced dead at the hospital was pending identification.

By the early hours of Sunday, victims began showing up at hospitals and police subsequently identified 17 people with injuries, some of them life-threatening. Four of the surviving victims, in conditions ranging from good to critical, were being treated at the University of Alabama at Birmingham Hospital on Sunday afternoon, according to Alicia Rohan, a hospital spokeswoman.

A popular nightspot rocked by gunfire

The area of Birmingham where the gunfire erupted is popular with young adults because of its proximity to the University of Alabama at Birmingham and the plethora of nearby restaurants and bars.

The shooting was the 31st mass killing of 2024, of which 23 were shootings, according to James Alan Fox, a criminologist and professor at Northeastern University, who oversees a mass killings database maintained by The Associated Press and USA Today in partnership with the university.

Three of the nation's 23 mass shootings this year were in Birmingham, including two earlier quadruple homicides.

Mayor pleads for a solution to gun violence

Woodfin expressed frustration at what he described as an epidemic of gun violence in America and the city.

"We find ourselves in 2024, where gun violence is at an epidemic level, an epidemic crisis in our country. And the city of Birmingham, unfortunately, finds itself at the tip of that spear," he said.

Marxist Anura Kumara Dissanayake sworn in as Sri Lanka's president

By KRISHAN FRANCIS and BHARATHA MALLAWARACHI Associated Press

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — Marxist leader Anura Kumara Dissanayake was sworn in as Sri Lanka's president on Monday after an election that saw voters reject an old guard accused of leading the country into economic crisis.

Dissanayake, 55, who ran as head of the Marxist-leaning National People's Power coalition, defeated opposition leader Sajith Premadasa and 36 other candidates in Saturday's election.

Dissanayake received 5,740,179 votes, followed by Premadasa with 4,530,902.

Meanwhile on Monday, Chinese president Xi Jinping congratulated Dissanayake on his victory, saying he looks forward to working together "to jointly carry forward our traditional friendship."

The U.S. and India previously congratulated Dissanayake.

In a brief speech after assuming duty, the new president pledged to work with others to take on the country's challenges.

"We have deeply understood that we are going to get a challenging country," Dissanayake said. "We don't believe that a government, a single party or an individual would be able to resolve this deep crisis."

Just before the swearing in, Prime Minister Dinesh Gunawardena resigned, clearing the way for the new president to appoint a prime minister and a cabinet.

The election came as the country seeks to recover from its worst economic crisis and resulting political upheaval.

He's the ninth person to hold Sri Lanka's powerful executive presidency, created in 1978 when a new constitution expanded the office's powers.

Dissanayake's coalition is led by the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna, or People's Liberation Front, a Marxist party that waged two unsuccessful armed insurrections in the 1970s and 1980s to capture power through socialist revolution. After its defeat, the JVP entered democratic politics in 1994 and has been mostly in opposition since then. However, they have supported several previous presidents and been part of governments briefly.

The NPP also includes groups representing academics, civil society movements, artists, lawyers and students.

Dissanayake was first elected to Parliament in 2000 and briefly held the portfolio of agriculture and ir-

rigation minister under then-President Chandrika Kumaratunga. He ran for president for the first time in 2019 and lost to Gotabaya Rajapaksa.

Dissanayake's first major challenge will be to act on his campaign promise to ease the crushing austerity measures imposed by his predecessor Ranil Wickremesinghe under a relief agreement with the International Monetary Fund.

Wickremesinghe has warned that any move to alter the basics of the agreement could delay the release of a fourth tranche of nearly \$3 billion.

That economic crisis resulted from excessive borrowing to fund projects that did not generate revenue, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the government's insistence on using scarce foreign reserves to prop up its currency, the rupee.

It led to shortages of essentials such as foods, medicines, cooking gas and fuel in 2022, triggering massive protests that forced then-president Rajapaksa to flee the country and resign.

Wickremesinghe, then prime minister, was elected by Parliament to fill the remainder of Rajapaksa's term.

Harris raises \$27 million in New York fundraiser, promises economic speech this week

By BRIAN SLODYSKO and JONATHAN J. COOPER Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Vice President Kamala Harris raised \$27 million at a packed New York City fundraiser on Sunday, her largest fundraising haul since she took over at the top of the ticket from President Joe Biden, according to a Harris campaign aide.

Though Harris has far more money than former President Donald Trump, the money will be needed to compete with pricey advertising by deep-pocketed outside groups that support Trump, said the aide, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss private fundraising details.

The blockbuster fundraiser was held at Cipriani Wall Street in a massive Greek Revival ballroom with over a dozen columns. Much of the crowd stood shoulder to shoulder as Harris needled Trump for refusing to debate her again.

"My opponent seems to be looking for an excuse," Harris told the crowd. "I feel very strongly that we owe it to the American people, to the voters, to meet once more before Election Day."

She reiterated that later, telling reporters after landing outside Washington, "We have more to discuss."

Trump has rejected more debates, saying Saturday that "it's just too late."

"Voting is already started," he said at a rally in Wilmington, North Carolina. Voters cast the first in-person ballots last week in Minnesota, South Dakota and Virginia, the states with the first early in-person voting opportunities. About a dozen more states will follow by mid-October.

Harris also said she would deliver a speech Wednesday outlining her economic vision, saying there is "more we can do to invest in the aspirations and ambitions of the American people while addressing the challenges they face."

She cited the high cost of home ownership and stubbornly high grocery bills as examples.

"I grew up a middle-class kid and I will never forget where I came from," she said.

By fleshing out her economic agenda in more detail, Harris can address an issue that's front of mind for voters after prices soared during Biden's presidency and distance herself from the president's economic track record. Trump has criticized her for being slow to release detailed policy proposals of her own since she rose to the top of the ticket.

Harris has said she'd push for middle-class tax cuts and tax hikes on the wealthy and corporations, and she adopted Trump's proposal to end taxes on tipped wages, though she'd limit her plan to low- and middle-income taxpayers. She's also criticized Trump's plan to impose large tariffs on most imported goods, which she says would severely raise the cost of goods.

Neither Harris nor Trump has a decisive edge with the public on the economy, according to the latest poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. The survey suggests Harris is gaining ground on an issue that was once a clear strength for Trump.

About 4 in 10 registered voters say Republican Trump would do a better job handling the economy, while a similar number say that about the Democratic vice president, according to the poll. About 1 in 10 voters don't trust either candidate, and a similar share has equal faith in them.

The new poll found that the economy is one of the most important issues for about 8 in 10 voters as they consider which candidate to support, dwarfing other top issues like health care and crime.

Harris has backed away from the liberal positions she took during her ill-fated 2020 presidential campaign, including proposals to ban fracking, establish a single-payer health care system and decriminalize illegal border crossings.

Israel-Hamas war latest: Israel's air force launches dozens of airstrikes on southern Lebanon

By The Associated Press undefined

Israel's air force carried out dozens of airstrikes early Monday on southern Lebanon, as the Israeli military called on people in the area to immediately evacuate homes and other buildings where the Hezbollah militant group stores weapons.

Separately, Israeli airstrikes on the Gaza Strip killed eight Palestinians, including five children, on Monday morning, according to Palestinian medical officials.

Residents of different villages in southern Lebanon posted photos on social media that they said showed their towns that were being struck. The state-run National News Agency also reported airstrikes in different areas.

The Israeli military's Arab-language spokesperson said Israel's air force was attacking targets related to Lebanon's Hezbollah militant group.

The wave of airstrikes came after a tense day in which Hezbollah fired over 100 rockets into northern Israel, with some landing near the city of Haifa. Israel launched hundreds of airstrikes as well.

Hezbollah's rocket attack came after an Israeli airstrike on a Beirut suburb on Friday killed a top Hezbollah military commander and more than a dozen Hezbollah members, along with dozens of civilians including women and children.

Last week, thousands of communications devices, used mainly by Hezbollah members, exploded in different parts of Lebanon, killing 39 people and wounding nearly 3,000. Lebanon blamed the attacks on Israel, but Israel did not confirm or deny its responsibility.

Here's the latest:

Israeli strikes kill 1 and wound others in Lebanon, report says

BEIRUT — Lebanon's state-run National News Agency says Israeli airstrikes on different parts of Lebanon on Monday killed at least one person and wounded others.

The airstrikes hit the heights of the central province of Byblos for the first time since exchanges along the Lebanon-Israel border began in early October, NNA said. A security official confirmed the airstrike in the village of Almat.

Also targeted by the early morning airstrikes were the northeastern Baalbek and Hermel regions where a shepherd was killed and two members of his family were wounded in the fields of the village of Bodai, NNA said. It added that four other people were also wounded in Bodai and were all taken to hospitals in the area.

NNA also said that 11 people were wounded in the southern village of Aitaroun, including 1 in serious condition.

China urges its citizens in Lebanon and Israel to leave as soon as possible or move to safe areas

BEIJING — China is urging its citizens in Lebanon and Israel to evacuate or move to safe areas as the conflict between Israel and Lebanon's Hezbollah is escalating.

Chinese citizens in Lebanon should take commercial flights to return to China or otherwise leave Lebanon

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as soon as possible for their own safety, the Consular Department of China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement posted on social media platform WeChat on Monday.

"Those who need to continue to stay in Lebanon should remain highly vigilant, effectively strengthen their security precautions and emergency preparedness and avoid going to high-risk areas and sensitive areas in the south," the statement read.

On Sunday, the Chinese Embassy in Israel cautioned its citizens in the country to be prepared for any potential attacks including by missiles, rockets and drones. It added that Chinese people were advised against traveling to Israel and entering high-risk areas in the country's north.

Israel calls on Lebanese to leave homes where Hezbollah stores arms

JERUSALEM — The Israeli military has called on people in southern Lebanon to immediately evacuate homes and other buildings where Hezbollah stores weapons and says it is carrying out "extensive strikes" against the militant group.

Monday's announcement was the first warning of its kind in nearly a year of low-level conflict along the border.

Lebanese media reported that residents received text messages urging them to move away from any building where Hezbollah stores arms until further notice.

"If you are in a building housing weapons for Hezbollah, move away from the village until further notice," the Arabic message reads, according to Lebanese media.

It was not immediately clear how many people would be affected by the Israeli orders. Communities on both sides of the border have largely emptied out because of the near-daily exchanges of fire.

Israel has accused Hezbollah of transforming entire communities in the south into militant bases, with hidden rocket launchers and other infrastructure. That could lead it to wage an especially heavy bombing campaign, even if no ground forces move in.

Israel carried out dozens of airstrikes on southern Lebanon early Monday.

Israeli airstrikes on Gaza Strip kill 8 Palestinians, including 5 children

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip — Palestinian medical officials say Israeli airstrikes on the Gaza Strip have killed eight Palestinians, including five children.

A girl and her parents were killed in a strike on a school sheltering displaced people in central Gaza early Monday. The girl's two siblings were wounded.

Israel has struck several such schools-turned-shelters, saying militants hide out in them.

Another strike hit a home near the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in the central town of Deir al-Balah, killing a mother and her four children, aged 4 to 8.

The casualties from both strikes were described in hospital records, and an Associated Press reporter saw the bodies.

Israel says it tries to avoid harming civilians but rarely comments on individual strikes.

Gaza's Health Ministry says over 41,000 Palestinians have been killed since the start of the war. It does not say how many were fighters. It says a little over half were women and children.

The war began when Hamas-led militants stormed into southern Israel on Oct. 7, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting around 250. Around 100 of the captives are still being held in Gaza, and a third of them are believed to be dead.

Australia announces more aid for Gaza

CANBERRA, Australia — Australia has announced it will provide an additional 10 million Australian dollars (\$6.8 million) in aid to Gaza, bringing the total since the Israel-Hamas war began on Oct. 7 last year to AU\$82.5 million (\$56.2 million).

A government statement said on Monday the new money would focus on women and children. It would be provided through the United Nations Population Fund, a sexual and reproductive health agency, and the U.N. agency responsible for aiding children, UNICEF.

"Australia continues to push for safe, rapid and unimpeded humanitarian assistance to people in desperate need, and for all aid workers to be protected," the statement said.

A new crisis for displaced Palestinians: flooding

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MUWASI, Gaza Strip — As the first rain of the cool season starts to fall in the Gaza Strip, displaced Palestinians living in the sprawling Muwasi tent camp are struggling to cope with flooding that is exacerbating the humanitarian crisis.

Some children are entertained by the novelty of walking barefoot in the ankle-deep water, but their parents are less amused. The adults try to save what they can from their family's tents. One mother tries to dry her temporary home with a mop.

"We woke up in the morning to find the tents with rainwater pouring on us, and water from the streets entering on us," said Rana Goza't, a displaced person from Gaza City. "This is the beginning of winter. What will happen in the coming days?"

Suhail Al-Barawi, a displaced person from Beit Lahiya, was helping to build sand barriers to prevent more flooding in the camp.

"People wish for rain," he said, "and we say, 'Oh God, do not give us rain.'"

The nearly yearlong war between Israel and Hamas has displaced 90% of Palestinians in Gaza, according to the United Nations.

Israel defense minister praises air strikes in Beirut

Israel's defense minister says recent attacks on Hezbollah targets in southern Lebanon are a step toward facilitating the return of displaced Israelis to their homes in the north of the country.

