

Groton Daily Independent

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Tuesday., Oct. 8

Senior Menu: Ham rotini bake, capri blend, honey fruit salad, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Pancakes.

School Lunch: Hot dogs, baked beans.

Boys and Girls Soccer Playoffs: Girls host Vermillion at 4 p.m.; boys at Vermillion at 4 p.m.

State Boys Golf at Central Valley Golf Course, Hartford, 10 a.m.

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

United Methodist Bible Study, 10 a.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Council, 6 p.m.



Wednesday, Oct. 9

Senior Menu: Ham rotini bake, capri blend, honey fruit salad, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Muffins.

School Lunch: Garlic cheese bread, cooked carrots.

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.

Groton Daily Independent
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Paul's Cell/Text: 605-397-7460

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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.

SCOTUS Weighs Ghost Guns

The Supreme Court is hearing its first oral arguments of the 2024-25 term today. The case, *Garland v. VanDerStok*, surrounds a 2022 regulation on so-called "ghost guns"—untraceable firearm components made through 3D printing, kits, and parts.

At issue is whether the Biden administration overstepped its authority in amending the 1968 definition of a firearm to include parts capable of being converted into a gun in under 30 minutes. The change, by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, requires manufacturers to run background checks on buyers and mark products with serial numbers, among other obligations. The amended rule came after what the administration says was a roughly tenfold increase in the number of ghost guns recovered at crime scenes since 2017, with law enforcement recovering ghost guns in up to 15% of gun-related crimes.

The Supreme Court term will last through June, covering cases such as sex-transition procedures, age verification for pornography websites, and nuclear waste.

Asteroid 'Crash-Scene' Mission

SpaceX successfully launched the European Space Agency's Hera spacecraft from Florida yesterday. The car-sized spacecraft will investigate the effects of NASA's 2022 Double Asteroid Redirection Test, which impacted Dimorphos, a 495-foot-wide moon orbiting the larger asteroid Didymos.

Hera will embark on a two-year journey before reaching its orbit of the Didymos-Dimorphos system. The spacecraft aims to conduct detailed observations of the crater left by DART and analyze the asteroid's internal structure, focusing on its composition, gravity, and mass. Hera will first test its scientific instruments by observing Earth and the moon, followed by a gravity-assist flyby of Mars in March. When it reaches Didymos-Dimorphos in late 2026, it will be about 121 million miles from Earth.

The collaborative mission between NASA and ESA is aimed at developing future asteroid deflection techniques to protect Earth from potentially hazardous asteroids. Scientists have located over 36,000 near-Earth asteroids, of which roughly 11,000 are 460 feet or larger in diameter.

Singer Cissy Houston Dies

Renowned gospel and soul singer Cissy Houston—mother of Whitney Houston—passed away yesterday at her home in New Jersey while receiving hospice care for Alzheimer's disease. The two-time Grammy winner was 91.

Born Emily Drinkard, Cissy was the youngest of eight siblings and began her career at age 5 in 1938 when she joined a family gospel group called The Drinkard Four, later renamed The Drinkard Singers. The group went on to perform at Carnegie Hall and, in 1959, became one of the first gospel acts to release an album with a major record label. In 1963, Cissy formed The Sweet Inspirations, providing backup vocals for artists including Aretha Franklin and Elvis Presley during the 1960s. She went solo in 1969, recorded over 600 songs in multiple genres, released 10 solo albums, and provided backup for artists like Beyoncé and Jimi Hendrix.

Cissy's daughter and Grammy winner, Whitney, died in 2012 at age 48, while her granddaughter, Bobbi Kristina Brown, died in 2015 at age 22—both facing similar tragedies.

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Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

The 2024-25 NHL regular season kicks off tonight; see preview and predictions for all 32 teams. New England Patriots safety and team captain Jabrill Peppers arrested on strangulation and drug possession charges.

Taylor Swift passes Rihanna to become richest female musician in the world with an estimated net worth of \$1.6B.

Connecticut Sun take on Minnesota Lynx tonight (8 pm ET, ESPN2) in decisive WNBA Semifinals Game 5. LeBron James and son Bronny become NBA's first father-son duo to share court as both played in the Los Angeles Lakers preseason game Sunday night.

Science & Technology

Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine awarded to pair of researchers for their discovery of microRNA, tiny molecules that help regulate gene expression.

Comb jellies, a type of deep sea jellyfish, can fuse their bodies together following injury; behavior has never been observed in any other species.

Researchers find a common chemotherapy drug may kill healthy cells in cases of colon and gastrointestinal cancers; findings may lead to improved drug combinations in such cases.

Business & Markets

US stock markets close lower (S&P 500 -1.0, Dow -0.9, Nasdaq -1.2%) as US 10-year Treasury yield rises above 4% for first time since August.

Shares of generator maker Generac close up nearly 9% as Hurricane Milton intensifies.

Activist investor Starboard Value reportedly takes \$1B stake in Pfizer, looks to tap former Pfizer CEO Ian Read and other ex-executives for help in turning around the drugmaker.

"Assassin's Creed" maker Ubisoft reportedly considering going private.

Judge orders Google to offer alternatives to its Google Play store as part of final ruling in Epic Games' antitrust lawsuit against the tech giant.

Amazon kicks off second annual Prime Day 48-hour sale today.

Politics & World Affairs

Hurricane Milton strengthens to Category 5 storm—the strongest level—as Florida braces for landfall midweek, with storm surge warnings posted for Florida's western Gulf Coast.

New York City deputy mayor Phil Banks (D) resigns, becoming latest member of Mayor Eric Adams (D) administration to step down amid corruption probe; Adams was indicted last month on charges including bribery and wire fraud.

Georgia Supreme Court restores state's six-week abortion ban while it considers an appeal to a lower court decision that had briefly struck down the 2022 law.

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The northern lights (aurora borealis) were out in full light last night. This photo taken by Jeslyn Kosel.



This photo taken by Paul Kosel in the Roscoe area last night.

Working to Protect & Promote Traditional American Values

- ✓ Pro Police
- ✓ Pro Constitution
- ✓ Pro Family



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STATE REPRESENTATIVE

DISTRICT 1

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General Election - Nov. 5
Absentee Voting has begun

Down 2, Lady Netters rally to stun Mobridge-Pollock

It was like two different volleyball teams shows up to play Mobridge-Pollock Monday evening as Groton Area rallied to beat Mobridge-Pollock in a five set match.

The Bridge City Tigers dominated Groton Area in the first two sets by identical scores of 25-16. When asked what she told the team after the second loss, Coach Chelsea Hanson said, "I really didn't say anything. It was Coach Jenna Strom that told them they needed to go out, relax and have some fun."

Groton Area sported a 6-0 lead to start the third set and never trailed as the Tigers won the third set, 25-17. It was an eight point rally in the fourth set that gave Groton Area a 19-14 lead and the visiting Tigers won the fourth set, 25-19. Groton Area took the early lead in the fifth set and went on to win, 15-10. This was the first five-set match for Groton Area this year.

Chesney Weber led Groton Area with 53 of 59 in attacks for 13 kills, she was 13 of 16 in serves for three ace serves, had one block and 16 assists. Rylee Dunker had was 20 of 25 in attacks with seven kills and had four assisted blocks. Taryn Traphagen was 22 of 23 in attacks for seven kills. Jaedyn Penning had five kills and 20 digs. Faith Traphagen had five kills and two assisted blocks. Elizabeth Flihs was 13 of 14 in serves with three ace serves and she had 17 assists. Jerica Locke had two ace serves and 39 digs. Laila Roberts had two kills and 13 digs. Kella Tracy had two kills and Sydney Locke had one ace serve.

Raelyn Aberle led Mobridge-Pollock with 12 kills, 23 digs and four ace serves. Charley Henderson was limited to two points in the final two sets and finished with nine kills, two solo and four assisted blocks and one ace serve. Tegan Konold had eight kills, one solo and three assisted blocks, 10 digs and two ace serves. Sophia Overland had three kills, 19 digs and 14 assists. Grace Overland had seven kills. Jacy Netterville had one ace serve and 21 digs and Ellie Kemnitz had 14 assists.

Groton Area, now 12-5 on the season, will travel to Milbank on Thursday. Mobridge-Pollock drops to 15-4.

The game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, 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 and The Meathouse in Andover.

Groton Area won the junior varsity match, 2-0. In the first set, the lead changed hands five times and the set was tied eight times before Groton Area had a seven point rally under the serving of Talli Wright to take the lead for good and to win, 25-14. The second set was tied 16 times with seven lead changes before Groton Area pulled out a 26-24 win. Libby Althoff had six kills one ace serve, Makenna Krause had five kills and one ace serve, Kella Tracy had five kills, McKenna Tietz had three kills and one ace serve, Sydney Locke had three ace serves, Talli Wright two ace serves and one kill and Emerlee Jones had two kills.

The junior varsity match was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Adam and Nicole Wright. Groton Area made it a clean sweep with a 25-18 and 25-22 win in the C match.

- Paul Kosel

COMMON CENTS IS MOVING TO THE GROTON COMMUNITY CENTER (109 N 3RD STREET) FOR A 3-DAY \$10 BAG SALE!!

SHOP

THURS, OCT. 10TH 2-7PM

FRI, OCT. 11TH 9AM-3PM

SAT, OCT. 12TH 9AM-3PM



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Groton Area - Junior Varsity - Tigers Football Stats

October 7, 2024

Questions call Tom Woods – Groton Volunteer Stat Guy 605-397-7565 Location: Roncalli Field Aberdeen, SD

	<u>Quarter Scores</u>			<u>Final</u>	
Groton Area	0	0	0	6	- 6
Aberdeen Roncalli	0	14	0	12	- 26

Groton Area Tigers

Roncalli Cavaliers

First Downs: 4

First Downs: 10

Rushing: Team Carries - 12
Team Yards - 33

Rushing: Team Carries - 17
Team Yards - 100

Individual Rushing Leaders

Individual Rushing Leaders

Player	Carries - Yards
Ryder Schelle	7 - 7
Skyler Godel	4 - 27
Brady Small	1 - -1

Player	Carries - Yards
Aiden Schaunaman	9 - 71 (1 TD)
Austin Fisher	5 - 20 (1 TD)
Ryan Schmidt	1 - 5
Ian Kramer	2 - 4

Team Passing:

Completed 5 of 10 for 61 yards 1 TD 1 Int

Team Passing:

Completed 5 of 11 for 27 yards 2 TD 2 Ints

Individual:

Bradyn Small - All

Individual:

Austin Fisher - All

Receiving:

Alex Abeln - 1 catch for 32 yds
Lincoln Krause - 2 catches for 25 yds (1TD)
Ryder Schelle - 1 catch for 1 yd

Receiving:

Ian Kramer - 4 catches 175 yds 2 TDs
Aiden Schaunaman - 1 catch for 8 yds

Fumbles: Had 0 Lost 0

Fumbles: Had 4 Lost 1

Penalties: 1 for 10 Yards Lost

Penalties: 2 for 17 Yards Lost

Defensive Leaders: (tackles, sacks, fumbles recovered, Int's)

Gunner Hardy	5 tackles (1 sack)
Braeden Flieds	5 tackles (1 Int)
Blake Lord	3 tackles (1 for -2)
Ryder Schelle	3 tackles
Isiah Scepaniak	3 tackles (1 for -2)
TC Schuster	2 tackles
Ben Hoeft	2 tackles
John Bisbee	2 tackles
Brysen Sandess	2 tackles (1 fumble recovery)
Lincoln Krause	2 tackles (1 Int)
Brody Lord	1 tackle
Ashton Holmes	1 tackle (1 for -7)
Jonas Friedman	1 tackle

Defensive Leaders: (tackles, sacks, fumbles recovered, Int's)

Ryan Schmit	5 tackles
Cael Dreis	5 tackles
Eli Jorgensen	3 tackles
#58 name not available	2 tackles
#25 name not available	2 tackles
Isaiah Shaving	1 tackle
#72 name not available	1 tackle
Ian Kramer	1 tackle (safety)
Aiden Schaunaman	1 tackle
Will LeFebvre	1 tackle
Giovanni Larson	(1 Int)

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SCORING: Groton Area 6 vs 26 Aberdeen Roncalli

October 7, 2024 - At Roncalli Field

FIRST QUARTER

Time	Points	Play
		No Score

SECOND QUARTER

Time	Points	Play
9:45	2	Roncalli Ian Kramer Safety tackled (Ryder Schelle) in end zone
9:10	6	Roncalli Ian Kramer 45 yard catch from Austin Fisher
		Aiden Schaunaman 2 pt run no good
1:44	6	Roncalli Ian Kramer 43 yard catch from Austin Fisher
		Austin Fisher 2 pt run no good

THIRD QUARTER

Time	Points	Play
		No Score

FOURTH QUARTER

Time	Points	Play
11:45	6	Roncalli Austin Fisher 20 yard run
		Aiden Schaunaman 2 pt run no good
5:23	6	Roncalli Aiden Schaunaman 53 yard run
		Cale Dreis 2 pt run no good
1:05	6	Groton Lincoln Krause 15 yard catch from Bradyn Small
		Alejandro Jativa kick no good

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Week 7 SDFBCA Football Poll

11AAA

Harrisburg- 86 pts (11 1st place votes)
Brandon Valley- 84 pts
Sioux Falls Lincoln- 51 pts
Sioux Falls Jefferson- 44 pts
Bishop O'Gorman- 18 pts
Receiving votes: Sioux Falls Roosevelt, Sioux Falls Washington

11AA

Brookings- 88 pts (13 1st place votes)
Spearfish- 79 pts
Yankton- 62 pts
Watertown- 54 pts
Tea- 41 pts
Receiving votes: Mitchell, Pierre

11A

Sioux Falls Christian- 105 pts (21 1st place votes)
Dell Rapids- 76 pts
Lennox- 69 pts
Dakota Valley- 39 pts
West Central- 17 pts
Receiving votes: Canton, Rapid City Christian

11B

Winner- 95 pts (19 1st place votes)
Sioux Valley- 62 pts
Elk Point-Jefferson- 54 pts
Mt. Vernon-Plankinton- 33 pts
Woonsocket/Wessington Springs/Sanborn Central- 27 pts
Receiving votes: Clark/Willow Lake, McCook Central/Montrose

9AA

Parkston- 103 pts (14 1st place votes)
Hamlin- 89 pts
Elkton/Lake Benton- 77 pts
Tripp-Delmont/Armour/Andes Central/Dakota Christian- 25 pts
Viborg-Hurley- 22 pts
Receiving votes: Kimball/White Lake, Leola/Fredrick Area

9A

Howard- 119 pts (20 1st place votes)
Wall- 99 pts
Warner- 74 pts
Wolsey-Wessington- 51 pts
Harding County/Bison- 25 pts
Receiving votes: Alcester-Hudson, Estelline-Hendricks

9B

Avon- 104 pts (20 1st place votes)
Dell Rapids St. Mary- 82 pts
Faulkton- 60 pts
Sully Buttes- 32 pts
Canistota- 25 pts
Receiving votes: Colman-Egan, Corsica-Stickney

Vote smART for our cultural future

By Jim Speirs, Executive Director, Arts South Dakota

The future of South Dakota's creative environment, cultural education opportunities and professional arts careers is shaped by decisions made in Pierre and Washington, DC. On November 5, your vote for candidates who care about the arts will be one of the most important advocacy steps you can take.

That is why each of us needs to get out and vote! The arts in South Dakota help make us who we are as a people. We encourage everyone who cares about creativity and the arts to be active citizens. Together we can forge strong and supportive arts policy in South Dakota and in the nation's capital—if we vote for the people who care about our cultural heritage AND future.

In September, Arts South Dakota sent a survey to all candidates for state legislature, governor and the U.S. House of Representatives in an effort to understand their positions on arts related issues. Our purpose was to provide information that you can access through our website, artssouthdakota.org. The candidate survey tab on our site gives you the opportunity to read the responses of South Dakotans running for office. We hope you will find this information useful as one factor in casting your vote for arts-aware candidates next month.

A healthy arts ecosystem must have the support of its political leaders. By asking the position of each candidate on arts related issues, we're making it clear that one way a candidate can earn your vote is to support the arts in South Dakota.

YOUR vote is an essential element in building a stronger creative community in your hometown and all across our state. By casting your vote along with your neighbors you make a bold statement to candidates and elected officials about the importance of the arts in South Dakota.

To learn more about candidate views and arts advocacy, visit us at the Arts South Dakota website, www.artssouthdakota.org and Vote smART! on November 5.





Winter Gear Distribution

Enrich Groton served almost 4 dozen at the Winter Gear Distribution in partnership with Dacotah Bank and the donations received at Common Cents.

Pictured are April Abeln, Dacotah Bank employees Heidi Locke and Karla Davidson, Sue Stevenson, Connie Stauch, John Aldrich, Rita Kampa and Karyn Babcock

Other volunteers not pictured: Nancy Larsen, Topper Tastad, Kerry Kampa, Diane Warrington and Pat Miller (Courtesy Photo April Abeln)

Pete Rose, the enigma

Among the carnage and epitaphs of old heroes we've seen fall in recent weeks, one stood out. Because Pete Rose died with a question mark. Should this itinerate gambler be in the Hall of Fame? By the numbers, without a doubt. By the rules, not a chance.

He was the heartbeat of the Big Red Machine, a Cincinnati Reds team managed by South Dakota-born Sparky Anderson, one of the juggernauts of that golden era.

I latched onto the Baltimore Orioles in grade school, Brooks and Boog and four 20-game winners one year. When the Orioles couldn't get out of that hallowed bloody shin Eastern division, I developed a soft spot for the Red Sox. Ted Williams and the Big Green Monster. Willie Stargell and the Pittsburgh Pirates had some special teams, too.

Today's players are physically better. We bear witness to Shohei Ohtani and his 50 home runs and his 50 stolen bases. He's got a bad wing, otherwise he'd be pitching this year, too. Aaron Judge should be holding up the buttresses in coal mines on his off days.

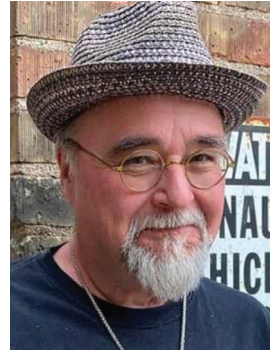
Charlie Hustle, they called him, and it was well-earned. Search Pete Rose's images and you're likely to see his thick-body airborne. Pete Rose played hard at picnics. In the 1970 All Star Game, Rose mowed down Cleveland's Ray Fosse at the plate to win the game. He played the way you'd want your Little League team to play. They way you'd want Jesus to play.

His story goes back to the 1919 Black Sox Scandal when eight Chicago White Sox, including the great Shoeless Joe Jackson, received a lifetime ban from baseball for throwing the series to a mob gambler. Team owners understood that their considerable investment would be lost if fans couldn't trust the integrity of the game.

When he was ousted, Rose lied, and lied, and lied for years before finally coming clean in the hopes of forgiveness. Yet, at the door of every major league locker room a warning is posted. The consequences are dear, indeed. It's hypocritical, though. Major league sports are up to their elbows promoting gambling to fans. All sorts of Rose memorabilia resides in Cooperstown but not that coveted plaque Rose so desired.

Rose and his supporters tried to soft-peddle his actions by noting that as a manager he only bet (daily) on his own team. There's a lot of wiggle room there. Did he bet the same amount? Or more or less dependent upon inside information, including injuries? It doesn't wash.

Pete Rose's greatness on the field cannot be denied. Formal induction into Cooperstown is but a punctuation mark. If he was a pariah, it was in his own head. It didn't seem like he was disparaged by his old teammates. Several of them were getting together for an autography show the weekend he died. They found him signing alone. He didn't look good. An acquaintance of mine saw him recently in Las Vegas, too. He looked sad, he said. The Hit King was sad because he hadn't accomplished what no one thought he needed to to prove his greatness.



**That's
Life**
by Tony Bender

Codington County Fatal Crash

What: Two vehicle fatal crash

Where: US Highway 212 and 450th Avenue, two miles west of Watertown, SD

When: 4:15 p.m., Saturday, September 21, 2024

Vehicle 1: 2012 Chevrolet Impala

Driver 1: 79-year-old female from Florence, SD, fatal injuries

Seatbelt Use: Yes

Vehicle 2: 1999 Peterbilt

Driver 2: 59-year-old male from Davenport, ND, no injuries

Seatbelt Use: Yes

Codington County, S.D.- A Florence, SD woman died Thursday, Oct. 3 from injuries sustained in a September 21 crash in Codington County.

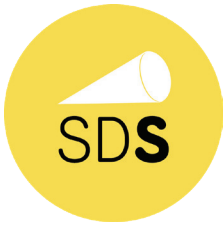
The names of the persons involved have not been released pending notification of family members.

Preliminary crash information indicates the driver of a 1999 Peterbilt was traveling eastbound on US Highway 212 near the intersection of 450th Avenue. The driver of a 2012 Chevrolet Impala was westbound on US 212, attempting a left turn across the divided highway onto 450th Avenue. The vehicles collided in the eastbound lanes.

The driver of the Peterbilt was uninjured. The driver of the Impala suffered life-threatening injuries and was taken to a nearby hospital. She passed away on October 3 from her injuries.

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

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



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

Department of Corrections pledges to rebuild sweat lodges dismantled during prison lockdown

No word on what contraband may have been suspected in lodges

BY: JOHN HULT - OCTOBER 7, 2024 5:52 PM

The South Dakota Department of Corrections says it will rebuild three sweat lodges dismantled during a weeklong lockdown at the state penitentiary in Sioux Falls.

The DOC started what it described as a "proactive" lockdown to perform a facility-wide search for contraband on Sept. 15. Last week, the agency sent a press release saying it was transitioning out of lockdown status.

Between announcing the lockdown's beginning and its end, the DOC sent a news release with photos of alleged contraband, including sharp objects and a mobile wi-fi hotspot. The DOC sent a news release with more photos of alleged contraband Monday evening, in a release calling the lockdown a success.

The agency did not mention the sweat lodges in any of the the releases.

Late last week, an inmate named Gerald Thin Elk told South Dakota Searchlight that inmates went five days without showers at the start of the lockdown, that most of his unit remained on lockdown after its end was announced, and that the lodges had been dismantled as inmates sat in their cells.

"They tore all three of them down," Thin Elk said.

He'd heard that a Native American medicine man was called in to make sure the lodges were removed respectfully, but "we just hope that nothing bad comes back on those people that handled those."

DOC spokesman Michael Winder later confirmed via email that the sweat lodges were "disassembled" during the lockdown as part of the contraband search.

"The lodges will be reassembled at a later time with a medicine man to bless them," Winder said.

Winder did not answer questions on whether the lodge teardown turned up contraband, what kind of contraband may have been suspected, if a medicine man oversaw the disassembly, or if the DOC has alternative spiritual practice options for Native American inmates.

The Monday news release on contraband found during the lockdown did not indicate where any of the seized items were found.

Right to religion

The constitutional rights of inmates inside institutions are restricted, but the right to practice one's religion has protections under federal law. The Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act of 2000 states that "no government shall impose a substantial burden on the religious exercise of a person residing in or confined to an institution."

A sweat lodge ("inipi" in Lakota) is a domed, ceremonial space. Hot rocks are placed in the center, and participants pour water over them to the sound of drums and songs of prayer. Participants in the purification rite traditionally share a peace pipe, as well. The smoke and steam are said to carry prayers to the creator.

Before the lockdown, there were sweat lodges at the state penitentiary, Jameson Annex and minimum security Unit C.

Thin Elk said he frequently attended one of the three weekly sweats on the prison grounds in Sioux Falls after spending years using another lodge at Mike Durfee State Prison in Springfield.

"I'm one of the guys that helped the younger natives in here recenter themselves to try to put them

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back in touch with their traditional values and their way of life," Thin Elk said.

The Durfee lodge, which was not affected during the lockdown, is larger than any of the three on the prison grounds in Sioux Falls, Thin Elk said. But the prison lodges are all larger and were regularly filled with more people than any lodge Thin Elk has seen outside the prison walls.

"It's not even close," Thin Elk said.

Thin Elk also expressed concerns about other changes to in-prison religious activity. He pointed to church services that had been offered at 6:30 p.m. Thursday evenings by Lutheran volunteers from various churches through the St. Dysmas ministry group.

The services switched to Wednesday afternoons at 1:30 p.m., then to Wednesday mornings at 8:30 a.m. over the past year. Republican former state Rep. Tim Goodwin, of Rapid City, who is running for a chance to return to Pierre this year, said during an inmate family group's meeting last month that those changes had become a hassle for volunteers like him.

Thin Elk said the changes, as well as multiple lockdowns this year, have made it harder for inmates to practice their religion.

"It's made things very complicated in here," Thin Elk said.

Reaction from ACLU, Corrections Commission leader

Samantha Chapman, advocacy manager of the American Civil Liberties Union of South Dakota, said in a statement that religious freedom behind prison walls is a right that should not be fooled with lightly. Courts have regularly shot down policy-based denials of religious freedom in prisons.

