

Groton Daily Independent

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Tuesday, Oct. 1

Senior Menu: Goulash, green beans, pineapple/oranges, breadstick.

School Breakfast: Scones.

School Lunch: Chicken strips, tater tots

Volleyball at Great Plains Lutheran (5 at 5 p.m., JV at 6:15 p.m., varsity to follow)

Common Cents Thrift Store, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 209 N Main.

Pantry, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., Groton Community Center

City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.

United Methodist Bible Study, 10 a.m.

St. John's Lutheran: Ladies Aid LWML, 1:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 2

Senior Menu: Autumn soup, peas, chicken salad croissant, cinnamon apple sauce.

School Breakfast: Oatmeal.

School Lunch: Quesadillas, corn.

Picture Day

Groton Chamber meeting, noon, City Hall

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

Groton C&MA: Kids' Club, Youth Group, Adult Bible Study at 7 pm.

St. John's Lutheran: Confirmation, 3:45 p.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Confirmation, 4 p.m.; Sarah Circle, 5 p.m. (elect officers), League, 6:30 p.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.

US Dockworkers Strike

At least 45,000 dockworkers across 36 East and Gulf Coast ports began striking after their contract expired early this morning, the first such strike in the US since 1977. The work stoppage could disrupt supply chains and cause delays.

The International Longshoremen's Association and the United States Maritime Alliance, which represents the ports, failed to reach an agreement after negotiations stalled in June. The union seeks higher wages and less automation, while the alliance pushes for increased technology use to improve efficiency and reduce costs. The union is allegedly requesting a \$5 an hour raise each year for six years, while the alliance has reportedly offered \$2.50 annually. Union members with six or more years of experience currently earn up to \$39 an hour.

East and Gulf Coast ports handle more than 68% of containerized exports and more than 56% of containerized imports. Analysts estimate losses to the US economy could be up to \$5B per day. President Joe Biden has said he is not planning to invoke a nearly 80-year-old act to order the strikers back to work.

MLB, NBA Legends Die

Seventeen-time MLB All-Star Pete Rose, who topped the league's all-time hit list with 4,256 over a 24-season career and was later banned for gambling, died yesterday at age 83. No cause of death was given.

Rose, who primarily played with the Cincinnati Reds and was a three-time World Series champion, holds the major league record for games played (3,562) and plate appearances (15,890) as well as the National League record for the longest hitting streak (44). Rose became ineligible in 1989 for gambling on the sport, including on Reds games, while he was the team's player and manager. He admitted to betting on baseball in 2004.

In related news, NBA Hall of Famer Dikembe Mutombo died yesterday from brain cancer at age 58. The eight-time All-Star blocked 3,289 shots during his 18-season career—the second-most shots blocked in league history behind Hakeem Olajuwon.

Mutombo was named Defensive Player of the Year four times, averaging 4.5 blocks per game at the height of his career. The 7-foot-2 star was known for his signature finger wag, used to chastise players attempting to get shots past him. He was also the NBA's first global ambassador, having worked with humanitarian organizations, including UNICEF and the Special Olympics.

100 Years of Surrealism

Today officially marks 100 years of surrealism—the art and literary movement behind Salvador Dalí's iconic melting clocks and Frida Kahlo's self-portrait as a wounded deer (though Kahlo rejected the surrealist label for her art). First emerging in the late 1910s and early 1920s, surrealism revolutionized the art world by exploring the deeper layers of reality and imagination.

Surrealism formally began after French writer and poet André Breton published the "Surrealist Manifesto" in October 1924. It was inspired by Italian artist Giorgio de Chirico, who founded the style of metaphysical painting. Since then, surrealist artists like Dalí, René Magritte, and Max Ernst have created art featuring striking visual contradictions, blending the familiar with the bizarre. Their artwork often included warped figures, unexpected objects in unusual settings, and dreamlike scenes that challenged conventional logic and reason.

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Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

MLB postseason kicks off today with the Wild Card Series; see playoff preview and predictions ... and WNBA playoff semifinals are underway; see latest playoff bracket and schedule.

Gavin Creel, Tony-, Grammy-, and Olivier-winning stage actor, dies of cancer at age 48; Creel was known for roles in "Hello, Dolly!," "Hair," and "The Book of Mormon".

Oasis announces North American concert dates for their reunion tour; the band announced in August they would be touring again after a 15-year hiatus.

Science & Technology

Last operating coal power plant in the UK shuts; country has no coal-fired power for the first time since 1882, completing shift to a mix of natural gas, renewables, and nuclear.

New analysis suggests Viking cultures traveled thousands of miles to the Arctic to hunt walrus, with the resulting ivory transported through medieval trade networks as far as the Middle East.

Engineers develop headset to noninvasively predict the risk of stroke; device uses lasers to measure blood flow in the brain.

Business & Markets

US stock markets close higher (S&P 500 +0.4%, Dow +0.0%, Nasdaq +0.4%) after Federal Chair Jerome Powell signals further, smaller rate cuts.

Chinese stocks rise in biggest single-day rally in 16 years after Beijing last week unveiled sweeping economic package.

DirecTV buys Dish TV, Sling TV from EchoStar for nominal fee of \$1 plus the assumption of \$9.75B of debt to create largest US pay-TV provider with 20 million subscribers total; AT&T sells its stake in DirecTV to private equity firm TPG.

AI chip startup Cerebras Systems files for initial public offering in bid to take on Nvidia; Cerebras last valued at roughly \$4B in 2021.

Politics & World Affairs

Vice presidential candidates Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz (D) and Ohio Sen. JD Vance (R) to debate tonight (9 pm ET, CBS) in New York City.

Former President Jimmy Carter (D) turns 100 today; he is the longest-living former president in US history.

Israel begins limited ground raids against Iran-backed Hezbollah militants near the border in Lebanon ahead of its imminent ground invasion.

Georgia judge strikes down state's 2022 six-week abortion ban.

Biden administration tightens asylum restrictions from June, says border crossing seven-day average must be under 1,500 per day for 28 days before restrictions can be lifted, rather than a week.

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Groton City Council Meeting Agenda

October 1, 2024 – 7:00pm
City Hall – 120 N Main Street

(IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CALL IN TO THIS MEETING, PLEASE MAKE PRIOR ARRANGEMENTS TO DO SO BY CALLING CITY HALL 605-397-8422)

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Public Comments - pursuant to SDCL 1-25-1
(Public Comments will offer the opportunity for anyone not listed on the agenda to speak to the council. Speaking time will be limited to 3 minutes. No action will be taken on questions or items not on the agenda.)
3. Swimming Pool Year End Update
4. 2024 Swimming Pool Report
5. Baseball Discussion
6. Skating Rink Preparation
7. Department Reports
8. Soccer Field Gate Quote
9. Surplus Property
10. 2025 Liquor & Wine License Renewals:
 - The Jungle – package off-sale liquor & retail on-sale liquor
 - American Legion Post #39 – package off-sale liquor & retail on-sale liquor
 - Ken's Food Fair – package off-sale liquor
 - Red Horse Inn – retail on-sale liquor
 - Olive Grove Golf Course – retail on-sale liquor
 - Dollar General – retail on-off sale wine & cider
 - MJ's Sinclair – package off-sale liquor
11. Second Reading of Ordinance No. 779 – Certifying 2025 City of Groton Property Tax Levy to Brown County
12. Minutes
13. Bills
14. Announcement: Pumpkin Fest on Saturday, October 5th from 10am to 3pm
15. Announcement: Enrich's Winter Gear Distribution on October 3rd from 4pm to 7pm at Groton Community Center
16. Executive session personnel & legal 1-25-2 (1) & (3)
17. Adjournment

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Two Popular Boat Ramps to See Improvements This Fall

Pierre, S.D.- The South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks (GFP) today announced that two popular boat ramps will receive improvements this fall.

"We have two major boat ramp replacements taking place this fall," said Adam Kulesa, Parks Planning Administrator. "These projects are set to take place at Lake Thompson Recreation Area and North Point Recreation Area."

Lake Thompson Recreation Area Boat Ramp Replacement

The first project is a complete boat ramp replacement for the main ramp at Lake Thompson Recreation Area near De Smet. This ramp will be closed to the public while the project is taking place.

"This ramp will be closed beginning October 2," stated Kulesa. "We expect the project to take approximately 4-6 weeks to complete depending on weather conditions."

While this ramp is closed, boaters can still access Lake Thompson at the Lake Thompson Lakeside Use Area ramp on the northwest side of the lake and the Lake Thompson Southwest (Jerry's Access) Public Water Access. There is also a primitive ramp access through Schaeffer's Slough from Lake Thompson Recreation Area, though there will be no dock at the Schaeffer's Slough access.

North Point Recreation Area Boat Ramp Replacement

The second project is a complete boat ramp replacement for the main ramp at North Point Recreation Area near Pickstown. This ramp will be closed to the public while the project is taking place.

"This ramp will be closed beginning October 21," continued Kulesa. "We expect this project to take approximately 6-8 weeks to complete, depending on weather conditions."

While this ramp is closed, boaters will still be able to access the lower end of Lake Francis Case at the Fort Randall Marina, St. Francis Bay, and Prairie Dog Bay boat ramps as water levels allow. Additional ramps on the lower end of the reservoir will also remain open depending on water levels.

"We want to thank everyone for their patience as we complete these projects," concluded Kulesa. "Temporary closure of ramps ensures an even better access point for boaters to enjoy."

Coming up on GDILIVE.COM

GT
Groton Area
Tigers



Tuesday, Oct. 1

Volleyball
at

Great Plains Lutheran
Watertown

JV at 6 p.m.

Sponsored by
Adam & Nicole Wright
Varsity to follow

**\$5 ticket or
GDI Subscription
required to watch the games.**

7 p.m.
City Council
Live on
GDILIVE.COM

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Week 6 Coaches Poll

11AAA

Harrisburg- 96 pts (13 1st place votes)
Sioux Falls Lincoln- 82 pts
Brandon Valley- 54 pts
Sioux Falls Jefferson- 38 pts
Bishop O'Gorman- 14 pts
Receiving votes: Sioux Falls Roosevelt, Sioux Falls
Washington

11AA

Watertown- 110 pts (13 1st place votes)
Brookings- 72 pts
Yankton- 62 pts
(TIE) Spearfish & Tea- 41 pts
Pierre- 14 pts
Receiving votes: Aberdeen Central

11A

Sioux Falls Christian- 110 pts (20 1st place votes)
Lennox- 68 pts
Dell Rapids- 60 pts
West Central - 25 pts
Dakota Valley- 24 pts
Receiving votes: Canton, Rapid City Christian

11B

Winner- 94 pts (18 1st place votes)
Sioux Valley- 74 pts
Elk Point-Jefferson- 53 pts
Mt. Vernon/Plankinton- 24 pts
Woonsocket/Wessington Springs/Sanborn Cen-
tral- 21 pts
Receiving votes: Bridgewater-Emery/Ethan, Clark/
Willow Lake

9AA

Parkston- 107 pts (17 1st place votes)
Hamlin- 87 pts
Elkton/Lake Benton- 68 pts
Tripp-Delmont/Armour/Andes Central/Dakota
Christian- 38 pts
Leola/Frederick Area- 18 pts
Receiving votes: Viborg/Hurley, Hanson

9A

Howard- 89 pts (13 1st place votes)
Wall- 78 pts
Warner- 56 pts
Wolsey-Wessington- 34 pts
Harding County/Bison- 16 pts
Receiving votes: Estelline/Hendricks, Ipswich

9B

Avon- 79 pts (15 1st place votes)
Dell Rapids St. Mary- 51 pts
Faulkton- 42 pts
Sully Buttes- 27 pts
Canistota- 19 pts
Receiving votes: Corsica-Stickney, Colman-Egan,
Kadoka Area

The fog of forgotten men

She walks the halls each day among forgotten men—so forgotten, most of them cannot even remember themselves. They are the Alzheimer's patients at the veteran's home in St. Cloud.

When at long last a soldier's fight ends, the body is bagged, placed on a gurney and wheeled away. "It feels like we're just taking out the trash," one registered nurse said at a staff meeting.

Somehow she is able to visualize the men they once were, and even from deep inside that prison of fog and flesh, they know they have her respect, her compassion. They know.

Her paycheck was larger her annual review, but she checked with the supervisor to make sure it wasn't some kind of mistake. Her supervisor is retiring soon. "It's the first time in all those years that I ranked one of my nurses as "outstanding," she said. "Congratulations on the bonus; you earned it."

So, maybe it was not surprising that this outstanding nurse's suggestion was approved. All bodies were henceforth to be draped with a flag. A small thing, perhaps, but something. "After all, they have given so much," she said.

It was a typical day when the next man passed away. Men sat in wheelchairs in the hall. Others slouched lost in thought or in the absence of it. Nurses and physicians hustled back and forth. But when that flag-draped gurney appeared with the man's family walking behind, one of the old veterans saw the flag, leapt to his feet and instinctively barked, "Attention!"

And up and down the hall, as if this were some miraculous awakening, one by one, men rose, stood crisply at attention and saluted smartly as the gurney went past. They remembered they were soldiers.

Can you imagine what it meant to the family? Can you imagine? And when the gurney was gone, the old soldier barked again: "At ease!" Slowly, the men slumped back to where they were. Back into the fog. The staff watched in amazement.

There was not a dry eye in the place.

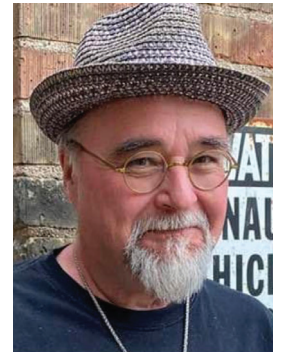
When the family of the soldier who had barked the orders came to visit a few days later, the nurse shared the story. When the next visitors came, she urged him to tell the story. They argued back and forth good naturedly, but he won out. "You tell it," he beamed. "I like the way you tell it."

Curious, isn't it, how one small thing can become so great? "Oh, I just feel like I found my calling," she told me when I called last week, as if that was any explanation at all. Maybe these events are not extraordinary, but the way she sees the world is, and that is where the magic comes in. She told me how much she loved a job most of us couldn't do.

I responded with a few sentences in a choppy, uneven cadence. I paused. Swallowed hard. "I just wanted to tell you how proud I am of you," I told my sister.

That was all I could get out.

There was not a dry eye in the place.



**That's
Life**
by Tony Bender

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Netters have clean sweep over Florence-Henry

Groton Area's volleyball team defeated Florence-Henry in action played Monday in Groton. Groton won in set scores of 25-11, 25-16 and 25-16.

Groton Area: Rylee Dunker, 10 kills, 2 blocks; Taryn Traphagen, 9 kills, 1 assisted block; Chesney Weber, 6 kills, 7 ace serves, 13 assists; Jaedyn Penning, 4 kills, 2 ace serves, 6 digs; Faith Traphagen, 4 kills, 1 assisted block; Kella Tracy, 3 kills; Laila Roberts, 1 ace serve, 8 digs; Sydney Locke, 1 ace serve; Elizabeth Flihs, 1 ace serve, 17 assists; Jerica Locke, 16 digs.

Florence-Henry: Kyra Tschakert, 3 kills; Roean Raymer, 3 kills, 2 blocks; Rebecca Fleming, 4 kills; Lucy Bloom, 3 kills; Kaylee Vavruska, 1 ace serve; Elizabeth Reiter, 1 kill; Ana Byer, 1 kill.

Groton Area won the junior varsity match, 25-10 and 30-28.

Groton Area: Makenna Krause, 8 kills; Emerlee Jones, 6 kills; Talli Wright, 4 ace serves, 2 kills; LIby Althoff, 2 kills, 2 ace serves; Kella Tracy, 2 kills, 2 ace serves; McKenna Tietz, 3 kills.

Florence-Henry: Lucy Bloom, 4 kills, 1 ace serve; Kali Hanson, 3 kills; Jayda Orthaus, 1 kill, 1 block; Mylee Sumner, 1 kill; Emery Schamer, 1 kill.

Both matches were broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM. The varsity was sponsored by Agtegra, Avantara Groton, Bierman Farm Service, BK Custom T's & More, Blocker Construction, Dacotah Bank, Fans of Jaedyn Penning, Groton Ag Partners, Groton Chamber, Groton Ford, John Sieh Agency, Jungle Lanes & Lounge, Krueger Brothers, R&M Farms/Rix Farms, The Meathouse in Andover. The junior varsity match was sponsored by Adam and Nicole Wright.

Groton Area won the C match, 25-17, 25-9.



Taryn Traphagen
(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



Rylee Dunker
(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

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Groton Invitational Cross Country Meet

Olive Grove Golf Course was the site for the cross country meet on Monday. Faith Traphagen placed third in the 5K girls varsity division with a time of 22:45.20. Jayden Schwan placed ninth in the boys varsity division with a time of 20:55.75 and Kason Oswald placed 26th with a time of 24:30.99.

In the junior varsity 3K race, Sydney Holmes placed fifth with a time of 16:03.50, in the girls division while Logan Clocksene placed 13th in the boys division with a time of 21:30.34.

In the middle school 3K division, Grayden Zeck took second in the boy's division with a time of 13:51.48, Blake Malsam placed fourth with a time of 14:24.87 and Landon Thornton placed eighth with a time of 17:24.60. Andi Iverson placed sixth in the girl's division with a time of 14:59.05.

Munchkin Run



K-1 Girls: 2, Kennedy Ball; 1, Aubrie Traphagen; 3, Emme Flihs



K-1 Boys: 2, Beau Traphagen; 1, Max Erickson; 3, Jax Ronning

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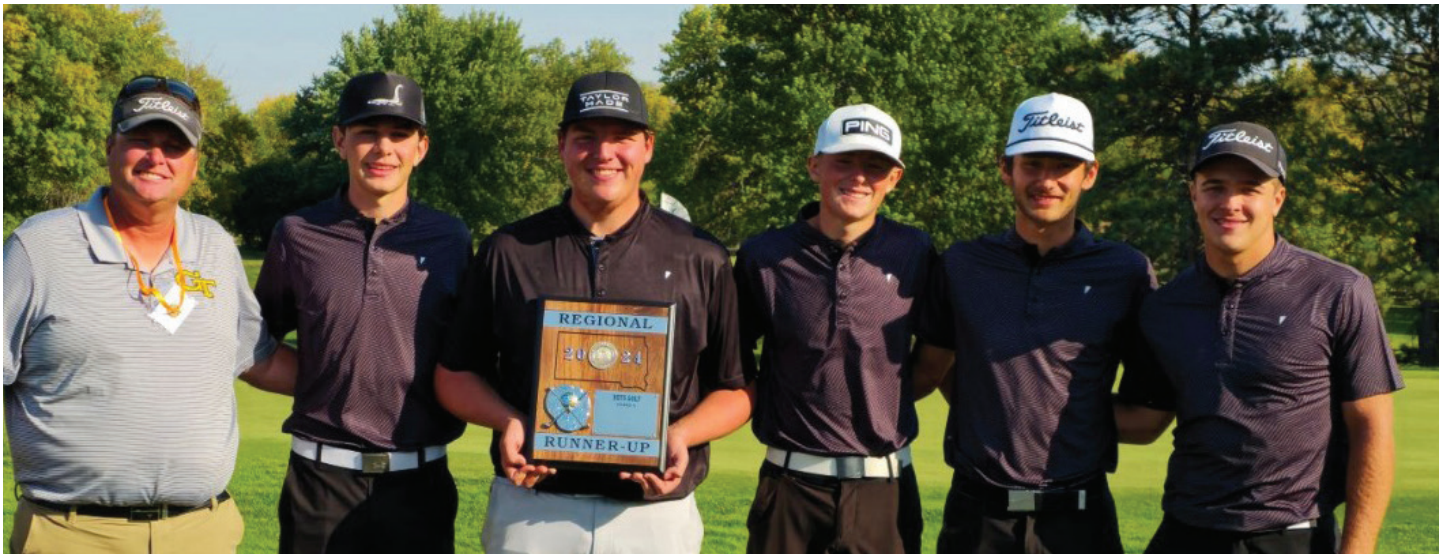
Grades 2-3 Boys: 2, Quinton Ronning; 1, Freddy Cole; 3, Logan Gonsoir



Grades 2-3 Girls: 1, Calli Wilkinson; 3, Emari Melhoff; 2, Mya Flihs



Grades 4-5: 1, Chase Cleveland; 1, Taylor Flihs; 2, Haley Erickson; 3, Hazel Hill

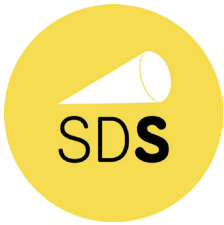


Pictured left to right are Coach Joel Guthmiller, Cater Simon, Logan Pearson, Jace Johnson, Jarrett Erdmann and Brevin Flihs. (Courtesy Photo)

Boys take second at Region Golf; Flihs takes first

The Groton Area boys golf team took second at the Region 1A Golf Tournament held Monday in Milbank. Brevin Flihs took first place at the tournament with a score of 79, two strokes better than Milbank's Jonathan DeBoer. Carter Simon and Logan Pearson tied for 11th with a score of 90, Jace Johnson placed 18th with a 96 and Jarrett Erdmann placed 32nd with a score of 113.

Aberdeen Roncalli won the team title with 348 points followed by Groton Area with 355, Sioux Valley 359, Milbank, 359, Madison, 373, Dell Rapids 404 and Sisseton 405.



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

Amid rash of school threats, authorities encourage reporting while warning of penalties for sharing

BY: JOSHUA HAIAR - SEPTEMBER 30, 2024 4:35 PM

Students who see a school threat on social media should report it to authorities, but those same authorities want students to know that sharing threats on social media could be treated as a crime punishable with prison time.

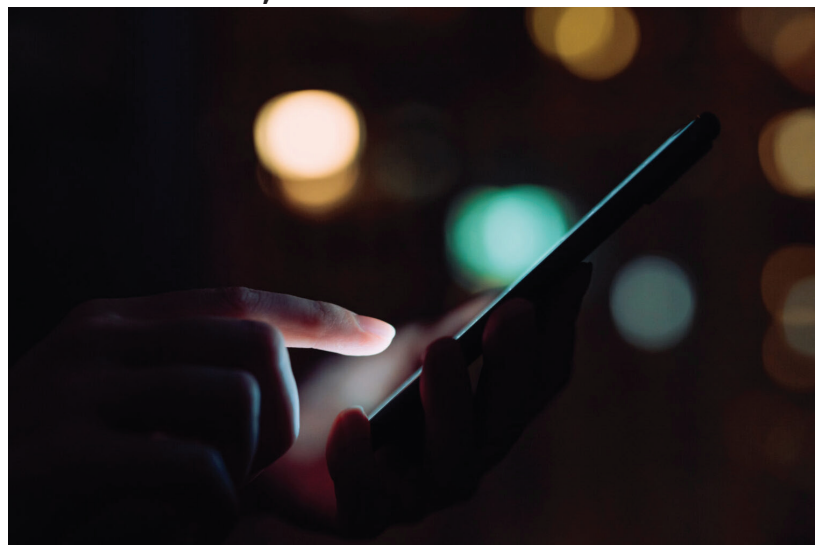
"Think about what you're doing before you hit send or share, because any perceived threat is going to be taken very seriously," said Rob Monson, executive director of the School Administrators of South Dakota.

He added that schools will always err on the side of safety if a threat's seriousness is unclear, given the potential consequences of not taking a threat seriously enough.

South Dakota schools and law enforcement agencies' responses to recent threats have involved locking down schools, evacuating buildings and launching investigations involving multiple law enforcement agencies.

"We will investigate every little thing that happens," Monson said. "Kids need to understand that cops are getting called, and there are criminal repercussions. These are potential acts of terrorism."

In South Dakota, making a bomb or firearm threat to a public school is a felony. The maximum sentence for anyone prosecuted as an adult — including minors, who can be charged as an adult in some circumstances — is 10 years in the penitentiary and a \$20,000 fine.



Authorities say students should report threats they see on social media, but shouldn't share them.

(Getty Images)

A surge in threats

South Dakota has not suffered any fatal school shootings other than accidents and suicides, according to a database maintained by Everytown for Gun Safety and other online databases. But a school principal was injured in a 2015 shooting at Harrisburg High School, and a custodian was shot and injured at Enemy Swim Day School in 2018.

The current school year began with a school shooting in Georgia that claimed four lives. In the weeks since then, South Dakota schools have suffered a rash of threats and actions treated as threats. They ranged from bomb threats scribbled on bathroom stalls to social media posts depicting firearms aimed at students.

On Sept. 14, a bomb threat at Spearfish High School led to the evacuation of the building and the postponement of a volleyball game. No device was found.

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A social media post shared by a Stagebarn Middle School student on Sept. 13 in Summerset — later determined to be non-credible — prompted officials to place all schools in the Meade School District on secure status.

In Sioux Falls, police investigated two non-credible social media threats this month. A third took place Monday, when Sioux Falls Police responded to Washington High School after receiving a false report of an active shooter, which was determined to be a hoax.

One of the more alarming incidents so far this school year occurred in Sioux Falls on Sept. 11, which resulted in a 15-year-old being taken into custody for making terroristic threats and possessing a weapon on school grounds.

Thinking twice

Following the Sept. 13 incident, Meade County Sheriff Pat West said in a press release that the widespread use of social media has made it easier for people to share inappropriate content, including threats of violence.

“Unfortunately these incidents are becoming all too common,” he said. “The world of social media and the problems associated with these different platforms allow for the exchange of too many inappropriate messages and photos.”

West said “REPORT, DON’T SHARE” should be the advice moving forward.

Rapid City Area Schools Acting Superintendent Cory Strasser shared the same sentiment. He said social media rewards content that gets attention, so it’s not hard to understand why an impulsive teen might share something shocking.

“Sometimes kids seek attention, and this is a way to do that,” Strasser said.

Strasser added that schools need help.

“Report it when you see these threats,” he said, “as well as communicating with students that these things are inappropriate, shouldn’t be done, and explain the consequences.”

The state’s role

Threats to schools are handled at the local level, said Brad Reiners, spokesperson for the state Department of Public Safety, in a statement. But the state plays a role.

Reiners said the state Office of Homeland Security, through its School Safety Center, provides free training and resources for schools to identify threats and provide intervention.

