

# Groton Daily Independent

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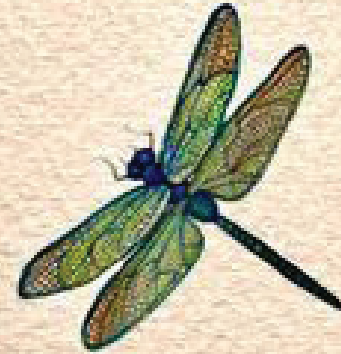
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## Monday, Oct. 14

No School - Native American Day  
Volleyball at Britton (7th at 4 p.m.; 8th/C at 5 p.m., JV at 6 p.m., varsity to follow)  
Pantry, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Groton Community Center  
Senior Citizens meet at the Groton Community Center, 1 p.m.  
United Methodist: PEO Meeting (outside group), 3:30 p.m.  
Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.

## Tuesday, Oct. 15

Senior Menu: Hamburger cabbage hot dish, corn, pears, muffin.  
School Breakfast: Egg omelets.  
School Lunch: School Lunch Week: Pirate ship tacos with ye fixings.  
School Board Meeting, 7 a.m.  
City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.  
JV Football hosts Sisseton, 4 p.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.  
St. John's Lutheran: Quilting, 12:30 p.m.



## dragonflies

Having flown the earth  
for 300 million years,  
dragonflies symbolize our ability  
to overcome times of hardship.

They remind us  
to take time to reconnect  
with our own strength,  
courage and  
happiness.

## Wednesday, Oct. 16

Senior Menu: Chicken tetrazzini, carrots, pineapple, bread stick.  
School Breakfast: Cereal.  
School Lunch: Chicken pirate, pasta bake.  
Community Coffee Hour at United Methodist Church, 9:30 a.m.  
Groton C&MA: Kids' Club, Youth Group, Adult Bible Study at 7 p.m.  
St. John's Lutheran: Confirmation, 3:45 p.m.  
Emmanuel Lutheran: Rosewood Court, 10 a.m.; Confirmation, 4 p.m.; League, 6:30 p.m.

**Groton Daily Independent**  
**PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445**  
**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.**

## Columbus' DNA Analysis

Christopher Columbus was a Sephardic Jew from Western Europe, a 22-year forensic investigation has found. The results, announced Saturday, intend to put to rest the centuries-old mystery of the explorer's origins.

Theories surrounding Columbus' background have ranged from him being Italian, Portuguese, Basque, Greek, or Spanish. A team from the University of Granada sought to settle the question by collecting DNA samples from one of Columbus' suspected burial sites, Seville Cathedral. Researchers say they verified the samples against those of one of his brothers and his son, Hernando. The result indicates Columbus was a Sephardic Jew, with researchers positing he was born in the Spanish city of Valencia.

Since 1937, the US has marked today as a federal holiday, Columbus Day; the day is marked in nearly 200 cities and four states as Indigenous Peoples' Day.

## Sticking the Landing

SpaceX successfully completed the fifth test flight of its uncrewed Starship space vehicle yesterday, launching from South Texas and splashing down in the Indian Ocean after roughly one hour. It was the second successful launch, flight, and reentry for the world's largest and most powerful rocket.

The demonstration showcased the world's first-ever "chopstick" landing, in which the 233-foot Super Heavy rocket booster used to propel the Starship into space was caught by two massive mechanical arms extending from the launch tower as it returned to Earth. The technique marks a major engineering milestone and furthers the company's goal of making its flagship rocket fully reusable, akin to airline operations. It will also significantly lower costs and turnaround time between launches.

Starship is a key component of current NASA plans to return humans to the moon and prepare for an eventual mission to Mars—a journey CEO Elon Musk says could happen as soon as 2028.

## US Deploys Defense System

The US is sending an air defense system to Israel, along with 100 US troops trained to operate it, the Pentagon said yesterday. The deployment comes after Iran launched around 200 missiles into Israel earlier this month in retaliation for assassinations of Hamas and Hezbollah leaders, and as Israel has said it plans to respond.

The news also comes as Israel faces criticism after more than a dozen UN peacekeepers were injured in southern Lebanon, including in an incident yesterday (free w/email). The UN says Israeli tanks stormed a UN base, with nearby explosions later sickening the peacekeepers. Israel says Hezbollah targeted its forces with antitank missiles near the post and that Israeli forces had backed into the post to evacuate wounded soldiers.

Israel separately accused the UN peacekeeping mission of failing to demilitarize the area by allowing Hezbollah militants to operate nearby. The army pointed to tunnels roughly 300 feet from a UN compound.

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## Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

New York Liberty defeats Minnesota Lynx 80-66 to even up WNBA Finals series 1-1.

Kenya's Ruth Chepngetich becomes first woman to run marathon in under 2 hours and 10 minutes, winning 2024 Chicago Marathon.

Kanye West accused of drugging and sexually assaulting ex-assistant as part of a wrongful termination lawsuit.

Army and Navy both ranked in college football AP Top 25 poll for first time since 1960.

MLB League Championship Series is underway; see preview of National and American League matchups.

## Science & Technology

Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences to be awarded this morning at 5:45 am ET; see selection here.

Scientists observe "real-time" evolution in generations of marine snails over three decades; organisms were introduced to a handful of Swedish islands in 1992 following a devastating algae bloom.

DNA analysis of hair found in teeth of the Tsavo man-eating lions reveals prey included giraffe, human, oryx, waterbuck, wildebeest, and zebra; the two lions infamously killed at least 35 construction workers in Kenya in the late 1800s.

## Business & Markets

US stock markets close higher Friday (S&P 500 +0.6%, Dow +1.0%, Nasdaq +0.3%) amid third-quarter earnings season.

Boeing lays off 17,000 employees—10% of its workforce—amid ongoing production workers' strike; company will also delay development of 777X aircraft, halt production on future 767 orders.

Jeep and Chrysler parent company, Stellantis, announces CEO will retire in early 2026 at the end of his contract amid broader management shake-up; announcement comes amid stagnating US sales, with shares down around 40% this year.

## Politics & World Affairs

President Joe Biden announces \$612M in federal assistance to regions affected by Hurricanes Milton and Helene; funding—via six Department of Energy projects—includes efforts to build electric grid resilience.

Sudan's army conducts airstrikes on a market in southern Khartoum, killing at least 23 people and wounding over 40 others.

Lithuania's center-left Social Democrats lead in yesterday's parliamentary elections, will attempt to form coalition.



## **Veteran's Supper**

**All local Veterans  
are invited to attend**

Sponsored by the Groton American Legion Post #39

**Monday, Oct. 14, 2024**

**6 p.m. Supper**

Groton Legion Hall

Legion Meeting to Follow

## “Sometimes Your Hip Pain isn’t Your Hip”

By Andrew Ellsworth, MD

“Doc, my right hip has been bothering me. Do you think I need a new hip?”

“First, tell me more about your hip pain.”

Hip pain is a common complaint which can have a variety of causes. The first thing that comes to mind is arthritis of the hip joint. The hip is a ball and socket joint. The main upper leg bone, the femur, has a rounded top called the head. Under the head of the femur is the neck, which can often be what breaks when someone suffers a hip fracture. Arthritis and wear and tear over time can cause the cartilage in the ball and socket joint to break down and become thinner and irregular. This can cause pain especially with movement and walking.

A simple x-ray of the hip can help show signs of arthritis of the hip joint. Sometimes one can try physical therapy, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medications (NSAIDs) such as ibuprofen, or perhaps a steroid injection to help calm down the inflammation and pain. Over time, if those efforts do not help enough or if the arthritis is advanced enough, sometimes a hip replacement may be beneficial.

However, when someone reports hip pain, it may not actually be their hip joint that is the problem. Arthritis of the low back, degenerative disc disease, sciatic nerve pain, lumbar stenosis, and other problems with the back can cause pain that feels like it is in the hip. Sometimes that pain is felt deep in the buttocks. Sometimes arthritis or inflammation of the sacroiliac joint, where the low back connects to the pelvis, can cause pain. This may often be felt as low back pain, but can present as hip pain.

Another cause of hip pain is bursitis or inflammation of the bursa sac located on the greater trochanter of the hip, the large upper outside edge of the femur where the neck connects to the shaft of the femur. You may be able to feel this hard area of your hip at your side. This is a common area for pain. While this pain is located at the hip, it is not coming from the hip joint. Our body has bursa sacs near bones in many places, essentially fluid-filled pads that can help protect the nearby bone and tendons and reduce friction between tissues of the body.