Chapman also noted that Native Americans make up 9% of South Dakota's population but more than a third of its inmate population. According to the DOC's 2023 Annual Statistical Report, 38% of male inmates imprisoned on a current charge and 47% of male inmates house for parole violations are Native American.

Particularly given that disparity, Chapman noted, the significance of tearing down a place of worship for Native American inmates "cannot be overstated."

"Oftentimes, an individual's connections to their religious and cultural community may be their only source of hope while in prison," Chapman wrote. "For incarcerated Native Americans, ceremonies like inipi sweats are a critical point of access to not just their spiritual practices, but also to their cultural identities."

State Sen. Shawn Bordeaux, D-Mission, was recently elected president of the state Corrections Commission. He said he was troubled to hear about the situation, which Thin Elk reached out to him about, but was told by DOC that the lodges will be built back.

"I was kind of taken aback," Bordeaux said. "At first, I was a little perturbed to hear that they had done this, and I thought 'there's got to be a more appropriate way of going through and checking things,'" Bordeaux said.

He doesn't have a clear understanding of the DOC's goals, he said, nor of what kinds of contraband the agency may have been searching for that would have necessitated a full takedown of the lodges. He wants to know if the lodges have ever been taken down in similar situations.

"For me, I don't know what all the protocols are," Bordeaux said. "I want to know what they did, how they were doing it and what they've done in the past."

Lockdown rundown

The recent lockdown at the state penitentiary in Sioux Falls was a search for contraband, which the Department of Corrections said is "a device, instrument, material, or substance which is readily capable of causing or inducing fear of death or bodily injury," or can be "illicit substances such as controlled substances and alcohol."

"Although some of the items retrieved are tools used in the facility, if they are not stored or used for their intended purposes, they become contraband, and in some instances, dangerous contraband," the DOC said via news release on Monday.

Correctional officers found "handmade weapons," items that could be turned into weapons, illicit sub-

stances, electronic equipment and "excess property," the DOC said.

Any "potential criminal activity" is being referred to the Attorney General's Office, the release says.

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

State officials remove 273 noncitizens from voter roll, but provide few other details

BY: SEARCHLIGHT STAFF - OCTOBER 7, 2024 5:30 PM

State officials said Monday afternoon that they're removing 273 noncitizens from the South Dakota voter roll, but they provided few additional details.

A news release from the state Department of Public Safety said the department "discovered the need for this correction" and worked with the state Bureau of Information and Telecommunications to "implement a fix and ensure election integrity."

The removal is being executed by the South Dakota Secretary of State's Office, the news release said. "Ensuring the integrity of our elections is our highest priority," said South Dakota Secretary of State Monae Johnson in the news release. "We are proud of the thorough work done to safeguard South Dakota's voter rolls."

The news release did not say whether the noncitizens had voted, how they got on the voter roll, what counties they registered in, or what countries they originated from.

South Dakota Searchlight attempted to pose those questions to Department of Public Safety spokesman Brad Reiners. He said "the press release speaks for itself" but said additional questions could be directed to the Secretary of State's Office. When contacted by phone, that office asked for questions to be submitted via email. Searchlight submitted questions and is awaiting a response.

South Dakota has 682,031 total registered voters, according to Monday's news release. The voter registration deadline for the Nov. 5 election is Oct. 21.

Amendment E: Expanding the state constitution's scope beyond men Measure is one of seven on statewide ballots for South Dakotans

BY: SETH TUPPER - OCTOBER 7, 2024 7:00 AM

The South Dakota Constitution includes a 135-year-old assumption that everybody worth mentioning in the document is a man, but voters could choose to modernize that language.

Amendment E is one of seven statewide questions on the Nov. 5 general election ballot. It would replace male pronouns in the constitution such as "he," "him" and "his" with neutral words and phrases such as "the governor," "the lieutenant governor," "the officer," "the elector," "the accused," and so on.

Amendments to the constitution require voter approval. Legislators voted last year to place the amendment on this year's ballot. The vote was 35-0 in the Senate and 58-12 in the House.

Sen. Erin Tobin, R-Winner, was the bill's prime sponsor. She also submitted the proponent statement for the official ballot-question pamphlet.

"South Dakota has a long history of strong female representation in all three branches of government, and the constitution should accurately reflect these esteemed members of our government," Tobin wrote.

One of the 12 no votes in the House came from Rep. Liz May, R-Kyle. She wrote the opposition statement for the ballot-question pamphlet.

"The reference to 'he' in our constitution is simply a singular pronoun," May wrote. "The historic use of generic male pronouns in our constitution is proper style and form and clearly does not exclude or hinder women from holding public office."

Similar legislation last year changed male pronouns to neutral words and phrases in the state's codified

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laws, which are not part of the constitution and don't require voter approval to amend. Lawmakers approved that legislation by wide margins and Kristi Noem — the state's first female governor — signed it into law.

While signing that bill, Noem, a Republican, voiced support for updating the constitution.

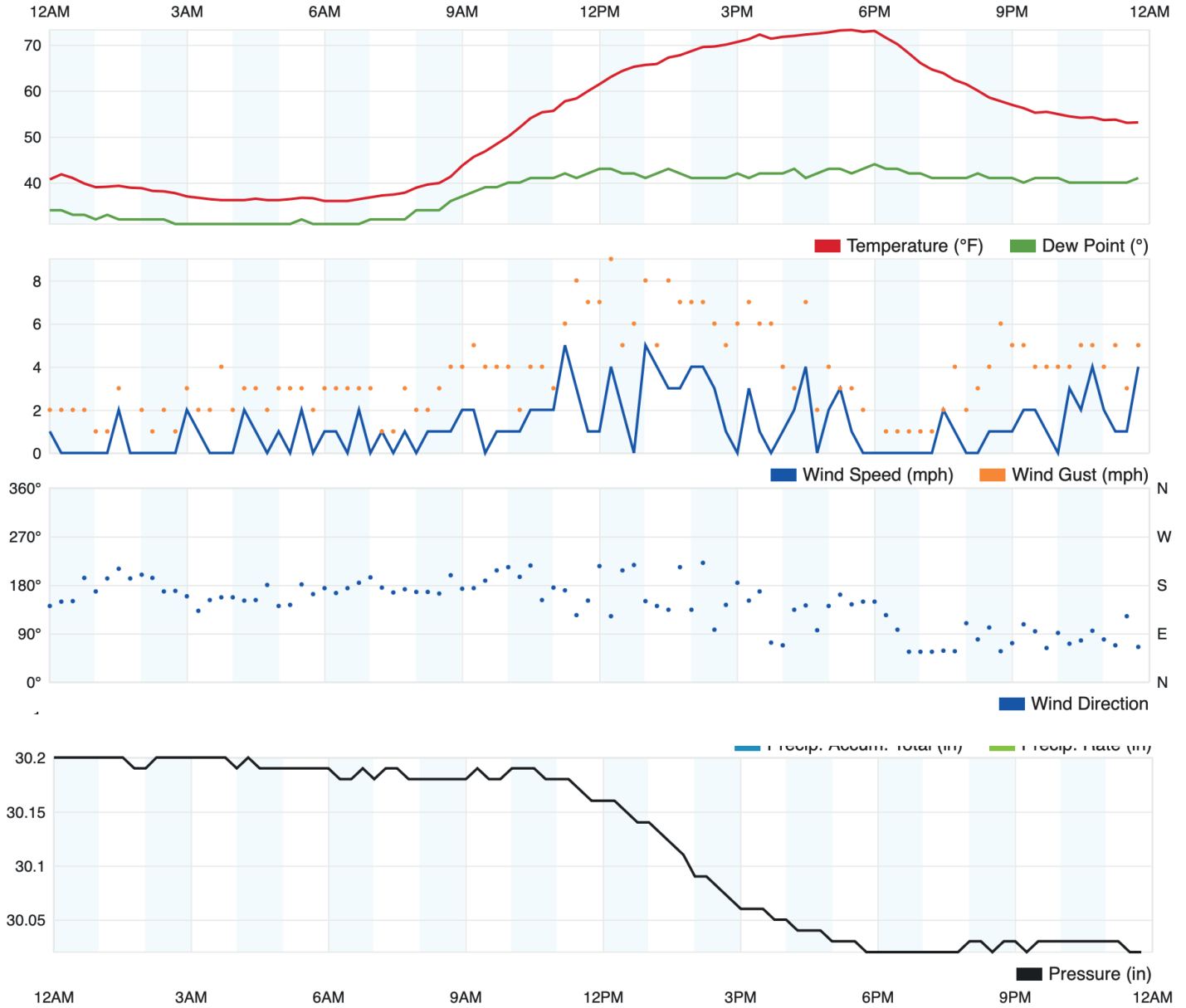
"Every little girl in South Dakota should realize that she can grow up to do whatever she wants to do – to be whoever she wants to be," Noem said. "We are fixing our laws and South Dakota Constitution so that they reflect the fact that women and men can both attain offices like governor."

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

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Today



High: 77 °F

Patchy Frost
then Sunny

Tonight



Low: 43 °F

Mostly Clear

Wednesday



High: 81 °F

Mostly Sunny

Wednesday
Night



Low: 46 °F

Mostly Clear

Thursday



High: 85 °F

Sunny

Today

SMOKE

Highs: 74 to 85°
Lows: 44 to 50°

Haze from smoke aloft

Rest of the Week

Wednesday

SMOKE

Highs: 80 to 85°
Lows: 48 to 53°

Haze

Thursday

Highs: 82 to 89°
Lows: 48 to 52°

Increasing
clouds PM

Friday

Highs: 62 to 70°
Lows: 40 to 44°

Cloudy early
then
partly cloudy

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD



Wildfires out west will continue to bring in smoke aloft, resulting in haze. Smoke is not expected to reach the surface. Otherwise, temps will run 15 to 20 degrees above average through Wednesday with Thursday's highs 20 to 25 degrees above average for this time of year! Cooler air moves in Friday into the weekend.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 73 °F at 4:56 PM

Low Temp: 36 °F at 6:32 AM

Wind: 9 mph at 12:09 PM

Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 11 hours, 21 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 87 in 1936

Record Low: 9 in 1895

Average High: 64

Average Low: 37

Average Precip in Oct.: 0.61

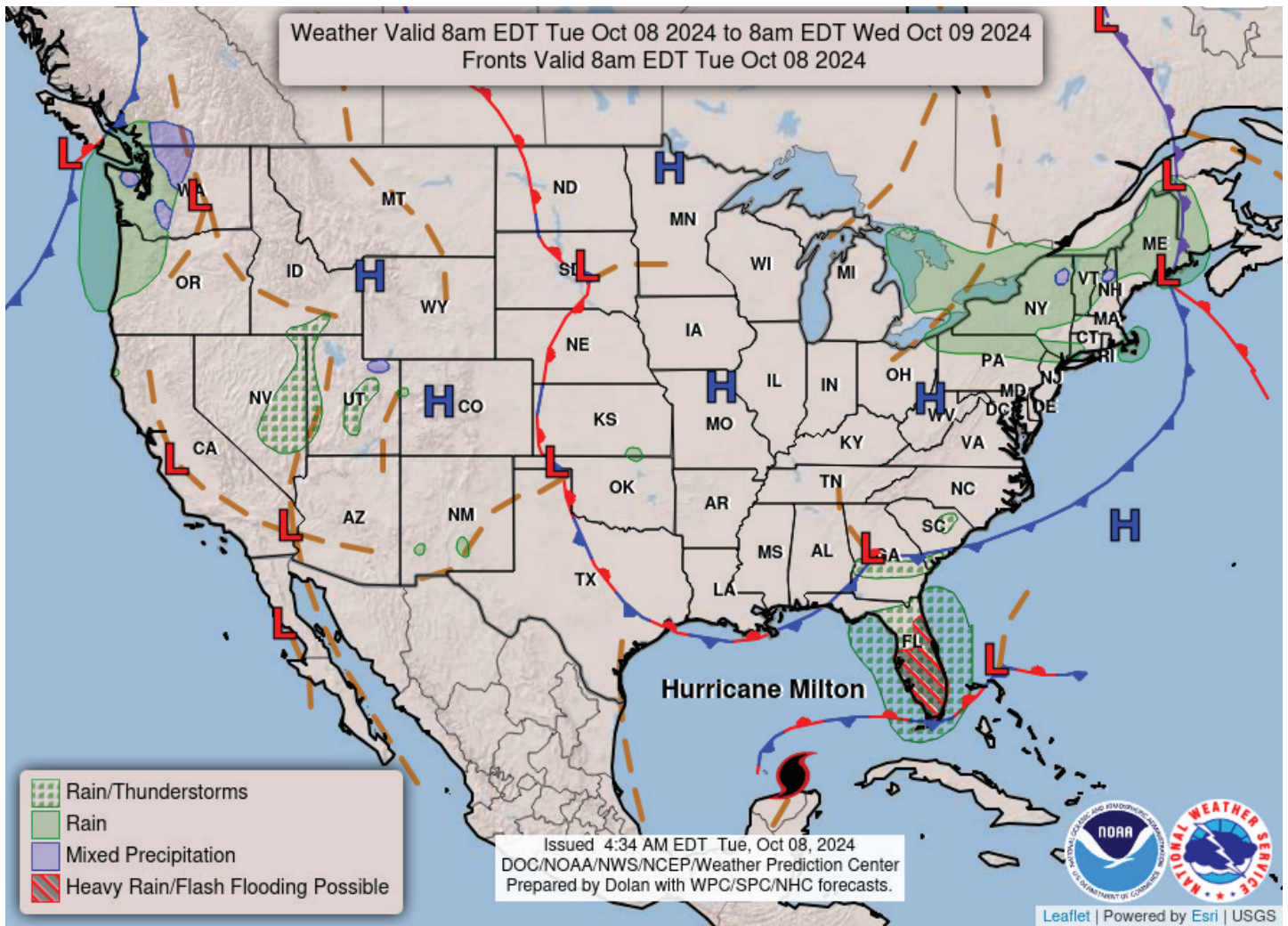
Precip to date in Oct.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 18.94

Precip Year to Date: 19.75

Sunset Tonight: 7:00:22 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:40:21 am



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Today in Weather History

October 8, 1982: October 8th and 9th, 1982, a record-breaking snowstorm (at that time) for so early in the Fall paralyzed the northern Black Hills with three to six feet of heavy, wet snow and 40 to 70 miles an hour. Some snowfall amounts included 41 inches at Galena, 36 inches at Lead, and 23 inches at Deadwood. Five to six feet of snow was typical in the higher elevations. The heavy wet snow caused numerous problems. The roof of a clothing store in Lead collapsed under the snow's weight, and several other businesses were damaged.

The roofs of at least three trailer homes also collapsed. The combination of high winds and heavy snow broke tree branches (causing extensive timber damage), power lines, and telephone poles. The damage was done to 40 miles of power lines, including 30 broken power poles. Some residents were without power for five days. The city of Deadwood was without electricity and water for at least three days

1871: The Great Chicago Fire burns much of the city to the ground, fanned by strong southwest winds. An estimated 250 were killed. On the same night, forest fires swept through Peshtigo, Wisconsin. An estimated 1,500 to possibly as many as 2,500 died as gale-force winds push flames across town. Severe drought blamed for tinder-dry conditions.

1878: An estimated F3 tornado struck Monticello, Iowa, around 5:30 pm. The Catholic Church was demolished, along with several homes. The business portion of the town was comparatively uninjured. While no lives were lost, 11 people were injured. The German Church in Richland township was destroyed, along with other buildings in the surrounding county. A wind and hail storm occurred during the evening hours in Sigourney, Iowa, causing considerable damage. Fences and shade trees were blown down, and much glass was broken by hail, which fell in large stones.

1901 - A deluge at Galveston, TX, produced nearly twelve inches of rain in about a six hour period. The rains came precisely thirteen months after the day of the famous Galveston hurricane disaster. (David Ludlum)

1919: An intense tornado moved through the town of Hoisington, 11 miles north of Great Bend, Kansas. It damaged or destroyed 60 homes which resulted in \$200,000 in damages. Business papers and canceled checks were found at Lincoln, 55 miles to the northeast.

1946: A minimal Category 1 hurricane made landfall over Bradenton, Florida, before tracking north-northeast across Tampa Bay. The storm was the last hurricane to make direct landfall in the Tampa Bay area.

1982 - An unusually early snowstorm hit the northern Black Hills of Wyoming and South Dakota. The storm produced up to 54 inches of snow, and winds as high as 70 mph. The snowfall was very much dependent upon topography. Rapid City, 20 miles away, received just a trace of snow. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Unseasonably cold weather prevailed from the Upper Mississippi Valley to the southeastern U.S. Thirty cities reported record low temperatures for the date, including Madison WI with a reading of 22 degrees. The low of 28 degrees at Evansville IN was the coolest of record for so early in the season. Hot weather continued in the southwestern U.S. Phoenix AZ reported a record high of 104 degrees and a record tying 116 days of 100 degree weather for the year. Tucson AZ established an all-time record with 72 days of 100 degree weather for the year. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Snow was reported across parts of northern New England. Two inches blanketed Mount Snow VT. Warm weather continued in the northwestern U.S. The afternoon high of 80 degrees at Stampede Pass WA exceeded their previous record for October by seven degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

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FREE FROM FEAR

The word "freedom" carries with it the idea of being free from any restraints or not being bound by any regulations, rules or requirements. Many long to live a life with no obligations, no opposition or no oppression.

Yet all of life is wrapped with boundaries of one nature or another. Highways are divided by traffic lanes, stop signs, caution signs, turning lanes and many other constraints. Every athletic contest or sporting event has specific lines, certain types of equipment or clothing and regulations to control the activities of the participants. Even something as simple as boiling water has specific criteria.

Rarely, if ever, do we pause to consider all of life's limits. We take for granted the ability to move about at will, make independent choices and manage our own affairs. But does moving and choosing and managing make us free? Not really. They still involve constraints in the final analysis.

Where, then, do we find freedom? Paul said, "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom." God, through Christ, offers us the priceless gift of living each day free from destroying ourselves and free for being who He wants us to be and doing what He has created us to do. But we must allow His Spirit to direct us along the path He has laid out for us.

We can only be free if we have accepted the forgiveness of God through Christ.

Prayer: Lord, may we not fool ourselves into thinking we are free if we are enslaved by sin and have not been forgiven. In Jesus' Name. Amen

Scripture For Today: Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 2 Corinthians 3:17

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

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WINNING NUMBERS

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:
10.04.24

21 39 42 43 45 3

MegaPlier: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$129,000,000

NEXT 15 Hrs 47 Mins
DRAW: 48 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:
10.07.24

8 26 28 39 45 10

All Star Bonus: 5x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$11,040,000

NEXT 1 Days 15 Hrs 2
DRAW: Mins 47 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:
10.07.24

8 21 22 28 47 16

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT 15 Hrs 17 Mins
DRAW: 47 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:
10.05.24

5 9 11 18 29

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$53,000

NEXT 1 Days 15 Hrs 17
DRAW: Mins 47 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:
10.07.24

24 27 47 49 55 11

TOP PRIZE:
\$10,000,000

NEXT 1 Days 15 Hrs 46
DRAW: Mins 47 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:
10.07.24

18 30 31 52 63 22

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$336,000,000

NEXT 1 Days 15 Hrs 46
DRAW: Mins 47 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

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Upcoming Groton Events

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

Chester def. Colman-Egan, 25-19, 25-11, 25-18

Corsica/Stickney def. Andes Central/Dakota Christian, 25-19, 25-14, 16-25, 26-24

Dell Rapids St Mary def. Castlewood, 25-19, 25-21, 25-23

Dell Rapids def. Dakota Valley, 20-25, 18-25, 25-18, 25-17, 15-10

Edgemont def. Hot Springs, 25-13, 25-11, 25-17

Ethan def. Parkston, 26-24, 25-22, 25-23

Garretson def. Elkton-Lake Benton, 25-17, 25-17, 22-25, 20-25, 15-11

Groton def. Mobridge-Pollock, 16-25, 16-25, 25-17, 25-19, 15-10

Hanson def. Bon Homme, 25-17, 25-23, 25-16

Langford def. Wilmot, 25-9, 25-15, 25-18

Lyman def. Stanley County, 16-25, 25-12, 27-25, 25-21

Parker def. West Central, 28-26, 27-25, 27-29, 25-21

Timber Lake def. Sully Buttes, 26-28, 17-25, 25-22, 26-24, 15-9

Wagner def. Tripp-Delmont-Armour, 25-14, 29-27, 25-8

Warner def. Wolsey-Wessington, 25-13, 25-13, 25-15

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

NCAA weighs eligibility change that would allow CHL players to compete on US college teams

By JOHN WAWROW AP Hockey Writer

The NCAA Division I Council is considering making a landmark change in eligibility rules this week that would allow Canadian Hockey League players to compete at U.S. colleges, the American Hockey Coaches Association executive director said Monday.

Forrest Karr, who is also the Minnesota-Duluth athletic director, said the council is moving forward on determining whether to lift the long-standing eligibility ban after initially seeking input from the AHCA. The association's two working groups — one dealing with men's hockey and the other women's — chose not to make recommendations after deciding "where the eligibility line should be drawn is not within the AHCA's purview," he wrote in a text to The Associated Press.

The council is meeting this week, with the matter on the agenda, and a decision is not expected until Wednesday at the earliest.

"If a decision is made to update legislation, there are also likely to be discussions about the most appropriate implementation date," Karr wrote. He said the council will at the same time consider changing eligibility rules for skiing, which also bars athletes who competed on a professional team or were reimbursed beyond necessary expenses.

The development comes on the heels of a class-action lawsuit filed Aug. 13 in U.S. District Court in Buffalo, New York, challenging the NCAA's ban of players from the CHL's Western Hockey League, Ontario Hockey League and Quebec Maritimes Junior Hockey League.

"We're hopeful that the NCAA will do the right thing at the upcoming meetings and vote to end the ban on CHL players from NCAA Division I hockey," Stephen Lagos, one of the attorneys who filed the lawsuit, wrote in an email to the AP. "We believe that all players, and hockey more generally, would benefit from

this change.”

A change in NCAA legislation could be far-reaching with the potential of increasing competition for college-age talent between the CHL and the NCAA, North America’s two top producers of NHL draft-eligible players. The lifting of the ban also has the potential to create an influx of Canadian players and displace college roster spots previously held by Americans.

The lawsuit was filed on behalf of Riley Masterson of Fort Erie, Ontario, who lost his college eligibility two years ago when, at 16, he appeared in two exhibition games for the OHL’s Windsor Spitfires. It lists 10 Division I hockey programs, which were selected to show they follow the NCAA’s bylaws in barring current or former CHL players.

Online court records show the NCAA has not made any response to the lawsuit since it was filed.

In a separate development last month, Braxton Whitehead said he verbally committed to Arizona State, making him the first CHL player to attempt to play hockey at the Division I U.S. college level. The 20-year-old Whitehead said he plans to play this season for the WHL Regina Pats before playing for the Sun Devils in 2025-26.

The CHL’s three leagues are categorized as professional under NCAA bylaws, barring their players from competition.

CHL players receive a stipend of no more than \$600 per month for living expenses, which is not considered as income for tax purposes. College players receive scholarships and now can earn money through endorsements and other use of their name, image and likeness (NIL).

Federal prosecutors quietly dismiss Chasing Horse’s long-dormant sex abuse case

By RIO YAMAT Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Federal prosecutors in Nevada have quietly dismissed a long-dormant sex abuse case against Nathan Chasing Horse, though the former “Dances with Wolves” actor still faces criminal charges elsewhere.

The federal case was tossed Oct. 1, just as state prosecutors were finalizing the dismissal of their own indictment against Chasing Horse under an order from the Nevada Supreme Court.

The back-to-back dismissals are a stunning development for a legal saga that began with Las Vegas police arresting Chasing Horse and raiding his home last January, leading to the state’s 18-count indictment in Clark County District Court.

His arrest, which sent shockwaves throughout Indian Country, was quickly followed by more criminal charges in four other jurisdictions in the U.S. and Canada. That includes the now-dismissed federal case accusing him of sexually exploiting minors and possessing child sexual abuse material, charges that stemmed from the same allegations that led to his arrest.

Chasing Horse still faces criminal charges in Canada, on the Fort Peck Indian Reservation in Montana, and in Las Vegas.

Best known for portraying the character Smiles A Lot in the 1990 film “Dances with Wolves,” Chasing Horse was born on the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota, which is home to the Sicangu Sioux, one of the seven tribes of the Lakota nation.

In the decades since starring in the Oscar-winning movie, authorities say he built a reputation as a self-proclaimed medicine man among tribes and traveled around North America to perform healing ceremonies.

He’s accused of using that position to gain access to vulnerable girls and women starting in the early 2000s, leading a cult and taking underage wives.