Additionally, he said the South Dakota School Safety Center works with school administrations and staff, mental health professionals, law enforcement and community leaders “to provide a holistic approach to school safety.” And he said the state Safe2Say tip line (1-844-373-7233) provides a way for individuals to report threatening or concerning behaviors.

Meanwhile, the South Dakota Fusion Center helps local agencies detect threatening social media posts and track the source to identify potential offenders.

The South Dakota Department of Education declined an interview request for this story. The Governor’s Office sent a statement reiterating Reiners’ comments.

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

Energy and climate: Where do Harris and Trump stand?

BY: JACOB FISCHLER - SEPTEMBER 30, 2024 1:38 PM

Highlighted in Joe Biden's 2020 campaign as one of the major crises facing the country, climate change has received much less attention in the 2024 race for the presidency.

The candidates, Republican former President Donald Trump and Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris, share the twin goals of lowering energy costs and increasing U.S. jobs in the sector, but diverge widely in their plans to get there.

On the campaign trail, each has spent relatively little time detailing their own plans, instead criticizing the other as extreme.

Harris favors an expansion of renewable energy, which supplies power without the carbon emissions that are the primary driver of climate change.

She has touted her tie-breaking vote in the U.S. Senate to pass the Inflation Reduction Act, the broad domestic policy law Democrats pushed through along party lines that includes hundreds of millions in clean-energy tax credits.

Trump supports fossil fuel production, blaming policies to support renewable energy for rising energy prices. He has called for removing prohibitions on new oil and gas exploration to increase the supply of cheap fuel and reduce costs.

Promise: Promote fossil fuels

Both candidates promise to lower the cost of energy.

For Trump, that has involved hammering the Biden-Harris administration for encouraging renewable energy production.

Inflation was caused by "stupid spending for the Green New Deal, which was a green new scam, it turned out," Trump said at a Sept. 26 press conference. "Do you notice that they never mention anything about environment anymore? What happened to the environment?"

The former president said at a Sept. 25 campaign stop he would "cut your energy (costs) in half," by reducing regulations and cutting taxes.

He has not produced a detailed plan to achieve that goal.

Implicit in Trump's argument is that the Biden administration's focus on renewable energy has hampered oil and gas production, limiting supply and driving up prices.

But Harris has presented her support for renewable energy modes as part of a broader portfolio that includes fossil fuels.

Harris has highlighted the Inflation Reduction Act opened up new leases for oil and gas production while providing incentives for wind and solar power.

"I am proud that as vice president over the last four years, we have invested a trillion dollars in a clean energy economy while we have also increased domestic gas production to historic levels," she said at a Sept. 10 ABC News debate with Trump.



Rivian Electric Delivery Vehicles (EDV) are seen connected to electric chargers during a launch event between Amazon and Rivian at an Amazon facility on July 21, 2022, in Chicago. (Mustafa Hussain/Getty Images)

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A report this month from the U.S. Energy Information Administration showed that U.S. fossil fuel production reached an all-time high in 2023.

Promise: Promote renewables

Harris has also pointed to provisions of the IRA that provide consumers with tax benefits for green technology, such as home heat pumps, as a way to bring down costs.

"Thanks to tax credits on home energy technologies in the Inflation Reduction Act, more than 3.4 million American families saved \$8.4 billion in 2023," her campaign's 82-page economic plan reads.

Trump also says he supports some climate-conscious technology, including megadonor Elon Musk's Tesla brand of electric vehicles, but that Democrats have overinvested in non-fossil fuels.

He has called elements of the Inflation Reduction Act "giveaways," and has singled out spending on electric vehicle charging infrastructure as wasteful.

Promise: Restore jobs

Biden has long talked about a transition away from fossil fuels as a benefit to U.S. workers, positioning them on the cutting edge of a growing industry.

Harris has similarly framed the issue in economic terms, saying the Inflation Reduction Act and other climate policies have created jobs.

"We have created over 800,000 new manufacturing jobs while I have been vice president," she said at the Sept. 10 debate. "We have invested in clean energy to the point that we are opening up factories around the world."

At a campaign stop in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, this month, Harris said Trump's focus on fossil fuels would hamper job growth, saying he would "send thousands of good-paying clean energy jobs overseas."

Trump and his running mate, Ohio Sen. J.D. Vance, have said Democrats' focus on renewable energy sources has limited existing energy jobs.

"We've got great energy workers in Ohio and all across our country," Vance said at an August campaign stop in his home state. "They want to earn a reasonable wage and they want to power the American economy. Why don't we have a president that lets them do exactly that?"

"Unleash American energy," he said. "Drill, baby, drill and let's turn the page on this craziness."

Promise: Repeal Democrats' climate law

Trump has had harsh words for Democrats' climate law, blaming its spending for rising inflation.

"To further defeat inflation, my plan will terminate the Green New Deal, which I call the Green New Scam. Greatest scam in history, probably," he told the Economic Club of New York in a Sept. 5 speech.

He said as president he would redirect any unspent funds in the law.

Trump has sought to distance himself from the policy blueprint Project 2025, written by the Heritage Institute.

But there is some overlap between what the conservative think tank has laid out and what Trump said he plans to do in a second term in the White House.

Project 2025 calls for repealing the Inflation Reduction Act, describing it as a subsidy to special interests.

Harris often mentions her tie-breaking vote for the law and has described her plans as president to expand on the law's objectives.

Harris' policy plan said she "proudly cast" the tie-breaking vote for the climate bill and that, as president, she would "continue to invest in a thriving clean energy economy."

She added she would seek to improve that spending by cutting regulations "so that clean energy projects are completed quickly and efficiently in a manner that protects our environment and public health."

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

COMMENTARY

Clarity needed over glyphosate misbranding at state, fed levels Expect the U.S. Supreme Court to soon take up the debate over Roundup's cancer risk warnings

by DAVE DICKEY, INVESTIGATE MIDWEST

After two colossal failures, Bayer AG finally got a golden ticket from a U.S. Court of Appeals making it certain that the ongoing fight over glyphosate warning labels falls into the lap of the Supreme Court.

If nothing else, Bayer is prescient.

Bayer announced its acquisition of Monsanto, maker of Roundup and its active ingredient glyphosate in 2016, and completed the \$63 billion dollar takeover two years later. Since then it's been one huge rolling fight over whether Bayer bears liability for injury due to glyphosate exposure.

In recent years, plaintiffs have increasingly claimed that Bayer failed to warn them of the risks of using Roundup, often citing a 2015 International Agency for Research on Cancer study that concluded glyphosate was "probably carcinogenic to humans" — a decision Bayer outright rejects as does the EPA.

The judicial linchpin of failure-to-warn lawsuits surrounds interpretation of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act.

FIFRA is the primary law regulating pesticides in the United States. Under FIFRA, the Environmental Protection Agency must approve a warning label before a pesticide can be sold to consumers. The EPA is tasked with determining whether a particular pesticide, when used as detailed on its label, is safe from unreasonable adverse effects on the environment. FIFRA defines said effects as "any unreasonable risk to man or the environment, taking into account the economic, social, and environmental costs and benefits of the use of any pesticide."

Once a label receives EPA approval, FIFRA law says the label can only be modified through an application for amended registration. The law goes on to say that states aren't allowed to modify an EPA-approved/FIFRA-issued pesticide warning label.

But there's a sticky wicket that's been primarily responsible for all those pesticide warning label lawsuits against Bayer. FIFRA also prohibits the sale of any pesticide that is "misbranded." Under FIFRA, misbranded warning labels fail to contain a warning or caution statement that may be necessary to protect health and environment.

The bottom line: to be sold, pesticides must have required health and safety warnings.

Misbranding has become the claim du jour for plaintiffs, who routinely argue in state courts that defendants failed to warn on labels that use of their pesticides could result in health injuries.

How that happens is a little tricky but stay with me. Pesticide plaintiffs argue that if a company violated state failure-to-warn laws, the company also violated FIFRA's misbranding ban. That's to say, FIFRA prohibitions on misbranding and failure-to-warn claims run parallel to each other.

Big Ag defendants counter that the idea of misbranding is utter nonsense because states are specifically prohibited by FIFRA from adding to or changing an EPA-approved warning label.



The Bayer Pharma AG building on Aug. 29, 2018, in Berlin, Germany. (Adam Berry/Getty Images)

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Until now, Bayer hasn't received a favorable ruling on the issue of misbranding. This past February, the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled for the plaintiffs, judging failure-to-warn claims do run parallel to FIFRA's misbranding prohibition. That followed on the heels of a 2021 Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruling in *Hardeman v. Monsanto*, which found for the defendants on the same grounds.

Now comes a new ruling from the Third Circuit Court of Appeals that disagrees with the earlier Ninth and Eleventh Court of Appeals decisions.

The current lawsuit revolves around two Pennsylvanians — David Schaffner Jr. and Theresa Sue Schaffner — who claim the state failed to warn them of cancer risks of Monsanto's/Bayer's glyphosate-based weedkiller Roundup. But the Third Circuit ruled FIFRA does, in fact, preempt pesticide state law failure-to-warn misbranding lawsuits:

"Because regulations promulgated to implement FIFRA require the health warnings on a pesticide's label to conform to the proposed label approved by the EPA during the registration process (the 'Pre Approved Label'), and because during Roundup's registration process the EPA approved proposed labels omitting a cancer warning following an extensive review of scientific evidence concerning Roundup's possible carcinogenicity, we conclude that the alleged state-law duty to include the Cancer Warning on Roundup's label (the 'Pa. Duty to Warn') imposes requirements that are different from those imposed under FIFRA, and that it is therefore preempted by FIFRA."

Which means Bayer is likely finalizing a writ of certiorari for the Supreme Court now that there is a split at the court of appeals level. I think there likely will be four votes for granting cert given the need for clarification over misbranding, which may have implications far beyond agricultural pesticides.

David Dickey served tours in the U.S. Marine Corps and U.S. Navy, is a 1988 graduate of the University of Illinois College of Media, and spent 28 years at the University of Illinois NPR member station WILL-AM 580. During the last 13 years of his career at WILL, he served as the station's director of agricultural programming. He started contributing on a freelance basis to Investigate Midwest in 2015. His focus is on national agricultural issues that often cross over into state agricultural or local agricultural policy.

Walz, Vance prep for debate as hurricane politics swirl around presidential campaign

BY: ASHLEY MURRAY - SEPTEMBER 30, 2024 4:51 PM

WASHINGTON — Republican U.S. Sen. J.D. Vance and Democratic Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz will face off Tuesday night for a vice presidential debate, the final scheduled in-person exchange between the campaigns as polls continue to show a tight race just over five weeks out from November's election.

The debate, hosted by CBS News, is scheduled to begin at 9 p.m. Eastern (8 Central, 7 Mountain) and last for 90 minutes. The event will air live on local CBS affiliate stations and stream on the CBS News app, CBSNews.com, YouTube and Paramount+.

The matchup between the running mates of former President Donald Trump and Vice President Kamala Harris brings together two men who both claim congressional records and previous service in the U.S. armed forces.

The debate also comes as the southeastern U.S. reels from the aftermath of Hurricane Helene, which barreled inland as a tropical storm that brought record-breaking flooding and claimed more than 100 lives — a third of them in North Carolina, a swing state in the 2024 presidential election.

Republican National Committee and Trump campaign officials said Monday that Vance, Ohio's junior senator, plans to attack Walz during the debate on several fronts, including tying Walz to the Biden administration.

"No amount of Minnesota nice is going to make up for the fact that Walz embodies the same disastrous economic, open-border and soft-on-crime (record) Harris has inflicted on our country over the last four years," said Minnesota GOP Congressman Tom Emmer, who has been standing in as Walz during Vance's

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debate prep.

"J.D. Vance is prepared to wipe the floor with Tim Walz and expose him for the radical liberal he is," Emmer told reporters on a Monday morning call.

But Jason Miller, senior adviser for the Trump campaign, warned "Walz is very good at debates. I want to repeat that Tim Walz is very good in debates, really good. He's been a politician for nearly 20 years."

Trump posted Monday on his Truth Social platform that he will be doing a "personal play by play" of the debate.

The Harris campaign has not revealed details about Walz's debate preparation. CNN reported that Walz is nervous and has been practicing with Department of Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg as a stand-in for Vance.

Walz spent Saturday in Ann Arbor at the University of Michigan Wolverines vs. University of Minnesota Golden Gophers football game, where he was greeted by local elected officials and rallied students about the importance of the youth vote, according to the campaign.



The entrance to the CBS Broadcast Center undergoes repairs on Sept. 30, 2024, the day before the vice presidential debate in New York City between Republican vice presidential candidate, Sen. J.D. Vance, R-Ohio, and the Democratic vice presidential candidate, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz. (Chip Somodevilla/Getty Images)

Military service, China

Trump campaign surrogates said debate watchers are guaranteed to see Vance attack Walz on his military service.

Vance touts his own four years in the U.S. Marine Corps from 2003 to 2007, during which he was deployed to Iraq in 2005 as a military journalist.

The Trump campaign maintains Walz retired to avoid being deployed to Iraq. Trump campaign officials featured two veterans on Monday's call who slammed Walz for being a "turncoat."

"He deserted his post and his unit after 24 years of military service," said Tom Behrends, a retired Command Sergeant Major for the Minnesota National Guard.

Walz, a former six-term congressman who represented the state's 1st Congressional District, served in the Army National Guard for 24 years prior to running for office. He deployed to Italy between 2003 and 2004 to support Operation Enduring Freedom, a non-combat post.

A fact check by PolitiFact found he filed his candidacy paperwork in February 2005, a month before the Walz battalion was notified of possible deployment within two years. Walz filed retirement paperwork five to seven months before the deployment notification, according to the fact check.

Walz led a U.S. House resolution in 2007 to honor the Minnesota service members for their deployment to Iraq, according to the National Guard.

Walz carries the distinction of being the highest-ranking enlisted soldier to ever serve in Congress, according to his congressional biography published in 2017.

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Walz suffered hearing loss and tinnitus after specializing in heavy artillery for two decades, according to Department of Veterans Affairs records he shared with journalists when running for governor in 2018.

He wrote in a 2013 benefits application that blasts "would knock us down and after firing I had ringing in my ears," according to the records reviewed by Minnesota Public Radio. Eventually Walz underwent surgery to improve his hearing loss.

Retired Sgt. 1st Class Tom Schilling, who joined the RNC call Monday, also attacked Walz's trips to China and how the governor handled "the George Floyd thing," referring to protests that rocked Minneapolis following the murder of Floyd, a Black man, by police.

"He had 30 trips to China that really haven't been answered. As a governor, he let Minneapolis burn," said Schilling, who served in the Minnesota National Guard.

Walz has said he's proud of the way local, state and federal officials handled the protests in Minneapolis and St. Paul. Walz ordered full National Guard mobilization roughly three days into the protests. However, Democratic Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey and state Republican officials both criticized parts of the response by Walz, according to a review by The Associated Press.

Walz taught for a year in the southern China city of Foshan. As a public school teacher in Minnesota he then took students on annual trips to China. In the past he said he visited China 30 times. When pressed for documentation of the trips by APM Reports, the Harris campaign said his visits totaled "closer to 15."

Trump visits Helene's destruction in Georgia

Trump delivered remarks Monday in front of a damaged furniture store in Valdosta, Georgia, wearing his signature red "Make America Great Again" hat.

"We're here today to stand in complete solidarity with the people of Georgia, with all of those suffering in the terrible aftermath of Hurricane Helene," Trump said, standing alongside American evangelist Franklin Graham, who was coordinating the delivery of supplies.

Trump also said the presidential campaigns should take a backseat to the storm response. "We're not talking about politics now, we have to all get together and get this solved."

Moments later he stated falsely that Biden had not taken calls from Georgia's Republican Gov. Brian Kemp. Biden had spoken with Kemp by phone Sunday.

Journalists traveling with Harris in Las Vegas, Nevada, reported in the wee hours of Monday that the vice president was canceling her campaign events to return to Washington, D.C., to be briefed on the response to Helene.

Harris issued a statement Saturday saying that her "heart goes out to everyone impacted by the devastation unleashed by Hurricane Helene.

"Doug and I are thinking of those who tragically lost their lives and we are keeping all those who loved them in our prayers during the difficult days ahead. President Biden and I remain committed to ensuring that no community or state has to respond to this disaster alone," she continued.

At his campaign rally Sunday in Erie, Pennsylvania, Trump criticized Harris for being in San Francisco "at fundraising events with her Radical Left lunatic donors, when big parts of our country have been devastated by that massive hurricane and are underwater, with many, many people dead."

President Joe Biden delivered remarks from the White House early Monday and pledged federal support to the affected areas. Biden has already issued emergency declarations for Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia. He also said he would visit the storm-ravaged areas as soon as his motorcade would not get in the way of response efforts.

Republicans for Harris

The Harris campaign continues to tout its growing endorsements from Republicans.

Former conservative Sen. Jeff Flake, of Arizona, announced his endorsement of Harris over the weekend.

"I've served with Kamala in the U.S. Senate. I've also served with Tim in the House of Representatives. I know them. I know first hand of their fine character and love of country," Flake wrote on X Sunday.

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Republican Voters Against Trump also announced on Sunday a new multi-million-dollar ad blitz in swing states.

The group launched a \$5.8 million ad campaign in Pennsylvania's Philadelphia, Harrisburg and Pittsburgh media markets. The ad launch is part of a \$15 million campaign that will also reach Arizona, Michigan and Wisconsin, according to a press release.

"Many swing voters are going to be making up their minds in the coming weeks, and it's critical that we let them know what's at stake," Sarah Longwell, the political action committee's executive director, said in a statement.

"You can repudiate him without renouncing your deeply held conservative values. We're here to help establish a permission structure for right-leaning swing voters to do the right thing and vote their conscience," the statement continued.

Ahead on the campaign trail

Trump is scheduled Saturday to return to Butler, Pennsylvania — the location of the first attempt on his life, during which he suffered a non-life-threatening ear injury and one spectator was killed by gunfire while two others were severely injured.

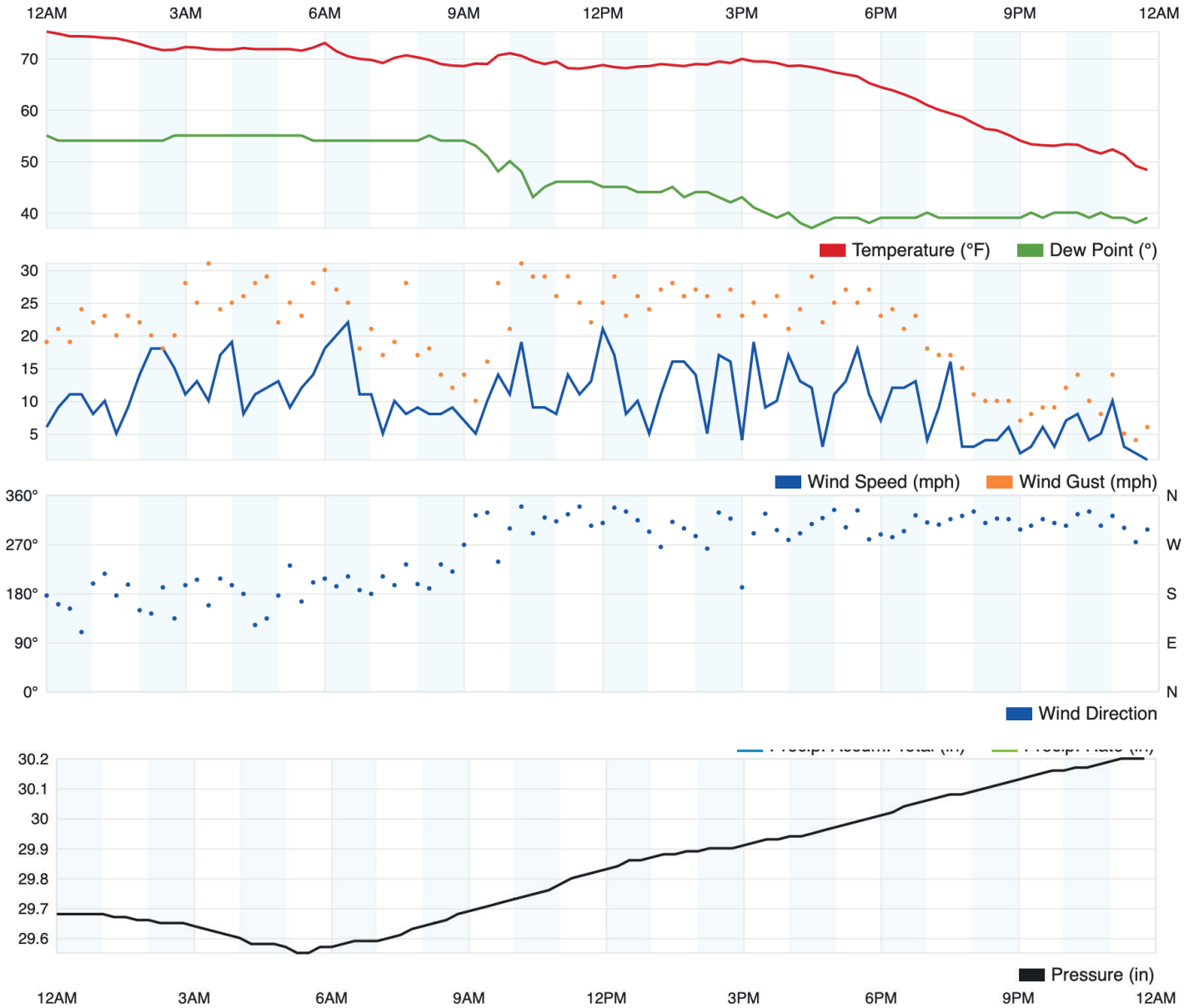
Trump also plans to hold a town hall Thursday in Fayetteville, North Carolina, well east of the devastation caused by Helene.

Ashley Murray covers the nation's capital as a senior reporter for States Newsroom. Her coverage areas include domestic policy and appropriations.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Today



High: 70 °F

Mostly Sunny

Tonight



Low: 50 °F

Partly Cloudy

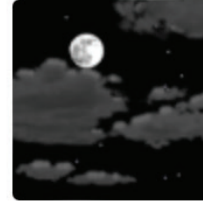
Wednesday



High: 83 °F

Sunny

Wednesday
Night



Low: 44 °F

Increasing
Clouds

Thursday



High: 64 °F

Partly Sunny

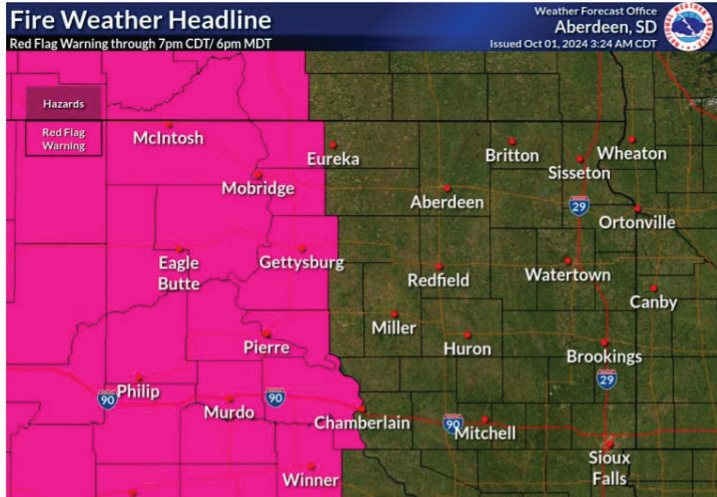


Fire Weather Concerns Through This Evening

October 1, 2024
3:45 AM

Key Messages

- West winds switching to the southwest today.
- Sustained speeds 10-25 mph with gusts between 25-30 mph.
- Minimum RH values between 14-20 percent.