Speaking Sunday evening after visiting the military's Northern Command headquarters, Yoav Gallant described the recent air strikes on the southern suburbs of Beirut as "significant, important and powerful."

He says Israel will take all necessary measures to ensure "the safe return of Israel's northern communities to their homes."

Israeli attacks since Friday have killed dozens in Lebanon, including a veteran Hezbollah commander. Hezbollah responded with more than 100 missile attacks in northern Israel early Sunday, sending hundreds of thousands of Israelis into air raid shelters.

Gallant says: "The past week has been the most difficult in the history of Hezbollah's existence — especially over the past day."

Harris owns a gun? Trump wants to cap credit card rates? Party lines blur in campaign's last stretch

By STEVE PEOPLES AP National Political Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — One presidential candidate is talking up gun ownership and promising tough border security measures. The other vows to cap credit card interest rates and force insurance companies to cover in vitro fertilization.

Which one is the Democrat and the Republican?

The lines that have long defined each party's policy priorities are blurring as Kamala Harris and Donald Trump seek to expand their coalition in the final weeks of a fiercely competitive election. The contest may well hinge on how many disaffected suburban Republicans vote for Harris and how much of the Democrats' traditional base — African Americans, Latinos, young people and labor union members — migrates to Trump.

That's prompting both candidates to take stances that would have once been anathema to their bases, scrambling longtime assumptions about what each party stands for.

"There's a whole host of issues that draw people to support President Trump, and quite frankly, these are issues that used to be core pillar issues of the Democratic Party," Tulsi Gabbard, a former Democratic congresswoman from Hawaii who has emerged as a top Trump ally, said in an interview.

Barbara Comstock, who co-chaired Nikki Haley's GOP presidential campaign earlier this year, is now backing Harris. A former Republican congresswoman from Virginia, she marveled at feeling more aligned with Democrats this year, pointing to Harris' call for an expanded child care tax credit, support for a tough bipartisan immigration bill and a foreign policy stance that Comstock said was in stark contrast to Trump's admiration for leaders like Russian President Vladimir Putin.

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"As a Republican, I feel like, hey, the Democrats are on my side now," Comstock said in an interview. Trump has long bucked the GOP's traditional values

Of course, Trump has broken from the GOP's traditional conservative values on issues like trade and foreign policy for much of the past decade. But he has gone further this fall, testing the loyalty of social and small-government conservatives with an agenda that downplays his opposition to abortion and calls for significant government intervention in health care and the economy.

Trump last week said he wanted the federal government to cap credit card interest rates at 10%, a move that quickly irked fiscal conservatives. He said last month he supports a federal law that would force insurance companies to pay for IVF, frustrating some social conservatives who believe the embryos used in the process should be protected. Republicans in Congress have repeatedly voted against the issue.

Gabbard declined to say whether she views Trump as a conservative, instead describing his policy approach as "common sense."

In addition to IVF, she pointed to the Trump-backed criminal justice reform that reduced sentences for many inmates. She also highlighted a foreign policy philosophy that seeks to avoid U.S. involvement in global conflicts like the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

"A lot of political independents and a lot of Democrats don't recognize the Democrat Party of today where not a single Democrat in the House or Senate is standing up and saying we need to bring an end to the war in Ukraine," Gabbard said.

Gabbard and Robert F. Kennedy Jr., both former Democrats, have emerged as the Trump campaign's most visible national surrogates in his bid to win over undecided Democrats and independents. The campaign has been slow to embrace other would-be allies, including Haley, who issued her first fundraising appeal on Trump's behalf just last week.

Harris has an organized program to attract Republicans

By comparison, Harris has adopted a more organized program to connect with Republican voters.

In recent days, her campaign has hosted events around abortion rights, border security and small business creation that featured Republican officials. Seven Republicans were granted speaking slots at the Democratic National Convention last month. And a slew of outside groups are spending millions of dollars to help Harris connect with disaffected Republicans, including Republican Voters Against Trump and the Anti-Psychopath PAC.

At the same time, Harris has embraced a much more muscular foreign policy. She has vowed to feature a Republican in her Cabinet if elected. And she is speaking more openly about owning a gun — and her willingness to use it.

"I'm a gun owner," Harris told Oprah Winfrey late last week.

"I did not know that!" the television star, a Harris supporter, said in surprise.

"If somebody breaks in my house they're getting shot. Sorry," Harris responded with a laugh.

Harris' support for robust U.S. leadership on the global stage has already helped her win the support of more than 100 Republican national security and foreign policy officials who previously served under Presidents Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, George W. Bush, and Trump himself. Former Vice President Dick Cheney is among the notable converts.

Both candidates still largely align with their parties

While Harris and Trump are embracing policies that appeal to the other side, their priorities still largely align with their party's tradition.

Trump opposes abortion rights and says he is proud that the Supreme Court he transformed with conservative appointees overturned Roe v. Wade. He says abortion laws should be left to states, but he plans to vote this fall to uphold a Florida law that bans all abortions after six weeks of pregnancy, before many women realize they're pregnant.

The Republican former president has promised the largest deportation in U.S. history and pledges to finish a massive border wall to stop illegal immigration. He calls climate change "a hoax" and has outlined an energy plan that offers strong support for the fossil fuel industry. He wants to expand tax cuts that disproportionately benefit the richest Americans. He opposes virtually all restrictions on gun ownership.

And he strongly opposes diversity and inclusion initiatives designed to promote civil rights.

Still, his team believes his policy platform offers much for persuadable Democrats to like.

Trump spokesman Brian Hughes argued that the GOP nominee has appeal among African Americans, Hispanics and labor union members. Notably, the Teamsters Union, which has long supported Democrats, announced last week it would not endorse either presidential candidate, which was viewed as a big win for Trump.

"We are already demonstrably inside their base no matter how hard they insist we're not," Hughes said.

Harris, meanwhile, has only just begun to articulate specific policy plans, having been in the presidential race for just eight weeks. But her record and her recent statements make clear that she favors liberal policies in most cases.

Harris supports abortion rights as they were protected under Roe. She backs a ban on assault weapons and wants to extend to all Americans the \$35 cap on insulin and \$2,000 annual cap on out-of-pocket prescription drug spending enacted for seniors under President Joe Biden. She called for a ban on price gouging for groceries while pushing for a pathway to citizenship for immigrants in the country illegally.

She has pledged bold action to combat climate change, although she says she supports fracking — a shift from her position in 2020. She supports labor unions. And she supports voting rights legislation designed to combat racial discrimination.

"Vice President Harris' focus on opportunity and freedom speaks to fundamental American values that transcend party lines," said Harris spokesperson Mia Ehrenberg. "Any American looking to turn the page on Trump's chaos and division and chart a new way forward for America has a home in Vice President Harris' campaign."

Families from Tennessee to California seek humanitarian parole for adopted children in Haiti

By DÁNICA COTO Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — At only 6 years old, Esai Reed has endured three emergency evacuations from orphanages across Haiti as gangs pillage and plunder their way through once peaceful communities.

He is now in northern Haiti under the care of a U.S. organization after the director of Esai's last orphanage fled the troubled Caribbean country where gangs control 80% of the capital.

Nearly five months have passed since the last evacuation, and in that time, Esai, who loves soccer and is mischievous, hasn't been able to talk to his adoptive mother in the U.S. or his two older brothers who live with her as internet connections and other logistics falter.

"Clearly, this is an emergency," said Michelle Reed, a 51-year-old teacher and single mother who lives in Florida.

Reed's is one of 55 families from Tennessee to California asking the U.S. government for humanitarian parole for some 70 children they're adopting. It was an opportunity the U.S. granted to more than a dozen other children earlier this year when gangs attacked key government infrastructure and forced Haiti's main international airport to close for nearly three months, prompting evacuations of dozens of U.S. citizens and 39 children from March to May who had final adoption decrees.

Reed and other families said they were initially told they would be part of the evacuation group, but the U.S. government later said that "despite intensive efforts," it had not found a solution to allow children without adoption decrees to leave Haiti and enter the U.S., according to a letter from the office of children's issues at the State Department.

"We understand that this update will be disappointing for both you and your child(ren)," the office wrote.

Reed and other families warned that completing the adoption process in Haiti instead of in the U.S. as requested forces the children to travel to Port-au-Prince, which is largely under siege by gangs, to obtain a visa, passport and medical exam.

"Why aren't they doing that for our kids?" asked Emmerson, who lives in the U.S. and requested that

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his last name be withheld for safety since he and his wife, who are adopting his niece and nephew, have family in Haiti.

Reed noted that the Haitian Central Adoption Authority has given the families permission for the children to leave the country and complete the adoption in the U.S.

But a State Department spokesperson told The Associated Press that other Haitian authorities overseeing the adoption process do not agree. It added that it's working with the Haitian government "to move adoptions forward as quickly as possible" while ensuring that laws, regulations and obligations are met.

"The Department is working to expedite final processing steps for additional children," it said, adding that all Haitian government offices that process adoptions are open, "although some offices could be intermittently closed or operating at limited capacity due to localized violence."

The department said it "understands and empathizes with the concerns and frustration of U.S. families adopting from Haiti."

Stéphane Vincent, director of Haiti's Directorate of Immigration and Emigration, did not return messages for comment.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security told the AP that consideration for parole applies "to a very limited number of Haitians adoptees" who have reached a specific stage in their process. It said that U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services "is working tirelessly" with U.S. government partners "to navigate the current circumstances."

Aside from the dangers of being in Port-au-Prince, families note their cases could be further delayed because Haitian judges have been on strike while others have left the country because of the violence.

The U.N. noted in a recent report that ever since Haiti's judicial year started in October 2023, "courts have been operational for barely ten days."

Backing the families in their push to obtain humanitarian parole are lawmakers including U.S. Sens. Sherrod Brown, Marco Rubio and Rick Scott, who have written the U.S. State Department and the Department of Homeland Security on their behalf.

Haiti has been under a state of emergency for several months, and the State Department has long upheld a "do not travel" advisory, warning of kidnappings, killings, sexual assault and other crimes, adding that "the U.S. government is very limited in its ability to help U.S. citizens in Haiti."

From April to June, at least 1,379 people were reported killed or injured, and another 428 kidnapped, according to the U.N., which noted that 88% of those crimes were in Port-au-Prince.

Meanwhile, gang violence has left at least 700,000 people homeless in recent years, half of them children, William O'Neill, the U.N. independent human rights expert on Haiti, said Friday.

"All indicators remain extremely worrying," he said during his visit to Haiti. "The first and most concerning of them, insecurity."

Meanwhile, Kenyan police who arrived in late June as part of a U.N.-backed mission to help quell gang violence only recently launched joint operations with Haiti's police and military as the U.S. ponders a U.N. peacekeeping operation after warning that the current mission lacks resources.

"The children are at great risk," said Diane Kunz, executive director for the New York-based nonprofit Center for Adoption Policy. "You have the State Department saying they can't guarantee the protection of their own people."

In Florida, Reed worries about Esai as she tries to comfort his brothers, ages 8 and 10, who were physically and sexually abused at the orphanage and were sick and malnourished when she adopted them nearly two years ago.

"The boys are afraid for him, and they don't want to talk about it," she said, adding that no one told her they had a brother when she adopted them.

Reed recalled how, after arriving in the U.S., her two older sons slept in a single twin bed despite having two available and held each other through the night.

"Nighttime was scary for them," Reed said. "They had nightmares for a long time."

Fighting alongside Reed is Emmerson and his wife, Michelle, who also asked that her name be withheld for safety.

Emmerson's mother was in Haiti looking after his niece and nephew when she had a heart attack after gangs raided their neighborhood, located near where a young U.S. missionary couple was killed earlier this year.

"They were shooting, and she passed away," he said. "The kids were traumatized."

After speaking with his brother, who has health issues and struggles to care for his five other children, they agreed adoption was best. But Emmerson and Michelle have not been able to visit Haiti in nearly a year given the ongoing violence.

Gangs forced the children to relocate to southwest Haiti, where their family is running low on food and other basic supplies. Gunmen control the main roads leading in and out of Port-au-Prince, on occasion firing on those passing through.

The boy is 6 years old and extroverted, and his sister is "like a little old lady in a 3-year-old's body," Michelle said. They worry what will happen to them if they're forced to travel to Port-au-Prince to finalize the adoption, with Emmerson recalling how his brother's twins were kidnapped in the capital and later released, with the boy's face slashed by gangs.

"We just don't want that for our kids," he said.

Angela, who lives in California and asked that her last name be withheld for safety, said she and her husband are trying to adopt a 5-year-old girl who — like Reed's youngest son — has been evacuated from orphanages three times.

Angela recalled how she was on the phone with an orphanage worker and her daughter when gunfire erupted.

"Quite honestly, I didn't know if she was going to be killed right then and there," she said. "Gunfire was penetrating the walls."

She said it's terrifying to think that her daughter, who is shy and loves to read books, will have to travel to Port-au-Prince to complete the required paperwork after violence forced her to flee the city.

"It's just not right for these children to be thrown into the war zone to meet requirements that could easily be waived," Reed said. "We are not looking to bypass any part of the adoption process. We want our children evacuated to safety so we have children to adopt. We don't want them to die in Haiti."