Federal prosecutors took no action in their case against Chasing Horse after filing the charges in February 2023, court records show. They moved to dismiss the case on Sept. 27 — a day after the Nevada high court ordered the dismissal of Chasing Horse’s indictment in state court — but did not detail in court filings why they wanted to dismiss the case.

Both the state and federal cases were dismissed without prejudice, meaning prosecutors can refile the

charges. Federal prosecutor Steven Rose didn't immediately respond to an email Monday asking if the U.S. government intends to do so. Clark County District Attorney Steve Wolfson has said his office will refile the charges in state court, which included sexual assault of a minor, kidnapping and child abuse.

State prosecutors on Friday filed a new case in Las Vegas against Chasing Horse that accuses him of filming himself having sex with one of his accusers when she was younger than 14. He is being held in the custody of Las Vegas police on \$200,000 bail.

In at least one video, the girl was "fully passed out," prosecutor William Rowles said Monday in court.

Rowles said the footage, taken in 2010 or 2011, were found on cellphones in a locked safe inside the North Las Vegas home that Chasing Horse is said to have shared with five wives, including the girl in the videos.

His defense attorney, Kristy Holston, declined to comment on the new case or the dismissal of the federal charges. Rowles also said he had no comment.

The Nevada Supreme Court in late September sided with Chasing Horse, after his attorney successfully argued that a definition of grooming — presented to the grand jury without expert testimony — had tainted the state's case, and that prosecutors should have shared with the grand jury inconsistent statements made by one of the victims.

Chasing Horse has been jailed in Las Vegas since his arrest last January. But the case had been at a standstill for more than a year while he challenged it.

Supreme Court will hear a challenge to ghost-gun regulation

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court will hear a challenge Tuesday to a Biden administration regulation on ghost guns, the difficult-to-trace weapons with an exponentially increased link to crime in recent years.

The rule is focused on gun kits that are sold online and can be assembled into a functioning weapon in less than 30 minutes. The finished weapons don't have serial numbers, making them nearly impossible to trace.

The regulation came after the number of ghost guns seized by police around the country soared, going from fewer than 4,000 recovered by law enforcement in 2018 to nearly 20,000 in 2021, according to Justice Department data.

Finalized after an executive action from President Joe Biden, the rule requires companies to treat the kits like other firearms by adding serial numbers, running background checks and verifying that buyers are 21 or older.

The number of ghost guns has since flattened out or declined in several major cities, including New York, Los Angeles, Philadelphia and Baltimore, according to court documents.

But manufacturers and gun-rights groups challenged the rule in court, arguing it's long been legal to sell gun parts to hobbyists and that most people who commit crimes use traditional guns.

They say the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco Firearms and Explosives overstepped its authority. "Congress is the body that gets to decide how to address any risks that might arise from a particular product," a group of more than two dozen GOP-leaning states supporting the challengers wrote in court documents.

U.S. District Judge Reed O'Connor in Texas agreed, striking down the rule in 2023. The U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals largely upheld his decision.

The administration, on the other hand, argues the law allows the government to regulate weapons that "may readily be converted" to shoot. The 5th Circuit's decision would allow anyone to "buy a kit online and assemble a fully functional gun in minutes — no background check, records, or serial number required. The result would be a flood of untraceable ghost guns into our nation's communities," Solicitor General Elizabeth Prelogar wrote.

The Supreme Court sided with the Biden administration last year, allowing the regulation to go into effect by a 5-4 vote. Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Amy Coney Barrett joined with the court's three liberal members to form the majority.

Biden makes rare dip into battleground state fray with a visit to Pennsylvania and Wisconsin

By AAMER MADHANI and SCOTT BAUER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden is making a rare jump into the 2024 political battleground fray since taking a step back after ending his reelection bid.

He'll campaign on Tuesday in Pennsylvania for a close ally and visit Wisconsin to spotlight a signature legislative achievement.

But as Biden makes a quick swing through the key states, two Democratic senators locked in competitive reelection battles are taking markedly different approaches to the outgoing president, whose approval ratings in a significant swath of the country remain in the pits.

Biden will be fully embraced by Democratic Sen. Bob Casey when he participates in a private campaign fundraiser in suburban Philadelphia for the senior Pennsylvania senator. But in Milwaukee, where Biden is spotlighting his administration's efforts to replace the nation's toxic lead pipes, incumbent Democratic Sen. Tammy Baldwin will be conspicuously absent.

"Democrats in tight races, for the most part, are calculating that the risk of embracing Biden far exceeds any reward that his efforts would bring to their campaign," said Christopher Borick, director of the Muhlenberg College Institute of Public Opinion in Pennsylvania. "There just aren't many places where he can be of much help to Democrats in competitive races."

Biden has spent scant time on the campaign trail since ending his reelection effort in July. That makes his stops in Pennsylvania and Wisconsin — two tightly contested states that Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump see crucial — all the more notable.

Casey's and Baldwin's races are also seen as must-wins for Democrats who are trying to maintain their razor-tight control of the Senate.

Biden, after dropping out, pledged to campaign hard for Harris and Democrats. But as the campaign season has played out, he's largely stayed on the sidelines as he's remained a flawed surrogate for Harris and down-ballot Democrats.

Casey, who faces a stiff challenge from Republican David McCormick as he seeks a fourth Senate term, has a long-running relationship with Biden.

Casey grew up on the same street as Biden in Scranton. Their families have known each other for decades, and he's campaigned with Biden countless times, including earlier this year. Biden — a Delaware resident but a Pennsylvania native — has long claimed Pennsylvania as his own.

Still, Biden faces considerable skepticism and his popularity has sagged amid pessimism about rising costs and doubts about whether at 81 he remains up to the job.

About 4 in 10 voters had a favorable view of Biden and about 6 in 10 had an unfavorable view, according to a Monmouth University poll published in late September.

Baldwin will spend Tuesday on the other side of Wisconsin from Biden, attending campaign events and getting an award, according to her campaign and Senate office.

"Senator Baldwin had a previously scheduled event at a family farm in Eau Claire to receive the American Farm Bureau Federation's 'Friend of Farm Bureau' award recognizing her leadership fighting for America's hardworking farmers, growers, and producers," said Eli Rosen, Baldwin's communications director, in response to a query about why she was skipping the president's visit.

Biden's favorability in Wisconsin has hovered around 40% for the past year and did not increase after he dropped out of the presidential race this summer, according to a recent Marquette University Law School poll.

Baldwin, who is seeking her third term, is facing a stiff challenge from Republican Eric Hovde, the CEO of a Wisconsin real estate development company.

She has skipped four of Biden's five appearances in the state this year, including two in her hometown of Madison, before he dropped out of the race.

However, Baldwin has appeared with Harris, including speaking to a crowd of more than 10,000 people last month in Madison.

"Baldwin may be able to skip a Biden event, but she cannot avoid the verdict of working families in Wisconsin when they head to the polls," said Wisconsin GOP chairman Brian Schimming.

Biden's visit to Wisconsin, which has some 340,000 lead pipes, comes as the Environmental Protection Agency on Tuesday issued a final rule requiring drinking water systems across the country to identify and replace lead pipes within 10 years.

Biden's 2021 infrastructure law provides \$15 billion to find and replace the toxic pipes, a legacy the Biden White House says will have an impact on generations to come. Lead can lower IQ and create behavioral problems in children, and the administration believes the legislation will go a long way in removing some 9.2 million lead pipes carrying water to U.S. homes.

White House officials played down Baldwin's expected absence from the event, while noting that Wisconsin's other senator, Republican Ron Johnson, voted against the infrastructure law.

"Senator Baldwin is an amazing partner (to) this administration in leading the charge in the bipartisan infrastructure law," White House deputy chief of staff Natalie Quillian said of Baldwin's absence from the president's visit.

Democratic U.S. Rep. Mark Pocan, whose district includes Wisconsin's deeply Democratic capital city of Madison, said Biden's policies are popular in the battleground state even if polls show he is not.

"I don't think that polling on Biden is based on what he's done in office," Pocan said. "The problem with some of the polls is overly simplistic. He looks old and people don't want that in the White House, but he's not running anymore."

Pocan, who is not in a competitive race, also defended Baldwin not appearing with Biden.

"If you're in a competitive race, you have your calendar," Pocan said. "You have a strategy based on where you're trying to get votes and you don't change it when you have a surrogate come."

Nobel Prize in physics awarded to 2 scientists for discoveries that enabled artificial intelligence

By DANIEL NIEMANN and MIKE CORDER Associated Press

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Two pioneers of artificial intelligence – John Hopfield and Geoffrey Hinton – won the Nobel Prize in physics Tuesday for helping create the building blocks of machine learning that is revolutionizing the way we work and live but also creates new threats to humanity, one of the winners said.

Hinton, who is known as the Godfather of artificial intelligence, is a citizen of Canada and Britain who works at the University of Toronto and Hopfield is an American working at Princeton.

"This year's two Nobel Laureates in physics have used tools from physics to develop methods that are the foundation of today's powerful machine learning," the Nobel committee said in a press release.

Ellen Moons, a member of the Nobel committee at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, said the two laureates "used fundamental concepts from statistical physics to design artificial neural networks that function as associative memories and find patterns in large data sets."

She said that such networks have been used to advance research in physics and "have also become part of our daily lives, for instance in facial recognition and language translation."

While the committee honored the science behind machine learning and AI, Moons also mentioned its flipside, saying that "while machine learning has enormous benefits, its rapid development has also raised concerns about our future. Collectively, humans carry the responsibility for using this new technology in a safe and ethical way for the greatest benefit of humankind."

Hinton shares those concerns. He quit a role at Google so he could more freely speak about the dangers of the technology he helped create.

On Tuesday, he said he was shocked at the honor.

"I'm flabbergasted. I had, no idea this would happen," he said when reached by the Nobel committee

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on the phone.

Hinton predicted that AI will end up having a "huge influence" on civilization, bringing improvements in productivity and health care.

"It would be comparable with the Industrial Revolution," he said in the open call with reporters and the officials from the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.

"Instead of exceeding people in physical strength, it's going to exceed people in intellectual ability. We have no experience of what it's like to have things smarter than us. And it's going to be wonderful in many respects," Hinton said. "But we also have to worry about a number of possible bad consequences, particularly the threat of these things getting out of control."

Six days of Nobel announcements opened Monday with Americans Victor Ambros and Gary Ruvkun winning the medicine prize for their discovery of tiny bits of genetic material that serve as on and off switches inside cells that help control what the cells do and when they do it. If scientists can better understand how they work and how to manipulate them, it could one day lead to powerful treatments for diseases like cancer.

The physics prize carries a cash award of 11 million Swedish kronor (\$1 million) from a bequest left by the award's creator, Swedish inventor Alfred Nobel. The laureates are invited to receive their awards at ceremonies on Dec. 10, the anniversary of Nobel's death.

Nobel announcements continue with the chemistry physics prize on Wednesday and literature on Thursday. The Nobel Peace Prize will be announced Friday and the economics award on Oct. 14.

Harris is still introducing herself as she sets out on a media tour with voting already underway

By ZEKE MILLER and CHRIS MEGERIAN Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — When Vice President Kamala Harris sat down for an interview with podcaster Alex Cooper, the conversation didn't start by parsing policy positions. The goal, Cooper told the Democratic nominee, was "to get to know you as a person."

And that was just fine with Harris, who said she was on the popular "Call Her Daddy" podcast because "one of the best ways to communicate with people is to be real."

Long past the midway point of her unexpected presidential campaign and with voting already underway, Harris is still introducing herself to Americans who will determine her fate in this year's presidential election.

On Tuesday, her media blitz will take her to studios across Manhattan as the Democratic nominee tries to reach as many people as possible in the shortest period of time. It's a sharp shift after largely avoiding interviews since replacing President Joe Biden at the top of the ticket, and it's an implicit acknowledgment that she needs to do more to edge out Republican candidate Donald Trump.

Harris will sit for a conversation with the women of ABC's "The View," speak with longtime radio host Howard Stern and tape a show with late-night comedian Stephen Colbert. The trio of appearances comes after Harris granted interviews to CBS' "60 Minutes," which aired Monday night, and Cooper's podcast, which was released Sunday.

"Call Her Daddy" is often raunchy, with frank talk about sex, but Harris and Cooper began by talking about their mothers.

Harris said her mother's first instinct was never to comfort her eldest daughter when she ran into problems. Instead, she asked, "What did you do?"

Although that might sound cold, the vice president said, "she was actually teaching me, think about where you had agency in that moment, and think about what you had the choice to do or not do. Don't let things just happen to you."

It's interactions like those that Harris' team is prioritizing for the vice president in the final four weeks before Election Day. She has yet to give an interview to a newspaper or magazine, but her staff is pondering additional podcasts where they believe Harris can reach voters who aren't following traditional news sources.

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Anna Greenberg, a Democratic pollster, said Harris has to energize people who have tuned out politics because they believe "all the politicians are the same, they all say the same thing, they don't know anything about my life, I can't relate to them at all."

"They want to like and trust you," she said.

Jennifer Harris, the former White House senior director of international economics, said Harris has a steeper hill to climb because of the way she became the Democratic nominee.

"We did not have a good long primary to meet Kamala Harris in the way most voters are accustomed to," she said. Harris has to find a way to demonstrate the instincts and principles that "will be guiding any number of hundreds of specific policy questions that will come up in the course of the presidency."

While Harris has unveiled some policy proposals during her two and half months at the top of the ticket — such as increasing the child income tax credit and taking a range of actions to help lower the cost of housing — she's given prime billing to speeches about her "economic philosophy," like one she delivered in Pittsburgh two weeks ago.

There, Harris pushed back against Trump's claims that she's advancing "communist" ideas, embraced capitalism and positioned herself as a pragmatist who "would take good ideas from wherever they come."

"As president, I will be grounded in my fundamental values of fairness, dignity and opportunity," Harris said. "And I promise you, I will be pragmatic in my approach."

Senior campaign officials have largely blocked out criticism from some corners that Harris hasn't articulated more policy positions. Instead, they say that small yet pivotal numbers of still-undecided voters say they want to know more about Harris before making up their minds, and that the more those voters see Harris, the more they like her.

Republican communications strategist Kevin Madden said defining Harris in voters' eyes is the central challenge of the campaign.

"This race is actually pretty simple in the sense that the next few weeks are about who's going to fill in the blanks on who Harris is," he said.

Being a vice president confers a certain amount of basic name recognition. In October 2019, while Harris was one of many candidates in the Democratic presidential primary, AP-NORC polling found that about 3 in 10 Americans didn't know enough about her to have an opinion. That share dropped to around 1 in 10 Americans by early 2021, when she and Biden took office, where it stayed until earlier this summer.

Now, nearly all Americans know enough to have at least a surface opinion — whether positive or negative — of Harris.

But that doesn't mean perspectives on Harris are settled, or that Americans know as much as they would like about her. Harris' favorability numbers shifted slightly over the course of the summer, suggesting that opinion of her may still be somewhat malleable.

Other polls indicate that some voters are still looking for more information about Harris, while views of Trump appear to be more settled. One-quarter of likely voters said they still feel like they need to learn more about Harris, according to a New York Times/Siena College poll conducted after her debate against Trump, while about three-quarters say they pretty much already know what they need to know about her.

Trump, on the hand, was more of a known quantity. One in 10 likely voters said they feel like they need to learn more about Trump, while roughly 9 in 10 said they pretty much already know what they need to know.

Harris' running mate, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, also is spending more time doing interviews to help people get to know him better rather than going deep on policy. In an appearance on ABC's "Jimmy Kimmel Live" on Monday night, Walz talked about the "surreal" experience of being on the ticket, his background as a high school teacher and football coach, and even how he lists Harris in his phone contacts — as the "dry cleaner."

On "Call Her Daddy," Cooper told Harris that people are "frustrated and just exhausted with politics in general."

"Why should we trust you?" she asked.

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Harris answered by saying "you can look at my career to know what I care about."
She continued: "I care about making sure that people are entitled to and receive the freedoms that they are due. I care about lifting people up and making sure that you are protected from harm."

Tampa Bay hasn't been hit directly by a major hurricane since 1921. Milton may be the one

By TERRY SPENCER and HAVEN DALEY Associated Press

FORT MYERS BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Florida's Gulf Coast braced Tuesday for the impact of Hurricane Milton's winds and expected massive storm surge, which could bring destruction to areas already reeling from Helene's devastation 12 days ago and still recovering from Ian's wrath two years ago.

Almost the entirety of Florida's west coast was under a hurricane warning early Tuesday as the storm and its 155 mph (250 kph) winds crept toward the state at 12 mph (19 kph), sucking energy from the Gulf of Mexico's warm water. The strongest Atlantic hurricane on record is 1980's Allen, which reached wind speeds of 190 mph (306 kph) as it moved through the Caribbean and Gulf before striking Texas and Mexico.

Milton was downgraded early Tuesday to a Category 4 hurricane, but forecasters said it still posed "an extremely serious threat to Florida." Milton had intensified quickly Monday, becoming a Category 5 storm at midday with maximum sustained winds of 180 mph (285 kph) before being downgraded.

Milton's center could come ashore Wednesday in the Tampa Bay region, which has not endured a direct hit by a major hurricane in more than a century. Scientists expect the system to weaken slightly before landfall, though it could retain hurricane strength as it churns across central Florida toward the Atlantic Ocean. That would largely spare other states ravaged by Helene, which killed at least 230 people on its path from Florida to the Appalachian Mountains.

Tampa Bay has not been hit directly by a major hurricane since 1921, and authorities fear luck is about to run out for the region and its 3.3 million residents. President Joe Biden approved an emergency declaration for Florida, and U.S. Rep. Kathy Castor said 7,000 federal workers were mobilized to help in one of the largest mobilizations of federal personnel in history.

"This is the real deal here with Milton," Tampa Mayor Jane Castor told a Monday news conference. "If you want to take on Mother Nature, she wins 100% of the time."

The Tampa Bay area is still rebounding from Helene and its powerful surge — a wall of water up to 8 feet (2.4 meters) it created even though its eye was 100 miles (160 kilometers) offshore. Twelve people died there, with the worst damage along a string of barrier islands from St. Petersburg to Clearwater.

Forecasters warned that Milton could bring a possible 8- to 12-foot (2.4- to 3.6-meter) storm surge, leading to evacuation orders being issued for beach communities all along the Gulf coast. In Florida, that means anyone who stays is on their own and first responders are not expected to risk their lives to rescue them at the height of the storm.

Stragglers were a problem during Helene and 2022's Ian. Many residents failed to heed ample warnings, saying they evacuated during previous storms only to have major surges not materialize. But there was evidence Monday that people were getting out before Milton arrives.

A steady stream of vehicles headed north toward the Florida Panhandle on Interstate 75, the main highway on the west side of the peninsula, as residents heeded evacuation orders. Traffic clogged the southbound lanes of the highway for miles as other residents headed for the relative safety of Fort Lauderdale and Miami on the other side of the state.

About 150 miles (240 kilometers) south of Tampa, Fort Myers Beach was nearly a ghost town by Monday afternoon as an evacuation order took effect. Ian devastated the 5,000-resident community two years ago, its 15-foot (4.5-meter) storm surge destroying or severely damaging 400 homes and businesses. Fourteen people died there as they tried to ride out the storm, and dozens had to be rescued.

On Monday, the few residents who could be found were racing against the clock to safeguard their buildings and belongings. None said they were staying.

The signs of Ian's devastation remain visible everywhere. Rebuilt homes stand next to others in various

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states of construction. There are numerous vacant lots, which were once rare.

"This whole street used to be filled out with houses," said Mike Sandell, owner of Pool-Rific Services. His workers were removing and storing pumps and heaters Monday from his clients' pools so they wouldn't get destroyed.

Home construction supplies like bricks, piping and even workers' outhouses lined the streets, potential projectiles that could do further damage if a surge hits.

At the beach Monday afternoon, workers busily emptied the triple-wide trailer that houses The Goodz, a combined hardware, convenience, fishing supply, ice cream and beach goods store. Owner Graham Belger said he moved his "Your Island Everything Store" into the trailer after Ian destroyed his permanent building across the street.

"We'll rebuild, but it is going to be bad," he said.

Nearby, Don Girard and his son Dominic worked to batten down the family's three-story combination rental and vacation home that's about 100 feet (30.5 meters) from the water. Its first-floor garage and entranceway were flooded by Helene last month, Hurricane Debby in August, and a tide brought by a recent supermoon.

Ian was by far the worst. Its waves crashed into the 14-year-old home's second floor, destroying the flooring. Girard repaired the damage, and his aqua-blue and white home stands in contrast to the older, single-story house across the street. It was submerged by Ian, never repaired and remains vacant. Its once-off-white walls are now tinged with brown. Plywood covers the holes that once contained windows and doors.

Girard, who owns a banner and flag company in Texas, said that while his feelings about owning his home are mostly positive, they are becoming mixed. He said every December, his extended family gathers there for the holidays. At that time of year, temperatures in southwest Florida are usually in the 70s (low 20s Celsius) with little rain or humidity. The area and its beaches fill with tourists.

"At Christmas, there is no better place in the world," Girard said.

But flooding from Ian, the other storms and now Milton is leaving him frustrated.

"It's been difficult, I'm not going to lie to you," Girard said. "The last couple years have been pretty bad."

Middle East latest: Israel says it killed a senior Hezbollah commander as more rockets are fired

By The Associated Press undefined

The Israeli military said Tuesday it killed a senior Hezbollah commander in a strike on Beirut while the militant group's acting leader promised more fighting against Israeli troops in southern Lebanon and rocket fire into Israel.

The military said the strike killed Suhail Hussein, who it said was responsible for overseeing logistics, budget and management of the group. There was no immediate comment from Hezbollah.

Sheikh Naim Kassem, the acting leader of Hezbollah, said in a defiant televised statement that his group's military capabilities are still intact. He said that Hezbollah has replaced all of its senior commanders after weeks of heavy Israeli airstrikes across large parts of Lebanon, including targeted strikes that killed much of its top command in a matter of days.

Palestinian militants in Gaza fired a barrage of rockets into Israel on Monday, the anniversary of Hamas' Oct. 7 attack, underscoring their resilience in the face of a devastating Israeli offensive in Gaza that has killed about 42,000 people, according to local medical officials.

A year ago, Hamas-led militants blew holes in Israel's security fence and stormed into army bases and farming communities, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting another 250. They are still holding about 100 captives inside Gaza, a third of whom are believed to be dead.

Israel is now at war with Hamas in Gaza and its ally Hezbollah in Lebanon, which began firing rockets at Israel on Oct. 8, 2023. On Monday, Lebanon's Health Ministry said an Israeli strike in the country's

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south, part of a wider bombardment, killed at least 10 firefighters. Hezbollah fired new barrages despite its recent losses.

Here is the latest:

85 rockets launched from Lebanon into northern Israel, military says

JERUSALEM — The Israeli military said 85 projectiles were launched Tuesday from Lebanon toward northern Israel in a significant burst of fire.

The military said most of the projectiles were intercepted. Hezbollah confirmed it fired the salvo Tuesday.

Israel's rescue service Magen David Adom said a 70-year-old woman was moderately wounded by shrapnel. Israeli media aired footage of what appeared to be minor damage to buildings near the coastal city of Haifa.

The military also said that it struck Hezbollah targets in the Beirut suburb of Dahiyeh, where the militant group has a strong presence.

Hezbollah leader says more Israelis will be displaced as it extends its rocket fire

BEIRUT — Hezbollah's acting leader said Tuesday that even more Israelis will be displaced as the militant group extends its rocket fire deeper into Israel, in a defiant televised statement marking the anniversary of fighting that escalated into war last month.

Sheikh Naim Kassem said Hezbollah's military capabilities are still intact and that it has replaced all of its senior commanders after weeks of heavy Israeli airstrikes across large parts of Lebanon, including targeted strikes that killed much of its top command in a matter of days.

He also said Israeli forces have not been able to advance after launching a ground incursion into Lebanon last week. The Israeli military said a fourth division is now taking part in the incursion, which has expanded to the west, but operations still appear to be confined to a narrow strip along the border.

Israeli reserve division begins 'limited operations' in southwest Lebanon

JERUSALEM — The Israeli military said a reserve division has begun limited operations against Hezbollah in southwestern Lebanon, in an apparent widening of its ground incursion.

The military said Tuesday that the 146th Division is the first reserve division to enter Lebanon since it launched ground operations just inside the border last week.

The announcement came a day after the Israeli military warned residents to evacuate from over a dozen towns and villages in southwestern Lebanon, including the coastal town of Naqoura, where U.N. peacekeepers are headquartered.

Israel has called on people to evacuate several dozen communities across southern Lebanon, many of them north of a U.N.-declared buffer zone established after the Israel-Hezbollah war in 2006.

Israel says its operations are aimed at halting a year of Hezbollah rocket attacks so that tens of thousands of its citizens can return to their homes in the north. Hezbollah has vowed to keep up the attacks until there is a cease-fire in Gaza.

The fighting, which escalated in mid-September, has displaced over 1 million Lebanese.