Greater trochanteric bursitis can result from a fall, repetitive motion, weakness of muscles, or be associated with some diseases. Usually rest, NSAIDs, time, and physical therapy can help it to improve. Exercises can help by strengthening the surrounding muscles which can decrease the rubbing and friction over the bursa sac. A steroid injection can often be helpful. Surgery is rarely needed.

Other causes of hip pain can be from a pelvic bone fracture, tendinopathy, a muscle strain, a labral tear, other musculoskeletal problems, constipation, infection, and rarely cancer. Thus, if you are suffering from hip pain, it may be time to see your medical provider, and start figuring out whether your hip is really the problem.

*Andrew Ellsworth, MD. is part of The Prairie Doc® team of physicians and currently practices family medicine at Avera Medical Group in Brookings, South Dakota. Follow The Prairie Doc® at [www.prairiedoc.org](http://www.prairiedoc.org), Facebook, Instagram, Youtube and Threads. Prairie Doc Programming includes On Call with the Prairie Doc®, a medical Q&A show (most Thursdays at 7pm on SDPB or streaming on Facebook), 2 podcasts, and a Radio program (on SDPB), providing health information based on science, built on trust.*



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## Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

With the Minnesota Vikings on their bye week this week, I thought now would be a good time to go through the rest of the NFC North. Let's take a look at how the Chicago Bears, Detroit Lions, and Green Bay Packers are doing so far this season!

The NFC North is, far and away, the best division in the National Football League. Through week six, it's the only division where every team has a winning record. Not only that, you could make a case for three of the teams that they are the best team in the NFC and could represent the conference in the Super Bowl (and the fourth team, the Bears, have a great rookie quarterback and look to be only a year or two away from reaching the same heights).

The Vikings are atop the NFC North with a 5-0 record and have the best point differential in the division (+63). Nobody could have predicted the Vikings would be undefeated at this point, especially considering they played some of the best teams the NFL has to offer, like the San Francisco 49ers and the Houston Texans. Can Sam Darnold continue his career resurgence? Will the Vikings' offense look even better when T.J. Hockenson comes back from injury (which should be week seven)? Will Brian Flores' defense continue to confound opposing offenses, or will they come crashing back to earth as teams have more tape on them now? I don't know the answer to any of those questions, but I'm excited to find out!

Second in the NFC North are the Detroit Lions, who sit at 4-1 and have a point differential of +60. They looked really good Sunday, beating the Dallas Cowboys (who have former Vikings' head coach Mike Zimmer as their defensive coordinator) 47-9. However, as of this moment, the Lions have only played one team with a winning record, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, a game the Lions lost 20-16. Also, the best player on the Lions' defense, Aiden Hutchinson, had a gruesome leg injury against the Cowboys and will be out (at least) for the rest of the season.

Sitting behind the Lions are the Bears and Packers, both with a record of 4-2.

The Chicago Bears came out of the gate slowly, but have been picking up steam as the season rolls on. They started the season 1-2, beating the (1-4) Tennessee Titans then falling to the (5-1) Houston Texans and the (3-3) Indianapolis Colts. Since then, however, the Bears have won three straight against the lowly (1-4) LA Rams, (1-5) Carolina Panthers, and (1-5) Jacksonville Jaguars. So this Bears team is good enough to beat the bad teams but hasn't had an impressive victory yet in 2024. Their point differential is +47.

The Green Bay Packers are also 4-2, but I'm putting them last on this list because of alphabetical order (and because I don't like them very much!). The Packers started the season with a loss to the (3-2) Philadelphia Eagles, then beat the Colts and Titans before coming up short against the Vikings in week four. Luckily for them, they were able to get two more wins against the Rams and most recently the (2-4) Arizona Cardinals. The Packers have the worst point differential in the division at +41.

Looking ahead, the Vikings stay home and welcome the Lions to U.S. Bank Stadium. The game is scheduled for a noon kickoff and will air on Fox. Skol!

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## Working to Protect & Promote Traditional American Values

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



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# MANHART

## STATE REPRESENTATIVE

### DISTRICT 1

[facebook.com/ManhartLogan](https://facebook.com/ManhartLogan) | [ManhartForHouse.com](https://ManhartForHouse.com)

**General Election - Nov. 5**  
**Absentee Voting has begun**

## EARTHTALK ™

Dear EarthTalk: How are musical instrument makers greening their operations? – P.K., via email

The growing awareness of sustainability is influencing various industries, including those making musical instruments. Many are increasingly adopting eco-friendly practices to minimize their environmental footprint. From sourcing sustainable materials to designing energy-efficient manufacturing processes, these efforts are reshaping how musical instruments are made and used. Many, like Yamaha, now use Forest Stewardship Council-certified wood to protect endangered species. Yamaha does this with their wind instruments. This ensures that instruments are made without harming endangered trees.

Beyond sustainably sourced wood, some companies are using recycled or repurposed materials. Yamaha now has an “upcycled” guitar, using materials salvaged from other processes, reducing the need for new materials. Also, innovative companies are now making drums using recycled materials.

Additionally, some companies are exploring the use of reclaimed wood for making violins and cellos, minimizing the need for new materials. Drum kits made from recycled materials like old barrels and discarded plastics further demonstrate how sustainable practices can lead to versatile and eco-friendly instrument designs.

Sustainability in musical instruments goes beyond material sourcing—companies are also addressing the energy consumption involved in manufacturing. Yamaha, in addition to using sustainable materials, is investing in energy-efficient production processes. These efforts help reduce the carbon footprint of the factories producing these instruments, further enhancing their sustainability credentials.

Instrument makers are experimenting with new designs that incorporate recycled or reused components. One innovative example is the Re-tuned Acoustic Guitar Kit, which transforms old guitars into Bluetooth speakers. This project shows how instruments can be repurposed and given a second life, reducing waste.

Musicians can contribute to these efforts by buying pre-owned instruments and supporting brands that prioritize environmental stewardship. Purchasing used instruments is another significant way to reduce environmental impact. By extending the life of an instrument, fewer resources are required and instruments are in circulation longer, preventing them from ending up in landfills.



**Some musical instruments manufacturers are beginning to adopt eco-friendly practices to minimize their environmental footprints.** Credit: Pexels.com.





## SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

### Referred Law 21: A landowner bill of rights or an undermining of local control

BY: JOSHUA HAIAR - OCTOBER 13, 2024 10:00 AM

The measure on South Dakota's Nov. 5 ballot that addresses carbon dioxide pipelines is either a bill of rights for landowners or a seizure of authority from local governments, depending on the person describing it.

During the last legislative session in Pierre, state lawmakers passed and Republican Gov. Kristi Noem signed Senate Bill 201. Opponents gathered more than 31,000 petition signatures to refer the law to voters. On the ballot, it's Referred Law 21. A yes vote supports the law passed by legislators and Noem, while a no vote opposes the law.

The law would implement a list of protections and incentives for landowners and counties impacted by the construction of carbon dioxide pipelines. That's the "bill of rights" part, according to the law's supporters.

But it would also require local governments to demonstrate to state regulators that their restrictions on pipeline locations are reasonable, rather than the pipeline company having to prove those regulations are unreasonable. That's the seizure of local authority, according to the law's opponents.



**Walt Bones, left, representing Protect South Dakota's Ag Future, and Jim Eschenbaum, representing South Dakota Property Rights and Local Control Alliance, participate in an election forum on Sept. 19, 2024, at Dakota Wesleyan University in Mitchell.** (Joshua Haiar/South Dakota

Searchlight)

#### The path to the ballot

The genesis of the debate over carbon pipelines is a proposal from Iowa-based Summit Carbon Solutions. It has partnered with ethanol producers, including Sioux Falls-based Poet, to capture some of the CO<sub>2</sub> emitted by 57 ethanol plants in several midwestern states — including eastern South Dakota — and send it via pipeline for underground storage in North Dakota. The project would capitalize on federal tax

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credits that incentivize the prevention of climate-warming greenhouse gas emissions.

Some landowners along the pipeline route oppose the project because they don't want the pipeline under their land. They oppose Summit's attempted use of eminent domain to gain court-ordered access to their land and are concerned about potentially deadly leaks of carbon dioxide plumes. Similar debates are occurring in other states on the proposed route. Iowa has granted the project a permit, but it's contingent on approval in the Dakotas, where Summit has not yet obtained permits.