Spending deal averts a possible federal shutdown and funds the government into December

By KEVIN FREKING Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congressional leaders announced an agreement Sunday on a short-term spending bill that will fund federal agencies for about three months, averting a possible partial government shutdown when the new budget year begins Oct. 1 and pushing final decisions until after the November election.

Temporary spending bills generally fund agencies at current levels, but an additional \$231 million was included to bolster the Secret Service after the two assassination attempts against Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump, and additional money was added to aid with the presidential transition, among other things.

Lawmakers have struggled to get to this point as the current budget year winds to a close at month's end. At the urging of the most conservative members of his conference, House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., had linked temporary funding with a mandate that would have compelled states to require proof of citizenship when people register to vote.

But Johnson abandoned that approach to reach an agreement, even as Trump insisted there should not be a stop-gap measure without the voting requirement.

Bipartisan negotiations began in earnest shortly after that, with leadership agreeing to extend funding into mid-December. That gives the current Congress the ability to fashion a full-year spending bill after the Nov. 5 election, rather than push that responsibility to the next Congress and president.

In a letter to Republican colleagues, Johnson said the budget measure would be "very narrow, bare-

bones" and include "only the extensions that are absolutely necessary."

"While this is not the solution any of us prefer, it is the most prudent path forward under the present circumstances," Johnson wrote. "As history has taught and current polling affirms, shutting the government down less than 40 days from a fateful election would be an act of political malpractice."

House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries said Democrats would evaluate the bill in its entirety before this week's vote, but with the agreement, "Congress is now on a bipartisan path to avoid a government shutdown that would hurt everyday Americans."

Rep. Tom Cole, the House Appropriations Committee chairman, had said on Friday that talks were going well.

"So far, nothing has come up that we can't deal with," said Cole, R-Okla. "Most people don't want a government shutdown and they don't want that to interfere with the election. So nobody is like, 'I've got to have this or we're walking.' It's just not that way."

Johnson's earlier effort had no chance in the Democratic-controlled Senate and was opposed by the White House, but it did give the speaker a chance to show Trump and conservatives within his conference that he fought for their request.

The final result — government funding effectively on autopilot — was what many had predicted. With the election just weeks away, few lawmakers in either party had any appetite for the brinkmanship that often leads to a shutdown.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said the same agreement could have been reached two weeks ago, but "Speaker Johnson chose to follow the MAGA way and wasted precious time."

"As I have said throughout this process, there is only one way to get things done, with bipartisan, bicameral support," Schumer said.

Now a bipartisan majority is expected to push the short-term measure over the finish line this week. The agreement on the short-term measure does not mean getting to a final spending bill will be easy in December. The election results could also influence the political calculations if one party fares much better than the other, potentially pushing the fight into early next year.

The Secret Service funding also comes with a string attached, with lawmakers making it contingent on the Department of Homeland Security providing certain information to a House task force and Senate committee investigating the assassination attempts made against Trump.

In a recent letter, the Secret Service told lawmakers that a funding shortfall was not the reason for lapses in Trump's security when a gunman climbed onto an unsecured roof on July 13 at a rally in Butler, Pennsylvania, and opened fire. But acting Secret Service Director Ronald Rowe Jr. said this week that the agency had "immediate needs" and that he's talking to Congress.

What to know about the threats in Springfield, Ohio, after false claims about Haitian immigrants

By MICHAEL RUBINKAM and JULIE CARR SMYTH Associated Press

SPRINGFIELD, Ohio (AP) — A small Ohio city has been inundated with hoax bomb threats since last week's presidential debate, when former President Donald Trump falsely accused members of Springfield's Haitian community of abducting and eating cats and dogs.

Trump's running mate, Ohio Sen. JD Vance, has amplified debunked internet rumors about Haitian migrants as the Republican ticket criticizes the immigration policies of President Joe Biden's administration that are supported by Trump's Democratic opponent, Vice President Kamala Harris. City officials acknowledge growing pains from the influx of some 15,000 Haitian immigrants, but say there's no evidence to support the claim they are consuming anyone's pets.

More than 30 bomb threats have been made against schools, government buildings and city officials' homes since last week, forcing evacuations and closures. Springfield also canceled its annual celebration of diversity, arts and culture in response to the threats, and on Tuesday, state police were deployed to city schools.

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Here are some things to know about the situation in Springfield:

Who's behind the hoax threats?

Foreign actors, primarily. That's according to Ohio's governor, Republican Mike DeWine, who revealed that most of the threats are coming from overseas. The governor's office says a criminal investigation by multiple law enforcement agencies determined the "vast majority" of the threats were international in origin. Officials did not provide more information on how investigators determined they came from a foreign country, nor would DeWine reveal the name of the country.

What's being done?

DeWine sent dozens of members of the Ohio State Highway Patrol to all 18 city schools, where sweeps will be conducted twice a day to prevent further disruption and help reassure parents and students the buildings are safe. Even with the increased police presence, though, many parents still kept their kids home from school on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, security cameras have been stationed at strategic spots in the city, and a bomb-sniffing dog was sent to Springfield and will be available round-the-clock.

And DeWine pledged \$2.5 million over two years to increase support for primary health care. The state highway patrol is also helping local law enforcement with traffic enforcement. DeWine said many Haitians are inexperienced drivers and are unfamiliar with U.S. traffic laws.

How is the city responding?

Springfield never wanted the spotlight — not in this way.

On Tuesday, city officials said that misinformation and falsehoods about Haitian immigrants have sowed fear and division, disrupted learning and cost taxpayer dollars. In a statement, they begged public figures, community members and the media to "move beyond divisive rhetoric and instead work toward fostering unity, understanding and respect." The statement did not mention Trump or Vance by name.

Springfield Mayor Rob Rue has said the immigrant influx is straining police, hospitals and schools. He has also criticized the federal government, saying the city asked for help months ago. But he called on national leaders Tuesday to "temper their words and speak truth."

Why did so many Haitians move to Springfield?

Jobs and word of mouth.

Springfield shed manufacturing jobs and its population decreased significantly as a result toward the end of the last century. But the city has made a concerted effort to lure employers and Haitian immigrants have helped meet rising demand for labor in factories and warehouses. Word spread, and Haitians began arriving in greater numbers over the last few years.

Haitians in Springfield and elsewhere came to the U.S. to flee violence in their home country. Many Haitians are here under a federal program called Temporary Protected Status, which allows them to temporarily live and work in the U.S. because conditions are considered too dangerous for them to return to Haiti.

What are Haitian immigrants saying?

Members of the Haitian community say they felt uneasy even before Trump and Vance picked up and amplified the lies about pet-eating, as longtime residents chafed at the new arrivals' impact on jobs, housing and traffic.

"Some of them are talking about living in fear. Some of them are scared for their life," Rose-Thamar Joseph said last week at Springfield's Haitian Community Help and Support Center.

At a church service on Sunday, Mia Perez said her daughter was evacuated from school twice last week.

"Kids in school are being asked by other kids: 'How does the dog taste? How does the cat taste?'" Perez said. "She's asking, 'Are we the kind of Haitians who eat this kind of stuff? Is it true? What's happening?'"

"This is a conversation that I was not ready to have with my daughter," Perez said. "I felt disrespected of our culture."

Case of Mexico's 43 missing students persists among tens of thousands of disappearances

By MARÍA VERZA Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — All countries have crimes that resonate. In Mexico, one of the modern day ones is the disappearance of 43 students from a rural teacher's college in 2014.

Ten years later, it's still not clear where the students from the Rural Normal School at Ayotzinapa are. Authorities believe they were killed, but have only turned up small bone fragments from three of them.

The families, with the support of the school known for its radical activism, continue to demand justice. They maintain a lack of political will is responsible for not finding the truth. If it was a "state crime" as the current administration says, the government must know what happened and who is hiding information.

Why is the case still alive?

In a country with more than 115,000 registered disappearances, this case continues to hold the public's attention because it combined cartel violence and corrupt authorities and remains stubbornly unresolved.

It's considered an emblematic case and another example of abuses that occurred decades ago in Mexico's dirty war and were never corrected.

What happened on Sept. 26?

The students were attacked by security forces linked to a local drug gang, Guerreros Unidos, in Iguala, when the students were stealing buses to transport themselves to a protest.

During the administration of Enrique Peña Nieto (2012-2018), authorities said the students had gone to Iguala, Guerrero to protest at an event — the mayor, now jailed, was linked to local gang Guerreros Unidos. They were allegedly mistaken for members of a rival gang.

The Peña Nieto administration said that Guerreros Unidos had abducted and killed the students, burned their bodies in a huge fire and tossed their ashes into a river.

But investigations by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the successor Attorney General's Office and a Truth Commission created in 2019, found that the fire at a dump was a lie built on false statements extracted under torture and manipulated evidence.

Those subsequent investigations found that an enormous operation was put in motion that night involving members of Guerreros Unidos, but also local, state and federal police. And the army was aware of everything that was happening because it had a base in Iguala, soldiers in the streets and spies among the students.

Investigators said members of the army were involved with the gang in smuggling heroin from the mountains of Guerrero on buses to the United States. Prosecutors said the decision to hide the truth was taken at the highest levels of government.

Has anyone been held accountable?

There are more than 100 people in custody and dozens have been charged, but no one has been convicted.

At the end of the previous administration, Mexican courts determined that the investigation was plagued by errors and manipulation. There were dozens of cases of torture.

Those abuses and missteps led to many of those involved being released. Some have been arrested again under the current administration.

The highest-ranking person charged is former Attorney General Jesús Murillo Karam, who is accused of torture, forced disappearance and obstruction of justice. There are also 16 soldiers, most of whom are awaiting trial on house arrest, which infuriates the students' families.

When did attitudes shift on the current administration?

López Obrador had promised to find the students and hold those responsible accountable. But in 2022, when more and more evidence pointed toward the military's involvement in the attack and cover-up the administration's tone changed.

The president had ordered the military to open its archives to investigators. That didn't happen. Instead,

López Obrador shifted more power and responsibility to the military than any president in recent history. The prosecutor leading the investigation, Omar García Trejo, was suddenly demoted after he sought arrest orders for two dozen soldiers. He was replaced by someone unfamiliar with the case.

There was also growing political pressure to show results, said Santiago Aguirre, one of the families' lawyers. The administration presented some evidence that did not appear to come from reliable sources and the government's searches turned slipshod.

Where do the families want the investigation to go?

Their lawyers point out key arrests are still lacking, among them the man who led the investigation during the Peña Nieto administration, Tomás Zerón. In videos, Zerón is seen interrogating and threatening prisoners. He sought refuge in Israel, which has not agreed to extradite him despite Mexico's request.

They also say they want to see military intelligence records from that night that they still haven't had access to. They want too more cooperation from the United States government, which has prosecuted members of Guerreros Unidos in drug trafficking cases that also revealed their ties to the military.

Lebanese doctor races to save the eyes of those hurt by exploding tech devices

By BASSEM MROUE Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — For almost a week, ophthalmologist Elias Jaradeh has worked around the clock, trying to keep up with the flood of patients whose eyes were injured when pagers and walkie-talkies exploded en masse across Lebanon.

He has lost track of how many eye operations he has performed in multiple hospitals, surviving on two hours of sleep before starting on the next operation. He has managed to save some patients' sight, but many will never see again.

"There is no doubt that what happened was extremely tragic, when you see this overwhelming number of people with eye injuries arriving at the same time to the hospital, most of them young men, but also children and young women," he told The Associated Press at a Beirut hospital this past week, struggling to hold back tears.

Lebanese hospitals and medics were inundated after thousands of hand-held devices belonging to the Hezbollah militant group detonated simultaneously on Tuesday and Wednesday last week, killing at least 39 people. Around 3,000 more were wounded, some with life-altering disabilities. Israel is widely believed to have been behind the attack, although it has neither confirmed nor denied its involvement.

Although the explosions appear to have targeted Hezbollah fighters, many of the victims were civilians. And many of those hurt in the attack suffered injuries to their hands, face and eyes because the devices received messages just before they detonated, so they were looking at the devices as they exploded.

Authorities have not said how many people lost their eyes.

Veteran and hardened Lebanese eye doctors who have dealt with the aftermath of multiple wars, civil unrest and explosions, said they have never seen anything like it.

Jaradeh, who is also a lawmaker representing south Lebanon as a reformist, said most of the patients sent to his hospital, which specializes in ophthalmology, were young people who had significant damage to one or both eyes. He said he found plastic and metal shrapnel inside some of their eyes.

Four years ago, a powerful blast tore through Beirut's port, killing more than 200 people and wounding more than 6,000. That explosion, caused by the detonation of hundreds of tons of ammonium nitrates that had been stored unsafely at a port warehouse, blew out windows and doors for miles around and sent cascades of glass shards pouring onto the streets, leading to horrific injuries.

Jaradeh also treated people hurt in the port explosion, but his experience with those wounded by the exploding pagers and walkie-talkies has been so much more intense because of the sheer volume of people with eye injuries.

"Containing the shock after the Beirut port blast was, I believe, 48 hours while we haven't reached the period of containing the shock now," Jaradeh said.

Jaradeh said he found it hard to dissociate his job as a doctor from his emotions in the operating theater. "No matter what they taught you (in medical school) about distancing yourself, I think in a situation like this, it is very hard when you see the sheer numbers of wounded. This is linked to a war on Lebanon and war on humanity," Jaradeh said.