UN officials in Lebanon call for talks on anniversary of Israel-Hezbollah fighting

BEIRUT — The U.N. special coordinator for Lebanon and the head of the peacekeeping force deployed along the border with Israel said that a negotiated solution is the only way to restore stability and the time to act is now.

The statement by Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert and Lt. Gen. Aroldo Lázaro of the U.N. peacekeeping force known as UNIFIL came on the first anniversary of Lebanon's Hezbollah group starting attacks on Israeli military posts along the border in support of its Hamas allies in the Gaza Strip.

Over the past weeks, the exchanges along the border have expanded into Israeli airstrikes and Hezbollah missile attacks that are hitting deeper inside both countries. In Lebanon, more than 1 million people have been displaced and over 1,300 killed since mid-September.

Plasschaert and Lázaro said Hezbollah's attacks starting on Oct. 8, 2023 were in violation of the U.N. Security Council resolution that ended the 34-day Israel-Hezbollah war in 2006.

"Too many lives have been lost, uprooted, and devastated, while civilians on both sides of the Blue

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Line are left wanting for security and stability," the statement said referring to the border line along the Lebanon-Israel border.

"Today, one year later, the near-daily exchanges of fire have escalated into a relentless military campaign whose humanitarian impact is nothing short of catastrophic," the statement said.

It warned that further that further violence and destruction will neither solve the underlying issues nor make anyone safer in the long run.

"A negotiated solution is the only pathway to restore the security and stability that civilians on both sides so desperately want and deserve," the statement said. "The time to act accordingly is now."

Turkey sends navy to evacuate citizens from Lebanon

ANKARA, Turkey — Turkey is deploying two navy ships to evacuate its citizens from Lebanon amid the rising tensions in the region.

According to a statement from the Turkish Foreign Ministry, the ships, which together can accommodate up to 2,000 passengers, will depart for Lebanon on Tuesday. The evacuations are scheduled to begin on Wednesday.

The ministry said additional evacuations would be organized if necessary.

Besides evacuating citizens, the ships will be carrying humanitarian aid for Lebanon, the ministry said.

Death toll from Israeli strikes on Gaza rises to 30

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip — At least 30 people, including six children and two women, were killed in Israeli strikes in central Gaza late Monday.

Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital, where the bodies were taken, provided an updated toll Tuesday as more bodies were recovered from the rubble.

The strikes took place on the anniversary of Hamas' Oct. 7 attack into southern Israel that triggered the war.

Two strikes hit houses in the built-up Bureij refugee camp, which dates back to the 1948 war surrounding Israel's creation. An Associated Press journalist counted 21 bodies on Monday, along with about a dozen wounded, including several children.

The Palestinian death toll in the war in Gaza is nearing 42,000, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which doesn't differentiate between civilians and militants.

Israeli military says it killed a senior Hezbollah commander in Beirut strike

JERUSALEM — The Israeli military says it killed a senior Hezbollah commander in a strike on Beirut.

The military said Tuesday that it killed Suhail Hussein, who it said was responsible for overseeing logistics, budget and management of the militant group.

There was no immediate comment from Hezbollah.

The military said Hussein was involved in the transfer of advanced weapons from Iran and their distribution to different Hezbollah units, and that he was a member of the group's military council.

Israeli strikes have killed Hezbollah's overall leader, Hassan Nasrallah, and several of his top commanders in recent weeks. Last week, Israel launched what it says is a limited ground incursion into southern Lebanon.

Hezbollah says it has already replaced its slain commanders. It has vowed to keep firing rockets, missiles and drones into Israel until there is a cease-fire in the Gaza Strip, where its ally Hamas has been at war with Israel for a year.

Hezbollah leader says more Israelis will be displaced as the militants extend their rocket fire

By BASSEM MROUE and TIA GOLDENBERG Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Hezbollah's acting leader said Tuesday that even more Israelis will be displaced as the militant group extends its rocket fire deeper into Israel, in a defiant televised statement marking the anniversary of fighting that escalated into war last month.

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Sheikh Naim Kassem, the acting leader of Hezbollah, said its military capabilities are still intact and that it has replaced all of its senior commanders after weeks of heavy Israeli airstrikes across large parts of Lebanon, including targeted strikes that killed much of its top command in a matter of days.

He also said Israeli forces have not been able to advance after launching a ground incursion into Lebanon last week. The Israeli military said a fourth division is now taking part in the incursion, which has expanded to the west, but operations still appear to be confined to a narrow strip along the border.

The Israeli military says it has dismantled militant infrastructure along the border and killed hundreds of Hezbollah fighters. On Tuesday, it said a strike in Beirut had killed Suhail Hussein, who it described as a senior commander responsible overseeing logistics, budget and management of the militant group.

There was no immediate comment from Hezbollah, and no way to confirm battlefield claims made by either side.

"We are firing hundreds of rockets and dozens of drones. A large number of settlements and cities are under the fire of the resistance," Kassem said in a video address, speaking from an undisclosed location. "Our capabilities are fine and our fighters are deployed along the frontlines."

He said Hezbollah's top leadership was directing the war and that the commanders killed by Israel have been replaced. "We have no vacant posts," he added.

He said that Hezbollah will name a new leader to succeed Hassan Nasrallah, who was killed in an Israeli airstrike in a bunker in Beirut last month, "but the circumstances are difficult because of the war."

The Israeli military said that 85 projectiles were launched from Lebanon toward northern Israel in a significant burst of fire on Tuesday.

Israel's aerial defense intercepted most of the rockets, the military said. A 70-year-old woman was moderately wounded by shrapnel and Israeli media aired footage of what appeared to be minor damage to buildings near the coastal city of Haifa.

The military also said that it struck Hezbollah targets in the southern Beirut suburbs, known as the Dahiyeh, where the militant group is headquartered.

Hezbollah began firing rockets into northern Israel on Oct. 8, 2023, the day after Hamas' surprise attack into Israel ignited the war in Gaza. Hezbollah and Hamas are both allied with Iran, and Hezbollah says its attacks are aimed at aiding the Palestinians. Israel began carrying out airstrikes in response and the conflict steadily escalated, erupting into a full-fledged war last month.

The Lebanese militant group has said it will stop the attacks if there is a cease-fire in Gaza, but months of diplomatic efforts on that front have repeatedly stalled.

Israel has inflicted a punishing wave of blows against Hezbollah in recent weeks and says it will keep fighting until tens of thousands of displaced Israeli citizens can return to their homes in the north.

More than 1,300 people have been killed in Lebanon and over a million displaced since the fighting escalated in mid-September.

Since then, Hezbollah has extended its rocket fire into central Israel, setting off air raid sirens in the country's commercial hub of Tel Aviv. Iran-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen have also launched missiles that reached central Israel. Most of the projectiles have been intercepted or fallen in open areas, disrupting life in Israel but causing few casualties and little property damage.

Last week Iran launched its own barrage of some 180 ballistic missiles at Israel, in what it said was a response to the killing of Nasrallah, an Iranian general who was with him at the time and Ismail Haniyeh, the top leader of Hamas, who was killed in an explosion in Iran's capital in July.

Israel has vowed to respond to the missile attack, without saying when or how.

Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant is in Washington this week to meet with his American counterpart, Lloyd Austin. The Biden administration says it is opposed to an Israeli attack on Iran's nuclear facilities, which could escalate regional tensions even further.

What to know about Hurricane Milton as it moves toward Florida's Gulf Coast

By The Associated Press undefined

Not even two weeks after Hurricane Helene swamped the Florida coastline, Milton has strengthened rapidly into a major hurricane on a path toward the state.

The system is threatening the densely populated Tampa metro area — which has a population of more than 3.3 million people — with a potential direct hit and menacing the same stretch of coastline that was battered by Helene.

Traffic was thick on Interstate 75 heading north Monday as evacuees fled in advance of Hurricane Milton. Crews are also hurrying to clear debris left by Helene.

Follow AP's coverage of tropical weather at <https://apnews.com/hub/weather>.

When will Milton make landfall?

According to the National Hurricane Center's Live Hurricane Tracker, Milton will make landfall on the west coast of Florida late Wednesday. It's expected to be a Category 3 storm, which have winds of 111-129 mph (180-210 kph), when it hits the shore in the Tampa Bay region, which has not endured a head-on hit by a major hurricane in more than a century.

It could retain hurricane strength as it churns across central Florida toward the Atlantic Ocean. That track would largely spare other states ravaged by Helene, which killed at least 230 people on its path from Florida to the Carolinas.

How strong will it be?

Milton intensified quickly over the eastern Gulf of Mexico. Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis told reporters Monday afternoon the hurricane was far stronger than what was predicted two days ago.

Milton was a Category 5 hurricane with maximum sustained winds of 180 mph (285 kph) and was centered about 675 miles (1,085 kilometers) southwest of Tampa at late Monday afternoon.

Those winds eased to 155 mph (250 kph) by early Tuesday and the hurricane was downgraded to Category 4 status. It was centered about 560 miles (900 kilometers) southwest of Tampa. The hurricane center said Milton still posed "an extremely serious threat to Florida."

How bad is damage expected to be?

The entire Gulf Coast of Florida is especially vulnerable to storm surge.

Hurricane Helene came ashore some 150 miles (240 kilometers) away from Tampa in the Florida Panhandle and still managed to cause drowning deaths in the Tampa area due to surges of around 5 to 8 feet (1.5 to 2.5 meters) above normal tide levels.

Forecasters warned of a possible 8- to 12-foot storm surge (2.4 to 3.6 meters) in Tampa Bay. That's the highest ever predicted for the location and nearly double the levels reached two weeks ago during Helene, said hurricane center spokeswoman Maria Torres.

The storm could also bring widespread flooding. Five to 10 inches (13 to 25 centimeters) of rain was forecast for mainland Florida and the Keys, with as much as 15 inches (38 centimeters) expected in some places.

What if I have travel plans to that part of Florida?

Tampa International Airport said it planned to stop flights at 9 a.m. Tuesday. The airport posted on X that it is not a shelter for people or their cars.

St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport said it is in a mandatory evacuation zone and will close after the last flight leaves Tuesday.

How is Mexico preparing?

Mexican officials were organizing buses to evacuate people from the low-lying coastal city of Progreso on the Yucatan Peninsula after Mexico's National Meteorological Service said Hurricane Milton "may hit between Celestun and Progreso."

Celestun, on the western corner of the peninsula, is a low-lying nature reserve home to tens of thousands of flamingos. Progreso, to the east, is a shipping and cruise ship port with a population of about 40,000.

Biden sets a 10-year deadline for US cities to replace lead pipes and make drinking water safer

By MATTHEW DALY and MICHAEL PHILLIS Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A decade after the Flint, Michigan, water crisis raised alarms about the continuing dangers of lead in tap water, President Joe Biden is setting a 10-year deadline for cities across the nation to replace their lead pipes, finalizing an aggressive approach aimed at ensuring that drinking water is safe for all Americans.

Biden is expected to announce the final Environmental Protection Agency rule Tuesday in the swing state of Wisconsin during the final month of a tight presidential campaign. The announcement highlights an issue — safe drinking water — that Kamala Harris has prioritized as vice president and during her presidential campaign. The new rule supplants a looser standard set by former President Donald Trump's administration that did not include a universal requirement to replace lead pipes.

Biden and Harris believe it's "a moral imperative" to ensure that everyone has access to clean drinking water, EPA Administrator Michael Regan told reporters Monday. "We know that over 9 million legacy lead pipes continue to deliver water to homes across our country. But the science has been clear for decades: There is no safe level of lead in our drinking water."

The rule is the strongest overhaul of lead-in-water standards in roughly three decades. Lead, a heavy metal used in pipes, paints, ammunition and many other products, is a neurotoxin that can cause a range of disorders from behavioral problems to brain damage. Lead lowers IQ scores in children, stunts their development and increases blood pressure in adults.

The EPA estimates the stricter standard will prevent up to 900,000 infants from having low birthweight and avoid up to 1,500 premature deaths a year from heart disease.

The new regulation is stricter than one proposed last fall and requires water systems to ensure that lead concentrations do not exceed an "action level" of 10 parts per billion, down from 15 parts per billion under the current standard. If high lead levels are found, water systems must inform the public about ways to protect their health, including the use of water filters, and take action to reduce lead exposure while concurrently working to replace all lead pipes.

Lead pipes often impact low-income urban areas the most. They are most commonly found in older, industrial parts of the country, including major cities such as Chicago, Cleveland, New York, Detroit and Milwaukee, where Biden will announce the standards on Tuesday.

The new rule also revises the way lead amounts are measured, which could significantly expand the number of cities and water systems that are found to have excessive levels of lead, the EPA said.

To help communities comply, the agency is making available an additional \$2.6 billion for drinking water infrastructure through the bipartisan infrastructure law. The agency also is awarding \$35 million in competitive grants for programs to reduce lead in drinking water.

The 10-year timeframe won't start for three years, giving water utilities time to prepare. A limited number of cities with large volumes of lead pipes may be given a longer timeframe to meet the new standard.

Biden will make the announcement in Milwaukee, a city with the fifth-highest number of lead pipes in the nation, according to the EPA. Officials there are using money from the federal infrastructure law to accelerate lead-pipe replacement work and meet a goal to remove all lead pipes within 10 years, down from an initial 60-year timeframe.

Lead pipes can corrode and contaminate drinking water; removing them sharply reduces the chance of a crisis. In Flint, a change in the source of the city's drinking water source more than a decade ago made it more corrosive, spiking lead levels in tap water. Flint was the highest-profile example among numerous cities that have struggled with stubbornly high levels of lead, including Newark, New Jersey, Benton Harbor, Michigan, and Washington, D.C.

The original lead and copper rule for drinking water was enacted by the EPA more than 30 years ago. The rules have significantly reduced lead in tap water but have included loopholes that allowed cities to

take little action when lead levels rose too high.

"I think there is very broad support for doing this. Nobody wants to be drinking lead-contaminated tap water or basically sipping their water out of a lead straw, which is what millions of people are doing today," said Erik Olson, a health and food expert at the nonprofit Natural Resources Defense Council, speaking generally about the EPA's efforts to replace lead pipes ahead of the official announcement.

Actually getting the lead pipes out of the ground will be an enormous challenge. The infrastructure law approved in 2021 provided \$15 billion to help cities replace their lead pipes, but the total cost will be several times higher. The requirement also comes as the Biden administration proposes strict new drinking water standards for forever chemicals called PFAS, or per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances. These standards will also improve public health although at a cost of billions of dollars.

The American Water Works Association, an industry group, said when the proposed rule was announced that it supports EPA's goals, but warned that costs could be prohibitive.

Another hurdle is finding the lead pipes. Many cities do not have accurate records detailing where they are. Initial pipe inventories are due this month, and many cities have said they don't know what substances their pipes are made of.

Votes are being counted in the election for a truncated government in Indian-controlled Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India (AP) — Votes were being counted Tuesday in the recent election for a largely powerless local government in Indian-controlled Kashmir, the first since Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government stripped the disputed region of its special status five years ago.

Thousands of additional police and paramilitary soldiers patrolled roads and guarded 28 counting centers as officials tallied votes. A final result was expected to be declared later Tuesday by the region's electoral office.

Nearly 8.9 million people were eligible to vote in the election, which began on Sept. 18 and concluded on Oct. 1. The overall turnout was 64% across the three phases, according to official data.

It was the first such vote in a decade and the first since Modi's Hindu nationalist government scrapped the Muslim-majority region's long-held semi-autonomy in 2019.

The unprecedented move downgraded and divided the former state into two centrally governed union territories, Ladakh and Jammu-Kashmir. Both are ruled directly by New Delhi through its appointed administrators along with unelected bureaucrats and security setup. The move — which largely resonated in India and among Modi supporters — was mostly opposed in Kashmir as an assault on its identity and autonomy amid fears that it would pave the way for demographic changes in the region.

The region has since been on edge with civil liberties curbed and media gagged.

India and Pakistan each administer a part of Kashmir, but both claim the territory in its entirety. The nuclear-armed rivals have fought two of their three wars over the territory since they gained independence from British colonial rule in 1947.

Early results indicated that the regional National Conference party was poised to win the most seats followed by Modi's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party, as exit polls by major television channels the last two days had projected. Such a mandate is likely to be seen as a referendum against Modi's 2019 move.

The National Conference fought the election in alliance with India's main opposition Congress party.

Their coalition may still need support to form the government. That is likely to come from the Peoples Democratic Party, another Kashmiri group. Five seats are appointed and 90 elected, so a party or coalition would need at least 48 of the 95 total seats to form a government.

Meanwhile, Modi's BJP is locked in a tough contest with the Congress party in the northern state of Haryana, bordering New Delhi, which it has ruled for 10 years.

The BJP was leading in 48 constituencies in the 90-member state legislature, according to the Election Commission of India. It appeared to be heading for a third-straight term in the state. The Congress party was leading in 37 constituencies and the results are expected later Tuesday.

The voting trend in Haryana state is a surprise since most exit polls had predicted an easy victory for the Congress party.

The vote will allow Kashmir to have its own truncated government and a regional legislature, called an assembly, rather than being directly under New Delhi's rule.

However, there will be a limited transition of power from New Delhi to the assembly as Kashmir will remain a "union territory" — directly controlled by the federal government — with India's Parliament as its main legislator. Kashmir's statehood must be restored for the new government to have powers similar to other states of India.

The region's last assembly election was held in 2014, after which the BJP for the first time ruled in a coalition with the local Peoples Democratic Party. But the government collapsed in 2018, after the BJP withdrew from the coalition.

Polls in the past have been marked with violence, boycotts and vote-rigging, even though India called them a victory over separatism.

Militants in the Indian-controlled portion of Kashmir have been fighting New Delhi's rule since 1989. Many Muslim Kashmiris support the rebels' goal of uniting the territory, either under Pakistani rule or as an independent country.

India insists the Kashmir militancy is Pakistan-sponsored terrorism. Pakistan denies the charge, and many Kashmiris consider it a legitimate freedom struggle. Tens of thousands of civilians, rebels and government forces have been killed in the conflict.

Harris calls Trump 'incredibly irresponsible' for spreading misinformation about Helene response

By WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Vice President Kamala Harris on Monday called former President Donald Trump "incredibly irresponsible" for spreading falsehoods about the federal response to Hurricane Helene's destruction, offering especially sharp words as a new storm bears down on Florida with just weeks until Election Day.

"There's a lot of mis- and disinformation being pushed out there by the former president about what is available, particularly to the survivors of Helene," Harris told reporters before boarding Air Force Two to fly to New York. "It's extraordinarily irresponsible. It's about him. It's not about you."

Helene has killed more than 220 people in six states, and Category 5 Hurricane Milton is on a path toward Florida's Gulf Coast.

Trump has made a series of false claims in the wake of Helene, including saying incorrectly that the federal government is intentionally withholding aid to Republican disaster victims. He also falsely claimed the Federal Emergency Management Agency had run out of money because all of it had gone to programs for immigrants in the country illegally.

Harris said "the reality is that FEMA has so many resources that are available to folks who desperately need them now, and resources that are about helping people get back on their feet and rebuild and have places to go."

"People are entitled to these resources, and it is critically important that people apply for the help that is there to support," the vice president added. "All those resources were created for just these types of moments, in an emergency situation, knowing that folks are entitled to have the relief that they so rightly need."

Trump also said during a visit Valdosta, Georgia, last week that President Joe Biden was "sleeping" and not responding to calls from Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp. Biden had, in fact, spoken with Kemp and said of Trump, "He's lying, and the governor told him he was lying."

Harris also criticized another high-profile Republican, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, suggesting he's "playing political games" and engaging in "political gamesmanship" in Helene's aftermath.

Harris office says the vice president reached out to DeSantis after the storm. DeSantis said Monday

afternoon that he "didn't know that she had called" and "they didn't call me."

"It wasn't anything anybody in my office did in saying that it was political," DeSantis said.

But Harris, asked about DeSantis, said "people are in desperate need of support right now and playing political games at this moment in these crisis situations ... is utterly irresponsible."

"It is selfish and it is about political gamesmanship instead of doing the job that you took an oath to do, which is to put the people first," Harris said without naming DeSantis.

DeSantis later spoke with Biden to discuss preparations for Milton. The president, according to the White House, asked DeSantis "to call him directly if there is anything that can be done to further support the response and recovery efforts."

Florida's governor later responded to Harris, telling Fox News Channel host Sean Hannity that the vice president was "delusional" for criticizing him when he's been focused on the people of his state.

"She has no role in this," said DeSantis, who noted he'd been in contact with Biden and federal officials. "In fact, she's been vice president for three and a half years. I've dealt with a number of storms under this administration, and she has never contributed anything to any of these efforts."

DeSantis said Harris was "trying to blunder into this," adding that he'd worked well with Biden and Trump during past hurricanes and the vice president is "the first one who's trying to politicize the storm and she's doing that just because of her campaign."

"I don't have time for political games," DeSantis said.

Israel's strikes are shifting the power balance in the Middle East, with US support

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Israeli military strikes are targeting Iran's armed allies across a nearly 2,000-mile stretch of the Middle East and threatening Iran itself. The efforts raise the possibility of an end to two decades of Iranian ascendancy in the region, to which the 2003 U.S. invasion of Iraq inadvertently gave rise.

In Washington, Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, and Arab capitals, opponents and supporters of Israel's offensive are offering clashing ideas about what the U.S. should do next, as its ally racks up tactical successes against Hezbollah in Lebanon and the Houthis in Yemen and presses its yearlong campaign to crush Hamas in Gaza.

Israel should get all the support it needs from the United States until Iran's government "follows other dictatorships of the past into the dustbin of history," said Richard Goldberg, a senior adviser at Washington's conservative-leaning Foundation for the Defense of Democracies — calls echoed by some Israeli political figures.

Going further, Yoel Guzansky, a former senior staffer at Israel's National Security Council, called for the Biden administration to join Israel in direct attacks in Iran. That would send "the right message to the Iranians — 'Don't mess with us,'" Guzansky said.

Critics, however, highlight lessons from the U.S. military campaign in Iraq and toppling of Saddam Hussein, when President George W. Bush ignored Arab warnings that the Iraqi dictator was the region's indispensable counterbalance to Iranian influence. They caution against racking up military victories without adequately considering the risks, end goals or plans for what comes next, and warn of unintended consequences.

Ultimately, Israel "will be in a situation where it can only protect itself by perpetual war," said Vali Nasr, who was an adviser to the Obama administration. Now a professor at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, or SAIS, he has been one of the leading documenters of the rise of Iranian regional influence since the U.S. invasion of Iraq.

With Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu giving limited weight to Biden administration calls for restraint, the United States and its partners in the Middle East are "at the mercy of how far Bibi Netanyahu will push it," Nasr said, referring to the Israeli leader by his nickname.

"It's as if we hadn't learned the lessons, or the folly, of that experiment ... in Iraq in 2003 about reshaping the Middle East order," said Randa Slim, a fellow at SAIS and researcher at the Washington-based Middle East Institute.

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Advocates of Israel's campaign hope for the weakening of Iran and its armed proxies that attack the U.S., Israel and their partners, oppress civil society and increasingly are teaming up with Russia and other Western adversaries.

Opponents warn that military action without resolving the grievances of Palestinians and others risks endless and destabilizing cycles of war, insurgency and extremist violence, and Middle East governments growing more repressive to try to control the situation.

And there's the threat that Iran develops nuclear weapons to try to ensure its survival. Before the Israeli strikes on Hezbollah, Iranian leaders concerned about Israel's offensives had made clear that they were interested in returning to negotiations with the U.S. on their nuclear program and claimed interest in improved relations overall.

In just weeks, Israeli airstrikes and intelligence operations have devastated the leadership, ranks and arsenals of Lebanon-based Hezbollah — which had been one of the Middle East's most powerful fighting forces and Iran's overseas bulwark against attacks on Iranian territory — and hit oil infrastructure of Yemen's Iran-allied Houthis.

A year of Israeli airstrikes in Gaza appears to have reduced the leadership of Iranian-allied Hamas to a few survivors hiding in underground tunnels. However, Israeli forces again engaged in heavy fighting there this week, and Hamas was able to fire rockets at Tel Aviv in a surprising show of enduring strength on the Oct. 7 anniversary of the militant group's attack on Israel, which started the war.

Anticipated Israeli counterstrikes on Iran could accelerate regional shifts in power. The response would follow Iran launching ballistic missiles at Israel last week in retaliation for killings of Hezbollah and Hamas leaders.

It also could escalate the risk of all-out regional war that U.S. President Joe Biden — and decades of previous administrations — worked to avert.

The expansion of Israeli attacks since late last month has sidelined mediation by the U.S., Egypt and Qatar for a cease-fire and hostage release deal in Gaza. U.S. leaders say Israel did not warn them before striking Hezbollah leaders in Lebanon but have defended the surge in attacks, while still pressing for peace.

Vice President Kamala Harris, the Democratic presidential nominee, said in an interview with CBS' "60 Minutes" aired Monday that the U.S. was dedicated to supplying Israel with the military aid needed to protect itself but would keep pushing to end the conflict.