Legislative sponsors of what became Referred Law 21 described it as a compromise between pipeline opponents and supporters, guaranteeing protections and incentives for landowners while maintaining a regulatory path for pipelines. The compromise effort arose after some legislators failed in their efforts to ban eminent domain for carbon pipelines. Referred Law 21 does not address eminent domain.

Another factor in the debate over the legislation was the role of counties. Some county commissions, prodded by pipeline opponents, have passed local ordinances with strict restrictions on the locations of pipelines.

Under existing law, those local ordinances apply unless the state Public Utilities Commission decides to declare them unreasonably restrictive. If Referred Law 21 takes effect, the burden would flip. Counties would have to prove to the state commission that their ordinances are reasonable.

The proposed law says that once the state issues a permit for a transmission project such as a pipeline, it automatically overrides any local rules. Local regulations would no longer be applicable unless state regulators require compliance with local laws as part of the permit.

Some proponents of Referred Law 21 say current state law makes it too easy for a local body opposed to a multi-state pipeline project to hold up construction. They say if local officials are confident their regulations are reasonable, they can rest easy knowing state regulators will uphold them.

"There is no wording in Senate Bill 201, now Referred Law 21, that diminishes the counties' rights in any way," said Walt Bones, a proponent of the law, during a September debate in Mitchell. Bones is a former secretary of the state Department of Agriculture.

Opponents are not buying it.

"Senate Bill 201, now Referred Law 21, takes away the voice of those local governments," argued Jim Eschenbaum, an opponent of the law. Eschenbaum is a Hand County commissioner.

## Landowner bill of rights

The law includes landowner protections, coined the "Landowner Bill of Rights" by backers in the Legislature.

They include requiring carbon pipeline companies, rather than landowners or local governments, to be liable for any damages caused by pipelines. The pipelines would also have to be buried at least 4 feet deep, and companies would have to share their pipeline rupture modeling data.

Counties could also collect a surcharge of up to \$1 per linear foot of CO2 pipeline, with at least half of the money going toward property tax relief for affected landowners. The remaining funds could be used at the county's discretion.

Plus, local governments could require transmission projects such as pipelines to enter road usage agreements to help pay for the maintenance and repair of roads damaged during construction activity.

"This is all about landowner rights, and getting some funding source back to counties," Bones said. "That's all this is. It's not a referendum on a pipeline. It's nothing more than this list of landowner rights and protections, and a funding source."

Opponents say many of the protections and incentives in the bill are already part of county and landowner negotiations with Summit.

"They call it the 'Landowner Bill of Rights.' It is Summit's bill of rights," said Eschenbaum during a recent rally in rural Canton. "They said they'd do all that stuff before drafting the bill even started."

Eschenbaum added during his September debate with Bones that "the Legislature has no business negotiating terms on peoples' private property."

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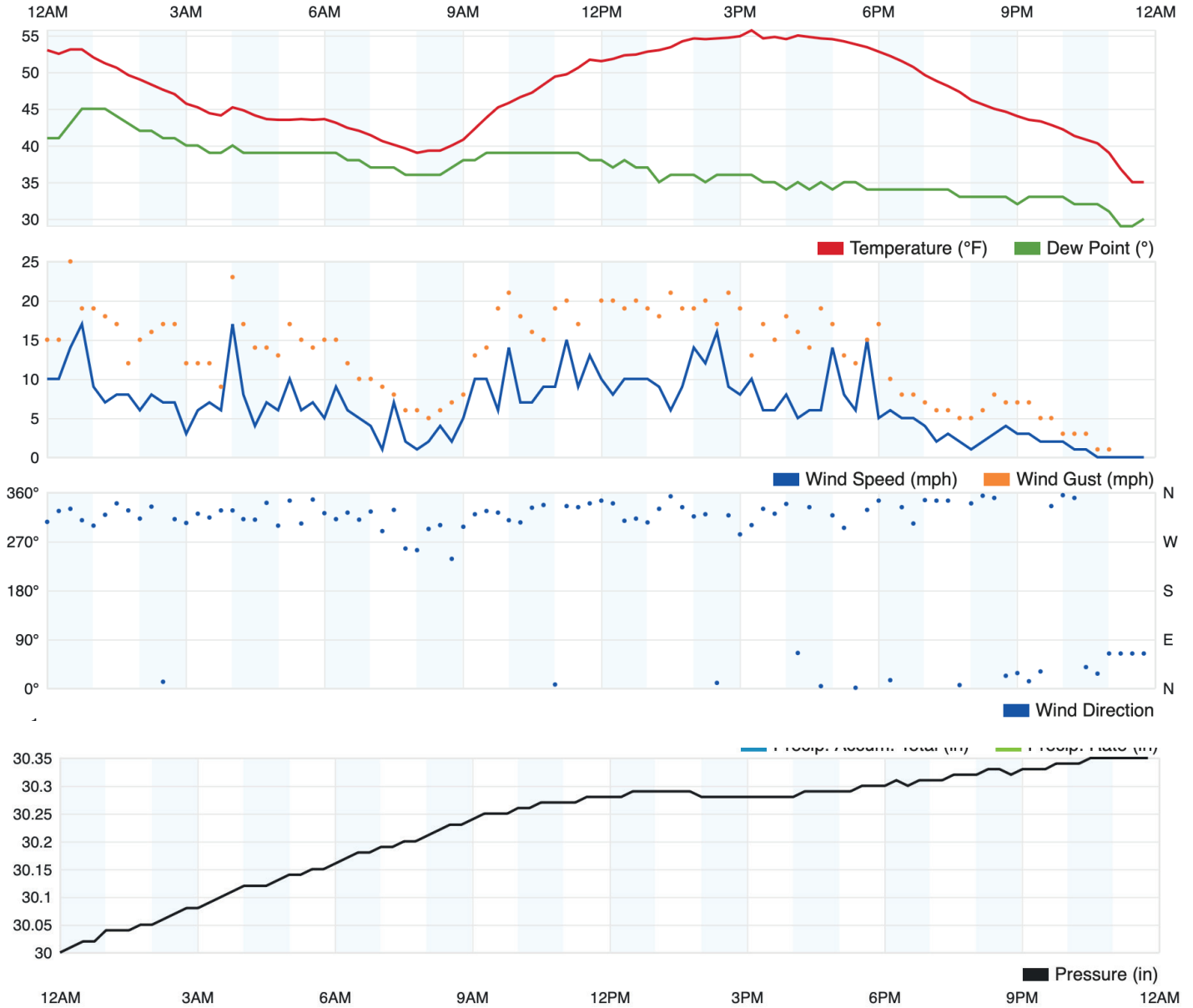
Proponents counter that landowners could still negotiate the location of the pipeline, how much they will be paid, and additional easement terms.

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

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Columbus Day	Tonight	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday
				
<b>High: 58 °F</b>	<b>Low: 23 °F</b>	<b>High: 56 °F</b>	<b>Low: 33 °F</b>	<b>High: 66 °F</b>
Frost then Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy then Frost	Frost then Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Sunny and Breezy