	Minimum RH Forecast (%)																		
	6am	7am	8am	9am	10am	11am	12pm	1pm	2pm	3pm	4pm	5pm	6pm	7pm	8pm	9pm	10pm	11pm	12am
Aberdeen	65	64	62	53	43	33	27	22	21	20	19	19	21	24	27	29	29	29	29
Britton	81	67	70	55	42	35	28	24	21	18	19	19	20	27	34	32	32	31	30
Brookings	70	76	73	60	46	37	32	26	24	22	20	20	20	23	26	29	32	33	32
Chamberlain	62	64	64	55	41	32	26	22	20	18	17	17	18	20	22	25	27	27	27
Clark	70	67	67	53	48	37	29	25	22	21	21	21	22	27	31	32	31	32	30
Eagle Butte	60	56	54	48	37	30	27	23	21	17	18	18	18	23	24	28	29	30	31
Ellendale	73	62	64	49	38	28	24	21	19	17	17	17	18	23	27	27	28	30	29
Eureka	72	64	67	57	44	35	27	23	22	20	19	19	20	24	27	29	29	30	31
Gettysburg	73	62	64	55	42	31	28	23	22	20	19	19	20	23	26	30	30	31	31
Huron	64	70	62	55	41	33	27	22	19	17	17	17	18	20	23	27	29	30	29
Kennebec	61	62	59	49	36	30	23	21	19	16	15	16	17	20	23	26	28	29	29
McIntosh	61	59	61	54	42	32	27	22	20	18	16	16	17	19	23	28	30	30	32
Milbank	59	60	60	52	41	33	28	25	22	20	19	19	20	26	32	36	37	37	34
Miller	64	57	59	49	41	32	27	23	22	21	20	20	20	25	30	30	30	29	29
Moabridge	62	62	62	51	41	29	22	19	17	15	15	15	16	20	24	27	32	33	34
Murdo	50	52	50	43	37	30	22	19	17	15	14	14	14	17	21	25	28	29	29
Pierre	61	62	62	51	39	31	26	21	20	17	17	17	17	21	25	27	29	29	30
Redfield	79	64	64	53	41	32	27	22	21	19	18	18	20	24	27	28	29	29	30
Sisseton	54	55	57	49	43	34	30	24	23	19	19	19	20	26	31	32	33	31	30
Watertown	71	70	70	55	44	35	29	25	23	21	20	20	21	27	32	33	36	33	32
Webster	63	64	64	51	42	34	28	24	23	21	19	19	22	27	31	35	33	31	31
Wheaton	64	60	62	51	40	34	27	24	20	19	19	18	19	25	32	35	36	35	33

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

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

The Fire Weather Watch for Tuesday has been upgraded to a Red Flag Warning for central South Dakota. The dry air as well as some gusty winds will lead to critical fire weather conditions which could cause any fires that ignites to spread rapidly and be difficult to control. Burning should be avoided.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 75 °F at 12:00 AM

Low Temp: 49 °F at 11:30 PM

Wind: 31 mph at 3:27 AM

Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 11 hours, 43 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 93 in 2023

Record Low: 21 in 1974

Average High: 68

Average Low: 40

Average Precip in Oct.: .08

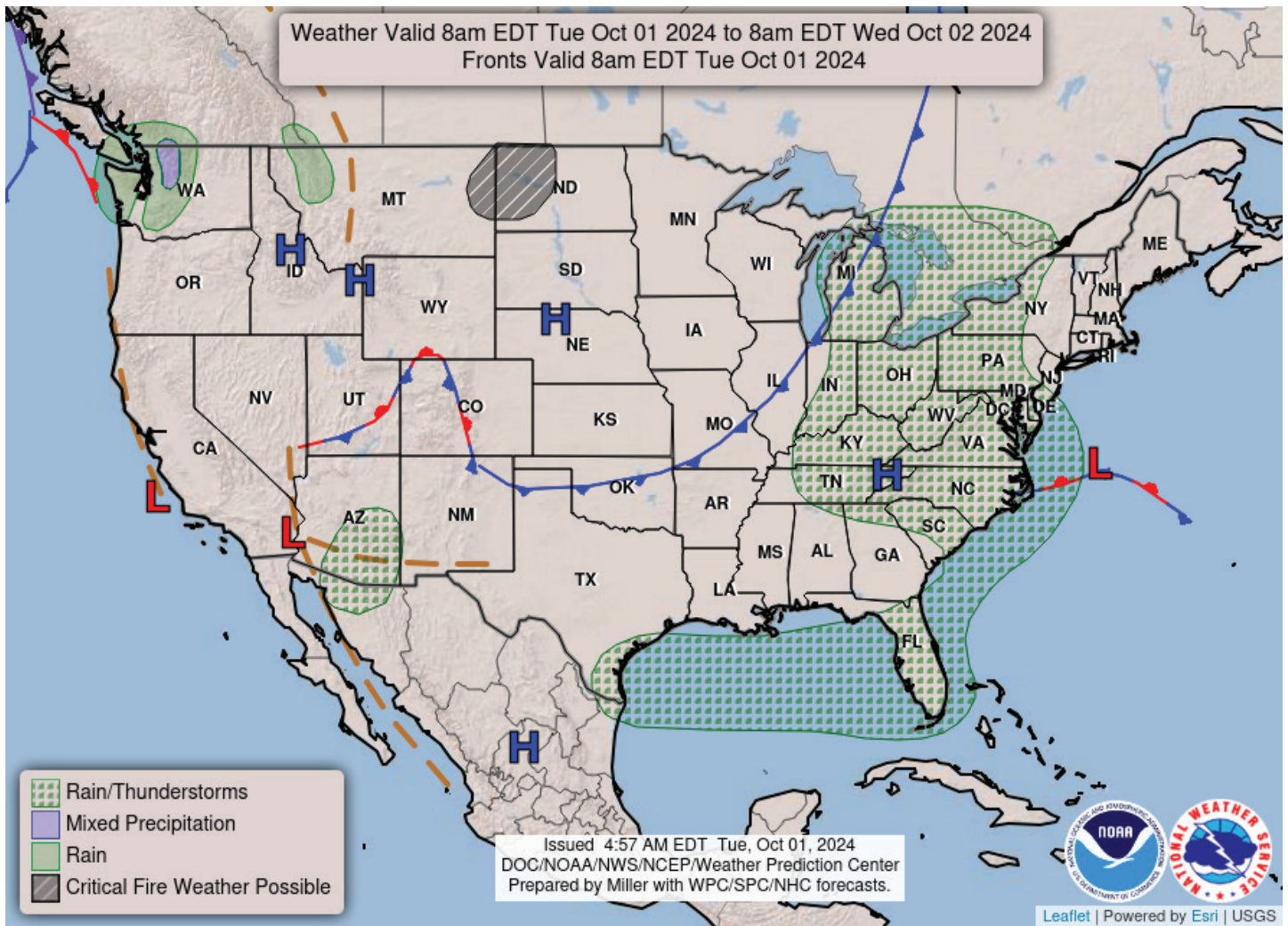
Precip to date in Oct.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 18.41

Precip Year to Date: 19.75

Sunset Tonight: 7:13:26 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:31:25 am



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Today in Weather History

October 1, 1971: A rare October tornado developed in Sully County during the evening hours. The brief tornado damaged a ranch home and large barn, 6 miles west-northwest of Onida.

October 1, 1999: A narrow band of heavy snow fell across portions of South Dakota. Snowfall amounts of 4 to 8" were typical in the relatively narrow band, breaking many daily records.

October 1, 2012: Drought continued to intensify and expand across central and northeast South Dakota through October, resulting in severe to exceptional drought conditions. Many locations continued the trend of recording well below-average precipitation totals for the month. The exceptional drought conditions expanded into Stanley, Jones, and southern Lyman counties. Extreme drought conditions spread into southern Dewey, Sully, Hughes, Lyman, Jones, Southwest Hyde, Hamlin, Codrington, Grant, and Deuel counties. Severe drought conditions spread into Corson, Dewey, northwest Hyde, Hand, Faulk, Edmunds, McPherson, Brown, eastern Clark, and southern Roberts Counties.

1752 - The second severe hurricane in two weeks hit the Carolinas. The Onslow County Courthouse was destroyed along with all its records, and Beacon Island disappeared. (David Ludlum)

1890: The weather service is first identified as a civilian agency when Congress, at the request of President Benjamin Harrison, passes an act transferring the Signal Service's meteorological responsibilities to the newly-created U.S. Weather Bureau in the Department of Agriculture.

1893: On this day, the village of Caminadaville, Louisiana, was destroyed by a massive hurricane. Caminadaville was a vibrant fishing community in the late 19th century, located on Cheniere Caminada, adjacent to Grand Isle in coastal Jefferson Parish in Louisiana. It took five days for the news of this devastating hurricane to reach New Orleans.

1938: Grannis and Okay, Arkansas set an all-time high-temperature record for October for Arkansas with 105 degrees.

1945: While investigating a Category 1 typhoon over the South China Sea, the typhoon hunter plane was lost. This marks the first of only a few instances of the Hurricane/Typhoon plane was lost during their flight into the storm.

1958: NASA officially begins operations on October 1st, 1958.

1977: While an F3 tornado traveled less than one-mile through Montfort Heights or the greater Cincinnati area, it destroyed 12 homes and damaged 15 others. There were 17 injuries.

1987 - A blast of cold arctic air hit the north central U.S. An afternoon thunderstorm slickened the streets of Duluth MN with hail and snow, and later in the afternoon, strong northerly winds reached 70 mph. Unseasonably warm weather continued in the Pacific northwest. Afternoon highs of 90 degrees at Olympia WA, 92 degrees at Portland OR, and 89 degrees at Seattle WA, were records for the month of October. For Seattle WA it marked the twenty-first daily record high for the year, a record total in itself. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Afternoon and evening thunderstorms produced severe weather across central Oklahoma and the eastern half of Texas. Thunderstorms in Texas produced softball size hail northwest of Nocona, and baseball size hail at Troy and Park Springs. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather in the southeastern U.S. through the daytime and evening hours. Severe thunderstorms spawned eleven tornadoes, with seven of those tornadoes in Georgia. A tornado southwest of Moultrie, GA, killed two persons and injured a dozen others. Tornadoes also injured one person north of Graceville, FL, and two persons at Bartow, GA. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)



IS YOUR LIGHT SHINING?

It was in the darkness of night that we called on a mechanic to fix a problem with our car. As he worked under the hood, his helper stood by holding a flashlight so he could see what he was doing.

After a short amount of time, the helper became bored, began to watch our dog and turned the light away from the problem the mechanic was repairing.

"Shine your light on the engine," demanded the mechanic. "That's why you're here."

Jesus said that His followers were like "a city on a mountain, glowing in the night, for all to see." What an interesting picture to consider.

If you have ever flown in an airplane at night and looked out of the window, you have no doubt been fascinated to see the lights of the cities below. If the night is clear, their light cannot be hidden. Their "glow" can be seen for miles in every direction.

What is true of the lights of those cities can be true of the Christian. We always have the opportunity to "glow" like those lights for Christ. As His witnesses in His world, we are to be known for the "light" we can provide to those looking through the darkness of this world for directions to Christ, our Savior. Our faith must be seen if we are to have any value to the lost who are looking for their way in the world. Jesus said, "Don't hide your light, let it shine!"

Prayer: Help us, Jesus, to be the light You planned us to be in Your world. May our light shine brightly so that our words and deeds will lead and guide others to You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden." Matthew 5:14

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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Pay with Venmo: [@paperpaul](https://venmo.com/paperpaul) Phone Number to Confirm: 7460

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WINNING NUMBERS

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:
09.27.24

29 46 53 69 70 23

MegaPlier: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$93,000,000

NEXT 16 Hrs 13 Mins
DRAW: 31 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:
09.30.24

24 28 29 30 51 10

All Star Bonus: 4x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$10,290,000

NEXT 1 Days 15 Hrs 28
DRAW: Mins 30 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:
09.30.24

21 28 29 40 42 18

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT 15 Hrs 43 Mins
DRAW: 30 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:
09.28.24

5 12 15 22 26

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$46,000

NEXT 1 Days 15 Hrs 43
DRAW: Mins 31 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:
09.30.24

17 32 39 43 53 2

TOP PRIZE:
\$10,000,000

NEXT 1 Days 16 Hrs 12
DRAW: Mins 31 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:
09.30.24

9 11 30 43 69 20

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$275,000,000

NEXT 1 Days 16 Hrs 12
DRAW: Mins 31 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 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

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News from the **AP** Associated Press

Monday's Scores

The Associated Press

PREP VOLLEYBALL=

Baltic def. Dell Rapids St Mary, 25-15, 25-14, 25-13

Dakota Valley def. Western Christian, Iowa, 30-28, 26-24

Flandreau def. Deuel, 25-5, 25-15, 25-17

Harrisburg def. Brandon Valley, 25-17, 25-17, 25-14

Lennox def. Tea, 25-12, 25-17, 24-26, 25-19

Menno def. Andes Central/Dakota Christian, 25-17, 22-25, 25-18, 19-25, 15-9

North Central def. Ipswich, 25-20, 24-26, 25-15, 25-18

Parkston def. Tri-Valley, 29-31, 25-18, 25-14, 20-25, 15-12

Sioux Falls O'Gorman def. Aberdeen Central High School, 25-19, 25-18, 25-14

Wheaton/Herman-Norcross, Minn. def. Sisseton, 15-25, 25-7, 25-23, 25-22

Winner def. White River, 25-12, 25-18, 24-26, 25-7

Wolsey-Wessington def. Iroquois-Lake Preston, 25-10, 25-13, 25-19

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

Native Americans in Montana ask court for voting sites on reservation

By MATTHEW BROWN Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — Native Americans living on a remote Montana reservation filed a lawsuit against state and county officials Monday saying they don't have enough places to vote in person — the latest chapter in a decades-long struggle by tribes in the United States over equal voting opportunities.

The six members of the Fort Peck Reservation want satellite voting offices in their communities for late registration and to vote before Election Day without making long drives to a county courthouse.

The legal challenge, filed in state court, comes five weeks before the presidential election in a state with a pivotal U.S. Senate race where the Republican candidate has made derogatory comments about Native Americans.

Native Americans were granted U.S. citizenship a century ago. Advocates say the right still doesn't always bring equal access to the ballot.

Many tribal members in rural western states live in far-flung communities with limited resources and transportation. That can make it hard to reach election offices, which in some cases are located off-reservation.

The plaintiffs in the Montana lawsuit reside in two small communities near the Canada border on the Fort Peck Reservation, home to the Assiniboine and Sioux tribes. Plaintiffs' attorney Cher Old Elk grew up in one of those communities, Frazer, Montana, where more than a third of people live below the poverty line and the per capita income is about \$12,000, according to census data.

It's a 60-mile round trip from Frazer to the election office at the courthouse in Glasgow. Old Elk says that can force prospective voters into difficult choices.

"It's not just the gas money; it's actually having a vehicle that runs," she said. "Is it food on my table, or is it the gas money to find a vehicle, to find a ride, to go to Glasgow to vote?"

The lawsuit asks a state judge for an order forcing Valley and Roosevelt counties and Republican Secretary of State Christi Jacobsen to create satellite election offices in Frazer and Poplar, Montana. The offices would be open during the same hours and on the same days as the county courthouses.

The plaintiffs requested satellite election offices from the counties earlier this year, the lawsuit says.

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Roosevelt County officials allegedly refused, while Valley County officials said budget constraints limited them to opening a satellite voting center for just one day.

Valley County Attorney Dylan Jensen said there were only two full-time employees in the Clerk and Recorder's Office that oversees elections, so staffing a satellite office would be problematic.

"To do that for an extended period of time and still keep regular business going, it would be difficult," he said.

A spokesperson said Jacobsen's office had encouraged tribes and counties to work together to establish satellite offices as needed by Jan. 31, under a 2015 state elections directive.

"These types of conversations, as indicated by the directive, need to have occurred months ago," said Jacobsen's communications director Richie Melby.

Melby added that Jacobsen's office served all Montana voters and said the dispute had been stirred by "political activists."

Roosevelt County Clerk and Recorder Tracy Miranda did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Prior efforts to secure Native American voting rights helped drive changes in recent years that expanded electoral access for tribal members in South Dakota and Nevada.

A 2012 federal lawsuit in Montana sought to establish satellite election offices on the Crow, Northern Cheyenne and Fort Belknap reservations. It was rejected by a judge, but the ruling was later set aside by an appeals court. In 2014, tribal members in the case reached a settlement with officials in several counties.

Monday's lawsuit said inequities continue on the Fort Peck Reservation, and that tribal members have never fully achieved equal voting since Montana was first organized as a territory in 1864 and Native Americans were excluded from its elections. Native voters in subsequent years continued to face barriers to registering and were sometimes stricken from voter rolls.

"Equal means equal," said Bret Healy, an expert witness for the plaintiffs who was also involved in the 2012 Montana case. "It is substantively, mathematically and logically not equal if there's not a satellite office on the Indian Reservation."

Dockworkers go on a strike that could reignite inflation and cause shortages in the holiday season

By TOM KRISHER and TASSANEE VEJPONGSA Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A strike by dockworkers at 36 ports from Maine to Texas, the first in decades, could snarl supply chains and lead to shortages and higher prices if it stretches on for more than a few weeks.

Workers began walking picket lines early Tuesday in a strike over wages and automation even though progress had been reported in contract talks. The contract between the ports and about 45,000 members of the International Longshoremen's Association expired at midnight.

The strike comes just weeks before the presidential election and could become a factor if there are shortages.

Workers at the Port of Philadelphia walked in a circle outside the port and chanted "No work without a fair contract." The union, striking for the first time since 1977, had message boards on the side of a truck reading: "Automation Hurts Families: ILA Stands For Job Protection."

Local ILA president Boise Butler said workers want a fair contract that doesn't allow automation of their jobs.

Shipping companies made billions during the pandemic by charging high prices, he said. "Now we want them to pay back. They're going to pay back," Butler said.

He said the union will strike for as long as it needs to get a fair deal, and it has leverage over the companies.

"This is not something that you start and you stop," he said. "We're not weak," he added, pointing to the union's importance to the nation's economy.

At Port Houston, at least 50 workers started picketing around midnight local time carrying signs saying

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“No Work Without a Fair Contract.”

The U.S. Maritime Alliance, which represents the ports, said Monday evening that both sides had moved off of their previous wage offers. But no deal was reached.

The union’s opening offer in the talks was for a 77% pay raise over the six-year life of the contract, with President Harold Daggett saying it’s necessary to make up for inflation and years of small raises. ILA members make a base salary of about \$81,000 per year, but some can pull in over \$200,000 annually with large amounts of overtime.

Monday evening, the alliance said it had increased its offer to 50% raises over six years, and it pledged to keep limits on automation in place from the old contract. The alliance also said its offer tripled employer contributions to retirement plans and strengthened health care options.

The union wants a complete ban on automation. It wasn’t clear just how far apart both sides are.

In a statement early Tuesday, the union said it rejected the alliance’s latest proposal because it “fell far short of what ILA rank-and-file members are demanding in wages and protections against automation.” The two sides had not held formal negotiations since June.

Supply chain experts say consumers won’t see an immediate impact from the strike because most retailers stocked up on goods, moving ahead shipments of holiday gift items.

But if it goes more than a few weeks, a work stoppage could lead to higher prices and delays in goods reaching households and businesses.

If drawn out, the strike will force businesses to pay shippers for delays and cause some goods to arrive late for peak holiday shopping season — potentially impacting delivery of anything from toys and artificial Christmas trees to cars, coffee and fruit.

The strike will likely have an almost immediate impact on supplies of perishable imports like bananas, for example. The ports affected by the strike handle 3.8 million metric tons of bananas each year, or 75% of the nation’s supply, according to the American Farm Bureau Federation.

It also could snarl exports from East Coast ports and create traffic jams at ports on the West Coast, where workers are represented by a different union. Railroads say they can ramp up to carry more freight from the West Coast, but analysts say they can’t move enough to make up for the closed Eastern ports.

J.P. Morgan estimated that a strike that shuts down East and Gulf coast ports could cost the economy \$3.8 billion to \$4.5 billion per day, with some of that recovered over time after normal operations resume.

Retailers, auto parts suppliers and produce importers had hoped for a settlement or that President Joe Biden would intervene and end the strike using the Taft-Hartley Act, which allows him to seek an 80-day cooling off period.

But during an exchange with reporters on Sunday, Biden, who has worked to court union votes for Democrats, said “no” when asked if he planned to intervene in the potential work stoppage.

A White House official said Monday that at Biden’s direction, the administration has been in regular communication with the ILA and the alliance to keep the negotiations moving forward.

Israeli military warns several Lebanese communities near the border to evacuate

By JULIA FRANKEL and BASSEM MROUE Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — The Israeli military on Tuesday warned people to evacuate nearly two dozen Lebanese border communities hours after launching what it said was a limited ground incursion against the Hezbollah militant group. Hezbollah denied Israeli troops had entered but said it was ready to battle them.

The military advised people to evacuate north of the Awali River, some 60 kilometers (36 miles) from the border and much farther than the Litani River, which marks the northern edge of a U.N.-declared zone that was intended to serve as a buffer between Israel and Hezbollah after their 2006 war.

“You must immediately head north of the Awali River to save yourselves, and leave your houses immediately,” said the statement posted by the Israeli military’s Arabic spokesperson, Avichay Adraee, on the platform X.

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Israel's warning suggests push deeper into Lebanon

The border region has largely emptied out over the past year as the two sides have traded fire. But the scope of the evacuation warning raised questions as to how deep Israel plans to send its forces into Lebanon as it presses ahead with a rapidly escalating campaign against Hezbollah.

Israeli troops were so far within walking distance of the border, focused on villages hundreds of meters (yards) from Israel, an Israeli military official said earlier, speaking on condition of anonymity in line with military regulations. The official said there had been no clashes yet with Hezbollah fighters.

Hezbollah denied that Israeli troops had entered Lebanon but said its fighters are ready if they do.

In its first statement since Israel announced the start of ground operations, Hezbollah spokesman Mohammed Afif dismissed what he said were "false claims" of an Israeli incursion. He said Hezbollah is ready for "direct confrontation with enemy forces that dare to or try to enter Lebanon."

Israel strikes more targets and Hezbollah fires rockets

Israeli artillery units pounded targets in southern Lebanon through the night and the sounds of airstrikes were heard throughout Beirut.

The official said Hezbollah had launched rockets at central Israel, setting off air raid sirens and wounding a man in his 50s. Hezbollah said it fired salvos of a new kind of medium-range missile, called the Fadi 4, at the headquarters of two Israeli intelligence agencies near Tel Aviv.

Afif, the Hezbollah spokesman, said the missile attack "is only the beginning."

The Israeli military official said Hezbollah had also launched projectiles at Israeli communities near the border, targeting soldiers without wounding anyone.

Israel says it launched 'localized raids'

Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari, the Israeli military's top spokesperson, said troops were conducting "localized ground raids" on Hezbollah positions in southern Lebanon to ensure that Israeli citizens could return to their homes in the north.

Hezbollah began firing rockets into northern Israel shortly after Hamas' Oct. 7 attack into Israel ignited the war in Gaza. Israel has launched retaliatory airstrikes and the conflict has steadily escalated. In recent weeks Israel has unleashed a punishing wave of airstrikes across large parts of Lebanon, killing Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah and several of his top commanders, as well as many civilians.

Hagari said the U.N. Security Council resolution that ended the last Israel-Hezbollah war in 2006 had not been enforced and that southern Lebanon was "swarming with Hezbollah terrorists and weapons."

That resolution had called for Hezbollah to withdraw from the area between the border and the Litani River and for the Lebanese army and U.N. peacekeepers to patrol the region. Israel says those and other provisions were never enforced. Lebanon has long accused Israel of violating other terms of the resolution.

There was no immediate confirmation from the Lebanese army nor the U.N. peacekeeping force in southern Lebanon, known as UNIFIL, that Israeli forces had crossed the border.

UNIFIL said the military had notified it the day before of its "intention to undertake limited ground incursions into Lebanon" and described it as a "dangerous development." It noted that any such incursion would also violate the U.N. resolution and urged both sides to de-escalate.

Israeli official says no plans to march on Beirut

Lebanon's Prime Minister Najib Mikati said Monday that his country is willing to deploy the army in support of the resolution if there is a cease-fire. Lebanon's armed forces would not be able to impose an agreement on the far more powerful Hezbollah.

The military statements indicated that Israel might focus its ground operation on the narrow strip along the border, rather than launching a larger invasion aimed at destroying Hezbollah, as it has done in Gaza against the Palestinian Hamas.

The military official said marching to Beirut, as Israeli forces did during their 1982 invasion of Lebanon, is "not on the table."

Hezbollah and Hamas are close allies backed by Iran, and each escalation over the past year has raised fears of a wider war in the Middle East that could draw in Iran and the United States, which has rushed

military assets to the region in support of Israel.

The incursion follows weeks of heavy blows by Israel against Hezbollah — including an airstrike that killed its longtime leader Nasrallah — and seeks to step up the pressure on the group. The last time Israel and Hezbollah engaged in ground combat was a monthlong war in 2006.

There was no word on how long the operation would last, but the army said soldiers had been training and preparing for the mission in recent months.

A ground operation marks a new and potentially risky phase of fighting. It also threatens to unleash further devastation on Lebanon. Over 1,000 people have been killed in Lebanon in Israeli strikes over the past two weeks, nearly a quarter of them women and children, according to the Health Ministry. Hundreds of thousands of people have fled their homes.

Hezbollah is a well-trained militia, believed to have tens of thousands of fighters and an arsenal of 150,000 rockets and missiles. The last round of fighting in 2006 ended in a stalemate, and both sides have spent the past two decades preparing for their next showdown.

Recent airstrikes wiping out most of Hezbollah's top leadership and the explosions of hundreds of paggers and walkie-talkies belonging to Hezbollah indicate that Israel has infiltrated deep inside the group's upper echelons.

Hezbollah vowed Monday to keep fighting even after its recent losses. The group's acting leader, Naim Kasseem, said in a televised statement Monday that Hezbollah would be ready for a ground operation. He said commanders killed in recent weeks have already been replaced.

European countries have begun pulling their diplomats and citizens out of Lebanon. A British government-chartered flight is due to leave Beirut on Wednesday to evacuate U.K. nationals. The U.K. has also sent 700 troops to a base in the nearby island nation of Cyprus to prepare for a potential evacuation of the estimated 5,000 British citizens in Lebanon.

Shigeru Ishiba, Japan's newly elected prime minister, forms Cabinet with emphasis on defense

By MARI YAMAGUCHI Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Japan's parliament elected Shigeru Ishiba as the new prime minister on Tuesday, tasked with addressing public outrage over his governing party's corruption scandals ahead of a parliamentary election later this month, while trying to boost the economy and tackle security challenges from China and North Korea.

Ishiba replaces Fumio Kishida, who stepped down earlier Tuesday to pave the way for a fresh leader after Kishida's government was dogged by scandals.

Ishiba entered the Prime Minister's Office and formed his Cabinet, which includes several security and defense experts, as he has called for a stronger regional military alliance and a more equal Japan-U.S. security partnership.

Ishiba will hold a news conference later Tuesday to announce his Cabinet and some of his policy priorities.

Ishiba said he plans to call a parliamentary election for Oct. 27 so his new administration can have "the people's judgement" as soon as possible.

Ishiba appointed to his Cabinet two former defense ministers with whom he has worked closely — Takeshi Iwaya as foreign minister and Gen Nakatani as defense chief — underscoring his emphasis on defense and security policies.

Only two of the 19 ministers are women: actor-turned-lawmaker Junko Mihara as children's policy minister and Toshiko Abe as education minister. The government is under pressure to increase the number of women in public office. Women now account for only 10% of the lower house, placing Japan near the bottom of global gender-equality rankings.

Ishiba appointed several ministers who voted for him in the party leadership poll and retained Kishida's top confidante, Yoshimasa Hayashi, as chief Cabinet secretary. He also appointed Katsunobu Kato as fi-

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nance minister. Hayashi also previously served as defense minister.

The majority of his Cabinet members, including Ishiba, are unaffiliated with factions led and controlled by party heavyweights, and none are from former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's powerful group linked to damaging scandals.

Ishiba's lack of a stable power base could also mean his government will be fragile and "could quickly collapse" even though Ishiba hopes to build party unity as it prepares for the upcoming election, the liberal-leaning Asahi newspaper said.

The move is also seen as revenge by Ishiba, who was largely pushed to the side during most of Abe's reign.