Co-founder of Titan to testify before Coast Guard about submersible that imploded

By PATRICK WHITTLE Associated Press

The co-founder of the company that owned the experimental submersible that imploded en route to the wreckage of the Titanic is scheduled to testify before the U.S. Coast Guard on Monday as part of its investigation of the maritime disaster.

Businessman Guillermo Sohnlein founded Titan owner OceanGate with Stockton Rush, who was among the five people who died when the submersible imploded in June 2023. The Coast Guard opened a public hearing earlier this month that is part of a high level investigation into the cause of the implosion.

Sohnlein left the Washington company years ago, but in the aftermath of the submersible's implosion, he spoke in defense of its efforts. In his testimony, he is expected to provide perspective into the company's inner workings.

The public hearing began Sept. 16 and some of the testimony has focused on the troubled nature of the company. Earlier in the hearing, former OceanGate operations director David Lochridge said he frequently clashed with Rush and felt the company was committed only to making money.

"The whole idea behind the company was to make money," Lochridge testified. "There was very little in the way of science."

Other witnesses expected to testify Monday include former OceanGate engineering director Phil Brooks and Roy Thomas of the American Bureau of Shipping. The hearing is expected to run through Friday and include more witnesses.

Lochridge and other witnesses have painted a picture of a troubled company that was impatient to get its unconventionally designed craft into the water. The accident set off a worldwide debate about the future of private undersea exploration.

Coast Guard officials noted at the start of the hearing that the submersible had not been independently reviewed, as is standard practice. That and Titan's unusual design subjected it to scrutiny in the undersea exploration community.

OceanGate, based in Washington state, suspended its operations after the implosion. The company has no full-time employees currently, but has been represented by an attorney during the hearing.

During the submersible's final dive on June 18, 2023, the crew lost contact after an exchange of texts about Titan's depth and weight as it descended. The support ship Polar Prince then sent repeated messages asking if Titan could still see the ship on its onboard display.

One of the last messages from Titan's crew to Polar Prince before the submersible imploded stated, "all good here," according to a visual re-creation presented earlier in the hearing.

When the submersible was reported overdue, rescuers rushed ships, planes and other equipment to an area about 435 miles (700 kilometers) south of St. John's, Newfoundland. Wreckage of the Titan was subsequently found on the ocean floor about 330 yards (300 meters) off the bow of the Titanic, Coast Guard officials said. No one on board survived.

OceanGate said it has been fully cooperating with the Coast Guard and NTSB investigations since they began. Titan had been making voyages to the Titanic wreckage site going back to 2021.

At the UN, world leaders try to lay out a vision for the future — and actually make it happen

By EDITH M. LEDERER Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The U.N. General Assembly adopted a “Pact for the Future” to meet the challenges of the 21st century. Now comes the hard part: uniting the world’s divided nations to move quickly to implement its 56 actions.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres thanked the 193-member world body for approving the pact and unlocking the door for nations to join forces to tackle challenges ranging from climate change and artificial intelligence to escalating conflicts and increasing inequality and poverty — and improve the lives of the world’s more than 8 billion people.

“We are here to bring multilateralism back from the brink,” he said. “Now it is our common destiny to walk through it. That demands not just agreement, but action.”

The 42-page pact was adopted at Sunday’s opening of a two-day “Summit of the Future,” which continues Monday. Among leaders slated to address the summit are Iran’s Masoud Pezeshkian, Ukraine’s Volodymyr Zelenskyy, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Vershinin.

Russia tried to change the pact

Whether the pact would be adopted was still a question when the assembly meeting began on Sunday. In fact, there was so much suspense that Guterres had three prepared speeches, one for approval, one for rejection, and one if things weren’t clear, U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said.

Russia’s Vershinin launched the opening salvo. He proposed an amendment that would have significantly watered down the pact. “No one is happy with this pact,” he said.

It turned out he was wrong. Africa’s 54 nations opposed Russia’s amendments and speaking on their behalf, the Republic of Congo countered with a motion not to vote on the amendments. Mexico supported the Africans, and in a vote on their motion, the Africans got support from 143 countries,, with only six countries supporting Russia -- Iran, Belarus, North Korea, Nicaragua, Sudan and Syria. 15 countries abstained.

Assembly President Philémon Yang then put the pact to a vote and banged his gavel, signifying the consensus of all U.N. member nations that was required for approval — to vigorous applause.

Russia has made significant inroads in Africa -- in countries like Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger and Central African Republic -- and the continent’s rejection of its amendments along with Mexico, a major Latin American power, was seen as a blow to Moscow by some diplomats and observers.

The secretary-general issues a challenge

Guterres, clearly relieved at the outcome, then issued a challenge to the leaders: Implement the pact. Prioritize dialogue and negotiations. End “wars tearing our world apart” from the Middle East to Ukraine and Sudan. Reform the powerful U.N. Security Council. Accelerate reforms of the international financial system. Ramp up a transition from fossil fuels. Listen to young people and include them in decision-making.

The U.N.’s main bloc of developing countries — the Group of 77, which now has 134 members, including China — echoed Guterres in a speech by Ugandan Prime Minister Robinah Nabbanja.

“This pact should not become another futile exercise, but must garner political will and commitment across all levels of global leadership to pragmatically address current issues and lay a foundation for solutions for our future global progress and challenges,” he said.

Nabbanja stressed that the future should be “free from any oppression” and close widening gaps between developed and developing countries The G77 regrets that the pact doesn’t recognize actions that developed countries should take to close the gap, he said.

In a rare move at a high-level U.N. meeting where leaders often exceed the announced time limit, Yang announced at the start of their speeches that they would be muted after five minutes. Among those who kept talking after their mics were silenced: Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, Kuwait’s Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khalid Al Sabah and Irish President Michael Higgins.

There’s a long list of things to tackle

The Pact for the Future says world leaders are gathering “at a time of profound global transformation,”

and it warns of "rising catastrophic and existential risks" that could tip people everywhere "into a future of persistent crisis and breakdown."

Guterres singled out a number of key provisions in the pact and its two accompanying annexes, a Global Digital Compact and Declaration on Future Generations.

The pact commits world leaders to reform the 15-member Security Council, to make it more reflective of today's world and "redress the historical injustice against Africa," which has no permanent seat, and to address the under-representation of the Asia-Pacific region and Latin America.

It also "represents the first agreed multilateral support for nuclear disarmament in more than a decade," Guterres said, and it commits "to steps to prevent an arms race in outer space and to govern the use of lethal autonomous weapons."

The Global Digital Compact "includes the first truly universal agreement on the international governance of artificial intelligence," the U.N. chief said.

As for human rights, Guterres said, "In the face of a surge in misogyny and a rollback of women's reproductive rights, governments have explicitly committed to removing the legal, social and economic barriers that prevent women and girls from fulfilling their potential in every sphere."

As UN meets, Haitians express hopelessness at finding an international solution to gang crisis

By EVENS SANON Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — As world leaders meeting in the United Nations this week discuss the future of efforts to rein in the gangs strangling Haiti, Haitians are expressing hopelessness that an international response can turn the tide of violence.

Thus far, a UN-backed force of 400 police from Kenya and about two dozen Jamaican officers have done little to quell the country's gangs, which have terrorized the country since the 2021 assassination of President Jovenel Moïse. World leaders have been discussing the next steps in a convoluted efforts to restore order to the Caribbean nation, and Kenya this weekend pledged 600 more officers.

The United States has floated the idea of a U.N. peacekeeping force, but the idea was considered too controversial given the introduction of cholera and sexual abuse cases that occurred the last time U.N. troops were in Haiti.

The deployment of Kenyan forces was, in part, to avoid tensions that may be sparked by sending another U.N. peacekeeping mission.

But in a visit to Haiti by Kenya's President William Ruto over the weekend – on his way to the United Nations General Assembly session, which began on Sunday – Ruto said he would be open to expanding Kenya's operations into a larger U.N. peacekeeping mission.

"On the suggestion to transit this into a fully U.N. Peacekeeping mission, we have absolutely no problem with it, if that is the direction the U.N. security council wants to take," Ruto said.

While Ruto hailed the successes of the Kenyan forces on Sunday, a recent report by a UN human rights expert said gang violence is spreading across Haiti and that Haitian police still lack the "logistical and technical capacity" to fight gangs.

The ongoing violence has left Haitians like 39-year-old Mario Canteve disillusioned with further international efforts to quell the gangs, saying he no longer believes promises by world leaders that they'll be able to change anything in the crisis-stricken nation.

"No one is coming to save Haiti. Nothing is changing," he said. "A new mission cannot save Haiti."

Canteve sells cellphone chips and repairs electronics in the capital of Port-au-Prince, 80% of which is estimated to be controlled by gangs. Facing brutal gang violence, some Haitians have organized vigilante groups to battle the gangs themselves.

Such groups underscore to the lack of hope many Haitians have that an international solution can mark a shift in Haiti.

Moïse Jean-Pierre, a 50-year-old school teacher, recalled past U.N. missions in Haiti and said such ef-

forts were a "waste of time."

"It would not be the first time we've had U.N. missions in Haiti," he said. "What difference will it make?"

Sentiments on the ground speak to the bind world leaders are in as they've spent years looking for a larger solution to Haiti's woes.

The current security mission is expected to reach a total of 2,500 personnel, with the Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin and Chad also pledging to send police and soldiers. Though it still is not clear when that would happen.

Few at the U.N. have an appetite for a larger peacekeeping mission in part due to the abuses in past missions, but also because many Haitians have an aversion to foreign interventions. Experts say three previous interventions by US and the UN have not improved crises in Haiti.

Some harbor hope that elections planned next year will pave the path to a Haitian-born solution.

The country has not held general elections since 2016 as the crisis has dragged on.

Last week, Haiti took its first steps in creating a provisional election council to prepare the nation for elections. Haiti still has many hurdles ahead of it to get there. Chief among them is violence.

While Canteve, the cellphone chip salesman, called for unity and said "a new mission cannot save Haiti, the children of Haiti need to save themselves," he also expressed doubts the country was safe enough to facilitate elections.

"How can you hold an election when everything is so violent. Everyone is shooting," he said. "When police cannot even go into certain areas, what kind of election are going to get?"

Ukraine's Zelenskyy visits Pennsylvania ammunition plant to thank workers and ask for more

By MICHAEL RUBINKAM and TARA COPP Associated Press

SCRANTON, Pa. (AP) — Under tight security, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Sunday visited a Pennsylvania ammunition factory to thank the workers who are producing one of the most critically needed munitions for his country's fight to fend off Russian ground forces.

Rep. Matt Cartwright, a Democrat who was among those who met with Zelenskyy at the Scranton Army Ammunition Plant, said the president had a simple message: "Thank you. And we need more."

The Scranton plant is one of the few facilities in the country to manufacture 155 mm artillery shells and has increased production over the past year. Ukraine has already received more than 3 million of them from the U.S.

Zelenskyy said he expressed his gratitude to all the employees at the plant.

"It is in places like this where you can truly feel that the democratic world can prevail," he wrote on X. "Thanks to people like these — in Ukraine, in America, and in all partner countries — who work tirelessly to ensure that life is protected."

Zelenskyy's visit kicked off a busy week in the United States. He will speak at the U.N. General Assembly annual gathering in New York on Tuesday and Wednesday and then travel to Washington for talks on Thursday with President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris, as he seeks to shore up support for Ukraine.

The area around the ammunition plant had been sealed off since Sunday morning, with municipal garbage trucks positioned across several roadblocks and a very heavy presence of city, regional and state police, including troopers on horseback.

As Zelenskyy's large motorcade made its way to the ammunition plant in the afternoon, a small contingent of supporters waving Ukrainian flags assembled nearby to show their appreciation for his visit.

"It's unfortunate that we need a plant like this, but it's here, and it's here to protect the world," said Vera Kowal Krewson, a first-generation Ukrainian American who was among those who greeted Zelenskyy's motorcade. "And I strongly feel that way."

She said many of her friends' parents have worked in the ammunition plant, and she called Zelenskyy's visit "a wonderful thing."

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Laryssa Salak, 60, whose parents also immigrated from Ukraine, said she was pleased Zelenskyy came to thank the workers. She said it upsets her that funding for Ukraine's defense has divided Americans and that even some of her friends oppose the support, saying the money should go to help Americans instead.

"But they don't understand that that money does not directly go to Ukraine," Salak said. "It goes to American factories that manufacture, like here, like the ammunition. So that money goes to American workers as well. And a lot of people don't understand that."

The 155 mm shells made in the Scranton plant are used in howitzer systems, which are towed large guns with long barrels that can fire at various angles. Howitzers can strike targets up to 15 miles to 20 miles (24 kilometers to 32 kilometers) away and are highly valued by ground forces to take out enemy targets from a protected distance.

With the war now well into its third year, Zelenskyy has been pushing the U.S. for permission to use longer range missile systems to fire deeper inside of Russia.

So far he has not persuaded the Pentagon or White House to loosen those restrictions. The Defense Department has emphasized that Ukraine can already hit Moscow with Ukrainian-produced drones, and there is hesitation on the strategic implications of a U.S.-made missile potentially striking the Russian capital.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has warned that Russia would be "at war" with the United States and its NATO allies if they allow Ukraine to use the long-range weapons.