## Cool Start to the Week, then Warming Up

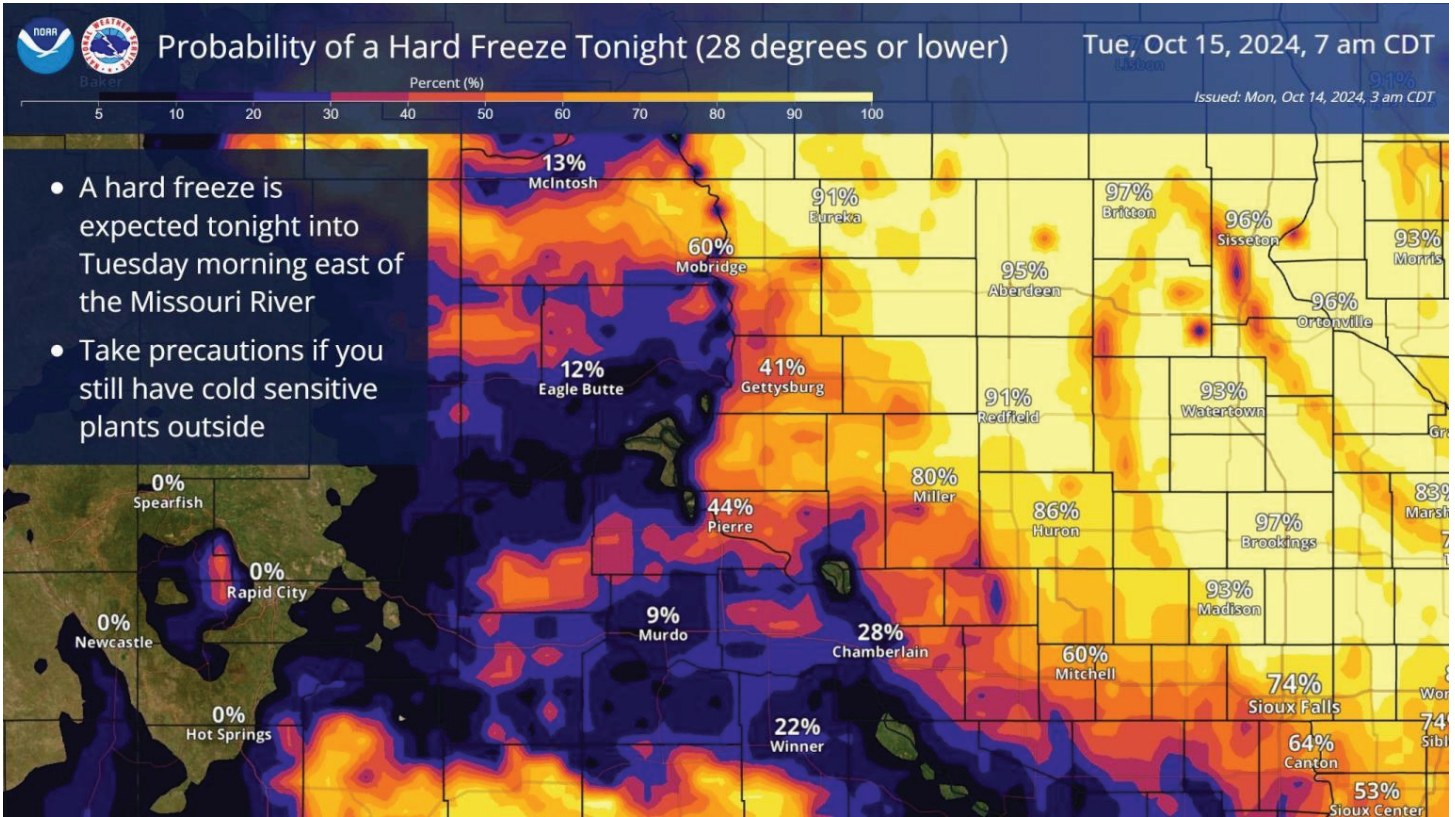
www.weather.gov/abr  
October 14, 2024 3:33 AM

Today	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
				
	Freezing Temps Tonight	Gusty S Winds 25-40 mph Elevated Fire Weather Conditions		
49-62°	52-57°	63-74°	70-83°	60-72°

We'll have a cold start to the work week, including freezing temperatures tonight, but then temperatures will trend to above normal values on Wednesday. Southerly winds gusting to 25 to 40 mph will lead to elevated fire weather conditions on both Wednesday and Thursday.

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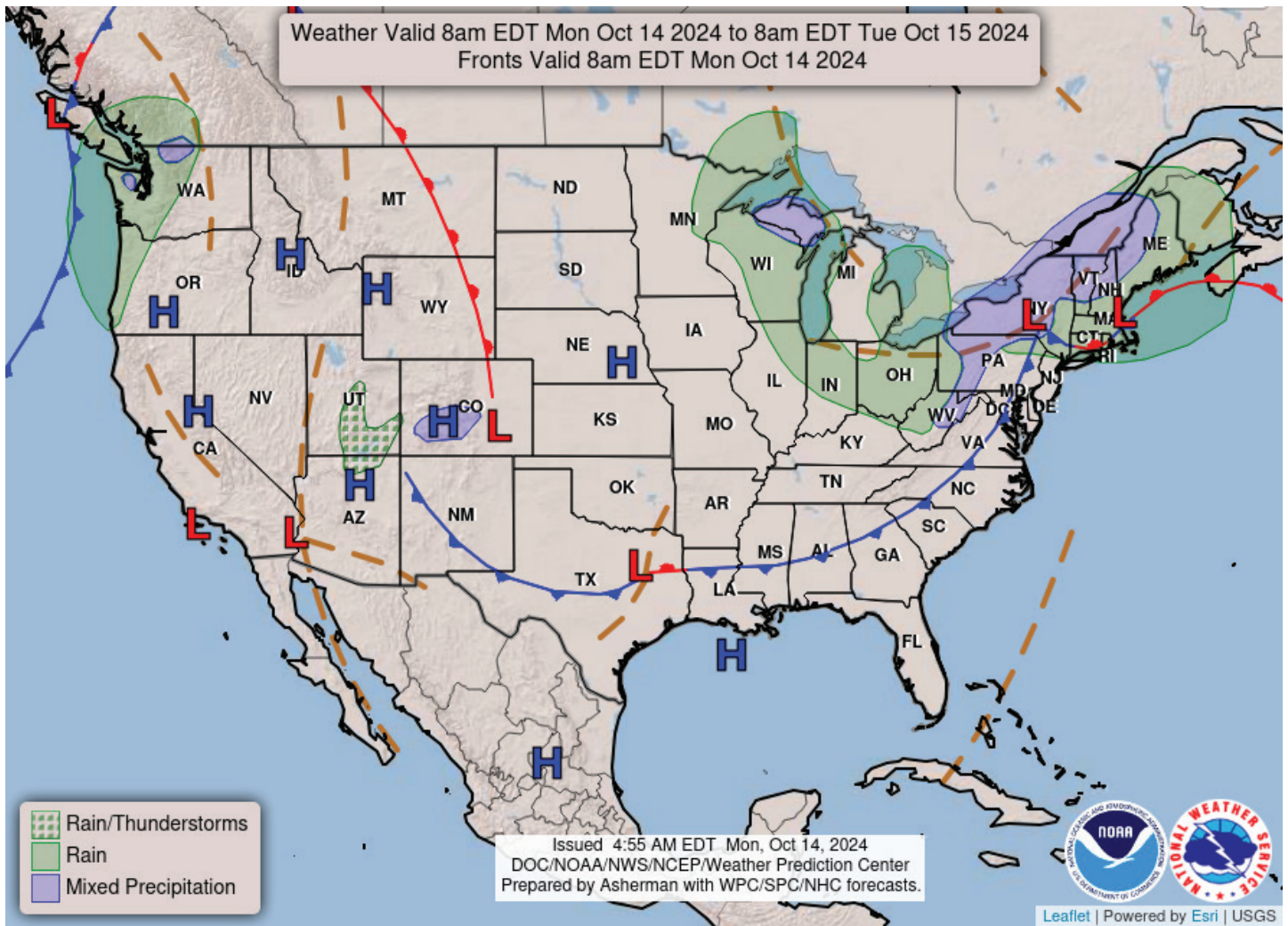
## Yesterday's Groton Weather

**High Temp: 56 °F at 3:15 PM**  
**Low Temp: 35 °F at 11:28 PM**  
**Wind: 25 mph at 12:25 AM**  
**Precip: : 0.00**

Day length: 11 hours, 2 minutes

## Today's Info

Record High: 87 in 1962  
Record Low: 10 in 1937  
Average High: 61  
Average Low: 34  
Average Precip in Oct.: 1.05  
Precip to date in Oct.: 0.00  
Average Precip to date: 19.38  
Precip Year to Date: 19.75  
Sunset Tonight: 6:49:33 pm  
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:48:12 am



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## Today in Weather History

October 14, 1969: Cold air during the overnight produced lows from six degrees in Custer, Gillette, and Devils Tower to fifteen degrees in Dupree, Hot Springs, and the Rapid City Airport.

1909: An F3 tornado struck Pittsburg Landing and Stantonville, TN killing 23 people and injuring 80 others.

1941: America's first television weather forecast was broadcast on New York's WNBC (later WNBC). There weren't many televisions at that time, so viewers were limited to perhaps a few hundred people. The weathercast consisted of a sponsor's message followed by a text screen containing the next day's forecast.