Ishiba announced his party's leaders Monday ahead of naming his Cabinet. Former Environment Minister Shinjiro Koizumi, who came in third in the party leadership race, will head the party's election task force.

"I will squarely face the people, discuss policies sincerely to gain their understanding. My government won't walk away from challenges and get things done," Ishiba said before the parliamentary vote.

Opposition leaders criticized Ishiba for announcing such a plan before even becoming leader and allowing only several days for his policies to be examined and discussed in parliament before the national election. The parliament Tuesday adopted a plan to have sessions until Oct. 9, when Ishiba is expected to dissolve the lower house ahead of the Oct. 27 vote.

Opposition protests delayed the start of the parliamentary vote by about half an hour, signaling a rocky beginning for Ishiba.

Kishida had announced in August he would resign at the end of his three-year term to pave the way for a fresh leader ahead of the next national election, as corruption scandals dogged his party and government.

Earlier Tuesday, Kishida and his ministers stepped down at a Cabinet meeting. Kishida left his office after a brief send-off ceremony in which he was presented a bouquet of red roses and applauded by his staff and former Cabinet members.

"As we face a critical moment in and outside the country, I earnestly hope key policies that will pioneer Japan's future will be powerfully pursued by the new Cabinet," Kishida said in a statement.

Ishiba has proposed an Asian version of the NATO military alliance and more discussion among regional partners about the use of the U.S. nuclear deterrence. He also suggested a more equal Japan-U.S. security alliance, including joint management of U.S. bases in Japan and having Japanese Self Defense Force bases in the United States.

Ishiba outlined his views in an article to the Hudson Institute last week.

Ishiba proposes to combine existing security and diplomatic groupings, such as the Quad and other bilateral and multilateral frameworks involving the United States, Australia, New Zealand, South Korea and the Philippines.

He noted that an Asian version of NATO could also consider sharing control of U.S. nuclear weapons in the region as a deterrence against growing threats from China, North Korea and Russia.

He pledged to continue Kishida's economic policy aimed at pulling Japan out of deflation and achieving real salary increases, while tackling challenges such as Japan's declining birthrate and population and resilience to natural disasters.

The LDP has had a nearly unbroken tenure governing Japan since World War II. The party members may have seen Ishiba's more centrist views as crucial in pushing back challenges by the liberal-leaning opposition and winning voter support as the party reels from corruption scandals that drove down Kishida's popularity.

Ishiba, first elected to parliament in 1986, has served as defense minister, agriculture minister and in other key Cabinet posts, and was LDP secretary general under Abe.

Dockworkers at ports from Maine to Texas go on strike, a standoff risking new shortages

By TOM KRISHER and TASSANEE VEJPONGSA Associated Press

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PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Dockworkers at ports from Maine to Texas began walking picket lines early Tuesday in a strike over wages and automation that could reignite inflation and cause shortages of goods if it goes on more than a few weeks.

The contract between the ports and about 45,000 members of the International Longshoremen's Association expired at midnight, and even though progress was reported in talks on Monday, the workers went on strike. The strike affecting 36 ports is the first by the union since 1977.

Workers began picketing at the Port of Philadelphia shortly after midnight, walking in a circle at a rail crossing outside the port and chanting "No work without a fair contract."

The union had message boards on the side of a truck reading: "Automation Hurts Families: ILA Stands For Job Protection."

Local ILA president Boise Butler said workers want a fair contract that doesn't allow automation of their jobs.

Shipping companies made billions during the pandemic by charging high prices, he said. "Now we want them to pay back. They're going to pay back," Butler said.

He said the union will strike for as long as it needs to get a fair deal, and it has leverage over the companies.

"This is not something that you start and you stop," he said. "We're not weak," he added, pointing to the union's importance to the nation's economy

At Port Houston, at least 50 workers started picketing around midnight local time carrying signs saying "No Work Without a Fair Contract."

The U.S. Maritime Alliance, which represents the ports, said Monday evening that both sides had moved off of their previous wage offers. But no deal was reached.

The union's opening offer in the talks was for a 77% pay raise over the six-year life of the contract, with President Harold Daggett saying it's necessary to make up for inflation and years of small raises. ILA members make a base salary of about \$81,000 per year, but some can pull in over \$200,000 annually with large amounts of overtime.

But Monday evening, the alliance said it had increased its offer to 50% raises over six years, and it pledged to keep limits on automation in place from the old contract. The union wants a complete ban on automation. It wasn't clear just how far apart both sides are.

"We are hopeful that this could allow us to fully resume collective bargaining around the other outstanding issues in an effort to reach an agreement," the alliance statement said.

In a statement early Tuesday, the union said it rejected the alliance's latest proposal because it "fell far short of what ILA rank-and-file members are demanding in wages and protections against automation." The two sides had not held formal negotiations since June.

"We are prepared to fight as long as necessary, to stay out on strike for whatever period of time it takes, to get the wages and protections against automation our ILA members deserve," Daggett said in the statement. "They must now meet our demands for this strike to end."

The alliance said its offer tripled employer contributions to retirement plans and strengthened health care options.

Supply chain experts say consumers won't see an immediate impact from the strike because most retailers stocked up on goods, moving ahead shipments of holiday gift items.

But if it goes more than a few weeks, a work stoppage would significantly snarl the nation's supply chain, potentially leading to higher prices and delays in goods reaching households and businesses.

If drawn out, the strike will force businesses to pay shippers for delays and cause some goods to arrive late for peak holiday shopping season — potentially impacting delivery of anything from toys or artificial Christmas trees to cars, coffee and fruit.

The strike will likely have an almost immediate impact on supplies of perishable imports like bananas, for example. The ports affected by the strike handle 3.8 million metric tons of bananas each year, or 75% of the nation's supply, according to the American Farm Bureau Federation.

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It also could snarl exports from East Coast ports and create traffic jams at ports on the West Coast, where workers are represented by a different union. Railroads say they can ramp up to carry more freight from the West Coast, but analysts say they can't move enough to make up for the closed Eastern ports.

"If the strikes go ahead, they will cause enormous delays across the supply chain, a ripple effect which will no doubt roll into 2025 and cause chaos across the industry," noted Jay Dhokia, founder of supply chain management and logistics firm Pro3PL.

J.P. Morgan estimated that a strike that shuts down East and Gulf coast ports could cost the economy \$3.8 billion to \$4.5 billion per day, with some of that recovered over time after normal operations resume.

The strike comes just weeks before the presidential election and could become a factor if there are shortages. Retailers, auto parts suppliers and produce importers had hoped for a settlement or that President Joe Biden would intervene and end the strike using the Taft-Hartley Act, which allows him to seek an 80-day cooling off period.

But during an exchange with reporters on Sunday, Biden, who has worked to court union votes for Democrats, said "no" when asked if he planned to intervene in the potential work stoppage.

A White House official said Monday that at Biden's direction, the administration has been in regular communication with the ILA and the alliance to keep the negotiations moving forward. The president directed Chief of Staff Jeff Zients and National Economic Council Director Lael Brainard to convene the alliance's board members Monday afternoon and urge them to resolve the dispute fairly and quickly — in a way that accounts for the success of shipping companies in recent years and contributions of union workers.

School bus catches fire outside Bangkok and more than 20 are feared dead, officials say

BANGKOK (AP) — A bus carrying young students with their teachers caught fire in suburban Bangkok on Tuesday, with more than 20 of those on board feared dead, officials and rescuers said.

The bus was carrying 44 passengers from central Uthai Thani province for a school trip in Ayutthaya and Nonthaburi provinces, Transport Minister Suriya Junggruengkit told reporters at the scene.

Videos posted on social media showed the entire bus engulfed in fire with huge plumes of black smoke pouring out as it stood on the side of the road. Bodies were still inside the bus hours after the fire.

The students on the bus were reported to be in elementary and junior high school.

Interior Minister Anutin Charnvirakul said officials could not yet confirm the number of fatalities because they had not finished investigating the scene. He said the driver survived but appeared to have fled and could not yet be found.

Anutin had earlier said 25 were feared dead, but Piyalak Thinkaew, a rescuer of the Ruamkatanyu Foundation told reporters later that two more survivors had been found, reducing the number of those still missing to 23 — three teachers and 20 students.

Rescuers and officials were able to access the bus hours after the fire was put out. Piyalak said they were still unable to identify the bodies, most of which were found in the middle and back seats, leading them to assume that the fire started at the front of the bus.

Thai media reports and rescuers said the bus was heading to Nonthaburi when the fire started around noon in Pathum Thani province, a northern suburb of the capital.

A rescuer at the scene told Suriya that the fire likely started after one of the tires exploded and the vehicle scraped against a road barrier.

Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra offered her condolences in a post on social media platform X, saying the government would take care of medical expenses and compensate the victims' families.

The patRangsit Hospital, which is located near the scene, said in a news conference that it admitted three young girls, one of whom suffered burns to the face, mouth and eye.

Jimmy Carter at 100: A century of changes for a president, the US

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and the world since 1924

By BILL BARROW ATLANTA

Already the longest-lived of the 45 men to serve as U.S. president, Jimmy Carter is about to reach the century mark.

The 39th president, who remains under home hospice care, will turn 100 on Tuesday, Oct. 1, celebrating in the same south Georgia town where he was born in 1924.

Here are some notable markers for Carter, the nation and the world over his long life.

Booms most everywhere — but not Plains

Carter has seen the U.S. population nearly triple. The U.S. has about 330 million residents; there were about 114 million in 1924 and 220 million when Carter was inaugurated in 1977. The global population has more than quadrupled, from 1.9 billion to more than 8.1 billion. It already had more than doubled to 4.36 billion by the time he became president.

That boom has not reached Plains, where Carter has lived more than 80 of his 100 years. His wife Rosalynn, who died in 2023 at age 96, also was born in Plains.

Their town comprised fewer than 500 people in the 1920s and has about 700 today; much of the local economy revolves around its most famous residents.

When James Earl Carter Jr. was born, life expectancy for American males was 58. It's now 75.

TV, radio and presidential maps

NBC first debuted a red-and-blue electoral map in the 1976 election between then-President Gerald Ford, a Republican, and Carter, the Democratic challenger. But NBC's John Chancellor made Carter's states red and Ford's blue. Some other early versions of color electoral maps used yellow and blue because red was associated with Soviet and Chinese communism.

It wasn't until the 1990s that networks settled on blue for Democratic-won states and red for GOP-won states. "Red state" and "blue state" did not become a permanent part of the American political lexicon until after the disputed 2000 election between Al Gore and George W. Bush.

Carter was 14 when Franklin D. Roosevelt made the first presidential television appearance. Warren Harding became the first radio president two years before Carter's birth.

Attention shoppers

There was no Amazon Prime in 1924, but you could order a build-it-yourself house from a catalog. Sears Roebuck Gladstone's three-bedroom model went for \$2,025, which was slightly less than the average worker's annual income.

Walmart didn't exist, but local general stores served the same purpose. Ballpark prices: loaf of bread, 9 cents; gallon of milk, 54 cents; gallon of gas, 11 cents.

Inflation helped drive Carter from office, as it has dogged President Joe Biden. The average gallon in 1980, Carter's last full year in office, was about \$3.25 when adjusted for inflation. That's just 3 cents more than AAA's current national average.

From suffragettes to Kamala Harris

The 19th Amendment that extended voting rights to women — almost exclusively white women at the time — was ratified in 1920, four years before Carter's birth. The Voting Rights Act that widened the franchise to Black Americans passed in 1965 as Carter was preparing his first bid for Georgia governor.

Now, Carter is poised to cast a mail ballot for Vice President Kamala Harris. She would become the first woman, first Black woman and first person of South Asian descent to reach the Oval Office. Grandson Jason Carter said the former president is holding on in part because he is excited about the chance to see Harris make history.

Immigration, isolationism and 'America First'

For all the shifts in U.S. politics, some things stay the same. Or at least come back around.

Carter was born in an era of isolationism, protectionism and white Christian nationalism — all elements of the right in the ongoing Donald Trump era. In 2024, Trump is promising the largest deportation effort in U.S. history, while tightening legal immigration. He has said immigrants are "poisoning the blood of our

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country.”

Five months before Carter was born, President Calvin Coolidge signed the Immigration Act of 1924. The law created the U.S. Border Patrol and sharply curtailed immigration, limiting admission mostly to migrants from western Europe. Asians were banned entirely. Congress described its purpose plainly: “preserve the ideal of U.S. homogeneity.” The Ku Klux Klan followed in 1925 and 1926 with marches on Washington promoting white supremacy.

Trump also has called for sweeping tariffs on foreign imports, part of his “America First” agenda. In 1922, Congress enacted tariffs intended to help U.S. manufacturers. After stock market losses in 1929, lawmakers added the 1930 Smoot-Hawley tariffs, ostensibly to help American farmers. The Great Depression followed anyway. In the 1930s, as Carter became politically aware, the political right that countered FDR was driven in part by a movement that opposed international engagement. Those conservatives’ slogan: “America First.”

America’s and Carter’s pastime

Carter is the Atlanta Braves’ most famous fan. Jason Carter says the former president still enjoys watching his favorite baseball team.

In the 1990s, when the Braves were annual features in the October playoffs, Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter were often spotted in the owner’s box with media mogul Ted Turner and Jane Fonda, then Turner’s wife. The Braves moved to Atlanta from Milwaukee between Carter’s failed run for governor in 1966 and his victory four years later. Then-Gov. Carter was sitting in the first row of Atlanta Fulton-County Stadium on April 9, 1974, when Henry Aaron hit his 715th home run to break Babe Ruth’s career record.

When Carter was born, the Braves were still in Boston, their original city. Ruth had just completed his fifth season for the New York Yankees. He had hit 284 home runs to that point (still 430 short of his career total) and the original Yankee Stadium — “The House that Ruth Built” — had been open less than 18 months.

Booze, Billy and Billy Beer

Prohibition had been in effect for four years when Carter was born and wouldn’t be lifted until he was 9. The Carters were never prodigious drinkers. They served only wine at state dinners and other White House functions, though it’s a common misconception that they did so because of their Baptist mores. It was more because Carter has always been frugal: He didn’t want taxpayers or the residence account (his and Rosalynn’s personal money) to cover more expensive hard liquor.

Carter’s younger brother Billy, who owned a Plains gas station and died in 1988, had different tastes. He marketed his own brand, Billy Beer, once Carter became president. News sources reported that Billy Carter snagged a \$50,000 annual licensing fee from one brewer. That’s about \$215,000 today. The president’s annual salary at the time was \$200,000 — it’s now \$400,000.

The debt: More Carter frugality

The Times Square debt clock didn’t debut until Carter was in his early 60s and out of the White House. But for anyone counting the \$35 trillion debt, Carter doesn’t merit much mention. The man who would wash Ziploc bags to reuse them added less than \$300 billion to the national debt, which stood below \$1 trillion when he left office.

Other presidents

Carter has lived through 40% of U.S. history since the Declaration of Independence in 1776 and more than a third of all U.S. administrations since George Washington took office in 1789 — nine before Carter was president, his own and seven since.

When Carter took office, just two presidents, John Adams and Herbert Hoover, had lived to be 90. Since then, Ford, Ronald Reagan, Carter and George H.W. Bush all reached at least 93.

A former hostage fought for her own life in Gaza. A year on, she fights for her husband’s freedom

By TIA GOLDENBERG Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — As a hostage in Gaza, Aviva Siegel found herself begging for food and water. Since

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her release, she has found herself begging for her husband to be set free from his own ongoing captivity.

Siegel has come to embody the disaster that befell Israel on Oct. 7, 2023. Armed Hamas militants snatched her from her home and thrust her into Gaza's web of tunnels. Released during a brief cease-fire in November, she returned to find her community destroyed and became one of tens of thousands of Israelis displaced by conflict. She has emerged as a prominent voice in the struggle to free the remaining hostages, fighting tirelessly for her husband's release.

But as her ordeal reaches the one-year mark, Israel's attention is focused not on the plight of the hostages and their families, but on fighting Hezbollah in Lebanon. It's the latest diversion to chip away at Siegel's hope that she may reunite with her husband of 43 years anytime soon.

"The hostages, they are being left to die. To die slowly. How can I handle that? I just don't know how to handle it anymore," she said, sitting beside a poster of her husband, Keith, a 65-year-old American Israeli originally from Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

Her torment is all the more acute because she knows firsthand what her husband is enduring.

"Hostages were chained, tortured, starved, beaten up into pieces. I saw that in front of my eyes. That's what they did to us," she said from a short-term rental apartment in Tel Aviv, one of the many places she has lived since her return during the November cease-fire, the first and only deal reached between Israel and Hamas during the war.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed to continue the war until "total victory" over Hamas and pledged to bring home the hostages, but has faced widespread criticism that dozens remain captive a year after the attack. Netanyahu has also argued that the pressure on Hezbollah will, in turn, lead to pressure on its ally Hamas and help speed up the release of the hostages.

The Siegels were jolted awake on Oct. 7 at their home in Kibbutz Kfar Aza, one of the hardest-hit communities that day, by a burst of air raid sirens. Like so many others, they took cover in their safe room, built to protect against rocket attacks, that turned out to be no match for the rifle- and grenade-toting Hamas militants who stormed their home.

In its attack, Hamas kidnapped roughly 250 people, including women, children and older people. It killed some 1,200 people — most of them civilians — according to Israeli authorities. The war the attack sparked has killed more than 41,000 Palestinians, over half of them women and children, according to health officials in Gaza.

Hamas has said the hostages are treated humanely, but multiple accounts from freed hostages contradict that.

The militants led the Siegels out of their house, shoved her husband, breaking his ribs, and shot him in the hand, Siegel said. They were forced into their own car and driven into Gaza, where crowds of onlookers cheered at their capture.

Their first stop was a home with a living room that opened up into an underground tunnel.

"And there's somebody underneath the hole, in the hole underneath the ground, that's waiting with a smile, happy as can be. I'll never forget his face," she said.

They climbed down a steep ladder into the tunnel, one of several they were held in throughout Siegel's 51 days in captivity. All told, Siegel was moved around 13 times, held in both tunnels and militants' homes, she said.

On the first day, they were joined by other hostages and they were brought pita and cheese, which hardly anyone ate because they were all in shock. But throughout her captivity, food was scarce and Siegel said there were entire days when she wasn't brought anything to eat.

"They used to starve us while they ate in front of us and not bring us water for hours and days. I had an infection in my stomach, I was dehydrated. We had to beg — beg — for water. Beg and beg for food."

The first tunnel had light — others did not — as well as a fan that labored to circulate the scant air. Seven hostages were held in a room Siegel described as being about the size of three yoga mats. She found comfort in having her husband by her side throughout.

She brushed her teeth four times over those weeks and washed herself the same amount, in salt water.

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"It's disgusting. We were filthy. Dirty. The smell that came out of us is the worst that you can imagine," she said.

But worse was the treatment from the guards. Siegel, a 63-year-old grandmother of five, said she was pushed and yanked by the hair and shoved into cars.

Her captors told her that Hamas had taken over her kibbutz and that Israel didn't care about freeing her. So she was in disbelief when freedom came on Nov. 26. But it came at a price: Her husband was to remain behind.

Her parting words to him were, "Be strong for me," and she promised to be strong for him.

Since their painful goodbye, she has crisscrossed Israel and the world, sharing her story and pleading for her husband's release. She has met Netanyahu, United States President Joe Biden and United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, among others. She has spoken repeatedly to Israeli lawmakers and become a fixture at weekly protests in support of the hostages.

But her energetic advocacy has been beaten down by the horrific twists and turns of the war. Since her release, she has watched multiple rounds of hostage negotiations collapse. Hostages have been killed by Hamas but also mistakenly by Israeli forces, and some have been rescued.

The fighting in Israel's north, and the stunning assassination of Hezbollah's leader, Hassan Nasrallah, feels like another blow to her struggle, which has faded from the public consciousness.

Siegel said she can't bring herself to watch a video of her husband that Hamas released in April. Clearly filmed under duress, he says he is OK, but breaks down in tears and lays his head on his knees, sobbing.

She finds the strength to soldier on by thinking about him, a vegetarian who loves reading books to his grandchildren and studied Arabic so he could converse with workers from Gaza who were employed in the kibbutz. But a year on, her hope is wearing thin.

"I don't know why I get up," she said. "But I do know that I have to get up for Keith."

China marks 75 years of Communist Party rule as economic challenges and security threats linger

BEIJING (AP) — China is marking the 75th year of Communist Party rule as economic challenges and security threats linger over the massive state.

No festivities have been announced for the occasion Tuesday, save for a flag-raising ceremony at Tiananmen Square, with an honor guard marching from the entrance of the sprawling palace that in past centuries was the home of Chinese emperors. The entirely state-controlled media ran constant reports on China's economic progress and social stability, with no mention of challenges ranging from a declining birth rate to the disruption in supply chains that has harmed the largely export-driven economy.

Commemorations were also held in the former British colony of Hong Kong and Portugal's former territory of Macao, both of which returned to Chinese sovereignty in the late 1990s in a key indication of Beijing's determination to overcome what it has called a "Century of Humiliation."

In recent decades, China has mounted military parades and displays of the country's economic might only at the turn of decades, such as for the 60th and 70th anniversaries.

The world's second largest economy has struggled to regain momentum after the COVID-19 pandemic. A prolonged property slump led to a spillover effect on other parts of the economy, from construction to sales of home appliances. Last week, China announced a slew of measures to boost the economy, including lower interest rates and smaller down payment requirements for mortgages.

Party leader and head of state Xi Jinping has largely avoided overseas travel since the pandemic, while continuing with his purges at home of top officials considered insufficiently loyal or being suspected of corruption or personal indiscretions.

"The road ahead will not be smooth, there will definitely be difficulties and obstacles, and we may encounter major tests such as high winds and rough seas, or even stormy waves" Xi warned during a banquet on the eve of the anniversary.

"We must be vigilant in times of peace, plan ahead, and rely closely on the entire Party, the entire army,

and people of all ethnic groups across the country” he said, “no difficulties can stop the Chinese people from moving forward.”

The anniversary also comes as China is facing growing frictions with neighbors including Japan, South Korea and the Philippines over territorial claims and their close relationships with Beijing’s chief rival, the United States.

The Communists under Mao Zedong seized power in 1949 amid a civil war with the Nationalists, also known as the KMT, led by Chiang Kai-shek, who shifted their political, economic and military power to the now self-governing island democracy of Taiwan.

Beijing continues to insist Taiwan must be annexed under Communist Party rule, by force if necessary, while the U.S. has provided arms to ensure its defense.

China, meanwhile, has involved itself in disputes over its claims to most of the South China Sea and uninhabited islands held by Japan, the Philippines, Vietnam and other neighboring nations.

China’s military buildup and its recent launch of a nuclear capable ballistic missile into the Pacific Ocean have raised concerns about a possible conflict.

At home, Xi has made himself effectively leader for life by ending term limits and extending his power over key government and party bodies. China allows no competitive elections and the party retains near total control over the media that informs its 1.4 billion people.

Hunger in Haiti reaches famine levels as gangs squeeze life out of the capital and beyond

By EVENS SANON and DÁNICA COTO Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Nearly 6,000 people in Haiti are starving, with nearly half the country’s population of more than 11 million people experiencing crisis levels of hunger or worse as gang violence smothers life in the capital of Port-au-Prince and beyond, according to a new report released Monday.

The number of Haitians facing crisis, emergency and famine levels of hunger increased by 1.2 million in the past year for a total of 5.4 million as gang violence disrupts the transportation of goods and prevents people from venturing out of their homes to buy food, according to the report by the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification.

“This is one of the highest proportions of acutely food insecure people in any crisis around the world,” said U.N. spokesman Stéphane Dujarric.

The 5,636 people who are facing starvation, the worst level, live in makeshift shelters across the metropolitan area, according to the report, which noted that another 2 million Haitians face severe hunger.

“This is shocking,” said Martine Villeneuve, Haiti director for the nonprofit Action Against Hunger. “We were not expecting that level. Two million ... is massive.”

Villeneuve told The Associated Press that she also was surprised that some of the 2 million people hit by hunger don’t even live in places directly affected by gang violence.

While much of the hunger is directly tied to gang violence, double-digit inflation also has limited what many Haitians can afford to buy, with food now representing 70% of total household expenditures.

The cost of a food basket increased more than 11% in the past year, with inflation hitting 30% in July.

In addition, parts of Haiti are still struggling to recover from the August 2021 earthquake, various drought episodes, and Hurricane Matthew, which struck Haiti as a Category 4 storm in 2016.

Gang violence, however, accounts for most of the hunger, with gangs controlling 80% of Port-au-Prince and the roads that lead to and from northern and southern Haiti, preventing farmers from delivering goods and nonprofits from delivering aid.

From April to June, at least 1,379 people were reported killed or injured, and another 428 kidnapped. In addition, gang violence has left more than 700,000 people homeless in recent years.

A U.N.-backed mission led by Kenya that began in late June and is aimed at quelling gang violence in Haiti has liberated some communities. But officials say much work remains to be done as the U.S., Haiti and

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others call for a U.N. peacekeeping mission to secure funding and personnel that the current mission lacks. "Haiti continues to face a worsening humanitarian crisis, with alarming rates of armed gang violence disrupting daily life, forcing more people to flee their homes and levels of acute food insecurity to rise," the report stated.

In 2014, only 2% of Haiti's population was food insecure, a number that has soared to nearly 50%, according to Mercy Corps, one of several nonprofits that called for an increase in funding on Monday.

Dujarric said humanitarian food agencies and nonprofits in Haiti need an additional \$230 million until year's end.

Seventy percent of people living in makeshift shelters are experiencing crisis levels of hunger or worse, the report found.

Among those experiencing hunger is Joceline St-Louis, a 28-year-old mother of two boys, 5 and 1. "Food doesn't come around very often," she said, adding that she depends on others to feed her children.

"When an organization does provide food, there's a major fight," she said.

St-Louis said she has to take her 1-year-old to a clinic so he can receive a peanut butter mix "so that his body doesn't collapse in my arms."

"I'm sometimes so depressed that I sometimes want to kill the kids and myself," she said in a soft voice as she cradled the 1-year-old in her arms while the 5-year-old played with his friends.

In another shelter nearby, Judeline Auguste, 39, said she depends solely on remittances to feed herself and her 8-year-old boy, but the money barely lasts a week.