At one point in the war, Ukraine was firing between 6,000 and 8,000 of the 155 mm shells per day. That rate started to deplete U.S. stockpiles and drew concern that the level on hand was not enough to sustain U.S. military needs if another major conventional war broke out, such as in a potential conflict over Taiwan.

In response the U.S. has invested in restarting production lines and is now manufacturing more than 40,000 155 mm rounds a month, with plans to hit 100,000 rounds a month.

Two of the Pentagon leaders who have pushed that increased production through — Doug Bush, assistant secretary of the Army for acquisition, logistics and technology and Bill LaPlante, the Pentagon's top weapons buyer — were to join Zelenskyy at the plant. Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro, a Democrat, also joined the Ukrainian president.

The 155 mm rounds are just one of the scores of ammunition, missile, air defense and advanced weapons systems the U.S. has provided Ukraine — everything from small arms bullets to advanced F-16 fighter jets. The U.S. has been the largest donor to Ukraine, providing more than \$56 billion of the more than \$106 billion NATO and partner countries have collected to aid in its defense.

Even though Ukraine is not a member of NATO, commitment to its defense is seen by many of the European nations as a must to keep Putin from further military aggression that could threaten bordering NATO-member countries and result in a much larger conflict.

White Sox lose 120th game to tie post-1900 record by the 1962 expansion New York Mets

By BERNIE WILSON AP Sports Writer

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The Chicago White Sox tied the post-1900 MLB record of 120 losses by the 1962 expansion New York Mets on Sunday when the San Diego Padres won 4-2 by rallying for three runs in the eighth inning, capped by Fernando Tatis Jr.'s towering home run.

The White Sox (36-120) had taken a 2-1 lead on home runs by Korey Lee and Miguel Vargas off Yu Darvish, but that lead quickly disappeared in the eighth.

This defeat came a day after the White Sox tied the American League record of 119 losses set by the 2003 Detroit Tigers.

The 1899 Cleveland Spiders hold the major league record for losses at 20-134.

Interim manager Grady Sizemore didn't address the team afterward.

"No loss is good," he said. "It's not something that we're focused on. I think everyone outside this clubhouse is more obsessed with it than us. The way we spin is to put this one behind us and get ready for

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the series back home.”

With one more loss in their final six games, the White Sox will hold the modern-day record outright. They finish with three at home against the Los Angeles Angels beginning Tuesday night and finish with three at Detroit, which is in the AL wild-card hunt.

“I guess when you lose 120 it’s easier to brush it off, but it (stinks) to go through it, but that’s where we’re at,” veteran Andrew Benintendi said.

The Padres (90-66) clinched their first 90-win season since 2010, when they finished 90-72 but missed the postseason thanks to a brutal September collapse.

The Padres reduced their magic number to one for clinching their third postseason berth since 2020.

The Padres control their own destiny going into a three-game series at the NL West-leading Los Angeles Dodgers starting Tuesday night, but would have to win out to clinch the division title. While the Dodgers have a three-game lead over the Padres, San Diego owns the tiebreaker. San Diego has a three-game lead over Arizona for the NL’s top wild card. The Padres finish with three games at Arizona next weekend.

Some in the sellout crowd of 45,197 began chanting “Beat L.A.!” as the Padres players and staff saluted the fans after the final home regular-season game. San Diego set the franchise attendance record of 3,314,593 in 80 games.

“We’re never out and that’s probably since the first week that we played baseball this year,” Tatis said. “What we have been doing over here is really special. We have the talent to go all the way. But it’s time to take care of business one day at a time.”

The Padres tied it at 2 when Donovan Solano and pinch-hitter Luis Arraez hit consecutive doubles opening the eighth against Fraser Ellard (2-3). Arraez advanced on a wild pitch and scored the go-ahead run on Jurickson Profar’s sacrifice fly.

Tatis then drove a towering shot into the left field stands, his 20th homer of the season.

“It felt amazing. It felt like I showed it that way after I hit it,” said Tatis, who had an exuberant trot after the 389-foot blast, including stutter-stepping into third base.

White Sox rookie Sean Burke held the Padres to one run and two hits in six innings in just his third big league appearance and second start. He struck out eight and walked one.

“Burke threw a hell of a game,” Benintendi said. “They’ve got a lot of good bats up and down that lineup, guys that have played a long time and once they get the lead with that bullpen, it seems like its pretty much over at this point.”

Lee, who grew up in northern San Diego County, hit a line shot homer to left with one out in the third, his 11th.

Profar tied it when he hit an opposite-field shot to left with one out in the bottom of the inning. It was his 24th, extending his career-best.

The White Sox jumped back ahead on Vargas’ homer to left-center with one out in the sixth, his fifth.

Darvish became the first Japanese-born player to reach 2,000 career strikeouts when he fanned Jacob Amaya in the third. With nine strikeouts in 6 1/3 innings on Sunday, he pushed his 12-season MLB total to (2003). He walked nine while allowing two runs and three hits.

Robert Suarez, who has struggled lately, pitched the ninth for his 34th save.

UP NEXT

White Sox: RHP Jonathan Cannon (4-10, 4.61 ERA) is scheduled to start Tuesday night in the opener of a three-game home series against the Los Angeles Angels, who will go with RHP Jack Kochanowicz (2-5, 4.56).

Padres: RHP Michael King (12-9, 3.04) is set to start Tuesday night’s opener of a three-game series at the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Several Mark Robinson campaign staffers quit as fallout over online posts continues

By GARY D. ROBERTSON Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Several top staffers in North Carolina Republican Lt. Gov. Mark Robinson's campaign for governor have quit their posts, marking more fallout from a CNN report outlining evidence that he made disturbing posts on a pornography website's message board more than a decade ago.

The campaign said in a news release Sunday that senior adviser Conrad Pogorzelski III, campaign manager Chris Rodriguez, the campaign's finance director and the deputy campaign manager "have stepped down from their roles with the campaign." Information on new campaign staffers would be forthcoming soon, the release said.

"I appreciate the efforts of these team members who have made the difficult choice to step away from the campaign, and I wish them well in their future endeavors," Robinson said in the release.

Pogorzelski, who helped Robinson get elected lieutenant governor in 2020 in his first bid for public office and later became his chief of staff, said separately on Sunday that additional staffers also left the campaign — the deputy finance director, two political directors and the director of operations.

Pogorzelski, in a text, said that he "along with others from the campaign have left of our own accord."

The CNN report on Thursday unearthed past posts it said Robinson left on a porn site's message boards in which he referred to himself as a "black NAZI;" said he enjoyed transgender pornography; said in 2012 he preferred Hitler to then-President Barack Obama; and slammed the late Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. as "worse than a maggot."

Robinson denied writing the posts and said Thursday that he wouldn't be forced out of the race by "salacious tabloid lies." He avoided directly discussing the controversy during a gubernatorial campaign event on Saturday evening at a race track in Fayetteville. The event happened after earlier in the day former President Donald Trump didn't mention Robinson at a rally about 90 miles (145 kilometers) away in Wilmington.

Before Saturday, Robinson had been a frequent presence at Trump's North Carolina campaign stops. The Republican presidential nominee has long praised Robinson — who would be North Carolina's first Black governor if elected — calling him "Martin Luther King on steroids" for his speaking style.

On Sunday, Robinson still expressed optimism that he could win in November over Democratic nominee Josh Stein, the sitting attorney general. Polls have shown Robinson trailing Stein.

But Robinson said polls have "underestimated Republican support in North Carolina for several cycles," and with a large portion of the electorate undecided "I am confident our campaign remains in a strong position to make our case to the voters and win on November 5."

Robinson has a long history of making inflammatory comments, including suggesting women who sought abortion "weren't responsible enough to keep your skirt down" and comparing abortion to slavery.

Stein said Sunday on CNN's "State of the Union" that Robinson is "utterly unqualified, unfit to be the governor of North Carolina, and we're going to do everything in our power to keep that from happening."

Polls show Trump and Vice President Kamala Harris locked in a close race in North Carolina and nationally. Democrats have seized on the opportunity to highlight Trump's ties to Robinson, with billboards showing the two together and a new ad from Harris' campaign highlighting the Republican candidates' ties, as well as Robinson's support for a statewide abortion ban without exceptions.

On Sunday, Republican U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, of South Carolina, said on NBC's "Meet the Press" that Robinson deserves a chance to defend himself against the allegations, which Graham described as "unnerving." He said Robinson is "a political zombie if he does not offer a defense to this that's credible," while arguing the issue wouldn't hurt Trump.

"If they're true, he's unfit to serve for office," Graham said of Robinson and the claims in the CNN report. "If they're not true, he has the best lawsuit in the history of the country for libel."

Hezbollah hits back with rockets as it declares an 'open-ended battle' with Israel

By NATALIE MELZER and KAREEM CHEHAYEB Associated Press

NAHARIYA, Israel (AP) — Hezbollah fired over 100 rockets early Sunday across northern Israel, with some landing near the city of Haifa, as Israel launched hundreds of strikes on Lebanon. A Hezbollah leader declared an "open-ended battle" was underway as both sides appeared to be spiraling closer toward all-out war.

The overnight rocket barrage was in response to Israeli attacks in Lebanon that have killed dozens, including a veteran Hezbollah commander, and an unprecedented attack targeting the group's communications devices. Air raid sirens across northern Israel sent hundreds of thousands of people scrambling into shelters.

One struck near a residential building in Kiryat Bialik, a city near Haifa, wounding at least three people and setting buildings and cars ablaze. Israel's Magen David Adom rescue service said four people were wounded.

Avi Vazana raced to a shelter with his wife and 9-month-old baby before he heard the rocket hitting. Then he went back outside to see if anyone was hurt.

"I ran without shoes, without a shirt, only with pants. I ran to this house when everything was still on fire to try to find if there are other people," he said.

Lebanon's Health Ministry said three people were killed and four wounded in Israeli strikes near the border, without saying whether they were civilians or combatants.

Hezbollah responds to unprecedented blows

The rocket attacks followed an Israeli airstrike Friday in Beirut that killed at least 45 people, including Ibrahim Akil, one of Hezbollah's top leaders, several other fighters, and women and children.

Hezbollah was already reeling from a sophisticated attack that caused thousands of pagers and walkie-talkies to explode just days earlier. But it faces a difficult balance of stretching the rules of engagement by hitting deeper into Israel, while at the same time trying to avoid large-scale attacks on civilian areas and infrastructure that could trigger a full-scale war that it would rather not start and take the blame for.

Hezbollah's deputy leader Naim Kassem said Sunday's rocket attack was just the beginning of what's now an "open-ended battle" with Israel.

"We admit that we are pained. We are humans. But as we are pained — you will also be pained," Kassem said at Akil's funeral. He vowed Hezbollah will continue military operations against Israel in support of Gaza but also warned of unexpected attacks "from outside the box," pointing to rockets fired deeper into Israel.

Late Sunday night, Hezbollah announced a series of strikes on military sites in northern Israel with missiles and artillery shelling. It was not immediately clear if there were any casualties or damages.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel would take whatever action was necessary to restore security in the north and allow people to return to their homes.

"No country can accept the wanton rocketing of its cities. We can't accept it either," he said.

Other funerals were held Sunday for those killed in the airstrike. Seven people, including three women and two children, were buried in the southern Lebanese town of Mays al-Jabal, where Christian Lebanese lawmaker Melhem Khalaf said Israel "relies on the laws of the jungle instead international conventions, especially with protecting civilians."

White House national security spokesman John Kirby told ABC's "This Week" that the U.S. has been "involved in extensive and quite assertive diplomacy." He added: "We want to make sure that we can continue to do everything we can to try to prevent this from becoming an all-out war there with Hezbollah across that Lebanese border."

Israel says it thwarted an even larger Hezbollah attack

The Israeli military said it struck about 400 militant sites, including rocket launchers, across southern Lebanon in the past 24 hours, thwarting an even larger attack.

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"Hundreds of thousands of civilians have come under fire across a lot of northern Israel," said Israeli military spokesman Lt. Col. Nadav Shoshani. "Today we saw fire that was deeper into Israel than before."

The military also said it intercepted multiple aerial devices fired from the direction of Iraq, after Iran-backed militant groups there claimed to have launched a drone attack on Israel.

School was canceled across northern Israel, and the Health Ministry said all hospitals in the north would move operations to protected areas in the medical centers.

Separately, Israeli forces raided the West Bank bureau of Al Jazeera, which it had banned earlier this year, accusing it of serving as a mouthpiece for militant groups, allegations denied by the pan-Arab broadcaster.

U.N. envoy says the region is on the brink of catastrophe

Israel and Hezbollah have traded fire since the outbreak of the war in Gaza nearly a year ago, when the militant group began firing rockets in solidarity with the Palestinians and its fellow Iran-backed ally Hamas. The low-level fighting has killed dozens in Israel, hundreds in Lebanon, and displaced tens of thousands on both sides of the frontier.

Until recently, neither side was believed to be seeking an all-out war, and Hezbollah has so far stopped short of targeting Tel Aviv or major civilian infrastructure. But in recent weeks, Israel has shifted its focus from Gaza to Lebanon. Hezbollah has said it would only halt its attacks if the war in Gaza ends, as a cease-fire there appears increasingly elusive.

The war in Gaza began with Hamas' Oct. 7 attack into Israel, in which Palestinian militants killed about 1,200 people and took about 250 others hostage. They are still holding about 100 captives, a third of whom are believed to be dead. Over 41,000 Palestinians have been killed, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. It doesn't say how many were fighters, but says women and children make up more than half of the dead.