"We're not going to stop in terms of putting that pressure on Israel and in the region, including Arab leaders," she said.

Israel's expanded strikes raise for many what is the tempting prospect of weakening Iran's anti-Western, anti-Israel alliance with like-minded armed groups in Lebanon, Iraq, Syria and Yemen to governments in Russia and North Korea.

Called the "Axis of Resistance," Iran's military alliances grew — regionally, then globally — after the U.S. invasion of Iraq removed Saddam, who had fought an eight-year war against Iran's ambitious clerical regime.

Advocates of the U.S. invasion of Iraq, and overthrow of Saddam, said correctly that an Iraqi democracy would take hold.

But the unintended effects of the U.S. intervention were even bigger, including the rise of Iran's Axis of Resistance and new extremist groups, including the Islamic State.

"An emboldened and expansionist Iran appears to be the only victor" of the 2003 Iraq war, notes a U.S. Army review of lessons learned.

"Two decades ago, who could have seen a day when Iran was supporting Russia with arms? The reason is because of its increased influence" after the U.S. overthrow of Saddam, said Ihsan Alshimary, professor of political science at Baghdad University.

Even more than in 2003, global leaders are offering little clear idea on how the shifts in power that Israel's military is putting in motion will end — for Iran, Israel, the Middle East at large, and the United States.

Iran and its allies are being weakened, said Goldberg, at the Foundation for the Defense of Democracies. So is U.S. influence as it appears to be dragged along by Israel, Nasr said.

The conflict could end up hurting Israel if it bogs down in a ground war in Lebanon, for example, said

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Mehran Kamrava, a professor and Middle East expert at Georgetown University in Qatar.

After four decades of deep animosity between Israeli and Iranian leaders, "the cold war between them has turned into a hot war. And this is significantly changing — is bound to change — the strategic landscape in the Middle East," he said.

"We are certainly at the precipice of change," Kamrava said. But "the direction and nature of that change is very hard to predict at this stage."

What polling shows about Black voters' views of Harris and Trump

By MATT BROWN and LINLEY SANDERS Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Black registered voters have an overwhelmingly positive view of Vice President Kamala Harris, but they're less sure that she would change the country for the better, according to a recent poll from the AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

The poll, which was conducted in mid-September, found about 7 in 10 Black voters have a somewhat or very favorable view of Harris, with few differences between Black men and women voters on how they view the Democratic candidate. Younger and older Black voters also had similar views of the vice president.

Black voters' opinions of former President Donald Trump, by contrast, were overwhelmingly negative, underscoring the challenges that the Republican candidate faces as he seeks to erode Harris' support among Black men. Black voters are an important Democratic constituency, and few are aligned with the Republican Party. According to the survey, two-thirds of Black voters identify as Democrats, about 2 in 10 identify as independents and about 1 in 10 identify as Republicans.

But the poll also found that despite this dramatic gap in views of the candidates, Black voters are less certain of whether Harris would set the country on a better trajectory, or make a substantial difference in their own lives. Only about half of Black voters say "would change the country for the better" describes Harris very or extremely well, while about 3 in 10 say it describes her "somewhat well" and about 2 in 10 say it describes her "not very well" or "not well at all." And only about half believe the outcome of this presidential election will have "a great deal" or "quite a bit" of impact on them personally, an assessment that's in line with Americans overall.

"The Democratic Party is not strong enough for me," said Raina Johnson, 53, a safety case manager in Chicago. Johnson predicted that Harris would "try to do something for the people" but she felt that Harris would be limited as it was "with (Barack) Obama, because the Republican Party shut him down."

While Johnson felt that the stakes of the election were extremely high, she did not think it would have a large personal impact on her.

"Because I'll still live my life. I'll just have to roll with the punches," she said.

Most Black voters think Harris is better on the issues

When asked which candidate would do a better job handling their top issues, including the economy, health care and crime, Black voters had the same answer: Harris.

Like voters overall, about 8 in 10 Black voters said the economy is one of the most important issues to their vote. But about three-quarters of Black voters said health care was one of their most important issues, compared to slightly more than half of registered voters, and they were also more likely than the electorate as a whole to say gun policy and crime were top issues.

In all of those areas, as well as on other topics like abortion and climate change, Harris held a commanding advantage over Trump among Black voters. But the size of that edge was bigger on some issues than others. About 6 in 10 Black voters said Harris was better positioned to handle the economy, while about 2 in 10 said this about Trump, giving Harris about a 40-point advantage. On abortion policy, she had around a 60-point advantage over Trump.

The Trump campaign has stepped up with some outreach to Black communities this year. The former president's campaign believes that his message on the economy, immigration and traditional values can make notable inroads into the Democrats' traditional base of support among Black voters, especially younger Black men.

Rod Wettlin, a retired Air Force veteran in Surprise, Arizona, who wants greater action on issues like

health care and immigration, said he was deeply opposed to Trump and was concerned about the implications of the election for American democracy.

"What's going on now is the culmination of a lot of stuff that's been in our face for years," said Wettlin. "Hopefully after the election it is civil, but these cats out here are already calling for bedlam. And that's their right, I fought for them to have that right. But don't infringe on mine."

There are signs that some groups of Black voters see Harris as a stronger figure, though. Black women voters and older Black voters were especially likely to describe Harris as someone who would "fight for people like you," compared to Black men and younger Black voters.

Black voters view Trump negatively, and some are skeptical about Biden

Relatively few Black voters have a positive view of Trump, or see him as a candidate who has important qualities for the presidency. The poll found that about 8 in 10 Black voters have a somewhat or very unfavorable view of Trump, while just 15% have a somewhat or very favorable view. About 1 in 10 said "would change the country for the better" or "would fight for people like you" describes Trump at least very well, and a similarly low share of Black voters said that Trump would make a good president.

"I think we're headed in the right direction if Kamala Harris gets it," said Roslyn Coble, 63, and a resident of Oakboro, North Carolina. "But if Donald Trump gets it, it's going to be bad. He already told us what he's going to do. He's going to be a dictator."

About 7 in 10 Black voters say the phrase "will say anything to win the election" describes Trump at least very well.

In a sign of how former President Joe Biden's decision to withdraw as the Democratic candidate in July may have altered the race, only 55% of Black men voters have a favorable view of Biden, compared to 7 in 10 Black women voters.

"He did his best," said Wettlin. He said that Biden should have bowed out of the presidential race far sooner and was skeptical of some of his achievements.

Black voter engagement organizations say they have also seen a burst of energy from voters and advocates since Harris' entrance into the race, and both the Harris and Trump campaigns are continuing to focus on this group.

The Trump campaign has been conducting listening sessions and community events in Black neighborhoods in cities like Philadelphia, Detroit and Milwaukee. The campaign has also coordinated a "Black Voices for Trump" bus tour across cities in September. Meanwhile, the Harris campaign has held a number of events geared toward Black voters, especially Black men, and has deployed a number of high-profile surrogates, including lawmakers, celebrities and civil rights leaders, to Black communities in recent weeks.

Vigils, protests around the world commemorate the anniversary of Hamas attack on Israel

By DAVID R. MARTIN, TASSANEE VEJPONGSA and JUSTIN SPIKE Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Commemorations and protests unfolded across the world on Monday to mark the anniversary of the Oct. 7 Hamas attack on Israel, an assault that sparked a war that has devastated the Hamas-ruled Gaza strip, fueled bloodshed in other Mideast lands and stirred protests and divisions far away.

Those divisions were visible in New York, where a crowd gathered for an evening remembrance ceremony in Central Park even as pro-Palestinian protesters converged on a corner of the park less than a mile away.

Hamas militants' surprise cross-border attack last year killed about 1,200 people. Another 250 were taken hostage; around 100 remain in captivity, with many of them feared dead. The attack, on a major Jewish holiday, shattered Israelis' sense of security and left the world facing the prospect of a major conflict in the Middle East.

"The unfathomable horrors I experienced that morning have transformed me, along with every single Israeli and every single Jew," Natalie Sanandaji, a survivor from a music festival where the attackers killed hundreds, told the audience in Central Park.

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Israel responded to the Oct. 7 attack by waging a war against Hamas in Gaza, where the fighting has killed over 41,000 people and displaced around 1.9 million. The conflict has spread in the region, where Israel also is fighting Hezbollah militants in Lebanon, facing escalating threats from Yemen's Houthi rebels and contending with a mounting conflict with Iran, which backs Hamas, Hezbollah and the Houthis.

In New York, protesters spread a large Palestinian flag on a street near the New York Stock Exchange early Monday afternoon, while a smaller group of counterprotesters held an Israeli flag. The pro-Palestinian group grew to a blocks-long column as it marched through Manhattan streets, at one point holding a banner that read "war begets war" on the steps of the New York Public Library.

Associated Press journalists saw several people being taken into police custody at various points in the march. Police said multiple arrests were made; no further information was immediately available.

While the protesters paused to conduct a Muslim evening prayer at the southwestern corner of Central Park, the parents of American-Israeli hostage Omer Neutra shared their anguish from the park's SummerStage venue.

"We would never have imagined we would still be standing here a whole year later, with no news of him," his mother, Orna Neutra, told hundreds of people at an event that drew New York's governor, mayor, U.S. senators and other elected officials. Her son, a New York-born Israeli soldier, turns 23 next week.

At Philadelphia's Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History, a New Jersey high school group viewed an exhibition about the Tribe of Nova music festival in Re'im, Israel, where over 360 people were killed.

"I feel like that really could have been me there," said student Ellie Solomon. Many festivalgoers were close to her age, she noted.

"It's important for us to remember them and honor them because they didn't deserve anything that happened to them," she added.

Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro, a Democrat, also toured the exhibition and emerged hoping that it gave people "an understanding of what really happened" and made them more tolerant "and more committed to finding peace in our society and peace across the globe."

In an echo of campus protests across the U.S. last spring, activists gathered again at colleges Monday. About 200 pro-Palestinian protesters chanted and held banners and flags at the University of California, Los Angeles, while a few other demonstrators held Israeli flags.

Six months after counterprotesters attacked a pro-Palestinian encampment at UCLA, some people wore helmets to Monday's demonstration in case of violence. The protest was peaceful.

Hundreds of members of the Argentine Jewish community, the largest in Latin America, held a ceremony in Buenos Aires in memory of the victims of the Oct. 7 attack. A similar ceremony took place in Santiago, Chile.

Others took part in protests in support of the Palestinians in Lima, Peru; Bogota, Colombia and Mexico City, demanding an end to the conflict.

In Europe, where countries have sought to tamp down antisemitic and anti-Muslim sentiment, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said in Hamburg that "we stand beside" Israelis, and he also pointed to the suffering of Palestinians in Gaza.

The chancellery in Berlin was adorned with a yellow ribbon commemorating Israeli hostages, and the names of people killed and kidnapped were read out at the Brandenburg Gate.

French President Emmanuel Macron met in Paris with relatives of hostages and of the dead. French Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot attended a memorial service at the Nova festival site.

The Vatican took up a collection for the people of Gaza and published a letter expressing Pope Francis' solidarity.

In the Polish capital of Warsaw, the Jewish community paid tribute to Alex Dancyg, a Polish-born Holocaust educator who was abducted from the Nir Oz kibbutz on Oct. 7. Israel believes he died in captivity.

In Australia, thousands of people attended vigils in Sydney and Melbourne, with Prime Minister Anthony Albanese joining the latter event. A day after thousands of pro-Palestinian demonstrators rallied across

Australia's cities, hundreds gathered amid a heavy police presence at Sydney town hall to remember Palestinians killed in the conflict.

In Pakistan's largest city, Karachi, schoolchildren took part in a pro-Palestinian rally organized by the Pakistan Markazi Muslim League party.

Hurricane Milton is a Category 5. Florida orders evacuations and scrambles to clear Helene's debris

By HAVEN DALEY and MIKE SCHNEIDER Associated Press

BELLEAIR BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Florida's storm-battered Gulf Coast raced against a Category 5 hurricane Monday as workers sprinted to pick up debris left over from Helene two weeks ago and highways were clogged with people fleeing ahead of the storm.

The center of Hurricane Milton could come ashore Wednesday in the Tampa Bay region, which has not endured a direct hit by a major hurricane in more than a century. Scientists expect the system to weaken slightly before landfall, though it could retain hurricane strength as it churns across central Florida toward the Atlantic Ocean. That would largely spare other states ravaged by Helene, which killed at least 230 people on its path from Florida to the Carolinas.

"This is the real deal here with Milton," Tampa Mayor Jane Castor told a news conference. "If you want to take on Mother Nature, she wins 100% of the time."

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis said Monday that it was imperative for debris from Helene to be cleared ahead of Milton's arrival so the pieces cannot become projectiles. More than 300 vehicles gathered debris Sunday.

As evacuation orders were issued, forecasters warned of a possible 8- to 12-foot (2.4- to 3.6-meter) storm surge in Tampa Bay. That's the highest ever predicted for the region and nearly double the levels reached two weeks ago during Helene, said National Hurricane Center spokesperson Maria Torres.

The storm could also bring widespread flooding. Five to 10 inches (13 to 25 centimeters) of rain was forecast for mainland Florida and the Keys, with as much as 15 inches (38 centimeters) expected in some places.

The Tampa metro area has a population of more than 3.3 million people.

"It's a huge population. It's very exposed, very inexperienced, and that's a losing proposition," Massachusetts Institute of Technology meteorology professor Kerry Emanuel said. "I always thought Tampa would be the city to worry about most."

Much of Florida's west coast was under hurricane and storm surge warnings. A hurricane warning was also issued for parts of Mexico's Yucatan state, which expected to get sideswiped.

Milton intensified quickly Monday over the eastern Gulf of Mexico. It had maximum sustained winds of 165 mph (270 kph), the National Hurricane Center said. The storm's center was about 630 miles (1,015 kilometers) southwest of Tampa by late Monday, moving east at 9 mph (15 kmh).

The Tampa Bay area is still rebounding from Helene and its powerful surge. Twelve people died there, with the worst damage along a string of barrier islands from St. Petersburg to Clearwater.

'It's going to be flying missiles'

Lifeguards in Pinellas County, on the peninsula that forms Tampa Bay, removed beach chairs and other items that could take flight in strong winds. Elsewhere, stoves, chairs, refrigerators and kitchen tables waited in heaps to be picked up.

Sarah Steslicki, who lives in Belleair Beach, said she was frustrated that more debris had not been collected sooner.

"They've screwed around and haven't picked the debris up, and now they're scrambling to get it picked up," Steslicki said Monday. "If this one does hit, it's going to be flying missiles. Stuff's going to be floating and flying in the air."

Hillsborough County, home to Tampa, ordered evacuations for areas adjacent to Tampa Bay and for all mobile and manufactured homes by Tuesday night.

President Joe Biden approved an emergency declaration for Florida, and U.S. Rep. Kathy Castor said 7,000

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federal workers were called on to help in one of the largest mobilizations of federal personnel in history.

Many evacuate, but some are reluctant

Milton's approach stirred memories of 2017's Hurricane Irma, when about 7 million people were urged to evacuate Florida in an exodus that jammed freeways and clogged gas stations. Some people who left vowed never to evacuate again.

By Monday morning, some gas stations in the Fort Myers and Tampa areas had already run out of gas. Fuel continued to arrive in Florida, and the state had amassed hundreds of thousands of gallons of gasoline and diesel fuel, with much more on the way, DeSantis said.

A steady stream of vehicles headed north toward the Florida Panhandle on Interstate 75, the main highway on the west side of the peninsula, as residents heeded evacuation orders. Traffic clogged the southbound lanes of the highway for miles as other residents headed for the relative safety of Fort Lauderdale and Miami on the other side of the state.

Candice Briggs, along with her husband, their three young kids and their dog, planned to head to a hotel north of Jacksonville less than two weeks after Helene sent a foot and a half of water into her family's home in the Tampa Bay community of Seminole. The family had just settled into their temporary lodgings at an extended family member's home when they had to evacuate again before even finishing their post-Helene loads of laundry.

"Most of the tears I've cried have been out of exhaustion or gratitude. Just that we're safe and that we followed our instincts to evacuate," Briggs said. "Mostly I am grateful. But I am overwhelmed and I am exhausted."

Briggs was worried about her storm-damaged house, where workers have already torn out feet of sodden drywall, leaving behind exposed beams she fears will be even more vulnerable to the towering wall of water that forecasters say Milton could lash against the flood-prone stretch of the Gulf Coast.

Even though Tanya Marunchak's Belleair Beach home was flooded with more than 4 feet (1.2 meters) of water from Helene, she and her husband were unsure if they should evacuate. She wanted to leave, but her husband thought their three-story home was sturdy enough to withstand Milton.

"We lost all our cars, all our furniture. The first floor was completely destroyed," Marunchak said. "This is the oddest weather predicament that there has ever been."

In Mexico, dozens of residents and tourists lined up with suitcases to catch an evacuation ferry off Holbox island on the eastern tip of the Yucatan Peninsula, popular for its shallow seascapes. The low-lying, flood-prone island may be one of the closest points that Hurricane Milton brushes before moving toward Florida.

Off-and-on resident Marilú Macías, joined by her daughters, was calm and smiling but afraid of what Milton could do.

"We are afraid something might happen to us," she said. "We're going someplace safer."

Why did Milton intensify so fast?

Milton's wind speed increased by 92 mph (148 kph) in 24 hours — a pace that trails only those of Hurricane Wilma in 2005 and Hurricane Felix in 2007. One reason Milton strengthened so rapidly is its small "pinhole eye," just like Wilma's, said Colorado State University hurricane researcher Phil Klotzbach.

The storm will likely go through what's called an "eye wall replacement cycle," a natural process that forms a new eye and expands the storm in size but weakens its wind speeds, Klotzbach said.

The Gulf of Mexico is unusually warm right now, so "the fuel is just there," and Milton probably went over an extra-warm eddy that helped goose it further, said University of Albany hurricane scientist Kristen Corbosiero.

The last hurricane to be a Category 5 at landfall in the mainland U.S. was Michael in 2018.

Widespread cancellations in Florida and Mexico

With the storm approaching, schools in Pinellas County, home to St. Petersburg, were being converted into shelters. Airports in Tampa, St. Petersburg and Orlando planned to close. Walt Disney World said it was operating normally for the time being.

In Mexico, Yucatan state Gov. Joaquín Díaz ordered the cancellation of all nonessential activities except for grocery stores, hospitals, pharmacies and gas stations starting Monday, and Mexican officials organized

buses to evacuate residents from the coastal city of Progreso.

It has been two decades since so many storms crisscrossed Florida in such a short period of time. In 2004, an unprecedented five storms struck Florida within six weeks, including three hurricanes that pummeled central Florida.

Control the path and power of hurricanes like Milton? Forget it, scientists say

By MELINA WALLING and SETH BORENSTEIN Associated Press

Hurricanes are humanity's reminder of the uncontrollable, chaotic power of Earth's weather.

Milton's powerful push toward Florida just days after Helene devastated large parts of the Southeast likely has some in the region wondering if they are being targeted. In some corners of the internet, Helene has already sparked conspiracy theories and disinformation suggesting the government somehow aimed the hurricane at Republican voters.

Besides discounting common sense, such theories disregard weather history that shows the hurricanes are hitting many of the same areas they have for centuries. They also presume an ability for humans to quickly reshape the weather far beyond relatively puny efforts such as cloud seeding.

"If meteorologists could stop hurricanes, we would stop hurricanes," Kristen Corbosiero, a professor of atmospheric and environmental sciences at the University at Albany. "If we could control the weather, we would not want the kind of death and destruction that's happened."

Here's a look at what humans can and can't do when it comes to weather:

The power of hurricanes, heightened by climate change

A fully developed hurricane releases heat energy that is the equivalent of a 10-megaton nuclear bomb every 20 minutes — more than all the energy used at a given time by humanity, according to National Hurricane Center tropical analysis chief Chris Landsea.

And scientists are now finding many ways climate change is making hurricanes worse, with warmer oceans that add energy and more water in the warming atmosphere to fall as rain, said Chris Field, director of the Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment.

"The amount of energy a hurricane generates is insane," said Colorado State University hurricane researcher Phil Klotzbach. It's the height of human arrogance to think people have the power to change them, he said.

But that hasn't stopped people from trying, or at least thinking about trying.

Historical efforts to control hurricanes have failed

Jim Fleming of Colby College has studied historical efforts to control the weather and thinks humans have nowhere near the practical technology to get there. He described an attempt in 1947 in which General Electric partnered with the U.S. military to drop dry ice from Air Force jets into the path of a hurricane in an attempt to weaken it. It didn't work.

"The typical science goes like understanding, prediction and then possibly control," Fleming said, noting that the atmosphere is far more powerful and complex than most proposals to control it. "It goes back into Greek mythology to think you can control the powers of the heavens, but also it's a failed idea."

In the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s, the federal government briefly tried Project STORMFURY. The idea was to seed a hurricane to replace its eyewall with a larger one that would make the storm bigger in size but weaker in intensity. Tests were inconclusive and researchers realized if they made the storm larger, people who wouldn't have been hurt by the storm would now be in danger, which is an ethical and liability problem, the project director once said.

For decades, the National Hurricane Center and its parent agency, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, have been asked about nuclear-bombing a hurricane. But the bombs aren't powerful enough, and it would add the problem of radioactive fallout, Corbosiero said.

Bringing cooling icebergs or seeding or adding water-absorbing substances also are ideas that just don't work, NOAA scientists said.

Climate change begets engineering — and lots of questions

Failed historical attempts to control hurricanes differ somewhat from some scientists' futuristic ideas to combat climate change and extreme weather. That's because instead of targeting individual weather events, modern geoengineers would operate on a larger scale — thinking about how to reverse the broad-scale damage humans have already done to the global climate by emitting greenhouse gases.

Scientists in the field say one of the most promising ideas they see based on computer models is solar geoengineering. The method would involve lofting aerosol particles into the upper atmosphere to bounce a tiny bit of sunlight back into space, cooling the planet slightly.

Supporters acknowledge the risks and challenges. But it also "might have quite large benefits, especially for the world's poorest," said David Keith, a professor at the University of Chicago and founding faculty director of the Climate Systems Engineering initiative.

Two years ago, the largest society of scientists who work on climate issues, the American Geophysical Union, announced it was forming an ethics framework for "climate intervention."

Some scientists warn that tinkering with Earth's atmosphere to fix climate change is likely to create cascading new problems. Pennsylvania State University climate scientist Michael Mann expressed worries on the ethics framework that just talking about guidelines will make the tinkering more likely to occur in the real world, something that could have harmful side effects.

Field, of Stanford, agreed that the modeling strongly encourages that geoengineering could be effective, including at mitigating the worst threats of hurricanes, even if that's decades away. But he emphasized that it's just one piece of the best solution, which is to stop climate change by cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

"Whatever else we do, that needs to be the core set of activities," he said.

FEMA administrator continues pushback against false claims as Helene death toll hits 230

By JOHN RABY and GABRIELA AOUN ANGUIERA Associated Press

LAKE LURE, N.C. (AP) — The head of the U.S. disaster response agency continued to forcefully push back Monday against false claims and conspiracy theories about her agency's response to Hurricane Helene as the death toll from the storm continued to climb.

Federal Emergency Management Agency Administrator Deanne Criswell pointed to the agency's massive, collaborative effort that keeps growing, and she strongly urged residents in hard-hit areas to accept the government's offer for assistance.

"We have thousands of people on the ground, not just federal, but also our volunteers in the private sector," Criswell said at a news conference in Asheville, North Carolina. "And frankly, that type of rhetoric is demoralizing to our staff that have left their families to come here and help the people of North Carolina. And we will be here as long as they're needed."

Misinformation has spread over the past week in communities hit the hardest by Helene, including that the federal government is intentionally withholding aid to people in Republican areas. Former President Donald Trump and other Republicans have questioned FEMA's response and falsely claimed that its funding is going to migrants or foreign wars.

FEMA has dedicated part of its website to providing accurate answers to questions and addressing rumors on its response to Helene.

On Friday, the agency put out a statement debunking rumors that it will only provide \$750 to disaster survivors to support their recovery. Criswell said that initial money helps residents with expenses for medicine or food. She said additional funding will be available to reimburse them for the cost of home repairs, personal items lost, post-hurricane rental units and hotel stays.

"But I can't give it to them if they don't apply," Criswell said. "And if people are afraid to apply, then it is hurting them."

When asked directly about a circulating claim that FEMA would seize people's property if they don't pay

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back the \$750 in within one year, Criswell said that was "absolutely false."

The cleanup and response to the storm that killed at least 230 people continued Monday, while Milton strengthened rapidly into a Category 5 hurricane on a path toward Florida, the same area battered by Helene less than two weeks ago.

More than 130,000 customers in western North Carolina were still without electricity Monday, according to poweroutage.us.

Also in North Carolina, more than 1,600 local and state search-and-rescue team members have been joined by about 1,700 members of the state National Guard, according to Gov. Roy Cooper's office.