1957 - Floodwaters roared through a migrant labor camp near the town of Picacho AZ flooding fifty cabins and a dozen nearby homes. 250 migrant workers lost their shelters. The month was one of the wettest Octobers in Arizona weather history. (The Weather Channel)

1965 - Heavy rains hit the coastal areas of southeastern Florida. In a 24 hour period rains of twenty inches were reported from Deerfield Beach to Fort Lauderdale, with 25.28 inches on the Fort Lauderdale Bahia-Mar Yacht Basin. Flooding that resulted caused considerable damage to roads and streets. The rains inundated numerous newly planted vegetable fields, and some residences. Ten miles away just 4.51 inches of rain was reported. (14th- 15th) (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1981 - Four days of heavy rain across northern Texas and southern Oklahoma came to an end. The heaviest rains fell in a band from southwest of Abilene TX to McAlester OK, with up to 26 inches reported north of Gainesville, in north central Texas. The heavy rains were the result of decaying Hurricane Norma, which also spawned thirteen tornadoes across the region. Seven deaths were attributed to the flooding. (Storm Data)

1984 - Dense fog contributed to a 118 vehicle accident on I-94, just south of Milwaukee WI. It was the seventh day of an eight day stretch of dense fog. At the time of the accident the visibility was reportedly close to zero. (Storm Data)

1987 - Sixteen cities, mostly in the Appalachian Region, reported record low temperatures for the date. Record lows included 43 degrees at Lake Charles LA, 35 degrees at Augusta GA, and 27 degrees at Asheville NC. Gale force winds buffeted the Carolina coast. Light snow fell across parts of Wyoming, Colorado, and western South Dakota. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Forty cities in the eastern U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date. Elkins WV was the cold spot in the nation with a record low of 18 degrees above zero. Thunderstorms in Arizona drenched Phoenix with nine inches of rain in nine hours, the fifth highest total for any given day in ninety-two years of records. Carefree AZ was soaked with two inches of rain. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather over Michigan during the morning, and over New York State and Connecticut during the afternoon and evening hours. Thunderstorms spawned two tornadoes, and there were ninety reports of large hail or damaging winds, including seventy reports of damaging winds in New York State. A tornado at McDonough NY killed one person and injured three other people. Strong thunderstorm winds gusted to 105 mph at Somerset. Temperatures warmed into the 80s and lower 90s over much of the nation east of the Rockies, with eleven cities reporting record high temperatures for the date. Afternoon highs of 81 degrees at Beckley WV and Bluefield WV equalled October records. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)





## HUMILITY

A visitor to a monastery asked the monk who greeted him the main ministry of his order.

Offering the visitor a gracious smile he said, "Well, when it comes to learning and teaching, we cannot compare to the Jesuits. When it comes to good works, we certainly cannot match the Franciscans. And when it comes to preaching we are far below the Dominicans. But when it comes to humility, we are at the top of the list."

The apostle Peter is well known for his boldness for his Lord. Yet he once wrote, "You young men...serve each other with humility, for God sets Himself against the proud, but He shows favor to the humble."

We often think that position and status are the marks of greatness. It is normal to want recognition for the things that we do. But here Peter reminds us that in the final analysis, we must remember that God's recognition and approval count more than all of the human praise we may ever get.

In His own time God will honor and bless us for what we do to honor and bless Him. It is not the things that we do to draw attention to ourselves that matter to God. It is what we do that draws attention to His love that reflects His goodness and grace, mercy and salvation. In the end, it's all about Him!

Prayer: Lord, let us look for every opportunity to let others know that You are the "main attraction" in our lives. May what we do point others to Christ our Savior. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time. 1 Peter 5:5-6

*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:  
10.11.24

3 10 29 52 57 20

MegaPlier: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$169,000,000**

NEXT 1 Days 16 Hrs 28  
DRAW: Mins 2 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:  
10.12.24

11 15 36 37 49 7

All Star Bonus: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$11,650,000**

NEXT 15 Hrs 43 Mins 2  
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:  
10.13.24

2 6 14 25 45 9

TOP PRIZE:

**\$7,000/week**

NEXT 15 Hrs 58 Mins 2  
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:  
10.12.24

2 4 10 17 25

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$60,000**

NEXT 2 Days 15 Hrs 58  
DRAW: Mins 2 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:  
10.12.24

18 22 32 41 49 24

TOP PRIZE:

**\$10,000,000**

NEXT 16 Hrs 27 Mins 2  
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:  
10.12.24

5 14 20 41 57 6

Power Play: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$388,000,000**

NEXT 16 Hrs 27 Mins 2  
DRAW: 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

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

### China deploys record 125 warplanes in large scale military drill in warning to Taiwan

By JOHNSON LAI and HUIZHONG WU Associated Press

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — China employed a record 125 aircraft, as well as its Liaoning aircraft carrier and ships, in large-scale military exercises surrounding Taiwan and its outlying islands Monday, simulating the sealing off of key ports in a move that underscores the tense situation in the Taiwan Strait, officials said.

China's Defense Ministry said the drills were a response to the Taiwanese president's refusal to accept Beijing's demand that self-governed Taiwan acknowledge itself as a part of the People's Republic of China under the rule of the Communist Party.

Taiwan's Ministry of National Defense said 90 of the aircraft, including warplanes, helicopters and drones, were spotted within Taiwan's air defense identification zone. The single-day record counted aircraft from 5:02 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Shipping traffic was operating as normal, the ministry said.

The drills came four days after Taiwan celebrated the founding of its government on its National Day, when Taiwanese President Lai Ching-te said in a speech that China has no right to represent Taiwan and declared his commitment to "resist annexation or encroachment."

"Our military will definitely deal with the threat from China appropriately," Joseph Wu, secretary-general of Taiwan's security council, said at a forum in Taipei, Taiwan's capital. "Threatening other countries with force violates the basic spirit of the United Nations Charter to resolve disputes through peaceful means."

Taiwan's Presidential Office called on China to "cease military provocations that undermine regional peace and stability and stop threatening Taiwan's democracy and freedom."

A map aired on China's state broadcaster CCTV showed six large blocks encircling Taiwan indicating where the military drills were being held, along with circles drawn around Taiwan's outlying islands.

Taiwan's defense ministry said the six areas focused on key strategic locations around and on the island.

China deployed its Liaoning aircraft carrier for the drills, and CCTV showed a J-15 fighter jet taking off from the deck of the carrier.

China's People's Liberation Army's Eastern Theater Command spokesperson Senior Captain Li Xi said Monday evening that the drill was successfully completed.

Li said the navy, army air force and missile corps were all mobilized for the drills, which were an integrated operation. "This is a major warning to those who back Taiwan independence and a signifier of our determination to safeguard our national sovereignty," Li said in a statement on the service's public media channel.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said at a daily briefing that China did not consider relations with Taiwan a diplomatic issue, in keeping with its refusal to recognize Taiwan as a sovereign state.

"I can tell you that Taiwan independence is as incompatible with peace in the Taiwan Strait as fire with water. Provocation by the Taiwan independence forces will surely be met with countermeasures," Mao said.

Taiwan's Defense Ministry said it deployed warships to designated spots in the ocean to carry out surveillance and stand at ready. It also deployed mobile missile and radar groups on land to track the vessels at sea. It said as of Monday morning, they had tracked 25 Chinese warplanes and seven warships and four Chinese government ships, though it did not specify what types of ships they were.

On the streets of Taipei, residents were undeterred. "I don't worry, I don't panic either, it doesn't have any impact to me," Chang Chia-rui said.

Another Taipei resident, Jeff Huang, said: "Taiwan is very stable now, and I am used to China's military exercises. I have been threatened by this kind of threats since I was a child, and I am used to it."

The U.S., Taiwan's biggest unofficial ally, called China's response to Lai's speech unwarranted. "We call on (Beijing's government) to act with restraint and to avoid any further actions that may undermine peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait and in the broader region," State Department spokesperson Matthew

Miller said in a statement.

China held similar large-scale exercises after Lai was inaugurated in May. Lai continues the eight-year rule of the Democratic Progressive Party that rejects China's demand that it recognize Taiwan is a part of China.

Also on Monday, China's Taiwan Affairs Office announced it was sanctioning two Taiwanese individuals, Puma Shen and Robert Tsao, for promoting Taiwanese independence. Shen is the co-founder of the Kuma Academy, a nonprofit group that trains civilians on wartime readiness. Tsao donated \$32.8 million to fund the academy's training courses. Shen and Tsao are forbidden to travel to China, including Hong Kong.

China also held massive military exercises around Taiwan and simulated a blockade in 2022 after a visit to the island by Nancy Pelosi, who was then speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives. China routinely states that Taiwan independence is a "dead end" and that annexation by Beijing is a historical inevitability. China's military has increased its encircling of Taiwan's skies and waters in the past few years, holding joint drills with its warships and fighter jets on a near-daily basis near the island.