"With the region on the brink of an imminent catastrophe, it cannot be overstated enough: there is NO military solution that will make either side safer," Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert, the U.N. envoy for Lebanon, said on X.

Families of Israeli hostages and residents of Gaza expressed fears the fighting in Lebanon will divert international attention from their own plights.

"I'm incredibly concerned with the increased tensions with Hezbollah because, my biggest concern is that, all the public's attention and the world's attention" would be distracted, said Udi Goren, a relative of Tal Haimi, an Israeli who was killed Oct. 7 and whose body was taken into Gaza.

Enas Kollab, a Palestinian displaced from Gaza, voiced similar fears. "We are afraid that the situation in Lebanon will affect us -- that all attention will turn to Lebanon and we will become forgotten," she said.

Hezbollah says it's using new weapons

Hezbollah said it had launched dozens of Fadi 1 and Fadi 2 missiles — a new weapon the group hadn't used before — at the Ramat David airbase, southeast of Haifa, "in response to the repeated Israeli attacks that targeted various Lebanese regions and led to the fall of many civilian martyrs."

In July, the group released what it said was video it had taken of the base with surveillance drones.

Hezbollah also said it had targeted facilities of the Rafael defense firm, headquartered in Haifa, calling it retaliation for the wireless devices attack. It didn't provide evidence, and the Israeli military declined to comment.

Hezbollah vowed to retaliate for a wave of explosions that hit pagers and walkie-talkies belonging to Hezbollah members on Tuesday and Wednesday, killing at least 37 people — including two children — and wounding about 3,000. The attacks were widely blamed on Israel, which hasn't confirmed or denied responsibility.

An Israeli airstrike Friday took down an eight-story building in a densely populated Beirut suburb as Hezbollah members met in the basement, according to Israel. Among those killed was Akil, who commanded the group's special forces unit.

Long-forbidden French anti-riot force sent to Martinique as thousands defy bans on protests

MEXICO CITY (AP) — France has sent a group of special anti-riot police that's been banned for 65 years to the French Caribbean island of Martinique, where protesters have gathered despite the government barring demonstrations in parts of the island.

The force arrived this weekend after the local representative of France's central government in its overseas territory said in a statement that protests were forbidden in the municipalities of Fort-de-France, Le Lamentin, Ducos and Le Robert until Monday. The government also issued a curfew.

The restrictions came after violent protests broke out on the island last week over the high cost of living, with gunfire injuring at least six police officers and one civilian. Police launched tear gas and government officials said several stores were also looted.

Officials said the bans were meant "to put an end to the violence and damage committed at gatherings, as well as to the numerous obstacles to daily life and freedom of movement that penalize the entire population, particularly at weekends."

But the measure was met by defiance by many on the island, with massive peaceful protests breaking out Saturday night. Videos from local media show crowds of thousands peacefully walking along highways overnight banging on drums and waiving flags.

As protests wound on without violence, the force of French anti-riot police arrived on the island, and were staying at a hotel in Fort-de-France on Sunday. It wasn't immediately clear how many were sent.

The elite riot police, known as the Companies for Republican Security, were banned in the French territory following bloody riots in December 1959. The unit had been accused of using disproportionate force against protesters, ending in the deaths of a number of young demonstrators. The force is rarely deployed in French territories in the Caribbean, but was called on during riots and strikes in Guadeloupe in 2009.

Martinique's leaders requested the forces amid the recent protests in an historic shift for the island, and one met with a sharp rejection by some in the territory.

Béatrice Bellay, a representative of the socialist party on the island, blasted the move, saying: "Martinique is not in a civil war, it is a social war." She called for an "open and transparent dialogue" between protesters and the government.

"This measure ... only serves to aggravate tensions and distract attention from the legitimate demands of the people of Martinique," she wrote in a statement Sunday.

Trump says, if he loses, 2024 run will be his last

By The Associated Press undefined

Former President Donald Trump said on Sunday that he doesn't "think" he'd run again for president in 2028 if he falls short in his bid to return to the White House in 2024.

"No, I don't. I think that will be, that will be it," Trump said when journalist Sharyl Attkisson asked him if he'd run again.

The comment was notable both because Trump seemed to rule out a fourth bid for the White House and because he rarely admits the possibility he could legitimately lose an election. Trump normally insists that could only happen if there were widespread cheating, a false allegation he made in 2020 and he's preemptively made again during his 2024 presidential campaign.

Trump would be 82 in 2028, a year older than President Joe Biden is now. Biden bowed out of the race in July following his disastrous debate performance and months of being hammered by Trump and other conservatives as being too old and erratic for the job.

Attkisson interviewed Trump for her show "Full Measure." Also during the 22-minute interview, Trump defended his record on the coronavirus pandemic. He took credit for the development of the COVID-19 vaccines developed during his presidency while also saying "they're doing studies on the vaccines and we're going to find out" if they are safe.

Trump said Republicans have become skeptical about the vaccines even as Democrats trust them. The statement about 2028 came at the very end of the interview, which also included a question about how Trump stays in good health. "I try and eat properly," the former president said, drawing an incredulous reaction from Attkisson, who noted that Trump has become infamous for his fondness for hamburgers. "Proper hamburgers," Trump said.

California governor signs law banning all plastic shopping bags at grocery stores

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — "Paper or plastic" will no longer be a choice at grocery store checkout lines in California under a new law signed Sunday by Gov. Gavin Newsom that bans all plastic shopping bags.

California had already banned thin plastic shopping bags at supermarkets and other stores, but shoppers could purchase bags made with a thicker plastic that purportedly made them reusable and recyclable.

The new measure, approved by state legislators last month, bans all plastic shopping bags starting in 2026. Consumers who don't bring their own bags will now simply be asked if they want a paper bag.

State Sen. Catherine Blakespear, one of the bill's supporters, said people were not reusing or recycling any plastic bags. She pointed to a state study that found that the amount of plastic shopping bags trashed per person grew from 8 pounds (3.6 kilograms) per year in 2004 to 11 pounds (5 kilograms) per year in 2021.

Blakespear, a Democrat from Encinitas, said the previous bag ban passed a decade ago didn't reduce the overall use of plastic.

"We are literally choking our planet with plastic waste," she said in February.

The environmental nonprofit Oceana applauded Newsom for signing the bill and "safeguarding California's coastline, marine life, and communities from single-use plastic grocery bags."

Christy Leavitt, Oceana's plastics campaign director, said Sunday that the new ban on single-use plastic bags at grocery store checkouts "solidifies California as a leader in tackling the global plastic pollution crisis."

Twelve states, including California, already have some type of statewide plastic bag ban in place, according to the environmental advocacy group Environment America Research & Policy Center. Hundreds of cities across 28 states also have their own plastic bag bans in place.

The California Legislature passed its statewide ban on plastic bags in 2014. The law was later affirmed by voters in a 2016 referendum.

The California Public Interest Research Group said Sunday that the new law finally meets the intent of the original bag ban.

"Plastic bags create pollution in our environment and break into microplastics that contaminate our drinking water and threaten our health," said the group's director Jenn Engstrom. "Californians voted to ban plastic grocery bags in our state almost a decade ago, but the law clearly needed a redo. With the Governor's signature, California has finally banned plastic bags in grocery checkout lanes once and for all."

As San Francisco's mayor in 2007, Newsom signed the nation's first plastic bag ban.

Trump's goal of mass deportations fell short. But he has new plans for a second term

By ELLIOT SPAGAT Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Donald Trump has long pledged to deport millions of people, but he's bringing more specifics to his current bid for the White House: invoking wartime powers, relying on like-minded governors and using the military.

Trump's record as president shows a vast gulf between his ambitions and the legal, fiscal and political realities of mass deportations of people in the United States illegally — 11 million in January 2022, by the Homeland Security Department's latest estimate. Former President Barack Obama carried out 432,000 deportations in 2013, the highest annual total since records were kept.

Deportations under Trump never topped 350,000. But he and his chief immigration policy architect, Ste-

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phen Miller, have offered clues in interviews and rallies of taking a different approach if they are returned to power in November. They could benefit from lessons learned during their of four years in office and, potentially, from more Trump-appointed judges.

"What Trump seems to be contemplating is potentially lawful," said Joseph Nunn, counsel at the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University's School of Law. "There might not be a lot of legal barriers. It is going to be logistically extraordinarily complicated and difficult. The military is not going to like doing it and they are going to drag their feet as much as they can, but it is possible, so it should be taken seriously."

The Trump campaign, asked how his pledge would be carried out, said Trump would begin the largest deportation program in U.S. history, without elaborating in detail. Karoline Leavitt, a spokeswoman, said Trump "would marshal every federal and state power necessary to institute the largest deportation operation of illegal criminals, drug dealers, and human traffickers."

How would Trump overcome inevitable legal challenges?

Trump has said he would invoke the Alien Enemies Act, a 1798 law that allows the president to deport any noncitizen from a country that the U.S. is at war with.

Texas Gov, Greg Abbott has advanced a theory that illegal immigration amounts to an invasion to justify state enforcement measures, so far without success, but legal scholars say judges may be reluctant to second-guess what a president considers a foreign aggression.

The sweeping Alien Enemies Act authority may sidestep a law that bans the military from civilian law enforcement.

Trump has said he would focus on deploying the National Guard, whose troops can be activated on orders of a governor. Miller says troops under sympathetic Republican governors would send troops to nearby states that refuse to participate.

"The Alabama National Guard is going to arrest illegal aliens in Alabama and the Virginia National Guard in Virginia. And if you're going to go into an unfriendly state like Maryland, well, there would just be Virginia doing the arrest in Maryland, right, very close, very nearby," Miller said last year on "The Charlie Kirk Show."

The military has been peripherally involved at the border since President George W. Bush's administration with activities that are not deemed to be law enforcement, such as surveillance, vehicle maintenance and installing concertina wire.

Nunn, of New York University's Brennan Center, said Trump may look to 2020, when he ordered the National Guard to disperse peaceful Black Lives Matter protests near the White House, despite the mayor's opposition. Trump did so without invoking the 18th-century war powers law, but the District of Columbia's federal status gives the president outsized authority to act.

Trump may also contend with rights afforded under immigration law and court rulings that took shape after 1798, including a right to seek asylum that became law in 1980. Under a 2001 Supreme Court ruling, people in the country illegally can't be detained indefinitely if there is no reasonable chance their countries will take them back. Cuba, Venezuela, Nicaragua and others are either slow to accept their citizens or refuse.

How would Trump pay for this?

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is funded by Congress for 41,500 detention beds this year, raising questions about where Trump would house people before they board deportation flights and how long they could hold them if countries refuse to take them back. Miller floated the idea of "large-scale staging grounds near the border, most likely in Texas."

ICE officers are painstakingly deliberate, researching backgrounds of their targets and prioritizing people with criminal convictions. They try to capture suspects outside their homes because they generally work without court warrants and people don't have to let them inside.

A single arrest may require hours of surveillance and research, a job that one ICE official likened to watching paint dry.

"On practical level, it will be nearly impossible for (Trump) to do the things he's talking about, even if could bring in the military," said John Sandweg, a senior Homeland Security Department official in the Obama administration.

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Obama's deportation numbers were made possible by local police who turned people over to ICE, but many state and local governments have since introduced limits on cooperation with federal immigration authorities. Obama's presidency also predated a surge of asylum-seekers at the border, which drained limited resources of the Trump and Biden administrations.

How would a mass deportation drive fare politically?

While many support Trump's plans, mass deportation could tear apart families, exacerbate labor shortages and uproot people with deep ties to their communities. Pew Research Center estimates 70% of households with at least one person in the United States illegally also have someone in the country legally.

Military leaders are likely to resist because it would undercut other priorities and damage morale, Nunn said.

"The military is going to see this and say this is not the kind of duty that soldiers signed up for," he said. "This is getting the military involved in domestic politics in a way the military doesn't like to do."

Adam Goodman, associate professor of history and Latin American studies at the University of Illinois, Chicago, who has written about deportations, said a threat of a mass expulsion can have a serious impact even if it isn't carried out. He thinks it is highly unlikely that Trump can do what he promises but it can strike fear in immigrant communities.

In June 2019, Trump announced ICE would "begin the process of removing the millions of illegal aliens" the following week. A month later, the agency said it targeted about 2,100 people, resulting in 35 arrests, indicating the president's plans fell far short but only after they generated widespread concern in immigrant communities.

Trump himself acknowledged the political perils during an interview Sunday with journalist Sharyl Attkisson. "You put one wrong person onto a bus or onto an airplane and your radical left lunatics will try and make it sound like it's the worst thing that's ever happened," Trump said, before repeating his pledge: "But we're getting the criminals out. And we're going to do that fast."

AP Top 25: No. 5 Tennessee continues to climb and Boise State enters poll for first time since 2020

By RALPH D. RUSSO AP College Football Writer

Tennessee moved up to No. 5 in The Associated Press college football poll Sunday as the Volunteers continued to surge up the rankings, and No. 25 Boise State returned to the AP Top 25 for the first time in four years.