Meanwhile, the Pentagon said Monday that an additional 500 active-duty troops have been deployed to North Carolina. Maj. Gen. Pat Ryder, the Pentagon press secretary, said troops with advanced technological assets will be arriving, bringing the total number of active-duty forces to about 1,500. The troops are bringing surveillance equipment to allow officials to get a better overview of the region.

Air Force Gen. Gregory Guillot, commander of the North American Aerospace Defense Command, said search-and-rescue aircraft were flying 10-hour sorties providing wellness checks, medical care and evacuations. He called the military's operations the "most important and honorable mission for us, which is to help fellow citizens."

Cooper said more than 50 water systems were destroyed or impaired by the storm and that the pace of restoring service varies by community. He said he couldn't give a specific timeline but said the process might take longer in Asheville and Buncombe County, where at least six dozen people died.

"It's still going to be a while," he said.

Cooper also visited the towns of Chimney Rock and Lake Lure in Rutherford County, which both experienced devastating damage.

"We're going to help western North Carolina come back," Cooper said as he stood with Lake Lure's mayor, Carol Pritchett. "It's too important to our economy, to our state, not to do it."

Pritchett told Cooper that the tiny town would need all the help it could get. Its sewer and wastewater treatment systems needed complete replacements, and the lake would have to be completely dredged. She estimated the costs would be in the tens of millions of dollars.

"We're a town of 1,300; we certainly can't do it on our own," Pritchett said.

Without restoring major infrastructure, Pritchett said the tourism on which the town depends could not come back.

"The town's name is Lake Lure. With no lake here, the 'Lake Lure' kind of begs the question," she said.

In South Carolina, officials estimate \$250 million has been spent on debris cleanup, infrastructure damage and emergency response. More than 300 homes were destroyed and 5,200 damaged, state Emergency Management Division Director Kim Stenson said Monday.

The state's largest school district, Greeneville County, plans to reopen Wednesday after shutting down for seven days. The district said it has had to modify bus routes because of blocked roads, closed bridges, sinkholes, and traffic signal outages at major intersections.

In Tennessee, where at least 12 people died from Helene, Gov. Bill Lee on Monday visited Bristol Motor Speedway, now a hub for collecting donations for victims and centralizing other operations in the wake of the flooding. Lee met with coordinators and volunteers who were sorting through donations.

"These are Tennesseans and they're hurting," Lee said. "Not only are they hurting, but they're helping."

War rages on multiple fronts as Israel marks a year since Hamas' Oct. 7 attack

By MELANIE LIDMAN and TIA GOLDENBERG Associated Press

RE'IM, Israel (AP) — Israelis held somber ceremonies Monday to mark a year since the deadliest attack in the country's history, a Hamas-led raid that shattered its sense of security and has since spiraled into wars on two fronts with no end in sight.

Hamas marked the anniversary of its Oct. 7, 2023 attack by firing a barrage of rockets at Tel Aviv, un-

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underscoring its resilience after a year of war and devastation in Gaza. Lebanon's Hezbollah, which has been firing rockets into Israel for the past year in support of its ally, Hamas, launched more than 170 across the border on Monday.

As Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed to press Israel's campaigns on all sides, the military said fighter jets targeting Hezbollah positions bombarded southern Lebanon with more than 120 strikes in an hour. An earlier strike killed at least 10 Lebanese firefighters, the latest of dozens of first responders killed in recent weeks, according to the country's Health Ministry.

In a possible sign of the expansion of its campaign, Israel said it would soon launch operations on Lebanon's southern coast, telling residents to stay off the beaches and the sea for a 60-kilometer (36 miles) stretch along the Mediterranean.

In the Israeli-occupied West Bank, Israeli troops shot and killed a 12-year-old Palestinian boy in a refugee camp, Palestinian health officials said. The military said it opened fire on Palestinians throwing stones at its forces.

A year since Hamas' surprise cross-border attack, the war in Gaza rages on, even as Israel fights a new war against Hezbollah, escalating its bombing campaign in Lebanon the past three weeks. There is also a mounting conflict with Iran — which backs both Hamas and Hezbollah — that threatens to drag the region into an even more dangerous conflagration.

Two main Israeli commemorations for the day underscored the country's divisions. One was held by the government. The other was organized in Tel Aviv by families of those killed on Oct. 7 and of hostages still held in Gaza. They refused to join the official ceremony, angry at Netanyahu for security lapses on the day of the attack and for not yet returning all the hostages.

It was a sign of how Israelis' faith in their leaders and military was shaken when the militants stormed out of Gaza, catching the country unprepared on a major Jewish holiday. The militants killed some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducted another 250. Around 100 hostages have not been returned, a third of whom are believed to be dead, and cease-fire efforts have ground to a halt.

Israel's assault in Gaza since Oct. 7 has killed more than 41,000 Palestinians, huge areas have been completely destroyed, most of the population have been driven from their homes and hunger is widespread. The Gaza toll rose further on Monday night when at least 21 people, including five children and two women, were killed when two strikes hit houses in the Bureij refugee camp.

Israel's strikes in Lebanon since late September have killed at least 1,400 people, including civilians, medics and Hezbollah fighters, and 1.2 million have been driven from their homes.

Israelis hold memorials and call for the return of hostages

Israelis flocked to ceremonies, cemeteries and memorial sites around the country, remembering the hundreds of victims, the dozens of hostages still in captivity and soldiers killed in battle. Commemorations were also planned across Europe and elsewhere.

Before dawn, hundreds of families of those killed at the Nova music festival, joined by President Isaac Herzog, gathered at the site where at least 364 revelers were killed and many others taken hostage. As the sun rose, organizers played the same trance track that was abruptly halted when the barrage of rockets began.

At 6:29 a.m. — the exact minute Hamas launched its attack — the crowd observed a moment of silence. A woman's piercing wail broke the quiet and booms echoed from the fighting in Gaza, just a few kilometers away.

"When we are here, we are near our loved ones," said Sigal Bar-On, whose niece, Yuval Bar-On, 25, and her fiancé Moshe Shuva, 34, were killed in the attack two months before they were to be married.

At 6:31 a.m., four projectiles were launched from Gaza toward the same communities that came under attack last year, without disrupting the ceremony.

The military said another five rockets were launched from the southern Gaza city of Khan Younis toward central Israel, setting off air raid sirens in Tel Aviv. Two women were lightly wounded, according to first responders, and there was minor damage. The military said it struck the launch sites.

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More than 3,000 people attended the alternative memorial organized in the evening by relatives of victims and hostages in a Tel Aviv park, with emotional testimonies from survivors and performances by singers.

That event had been set to draw tens of thousands of people but was scaled back due to the threat of missile attacks.

Shortly before the ceremony began, sirens rang out warning of an incoming ballistic missile fired by Yemen's Houthi rebels, forcing people at the site to lie face down on the ground. The military said the missile was intercepted.

Earlier, families of hostages gathered near Netanyahu's Jerusalem residence and stood during a two-minute siren.

"We won't let you rest until all of them are back, every last one of them," said Shiri Albag in a speech addressing the prime minister. Albag's daughter Liri is among the captives.

An official state ceremony in the southern city of Ofakim, one of the communities attacked on Oct. 7, was broadcast after being pre-recorded.

Netanyahu spoke at a small ceremony in Jerusalem, saying: "We went through a terrible massacre a year ago and we arose as a nation as lions." In comments at a Cabinet meeting, Netanyahu said Israel's continued counterattacks on all fronts are "a necessary condition for securing our future."

Hamas and Hezbollah vow to fight on

Israel responded to the Oct. 7 attack by launching one of the deadliest and most destructive military campaigns in recent history.

"We lost everything we have," said Liyala al-Shanar, who fled her home in Gaza City. "We live in a tent that doesn't protect us from the winter cold or the summer heat."

The past year has seen a surge of violence in the West Bank, including Israeli raids on towns targeting armed groups, increased attacks by Palestinian militants and Jewish settler attacks on Palestinians.

Monday's shooting of the 12-year-old took place in the Qalandiya refugee camp during an Israeli raid, according to Wafa, the official Palestinian news agency. The Israeli army said its troops operating in the area opened fire on rioters throwing rocks at them.

In Lebanon, Israel has stepped up its air campaign and launched limited ground operations across the border, saying it aims to drive Hezbollah from its border so tens of thousands of Israeli citizens can return home. Intensified Israeli strikes have killed many in Hezbollah's top command — including longtime leader Hassan Nasrallah — and pounded large areas of Lebanon.

Hezbollah said Monday it would continue its attacks until there is a cease-fire in Gaza.

Israel has also vowed to respond to a ballistic missile attack last week that Iran said was in response to the killings of Nasrallah, top Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh and one of its own Revolutionary Guard generals.

Supreme Court declines Biden's appeal in Texas emergency abortion case

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST and JAMIE STENGLE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A court order that says hospitals cannot federally be required to provide pregnancy terminations when they violate a Texas abortion ban will stay for now, the Supreme Court said Monday.

The decision is another setback for opponents of Texas' abortion ban, which for two years has withstood multiple legal challenges, including from women who had serious pregnancy complications and have been turned away by doctors.

It left Texas as the only state where the Biden administration is unable to enforce its interpretation of a federal law in an effort to ensure women still have access to emergency abortions when their health or life is at risk.

The justices did not detail their reasoning for keeping in place a lower court order, and there were no publicly noted dissents. Texas had asked the justices to leave the order in place while the Biden administration had asked the justices to throw it out.

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton called the decision "a major victory."

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The Biden administration argues that a federal law, called the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act, or EMTALA, requires emergency rooms to provide abortions if a pregnant patient's health or life is at serious risk, even in states where the procedure is banned. The law only applies to emergency rooms that receive Medicare funding, which most hospitals do.

The Supreme Court decision comes weeks before a presidential election in which Democratic nominee Kamala Harris has put abortion at the center of her campaign, attacking Republican challenger Donald Trump for appointing judges to the high court who overturned nationwide abortion rights in 2022.

"I will never stop fighting for a woman's right to emergency medical care — and to restore the protections of Roe v. Wade so that women in every state have access to the care they need," Harris said on social media Monday evening.

Texas' abortion ban has also been a centerpiece of Democratic U.S. Rep. Colin Allred's challenge against Republican U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz for his seat.

At a campaign event over the weekend in Fort Worth, Texas, hundreds of Allred's supporters broke out in raucous applause when he vowed to protect a woman's right to an abortion. "When I'm in the Senate, we're going to restore Roe v. Wade," Allred said.

At a separate event the same day, in a nearby suburb, Cruz outlined a litany of criticisms against Allred, but didn't bring up the abortion law.

Katie Glenn Daniel, the state policy director of SBA Pro-Life America, applauded the Supreme Court decision and pointed to data showing Texas doctors have been able to provide an average of about five abortions per month to save a patient's life or health.

Still, complaints of pregnant women in medical distress being turned away from emergency rooms in Texas and elsewhere have spiked as hospitals grapple with whether standard care could violate strict state laws against abortion. Several Texas women have lodged complaints against hospitals for not terminating their failing and dangerous pregnancies because of the state's ban. In some cases, women lost reproductive organs.

In asking the Supreme Court to toss out the lower court decision, the administration pointed to a similar case from Idaho earlier this year in which the justices narrowly allowed emergency abortions to resume while a lawsuit continues. At the time the Idaho case began, the state had an exception for the life, but not the health, of a woman.

Texas said its case is different, however, because the law provides some exceptions if a pregnant patient's health is at risk.

Texas pointed to a state Supreme Court ruling that said doctors do not have to wait until a woman's life is in immediate danger to provide an abortion legally. Doctors, though, have said the Texas law is dangerously vague, and a medical board has refused to list all the conditions that qualify for an exception.

Marc Hearron, an attorney for the Center for Reproductive Rights, said doctors in Texas got no clarity from the Supreme Court on Monday.

"The health care crisis is ongoing," Hearron said. "Patients are going to continue to suffer."

Mary Ziegler, a law professor at the University of California at Davis who has written extensively about abortion, said there remains much uncertainty for doctors in Texas, who could risk life in prison for performing abortions.

"I think we're going to continue to see physicians turning away patients, even patients who could qualify under the state's exceptions, because the consequences of guessing wrong are so severe and the laws are not that clear," Ziegler said.

The Texas case started after the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade in 2022, leading to abortion restrictions in many Republican-controlled states. The Biden administration issued guidance saying hospitals still needed to provide abortions in emergency situations under a health care law that requires most hospitals to treat any patients in medical distress.

Texas sued over that guidance, arguing that hospitals cannot be required to provide abortions that would violate its ban. The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals sided with the state, ruling in January that the

administration had overstepped its authority.

Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra said in a post on X, "Reproductive rights are under assault in this country and women's health and lives remain in danger from the chaos and confusion caused by overturning Roe."

Cissy Houston, a Grammy-winning gospel singer and Whitney Houston's mother, dies at 91

By JONATHAN LANDRUM Jr. and HILLEL ITALIE AP Entertainment Writers

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Cissy Houston, a two-time Grammy-winning soul and gospel artist who sang with Aretha Franklin, Elvis Presley and other stars and knew triumph and heartbreak as the mother of Whitney Houston, has died. She was 91.

Cissy Houston died Monday morning in her New Jersey home while under hospice care for Alzheimer's disease, her daughter-in-law Pat Houston told The Associated Press. The acclaimed gospel singer was surrounded by her family.

"Our hearts are filled with pain and sadness. We loss the matriarch of our family," Pat Houston said in a statement. She said her mother-in-law's contributions to popular music and culture are "unparalleled."

"Mother Cissy has been a strong and towering figure in our lives. A woman of deep faith and conviction, who cared greatly about family, ministry, and community. Her more than seven-decade career in music and entertainment will remain at the forefront of our hearts."

A church performer from an early age, Houston was part of a family gospel act before breaking through in popular music in the 1960s as a member of the prominent backing group The Sweet Inspirations with Doris Troy and her niece Dee Dee Warwick. The group sang backup for a variety of soul singers including Otis Redding, Lou Rawls and The Drifters. They also sang backup for Dionne Warwick.

Houston's many credits included Franklin's "Think" and "(You Make Me Feel Like) A Natural Woman," Van Morrison's "Brown Eyed Girl" and Dusty Springfield's "Son of a Preacher Man." The Sweet Inspirations also sang on stage with Presley, whom Houston would remember fondly for singing gospel during rehearsal breaks and telling her that she was "squirrely."

"At the end of our engagement with him, he gave me a bracelet inscribed with my name on the outside," she wrote in her memoir "How Sweet the Sound," published in 1998. "On the inside of the bracelet he had inscribed his nickname for me: Squirrely."

The Sweet Inspirations had their own top 20 single with the soul-rock "Sweet Inspiration," made in the Memphis studio where Franklin and Springfield among others recorded hits and released four albums just in the late '60s. The group appeared on Van Morrison's "Brown Eyed Girl" and sang background vocals for The Jimi Hendrix Experience on the song "Burning of the Midnight Lamp" in 1967.

Houston's last performance with The Sweet Inspirations came after the group hit the stage with Presley in a Las Vegas show in 1969. Her final recording session with the group turned into their biggest R&B hit "(Gotta Find) A Brand New Lover" a composition by the production team of Gamble & Huff, who appeared on the group's fifth album, "Sweet Sweet Soul."

During that time, the group occasionally performed live concert dates with Franklin. After the group's success and four albums together, Houston left The Sweet Inspirations to pursue a solo career where she flourished.

Houston became an in-demand session singer and recorded more than 600 songs in multiple genres throughout her career. Her vocals can be heard on tracks alongside a wide range of artists including Chaka Khan, Donny Hathaway, Jimi Hendrix, Luther Vandross, Beyoncé, Paul Simon, Roberta Flack and Whitney Houston.

Cissy Houston went on to complete several records, including "Presenting Cissy Houston," the disco-era "Think It Over" and the Grammy-winning gospel albums "Face to Face" and "He Leadeth Me."

In 1971, Houston's signature vocals were featured on Burt Bacharach's solo album, which includes "Mexican Divorce," "All Kinds of People" and "One Less Bell to Answer." She performed various standards

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including Barbra Streisand's hit song, "Evergreen."

Never far from her native New Jersey or musical origins, Houston presided for decades over the 200-member Youth Inspirational Choir at Newark's New Hope Baptist Church, where Whitney Houston sang as a child.

Cissy Houston would say that she had discouraged her daughter from show business, but they were joined in music for much of Whitney's life, from church to stage performances to television and film and the recording studio. Whitney's rise seemed inevitable, not only because of her obvious talents, but because of her background: Dionne and Dee Dee Warwick were cousins, Leontyne Price a cousin once removed, Franklin a close family friend.

Whitney Houston made her debut on national television when she and Cissy Houston sang a medley of Franklin hits on "The Merv Griffin Show." Cissy Houston sang backup on Whitney's eponymous, multi-platinum first album, and the two shared the lead on "I Know Him So Well," from the 1987 mega-seller "Whitney."

They would sing together often in concert and appeared in the 1996 film "The Preacher's Wife." Their most indelible moments likely came from the video for one of Whitney's biggest hits from the mid-1980s, "Greatest Love of All." It was filmed as a mother-daughter homage, ending with a joyous Whitney exiting the stage of Harlem's Apollo Theater and embracing Cissy Houston, who stood in the wings.

But drug problems damaged Whitney's voice and reputation and eventually ended her life: she was found dead in a Beverly Hills bathtub on Feb. 11, 2012. Cissy Houston would blame husband Bobby Brown for Whitney's getting so "deep" into drugs, writing in the 2013 memoir "Remembering Whitney." Brown acknowledged his drug problems but was dismissive of his in-laws in a 2016 interview with Larry King.

Cissy and Whitney Houston had a complicated dynamic at times — Whitney nicknamed her mother "Big Cuda," as in barracuda. Cissy described in the memoir that her daughter as "mean" and "difficult" at times but wrote "almost always," her daughter was "the sweetest, most loving person in the room."

In 2015, Cissy Houston was grieving again when granddaughter Bobbi Kristina Brown, the only child of Bobby Brown and Whitney Houston, was found unconscious in a bathtub, spent months in a coma and died at age 22.

Cissy Houston was briefly married to Freddie Garland in the 1950s; their son, Gary Garland, was a guard for the Denver Nuggets and later sang on many of Whitney Houston's tours. Cissy Houston was married to Whitney's father, entertainment executive John Russell Houston, from 1959-1990. In addition to Whitney, the Houstons also had a son, Michael.

Cissy Houston was born Emily Drinkard in Newark, the youngest of eight children of a factory worker and a housewife. She was just 5 when she and three siblings founded the Drinkard Singers, a gospel group that lasted 30 years, performing on the same bill as Mahalia Jackson among others and releasing the 1959 album "A Joyful Noise."

She later said she would have been happy to remain in gospel, but John Houston encouraged her to take on studio work. When rockabilly star Ronnie Hawkins (along with drummer Levon Helm and other future members of The Band) needed an extra voice, Cissy Houston stepped in.

"I wanted to get my work done, and get it done quickly. I was there, but I didn't have to be part of them. I was in the world, but I wasn't of the world, as St. Paul put it," Houston wrote in "How Sweet the Sound," remembering how she soon began working with the Drifters and other singers.

"At least in the recording studio we were living together as God intended us to. Some days, we spent 12 or 15 hours together there," she wrote. "The skin-deep barriers of race seemed to fall away as we toiled side by side creating our little pop masterpieces."

Pat Houston said she is thankful for the many valuable lessons learned from her mother-in-law. She said the family feels "blessed and grateful" that God allowed Cissy to spend so many years.

"We are touched by your generous support, and your outpouring of love during our profound time of grief," Houston said on behalf of the family. "We respectfully request our privacy during this difficult time."

Mega Millions tickets will climb to \$5, but officials promise bigger prizes and better odds

By SCOTT McFETRIDGE Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — The cost of buying a Mega Millions jackpot dream will soon more than double, but lottery officials said they're confident players won't mind paying more after changes that will lead to larger prizes and more frequent winners.

Lottery officials announced Monday that it will cost \$5 to play Mega Millions, beginning in April, up from the current \$2 per ticket. The price increase will be one of many changes to Mega Millions that officials said will result in improved jackpot odds, more frequent giant prizes and even larger payouts.

"Spending 5 bucks to become a millionaire or billionaire, that's pretty good," said Joshua Johnston, director of the Washington Lottery and lead director of the group that oversees Mega Millions.

Mega Millions and its lottery compatriot Powerball are sold in 45 states, as well as Washington, D.C., and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Powerball also is sold in Puerto Rico.

Powerball officials said they have no plans to change that game's odds or the \$2 price for most tickets.

Mega Millions' hope is that by increasing ticket revenue and rejiggering the odds — now set at 1 in 302.6 million — to something less stratospheric, more people will win jackpots even as prizes grow extraordinarily high, which attracts more players. The goal is to increase revenue and provide more money to state lotteries, which in turn spend it on a variety of government services.

Mega Millions will introduce changes at a time when fewer people are buying tickets and jackpots need to reach ever-higher figures before sporadic players notice and opt to buy a ticket or two. Whereas a \$500 million jackpot once prompted lines out convenience store doors, top prizes of \$1 billion now often draw more of a ho-hum response.

Those much-hyped jackpot numbers also could take a hit as interest rates fall. That's because on billboards or other advertisements, state lotteries emphasize the annuity payout for jackpots, distributed over decades from an investment fund. As interest rates have been high, the annuity jackpots have more than doubled the cash prizes that winners nearly always choose.

With an expectation that interest rates will drop, those annuity jackpot figures will decline, so the advertised jackpot won't seem quite so massive.

Johnston said expected declines in interest rates were not a factor in the upcoming changes.

The biggest motivation was to differentiate Mega Millions from Powerball and attract customers who might now pass on both games, Johnston said.

More than doubling the ticket price is a big move, but Johnston said research shows people feel comfortable spending at least \$5 when they buy scratch tickets or chances at the draw games, like Mega Millions. It is the second price increase since the game was created in 2002.

"You pay 5 bucks for your Starbucks," Johnston noted.

Lottery officials will announce more specifics about the changes in the coming months, he said.

Federal judge orders Google to open its Android app store to competition

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A federal judge on Monday ordered Google to tear down the digital walls shielding its Android app store from competition as punishment for maintaining an illegal monopoly that helped expand the company's internet empire.

The injunction issued by U.S. District Judge James Donato will require Google to make several changes that the Mountain View, California, company had been resisting. Those include a provision that will require its Play Store for Android apps to distribute rival third-party app stores so consumers can download them to their phones, if they so desire.

The judge's order will also make the millions of Android apps in the Play Store library accessible to rivals,

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allowing them to offer up a competitive selection.

Donato is giving Google until November to make the revisions dictated in his order. The company had insisted it would take 12 to 16 months to design the safeguards needed to reduce the chances of potentially malicious software making its way into rival Android app stores and infecting millions of Samsung phones and other mobile devices running on its free Android software.

The court-mandated overhaul is meant to prevent Google from walling off competition in the Android app market as part of an effort to protect a commission system that has been a boon for one of the world's most prosperous companies and helped elevate the market value of its corporate parent Alphabet Inc. to \$2 trillion.

Google said in a blog post that it will ask the court to pause the pending changes, and will appeal the court's decision.

Donato also ruled that, for a period of three years ending Nov. 1, 2027, Google won't be able to share revenue from its Play Store with anyone who distributes Android apps or is considering launching an Android app distribution platform or store. It also won't be allowed to pay developers, or share revenue, so that they will launch an app in the Google Play Store first or exclusively, and can't make deals with manufacturers to preinstall the Google Play store on any specific location on an Android device. It also won't be able to require apps to use its billing system or tell customers that they can download apps elsewhere and potentially for cheaper.

The Play Store has been earning billions of dollars annually for years, primarily through 15% to 30% commissions that Google has been imposing on digital transactions completed within Android apps. It's a similar fee structure to the one that Apple deploys in its iPhone app store — a structure that prompted video game maker Epic Games to file antitrust lawsuits four years ago in an effort to foster competition that could help drive down prices for both app makers and consumers.

A federal judge mostly sided with Apple in a September 2021 decision that was upheld by an appeals court. Still, a jury favored Epic Games after the completion of a four-week trial completed last year and delivered a verdict that tarred the Play Store as an illegal monopoly.

That prompted another round of hearings this year to help Donato determine what steps should be taken to restore fair competition. Google argued that Epic Games was seeking some extreme changes, saddling the company with costs that could run as high as \$600 billion. Epic contended Google could level the playing field for as little as \$1 million. It's unclear how much the changes ordered by Donato will cost Google.

Although Epic lost its antitrust case against Apple, Donato's ruling could still have ripple effects on the iPhone app store as another federal judge weighs whether Apple is making it easy enough to promote different ways that consumers can pay for digital transactions. Apple was ordered to allow in-app links to alternative payment systems as part of U.S. District Judge Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers' decision in that case, but Epic contends the provision is being undermined with the creation of another commission system that stifles consumer choice.