Taiwan was a Japanese colony before being unified with China at the end of World War II. It split away in 1949 when Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalists fled to the island as Mao Zedong's Communists defeated them in a civil war and took power.

## **Nobel economics prize is awarded for research into why countries succeed or fail**

By DANIEL NIEMANN and MIKE CORDER Associated Press

STOCKHOLM (AP) — The Nobel memorial prize in economics was awarded Monday to Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson and James A. Robinson for research into reasons why some countries succeed and others fail.

The Nobel memorial prize in economics was awarded Monday to Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson and James A. Robinson for research into differences in prosperity between nations.

The three economists "have demonstrated the importance of societal institutions for a country's prosperity," the Nobel committee of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said at the announcement in Stockholm.

"Societies with a poor rule of law and institutions that exploit the population do not generate growth or change for the better. The laureates' research helps us understand why," it added.

Acemoglu and Johnson work at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Robinson conducts his research at the University of Chicago.

"Reducing the vast differences in income between countries is one of our time's greatest challenges. The laureates have demonstrated the importance of societal institutions for achieving this," Jakob Svensson, Chair of the Committee for the Prize in Economic Sciences, said.

He said their research has provided "a much deeper understanding of the root causes of why countries fail or succeed."

Reached by the academy in Athens, Greece, where he is due to speak at a conference, Acemoglu said he was surprised and shocked by the award.

"You never expect something like this," he said.

The economics prize is formally known as the Bank of Sweden Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel. The central bank established it in 1968 as a memorial to Nobel, the 19th-century Swedish businessman and chemist who invented dynamite and established the five Nobel Prizes.

Though Nobel purists stress that the economics prize is technically not a Nobel Prize, it is always presented together with the others on Dec. 10, the anniversary of Nobel's death in 1896.

Nobel honors were announced last week in medicine, physics, chemistry, literature and peace.

## Harris is laying out a new plan to empower Black men as she tries to energize them to vote for her

By WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Vice President Kamala Harris is announcing a plan to give Black men more economic opportunities and other chances to thrive as she works to energize a key voting bloc that has Democrats concerned about a lack of enthusiasm.

Harris' plan includes providing forgivable business loans for Black entrepreneurs, creating more apprenticeships and studying sickle cell and other diseases that disproportionately affect African American men.

Harris already has said she supports legalizing marijuana and her plan calls for working to ensure that Black men have opportunities to participate as a "national cannabis industry takes shape." She also is calling for better regulating cryptocurrency to protect Black men and others who invest in digital assets.

The vice president's so-called "opportunity agenda for Black men" is meant to invigorate African American males at a moment when there are fears some may sit out the election rather than vote for Harris or her opponent, Republican former President Donald Trump.

The vice president unveiled the plan Monday, ahead of an evening campaign rally in Erie, Pennsylvania, where she was to appear with Democratic Sen. John Fetterman. Her push comes after former President Barack Obama suggested last week that some Black men "aren't feeling the idea of having a woman as president."

The Harris campaign also has been working to increase support among other male voting blocs, including Hispanics, by founding the group "Hombres con Harris," Spanish for "Men with Harris." The latest policy rollout is notable because it comes with the stated purpose of motivating Black men to vote mere weeks before Election Day.

As her campaign has done with the "Hombres" group, Harris' team plans to organize gender-specific gatherings. Those include "Black Men Huddle Up" events in battleground states featuring African American male celebrities for things like watch parties for NFL and NCAA football games. The campaign says it also plans new testimonial ads in battleground states that feature local Black male voices.

Cedric Richmond, co-chair of the Harris campaign and a former Louisiana congressman who is Black, said Harris wants to build an economy "where Black men are equipped with the tools to thrive: to buy a home, provide for our families, start a business and build wealth."

Black Americans strongly supported Joe Biden when he beat Trump in 2020. Harris advisers say they are less worried about losing large percentages of Black male support to the former president than that some will choose not to turn out at all.

Trump, too, has stepped up efforts to win over Black and Hispanic voters of both genders. He has held roundtables with Black entrepreneurs in swing states and will sit for a townhall sponsored by Spanish-language Univision this week. He also has sought to openly stoke racial divisions, repeatedly suggesting that immigrants crossing the U.S.-Mexico border illegally are taking jobs from Black and Hispanic Americans.

Harris' new round of proposals includes a promise that, if elected, she will help distribute 1 million loans of up to \$20,000 that can be fully forgivable to Black entrepreneurs and others who have strong ideas to start businesses. The loans would come via new partnerships between the Small Business Administration and community leaders and banks "with a proven commitment to their communities," her campaign says.

The vice president also wants to offer federal incentives to encourage more African American men to train to be teachers, citing statistics that Black males made up only a bit more than 1% of the nation's public school teaching ranks in 2020-21, according to data from the National Teacher and Principal Survey.

Harris also is pledging to expand existing federal programs that forgive some educational loans for public service to further encourage more Black male teachers. She also wants to use organizations like the National Urban League, local governments and the private sector to expand apprenticeships and credentialing opportunities in Black communities.

The vice president's advisers have been urging her to talk more about cryptocurrency as a way to appeal to male voters. Her campaign said that as president, Harris will back a regulatory framework meant

to better protect investors in cryptocurrency and other digital assets, which are popular with Black men. Harris also promised to create a national initiative to better fund efforts to detect, research and combat sickle cell disease, diabetes, prostate cancer, mental health challenges and other health issues that disproportionately affect Black men.

A recent poll conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research found about 7 in 10 Black voters had a favorable view of Harris and preferred her leadership to that of Trump on major policy issues including the economy, health care, abortion, immigration and the war between Israel and Hamas.

There was little difference in support for Harris between Black men and Black women.

## **Pakistan hosts a major security meeting this week as it struggles against rising insurgent violence**

By RIAZAT BUTT Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Pakistan is hosting a major security meeting this week, with senior leaders from longtime ally China and archrival India among those attending.

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization was established in 2001 by China and Russia to discuss security concerns in Central Asia and the wider region.

But it's Pakistan's own security that is under the microscope.

An attack on a foreign ambassadors' convoy, violent protests by supporters of an imprisoned former prime minister, and a bombing outside Pakistan's biggest airport are signs the country is struggling to contain multiplying threats from insurgents.

The meeting, which begins Tuesday in Islamabad, comes at a crucial time for the government. Here's why: Armed groups are outpacing the army

Pakistan says it has foiled attacks through intelligence-based operations and preventative measures. It frequently vows "to root out terrorism."

But the frequency and scale of the recent violence give the impression that the government isn't in control and raises questions about its ability to protect key sites and foreigners, let alone Pakistanis.

In the last few weeks, separatists from Pakistan's southwest Balochistan province have killed Chinese nationals in Karachi, Pakistan's biggest city, as well as more than 20 miners in an attack on housing at a coal mine, and seven workers in another attack. The outlawed Baloch Liberation Army, or BLA, is better at mobilizing fighters in different areas and its operational capabilities have increased.

The group wants independence for the province. It's not interested in overthrowing the state to establish a caliphate, which is what the Pakistani Taliban want. But the two groups have a common enemy -- the government.

Analysts have said the BLA is getting support from the Pakistani Taliban. But, even without an alliance, attacks in the southwest are becoming more audacious and brutal, indicating that the BLA's tactics are evolving and taking the security apparatus by surprise.

The Pakistani Taliban continue their shootings and bombings in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, which borders Afghanistan.

It could be difficult for militants to hit the meeting, given the security around it and the areas where delegates will stay. But they could still wreak havoc.

Vehicles are often just waved through street checkpoints in Islamabad. Aside from government buildings and top hotels, body searches and under-vehicle scanners are rare.

"At stake for the entire state is the only mission -- how to hold such an event peacefully," said Imtiaz Gul, the executive director of the Center for Research and Security Studies. "How to get it done without any unpleasant incidents taking place. It's going to be a formidable challenge for the government to disprove the notion of failures within the security apparatus."

Pakistan is paying the price for shutdowns

Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb said last week that the national economy suffered cumulative



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daily losses of more than \$684 million on account of recent agitation.

He was referring to supporters of former Prime Minister Imran Khan reaching the heart of the capital, despite a suspension of cellphone service and placement of shipping containers at access points to the city. The shutdown hit most business sectors, the gig economy, point-of-sale transactions, commuters, students, workers and more.

Pakistan can't afford to incur such losses or deepen people's grievances. It relies on International Monetary Fund bailouts and multibillion-dollar deals and loans from friendly countries to meet its economic needs. There are regular protests over energy bills and the cost of living.