"It's very rare that I can get a meal a day," she said. "My situation is hard not because of me, but because of my son. He looks at other people eating all the time, and he starts crying, 'Mommy, I'm hungry.'"

Meanwhile, those facing urgent levels of hunger live in Haiti's northern, central and southern regions, as well as in the capital.

Jean Yonel, who fled his home with his family after gangs raided their neighborhood, said there are days that he, his wife and their seven children eat only white rice or spaghetti.

"I can't provide every day for these children," Yonel said. "Sometimes we take just a spoonful of food and leave the rest of the food for the kids so they don't die."

Yonel used to work as a mason, but with construction jobs drying up, he is now forced to search for wood to make charcoal. His wife sells second-hand clothes.

On days when they can't afford a proper meal for their children, she mixes flour with spinach to keep their stomachs from rumbling.

Claudia Sheinbaum to be sworn in as 1st female president of Mexico, a country with pressing problems

By MARÍA VERZA, MEGAN JANETSKY and MARK STEVENSON Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Claudia Sheinbaum will take the oath of office Tuesday as Mexico's first female president in more than 200 years of independence, promising to protect an expanded social safety net and fight for the poor like her predecessor, but facing pressing problems.

The 62-year-old scientist-turned-politician will receive a country with a number of immediate challenges, foremost among them stubbornly high levels of violence, a sluggish economy and hurricane-battered Acapulco.

Sheinbaum romped to victory in June with nearly 60% of the vote, propelled largely by the sustained popularity of her political mentor, former President Andrés Manuel López Obrador.

He took office six years ago declaring "For the good of all, first the poor," and promising historical change from the neoliberal economic policies of his predecessors. Sheinbaum promised continuity from his popular social policies to controversial constitutional reforms to the judiciary and National Guard rammed through during his final days in office.

Despite her pledge of continuity, she is a very different personality.

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"López Obrador was a tremendously charismatic president and many times that charisma allowed him to cover up some political errors that Claudia Sheinbaum will not have that possibility of doing," said Carlos Pérez Ricart, a political analyst at Mexico's Center for Economic Research and Teaching. "So, where López Obrador was charismatic, Claudia Sheinbaum will have to be effective."

He is not leaving her an easy situation.

Her first trip as president will be to the flood-stricken Pacific coast resort of Acapulco.

Hurricane John, which struck as a Category 3 hurricane last week and then reemerged into the ocean and struck again as a tropical storm, caused four days of incredibly heavy rain that killed at least 17 people along the coast around Acapulco. Acapulco was devastated in October 2023 by Hurricane Otis, and had not recovered from that blow when John hit.

Sheinbaum must also deal with raging violence in the cartel-dominated northern city of Culiacan, where factional fighting within the Sinaloa cartel broke out after drug lords Ismael "El Mayo" Zambada and Joaquín Guzmán López were apprehended in the United States after they flew there in a small plane on July 25.

López Obrador has long sought to avoid confronting Mexico's drug cartels and has openly appealed to the gangs to keep the peace among themselves, but the limitations of that strategy have become glaringly apparent in Culiacan, the capital of Sinaloa state, where gun battles have raged on the city's streets. Local authorities and even the army — which López Obrador has relied on for everything — have essentially admitted that the fighting will only end when the cartel bosses decide to end it.

But that's only the latest hotspot.

Drug-related violence is surging from Tijuana in the north to Chiapas in the south, displacing thousands.

While Sheinbaum inherits a huge budget deficit, unfinished construction projects and a burgeoning bill for her party's cash hand-out programs — all of which could send financial markets tumbling — perhaps her biggest looming concern is the possibility of a victory for Donald Trump in the Nov. 5 U.S. presidential election.

Trump has already vowed to slap 100% tariffs on vehicles made in Mexico. Though that would likely violate the current U.S.-Mexico-Canada trade agreement, there are other things Trump could do to make life difficult for Sheinbaum, including his pledge of massive deportations.

Things with its northern neighbor were already tense after López Obrador said he was putting relations with the U.S. embassy "on pause" after public criticism of the proposed judicial overhaul.

First lady Jill Biden struck an optimistic tone for relations with the incoming Sheinbaum administration saying at a reception Monday that, "Under Dr. Sheinbaum's presidency I know we will continue to build a more prosperous, safe and democratic region — and take the steps in our U.S.-Mexico partnership."

There are areas where Sheinbaum could try to take Mexico in a new direction. For example, she has a Ph.D. in energy engineering and has spoken of the need to address climate change. López Obrador built a massive new oil refinery and poured money into the state-owned oil company. But his budget commitments do not leave her much room to maneuver.

Jennifer Piscopo, professor of gender and politics at the Royal Holloway University of London who has studied Latin America for decades, said Mexico electing its first female leader is important because it will show girls they can do it too, but it can also create unrealistic expectations.

"Woman firsts are powerful symbols, but they do not gain magic power," she said. "Especially when the governance challenges are so large, expecting magic solutions overnight can also generate outsized disappointment."

Biden plans survey of devastation in North Carolina as Helene's death toll tops 130

By JEFFREY COLLINS Associated Press

ASHEVILLE, N.C. (AP) — President Joe Biden was set to survey the devastation in the mountains of Western North Carolina on Wednesday, where exhausted emergency workers continued to work around-the-clock to clear roads, restore power and cellphone service, and reach people left stranded by Hurricane

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Helene. The storm killed at least 133 people and hundreds more were still unaccounted for on Monday night, four days after Helene initially made landfall.

Meanwhile, election officials across the South were making emergency preparations to ensure displaced residents would be able to vote in the upcoming presidential election.

Officials in the hard-hit tourism hub of Asheville said their water system suffered "catastrophic" damage that could take weeks to fully repair. Government officials, aid groups and volunteers were working to deliver supplies by air, truck and even mule to the town and surrounding mountain communities. At least 40 people died in the county that includes Asheville.

The North Carolina death toll included one horrific story after another of people who were trapped by floodwaters in their homes and vehicles or were killed by falling trees. A courthouse security officer died after being submerged inside his truck. A couple and a 6-year-old boy waiting to be rescued on a rooftop drowned when part of their home collapsed.

Rescuers did manage to save dozens, including an infant and two others stuck on the top of a car in Atlanta. More than 50 hospital patients and staff in Tennessee were plucked by helicopter from the hospital rooftop in a daring rescue operation.

How some of the worst-hit areas are coping

The storm unleashed the worst flooding in a century in North Carolina. Rainfall estimates in some areas topped more than 2 feet (61 centimeters) since Wednesday, and several main routes into Asheville were washed away or blocked by mudslides. That includes a 4-mile (6.4-kilometer) section of Interstate 40 that was heavily damaged.

Joey Hopkins, North Carolina's secretary of transportation, asked people on Monday to stay off the roads.

"The damage is severe, and we're continuing to tell folks if you don't have a reason to be in North Carolina, do not travel on the roads of western North Carolina," Hopkins said at a news conference. "We do not want you here if you don't live here and you're not helping with the storm."

At an Ingles grocery store in Asheville, Elizabeth Teall-Fleming was standing in line with dozens of others waiting to get inside and hoping to find some non-perishable food, since they have no power. She planned to heat up some canned food over a camping stove for her family.

"I'm just glad that they're open and that they're able to let us in," she said.

Teall-Fleming said she was surprised by the ferocity of the storm.

"Just seeing the little bit of news that we've been able to see has been shocking and really sad."

In one neighborhood, residents were collecting creek water in buckets to flush their toilets.

Others waited in a line for more than a block at Mountain Valley Water to fill up milk jugs and whatever other containers they could find with drinking water.

Derek Farmer, who brought three gallon-sized apple juice containers, said he had been prepared for the storm but now was nervous after three days without water. "I just didn't know how bad it was going to be," Farmer said.

Helene roared ashore in northern Florida late Thursday as a Category 4 hurricane and quickly moved north. The storm upended life throughout the Southeast, where deaths were also reported in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina and Virginia. Officials warned that rebuilding would be lengthy and difficult.

Federal Emergency Management Agency officials said Monday that shelters were housing more than 1,000 people.

North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper took an aerial tour of the Asheville area and later met with workers distributing meals.

"This has been an unprecedented storm that has hit western North Carolina," he said afterward. "It's requiring an unprecedented response."

Worries about the presidential election

Karen Brinson Bell, executive director of the North Carolina State Board of Elections, said during an emergency board meeting on Monday that they are looking at options for voters in the hardest-hit counties. She planned to provide more information at a Tuesday news conference, including how someone could declare "natural disaster" as their reason for not being able to provide a photo ID.

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Election employees across Georgia returned to work even as some offices faced power outages, limited internet and infrastructure damages.

In Lowndes County, staff at the local board of elections were working off of two computers instead of the usual eight, said election supervisor Deb Cox. The office is also without wifi.

"We're fully up and running as of this morning," said Cox. "It's just slower than normal because we have less resources."

In Columbia County, poll worker training will still begin this week, said Nancy Gay, the county's elections director, but she may have to change the location because of the power outage.

"Our poll workers are being affected," Gay said. "They don't have power. They don't have gas. You've got to allow the workers time to process everything and try and get a plan in place before I can really expect them to come and show up for training."

Mark Ard at the Florida Secretary of State's office said the Division of Elections is recommending that local elections supervisors reach out to U.S. Post Office officials to discuss a mitigation plan for ballot mailing, delivery, and return.

Why western North Carolina was hit so hard

Western North Carolina suffered relatively more devastation because that's where the remnants of Helene encountered the higher elevations and cooler air of the Appalachian Mountains, causing even more rain to fall.

Asheville and many surrounding mountain towns were built in valleys, leaving them especially vulnerable to devastating rain and flooding. Plus, the ground already was saturated before Helene arrived, said Christiaan Patterson, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service.

"By the time Helene came into the Carolinas, we already had that rain on top of more rain," Patterson said.

Climate change has exacerbated conditions that allow such storms to thrive, rapidly intensifying in warming waters and turning into powerful cyclones, sometimes within hours.

Destruction from Florida to Virginia

Along Florida's Gulf Coast, several feet of water swamped the Clearwater Marine Aquarium, forcing workers to move two manatees and sea turtles. All of the animals were safe but much of the aquarium's vital equipment was damaged or destroyed, said James Powell, the aquarium's executive director.

Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp said the storm "literally spared no one." Most people in and around Augusta, a city of about 200,000 near the South Carolina border, were still without power Monday.

With at least 30 killed in South Carolina, Helene was the deadliest tropical cyclone to hit the state since Hurricane Hugo made landfall north of Charleston in 1989, killing 35 people.

Tropical Storm Kirk forms and could become a powerful hurricane

Tropical Storm Kirk formed Monday in the eastern Atlantic Ocean and is expected to become a "large and powerful hurricane" by Tuesday night or Wednesday, the U.S. National Hurricane Center said. The storm was located about 800 miles (1,285 kilometers) west of the Cabo Verde Islands with maximum sustained winds of 60 mph (95 kph). There were no coastal watches or warnings in effect, and the storm system was not a threat to land.

Trump heads to Wisconsin's critical Democratic stronghold ahead of vice presidential debate

By SCOTT BAUER Associated Press

WAUNAKEE, Wis. (AP) — Former President Donald Trump plans to spend the hours ahead of Tuesday night's vice-presidential debate campaigning in Wisconsin, stopping in a critical Democratic county that is crucial to Democrat Kamala Harris' hopes for winning the key battleground state.

Trump is scheduled to appear at a manufacturing facility in Waunakee, a suburb of Wisconsin's capital city of Madison in the Democratic stronghold of Dane County. Trump has never campaigned in Dane County before and didn't visit as president.

Later on Tuesday, Trump is expected to hold an event at a museum in Milwaukee, Wisconsin's largest

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city and home to the largest number of Democratic voters and second-largest number of Republicans. His appearance there will also give him reach into the city's conservative suburbs, a part of Wisconsin where his support has softened but where he must do well to win.

Trump is expected to focus his comments on the economy. On Saturday, he held a rally in western Wisconsin where he blamed Harris for crimes committed by people in the country illegally.

Both stops come ahead of Tuesday's debate between Trump's running mate JD Vance, a senator from Ohio, and Democratic vice presidential nominee Tim Walz, the governor of Minnesota.

Dane County, the location of Trump's first stop, is Wisconsin's fastest-growing county and an economic engine for the state, fueled by jobs in the healthcare and tech industries. It is also home to the University of Wisconsin.

Dane County's population grew by about 30,000 people between 2016 and 2020. It has gone up by another 13,000 since then, based on the most recent U.S. Census Bureau estimate.

That presents a challenge for Republicans, especially given that nearly 90% of registered voters in the county cast a ballot in 2020. President Joe Biden won 75% of the vote that year in Dane County, beating Trump by 181,000 votes in the county while carrying the state by fewer than 21,000. Hillary Clinton beat Trump in Dane County in 2016 by 47 points, and Trump won the state by less than a point.

Still, Dane County is home to the third-largest number of Republican voters of any county statewide.

"President Trump's appearance will be a big shot in the arm for demoralized conservatives here," the Dane County Republican Party Chairman Brandon Maly posted on X, the social media platform, when the visit was announced. He has said Trump must get at least 23% of the vote in Dane County to have a chance of winning statewide.

Democratic presidential candidates have long come to Dane County to hold massive rallies to fire up the base. Harris campaigned there on Sept. 20, holding a rally in Madison that attracted more than 10,000 people.

Waunakee, which bills itself as the "only Waunakee in the world," is slightly more Republican than the county as a whole. In 2020, Trump got 36% of the vote there compared to less than 23% countywide.

Trump is expected to speak at Dane Manufacturing, a metal fabricator that has a long history of hosting Republican candidates and officeholders. In Milwaukee, Trump will speak at Discovery World, a science and technology museum along the shores of Lake Michigan.

Walz and Vance will meet in their first and possibly only vice presidential debate

By MICHELLE L. PRICE and CHRIS MEGERIAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Tim Walz and JD Vance will meet for their first and possibly only vice presidential debate Tuesday, in what could be the last debate for both campaigns to argue their case before the election.

The debate in New York hosted by CBS News will give Vance, a Republican freshman senator from Ohio, and Walz, a two-term Democratic governor of Minnesota, the chance to introduce themselves, make the case for their running mates, and go on the attack against the opposing ticket.

Tuesday's matchup could have an outsized impact. Polls have shown Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump locked in a close contest, giving added weight to anything that can sway voters on the margins, including the impression left by the vice presidential candidates. It also might be the last debate of the campaign, with the Harris and Trump teams failing to agree on another meeting.

The role of a presidential running mate is typically to serve as an attack dog for the person at the top of the ticket, arguing against the opposing presidential candidate and their proxy on stage. Both Vance and Walz have embraced that role.

Vance's occasionally confrontational news interviews and appearances on the campaign trail have underscored why Trump picked him for the Republican ticket despite his past biting criticisms of the former president, including once suggesting Trump would be "America's Hitler."

Walz, meanwhile, catapulted onto Harris' campaign by branding Trump and Republicans as "just weird,"

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creating an attack line for Democrats seeking to argue Republicans are disconnected from the American people.

A new AP-NORC poll found that Walz is better liked than Vance, potentially giving the Republican an added challenge.

After a Harris-Trump debate in which Republicans complained about the ABC News moderators fact-checking Trump, Tuesday's debate will not feature any corrections from the hosts. CBS News said the onus for pointing out misstatements will be on the candidates, with moderators "facilitating those opportunities."

Both sides are trying to lower expectations

Ahead of the debate, allies of both men were lowering expectations that their candidate will have a decisive performance.

Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., called Vance "an accomplished debater" and contrasted that with Walz, saying he was "not a lawyer-debater type." Klobuchar said Walz spent time growing up thinking about football, not debating.

Jason Miller, a senior adviser to Trump, portrayed Walz much differently than Klobuchar.

"Tim Walz is very good in debates, really good. He's been a politician for nearly 20 years. He'll be very well prepared for tomorrow night," Miller told reporters Monday. He predicted the Democratic governor of Minnesota will be much more "buttoned up" than he is on the campaign trail and ready to defend his record, but added, "That's not to say that JD Vance won't be prepared tomorrow, or that somehow he isn't up to the challenge."

Vance, speaking to reporters last week, said he didn't "have to prepare that much" for the debate because he had "well-developed views on public policy."

But Vance has been doing debate prep sessions where he's been joined by his wife, Usha Vance, Miller, senior Vance aides, and Rep. Tom Emmer, R-Minn., who has played Walz, according to a person familiar with his preparations who requested anonymity to discuss strategy. Moderating their mock debates was Monica Crowley, who served in the Trump administration, hosts a podcast and contributed to Project 2025, a conservative blueprint for remaking government that Trump claims he knows "nothing about."

"JD Vance is prepared to wipe the floor with Tim Walz and expose him for the radical liberal he is," Emmer told reporters on Monday.

Walz's debate prep has included sessions hunkered down in a Minneapolis hotel, with Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg standing in for Vance, according to a person familiar with the process who requested anonymity to discuss the campaign's internal dynamics. Others helping in the preparations include Rob Friedlander and Zayn Siddique, who helped Harris prepare for her debate with Trump, along with other aides to Walz and the campaign.

Klobuchar said Walz will show the American people "a real person" who brings "buoyancy" and positivity to the debate stage that will contrast with Vance, but "he is not going to be shy about pointing out the problems."

"Just because he's an optimistic, positive person doesn't mean he's a pushover," she said.

Israel begins ground offensive against Hezbollah in southern Lebanon

By JOSEF FEDERMAN, ABBY SEWELL and MATTHEW LEE Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli ground forces crossed into southern Lebanon early Tuesday, marking a significant escalation of an offensive against Hezbollah militants and opening a new front in a yearlong war against its Iranian-backed adversaries.

The incursion follows weeks of heavy blows by Israel against Hezbollah — including an airstrike that killed its longtime leader, Hassan Nasrallah — and seeks to step up the pressure on the group, which began firing rockets into northern Israel after the start of the war in Gaza. The last time Israel and Hezbollah engaged in ground combat was a monthlong war in 2006.

The Israeli military said in a brief statement that it began "limited, localized and targeted ground raids"

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against Hezbollah targets in southern Lebanon.

"These targets are located in villages close to the border and pose an immediate threat to Israeli communities in northern Israel," it said.

There was no word on how long the operation would last, but the army said soldiers had been training and preparing for the mission in recent months. Israel has said it will continue to strike the group until it is safe for displaced Israelis from border communities to return to their homes.

Ahead of the Israeli announcement, United States officials said Israel launched small ground raids inside Lebanon, and Israel declared three small border communities to be a "closed military zone," restricting access only to army personnel.

There were no reports of direct clashes between Israeli troops and Hezbollah militants. But throughout the evening, Israeli artillery units pounded targets in southern Lebanon and the sounds of airstrikes were heard throughout Beirut.

Smoke rose from the capital's southern suburbs, where Hezbollah has a strong presence, shortly after Israel ordered residents of three buildings to evacuate.

Israel launches risky phase of fighting

Israel has been emboldened by its recent battlefield gains against Hezbollah and appears intent on delivering a knockout blow to its archenemy. But a ground operation marks a new and potentially risky phase of fighting. It also threatens to unleash further devastation on Lebanon, where hundreds have been killed in recent Israeli strikes and hundreds of thousands have been displaced.

Hezbollah is a well-trained militia, believed to have tens of thousands of fighters and an arsenal of 150,000 rockets and missiles. The last round of fighting in 2006 ended in a stalemate.

Both sides have spent the past two decades preparing for their next showdown. While Hezbollah has built up a formidable arsenal, Israel has invested great sums into training and intelligence gathering.

Recent airstrikes wiping out most of Hezbollah's top leadership and the explosions of hundreds of paggers and walkie-talkies belonging to Hezbollah indicate that Israel has infiltrated deep inside the group's upper echelons.

Hezbollah vowed Monday to keep fighting even after its recent losses. The group's acting leader, Naim Kasseem, said in a televised statement that Hezbollah would be ready for a ground operation. He said commanders killed in recent weeks have already been replaced.

The man widely expected to take over the top post from Kasseem is Hashem Safieddine, a cousin of Nasrallah who oversees Hezbollah's political affairs.

Israel shifts attention from Gaza to Lebanon

Israeli strikes in recent weeks have hit what the military says are thousands of militant targets across large parts of Lebanon. Over 1,000 people have been killed in Lebanon in the past two weeks, nearly a quarter of them women and children, according to the Health Ministry.

Early Monday, an airstrike hit a residential building in central Beirut, killing three Palestinian militants, as Israel appeared to send a message that no part of Lebanon is out of bounds.

Israel declared war against the Hamas militant group in the Gaza Strip after Hamas' cross-border attack on Oct. 7, 2023, that killed 1,200 Israelis and took 250 others hostage. More than 41,000 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza, and just over half the dead have been women and children, according to local health officials.

Hezbollah began firing rockets into Israel on Oct. 8 in solidarity with the Palestinian militant group.

Israel and Hezbollah have exchanged fire almost every day since then, coming close to a full-fledged war on several occasions but stepping back from the brink.

In recent weeks, Israel's war against Hamas has scaled back and it turned its focus northward toward Lebanon, stepping up the attacks on Hezbollah.

Israeli leaders say they want Hezbollah to implement the U.S. resolution that ended the 2006 war, which required the group to withdraw some 20 miles (30 kilometers) from the Israeli border.

Key setbacks for Hezbollah

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Hezbollah has suffered key setbacks in recent weeks. Before Nasrallah's assassination, a series of mysterious explosions of pagers and walkie-talkies blamed on Israel killed or wounded hundreds of people, many of them Hezbollah members. And Israeli airstrikes have killed most of the group's senior commanders.

But Hezbollah continued to launch rockets and missiles into Israel and is still believed to have thousands of fighters near the Israeli border.

Israeli leaders for years have accused Hezbollah of hiding weapons and fighters inside homes and other civilian structures in border villages. Tens of thousands of Lebanese civilians have fled southern Lebanon in recent weeks fearing an Israeli military onslaught.

Hezbollah has few air defenses, giving the Israeli air force freedom of action over Lebanon's skies. But a ground operation will be much more challenging, with Hezbollah forces embedded and hiding in local communities and familiar with the local terrain.

Still, Hezbollah's capabilities are unclear. It's possible Hezbollah is holding back to save resources for a bigger battle. But the militant group might also be in disarray after Israeli intelligence apparently penetrated its highest levels.

Some European countries began pulling their diplomats and citizens out of Lebanon on Monday. Germany sent a military plane to evacuate diplomats' relatives and others. Bulgaria sent a government jet to get the first group of its citizens out.

Israel has a long and bloody history in Lebanon. It briefly invaded in 1978 in a strike against Palestinian militants. It invaded again in 1982 in an operation that turned into an 18-year occupation of southern Lebanon.

The stepped-up action against Hezbollah also could raise the risk of a broader region-wide war as Israel confronts a series of foes backed by archenemy Iran.

Israel carried out an airstrike in Yemen against the Houthi militia in response to a series of missile strikes. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has also threatened Iran, warning the Tehran government that Israel is capable of striking anywhere in the Middle East.

The United States and its allies — including France, which has close ties to Lebanon — have called for a cease-fire, hoping to avoid further escalation that could draw in Iran and set off a wider war. But Netanyahu has shown little interest, as his country racks up military achievements against a longtime foe.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot, visiting Beirut on Monday, urged Israel to refrain from a ground offensive. He also called on Hezbollah to stop firing on Israel, saying the group "bears heavy responsibility in the current situation, given its choice to enter the conflict."

Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati, speaking after meeting with Barrot, said the country is committed to an immediate cease-fire followed by the deployment of Lebanese troops in the south, in keeping with a United Nations Security Council resolution that ended the 2006 war but was never fully implemented.

Pete Rose, baseball's banned hits leader, has died at age 83

By HILLEL ITALIE AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Pete Rose, baseball's career hits leader and fallen idol who undermined his historic achievements and Hall of Fame dreams by gambling on the game he loved and once embodied, has died. He was 83.

Stephanie Wheatley, a spokesperson for Clark County in Nevada, confirmed on behalf of the medical examiner that Rose died Monday. Wheatley said his cause and manner of death had not yet been determined. Over the weekend, he had appeared at an autograph show in Nashville with former teammates Tony Perez, George Foster and Dave Concepcion.

For fans who came of age in the 1960s and '70s, no player was more exciting than the Cincinnati Reds' No. 14, "Charlie Hustle," the brash superstar with the shaggy hair, puggish nose and muscular forearms. At the dawn of artificial surfaces, divisional play and free agency, Rose was old school, a conscious, dirt-stained throwback to baseball's early days. Millions could never forget him crouched and scowling at the plate, running full speed to first even after drawing a walk, or sprinting for the next base and diving

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headfirst into the bag.

Major League Baseball, which banished him in 1989, issued a brief statement expressing condolences and noting his "greatness, grit and determination on the field of play." Reds principal owner and managing partner Bob Castellini said in a statement that Rose was "one of the fiercest competitors the game has ever seen" and added: "We must never forget what he accomplished."

Longtime Reds teammate and Hall of Famer Johnny Bench posted his reaction to Rose's death in a social media post, saying: "My heart is sad. I loved you Peter Edward. You made all of us better. No matter the life we led. No one can replace you."

A 17-time All-Star, the switch-hitting Rose played on three World Series winners. He was the National League MVP in 1973 and World Series MVP two years later. He holds the major league record for games played (3,562) and plate appearances (15,890) and the NL record for the longest hitting streak (44). He was the leadoff man for one of baseball's most formidable lineups with the Reds' championship teams of 1975 and 1976, featuring Hall of Famers Perez, Bench and Joe Morgan.

But no milestone approached his 4,256 hits, breaking his hero Ty Cobb's 4,191 and signifying his excellence no matter the notoriety which followed. It was a total so extraordinary that you could average 200 hits for 20 years and still come up short. Rose's secret was consistency, and longevity. Over 24 seasons, all but six played entirely with the Reds, Rose had 200 hits or more 10 times, and more than 180 four other times. He batted .303 overall, even while switching from second base to outfield to third to first, and he led the league in hits seven times.

"Every summer, three things are going to happen," Rose liked to say, "the grass is going to get green, the weather is going to get hot, and Pete Rose is going to get 200 hits and bat .300."