Texas was No. 1 for the second straight week, receiving 44 of 62 first-place votes as the top four teams remained the same. The Longhorns won a game as the top-ranked team in the country for the first time since 2008, cruising past Louisiana-Monroe in quarterback Arch Manning's first career start.

Georgia held at No. 2, receiving 13 first-place votes, and Ohio State is No. 3 with five first-place votes. Alabama is No. 4.

The Bulldogs and Crimson Tide were each off this past weekend as they prepare to meet next Saturday in Tuscaloosa for a top-five matchup.

The Volunteers welcomed Oklahoma to the Southeastern Conference with a 25-15 road victory that helped Tennessee rise in the rankings for the fourth straight week. The Vols started the season ranked No. 15, then went to No. 14 after Week 1, No. 7 after Week 2 and No. 6 last week.

Tennessee was last in the top five in 2022, peaking at No. 2 on Oct. 30.

Mississippi slipped a spot to No. 6 and No. 7 Miami, No. 8 Oregon and No. 9 Penn State all moved up one place.

No. 10 Utah moved up two spots after beating Oklahoma State on the road in a matchup of ranked Big 12 teams.

Boise State is making its first poll appearance since a two-week stay in early November 2020. The Broncos, two weeks removed from losing at Oregon on a last-second field goal, improved to 2-1 with a blowout of Portland State on Saturday.

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Poll points

The SEC's stranglehold on the top of the rankings loosened a little, with Missouri's overtime victory against Vanderbilt dropping the Tigers four spots to No. 11. The conference still reached another milestone.

The SEC had gone two straight weeks holding down six of the top seven spots in the rankings, a first for one league in poll history. No conference previously even held five of the top seven spots, which the now 16-team SEC still has this week.

With Missouri slipping, the SEC still holds five of the top six spots, and it's on a three-week streak of owning four of the top five. That streak is another AP poll first.

The only other time in the 88-year history of the poll that a conference had four of the top five ranked teams was the SEC on Oct. 19, 2014 (No. 1 Mississippi State, No. 3 Mississippi, No. 4 Alabama and No. 5 Auburn). That lasted a week.

In-and-out

Boise State's absence from the AP rankings had been notable after the Broncos became a poll fixture for nearly two decades.

Boise State went 19 straight seasons making at least one appearance in the AP Top 25, from its first-ever appearance in 2002 to 2020. The Broncos finished the season ranked 13 times during that span.

No. 22 BYU also made its season debut in the rankings. The Cougars (4-0) are in for the first time since Oct. 2, 2022, after routing Kansas State at home Saturday night. The loss dropped the previously unbeaten Wildcats 10 spots to No. 23.

Exiting the rankings this week after brief stays and their first losses of the season were Nebraska and Northern Illinois.

The Cornhuskers fell in overtime to Illinois, a victory that helped the Illini move up five spots to No. 19.

NIU, which had not played since upsetting Notre Dame two weeks ago, lost in overtime to Buffalo in a Mid-American Conference game.

Conference call

SEC — 9 (Nos. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 11, 14, 21, 24).

Big Ten — 6 (Nos. 3, 8, 9, 12, 13, 19).

Big 12 — 5 (Nos. 10, 18, 20, 22, 23).

ACC — 3 (Nos. 7, 15, 17).

Mountain West — 1 (No. 25).

Independent — 1 (No. 16).

Ranked vs. Ranked

—No. 2 Georgia at No. 4 Alabama. Bulldogs and Tide played eight times between 2012-23 but only twice in regular-season meetings on each other's home field. The other six were two national title games and four SEC championships.

—No. 19 Illinois at No. 9 Penn State. Last time the Big Ten rivals met as ranked teams was 2008.

—No. 20 Oklahoma State at No. 23 Kansas State. Second straight game against a ranked Big 12 opponent for the Cowboys. Only third time in 68 meetings both are ranked.

—No. 15 Louisville at No. 16 Notre Dame. Second straight season the Cardinals-Fighting Irish is a ranked matchup.

A'ja Wilson and Caitlin Clark are unanimous choices for WNBA AP Player and Rookie of the Year

By DOUG FEINBERG AP Basketball Writer

A'ja Wilson and Caitlin Clark had record-breaking seasons, putting up stats the WNBA had never seen before.

Wilson became the first player in league history to score more than 1,000 points in a season, and she averaged a record 26.9 points. Clark broke the league's single-season assist mark and scored the most points ever for a rookie.

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So it's no surprise the two were honored Sunday as the unanimous choices for the AP Player and Rookie of the Year awards, respectively, by a 15-member media panel.

"It means a lot," Wilson said in a phone interview with The Associated Press. "The preparation you put in, the approach I set myself up for this season."

The Las Vegas Aces star was named the league's MVP earlier Sunday, also unanimously. The WNBA will announce the rest of its awards over the course of the postseason, which begins Sunday.

Wilson finished the regular season with 1,021 points and 451 rebounds and led the league with 98 blocks. She finished third in the WNBA MVP voting last season, receiving one fourth-place vote that she said fueled her in the offseason to get better.

"It propelled me a little bit as I started my offseason workouts, but around February I was over it," Wilson said. "I didn't want to give that person that energy, that's when I started to lock in."

Clark came into the league with quite possibly more hype than any rookie ever and she delivered, leading the Indiana Fever to the playoffs for the first time since 2016. She broke the WNBA single-season record with 337 assists, including a league-record 19 in one game. She also broke the single-season rookie scoring mark as she averaged 19.2 points.

"This is a tremendous honor to be named The Associated Press Rookie of the Year," she said. "This recognition wouldn't be possible without an incredible group of teammates and coaches, and we are looking forward to continuing an exciting regular season in the postseason."

Off the court she helped lift the WNBA to record ratings and attendance.

Clark headlined the all-rookie team along with Angel Reese of the Chicago Sky, who broke the rebounds-per-game record by averaging 13.1. She would have had the overall rebounding record as well had she not gotten hurt at the end of the season. Other rookies on the team were New York's Leonie Fiebich, Los Angeles' Rickea Jackson and Chicago's Kamilla Cardoso.

Wilson's teammate Tiffany Hayes earned AP Sixth Woman of the Year honors.

"She's our difference-maker in a lot of ways, what she brings on the court and in the locker room," Wilson said. "Tiff doesn't have to be the vocal leader, but everyone listens when she speaks — shows the great player she is."

Wilson and Clark headlined the AP All-WNBA first team. They were joined by Napheesa Collier, Breanna Stewart and Alyssa Thomas. Sabrina Ionescu, Kahleah Copper, Nneka Ogwumike, Kayla McBride and Arike Ogunbowale were on the second team.

Other AP winners included:

—Coach of the Year: Cheryl Reeve. She helped Minnesota finish second in the regular season with a team that was picked ninth in the preseason. The Lynx won the Commissioner's Cup and finished the regular season with 13 wins in their final 15 games.

—Comeback Player of the Year: Skylar Diggins-Smith. The Seattle Storm guard missed last season after giving birth to her second child. Diggins-Smith averaged 15.1 points and 6.4 assists this season.

—Most Improved Player: Dearica Hamby. The Los Angeles Sparks forward made a huge jump this season by averaging 17.3 points — 8.4 more than last season. She also improved her rebounding by more than three a game. Hamby edged Connecticut's DiJonai Carrington by one vote.

—Defensive Player: Collier. The Lynx star had an incredible season on both ends of the court, but she was an anchor especially for Minnesota's stellar defense. The team had the best defense in the WNBA this season and Collier's play was the main reason why. Wilson finished second, three votes behind Collier.

"I'm so proud of Phee's defensive work in 2024. Her commitment to all aspects of our defense — deflections, denials, steals, blocks, rebounds — anchored one of the top defensive teams in the league and led to her best season yet as a pro," Reeve said.

AP WNBA Power Poll

Minnesota finished atop the power poll, with New York second. Las Vegas and Connecticut were the next two teams. They were followed by Seattle, Indiana, Atlanta and Phoenix. Washington, Chicago, Dallas and Los Angeles finished off the poll.

For home shoppers, the Fed's big rate cut is likely just a small step towards affording a home

By ALEX VEIGA and SALLY HO AP Business Writers

The Federal Reserve gave home shoppers what they hoped for this week: a big rate cut and a signal of more cuts to come.

Even so, aspiring homebuyers and homeowners eager to refinance should temper their expectations of a big drop in mortgage rates from here.

While the Fed doesn't set mortgage rates, its policy pivot does clear a path for mortgage rates to go lower. But in this case, the Fed's action was widely anticipated, so rates moved lower well before the cut was even announced.

"We've seen the bulk of the easing that we're going to get already this year," said Danielle Hale, chief economist at Realtor.com. "I wouldn't be entirely surprised if mortgage rates ticked up a bit from here before declining again."

What's up with mortgage rates?

When mortgage rates rise, they can add hundreds of dollars a month in costs for borrowers. The average rate on a 30-year mortgage rose from below 3% in September 2021 to a 23-year high of 7.8% last October. That coincided with the Fed jacking up its benchmark interest rate to fight inflation.

Rates have been mostly declining since July in anticipation of a Fed rate cut. The average rate on a 30-year mortgage is now 6.09%, according to mortgage buyer Freddie Mac. That's down from 7.22% in May, its peak so far this year.

Even a modest drop in mortgage rates can translate into significant savings over the long run. For a home listed at last month's median U.S. sales price of \$416,700, a buyer in Los Angeles who makes a 20% down payment at the current average mortgage rate would save about \$312 a month compared to the cost of buying the same home in May.

So, it's time to buy?

While lower rates give home shoppers more purchasing power, a mortgage around 6% is still not low enough for many Americans struggling to afford a home. That's mostly because home prices have soared 49% over the past five years, roughly double the growth in wages. They remain near record highs, propped up by a shortage of homes in many markets.

Mortgage rates would have to drop back to near rock-bottom lows from three years ago, or home prices would have to fall sharply for many buyers to afford a home. Neither scenario is likely to happen any time soon.

Economists and mortgage industry executives expect mortgage rates to remain near their current levels, at least this year. Fannie Mae this week projected the rate on a 30-year mortgage will average 6.2% in the October-December quarter and decline to an average of 5.7% in the same quarter next year. It averaged 7.3% in the same period in 2023.

Mortgage rates are influenced by several factors, including how the bond market reacts to the Fed's interest rate decisions. That can move the trajectory of the 10-year Treasury yield, which lenders use as a guide to pricing home loans.

"Ultimately, the pace of mortgage and Fed rate declines will be dictated by economic data," said Rob Cook, vice president at Discover Home Loans. "If future data shows that the economy is slowing more than expected, it would increase pressure for the Fed to take more aggressive action with rate cuts which would likely translate into lower mortgage rates available to consumers."

Buy now, or wait for lower rates?

Sales of previously occupied U.S. homes have been in a deep slump dating back to 2022, and fell 2.5% last month. So far, the pullback in mortgage rates has yet to spur a meaningful rebound, although sales did rise slightly in July.

The muted outlook for mortgage rates leaves prospective buyers and sellers with a familiar dilemma: Test the housing market now or hold out for potentially lower rates.

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Nick Young, an attorney who moved his family this year from Phoenix to Evergreen, Colorado, has opted to rent after seeing how competitive the homebuying market was last spring.

With a homebuying budget between \$1 million and \$1.5 million, he and his wife are still searching for that perfect gem — a house with five bedrooms to grow in with their three kids.

They're watching mortgage rates, but also other variables, including inflation, the health of the economy overall, and the presidential election.

"There's not a ton of incentive to buy currently," Young said before the Fed announcement. "But timing the market is a fool's errand."

Real estate agents from Phoenix to Tampa, Florida, say many home shoppers are waiting for mortgage rates to fall below 6%. Some are hoping rates can return to the lows of three years ago.

"What I try to do is bring them back to reality," said Mike Opyd, a broker with Re/Max Premier in Chicago. "I tell them, 'if you're serious about buying, get in now.'"

To Opyd's point, the pullback in mortgage rates and a pickup in the supply of homes on the market make for a favorable backdrop for home shoppers this fall, typically a slower time of the year for home sales.

Waiting for rates to possibly ease further next year could leave buyers facing heightened competition for the home they want. Meanwhile, potential sellers may still stay put.

"Keep in mind that 76% of people with a mortgage have a rate below 5%," said Leo Pareja, CEO of eXp Realty. "So, we may see the supply-demand imbalance actually get a little worse in the near term."

Refinancing spree

First-time homebuyers Drew Yae and his wife bought a two-bedroom, 1.5-bath townhome in Bellingham, Washington, last month.

In February, Yae, a compensation analyst, was initially quoted a 7% mortgage rate. By the time the deal was done, his rate had come down only to about 6.63%.

"I would like to refinance at 5% or 5.25%, but I just don't know if that's realistic and if that's going to take more than two years to get there," he said.

Yae could lower his monthly payment by roughly \$300 a month if he refinances his \$407,000 home loan to 5.5%.

One rule of thumb to consider when refinancing is whether you can reduce your current rate by half to three-quarters of a percentage point.

Demand for home loan refinancing has been growing. Last week, refinance applications surged 24%, according to the Mortgage Bankers Association.

Lenders are increasingly leaning into the old "date the rate" adage by pairing original loans with refinancing incentives from the jump. After buyers saw record high interest rates that peaked about a year ago around 8%, many are marketing offers that essentially give buyers a way out of their current rate once it comes back down as a way to quell buyer hesitancy.