Despite people's hardships, authorities have declared a three-day holiday surrounding the meeting.

There have been reports of the government ordering the closure of wedding halls, restaurants, hotels, cafes and markets in Islamabad and the neighboring garrison city Rawalpindi for security reasons.

Officials denied the reports, but not very strenuously.

"Generally, high-profile conferences are meant to promote connectivity, trade and improve a country's image," said Gul. But not in this case because Islamabad won't look like a normal city, he said.

"It seems they lack innovative thinking," Gul said. "They are unable to use smart approaches and that's why the easier way is to shut everything down."

A seat at the table and saving face

The last time Pakistan hosted a major conference was in March 2022, a month before Khan was kicked out of office and a new cycle of upheaval started.

The country's security situation and political instability are two factors that have prevented it from holding big international events.

Even its best-loved sport, cricket, has suffered. There was a 10-year absence of test matches after terrorists ambushed a Sri Lanka team bus in 2009, killing eight people and injuring players and officials.

The meeting is Pakistan's chance to shine, especially in front of its neighbor China, to whom it is in hock by several billion dollars and whose nationals are prime targets for armed groups, as well as India, which is sending its foreign minister to the country for the first time since 2015.

India and Pakistan have fought three wars and built up their armies but also developed nuclear weapons. China and India fought a war over their border in 1962.

Pakistan, unused to hosting such a high-level meeting, will have to put its best face forward.

Senior defense analyst Abdullah Khan said the government wants to show its international legitimacy amid the domestic crises.

"The presence of heads of state and other senior officials will itself be a success as Pakistan will come out of its so-called isolation," said Khan. "A peacefully held SCO will further improve the country's image."

## Israel says 4 soldiers killed by Hezbollah drone attack while Israeli strike in Gaza leaves 20 dead

By WAFAA SHURAFU and SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — A Hezbollah drone attack on an army base in central Israel killed four soldiers and severely wounded seven others Sunday, the military said, in the deadliest strike by the militant group since Israel launched its ground invasion of Lebanon nearly two weeks ago.

The Lebanon-based Hezbollah called the attack near Binyamina city retaliation for Israeli strikes on Beirut on Thursday that killed 22 people. It later said it targeted Israel's elite Golani brigade, launching dozens of missiles to occupy Israeli air defense systems during the assault by "squadrons" of drones.

Israel's national rescue service said the attack wounded 61. With Israel's advanced air-defense systems, it's rare for so many people to be injured by drones or missiles. Hezbollah and Israel have traded fire almost daily in the year since the war in Gaza began, and fighting has escalated.

Israel launched its ground operation in Lebanon earlier this month with the goal of weakening Hezbollah and pushing the militant group away from the border to allow thousands of displaced Israelis to return

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to their homes.

Inside Gaza, an Israeli airstrike killed at least 20 people including children at a school Sunday night, according to two local hospitals. The school in Nuseirat was sheltering some of the many Palestinians displaced by the war.

Meanwhile, explosions hit early Monday outside Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir al-Balah, killing three people and injuring about 50 others, the hospital said. Tents caught fire, and residents of the Central Gaza community carried the injured into the hospital.

Hezbollah's deadly strike in Israel came the same day that the United States announced it would send a new air-defense system to Israel to help bolster protection against missiles, along with troops needed to operate it. An Israeli army spokesperson declined to provide a timeline.

Israel is now at war with Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon — both Iran-backed militant groups — and is expected to strike Iran in retaliation for a missile attack earlier this month. Iran has said it will respond to any Israeli attack.

Netanyahu calls UN peacekeepers 'human shield' for Hezbollah

The U.N. peacekeeping force in Lebanon known as UNIFIL said Israeli tanks forcibly entered the gates of one position early Sunday and destroyed the main gate. They later fired smoke rounds near peacekeepers, causing skin irritation. UNIFIL called the incident a "further flagrant violation of international law."

International criticism is growing after Israeli forces have repeatedly fired on U.N. peacekeepers since the start of the ground operation in Lebanon. Five peacekeepers have been wounded in attacks that struck their positions, with most blamed on Israeli forces.

Stéphane Dujarric, spokesman for U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres, called Sunday's incident "deeply worrying" and said attacks against peacekeepers may constitute a war crime.

Israel's military says Hezbollah operates in the peacekeepers' vicinity, without providing evidence.

Military officials said a tank trying to evacuate wounded soldiers backed into a U.N. post Sunday while under fire. A smoke screen was used to provide cover, they said.

Army spokesman Lt. Col. Nadav Shoshani asserted that Israel has tried to maintain constant contact with UNIFIL, and any instance of U.N. forces being harmed will be investigated at "the highest level."

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday called for UNIFIL to heed Israel's warnings to evacuate, accusing them of "providing a human shield" to Hezbollah.

"We regret the injury to the UNIFIL soldiers, and we are doing everything in our power to prevent this injury. But the simple and obvious way to ensure this is simply to get them out of the danger zone," he said in a video addressed to the U.N. secretary-general, who has been banned from entering Israel.

Israel has long accused the United Nations of being biased against it, and relations have plunged further since the start of the war in Gaza.

Israeli strike in Lebanon destroys Ottoman-era market

Hezbollah began firing rockets into Israel a day after Hamas' surprise attack on Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, drawing retaliatory airstrikes. The conflict escalated in September with Israeli strikes that killed Hezbollah's leader, Hassan Nasrallah, and most of his senior commanders.

Israel launched a ground operation earlier this month. More than 1,400 people have been killed in Lebanon since September, according to Lebanon's Health Ministry, which does not say how many were Hezbollah fighters. At least 58 people have been killed in rocket attacks on Israel, nearly half of them soldiers.

Israeli airstrikes overnight destroyed an Ottoman-era market in Lebanon's southern city of Nabatiyeh, killing at least one person and wounding four.

"Our livelihoods have all been leveled," said Ahmad Fakhri, whose shop was destroyed. Rescuers searched pancaked buildings as Israeli drones buzzed overhead.

The Israeli military said it struck Hezbollah targets, without elaborating, and said it continued to target the militants on Sunday.

Separately, the Lebanese Red Cross said paramedics were searching for casualties in a house destroyed by an Israeli airstrike in southern Lebanon when a second strike left four paramedics with concussions and damaged two ambulances.

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The Red Cross said the operation had been coordinated with U.N. peacekeepers, who informed the Israeli side.

Bodies rot in the streets in northern Gaza

Israel continues to strike what it says are militant targets in Gaza almost daily. The military says it tries to avoid harming civilians and blames their deaths on Hamas and other armed groups because they operate in densely populated areas.

In northern Gaza, Israeli air and ground forces have been attacking Jabaliya, where the military says militants have regrouped. Over the past year, Israeli forces have repeatedly returned to the built-up refugee camp, which dates to the 1948 war surrounding Israel's creation, and other areas.

Israel has ordered the full evacuation of northern Gaza, including Gaza City. An estimated 400,000 people remain in the north after a mass evacuation ordered in the war's opening weeks.

Palestinians fear Israel intends to permanently depopulate the north to establish military bases or Jewish settlements there.

The United Nations says no food has entered northern Gaza since Oct. 1.

The military confirmed that hospitals were included in evacuation orders but said it had not set a timetable and was working with local authorities to facilitate patient transfers.

Fares Abu Hamza, an official with the Gaza Health Ministry's emergency service, said the bodies of a "large number of martyrs" remain uncollected from the streets and under rubble.

"We are unable to reach them," he said, asserting that dogs are eating some remains.

The war began when Hamas-led militants attacked a year ago, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting around 250. Around 100 hostages are still held in Gaza, a third believed to be dead.

Israel's bombardment and its ground invasion of Gaza have killed over 42,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, and left much of the territory in ruins. The ministry doesn't distinguish between militants or civilians, but says women and children make up over half the deaths.

Israel says it has killed over 17,000 fighters, without providing evidence.

## Man with loaded gun arrested at checkpoint near Donald Trump's weekend rally in Southern California

By CHRISTOPHER WEBER Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A Nevada man with a shotgun, loaded handgun, ammunition and several fake passports in his vehicle was arrested at a security checkpoint outside Donald Trump's rally Saturday night in the Southern California desert, authorities said. He was released the same day on \$5,000 bail.

The suspect, a 49-year-old resident of Las Vegas, was driving an unregistered black SUV with a "home-made" license plate that was stopped by deputies assigned to the rally in Coachella, east of Los Angeles, Riverside County Sheriff Chad Bianco said at a news conference Sunday afternoon.