Rose was Rookie of the Year in 1963, but he started off 0 for 12 with three walks and a hit by pitch before getting his first major league hit, an eighth-inning triple off Pittsburgh's Bob Friend. It came in Cincinnati on April 13, 1963, the day before Rose's 22nd birthday. He reached 1,000 in 1968, 2,000 just five years later and 3,000 just five years after that.

He moved into second place, ahead of Hank Aaron, with hit No. 3,772, in 1982. No. 4,000 was off the Phillies' Jerry Koosman in 1984, exactly 21 years to the day after his first hit. He caught up with Cobb on Sept. 8, 1985, and surpassed him three days later, in Cincinnati, with Rose's mother and teenage son, Pete Jr., among those in attendance.

Rose was 44 and the team's player-manager. Batting left-handed against the San Diego Padres' Eric Show in the first inning, he smacked a 2-1 slider into left field, a clean single. The crowd of 47,000-plus stood and yelled. The game was halted to celebrate. Rose was given the ball and the first base bag, then wept openly on the shoulder of first base coach and former teammate, Tommy Helms. He told Pete Jr., who would later play briefly for the Reds: "I love you, and I hope you pass me." He thought of his late father, a star athlete himself who had pushed him to play sports since childhood. And he thought of Cobb, the dead-ball era slasher whom Rose so emulated that he named another son Tyler.

Baseball Commissioner Peter Ueberroth, watching from New York, declared that Rose had "reserved a prominent spot in Cooperstown." After the game, a 2-0 win for the Reds in which Rose scored both runs, he received a phone call from President Ronald Reagan.

"Your reputation and legacy are secure," Reagan told him. "It will be a long time before anyone is standing in the spot where you're standing now."

Four years later, he was gone.

On March 20, 1989, Ueberroth (who would soon be succeeded by A. Bartlett Giamatti) announced that his office was conducting a "full inquiry into serious allegations" about Rose. Reports emerged that he had been relying on a network of bookies and friends and others in the gambling world to place bets on baseball games, including some with the Reds. Rose denied any wrongdoing, but the investigation found that the "accumulated testimony of witnesses, together with the documentary evidence and telephone records reveal extensive betting activity by Pete Rose in connection with professional baseball and, in particular, Cincinnati Reds games, during the 1985, 1986, and 1987 baseball seasons."

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Betting on baseball had been a primal sin since 1920, when several members of the Chicago White Sox were expelled for throwing the 1919 World Series — to the Cincinnati Reds. Baseball's Rule 21, posted in every professional clubhouse, proclaims that "Any player, umpire or club or league official or employee who shall bet any sum whatsoever upon any baseball game in connection with which the bettor has a duty to perform shall be declared permanently ineligible."

In the decades following the 1919 Series, Dodgers manager Leo Durocher and Detroit Tigers pitcher Denny McLain were among those suspended for gambling, and Willie Mays and Mickey Mantle were reprimanded for associating with casinos, even though both had retired years earlier. As far back as the 1970s, Bench and others had worried about Rose. By all accounts, he never bet against his own team, but even betting on the Reds left himself open to blackmail and raised questions about whether a given managerial decision was based on his own financial interest.

In August 1989, at a New York press conference, Giamatti spoke some of the saddest words in baseball history: "One of the game's greatest players has engaged in a variety of acts which have stained the game, and he must now live with the consequences of those acts." Giamatti announced that Rose had agreed to a lifetime ban from baseball, a decision that in 1991 the Hall of Fame would rule left him ineligible for induction. Rose attempted to downplay the news, insisting that he had never bet on baseball and that he would eventually be reinstated.

Within weeks of his announcement, Giamatti was dead from a heart attack. But the ban remained in place and Rose never made it to the Hall in his lifetime, although he did receive 41 votes in 1992 (when 323 votes were needed), around the time the Hall formally ruled that those banned from the game could never be elected. His status was long debated. Rose's supporters including Donald Trump, who in 2015, the year before he was elected president, tweeted: "Can't believe Major League Baseball just rejected @PeteRose_14 for the Hall of Fame. He's paid the price. So ridiculous — let him in!"

Meanwhile, his story changed. In a November 1989 memoir, written with "The Boys of Summer" author Roger Kahn, Rose again claimed innocence, only to reverse himself in 2004. He desperately wanted to come back, and effectively destroyed his chances. He would continue to spend time at casinos, insisting he was there for promotion, not gambling. He believed he had "messed up" and that his father would have been ashamed, but he still bet on baseball, albeit legally.

"I don't think betting is morally wrong. I don't even think betting on baseball is morally wrong," he wrote in "Play Hungry," a memoir released in 2019. "There are legal ways, and there are illegal ways, and betting on baseball the way I did was against the rules of baseball."

His disgrace was all the harder because no one seemed to live for baseball more than Rose did. He remembered details of games from long ago and could quote the most obscure statistics about players from other teams. He was as relentless in spring training as he was in the postseason, when he brawled with the New York Mets' Buddy Harrelson during the 1973 NL playoffs.

His compulsion was most memorably defined in an otherwise meaningless contest — the 1970 All-Star Game, in Cincinnati.

In the bottom of the 12th inning, the score tied at 4, he singled with two outs and advanced to second on a single by Billy Grabarkewitz. When Jim Hickman followed with a single, Rose raced past third and crashed at home into the Cleveland Indians' Ray Fosse, scoring the winning run and fracturing Fosse's shoulder. It was a collision often replayed, and an injury from which the catcher would say years later still pained him.

"Would I do the same thing again today in the same situation? Damn right I would," Rose wrote in his 2019 memoir. "But would I rather it had all gone down without Ray having suffered an injury that would dog his career? You bet."

Rose didn't drink or smoke but indulged himself in other ways. He cared openly about money, vowing to become the first singles hitter to make \$100,000 a year and leaving the Reds for the Phillies after declaring free agency at the end of the 1978 season (Rose returned in 1984). He was a longtime womanizer whose two marriages ended in divorce and who acknowledged fathering a child out of wedlock. In 1990, he pleaded guilty to two charges of filing false income tax returns and served five months in prison, the

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prosecutor calling his sentencing "a sad day for those young Americans to whom Pete Rose was an idol."

In the beginning, it was all about the game. He was a Cincinnati native from a working-class neighborhood whose father, Harry Francis Rose, like the father of Mickey Mantle, taught his son to be a switch hitter. Rose mastered his skills with a broom handle and a rubber ball, thrown to him by his younger brother, Dave.

"I'd let him get as close as he wanted," Pete Rose told *The Cincinnati Enquirer* in 2015. "The closer he got, the harder it was to hit. Hour after hour, he'd try to strike me out. I wore that wall out."

The Roses attended numerous games at Cincinnati's Crosley Field, where the elder Rose noticed that St. Louis outfielder Enos Slaughter would always run full speed, whether at bat or in the field, and tell his son to do the same.

Pete Rose graduated from high school in June 1960. He flew to Rochester, New York, two days later, and then rode a bus some 45 miles to Geneva, home of the Reds' level D minor league team. By 1962, he had been promoted to level A, in Macon, Georgia. He batted .330 and vowed to displace Reds second baseman Don Blasingame in 1963, telling a reporter "I'm going to be on his heels."

Blasingame was with the Washington Senators by midseason and Rose was a phenomenon: "Charlie Hustle," Yankees pitcher Whitey Ford reportedly called him, mockingly, after watching him hurry to first upon drawing a walk in spring training. Rose hit .273 as a rookie and, starting in 1965, batted .300 or higher 14 out of 15 seasons. He was so dependable that in 1968, the "Year of the Pitcher," he led the league with a .335 average, one of three batting titles.

"You could see he was going to be something, even in the minor leagues," Dave Bristol, who managed him in the minors and for the Reds, told the *Los Angeles Times* in 1985. "You knew he was going to set records at something, if not Cobb's. All that determination. He didn't hit a ball, he attacked it. He was like a guy breaking up a dogfight. He loved to hit and hit and hit. You go to his hotel room at night, and he's hitting the bed post."

After the 1969 season, when the Reds finished third, Bristol was fired and replaced by a minor league manager, 36-year-old Sparky Anderson. The age of "The Big Red Machine" had arrived. Anderson was known as "Captain Hook" for his willingness to replace pitchers, but he flattered and pampered his hitters, naming Rose team captain and letting Rose practice separately with Morgan, Bench and Perez. Between 1970 and 1976, the Reds won five division titles, four pennants and two World Series.

As much as any player, Rose made the machine run, and not just on offense. With the Reds struggling at the start of the 1975 season, he agreed to move from left field to third base and make room for power hitter George Foster. The Reds were soon unstoppable, finishing 108-54 and sweeping Pittsburgh in the playoffs. In the World Series, one of baseball's most dramatic, they outlasted the Boston Red Sox in seven games and won their first championship since 1940. Rose batted .370 and enjoyed himself so completely that during Game 6, won by Boston on Carlton Fisk's 11th-inning homer, he turned to the Red Sox catcher during a previous inning and marveled at what a great game they were in.

The Reds faded after the 1976 season and their World Series sweep against the Yankees, but Rose's hits continued. In 1978, he batted safely in 44 straight games, placing him second behind Joe DiMaggio's 56. After leaving for the Phillies in 1979, he surpassed Stan Musial as the National League's career hit leader and helped lead Philadelphia to its first World Series title in 1980. At age 39, he batted a solid .282 and scored 95 runs, and, always hustling, made one of the World Series' most memorable defensive plays.

In the decisive Game 6 against Kansas City, the Royals trailed 4-1 going into the ninth inning, but loaded the bases with one out against reliever Tug McGraw. Kansas City's Frank White then lofted a foul pop fly to the first base side of home plate. Catcher Bob Boone raced under it, only to have the ball pop out of his glove. Rose, sprinting in from first, snatched the ball for the out. McGraw struck out Willie Wilson to end the game.

Rose played in one more World Series, in 1983, when he batted .313 even as the Phillies fell to the Baltimore Orioles in five games. He signed with the Montreal Expos in 1984, but rejoined the Reds in August as player-manager, replacing the fired Vern Rapp after the Reds acquired him in exchange for a minor leaguer. "There's no question I'll make some mistakes," he told reporters.

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Rose had planned to limit himself to pinch-hitting with the Reds, but the trade revived him and he hit .365 over the rest of the season after batting just .259 for Montreal. He retired as a player after the 1986 season and his last game as a manager came two days before his banishment, Aug. 21, 1989, a 6-5 victory over the Chicago Cubs. His career managerial record was 412-373.

In his post-baseball life, he did make it to a few honorary associations. The Reds voted him into the team's Hall of Fame in 2016, the year before a bronze sculpture of Rose's iconic slide was unveiled outside of Cincinnati's Great American Ball Park, and retired his uniform number.

Rose the man was never inducted into Cooperstown, but his career was well represented. Items at the Baseball Hall include his helmet from his MVP 1973 season, the bat he used in 1978 when his hitting streak reached 44 and the cleats he wore, in 1985, on the day he became the game's hits king.

Leaders depart UN facing prospect of a wider Mideast war — but with a blueprint for a better future

By EDITH M. LEDERER and JENNIFER PELTZ Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — They gathered at the United Nations surrounded by unsettling warnings of an escalating conflict that could engulf the Middle East and further shatter international relations that are based on "multilateralism" — nations working together and sharing power. A week later, world leaders headed home with the prospect of a broader war intensifying and global divisions front and center, not only in the Mideast but elsewhere.

There was no expectation of major breakthroughs in the public and private meetings at the annual U.N. General Assembly meeting of presidents, premiers and other leaders. There rarely is. But this year was especially grim, with no end in sight to the three major conflicts in Gaza, Ukraine and Sudan, and Israeli military action in Lebanon escalating.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' warning that multilateralism needs to be brought back "from the brink" added to the gloom, along with speech after speech decrying failures to tackle climate change and address growing inequalities between rich and poor nations, and warning of artificial intelligence with no guardrails and the potential of killer weapons with no human control.

General Assembly President Philémon Yang concluded the weeklong, high-level meeting Monday afternoon, calling it "particularly tumultuous" and pointing to the "violent conflicts" that are raging.

"This is, unfortunately, not an exhaustive list of the crises and conflicts affecting member states of the United Nations," he lamented.

Parts of the world are broken

There was no disagreement that multilateralism is broken, that this founding principle of the United Nations — established in 1945 on the ashes of World War II -- needs urgent resuscitation to deal with the challenges the world faces today.

One example: During the very hour on Friday when Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told the General Assembly that his country genuinely wants peace — a goal stressed by virtually every leader — Israeli warplanes were bombing areas around Beirut in a lethal barrage.

In the last few days, Yang said, the world has seen "an extremely dramatic escalation" between Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon that risks war in the entire Middle East. "As we speak, peace in the Middle East is hanging delicately on a shoestring," he warned.

U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said this year's meeting of leaders — with its marquee speeches known in U.N.-speak as the "general debate" — took place at "a very serious and a very intense time."

"The world doesn't stop for the general debate," he told reporters Monday. "So we were focused very much on what member states said, but we continue to be very much focused on what is going on in the world outside of this building."

There was one positive development welcomed by Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and many leaders: The adoption of a "Pact for the Future" at a summit just before world leaders began their addresses to the General Assembly. The 42-page blueprint aims to bring the 193 U.N. member nations together to

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meet today's challenges, from climate change and artificial intelligence to escalating conflicts and increasing inequality and poverty.

It challenges leaders of countries large and small, rich and poor, to turn promises into actions. Whether that happens remains to be seen. Yang, the assembly president, said his office has already instituted "an awareness-raising campaign" to spur implementation.

Screeds against selfishness abounded

In an illustration of the blend of woe and weary hope that percolated through the gathering, Burundi's foreign minister, Albert Shingiro, on Monday decried an international community where "most of us act like we were alone in the world, like others didn't exist or didn't count."

Still, he said, the consensus on the Pact for the Future "shows that multilateralism is not dead and buried."

From the vantage points where leaders of smaller or less powerful nations sit, the U.N. can't change the world without changing itself. Founded with 51 member countries, it now has 193, and many feel included only to a point.

"We must ensure that global institutions give developing countries, especially small, vulnerable ones like my own, seats at the tables of decision-making," said Barbados' prime minister, Mia Mottley. "The anger and mistrust of our citizens in institutions, in leaders and in multilateralism and its processes which exclude, while yielding much talk and little action, is very real."

Nobel peace laureate Muhammad Yunus, head of Bangladesh's interim government, said "time demands new attitudes, new values, new compacts, across communities and countries."

"I believe, the world needs to engage on a shared vision of 'three zeroes' that we can materialize together, targeting zero poverty, zero unemployment, and, zero net carbon emissions -- where a young person anywhere in the world will have opportunities to grow, not as a job seeker but as entrepreneur," he told the assembly.

During the global gathering, the assembly heard from 190 countries – all but Brunei, Myanmar and Afghanistan. The speakers included 71 heads of state, 42 heads of government, six vice-presidents and crown princes, eight deputy prime ministers, 53 ministers, three vice-ministers and seven heads of delegations. Usually, the U.N. Security Council holds one meeting during the high-level week, but this year the council met about a half-dozen times because of the global conflicts and crises.

For all the alarm, leaders here are politicians, and many made a point of appealing at least somewhat to optimism. Perhaps none stressed it as much as U.S. President Joe Biden, making his last speech at the annual meeting after more than a half-century in public life.

He noted that humanity has brought to a close some of the seemingly intractable threats, conflicts and injustices that beset the world when he was elected as a senator in 1972, from the Cold War to apartheid in South Africa.

"Things can get better," Biden said. "We should never forget that."

Supplies arrive by plane and by mule in North Carolina as Helene's death toll tops 130

By JEFFREY COLLINS Associated Press

ASHEVILLE, N.C. (AP) — Widespread devastation left behind by Hurricane Helene came to light Monday across the South, revealing a wasteland of splintered houses, crushed cargo containers and mud-covered highways in one of the worst storms in U.S. history. The death toll topped 130.

A crisis was unfolding in western North Carolina, where residents stranded by washed-out roads and by a lack of power and cellular service lined up for fresh water and a chance to message loved ones days after the storm that they were alive.

At least 133 deaths in six Southeastern states have been attributed to the storm that inflicted damage from Florida's Gulf Coast to the Appalachian Mountains in Virginia.

The toll steadily rose as emergency workers reached areas isolated by collapsed roads, failing infrastructure and widespread flooding. During a briefing Monday, White House homeland security adviser Liz

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Sherwood-Randall suggested as many as 600 people hadn't been accounted for as of Monday afternoon, saying some might be dead.

President Joe Biden said he will travel to North Carolina on Wednesday to meet with officials and take an aerial tour of Asheville.

He said earlier that the federal government would be with affected residents in the nation's southeast "as long as it takes."

Government officials and aid groups worked to deliver supplies by air, truck and even mule to the hard-hit tourism hub of Asheville and its surrounding mountain towns. At least 40 people died in the county that includes Asheville.

The destruction and desperation were overwhelming. A flattened cargo container sat atop a bridge crossing a river with muddy brown water. A mass of debris, including overturned pontoon boats and splintered wooden docks and tree trunks covered the surface of Lake Lure, a picturesque spot tucked between the mountains outside Asheville.

A woman cradled her child while people around her gathered on a hillside where they found cellphone service, many sending a simple text: "I'm OK."

The North Carolina death toll included one horrific story after another of people who were trapped by floodwaters in their homes and vehicles or were killed by falling trees. A courthouse security officer died after being submerged inside his truck. A couple and a 6-year-old boy waiting to be rescued on a rooftop drowned when part of their home collapsed.

Rescuers did manage to save dozens, including an infant and two others stuck on the top of a car in Atlanta. More than 50 hospital patients and staff in Tennessee were plucked by helicopter from the hospital rooftop in a daring rescue operation.

How some of the worst-hit areas are coping

Several main routes into Asheville were washed away or blocked by mudslides, including a 4-mile (6.4-kilometer) section of Interstate 40, and the city's water system was severely damaged, forcing residents to scoop creek water into buckets so they could flush toilets.

People shared food and water and comforted one another in one neighborhood where a wall of water ripped away all of the trees, leaving a muddy mess nearby. "That's the blessing so far in this," Sommerville Johnston said outside her home, which has been without power since Friday.

She planned on treating the neighborhood to venison stew from her powerless freezer before it goes bad. "Just bring your bowl and spoon," she said.

Others waited in a line for more than a block at Mountain Valley Water, a water seller, to fill up milk jugs and whatever other containers they could find.

Derek Farmer, who brought three gallon-sized apple juice containers, said he had been prepared for the storm but now was nervous after three days without water. "I just didn't know how bad it was going to be," Farmer said.

Officials warned that rebuilding would be lengthy and difficult. Helene roared ashore in northern Florida late Thursday as a Category 4 hurricane and quickly moved through Georgia, the Carolinas and Tennessee. The storm upended life throughout the Southeast, where deaths were also reported in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina and Virginia.

Federal Emergency Management Agency officials said Monday that shelters were housing more than 1,000 people.

North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper took an aerial tour of the Asheville area and later met with workers distributing meals.

"This has been an unprecedented storm that has hit western North Carolina," he said afterward. "It's requiring an unprecedented response."

Officials implored travelers from coming into the region to keep the roads clear for emergency vehicles. More than 50 search teams spread throughout the region in search of stranded people.

Waiting for help and searching for a signal in North Carolina

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Several dozen people gathered on high ground in Asheville, where they found one of the city's hottest commodities — a cell signal.

"Is this day three or day four?" Colleen Burnet asked. "It's all been a blur."

The storm unleashed the worst flooding in a century in North Carolina. Rainfall estimates in some areas topped more than 2 feet (61 centimeters) since Wednesday.

Ten federal search and rescue teams were on the ground and another nine were on their way, while trucks and cargo planes were arriving with food and water, FEMA said. FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell surveyed damage with Cooper Monday.

Volunteers were showing up, too. Mike Toberer decided to bring a dozen of his mules to deliver food, water and diapers to hard-to-reach mountainous areas.

"We'll take our chainsaws, and we'll push those mules through," he said, noting that each one can carry about 200 pounds (90 kilograms) of supplies.

Why western North Carolina was hit so hard

Western North Carolina suffered relatively more devastation because that's where the remnants of Helene encountered the higher elevations and cooler air of the Appalachian Mountains, causing even more rain to fall.

Asheville and many surrounding mountain towns were built in valleys, leaving them especially vulnerable to devastating rain and flooding. Plus, the ground already was saturated before Helene arrived, said Christiaan Patterson, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service.

"By the time Helene came into the Carolinas, we already had that rain on top of more rain," Patterson said.

Climate change has exacerbated conditions that allow such storms to thrive, rapidly intensifying in warming waters and turning into powerful cyclones, sometimes within hours.

Destruction from Florida to Virginia

Along Florida's Gulf Coast, several feet of water swamped the Clearwater Marine Aquarium, forcing workers to move two manatees and sea turtles. All of the animals were safe but much of the aquarium's vital equipment was damaged or destroyed, said James Powell, the aquarium's executive director.

Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp said the storm "literally spared no one." Most people in and around Augusta, a city of about 200,000 near the South Carolina border, were still without power Monday.

With at least 30 killed in South Carolina, Helene was the deadliest tropical cyclone to hit the state since Hurricane Hugo made landfall north of Charleston in 1989, killing 35 people.

Tropical Storm Kirk forms and could become a powerful hurricane

Tropical Storm Kirk formed Monday in the eastern Atlantic Ocean and is expected to become a "large and powerful hurricane" by Tuesday night or Wednesday, the U.S. National Hurricane Center said. The storm was located about 800 miles (1,285 kilometers) west of the Cabo Verde Islands with maximum sustained winds of 60 mph (95 kph). There were no coastal watches or warnings in effect, and the storm system was not a threat to land.

Trump makes false claims about federal response as he campaigns in area ravaged by Hurricane Helene

By ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON, CHRISTINE FERNANDO and JEFF AMY Associated Press

VALDOSTA, Ga. (AP) — Donald Trump repeatedly spread falsehoods Monday about the federal response to Hurricane Helene despite claiming not to be politicizing the disaster as he toured hard-hit areas in south Georgia.

The former president and Republican nominee claimed upon landing in Valdosta that President Joe Biden was "sleeping" and not responding to Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp, who he said was "calling the president and hasn't been able to get him." He repeated the claim at an event with reporters after being told Kemp said he had spoken to Biden.

"He's lying, and the governor told him he was lying," Biden said Monday.

The White House previously announced that Biden spoke by phone Sunday night with Kemp and North

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Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper, as well as Scott Matheson, mayor of Valdosta, Georgia, and Florida Emergency Management Director John Louk. Kemp confirmed Monday morning that he spoke to Biden the night before.

"The president just called me yesterday afternoon and I missed him and called him right back and he just said 'Hey, what do you need?' And I told him, you know, we've got what we need, we'll work through the federal process," Kemp said. "He offered if there are other things we need just to call him directly, which I appreciate that."

In addition to being humanitarian crises, natural disasters can create political tests for elected officials, particularly in the closing weeks of a presidential campaign in which among the hardest-hit states were North Carolina and Georgia, two battlegrounds. Trump over the last several days has used the damage wrought by Helene to attack Harris, the Democratic nominee, and suggest she and Biden are playing politics with the storm — something he was accused of doing when president.

Biden is defiant about spending time at his beach house

While the White House highlighted Biden's call to Kemp and others, the president faced questions about his decision to spend the weekend at his beach house in Delaware, rather than the White House, to monitor the storm.

"I was commanding it," Biden told reporters after delivering remarks at the White House on the federal government's response. "I was on the phone for at least two hours yesterday and the day before as well. I commanded it. It's called a telephone."

Biden received frequent updates on the storm, the White House said, as did Harris aboard Air Force Two as she made a West Coast campaign swing. The vice president cut short her campaign trip Monday to return to Washington for a briefing from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Trump, writing on his social media platform Monday, also claimed without evidence that the federal government and North Carolina's Democratic governor were "going out of their way to not help people in Republican areas." Asheville, which was devastated by the storm, is solidly Democratic, as is much of Buncombe County, which surrounds it.

The death toll from Helene has surpassed 100 people, with some of the worst damage caused by inland flooding in North Carolina.

Biden said he will travel to North Carolina on Wednesday to get a first-hand look at the devastation, but will limit his footprint so as not to distract from the ongoing recovery efforts.

During remarks Monday at FEMA headquarters, Harris said she has received regular briefings on the disaster response, including from FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell, and has spoken with Kemp and Cooper in the last 24 hours.

"I have shared with them that we will do everything in our power to help communities respond and recover," she said. "And I've shared with them that I plan to be on the ground as soon as possible without disrupting any emergency response operations."

When asked if her visit was politicizing the storm, she frowned and shook her head but did not reply.

Trump partnered with a Christian charity to bring supplies

The Trump campaign partnered with the Christian humanitarian aid organization Samaritan's Purse to bring trucks of fuel, food, water and other critical supplies to Georgia, said Karoline Leavitt, the Trump campaign's national press secretary.

Leavitt did not immediately respond to questions about how much had been donated and from which entity. Samaritan's Purse also declined to address the matter in a statement.

Trump also launched a GoFundMe campaign for supporters to send financial aid to people impacted by the storm. It quickly passed its \$1 million goal Monday night.

"Our hearts are with you and we are going to be with you as long as you need it," Trump said, flanked by a group of elected officials and Republican supporters.

"We're not talking about politics now," Trump added.

Trump said he wanted to stop in North Carolina but was holding off because access and communication is limited in hard-hit communities.

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When asked by The Associated Press on Monday if he was concerned that his visit to Georgia was taking away law enforcement resources that could be used for disaster response, Trump said, "No." He said his campaign instead "brought many wagons of resources."

Katie Watson, who owns with her husband the home design store Trump visited, said she was told the former president picked that location because he saw shots of the business destroyed with the rubble and said, "Find that place and find those people."

"He didn't come here for me. He came here to recognize that this town has been destroyed. It's a big setback," she said.

"He recognizes that we are hurting and he wants us to know that," she added. "It was a lifetime opportunity to meet the president. This is not exactly the way I wanted to do it."