"It is getting a lot more emphasis," said Mike Fratantoni, chief economist at the MBA. "Getting locked into a 7% rate forever — for a first-time buyer, it is terrifying."

Navy Federal Credit Union said it started offering their popular "no-refi rate drop" in 2023, which allows buyers to lower their rate for a \$250 fee while maintaining the rest of the terms on the original loan.

Many homebuyers are opting both for the temporary rate buydowns and free refinancing, said Darik Tolnay, branch manager of CrossCounty Mortgage in Lakewood, Colorado.

"They all want a home, so if someone comes up with an idea to make it more affordable, given the general sentiment, people are desperate to have options," Tolnay said.

Rock in Rio's sign language pumps up Brazil's deaf audience

By DAVID BILLER and BRUNA PRADO Associated Press

Tens of thousands of Brazilians gathered at Rio de Janeiro's mega-festival Rock in Rio on Friday, with many staking out spots of artificial grass all day to hear the headliner, Katy Perry. As her music keyed up, the enormous screens around the stage showed someone else in their bottom corners — a sign language

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interpreter.

The red-haired woman — with a chunky chain belt and a gem between her eyebrows — snapped her fingers and swayed, then pumped her arms as the beat gathered force.

“It seems like I’m on stage with her, in front of everyone,” the interpreter, Laísa Martins, told the Associated Press afterward. And as Katy Perry belted out her first verse, Martins started signing.

Rock in Rio is featuring sign language interpreters on its big screens for the first time in its 40-year history. It’s one of Latin America’s biggest festivals, drawing 100,000 people a day over seven days, and Sunday is its last day.

Inside a container backstage, interpreters sign in front of a green screen, with their images appearing above the stage to ensure deaf people across the thronging crowd can follow. Organizers also invite dozens of deaf people and their companions into a VIP area, right by the stage and close enough to speakers to feel the music pulsing through their bodies.

How a 2015 law helped Brazil start championing accessibility

Interpreters have started popping up at festivals and concerts across Brazil in recent years. Their sudden ubiquity stems from Brazil’s ambitious 2015 inclusion law that sought to put the country at the global forefront of accessibility and, among other things, established that people with disabilities have the right to access cultural events while guaranteeing organizers provide means of doing so.

Some interpreters have drawn the spotlight themselves with their flair and flashy dress, gaining thousands of social media followers. Demand for them is surging so much that many start working before even finishing their education, said Lenildo Souza, president of the nationwide federation of sign language interpreters’ associations.

In Brazil, 2.3 million people are partially or completely deaf, according to the national statistics institute. But fewer than two-thirds of those who are completely deaf know how to use Brazilian sign language, and far less among those with some hearing. That’s because people opt for cochlear implants, learn only lip-reading, or go deaf later in life, said Souza.

As such, subtitles could be more effective at transmitting lyrics; Colombian singer Karol G sang so quickly at times Friday night that some words were lost on Amorim, who isn’t fluent in Spanish. But Amorim said interpreters convey more than just lyrics of songs, which they study intensively ahead of the show. They dance to the rhythm and pull faces to transmit the music’s energy and emotion — be it euphoria, rage, mystery or sensuality. That pumps up the crowd, deaf and hearing people alike.

“We express the whole idea of the song with our expressions, with our body. We want to express the entire musical context and use literally our entire body,” said Amorim, whose older sister is deaf. “Our feet are cut off there (on the screen), but during samba songs, we’re dancing samba. It’s just like that.”

Putting deaf people up front

Rock in Rio is already one of the most accessible festivals for deaf people in the world, said Thiago Amaral, its coordinator of plurality. Still, his team is working to innovate, and future editions could include vibrating platforms or a product similar to the vibrating vests they tested last year, he said. This year was also the first that Rock in Rio offered audio description earpieces for those with limited vision.

One of the deaf people at Rock in Rio on Friday was Henrique Miranda Martins, 24. His whole family is big into music, especially samba — his uncles play the four-string cavaquinho and pandeiro, a handheld frame drum — and he was always around it growing up. But Martins can hear little from his right ear and nothing from his left, so could never fully connect or participate.

Last year, he went to his first-ever concert with sign language interpreters, Coldplay, and it became his favorite band — even before its single whose official video features people signing. Then Martins went to the Lollapalooza festival in Sao Paulo. And last week he traveled from Sao Paulo to party with his parents at Rock in Rio.

He was most hyped to see Brazilian singer Iza on Friday, and waited to enter the special section by the stage. Iza started playing, just off to his left, but he faced the opposite direction, watching her on the screen with an interpreter in its corner. He danced and signed along with the interpreter, often in synchrony.

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"I can follow the interpreter and I'm very happy to be able to feel the music and live this experience," Martins said, speaking through an interpreter. "For deaf people, it's very important. We can't be outside this here. We need to be inside, with accessibility, together with everyone participating in everything. I'm very happy."

Rock in Rio's camera scanning the crowd found Martins vibing and locked in. For a few seconds, he was up on the big screen for everyone to see, smiling wide with his head thrown back and shaking both hands in the air — the sign for applause.

Are Trump and Harris particularly Christian? That's not what most Americans would say: AP-NORC poll

By HOLLY MEYER, PETER SMITH and AMELIA THOMSON-DEVEAUX Associated Press

Vice President Kamala Harris is a Baptist who was influenced by religious traditions in her mother's home country of India.

Former President Donald Trump grew up a mainline Presbyterian but began identifying as a nondenominational Christian near the end of his presidency.

Despite that, few Americans see the presidential candidates as particularly Christian, according to a new survey conducted Sept. 12-16 by the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs. Only 14% of U.S. adults say the word "Christian" describes Harris or Trump "extremely" or "very" well.

Strikingly, that appears to matter little to part of Trump's loyal base: white evangelical Protestants. About 7 in 10 members of this group view him favorably. But only about half say Trump best represents their beliefs — around 1 in 10 say this about Harris, and one-third say neither candidate represents their religious beliefs — and around 2 in 10 say "Christian" describes him extremely or very well.

"They really don't care about, is he religious or not," said R. Marie Griffith, a religion and politics professor at Washington University in St. Louis.

The survey results represent the shift in how white evangelicals now talk about morality and religion in politics, said Griffith. She pointed to a white evangelical culture that takes care of its own, but sees liberal outsiders as evil, and therefore, support for a Democrat is unimaginable to many.

Evangelical leaders, she said, are pushing this idea that, "this is God's man, and we can't ask why. We don't have to ask why. It doesn't matter if he's moral, it doesn't matter if he's religious. It doesn't matter if he lies compulsively. It's for the greater good that we get him re-elected."

At the Republican National Convention, Arkansas Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders, a conservative Christian and Trump's former White House press secretary, invoked God when she addressed the first assassination attempt against him.

"God Almighty intervened because America is one nation under God, and he is certainly not finished with President Trump," she said. "And our country is better for it."

Anthea Butler, professor of religious studies at the University of Pennsylvania, said white evangelicals likely see him as instrumental to their goals, such as his appointment of conservative, anti-abortion justices to the Supreme Court.

"He's their guy no matter what," said Butler.

For the head of the Democratic ticket, a large majority — three-quarters — of Harris' fellow Black Protestants view her favorably and 6 in 10 say she best represents their religious beliefs. But only around 4 in 10 say "Christian" describes her very or extremely well. That's still higher than the share of Democrats overall who think this about Harris, at around one-quarter.

Butler is not surprised that esteem for Trump is low among Black Protestants, and that they are more likely to see Harris, a Baptist with influences from the spiritual tradition of her mother's native India, as Christian.

"I think African Americans have a better understanding about interfaith families, because it happens a lot with us," she said.

Overall, about half of Americans surveyed said that Christian at least "somewhat" described Harris, while

about one-third said so about Trump.

Griffith questioned if one reason so few Americans see Harris as particularly Christian, is because they just don't know much about her yet. Harris joined the race late, becoming the Democratic nominee after President Joe Biden was pressured to step away in July.

The Black Church PAC, a progressive group, is now trying to mobilize voters for Harris. On a recent online discussion hosted by the PAC, the Rev. Traci Blackmon, a Missouri-based United Church of Christ minister, encouraged pastors to ask every Sunday for congregants to pull out their phones and check their voter registration status, and to prepare to use the church bus to give rides to the polls.

"Kamala Harris is not perfect – no one is perfect. But what she is, is competent. What she is, is prepared. What she is, is qualified. ... What she is, is she's faithful to the things she says she will do and courageous enough to say what she won't do," said Blackmon.

Neither candidate fared particularly well when Americans were asked if they'd use the words "honest" or "moral" to describe them. Around one-third say those words describe Harris extremely or very well, and about 15% say the same for Trump. Adding in those who say the words "somewhat" describe the candidates raises the levels to more than half for Harris and about one-third for Trump.

"I wonder if speaks to just a deep cynicism about politics – that people are really so convinced that all politicians are liars," said Griffith.

New York City's interim police commissioner says federal authorities seized materials from his homes

By MICHAEL R. SISAK, JAKE OFFENHARTZ and DAVID B. CARUSO Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Federal authorities searched the homes of New York City's newly named interim police commissioner and seized materials unrelated to his police work, he said.

The unexplained and unexpected search comes as the administration of Mayor Eric Adams reels from other federal law enforcement investigations.

Thomas Donlon, who became the interim commissioner just one week ago after the resignation of his predecessor, issued a statement late Saturday through the police department.

"On Friday, September 20, federal authorities executed search warrants at my residences. They took materials that came into my possession approximately 20 years ago and are unrelated to my work with the New York City Police Department," the statement said.

"This is not a department matter, and the department will not be commenting," he added.

The statement did not address what the investigation was about, which federal authorities were involved or what materials had been seized.

Fabien Levy, the city's deputy mayor for communications, said: "As we have repeatedly said, we expect all team members to fully comply with any law enforcement inquiry."

Just a week ago, the previous police commissioner, Edward Caban, resigned after federal authorities seized his electronic devices as part of an investigation that also involved his brother, a former police officer.

Federal agents also have seized phones in recent weeks from the head of the city's public schools, a top deputy mayor, Adams' top public safety adviser and others. Previously, investigators searched homes connected to Adams' top campaign fundraiser and the Democrat's Asian affairs director.

Last autumn, federal agents also seized Adams' phone as he left an event.

Charges have not been brought in connection with any of those searches, and it was unclear whether there was any connection to the search involving Donlon, who wasn't part of the Adams administration until a few days ago.

An FBI spokesperson declined to comment. An email seeking comment from a spokesperson for the U.S. attorney in Manhattan was not immediately returned. A text sent to Adams' top spokesperson late Saturday night also wasn't immediately returned.

Donlon spent decades with the FBI, where he worked on terrorism cases including the investigation into

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the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center, the 1998 bombings of U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania and a 2000 attack on a U.S. Navy destroyer.

Roughly 20 years ago he was a top counterterrorism official for the FBI in New York.

From 2009 to 2010, Donlon led New York state's Office of Homeland Security before going into the private sector security industry.

Adams appointed Donlon as his commissioner last week and he assumed the post on Sept. 13, one week ago Friday.

The choice of an outsider with a long career in federal law enforcement — but no history of working with the NYPD — appeared at the time to be a potentially stabilizing move for the police department after Caban's resignation.

Caban and his brother, James Caban, who runs a nightlife security business, had both denied any wrongdoing through their lawyers.

Through it all, Adams, who is in his first term, has said he won't be distracted by the investigations and will continue to serve the city.

Today in History: September 23, Nixon's 'Checkers' speech

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Monday, Sept. 23, the 267th day of 2024. There are 99 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Sept. 23, 1952, Sen. Richard M. Nixon, R-Calif., salvaged his vice presidential nomination by appearing on television from Los Angeles to refute allegations of improper campaign fundraising in what became known as the "Checkers" speech for its reference to his family's cocker spaniel.

Also on this date:

In 1780, British spy John Andre was captured along with papers revealing Benedict Arnold's plot to surrender West Point to the British.

In 1806, the Lewis and Clark expedition returned to St. Louis, more than two years after setting out for the Pacific Northwest.

In 1955, a jury in Sumner, Mississippi, acquitted two white men, Roy Bryant and J.W. Milam, of killing Black teenager Emmett Till. (The two later admitted to the crime in an interview with Look magazine.)

In 1957, nine Black students who entered Little Rock Central High School in Arkansas were forced to withdraw because of a white mob outside.

In 2002, Gov. Gray Davis signed a law making California the first state to offer workers paid family leave.

In 2018, capping a comeback from four back surgeries, Tiger Woods won the Tour Championship in Atlanta, the 80th victory of his PGA Tour career and his first in more than five years.

In 2022, Roger Federer played his final professional match after an illustrious career that included 20 Grand Slam titles.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Julio Iglesias is 81. Actor/singer Mary Kay Place is 77. Rock star Bruce Springsteen is 75. Director/playwright George C. Wolfe is 70. Actor Rosalind Chao is 67. Actor Jason Alexander is 65. Actor Chi McBride is 63. Singer Ani (AH'-nee) DiFranco is 54. Producer-rapper Jermaine Dupri is 52. Filmmaker Yorgos Lanthimos is 51. Actor Anthony Mackie is 46. Actor Skylar Astin is 37. Tennis player Juan Martín del Potro is 36.