The forthcoming Play Store shakeup could be just the first unwelcome shock that antitrust law delivers to Google. In the biggest antitrust case brought by the U.S. Justice Department in a quarter century, U.S. District Judge Amit Mehta in August declared Google's dominant search engine to be an illegal monopoly, too, and is now getting ready to start hearings on how to punish Google for that bad behavior. Google is appealing Mehta's ruling in the search engine case in hopes of warding off a penalty that could hurt its business even more than the changes being ordered in the Play Store.

"Provided the ruling survives the appeals process, Google will almost certainly take a revenue hit," said Emarketer analyst Evelyn Mitchell-Wolf. "No doubt some of the largest app developers like Epic Games will start encroaching on Google Play Store's market share, meaning Google will lose out on its usual cut of subscription and in-app purchases."

The analyst added that, while the Google Play Store will likely continue to benefit from brand recognition since it was the default Android app store for so long, "some consumers may defect if they can get better deals on their favorite apps elsewhere." And app developers will likely take advantage of the opportunity

to let consumers know about direct downloads.

"So Google may see fewer Play Store revenues even among the Android users that stick to the default," Mitchell-Wolf said.

Alphabet's shares fell \$4.08, or 2.4%, to close Monday at \$162.98.

A peek inside human brain shows a way it cleans out waste

By LAURAN NEERGAARD AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A unique peek inside the human brain may help explain how it clears away waste like the kind that can build up and lead to Alzheimer's disease.

Brain cells use a lot of nutrients which means they make a lot of waste. Scientists have long thought the brain has special plumbing to flush out cellular trash, especially during sleep — they could see it happening in mice. But there was only circumstantial evidence of a similar system in people.

Now researchers have finally spotted that network of tiny waste-clearing channels in the brains of living people, thanks to a special kind of imaging.

"I was skeptical," said Dr. Juan Piantino of Oregon Health & Science University, whose team reported the findings Monday. "We needed this piece to say this happens in humans, too."

The study was published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

The brain is remarkably active during sleep. One reason seems to be that's the time it does a deep clean. And that's gotten attention because while losing a good night's sleep muddles people's thinking, chronic sleep deprivation also is considered a risk factor for dementia.

So how does the brain cleanse itself?

Over a decade ago, scientists at the University of Rochester first reported finding a network they dubbed the "glymphatic system." Cerebrospinal fluid uses channels surrounding blood vessels to get deep into tissue and move waste until it exits the brain. When mice were injected with a chief Alzheimer's culprit named beta-amyloid, it cleared away faster when the animals were sleeping.

It's not clear exactly how that network works although some research has shown the pulsing of the blood vessels helps move the waste-clearing fluid where it needs go.

But it's been hard to find that system in people. Regular MRI scans can spot some of those fluid-filled channels but don't show their function, Piantino said.

So his team in Oregon injected a tracer into five patients who were undergoing brain surgery and needed a more advanced form of MRI. The tracer "lit up" under those scans and sure enough, 24 to 48 hours later, it wasn't moving randomly through the brain but via those channels just like prior research had found in mice.

It's a small but potentially important study that Rochester's Dr. Maiken Nedergaard predicted will increase interest in how brain waste clearance connects to people's health.

But to test if better sleep or other treatments might really spur waste clearance and improve health, "I have to be able to measure glymphatic function in people," added Dr. Jeff Iliff of the University of Washington, who helped pioneer waste-clearance research. The question is whether the new study might point to ways of measuring.

Sleep isn't the only question. For example, animal studies show an old blood pressure drug now used to treat PTSD may improve glymphatic function, and Iliff and colleague Dr. Elaine Peskind are about to study it in certain patients.

Additional larger studies in healthy people are needed and Piantino, whose lab focuses on sleep health, wants to find an easier, more noninvasive test.

"We cannot study all these questions by injecting people," he said.

Don't expect human life expectancy to grow much more, researcher says

By MIKE STOBBE AP Medical Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Humanity is hitting the upper limit of life expectancy, according to a new study.

Advances in medical technology and genetic research — not to mention larger numbers of people making it to age 100 — are not translating into marked jumps in lifespan overall, according to researchers who found shrinking longevity increases in countries with the longest-living populations.

"We have to recognize there's a limit" and perhaps reassess assumptions about when people should retire and how much money they'll need to live out their lives, said S. Jay Olshansky, a University of Illinois-Chicago researcher who was lead author of the study published Monday by the journal *Nature Aging*.

Mark Hayward, a University of Texas researcher not involved in the study, called it "a valuable addition to the mortality literature."

"We are reaching a plateau" in life expectancy, he agreed. It's always possible some breakthrough could push survival to greater heights, "but we don't have that now," Hayward said.

What is life expectancy?

Life expectancy is an estimate of the average number of years a baby born in a given year might expect to live, assuming death rates at that time hold constant. It is one of the world's most important health measures, but it is also imperfect: It is a snapshot estimate that cannot account for deadly pandemics, miracle cures or other unforeseen developments that might kill or save millions of people.

In the new research, Olshansky and his research partners tracked life expectancy estimates for the years 1990 to 2019, drawn from a database administered by the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research. The researchers focused on eight of the places in the world where people live the longest — Australia, France, Hong Kong, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Spain and Switzerland.

The U.S. doesn't even rank in the top 40. But it also was included "because we live here" and because of past, bold estimates that life expectancy in the U.S. might surge dramatically in this century, Olshansky said.

Who lives the longest?

Women continue to live longer than men and life expectancy improvements are still occurring — but at a slowing pace, the researchers found. In 1990, the average amount of improvement was about 2 1/2 years per decade. In the 2010s, it was 1 1/2 years — and almost zero in the U.S.

The U.S. is more problematic because it is harder hit by a range of issues that kill people even before they hit old age, including drug overdoses, shootings, obesity and inequities that make it hard for some people to get sufficient medical care.

But in one calculation, the researchers estimated what would happen in all nine places if all deaths before age 50 were eliminated. The increase at best was still only 1 1/2 years, Olshansky said.

Eileen Crimmins, a University of Southern California gerontology expert, said in an email that she agrees with the study's findings. She added: "For me personally, the most important issue is the dismal and declining relative position of the United States."

Why life expectancy may not be able to rise forever

The study suggests that there's a limit to how long most people live, and we've about hit it, Olshansky said.

"We're squeezing less and less life out of these life-extending technologies. And the reason is, aging gets in the way," he said.

It may seem common to hear of a person living to 100 — former U.S. President Jimmy Carter hit that milestone last week. In 2019, a little over 2% of Americans made it to 100, compared with about 5% in Japan and 9% in Hong Kong, Olshansky said.

It's likely that the ranks of centenarians will grow in the decades ahead, experts say, but that's because of population growth. The percentage of people hitting 100 will remain limited, likely with fewer than 15% of women and 5% of men making it that long in most countries, Olshansky said.

As Milton takes aim at Florida, why is Tampa Bay so vulnerable to hurricanes?

By TERRY SPENCER Associated Press

The last time the eye of a major storm like Hurricane Milton struck Tampa Bay, in 1921, the city was a sleepy backwater of a few hundred thousand people. A century later, it's among the fastest-growing metropolises in the United States, with more than 3 million people, and highly vulnerable to flooding due to climate change. As Milton barrels toward the Gulf Coast of Florida, strengthening Monday into a Category 5 storm, experts are worried that a century of luck could come to a sudden end.

Here's what to know:

Why is Tampa so vulnerable?

The National Hurricane Center is predicting storm surge in Tampa Bay and surrounding waters of between 8 and 12 feet (2.5 to 3 meters) above normal tide conditions, and rainfall of between 4 and 6 inches (10 to 15 centimeters) because of Hurricane Milton.

The entire Gulf Coast of Florida is especially vulnerable to storm surge. Last week, Hurricane Helene, which came ashore some 150 miles (240 kilometers) away from Tampa in the Florida Panhandle, still managed to cause drowning deaths in the Tampa area due to surges of around 5 to 8 feet (1.5 to 2.5 meters) above normal tide levels.

"Had it made landfall just little farther to the south and east, it could have been a lot, lot worse," said Philip Klotzbach, a hurricane researcher at Colorado State University.

The heightened risk is partially a result of topography. The Gulf of Mexico coastline of Florida is shallow with a gentle, sloping shelf. The higher ocean floor acts as a barrier that retains the storm's outflow of water, forcing the ocean to surge onto shore. That's the opposite of Florida's east coast, where the ocean floor drops suddenly a few miles from the coast.

"You can have the same storm, the same intensity, the same everything, but very different surges," said Klotzbach.

A 2015 report from the Boston-based catastrophe modeling firm Karen Clark and Co. concluded that Tampa Bay is the most vulnerable place in the U.S. to storm surge flooding from a hurricane and stands to lose \$175 billion in damage.

Are residents ready?

While Floridians are no strangers to storms, Tampa hasn't been in the direct path of a major hurricane in over a century.

In that lapse, the area has exploded in growth. Tens of thousands of Americans moved to the area during the COVID-19 pandemic, with many choosing to settle along barrier islands like Clearwater and St. Petersburg overlooking the normally placid, emerald Gulf waters. More than 51,000 people moved to the area between 2022 and 2023, making it the fifth-largest-growing U.S. metropolitan area, according to U.S. Census data.

Longer term residents, after having experienced numerous false alarms and near misses like Irma in 2017, may be similarly unprepared for a direct hit. A local legend has it that blessings from Native Americans who once called the region home and used to build mounds to keep out invaders have largely protected the area from major storms for centuries.

MIT meteorology professor Kerry Emanuel said a hurricane in Tampa is the "black swan" worst-case scenario that experts have worried about for years.

"It's a huge population. It's very exposed, very inexperienced and that's a losing proposition," Emanuel, who has studied hurricanes for 40 years, said. "I always thought Tampa would be the city to worry about most."

What about climate change?

Also lurking in the waves and wind are the effects of climate change. Rising temperatures from greenhouse gas emissions have warmed the oceans, led to sea level rise and added moisture to the air — all key factors determining a hurricane's strength and the potential flooding it can cause.

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"Due to global warming, global climate models predict hurricanes will likely cause more intense rainfall and have an increased coastal flood risk due to higher storm surge caused by rising seas," Angela Colbert, a scientist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, wrote in a 2022 report.

On Monday, the National Hurricane Center upgraded Milton to a Category 5 storm after it gained 75 mph (120 kph) of intensity in the last 24 hours. One reason may be especially high water temperatures, which act like fuel for the storm.

"Milton's rapid intensification is incredible," University of Miami hurricane researcher Brian McNoldy said in an email. "I've been pointing out for months, the Gulf has been and is record or near-record warm."

The researcher noted that, due to rising sea levels brought on by climate change, Hurricane Andrew's storm surge today would be 7 inches (17 centimeters) higher than it was when that storm pounded South Florida 30 years ago.

Are people being evacuated?

Officials in the area began issuing evacuation orders Monday for residents in six counties surrounding Tampa Bay that are home to almost 4 million people. Residents of mobile homes, RVs and manufactured homes not capable of withstanding winds of up to 110 mph (177 kph) are especially at risk.

Florida Division of Emergency Management Director Kevin Guthrie strongly urged people to leave coastal areas, noting people who died on barrier islands during Hurricane Ian in 2022 would still be alive if they just crossed the bridge to the mainland and found shelter.

"Please, if you're in the Tampa Bay area, you need to evacuate. If they have called an evacuation order, I beg you, I implore you to evacuate. Drowning deaths due to storm surge are 100% preventable if you leave," Guthrie said.

When was the last storm to hit Tampa?

Almost inexplicably, storms seem to by pass Tampa, with most Gulf disturbances passing well north of the city. The last time the Tampa area was hit by the eye of a major hurricane was Oct. 25, 1921. The hurricane had no official name but is known locally as the Tarpon Springs storm, for the seaside town where it came ashore.

The storm surge from that hurricane, estimated at Category 3 with winds of up to 129 mph (207 kph) was pegged at 11 feet (3.3 meters). At least eight people died, and damage was estimated at \$5 million at the time.

Now, the tourist-friendly area known for its sandy white beaches has grown by leaps and bound, with an economy estimated to be worth nearly \$200 billion. Hurricane Milton threatens to wash away all of that development.

Trump says migrants who have committed murder have introduced 'a lot of bad genes in our country'

By MICHELLE L. PRICE Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump on Monday suggested that migrants who are in the U.S. and have committed murder did so because "it's in their genes." There are, he added, "a lot of bad genes in our country right now."

It's the latest example of Trump alleging that immigrants are changing the hereditary makeup of the U.S. Last year, he evoked language once used by Adolf Hitler to argue that immigrants entering the U.S. illegally are "poisoning the blood of our country."

Trump made the comments Monday in a radio interview with conservative host Hugh Hewitt. He was criticizing his Democratic opponent for the 2024 presidential race, Vice President Kamala Harris, when he pivoted to immigration, citing statistics that the Department of Homeland Security says include cases from his administration.

"How about allowing people to come through an open border, 13,000 of which were murderers? Many of them murdered far more than one person," Trump said. "And they're now happily living in the United States. You know, now a murderer — I believe this: it's in their genes. And we got a lot of bad genes in

our country right now. Then you had 425,000 people come into our country that shouldn't be here that are criminals."

Trump's campaign said his comments regarding genes were about murderers.

"He was clearly referring to murderers, not migrants. It's pretty disgusting the media is always so quick to defend murderers, rapists, and illegal criminals if it means writing a bad headline about President Trump," Karoline Leavitt, the Trump campaign's national press secretary, said in a statement.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement released immigration enforcement data to Republican Rep. Tony Gonzales last month about the people under its supervision, including those not in ICE custody. That included 13,099 people who were found guilty of homicide and 425,431 people who are convicted criminals.

But those numbers span decades, including during Trump's administration. And those who are not in ICE custody may be detained by state or local law enforcement agencies, according to the Department of Homeland Security, which oversees ICE.

The Harris campaign declined to comment.

Asked during her briefing with reporters on Monday about Trump's "bad genes" comment, White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said, "That type of language, it's hateful, it's disgusting, it's inappropriate, it has no place in our country."

The Biden administration has stiffened asylum restrictions for migrants, and Harris, seeking to address a vulnerability as she campaigns, has worked to project a tougher stance on immigration.

The former president and Republican nominee has made illegal immigration a central part of his 2024 campaign, vowing to stage the largest deportation operation in U.S. history if elected. He has a long history of comments maligning immigrants, including referring to them as "animals" and "killers," and saying that they spread diseases.

Last month, during his debate with Harris, Trump falsely claimed Haitian immigrants in Ohio were abducting and eating pets.

As president, he questioned why the U.S. was accepting immigrants from Haiti and Africa rather than Norway and told four congresswomen, all people of color and three of whom were born in the U.S., to "go back and help fix the totally broken and crime infested places from which they came."

Georgia Supreme Court restores near-ban on abortions while state appeals

By RUSS BYNUM Associated Press

SAVANNAH, Ga. (AP) — The Georgia Supreme Court on Monday halted a ruling striking down the state's near-ban on abortions while it considers the state's appeal.

The high court's order came a week after a judge found that Georgia unconstitutionally prohibits abortions beyond about six weeks of pregnancy, often before women realize they're pregnant. Fulton County Superior Court Judge Robert McBurney ruled Sept. 30 that privacy rights under Georgia's state constitution include the right to make personal healthcare decisions.

The state Supreme Court put McBurney's ruling on hold at the request of Republican state Attorney General Chris Carr, whose office is appealing.

In a dissenting opinion, Justice John J. Ellington argued that the case "should not be predetermined in the State's favor before the appeal is even docketed."

"The State should not be in the business of enforcing laws that have been determined to violate fundamental rights guaranteed to millions of individuals under the Georgia Constitution," Ellington wrote. "The 'status quo' that should be maintained is the state of the law before the challenged laws took effect."

Clare Bartlett, executive director of the Georgia Life Alliance, called high court's decision "appropriate," fearing that without it, women from other states would begin coming to Georgia for surgical abortions.

"There's no there's no right to privacy in the abortion process because there's another individual involved," Bartlett said. She added: "It goes back to protecting those who are the most vulnerable and can't speak for themselves."

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Monica Simpson, executive director of SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective, said the state Supreme Court had "sided with anti-abortion extremists." Her group is among the plaintiffs challenging the state law.

"Every minute this harmful six-week abortion ban is in place, Georgians suffer," Simpson said in a statement. "Denying our community members the lifesaving care they deserve jeopardizes their lives, safety, and health — all for the sake of power and control over our bodies."

Leaders of carafem, an Atlanta abortion provider that had planned to expand its services after McBurney's ruling, expressed dismay at the law's reinstatement.

"Carafem will continue to offer abortion services following the letter of the law," said Melissa Grant, the provider's chief operating officer. "But we remain angry and disappointed and hope that eventually people will come back to a more sensible point of view on this issue that aligns with the people who need care."

Georgia's law, signed by Republican Gov. Brian Kemp in 2019, was one of a wave of restrictive abortion measures that took effect in Republican-controlled states after the U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* in 2022 and ended a national right to abortion. It prohibited most abortions once a "detectable human heartbeat" was present. At around six weeks into a pregnancy, cardiac activity can be detected by ultrasound in an embryo's cells that will eventually become the heart.

Georgia has a separate criminal law that makes illegal abortions punishable by up to 10 years in prison for providers, but not for women having abortions. In addition, the 2019 ban puts physicians at risk of losing their medical licenses if they perform unpermitted abortions.

The Georgia Supreme Court's one-page order Monday exempted one specific provision of the state's abortion law from being reinstated.

With no explanation, the court said the state can't enforce a subsection of the law that reads: "Health records shall be available to the district attorney of the judicial circuit in which the act of abortion occurs or the woman upon whom an abortion is performed resides."

Thirteen U.S. states are now enforcing bans on abortion at all stages of pregnancy and four ban abortions around the sixth week of pregnancy.

McBurney wrote in his ruling 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 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.

The judge's decision rolled back abortion limits in Georgia to a prior law allowing abortions until viability, roughly 22 to 24 weeks into a pregnancy.

Kemp has blasted McBurney's decision, saying: "The will of Georgians and their representatives has been overruled by the personal beliefs of one judge,"

Nobel Prize in medicine honors 2 scientists for their discovery of microRNA

By DANIEL NIEMANN, MARIA CHENG and MIKE CORDER Associated Press

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Two scientists won the Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine on Monday for their discovery of microRNA, tiny bits of genetic material that serve as on and off switches inside cells that help control what the cells do and when they do it.

If scientists can better understand how they work and how to manipulate them, it could one day lead to powerful treatments for diseases like cancer.

The work by Americans Victor Ambros and Gary Ruvkun is "proving to be fundamentally important for how organisms develop and function," according to a panel that awarded the prize in Stockholm.

Ambros and Ruvkun were initially interested in genes that control the timing of different genetic developments, ensuring that cell types develop at the right time.

Their discovery ultimately "revealed a new dimension to gene regulation, essential for all complex life

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forms," the panel said.

What is the Nobel Prize for?

RNA is best known for carrying instructions for how to make proteins from DNA in the nucleus of the cell to tiny cellular factories that actually build the proteins. MicroRNA does not make proteins, but helps to control what cells are doing, including switching on and off critical genes that make proteins.

Last year's Nobel for medicine went to scientists who discovered how to manipulate one of those types of RNA, known as messenger RNA or mRNA, now used to make vaccines for COVID-19.

Ambros' and Ruvkun's revolutionary discovery was initially made in worms; they set out to identify why some kinds of cells didn't develop in two mutant strains of worms commonly used as a research model in science.

"Their groundbreaking discovery revealed a completely new principle of gene regulation that turned out to be essential for multicellular organisms, including humans," according to the citation explaining the importance of their work.

That mechanism has been at work for hundreds of millions of years and has enabled evolution of complex organisms, it said.

Ambros, currently a professor of natural science at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, performed the research at Harvard University. Ruvkun's research was performed at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School, where he's a professor of genetics.

Why does microRNA matter?

The study of microRNA has opened up approaches to treating diseases like cancer because it helps regulate how genes work in our cells, said Dr. Claire Fletcher, a lecturer in molecular oncology at Imperial College London.

Fletcher said there were two main areas where microRNA could be helpful: in developing drugs to treat diseases and in serving as possible indicators of diseases, by tracking microRNA levels in the body.

"If we take the example of cancer, we'll have a particular gene working overtime, it might be mutated and working in overdrive," said Fletcher. She said scientists might one day be able to use microRNA to stop such effects.

Eric Miska, a geneticist at Cambridge University, said the discovery by Ambros and Ruvkun came as a complete surprise, overturning what scientists had long understood about how cells work.

Their discovery of microRNA shocked many scientists, Miska said, explaining that such small bits of genetic material had never been seen before. The tiny fragments of RNA — the human genome has at least 800 — were later found to play critical roles in how our bodies develop.

Miska said there is ongoing work on the role of microRNA in infectious diseases like hepatitis and that it might also be helpful in treating neurological diseases.

Fletcher said the most advanced studies to date are reviewing how microRNA approaches might help treat skin cancer, but no drugs have yet been approved. She predicted that might happen in the coming years, adding that most treatments at the moment target cell proteins.

"If we can intervene at the microRNA level, it opens up a whole new way of us developing medicines," she said.

How did Gary Ruvkun and Victor Ambros react?

The phone call from the Nobel panel is often a surprise, but there are certain signs that recipients and their families pick up on.

"Well, when a phone rings at 4:30 in the morning. ... It never happens here," Ruvkun said.

"Natasha actually answered it," Ruvkun added, referring to his wife. "And she goes: 'He has a Swedish accent.'"

It took a little longer to rouse Ambros.

"Somebody called my son, who called my wife as my phone was downstairs," he said.

Ruvkun knew immediately the impact the award would have on his life.

"Well, I just kept repeating in my mind, this changes everything because you know, the Nobel is just mythic in how it transforms the life of people who are selected," Ruvkun said. "The Nobel Prize is a rec-

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ognition that's sort of 100 times as much press and celebration as any other award. So, it's not part of a continuum. It's a quantum leap."

Going to pick up his award in December will be the third time he has been to a Nobel Prize ceremony in Stockholm after attending to watch his mentor Robert Horvitz receive the 2002 award and then his buddy Jack Szostak, who won in 2009.

"There's a trip coming up. It will be the third, possibly the best," Ruvkun said.

Ambros said he didn't expect the award as he felt that the Nobel committee has already singled out RNA in the 2006 prize that went to his friends Andrew Fire and Craig Mello.

"It represents the recognition of how wonderful and unexpected discoveries come from a curiosity in basic science financed by taxpayer money. It's a vitally important, probably the most important message, that this investment really pays off," he said.

Last year, the Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine went to Hungarian-American Katalin Karikó and American Drew Weissman for discoveries that enabled the creation of mRNA vaccines against COVID-19 that were critical in slowing the pandemic.

The prize carries a cash award of 11 million Swedish kronor (\$1 million) from a bequest left by the prize's creator, Swedish inventor Alfred Nobel.

Nobel announcements continue with the physics prize on Tuesday, chemistry on Wednesday and literature on Thursday. The Nobel Peace Prize will be announced Friday and the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences on Oct. 14.

A spacecraft is on its way to a harmless asteroid slammed by NASA in a previous save-the-Earth test

By MARCIA DUNN AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — A spacecraft blasted off Monday to investigate the scene of a cosmic crash.

The European Space Agency's Hera spacecraft rocketed away on a two-year journey to the small, harmless asteroid rammed by NASA two years ago in a dress rehearsal for the day a killer space rock threatens Earth. It's the second part of a planetary defense test that could one day help save the planet.

SpaceX's Falcon rocket quickly disappeared with Hera into the late morning clouds. An hour later, applause erupted in the control center in Germany as the spacecraft separated from the rocket's upper stage and then called home. "It's an amazing day," the space agency's director general Josef Aschbacher said afterward.

The 2022 crash by NASA's Dart spacecraft shortened Dimorphos' orbit around its bigger companion, demonstrating that if a dangerous rock was headed our way, there's a chance it could be knocked off course with enough advance notice.

Scientists are eager to examine the impact's aftermath up close to know exactly how effective Dart was and what changes might be needed to safeguard Earth in the future.

"The more detail we can glean the better as it may be important for planning a future deflection mission should one be needed," University of Maryland astronomer Derek Richardson said before launch.

Researchers want to know whether Dart — short for Double Asteroid Redirection Test — left a crater or perhaps reshaped the 500-foot (150-meter) asteroid more dramatically. It looked something like a flying saucer before Dart's blow and may now resemble a kidney bean, said Richardson, who took part in the Dart mission and is helping with Hera.

Dart's wallop sent rubble and even boulders flying off Dimorphos, providing an extra kick to the impact's momentum. The debris trail extended thousands of miles (more than 10,000 kilometers) into space for months.

Some boulders and other debris could still be hanging around the asteroid, posing a potential threat to Hera, said flight director Ignacio Tanco.

"We don't really know very well the environment in which we are going to operate," said Tanco. "But that's the whole point of the mission is to go there and find out."