Trump campaign officials have long pointed to his visit to East Palestine, Ohio, the site of a toxic trail derailment, as a turning point in the early days of the presidential race when he was struggling to establish his footing as a candidate. They believed his warm welcome by residents frustrated by the federal government's response helped remind voters why they had been drawn to him years earlier.

Trump fought with Puerto Rico and meteorologists while president

During Trump's term as president, he visited numerous disaster zones, including the aftermaths of hurricanes, tornadoes and shootings. But the trips sometimes elicited controversy such as when he tossed paper towels to cheering residents in Puerto Rico in 2017 in the wake of Hurricane Maria.

It also took until weeks before the presidential election in 2020 for Trump's administration to release \$13 billion in assistance for the territory. A federal government watchdog found that officials hampered an investigation into delays in aid delivery.

In another 2019 incident, Trump administration officials admonished some meteorologists for tweeting that Alabama was not threatened by Hurricane Dorian, contradicting the then-president. Trump would famously display a map altered with a black Sharpie pen to indicate Alabama could be in the path of the storm.

Trump makes false claims about federal response as he campaigns in area ravaged by Hurricane Helene

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Judge strikes down Georgia ban on abortions, allowing them to resume beyond 6 weeks into pregnancy

By KATE BRUMBACK and JEFF AMY Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — A Georgia judge on Monday struck down the state's abortion law, which took effect in 2022 and effectively prohibited abortions beyond about six weeks of pregnancy.

Fulton County Superior Court Judge Robert McBurney wrote in his order that the law violates Georgia's Constitution, finding that "liberty in Georgia includes in its meaning, in its protections, and in its bundle of rights the power of a woman to control her own body, to decide what happens to it and in it, and to reject state interference with her healthcare choices."

When the U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* in 2022 and ended a national right to abortion, it opened the door for state bans. Thirteen states now bar abortion at all stages of pregnancy, with some exceptions. Georgia was one of four where bans begin after about the first six weeks of pregnancy — often before women realize they're pregnant.

McBurney's ruling would allow abortions through at least 20 weeks of pregnancy.

Kara Murray, a spokesperson for Georgia Attorney General Chris Carr, said he would immediately appeal to the state supreme court. The state high court earlier reversed a separate ruling by McBurney that had struck down the law on different grounds and could put Monday's ruling on hold pending an appeal.

"We believe Georgia's life act is fully constitutional," Murray said.

The bans have been felt deeply in the South because many people live hundreds of miles from states where abortion procedures can be obtained legally. If the Georgia ruling stands, it could open new avenues to access abortion not only in Georgia, but for people in nearby states.

Georgia's law was passed by state lawmakers and signed by Republican Gov. Brian Kemp in 2019 but it was initially blocked from taking effect until the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*, which had protected the right to an abortion for nearly 50 years.

Kemp has in the past tried to soften its political impact by trying to focus on the health of mothers. Monday, he attacked the ruling.

"Once again, the will of Georgians and their representatives has been overruled by the personal beliefs of one judge," Kemp said in a statement. "Protecting the lives of the most vulnerable among us is one of our most sacred responsibilities, and Georgia will continue to be a place where we fight for the lives of the unborn."

Carol Tobias, president of the National Right to Life Committee, called the ruling "ridiculous."

"This judge is an activist judge who is ignoring higher court rulings to do what he wants," she said in an interview. "And I don't think it's going to stand."

Monica Simpson, executive director of SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective, one

of the plaintiffs in the lawsuit, celebrated the ruling.

"Since we've seen these direct attacks here in the South, in particular, on abortion access, we have been in a deep defensive posture for a really long time," she said. "It feels like our work has not been in vain."

While carafem, an abortion provider in Atlanta, plans to expand its services as permitted over the next several weeks, co-founder Melissa Grant said she fears a reversal.

"Staff and clients will be living with this possibility hanging over immediate change, and that can be devastating to people who are trying to plan their lives and try to take care of their health," Grant said.

Kwajelyn Jackson, executive director of Feminist Women's Health Center, another Atlanta abortion provider, said they "will not be turning patients away based on the presence or absence of fetal cardiac activity, and so for as long as we are able, we're hopeful that we'll be able to care for patients who need services from us."

Georgia's law prohibited most abortions once a "detectable human heartbeat" was present. Cardiac activity can be detected by ultrasound in an embryo's cells that will eventually become the heart at around six weeks into a pregnancy.

Before the law kicked in, there were more than 4,400 abortions each month in Georgia. That has dropped a monthly average of about 2,400 since the ban began in 2022 according to data from the Society of Family Planning.

The ruling means the law in the state reverts to its prior status, allowing abortions until roughly 20 weeks into a pregnancy, McBurney wrote.

The right to privacy in the Georgia Constitution includes the right to make personal healthcare decisions, he wrote.

"When a fetus growing inside a woman reaches viability, when society can assume care and responsibility for that separate life, then — and only then — may society intervene," McBurney wrote.

An "arbitrary six-week ban" on abortions "is inconsistent with these rights and the proper balance that a viability rule establishes between a woman's rights of liberty and privacy and society's interest in protecting and caring for unborn infants," the order says.

Claire Bartlett, executive director of the Georgia Life Alliance, expressed confidence that the Georgia Supreme Court would again overturn McBurney, saying he wrongly attempted "to create a right to abortion out of whole cloth by finding that it resides in our Constitution."

"It's just ironic that based on his decision on Georgia's constitutional protection against a person being deprived of life, liberty or property, which is what the argument was, that he chose to focus on a woman's right to liberty rather than the child's right to life," Bartlett said.

In part because Georgia has no way for citizens to place initiatives on the ballot, there's no referendum on abortion rights scheduled for Georgia's election this year. But Democrats have focused on abortion as they appeal to women and suburbanites.

On Sept. 20, Vice President Kamala Harris visited Atlanta to cast Republican Donald Trump as a threat to women's freedom and lives, warning Trump would limit abortion access even more if reelected. It's also a key issue in state legislative races as Democrats try to cut into Republican majorities.

Harris' visit came after ProPublica reported that two women in the state died after they didn't get proper medical treatment for complications from taking abortion pills to end their pregnancies. Democrats argue such deaths were a predictable outcome of restrictive laws

Harris has been outspoken on abortion rights ever since the Supreme Court's decision more than two years ago.

Biden administration doubles down on tough asylum restrictions at border

By REBECCA SANTANA Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Biden administration said Monday it is making asylum restrictions at the

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southern border even tougher, as it's increasingly eager to show voters uneasy over immigration that it is taking a hard stance on border security.

The new rules, which toughen restrictions announced in June, bar migrants from being granted asylum when U.S. officials deem that the southern border is overwhelmed.

Under the previous rules, the U.S. could restrict asylum access when the number of migrants trying to enter the country between the official border crossings hit 2,500 per day. The daily numbers had to average below 1,500 per day for a week in order for the restrictions to be lifted.

The version rolled out Monday says the daily numbers will have to be below 1,500 for nearly a month before the restrictions can be lifted. And the administration is now counting all children toward that number, whereas previously only migrant children from Mexico were counted.

These changes, which go into effect on Tuesday, will make it much more difficult to lift the restrictions and allow people entering the country between the official border crossings eventually to apply for asylum in the U.S.

But the restrictions implemented in June have never been lifted because the numbers of border encounters have never gotten low enough for long enough, raising the question of why the administration felt the need to make them even tougher now. The seven-day average has gotten down to about 1,800 migrant encounters per day, the Department of Homeland Security said.

A senior administration official said Monday that the longer timeline was necessary to make sure that drops in immigration are sustained and not due to a one-time event. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to brief reporters about the tighter restrictions before they were made public.

Immigration advocates had harshly criticized the restrictions announced in June, saying the administration was slashing away at vital protections for people fleeing persecution.

Many weighed in Monday, saying that by making the rules even tougher the administration was sending people back into danger and not living up to its humanitarian obligations.

The American Immigration Lawyers Association said the new rule is effectively an asylum ban and that the exceptions aren't as substantive as the administration has made them out to be. The group said at the current rates of border crossings the asylum restrictions would be in place indefinitely.

"It is imperative that our nation have safe, orderly, and efficient processes at the border that also ensure fair and humane treatment of asylum seekers. The consequences of denying asylum to someone who is being persecuted can literally be a matter of life or death," the organization's president, Kelli Stump, said in a statement Monday.

The UN refugee agency said it had "profound concern" about the changes and that blocking asylum access violates international refugee law and "the humanitarian principles to which the United States has long been a leader."

Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas pushed back on suggestions that the updated rules amounted to an asylum ban. He said there were exceptions built into the rule for people who qualify and pointed to other programs such as an online appointment app the U.S. has that allows people to come to the U.S. and seek asylum.

"We have not cut off our asylum system," the secretary said.

The exceptions include victims of a severe form of trafficking, who would still be allowed to apply for asylum.

The administration also allows people using its CBP One appointment system to apply for asylum, but those people must schedule an appointment on the app to come to an official border crossing point.

The administration has encouraged migrants to use that app instead of crossing the border illegally.

But demand far exceeds the 1,450 appointments available daily, and the administration has not indicated that it will increase the number of appointments.

The administration has touted its asylum restrictions, saying they have led to serious drops in the number of migrants coming to the southern border. The Department of Homeland Security said Monday that since the changes were announced in June, the daily number of people encountered by Border Patrol between the legal border crossings has fallen over 50%.

In a statement announcing the new rules, DHS called on Congress to do more to solve immigration problems.

Border security and immigration are a key weakness for the Biden administration and Vice President Kamala Harris, the Democratic presidential nominee.

Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump and others from his party have hammered away at the high numbers of migrants who've come to the southern border under the Biden administration, saying the White House and Harris haven't done enough to restrict migration and secure the border.

Harris visited a border region of Arizona on Friday, her first visit as the Democratic nominee. She walked along the tall metal fence separating the U.S. from Mexico and called for a tightening of asylum rules while pushing for a better way to welcome immigrants legally.

"I reject the false choice that suggests we must choose either between securing our border and creating a system that is orderly, safe and humane," Harris said. "We can and we must do both."

Justice Department will launch civil rights review into 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre

By SEAN MURPHY Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — The Justice Department announced Monday it plans to launch a review of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre, an attack by a white mob on a thriving Black district that is considered one of the worst single acts of violence against Black people in U.S. history.

The review was launched under a federal cold-case initiative that has led to prosecutions of some Civil Rights Era cases, although Assistant U.S. Attorney General Kristen Clarke said they have "no expectation" there is anyone living who could be prosecuted as a result of the inquiry. Still, the announcement of a first-ever federal probe into the massacre was embraced by descendants of survivors who have long criticized city and state leaders for not doing more to compensate those affected by the attack.

Clarke said the agency plans to issue a public report detailing its findings by the end of the year.

"We acknowledge descendants of the survivors, and the victims continue to bear the trauma of this act of racial terrorism," Clarke said during her remarks in Washington.

Damario Solomon-Simmons, an attorney for the last known survivors of the massacre, 110-year-old Viola Fletcher and 109-year-old Lessie Benningfield Randle, described Clarke's announcement as a "joyous occasion."

"It is about time," said Solomon-Simmons, flanked by descendants of massacre survivors. "It only took 103 years, but this is a joyous occasion, a momentous day, an amazing opportunity for us to make sure that what happened here in Tulsa is understood for what it was — the largest crime scene in the history of this country."

As many as 300 Black people were killed; more than 1,200 homes, businesses, schools and churches were destroyed; and thousands were forced into internment camps overseen by the National Guard when a white mob, including some deputized by authorities, looted and burned the Greenwood District, also known as Black Wall Street.

The Oklahoma Supreme Court in June dismissed a lawsuit by survivors, dampening the hope of advocates for racial justice that the city would make financial amends for the attack.

The nine-member court upheld the decision made by a district court judge in Tulsa last year, ruling that the plaintiff's grievances about the destruction of the Greenwood district, although legitimate, did not fall within the scope of the state's public nuisance statute.

After the state Supreme Court turned away the lawsuit, Solomon-Simmons asked the U.S. Department of Justice to open an investigation into the massacre under the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act.

Although investigations under the Act have led to successful prosecutions of Civil Rights Era cases, the DOJ acknowledged in a report to Congress last year that there are significant legal barriers to cases before 1968.

"Even with our best efforts, investigations into historic cases are exceptionally difficult, and rarely will justice be reached inside of a courtroom," the agency noted in the report.

Since the Act was approved in 2008, the DOJ has opened for review 137 cases, involving 160 known victims. The agency has fully investigated and resolved 125 of those cases through prosecution, referral or closure.

The report also notes the Act has led to two successful federal prosecutions and three successful state prosecutions. Both federal prosecutions involved separate murders of Black men in Mississippi by members of the Ku Klux Klan in the 1960s.

The first federally assisted state prosecution under the initiative was against Klansmen who bombed a Birmingham, Alabama, church in 1963, killing four young girls. That prosecution in the early 2000s led to convictions and life sentences for two men involved in the bombing.

Kris Kristofferson was 'a walking contradiction,' a renegade and pilgrim surrounded by friends

By ANDREW DALTON AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — If Kris Kristofferson's life were fiction, it would feel a little implausible.

He was a Texas-born Golden Gloves boxer and star football player, a Rhodes Scholar and a helicopter-flying U.S. Army captain who walked away from a West Point faculty gig to briefly become a janitor on his way to becoming one of the greatest American singer-songwriters of the 20th century.

And, as if just for kicks along the way, he became a devilishly handsome major movie star who could play either a rugged outlaw or a romantic leading man.

Kristofferson, a father of eight children who was married to third wife Lisa Meyers for the last four decades of his life, died at his home on Maui, Hawaii, on Saturday at age 88, surrounded by family.

He had a master's degree in English from Oxford and could quote the poetry of William Blake from memory. One of his best songs, "The Pilgrim," probably played on "The Pilgrim's Progress" from an even older English writer, John Bunyan. Kristofferson's title character could be a description of himself:

"He's a walking contradiction partly truth and partly fiction, Taking every wrong direction on his lonely way back home."

Though the "lonely" part certainly didn't apply. Kristofferson never lacked for friends, including heroes who became mentors and close companions, like Johnny Cash and Willie Nelson.

While walking away from the Army, he swept floors and emptied ashtrays at Columbia Records in Nashville to get access to stars, including Cash.

He told the Associated Press in 2006 that he likely would not have had a career without the Man in Black, who would record the best-known version of Kristofferson's "Sunday Morning Coming Down."

"He kind of took me under his wing before he cut any of my songs," Kristofferson said. "He cut my first record that was record of the year. He put me on stage the first time."

Kristofferson was a major performer and hitmaker in his own right, but never had the golden voice that some of his friends did.

Nelson used an entire album of Kristofferson songs to show his vocal mastery, and a few — including "Loving Her Was Easier (Than Anything I'll Ever Do Again)" — became lifelong live staples.

"There's no better songwriter alive than Kris Kristofferson," Nelson said in a 2009 awards show tribute. "Everything he writes is a standard."

Kristofferson, more comfortably than anyone, straddled the worlds of classic country music and Baby Boomer hippie culture. Janis Joplin was another close friend, and her howling rendition of Kristofferson's "Me and Bobby McGee" would become a hit soon after her death in 1970. It was probably the best known version of any Kristofferson song, and he would use her arrangement of it when he played the song live.

Kristofferson also embraced kindred spirits of younger generations, like Sinéad O'Connor.

A critic of the Roman Catholic Church well before allegations of sexual abuse were widely reported, O'Connor was loudly booed at a Madison Square Garden tribute to Bob Dylan in 1992, two weeks after

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ripping up a picture of Pope John Paul II while appearing on "Saturday Night Live."

Kristofferson would come out and walk her off stage in solidarity and solace. Years later, he recorded "Sister Sinead," in which he wrote, "And maybe she's crazy and maybe she ain't, But so was Picasso and so were the saints."

His leftist politics may have been the greatest of his "contradictions," coming from a country-singing Army veteran from Brownsville, Texas. He was a staunch supporter of Palestinians and made heated denunciations of many military actions in Central America and the Middle East from the stage, sometimes to the chagrin of audiences. He clashed at times with more hawkish stars like Toby Keith, though he counted many conservative country stars as friends and supporters.

Kristofferson said during a 1995 interview with the AP he remembered a woman complaining about one of his songs that talked about killing babies in the name of freedom.

"I said, 'Well, what made you mad — the fact that I was saying it or the fact that we're doing it?'" Kristofferson said. "To me, they were getting mad at me 'cause I was telling them what was going on."

To him, there was no contradiction, his political thinking was a reckoning for his military past.

"When you come to question some of the things being done in your name," he told the AP in 2006, "it was particularly painful."

No one was upset by the man's blue-eyed gaze on screen, however. Legendary Western director Sam Peckinpah saw him as a perfect young outlaw to put alongside James Coburn in 1973's "Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid."

But he would be best known for playing the handsome love interest in films that centered on strong women: Ellen Burstyn in 1974's "Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore," directed by Martin Scorsese, and Barbra Streisand in the 1976 version of "A Star Is Born," a role echoed by Bradley Cooper in the 2018 remake.

Streisand said on Instagram that she was developing "A Star is Born" when she saw Kristofferson on stage at the Troubadour in Los Angeles.

"I knew he was something special," she wrote.

Scorsese said Monday that Kristofferson was "a damn good actor, a remarkable screen presence. Spending time with Kris when we made 'Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore' was one of the highlights of my life."

The director said in a statement that he was listening to "Me and Bobby McGee," "Just like half of the world."

Kristofferson became a member of the Country Music Hall of Fame in 2004, but he had already been canonized beyond his own satisfaction when he became a member of the supergroup the Highwaymen in the mid-1980s, alongside Cash, Waylon Jennings, and Nelson, the only member now alive. To Kristofferson, it meant the men he had admired most regarded him as an equal.

"To be not only recorded by them but to be friends with them and to work side by side was just a little unreal," Kristofferson told the AP in 2005. "It was like seeing your face on Mount Rushmore."

Nelson and Cash's daughter Rosanne were among the many artists who took part in a 2016 tribute concert to Kristofferson, joining him on stage for a group rendition of his song "Why Me."

Kristofferson long thought about he would like to be remembered.

Another friend, Leonard Cohen, wrote in liner notes to his greatest hits collection that Kristofferson once told him he wanted the opening lines of Cohen's "Bird on a Wire" on his tombstone: "Like a bird on a wire, Like a drunk in a midnight choir, I have tried, in my way, to be free."

It's apt enough, but another Kristofferson line from the "The Pilgrim" might serve just as well:

"The goin' up was worth the comin' down."

Reaction to the death of Basketball Hall of Famer Dikembe Mutombo

By The Associated Press undefined

Reaction to the death of Basketball Hall of Famer Dikembe Mutombo, who died Monday from brain cancer. He was 58.

“I am deeply saddened to hear about Dikembe’s passing. He was a defensive force on the court who changed the way the game of basketball is played. But more importantly, Dikembe truly changed the world and improved countless lives through his humanitarian work in Africa. I will especially miss hearing his booming laugh. My condolences to his wife, Rose, his children and his family.” — Basketball Hall of Famer Michael Jordan.

“I had the privilege of traveling the world with Dikembe and seeing first-hand how his generosity and compassion uplifted people. He was always accessible at NBA events over the years — with his infectious smile, deep booming voice and signature finger wag that endeared him to basketball fans of every generation. Dikembe’s indomitable spirit continues on in those who he helped and inspired throughout his extraordinary life. I am one of the many people whose lives were touched by Dikembe’s big heart and I will miss him dearly.” — NBA Commissioner Adam Silver.

“As a basketball player, he might have been the best defensive player to ever play the NBA. I never saw (Bill) Russell playing, but he’d have to be awfully good to be as good as Dikembe. You’re very fortunate as a coach when your best player is the one that works the hardest and keeps all the rules, which is what Dikembe did. But his legacy might be even bigger with the work that he did off of the court.” — Former Nuggets coach Dan Issel

“Dikembe was not only great on the court, but a force for good off it, admired and loved by those who got to know him. His smile, his values and his dedication to basketball, as well as to helping others, will never be forgotten. My thoughts are with his family and his loved ones at this very difficult time. May he rest in peace.” — Basketball Hall of Famer Pau Gasol.

“Honestly, I know him more for his commercials. It’s just how I grew up. I never got to watch him play. It just shows the impact he’s made not only on the court. I know he’s done a lot of work worldwide and made an impact on everybody’s lives in a different way.” — Cleveland center Jarrett Allen, who revealed Monday that he wanted to bring back Mutombo’s finger-wag celebration before being told that the Hall of Famer had died earlier in the day.

“Like many across the globe, my heart is heavy with the loss of Atlanta Hawks legend and humanitarian Dikembe Mutombo. I am grateful for the opportunity to visit with him and his wife Rose at their home last month and express the gratitude and pride Atlantans and millions worldwide held for such a truly good man. He is not just a Hall of Famer — he is irreplaceable. My prayers are with his family and loved ones.” — Atlanta Mayor Andre Dickens.

“It’s really hard to believe and it’s hard for us to be without that guy.” — Toronto Raptors President Masai Ujiri.

“He loved others with every ounce of his being. That’s what made him so accessible. That’s what made him real. Dikembe Mutombo was salt and light, and today, on the 30th of September, 2024, he has been called to rest. I love you, Dad. Rest easy.” — Ryan Mutombo, Dikembe Mutombo’s son.

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"I was fortunate to have been able to call him a friend. My family and I were beyond proud to have him represent the Hawks organization on and off the court. With his jersey in the rafters, his life and legacy will always be remembered in Atlanta." — Hawks principal owner Tony Ressler.

"You paved the way for me and for many Congolese and African youth with your legendary basketball career and charitable actions. You are an NBA legend and an African icon and that will inspire the many coming generations." — Former NBA player Serge Ibaka.

"Georgetown lost one of its best in Dikembe Mutombo. Basketball fans remember him for his defense, rebounding and that trademark finger wag, but to those of us that knew him well, we will miss the father, teammate, mentor and friend. Dikembe left his mark on the Georgetown community in so many ways, but he will be best remembered for his unique gift of leveraging his platform as a Hall of Fame basketball player to maximize his global impact as a humanitarian." — Georgetown athletic director Lee Reed.

"Doing the things he's done — did — it's tough for everybody. It's tough for the world. Being a fan of his, and then having an opportunity to play with him, gives me a different perspective as a friend of his. Tough day. but he's going to be watching over us." — 76ers guard Kyle Lowry.

"Dikembe was beloved by the entire NBA community and his tireless humanitarian efforts left an indelible mark on our league." — Houston Rockets owner Tilman Fertitta.

"I knew him as a true humanitarian. ... I will love and miss him terribly." — Cindy McCain, the widow of late U.S. Sen. John McCain.

"He was one of the nicest guys on earth and had such a huge heart. He genuinely wanted to help as many people in the world that he possibly could. Just had a beautiful spirit about him." — former NBA player Etan Thomas.

Dikembe Mutombo, a Hall of Fame player and tireless advocate, dies at 58 from brain cancer

By TIM REYNOLDS AP Basketball Writer

Dikembe Mutombo, a Basketball Hall of Famer who was one of the best defensive players in NBA history and a longtime global ambassador for the game, died Monday from brain cancer, the league announced. He was 58.

His family revealed two years ago that he was undergoing treatment in Atlanta for a brain tumor. The NBA said he died surrounded by his family.

"Dikembe Mutombo was simply larger than life," NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said. "On the court, he was one of the greatest shot blockers and defensive players in the history of the NBA. Off the floor, he poured his heart and soul into helping others."

Mutombo was distinctive in so many ways — the playful finger wag at opponents after blocking their shots, his height, his deep and gravelly voice, his massive smile. Players of this generation were always drawn to him and Philadelphia 76ers star Joel Embiid, who was born in Cameroon, looked to Mutombo as an inspiration.

"It's a sad day, especially for us Africans, and really the whole world," Embiid said Monday. "Other than what he's accomplished on the basketball court, I think he was even better off the court. He's one of the guys that I look up to, as far as having an impact, not just on the court, but off the court. He's done a lot of great things. He did a lot of great things for a lot of people. He was a role model of mine. It is a sad day."

Mutombo spent 18 seasons in the NBA, playing for Denver, Atlanta, Houston, Philadelphia, New York and the then-New Jersey Nets. The 7-foot-2 center out of Georgetown was an eight-time All-Star, three-time

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All-NBA selection and went into the Hall of Fame in 2015 after averaging 9.8 points and 10.3 rebounds per game for his career.

He also was part of one of the league's most iconic playoff moments, helping eighth-seeded Denver oust top-seeded Seattle in the first round of the 1994 Western Conference playoffs. That best-of-five series marked the first time a No. 8 beat a No. 1 in NBA history.

"It's really hard to believe," Toronto President Masai Ujiri said Monday, pausing several times because he was overcome with emotion shortly after hearing the news of Mutombo's death. "It's hard for us to be without that guy. You have no idea what Dikembe Mutombo meant to me. ... That guy, he made us who we are. That guy is a giant, an incredible person."

Mutombo last played during the 2008-09 season, devoting his time after retirement to charitable and humanitarian causes. He spoke nine languages and founded the Dikembe Mutombo Foundation in 1997, concentrating on improving health, education and quality of life for the people in the Congo.

And on occasion, LeBron James pointed out with a laugh on Monday, Mutombo didn't necessarily improve the health of others.

"My fondest memory of Dikembe Mutombo? He fractured my face on my birthday in Cleveland with an elbow," James, the Los Angeles Lakers' star, said while taking several minutes Monday to pay tribute to Mutombo's life. "I never even got an opportunity to tell him about that. But yeah. I don't remember how old ... I was in Cleveland, my first stint, and I think I was turning 22 maybe?"

"I went to the hole and caught one of those Dikembe elbows, and if anybody know about the Dikembe elbows, they do not feel good. He fractured my face, and I went to the hospital that night, and I wore a mask for a little bit. That is my memory of Dikembe," James said.

James was close on the details: Dec. 29, 2004, was when that play happened, late in the first half, one day before his 20th birthday.

Mutombo told reporters that night he wasn't sure how James got hurt. "He was laying there and I was like, 'What happened, what happened?'" Mutombo told the Houston Chronicle after that game. "All I know, I was running to the basket. ... LeBron turned around to stop me going to the basket. The collision happened."