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European officials describe the \$400 million (363 million euro) mission as a “crash scene investigation.” Hera “is going back to the crime site and getting all the scientific and technical information,” said project manager Ian Carnelli.

Carrying a dozen science instruments, the small car-sized Hera will need to swing past Mars in 2025 for a gravity boost, before arriving at Dimorphos by the end of 2026. It’s a moonlet of Didymos, Greek for twin, a fast-spinning asteroid that’s five times bigger. At that time, the asteroids will be 120 million miles (195 million kilometers) from Earth.

Hera will attempt to go into orbit around the rocky pair, with the flyby distances gradually dropping from 18 miles (30 kilometers) all the way down to a half-mile (1 kilometer). The spacecraft will survey the moonlet for at least six months to ascertain its mass, shape and composition, as well as its orbit around Didymos.

Before the impact, Dimorphos circled its larger companion from three-quarters of a mile (1,189 meters) out. Scientists believe the orbit is now tighter and oval-shaped, and that the moonlet may even be tumbling.

Two shoebox-sized Cubesats will pop off Hera for even closer drone-like inspections, with one of them using radar to peer beneath the moonlet’s boulder-strewn surface. Scientists suspect Dimorphos was formed from material shed from Didymos. The radar observations should help confirm whether Didymos is indeed the little moon’s parent.

The Cubesats will attempt to land on the moonlet once their survey is complete. If the moonlet is tumbling, that will complicate the endeavor. Hera may also end its mission with a precarious touchdown, but on the larger Didymos.

Neither asteroid poses any threat to Earth — before or after Dart showed up. That’s why NASA picked the pair for humanity’s first asteroid-deflecting demo.

Leftovers from the solar system’s formation 4.6 billion years ago, asteroids primarily orbit the sun between Mars and Jupiter in what’s known as the main asteroid belt, where millions of them reside. They become near-Earth objects when they’re knocked out of the belt and into our neck of the woods.

NASA’s near-Earth object count currently tops 36,000, almost all asteroids but also some comets. More than 2,400 of them are considered potentially hazardous to Earth.

Turning Point wants to revolutionize how Republicans turn out voters. Some are skeptical

By DAN MERICA and BRIAN SLODYSKO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Turning Point’s representatives have made two things clear in meetings with state and local Republican leaders— Donald Trump has blessed their conservative organization to help lead his get-out-the-vote effort, and local party officials ought to use the group’s new voter mobilization app.

Both prospects terrify fellow Republicans.

Soaring to prominence after Trump’s unexpected 2016 win, Turning Point earned a reputation for hosting glitzy events, cultivating hard-right influencers and raising prodigious sums of money while enriching the group’s leaders. They’ve had far less success helping Republicans win, especially in their adopted home state of Arizona.

Now the organization has leveraged its ties to Trump to expand its influence in a way that could be potentially lucrative. Turning Point has sought to lead an effort to remake the GOP’s get-out-the-vote effort based on the theory that there are thousands of Trump supporters who rarely vote but could be persuaded to in this year’s election. And they are pitching their new mobile app as vital to this effort’s success.

The Associated Press obtained an unvarnished look at how Turning Point is promoting its strategy by obtaining several recordings of presentations made by its representatives to state and local Republican officials. In those presentations, Turning Point operatives honed in on churchgoers and hunters, citing statistics that purport to show how few of each group cast ballots in 2020. Their argument, which is widely questioned by critics, is if groups like Turning Point target such groups, Republicans will likely sweep the swing states for Trump, the recordings show.

The decision by Trump to rely on untested groups such as Turning Point could have sweeping implica-

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tions for November's election. Turning Point says it's operating statewide in Arizona and Wisconsin, two must-win states for Trump. It's also working two competitive House districts, one in Michigan and another in Nevada, that could also help tip the balance in the presidential race.

"Their strategy is bad. They know how to talk MAGA, they know how to message the base," said Tyler Montague, a Republican strategist from Arizona and a longtime Trump critic. "But they literally don't know what to say to a swing voter."

A Turning Point spokesman rebuffed such criticism, saying the group is performing an important role for conservative candidates. "We did this because we knew conservatives need" a way to identify and turn out voters, said spokesman Andrew Kolvet.

A straightforward, if questionable, strategy

Turning Point's operatives believe there is a well of untapped conservative voters who have not backed Trump in recent elections. To get Trump back to the White House, they believe the best path is to activate those voters. The strategy appears to mostly ignore independents — or less hardened Republicans — because Turning Point's brand of hard-right politics is less likely to appeal to them.

In the recordings obtained by AP, Turning Point's representatives fully embraced that strategy and believe it would have helped them win past elections and ensure victory in November.

"If we just have an ounce of ballot chasing, just in Arizona," Republicans would have won all their races, Matthew Martinez, a Turning Point official, said at a June event in Detroit, referring to the practice of convincing people to vote early while reaching out to those who haven't cast ballots

Experts are skeptical

Experts in voting patterns are doubtful Turning Point's efforts to mobilize infrequent Trump-inclined voters will do much to affect the election. Turnout in the past two presidential elections has already drawn a record number of voters to the polls, the experts noted, meaning the pool of voters they are seeking to turn out is small and particularly unlikely to vote.

"You had the highest turnout in Michigan in those presidential election years than you've ever had before. It's doubtful they're going to get any more," said Bernie Porn, a nonpartisan pollster who's worked in the state for more than 30 years.

'Just download the app'

For over a year, Turning Point has aggressively pitched its new voter mobilization app — a potentially lucrative venture that, if successful, critics believe could strengthen its grasp on the Republican Party machinery. In meetings with state and local Republican leaders, Turning Point operatives lean heavily into their close affiliation with Trump, who is a regular speaker at Turning Point conferences, according to the recordings obtained by the AP.

"We now are an official arm of the Trump campaign," Turning Point operative Luke Malace told the members of the Monroe County Republican Party in Michigan earlier this year while urging the group to become a paying "client."

The app was designed by Superfeed, a company with direct ties to Turning Point's leaders. Tyler Bowyer, Turning Point's chief operating officer, sits on the company's board and was formerly the company's chairman, business filings show. Kirk's mother-in-law also serves on Superfeed's board.

"It's all in-house," Malace told the county party in Michigan.

Malace did not respond to a request for comment. Superfeed officials also did not respond to a request for comment.

Kolvet, the Turning Point spokesman, said that Malace mischaracterized the organization's relationship with the app maker. Turning Point does not receive any money earned by Superfeed, and the conservative group isn't "financially involved" with the app maker, Kolvet said.

The app and Turning Point's data plans draw criticism

Some Republicans told the AP that there are major issues with Turning Point's app, which has minimal protections to secure voters' personal information.

Others said they liked the app and praised Turning Point's new focus.

Turning Point is "doing the work that no one else wants to do and the party is not doing it," said Matt

Brown, chair of the Yakima County Republican Party in Washington. He said he learned about Superfeed at a Turning Point event in December 2023, and his county party became a Superfeed client.

The app is seen by Republican strategists as the latest example of Turning Point becoming more focused on using data as a way to strengthen its own role in the future of the party, not help the party now.

Supreme Court takes the bench with ghost guns, a capital case and transgender rights on the docket

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court took the bench again on Monday, ready to hear cases on ghost guns, a death sentence and transgender rights.

Seated in front of the courtroom's sweeping marble columns, Chief Justice John Roberts announced the formal end of the court's previous term, when a series of blockbuster cases included an opinion granting broad immunity to former President Donald Trump.

He then gaveled in the start of the court's new term. The docket isn't as packed, but the conservative-majority court could yet be asked to intervene in election disputes after the ballots are cast in November.

The justices then heard their first case dealing with pandemic-era unemployment claims filed in Alabama.

The term's beginning comes after a relatively busy summer hiatus for the court. The orders they issued on emergency appeals included a refusal to restore President Joe Biden's student loan plan and a partial approval of an Arizona law requiring proof of citizenship to vote.

The new term opens against the backdrop of low public trust in the Supreme Court, and continued debate about whether its newly adopted code of ethics should have an enforcement mechanism.

Here's a look at some of the cases coming up:

Ghost gun regulations

The justices will hear a case Tuesday on regulations for ghost guns, privately made weapons that are hard for police to track because they don't have serial numbers.

The number of the firearms found at crime scenes has soared in recent years, from fewer than 4,000 in 2018 to nearly 20,000 recovered by law enforcement in 2021, according to Justice Department data.

The numbers have been declining in multiple cities since the Biden administration began requiring background checks and age verification for ghost gun kits that can be bought online.

But manufacturers and gun rights groups argue that the administration overstepped and the rule should be overturned.

Doubts about a death sentence

In the decades since Richard Glossip was sentenced to die over a 1997 murder-for-hire scheme, the case has become a rare one where prosecutors are conceding mistakes.

Oklahoma's Republican attorney general has joined with Glossip in seeking to overturn his murder conviction and death sentence.

Despite those doubts, an Oklahoma appeals court has upheld Glossip's conviction, and the state's pardon and parole board deadlocked in a vote to grant him clemency.

The court will hear arguments in his case on Wednesday.

Transgender rights

Perhaps the court's most closely watched case so far this year is a fight over transgender rights.

The case over state bans on gender-affirming care comes as Republican-led states enact a variety of restrictions, including school sports participation, bathroom usage and drag shows.

The administration and Democratic-led states have extended protections for transgender people, though the Supreme Court has separately prohibited the administration from enforcing a new federal regulation that seeks to protect transgender students.

The justices will weigh a Tennessee law that restricts puberty blockers and hormone therapy for transgender minors. The case does not yet have a hearing date but will likely be argued in December.

Tips, overtime, Social Security: A look at Donald Trump's no-tax pledges and what they might cost

By MEG KINNARD Associated Press

Donald Trump has pledged to end taxes on everything from tips to Social Security and overtime pay if he's elected to the White House again. But he hasn't detailed how he would fund those ideas and avoid creating a huge budget shortfall, beyond arguing he will usher in an economic boom.

He argues his ideas would improve Americans' personal financial standing and the overall U.S. economy. A debate about the tax code will be a dominant legislative issue next year given that tax cuts Trump signed in 2017 will be set to expire. If he's elected again, Trump could push Congress to enact some or all of his proposals, though that might be difficult if Democrats end up in control of either the House or the Senate.

Estimates from outside economic analyses of the costs of the various tax cuts ranged between nearly \$6 trillion and \$10 trillion over 10 years, depending on which ideas become policy and how they're implemented.

In a statement, a Trump campaign senior adviser touted the Republican's plans as the best way to jumpstart the U.S. economy.

"President Trump's plan will rein in wasteful spending, defeat inflation, reduce the burden of interest costs, and ignite economic growth that fuels federal revenue, so we can make our economy great again," Brian Hughes said.

A look at Trump's various tax-related ideas:

'No tax on tips'

In June, Trump announced his plan to exclude workers' tips from federal taxes, saying he got the idea from a waitress at his Las Vegas hotel.

"To those hotel workers and people who get tips, you are going to be very happy, because when I get to office we are going to not charge taxes on tips, people making tips," Trump said, adding: "We're going to do that right away, first thing in office."

Trump made the announcement in Nevada, a key battleground state with six electoral votes and home to the highest concentration of tipped workers in the country. Nevada has an average of 25.8 waiters and waitresses per 1,000 jobs. President Joe Biden won the state in 2020, but the Trump campaign hopes to put it in play this fall.

Trump has not specified whether he wants to exempt tips from just income taxes or from the payroll tax — which funds Medicare and Social Security — as well.

Vice President Kamala Harris has echoed Trump's call for no taxes on tips, making a pledge that would apply to hospitality and service industry workers at a Nevada rally of her own two months after her GOP opponent's announcement.

Social Security tax cuts

Trump has also pledged tax cuts for older Americans, posting on Truth Social in July that "SENIORS SHOULD NOT PAY TAX ON SOCIAL SECURITY!"

The challenge is that taxes on Social Security benefits help to pay for the program. The loss of revenue could mean that Social Security would be unable to pay out its full benefits in 2033, two years ahead of the current estimate, according to Brendan Duke of the liberal Center for American Progress.

According to the Social Security Administration, recipients must currently pay federal income taxes if combined income — 50% of the benefit amount plus any other earned income — is higher than \$25,000 annually if filing individually, or \$32,000 if filing jointly.

While in the Senate, Harris co-sponsored a bill that would have required the wealthy to pay higher Social Security taxes and made benefits more generous for some. The White House has said her views on the program are similar to Biden's, but Harris hasn't talked in detail about Social Security during her campaign.

Overtime taxes

Trump has also said he would support legislation to eliminate taxes on overtime pay.

"That gives people more of an incentive to work," Trump said in September at a campaign rally in Tucson, Arizona. "It gives the companies a lot, it's a lot easier to get the people."

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Harris has not said if she would also call for cuts to taxes of overtime pay.

Corporate tax rates

Trump's plans include proposed breaks for businesses, too. He's called for lowering the U.S. corporate tax rate from 21% to 15%, but only for companies that produce in the U.S.

"We're putting America first," Trump said. "This new American industrialism will create millions and millions of jobs."

As president, Trump signed legislation in 2017 that cut the corporate tax rate to 21% from 35%.

Harris has said she believes that big corporations and the ultra-wealthy should pay more in taxes — including a 28% rate for corporations — and wants to use those revenues to help spur the construction of 3 million homes and offer tax breaks for parents.

SALT

Ahead of a September rally on Long Island, Trump pledged that he would "get SALT back," suggesting he would eliminate a cap on state and local tax deductions that were part of tax cut legislation he signed into law in 2017.

The so-called SALT cap has led to bigger tax bills for many residents of New York, New Jersey, California and other high-cost, high-tax states, and is an important campaign issue in those states, particularly among those New York Republicans serving in districts Biden won.

Some Democrats have pushed to lift the \$10,000 cap, a move many Republicans have said they oppose. Some, including Trump's former GOP primary foe Nikki Haley, have called for making the 2017 tax cuts permanent. Some of that notion is enshrined in Republicans' 2024 platform, although the permanence provision specifically calls out portions "that doubled the standard deduction, expanded the Child Tax Credit, and spurred Economic Growth for all Americans."

Harris has not said that she would try to preserve Trump-era tax cuts, which are set to run out at the end of next year. But, like Biden, she has vowed not to raise taxes for Americans who earn less than \$400,000 annually.

Tariffs

Angling to bring back more overseas jobs and manufacturing to the U.S., Trump has said repeatedly that he wants higher tariffs on imported goods, and has said the idea wouldn't increase inflation. He has floated the idea of a universal tariff as high as 20% on all imports and even higher tariffs on Chinese products and on U.S. companies that move factory jobs overseas.

In a recent speech at the Economic Club of New York, Trump suggested that tariffs could be used to solve seemingly unrelated challenges such as the rising cost of child care in the U.S., as part of a broader promise that tariffs can raise trillions of dollars to fund his agenda without those costs being passed along to consumers in the form of higher prices. That's a view with which many economists disagree since tariffs directly raise the prices of purchasing goods.

Particularly as it relates to the U.S. auto industry, it's a notion he called for again recently in Savannah, Georgia, where Trump said he'd put a 100% tariff on every car imported from Mexico. Calling for a "new American industrialism," Trump suggested that the only way to avoid those charges would be for an automaker to build the cars in the U.S.

Harris has described Trump's ideas for tariffs as a "sales tax" on American households that could cost a typical family roughly \$4,000 annually.

Gaza is in ruins after Israel's yearlong offensive. Rebuilding may take decades

By JOSEPH KRAUSS and SARAH EL DEEB Associated Press

The Gaza Strip is in ruins.

There are hills of rubble where apartment blocks stood, and pools of sewage-tainted water spreading disease. City streets have been churned into dirt canyons and, in many places, the air is filled with the

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stench of unrecovered corpses.

Israel's yearlong offensive against Hamas, one of the deadliest and most destructive in recent history, has killed more than 41,000 people, a little over half of them women and children, according to local health officials. With no end in sight to the war and no plan for the day after, it is impossible to say when – or even if – anything will be rebuilt.

Even after the fighting stops, hundreds of thousands of people could be stuck living in squalid tent camps for years. Experts say reconstruction could take decades.

"This war is destruction and misery. It would make the stones cry out," said Shifaa Hejjo, a 60-year-old housewife living in a tent pitched on land where her home once stood. "Whoever sees Gaza ... It will make them cry."

Israel blames the destruction on Hamas. Its Oct. 7 attack on Israel — in which some 1,200 people were killed and around 250 taken hostage — ignited the war. Israel says Hamas embedded much of its military infrastructure, including hundreds of kilometers (miles) of tunnels, in densely populated areas where some of the heaviest battles were fought.

The fighting left roughly a quarter of all structures in Gaza destroyed or severely damaged, according to a U.N. assessment in September based on satellite videos. It said around 66% of structures, including more than 227,000 housing units, had sustained at least some damage.

If there's a cease-fire, around half of all families "have nowhere to go back to," said Alison Ely, a Gaza-based coordinator with the Shelter Cluster, an international coalition of aid providers led by the Norwegian Refugee Council.

The devastation in Gaza exceeds front-line towns in Ukraine

Almost as many buildings have been destroyed or damaged in Gaza as in all of Ukraine after its first two years of war with Russia, according to Corey Scher and Jamon Van Den Hoek, U.S.-based researchers who use satellite radar to document the wars' devastation.

To put that into perspective: Gaza is less than half the size of Ukraine's capital, Kyiv.

The amount of destruction in central and southern Gaza alone, Scher said, is roughly equivalent to what was lost in the front-line town of Bakhmut, the scene of one of the deadliest battles in the Ukraine war and where Russian forces destroyed nearly every building in their path to force Ukrainian troops to withdraw. The destruction in northern Gaza is even worse, he said.

Gaza's water and sanitation system has collapsed. More than 80% of its health facilities — and even more of its roads — are damaged or destroyed.

"I can't think of any parallel, in terms of the severity of damage, for an enclave or a country or a people," Scher said.

At the end of January, the World Bank estimated \$18.5 billion of damage — nearly the combined economic output of the West Bank and Gaza in 2022. That was before some intensely destructive Israeli ground operations, including in the southern border city of Rafah.

'I couldn't tell where people's homes were'

When Israeli ground forces pushed into the southern city of Khan Younis in January, Shifaa Hejjo and her family fled their four-story home with only the clothes they were wearing.

They spent months in various tent camps before she decided to return – and the sight brought her to tears.

Her entire neighborhood had been destroyed, her former home and the roads leading to it lost in a sea of rubble.

"I didn't recognize it," she said. "I couldn't tell where people's homes were."

Around 90% of Gaza's 2.3 million people have been displaced by the war, often multiple times, according to U.N. estimates. Hundreds of thousands have crowded into sprawling tent camps near the coast with no electricity, running water or toilets. Hunger is widespread.

Hejjo lived in a tent in the courtyard of a hospital. Before that, she was in Muwasi, the main tent camp in southern Gaza.

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"It smelled bad," she said. "There were diseases spreading."

She said her husband, who was suffering from liver disease, was broken-hearted when he heard their home had been destroyed and he died shortly thereafter.

She was among the first to return after Israeli forces withdrew in April. Her neighbors stayed away, fearful they would find bodies or unexploded bombs.

But for her it was still home.

"It is better to live in my home, where I lived for 37 years, even though it is destroyed," she said.

Hejjo and her children dug through the rubble with shovels and their bare hands, going brick by brick and saving whatever could be reused. Torn clothes were used to feed cooking fires.

Rats had crept in, and swarms of mosquitoes hovered over the ruins. There was broken glass everywhere. They set up a tent fortified by corrugated metal sheeting and some bricks salvaged from her destroyed home. A light drizzle wet their clothes as they slept.

U.N. agencies say unemployment has soared to around 80% — up from nearly 50% before the war — and that almost the entire population is living in poverty. Even those with means would find it nearly impossible to import construction materials because of Israeli restrictions, ongoing fighting and the breakdown of law and order.

There are mountains of rubble, little water and no electricity

The first obstacle to any significant rebuilding is the rubble — mountains of it.

Where houses, shops and office buildings once stood, there are now giant drifts of rubble laced with human remains, hazardous substances and unexploded munitions.

The U.N. estimates the war has left some 40 million tons of debris and rubble in Gaza, enough to fill New York's Central Park to a depth of eight meters (about 25 feet). It could take up to 15 years and nearly \$650 million to clear it all away, it said.

There's also the question of where to dispose of it: The U.N. estimates about five square kilometers (about two square miles) of land would be needed, which will be hard to come by in the small and densely populated territory.

It isn't just homes that were destroyed, but also critical infrastructure.

The U.N. estimates nearly 70% of Gaza's water and sanitation plants have been destroyed or damaged. That includes all five of the territory's wastewater treatment facilities, plus desalination plants, sewage pumping stations, wells and reservoirs.

The employees who once managed municipal water and waste systems have been displaced, and some killed. And fuel shortages have made it difficult to keep operating facilities that are still intact.

The international charity Oxfam said it applied in December for a permit to bring in desalination units, and pipes to repair water infrastructure. It took three months for Israel to approve the shipment, but it still has not entered Gaza, Oxfam said.

The destruction of sewage networks has left streets flooded with putrid water, hastening the spread of disease.

There has been no central power in Gaza since the opening days of the war, when its sole power plant was forced to shut down for lack of fuel, and more than half of the territory's electrical grid has been destroyed, according to the World Bank.

Can Gaza be rebuilt?

Wealthy Arab countries like Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have said they are only willing to contribute to Gaza's reconstruction as part of a postwar settlement that creates a path to a Palestinian state.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has ruled that out, saying he won't allow Hamas or even the Western-backed Palestinian Authority to govern Gaza. He has said Israel will maintain open-ended security control and delegate civilian affairs to local Palestinians. But none are known to have volunteered, and Hamas has threatened to kill anyone who aids the occupation.

Rebuilding Gaza would also require the import of massive amounts of construction supplies and heavy equipment, which Israel is unlikely to allow as long as there's a potential for Hamas to rebuild its militant

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infrastructure. In any case, Gaza has only a small number of crossings with limited capacity.

The Israeli military body that coordinates civilian affairs in Gaza says it does not restrict the entry of civilian supplies and allows so-called dual-use items that could also be used for military purposes. Israel allowed some construction materials in before the war under what was known as the Gaza Reconstruction Mechanism, but it was subject to heavy restrictions and delays.

The Shelter Cluster estimates that it would take 40 years to rebuild all of Gaza's destroyed homes under that setup.

For now, aid providers are struggling just to bring in enough basic tents because of the limited number of trucks going into Gaza and the challenges of delivering aid. Efforts to bring in more robust temporary housing are still in the early stages, and no one has even tried to bring in construction materials, according to Ely.

In September, the Shelter Cluster estimated 900,000 people were still in need of tents, bedding and other items to prepare for the region's typically cold and rainy winters.

Today in History: October 8, the Great Chicago Fire breaks out

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Tuesday, Oct. 8, the 282nd day of 2024. There are 84 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Oct. 8, 1871, the Great Chicago Fire began; more than 300 people died and more than 17,000 structures were destroyed during the three-day blaze.

Also on this date:

In 1956, Don Larsen pitched the only perfect game in a World Series as the New York Yankees beat the Brooklyn Dodgers in Game 5, 2-0.

In 1997, scientists reported the Mars Pathfinder had yielded what could be the strongest evidence yet that Mars might once have been hospitable to life.

In 2002, a federal judge approved President George W. Bush's request to reopen West Coast ports, ending a 10-day labor lockout that was costing the U.S. economy an estimated \$1 billion to \$2 billion a day.

In 2005, a magnitude 7.6 earthquake on the Pakistan-India border killed an estimated 86,000 people.

In 2016, Donald Trump vowed to continue his campaign after many Republicans called on him to abandon his presidential bid in the wake of the release of a 2005 video in which he made lewd remarks about women and appeared to condone sexual assault.

In 2020, authorities in Michigan said six men had been charged with conspiring to kidnap Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer in reaction to what they viewed as her "uncontrolled power."

In 2022, an explosion caused the partial collapse of a bridge linking the Crimean Peninsula with Russia, damaging an important supply artery for the Kremlin's war effort in southern Ukraine.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Paul Hogan is 85. Civil rights activist Rev. Jesse Jackson is 83. Comedian Chevy Chase is 81. Author R.L. Stine is 81. Actor Sigourney Weaver is 75. Musician Robert "Kool" Bell (Kool & the Gang) is 74. Producer-director Edward Zwick is 72. NASCAR Hall of Famer Bill Elliott is 69. Comedian Darrell Hammond is 69. Actor Kim Wayans is 63. Gospel singer CeCe Winans is 60. Olympic gold medal swimmer Matt Biondi is 59. Actor Karyn Parsons is 58. Singer-producer Teddy Riley is 57. Actor Matt Damon is 54. Actor-TV host Nick Cannon is 44. Singer-songwriter Bruno Mars is 39. Actor Angus T. Jones is 31. Actor-singer Bella Thorne is 27.