Ryan Mutombo, the Hall of Famer's son, said in a tribute posted on social media that his father "loved others with every ounce of his being."

"My dad is my hero because he simply cared," Ryan Mutombo wrote. "He remains the purest heart I have ever known."

Mutombo served on the boards of many organizations, including Special Olympics International, the CDC Foundation and the National Board for the U.S. Fund for UNICEF.

"There was nobody more qualified than Dikembe to serve as the NBA's first Global Ambassador," Silver said. "He was a humanitarian at his core. He loved what the game of basketball could do to make a positive impact on communities, especially in his native Democratic Republic of the Congo and across the continent of Africa."

Mutombo is one of three players to win the NBA's Defensive Player of the Year four times. The others: reigning DPOY winner Rudy Gobert of the Minnesota Timberwolves, and Hall of Famer Ben Wallace.

"He was always there to talk to me and advise me on how to approach the season and take care of my body and icing after games and stretching and trying different things like yoga," Milwaukee Bucks star Giannis Antetokounmpo said. "He will be always remembered and may his soul rest in peace."

Philadelphia 76ers president Daryl Morey — who was with Mutombo for many seasons in Houston — was informed of his friend's death during the team's media day on Monday. Tears welled in Morey's eyes as he processed the news.

"There aren't many guys like him," Morey said. "Just a great human being. When I was a rookie GM in this league, my first chance in Houston, he was someone I went to all the time. ... His accomplishments on the court, we don't need to talk about too much. Just an amazing human being, what he did off the court for Africa. Rest in peace, Dikembe."

The US is sending a few thousand more troops to the Middle East to boost security

By TARA COPP and LOLITA C. BALDOR Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. is sending a “few thousand” troops to the Middle East to bolster security and to defend Israel if necessary, the Pentagon said Monday. The announcement follows word that Israel has already launched limited raids across the border into Lebanon.

The additional forces would raise the total number of troops in the region to as many as 43,000.

The increased presence will involve multiple fighter jet and attack aircraft squadrons, Pentagon spokeswoman Sabrina Singh told reporters. U.S. officials said the total includes small numbers of other troops to augment the presence as well.

It follows recent strikes in Lebanon and the assassination of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah, a significant escalation in the war in the Middle East, this time between Israel and Hezbollah.

The additional personnel includes squadrons of F-15E, F-16, and F-22 fighter jets and A-10 attack aircraft, and the personnel needed to support them. The jets were supposed to rotate in and replace the squadrons already there. Instead, both the existing and new squadrons will remain in place to double the airpower on hand.

On Sunday, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin announced that he was temporarily extending the USS Abraham Lincoln carrier strike group and its embarked air wing in the region. A U.S. official said the extension will be for about a month. A second carrier, the USS Harry S. Truman, departed Virginia last week and is enroute to Europe. It will head to the Mediterranean Sea and will again provide a two-carrier presence in the broader region. It’s not expected to arrive for at least another week.

At the White House, President Joe Biden said Monday that “I’m more aware than you might know” about reports that Israel is planning a limited ground incursion into Lebanon after nearly a year of fighting with Hezbollah, and said he wants a cease-fire immediately. Asked about the reports, Biden said, “I’m more aware than you might know, and I’m comfortable with them stopping. We should have a cease-fire now.”

A dockworkers strike could shut down East and Gulf ports. Will it affect holiday shopping?

By MAE ANDERSON and ANNE D’INNOCENZIO AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. ports from Maine to Texas could shut down Tuesday if a union representing about 45,000 dockworkers carries through with a threatened strike.

A lengthy shutdown could raise prices on goods around the country and potentially cause shortages and price increases at big and small retailers alike as the holiday shopping season — along with a tight presidential election — approaches.

“First and foremost, we can expect delays to market. And those delays depend on really what the commodities are and priorities at the ports and how quickly things move,” said Mark Baxa, president of the Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals.

WHAT ARE THE ISSUES IN THE DOCKWORKERS STRIKE?

The International Longshoremen’s Association is demanding significantly higher wages and a total ban on the automation of cranes, gates and container-moving trucks that are used in the loading or unloading of freight at 36 U.S. ports. Those ports handle roughly half of the nations’ cargo from ships.

The contract expires between the International Longshoremen’s Association and the United States Maritime Alliance, which represents the ports, on Tuesday. The two sides haven’t held negotiations since June. A strike by the ILA workers would be the first by the union since 1977.

“The Ocean Carriers represented by USMX want to enjoy rich billion-dollar profits that they are making in 2024, while they offer ILA Longshore Workers an unacceptable wage package that we reject,” the ILA said in a statement on Monday.

The Associated Press reached out to a USMX spokesperson for comment.

WHICH PORTS ARE AFFECTED?

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While any port can handle any type of goods, some ports are specialized to handle goods for a particular industry. The ports that would be affected by the shutdown include Baltimore and Brunswick, Georgia, the top two busiest auto ports; Philadelphia, which gives priority to fruits and vegetables; and New Orleans, which handles coffee, mainly from South America and Southeast Asia, various chemicals from Mexico and North Europe, and wood products such as plywood from Asia and South America.

Other major ports affected include Boston; New York/New Jersey; Norfolk, Virginia; Wilmington, North Carolina; Charleston, South Carolina; Savannah, Georgia; Tampa, Florida; Mobile, Alabama; and Houston.

CAN THE GOVERNMENT INTERVENE?

If a strike were deemed a danger to U.S. economic health, President Joe Biden could, under the 1947 Taft-Hartley Act, seek a court order for an 80-day cooling-off period. This would suspend the strike.

But Biden, during an exchange with reporters on Sunday, said "no" when asked if he planned to intervene to plan a potential work stoppage impacting East Coast ports.

"Because it's collective bargaining, I don't believe in Taft-Hartley," Biden said.

HOW WILL THIS AFFECT CONSUMERS?

The strike could last weeks — or months. If a strike were resolved within a few weeks, consumers probably wouldn't notice any major shortages of retail goods. But a strike that persists for more than a month would likely cause a shortage of some consumer products, although most holiday retail goods have already arrived from overseas. Shoppers could see higher prices on a vast array of goods, from fruit and vegetables to cars.

RETAILERS ARE MAKING CONTINGENCY PLANS

Since the major supply chain disruption in 2021 caused by pandemic bottlenecks, retailers have adapted to supply chain disrupters being "the new norm," said Rick Haase, owner of a mini-chain of Patina gift shops in and around the Twin Cities in Minnesota.

"The best approach for Patina has been to secure orders early and have the goods in our warehouse and back rooms to ensure we are in stock on key goods," he said.

Daniel Vasquez, who owns Dynamic Auto Movers in Miami, Florida, which specializes in importing and exporting vehicles, increased inventory, specifically for vehicles that take longer to ship, in anticipation of a strike.

He has also stopped relying on one port or shipping partner and has expanded his relationship with smaller ports and shipping companies that can bypass congested areas.

"This move provides us with an edge — having backup partners in place means we can reroute shipments efficiently if the strike hits hard," he said.

HOW WILL A STRIKE AFFECT HOLIDAY SHOPPING?

Jonathan Gold, vice president of the supply chain and customs policy at the National Retail Federation, the nation's largest retail trade group, said the possible strike comes as the supply network continues to face challenges from ongoing Houthi attacks on commercial shipping that have essentially shut down the use of the Red Sea and Suez Canal.

The uncertainty also comes during the peak of retailers' holiday shipping season, which traditionally runs from July through early November. Many big retailers, anticipating a strike, started shipping their goods to U.S. distribution centers in June, and Gold noted that a majority of products are already in the U.S.

But retailers will have a hard time replenishing items and are incurring extra warehouse costs to store goods longer. Gold also noted that carriers are already announcing surcharges on containers to address potential disruptions.

The Toy Association, the nation's leading toy trade group, was one of roughly 200 trade groups that sent a joint letter to President Biden earlier this month urging the administration to work with ILA and USMX to come up with a contract. Greg Ahearn, its president and CEO, noted that a strike would happen at an extremely critical time for toy sellers and makers — up to 60% of a toy company's annual sales come during the fourth quarter. The holiday shipping window for the toy industry is anywhere from six to eight weeks and started in July, though some toy companies tried to ship earlier or add more toys to shipments, he said.

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"It hits many ways," he said. "From a consumer perspective, it starts with delays in availability and then starts to surface as product shortages within toys. At retail for the toy industry, it results in potentially higher prices based on scarcity and increased costs."

Donald Trump suggests 'one rough hour' of policing will end theft

By MEG KINNARD Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — Donald Trump has suggested that "one rough hour" of law enforcement action would tamp down retail theft, an echo of his longstanding support for more aggressive and potentially violent policing.

"One rough hour — and I mean real rough — the word will get out and it will end immediately, you know? It will end immediately," Trump said Sunday in Erie, Pennsylvania.

Trump has ramped up his rhetoric with just over a month before Election Day, describing immigrants in the U.S. illegally as criminals intent on harming native-born Americans and suggesting crime has skyrocketed despite national statistics showing the opposite. The former president has a long history of encouraging rough treatment of people in police custody and saying law enforcement should be exempt from potential punishment.

Three weeks ago, as the Fraternal Order of Police endorsed him at an event in Charlotte, North Carolina, Trump pledged unyielding support for police, including expanded use of force: "We have to get back to power and respect."

At his Bedminster golf club in New Jersey, Trump in August tied the suggestion of amped-up law enforcement activity to the deportation of immigrants. He advocated ensuring that officers "have immunity from prosecution, because frankly, our police are treated horribly. They're not allowed to do their job."

Trump was president during the racial justice protests that emerged in the summer of 2020 following the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis. He posted during the protests, "When the looting starts, the shooting starts." At the time, he signed an executive order encouraging better police practices but that was been criticized by some for failing to acknowledge what they consider systemic racial bias in policing.

During a 2017 speech in New York, the then-president appeared to advocate rougher treatment of people in police custody, speaking dismissively of the police practice of shielding the heads of handcuffed suspects as they are being placed in patrol cars. In response, the Suffolk County Police Department said it had strict rules and procedures about how prisoners should be handled, violations of which "are treated extremely seriously."

In Pennsylvania on Sunday, the former president and current Republican presidential nominee had been speaking about a measure approved by California voters when his Democratic rival, Vice President Kamala Harris, was state attorney general. Trump has claimed that the provision — which makes the theft of goods at or below that level a misdemeanor, rather than a felony — allows shoplifting up to \$950 in merchandise without consequences.

Asked if his comments Sunday amounted to a policy proposal, Trump's campaign said that he "has always been the law and order President and he continues to reiterate the importance of enforcing existing laws." Spokesperson Steven Cheung went on to warn of "all-out anarchy" if Harris is elected, citing her time as California's top prosecutor.

Harris' campaign did not immediately return a message seeking comment on Trump's remarks. Democrats have long noted that dozens of police officers were injured on Jan. 6, 2021, when a mob of Trump supporters stormed the U.S. Capitol to try to overturn his loss to now-President Joe Biden.

Kris Kristofferson, singer-songwriter and actor, dies at 88

By ANDREW DALTON and KRISTIN M. HALL AP Entertainment Writers

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Kris Kristofferson, a Rhodes scholar with a deft writing style and rough charisma who became a country music superstar and an A-list Hollywood actor, has died.

Kristofferson died at his home on Maui, Hawaii, on Saturday, family spokeswoman Ebie McFarland said

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in an email. He was 88.

McFarland said Kristofferson died peacefully, surrounded by his family. No cause was given.

Starting in the late 1960s, the Brownsville, Texas native wrote such country and rock 'n' roll standards as "Sunday Mornin' Comin' Down," "Help Me Make it Through the Night," "For the Good Times" and "Me and Bobby McGee." Kristofferson was a singer himself, but many of his songs were best known as performed by others, whether Ray Price crooning "For the Good Times" or Janis Joplin belting out "Me and Bobby McGee."

He starred opposite Ellen Burstyn in director Martin Scorsese's 1974 film "Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore," starred opposite Barbra Streisand in the 1976 "A Star Is Born," and acted alongside Wesley Snipes in Marvel's "Blade" in 1998.

Kristofferson, who could recite William Blake from memory, wove intricate folk music lyrics about loneliness and tender romance into popular country music. With his long hair and bell-bottomed slacks and counterculture songs influenced by Bob Dylan, he represented a new breed of country songwriters along with such peers as Willie Nelson, John Prine and Tom T. Hall.

"There's no better songwriter alive than Kris Kristofferson," Nelson said at a 2009 BMI award ceremony for Kristofferson. "Everything he writes is a standard and we're all just going to have to live with that."

Kristofferson retired from performing and recording in 2021, making only occasional guest appearances on stage, including a performance with Cash's daughter Rosanne at Nelson's 90th birthday celebration at the Hollywood Bowl in Los Angeles in 2023. The two sang "Loving Her Was Easier (Than Anything I'll Ever Do Again)," a song that was a hit for Kristofferson and a longtime live staple for Nelson, another great interpreter of his work.

Nelson and Kristofferson would join forces with Johnny Cash and Waylon Jennings to create the country supergroup "The Highwaymen" starting in the mid-1980s.

Kristofferson was a Golden Gloves boxer, rugby star and football player in college; received a master's degree in English from Merton College at the University of Oxford in England; and flew helicopters as a captain in the U.S. Army but turned down an appointment to teach at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York, to pursue songwriting in Nashville. Hoping to break into the industry, he worked as a part-time janitor at Columbia Records' Music Row studio in 1966 when Dylan recorded tracks for the seminal "Blonde on Blonde" double album.

At times, the legend of Kristofferson was larger than real life. Cash liked to tell a mostly exaggerated story of how Kristofferson landed a helicopter on Cash's lawn to give him a tape of "Sunday Mornin' Comin' Down" with a beer in one hand. Over the years in interviews, Kristofferson said with all respect to Cash, while he did land a helicopter at Cash's house, the Man in Black wasn't even home at the time, the demo tape was a song that no one ever actually cut and he certainly couldn't fly a helicopter holding a beer.

In a 2006 interview with The Associated Press, he said he might not have had a career without Cash.

"Shaking his hand when I was still in the Army backstage at the Grand Ole Opry was the moment I'd decided I'd come back," Kristofferson said. "It was electric. He kind of took me under his wing before he cut any of my songs. He cut my first record that was record of the year. He put me on stage the first time."

One of his most recorded songs, "Me and Bobby McGee," was written based on a recommendation from Monument Records founder Fred Foster. Foster had a song title in his head called "Me and Bobby McKee," named after a female secretary in his building. Kristofferson said in an interview in the magazine, "Performing Songwriter," that he was inspired to write the lyrics about a man and woman on the road together after watching the Federico Fellini film, "La Strada."

Joplin, who had a close relationship with Kristofferson, changed the lyrics to make Bobby McGee a man and cut her version just days before she died in 1970 from a drug overdose. The recording became a posthumous No. 1 hit for Joplin.

Hits that Kristofferson recorded include "Watch Closely Now," "Desperados Waiting for a Train," "A Song I'd Like to Sing" and "Jesus Was a Capricorn."

In 1973, he married fellow songwriter Rita Coolidge and together they had a successful duet career that earned them two Grammy awards. They divorced in 1980.

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The formation of the Highwaymen, with Nelson, Cash and Jennings, was another pivotal point in his career as a performer.

"I think I was different from the other guys in that I came in it as a fan of all of them," Kristofferson told the AP in 2005. "I had a respect for them when I was still in the Army. When I went to Nashville they were like major heroes of mine because they were people who took the music seriously. To be not only recorded by them but to be friends with them and to work side by side was just a little unreal. It was like seeing your face on Mount Rushmore."

The group put out just three albums between 1985 and 1995. Jennings died in 2002 and Cash died a year later. Kristofferson said in 2005 that there was some talk about reforming the group with other artists, such as George Jones or Hank Williams Jr., but Kristofferson said it wouldn't have been the same.

"When I look back now — I know I hear Willie say it was the best time of his life," Kristofferson said in 2005. "For me, I wish I was more aware how short of a time it would be. It was several years, but it was still like the blink of an eye. I wish I would have cherished each moment."

Among the four, only Nelson is now alive.

Kristofferson's sharp-tongued political lyrics sometimes hurt his popularity, especially in the late 1980s. His 1989 album, "Third World Warrior" was focused on Central America and what United States policy had wrought there, but critics and fans weren't excited about the overtly political songs.

He said during a 1995 interview with the AP he remembered a woman complaining about one of the songs that began with killing babies in the name of freedom.

"And I said, 'Well, what made you mad — the fact that I was saying it or the fact that we're doing it? To me, they were getting mad at me 'cause I was telling them what was going on.'"

As the son of an Air Force General, he enlisted in the Army in the 1960s because it was expected of him.

"I was in ROTC in college, and it was just taken for granted in my family that I'd do my service," he said in a 2006 AP interview. "From my background and the generation I came up in, honor and serving your country were just taken for granted. So, later, when you come to question some of the things being done in your name, it was particularly painful."

Hollywood may have saved his music career. He still got exposure through his film and television appearances even when he couldn't afford to tour with a full band.

Kristofferson's first role was in Dennis Hopper's "The Last Movie," in 1971.

He had a fondness for Westerns, and would use his gravelly voice to play attractive, stoic leading men. He was Burstyn's ruggedly handsome love interest in "Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore" and a tragic rock star in a rocky relationship with Streisand in "A Star Is Born," a role echoed by Bradley Cooper in the 2018 remake.

He was the young title outlaw in director Sam Peckinpah's 1973 "Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid," a truck driver for the same director in 1978's "Convoy," and a corrupt sheriff in director John Sayles' 1996, "Lone Star." He also starred in one of Hollywood biggest financial flops, "Heaven's Gate," a 1980 Western that ran tens of millions of dollars over budget.

And in a rare appearance in a superhero movie, he played the mentor of Snipes' vampire hunter in "Blade."

He described in a 2006 AP interview how he got his first acting gigs when he performed in Los Angeles.

"It just happened that my first professional gig was at the Troubadour in L.A. opening for Linda Ronstadt," Kristofferson said. "Robert Hilburn (Los Angeles Times music critic) wrote a fantastic review and the concert was held over for a week," Kristofferson said. "There were a bunch of movie people coming in there, and I started getting film offers with no experience. Of course, I had no experience performing either."

Harris trolls Trump at Vegas rally and LA fundraiser, says her crowds are 'pretty big'

By WILL WEISSERT and COLLEEN LONG Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Vice President Kamala Harris poked at Donald Trump over crowd sizes, his refusal to debate again and his privileged background on Sunday as she hauled in campaign cash in California and held a raucous rally at the same Nevada venue where the Republican nominee had appeared just two weeks ago.

During the presidential debate, Harris appeared to get under the former president's skin when she said people were leaving his rallies early because of his rambling speeches. And she's kept it up on the campaign trail.

The vice president told donors at a tony Los Angeles fundraiser that, as she campaigns around the country, her "crowds are pretty big." And then before a roaring Las Vegas crowd estimated at 7,500, she renewed her jabs at Trump over being reluctant to debate again, saying, "The American people have a right to hear us discuss the issues. And as you say here in Las Vegas, I'm all in. I'm all in."

Harris' four-day West Coast trip had dual purposes: She opened and closed it with stops in Sun Belt battlegrounds — Arizona and Nevada — where the vice president is trying to shore up support as Trump pounds her relentlessly over illegal migration. And her mid-stay in California was devoted to hauling in campaign contributions from donors in her blue home state.

Harris also moved into what Trump considers his terrain — immigration — with a Friday visit to the border town of Douglas, Arizona. It was her first trip to the U.S.-Mexico border since taking over for President Joe Biden atop the Democratic presidential ticket.

Harris' border visit in Arizona seemed to irk Trump. The GOP leader has spent two days railing about the vice president during his rallies, upping his personal attacks against her, claiming she was responsible for a border "invasion," and stirring up unfounded fears that she'd usher in lawlessness if elected.

Harris gave the same response she usually does to his insults, even despite Trump calling her "mentally impaired."

"We just see the same old tired show from the same old tired playbook," she told a Los Angeles crowd of donors on Sunday, some who shouted "boring!" in response.

Hours later in Las Vegas, she also revived her jabs at Trump for his "silver platter" background that nonetheless produced six bankruptcies, saying, "I come from the middle class, and I will never forget where I come from."

Harris has warned the race is as close as it could possibly be, a "margin-of-error" race. But at the Los Angeles fundraiser, she added: "The election is here and let me be clear. We are going to win."

That event was full of celebrities: Stevie Wonder, Keegan Michael-Key, Sterling K. Brown, Demi Lovato, Jessica Alba and Lily Tomlin attended and Halle Bailey and Alanis Morissette took the stage. It, and a fundraiser a day earlier in San Francisco, raised a combined \$55 million for Harris' campaign.

Harris was spending Sunday night in Las Vegas and had planned campaign stops in the city on Monday. But her office announced that she'd instead head back to Washington earlier than expected and will attend a briefing on the damage caused by Hurricane Helene at the headquarters of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Meanwhile, the vice president is continuing to notch Republican support. Former Arizona Sen. Jeff Flake became the latest to endorse her. He credited Harris with a "fine character and love of country" and said he wants a president who does not treat political adversaries as enemies or try to subvert the will of voters.

Flake, a longtime critic of the former president, joins a list of anti-Trump Republicans who have said they will vote for the Democratic ticket, including Dick Cheney, the deeply conservative former vice president, and his daughter, Liz.

But Maryland Senate candidate Larry Hogan, a former Republican governor and a sharp critic of Trump, said Harris has yet to earn his vote, though Trump won't get it.

In Nevada, where Harris held her latest rally, all voters automatically receive ballots by mail unless they

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opt out — a pandemic-era change that was set in state law. That means most ballots could start going out in a matter of weeks.

Harris will be back in Las Vegas on Oct. 10 for a town hall with Hispanic voters. Both she and Trump have campaigned frequently in the city, highlighting the critical role that Nevada's six electoral votes could play in deciding an election expected to be exceedingly close.

Trump held his own Las Vegas rally on Sept. 13 at the Expo World Market Center, where Harris spoke Sunday. She's also held events at the same venues that Trump used in Milwaukee, Atlanta and suburban Phoenix.

During a campaign stop in Las Vegas in June, Trump promised to eliminate taxes on tips received by waiters, hotel workers and thousands of other service industry employees. Harris used her own Las Vegas rally in August to make the same promise.

Fully doing away with federal taxes on tips would probably require an act of Congress. Still, Nevada's Culinary Union, which represents 60,000 hospitality workers in Las Vegas and Reno, has endorsed Harris.

Japan's likely next leader says he will call an election for Oct. 27 once he takes office

By MARI YAMAGUCHI Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Shigeru Ishiba, the head of Japan's governing party, plans to call a parliamentary election to be held on Oct. 27 after he is elected as prime minister on Tuesday.

Ishiba was chosen as the Liberal Democratic Party's leader on Friday and is assured to also succeed Fumio Kishida as prime minister because the party's coalition controls parliament.

Ishiba mentioned the election date as he announced his top party leadership lineup Monday ahead of forming his Cabinet. The plan is not official since he is not prime minister yet, but Ishiba said he mentioned the date early for the logistical convenience of those who have to prepare on relatively short notice.

"I believe it is important to have the new administration get the public's judgment as soon as possible," Ishiba said.

He appointed former Environment Minister Shinjiro Koizumi, who came in third in the party leadership race, to head the party's election task force.

He is expected to name defense experts and his longtime confidantes Takeshi Iwaya as foreign minister and Gen Nakatani as defense chief once he takes office.

Ishiba has proposed an Asian version of the NATO military alliance and more discussion among regional partners about the use of the U.S. nuclear deterrence. He also suggested a more equal Japan-U.S. security alliance, including joint management of U.S. bases in Japan and having Japanese Self Defense Force bases in the United States.

The LDP has had a nearly unbroken tenure governing Japan since World War II. The party members may have seen Ishiba's more centrist views as crucial in pushing back challenges by the liberal-leaning opposition and winning voter support as the party reels from corruption scandals that drove down Kishida's popularity.

Ishiba on Friday stressed Japan needs to reinforce its security, noting recent violations of Japanese airspace by Russian and Chinese warplanes and repeated missile launches by North Korea.

He pledged to continue Kishida's economic policy aimed at pulling Japan out of deflation and achieving real salary increases, while tackling challenges such as Japan's declining birthrate and population and resilience to natural disasters.

Ishiba, first elected to parliament in 1986, has served as defense minister, agriculture minister and in other key Cabinet posts, and was LDP secretary general under former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

Today in History: October 1, Las Vegas music festival shooting

By The Associated Press undefined

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Today is Tuesday, Oct. 1, the 275th day of 2024. There are 91 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Oct. 1, 2017, in the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history, a gunman opened fire from a room at the Mandalay Bay casino hotel in Las Vegas on a crowd of 22,000 country music fans at a concert below, causing 60 deaths and more than 850 injuries.

Also on this date:

In 1890, Yosemite National Park was designated by the U.S. Congress.

In 1903, the first modern baseball World Series began, with the Pittsburgh Pirates defeating the Boston Americans in Game 1; Boston would ultimately win the series 5-3.

In 1908, Henry Ford introduced his Model T automobile to the market.

In 1910, the offices of the Los Angeles Times were destroyed by a bomb explosion and fire; 21 employees were killed.

In 1949, Mao Zedong proclaimed the People's Republic of China during a ceremony in Beijing.

In 1957, the motto "In God We Trust" began appearing on U.S. paper currency.

In 1964, the Free Speech Movement began at the University of California, Berkeley, as students surrounded a police car containing an arrested campus activist for more than 30 hours.

In 1971, Walt Disney World opened near Orlando, Florida.

In 1975, Muhammad Ali defeated Joe Frazier in the "Thrilla in Manila," the last of their three bouts.

Today's Birthdays: Former President Jimmy Carter is 100. Actor-singer Julie Andrews is 89. Film director Jean-Jacques Annaud is 81. Baseball Hall of Famer Rod Carew is 79. Actor Randy Quaid is 74. Singer Youssou N'Dour is 65. Actor Esai Morales is 62. Retired MLB All-Star Mark McGwire is 61. Actor Zach Galifianakis is 55. Actor Sarah Drew is 44. Actor-comedian Beck Bennett is 40. Actor Jurnee Smollett is 38. Actor Brie Larson is 35.