The driver claimed to be a journalist but it was unclear if he had the proper credentials. Deputies noticed the interior of the vehicle was "in disarray" and a search uncovered the weapons and ammo, along with multiple passports and driver licenses with different names, Bianco said.

The man was arrested on suspicion of possessing a loaded firearm and possession of a high-capacity magazine, the department said in a statement.

"This incident did not impact the safety of former President Trump or attendees of the event," the Saturday statement said. Trump had not yet arrived at the rally at the time of the arrest, the sheriff said Sunday.

The suspect is scheduled to appear in court on Jan. 2, 2025, according to online records.

Bianco declined to speculate about the suspect's motives or frame of mind. "We know we prevented something bad from happening, and it was irrelevant what that bad was going to be," Bianco said.

The man made it past an outer security boundary and was stopped at an inner perimeter patrolled by the sheriff's department, Bianco said. Another security checkpoint closer to the rally site was operated by the Secret Service.

"The U.S. Secret Service assesses that the incident did not impact protective operations and former

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President Trump was not in any danger," the U.S. Attorney's Office said in a statement Sunday. "While no federal arrest has been made at this time, the investigation is ongoing."

Media members, as well as VIP ticket holders, were routed through a number of intersections manned by state and local law enforcement officers before arriving at a large, grassy area where drivers were asked to open hoods and trunks, and each vehicle was searched by a K-9 officer. Other general ticket holders were directed to a site roughly 3 miles away from the rally, where they were boarded onto buses and driven to the site.

Trump's campaign did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the arrest.

Security is very tight at Trump rallies following two recent assassination attempts. Last month, a man was indicted on an attempted assassination charge after authorities said he staked out the former president for 12 hours and wrote of his desire to kill him. The Florida arrest came two months after Trump was shot and wounded in the ear in an assassination attempt during a campaign rally in Pennsylvania.

## Sri Lanka closes schools as floods hammer the capital

By BHARATHA MALLAWARACHI Associated Press

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — Sri Lanka closed schools in the capital Colombo and suburbs on Monday as heavy rains triggered floods in many parts of the island nation.

Heavy downpours over the weekend have wreaked havoc in many parts of the country, flooding homes, fields and roads. Three people drowned, while some 134,000 people have been affected by flooding, according to the country's Disaster Management Centre.

The center said rains and floods have damaged 240 houses and nearly 7,000 people have been evacuated. Authorities have cut electricity in some areas as a precaution.

Navy and army troops have been deployed to rescue victims and provide food and other essentials.

Local television channels showed flooded towns in the suburbs of Colombo. In some areas, waters reached the roofs of houses and shops.

Sri Lanka has been grappling with severe weather conditions since May, mostly caused by heavy monsoon rains. In June, 16 people died due to floods and mudslides.

## This could have been a year of a federal court reckoning for Trump. Judges had other ideas

By ERIC TUCKER and ALANNA DURKIN RICHER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The indictment charging Donald Trump with hoarding classified documents leveled one jaw-dropping allegation after another, including that he showed off a secret Pentagon attack plan to guests at his golf club and suggested his lawyer mislead the FBI about the presence of the White House records.

But those details proved beside the point to the Trump-appointed judge presiding over the prosecution, who dismissed the case on grounds that the special counsel who brought it was unlawfully put in the job.

A separate criminal case accusing Trump of conspiring to overturn the outcome of the 2020 election seemed an opportunity for a trial this year focused on Trump's failed effort to retain power after his loss to Democrat Joe Biden.

But the Supreme Court erased that possibility with an opinion that granted former presidents expansive immunity from prosecution.

A year that began with the prospect of a federal court reckoning for Trump will end without any chance of a trial, leaving voters without the finality of an up-or-down jury verdict in the two most consequential cases against the Republican presidential nominee. Yet both cases still loom over the election, their potential resurgence in the coming months making clear that at stake on Nov. 5 is not only the presidency but also possibly Trump's liberty.

If Trump loses to Democrat Kamala Harris, he is at risk of trial and possible conviction in the classified

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documents case, assuming a federal appeals court revives it, or in the election interference case, where prosecutors issued a new indictment after the Supreme Court's immunity opinion.

If Trump wins the White House, his attorney general could end both cases, and an already delayed sentencing in his state hush money case in New York — his only prosecution to reach a jury and end with a conviction — will be in even further flux.

That neither federal case made it to trial despite being brought well over a year ago highlights the complexities of prosecuting a former president and represents a vindication of sorts of the Trump team's strategy of delay. It's also a reflection of the immense hurdles prosecutors encountered before Republican-appointed judges, some of them selected by Trump, who in one case articulated a hugely expansive and novel view of presidential power and in the other appeared deeply skeptical of the prosecution's premise well before derailing it.

"The reality is that efforts to hold the former president legally accountable (before the election), independent of the realm of politics, have failed in a wide variety of venues for a wide variety of reasons," said Temple University law professor Craig Green.

"And what that means is it's up to the American people" — not the courts — "what they have in mind for their future president."

The Florida dismissal

The dismissal of the classified documents indictment was especially stunning because the case was seen inside the Justice Department and by legal experts as the most legally straightforward of the Trump prosecutions. Unlike the election interference case, it concerned behavior that occurred after Trump had left office in January 2021 and for which federal prosecutions are routine.

The outcome followed nearly two years of tensions between prosecutors and Aileen Cannon, a federal judge in Fort Pierce, Florida, with scant trial experience whose relationship with special counsel Jack Smith's team had long ago soured and whose willingness to entertain all manner of motions by Trump's defense lawyers had snarled the case before its eventual dismissal.

An indication of just how far afield the case had strayed from core factual issues was evident during a June hearing where Cannon occupied herself with the so-called Reno Regulations, the Ethics in Government Act and an esoteric legal principle, the "de facto officer doctrine."

By day's end, the government's simmering exasperation had boiled over, with prosecutor David Harbach complaining that because of Cannon's persistent questions, he'd been able to make only one of his points.

"Mr. Harbach," she snapped. "I don't appreciate your tone. I think we've been here before, and I would expect decorum in this courtroom at all times."

The hearing ended without a ruling.

But three weeks later, and two days after Trump survived an assassination attempt at a campaign rally in Pennsylvania, Cannon dismissed the case. Siding with Trump's arguments, she ruled that Smith had been appointed illegally by Attorney General Merrick Garland and should have been subject to confirmation by the Senate. Smith appealed, calling Cannon's ruling contrary to decades of precedent.

It's unclear how long it will take for the appeal to resolve, but if Cannon's opinion is overturned and Trump loses the election, prosecutors would be able to resurrect compelling evidence accrued during the investigation.

That includes an audio recording of Trump boasting of a sensitive document he said he knew was classified and security camera footage showing boxes of records being moved from a storage room at Mar-a-Lago, his Florida home, days before investigators came to collect documents. When that June 2022 visit occurred, a Trump lawyer handed over a single folder even though boxes of files remained at the property.

That August, the FBI recovered 11 sets of classified documents during a search of Mar-a-Lago, an action that followed heated disagreements between FBI and Justice Department officials focused less on the strength of the evidence and more on whether it was the appropriate investigative step.

Trump has maintained he did nothing wrong by retaining records from his presidency.

The investigation was far along by the time Smith, a war crimes prosecutor in The Hague and a known

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commodity inside the Justice Department who'd been brought in more than a decade earlier to lead its public corruption section, was appointed by Garland in November 2022.

Once on the job, Smith took steps to press the case toward indictment — his team successfully argued before a federal appeals court to secure grand jury testimony from a lead Trump lawyer, M. Evan Corcoran, whose cooperation Trump had sought to block by invoking attorney-client privilege.

Though Trump's legal peril had long been clear, one late surprise surfaced when prosecutors began presenting evidence to a grand jury in Florida — rather than the one in Washington they had been using — to obtain the indictment. After all, the documents were found in Florida and indicting the case there would avert a court fight over proper venue.

The decision carried significant risk.

Before the indictment was unsealed, word came that the case had been assigned — randomly, the court clerk said — to Cannon.

It was an unwelcome development for a Justice Department that had tangled with her a year earlier when she ruled in favor of Trump's request for an independent arbiter to review the records seized by the FBI. That order was overturned by a unanimous federal appeals panel after prosecutors vigorously objected.

The fraught dynamic resumed where it had left off as prosecutors' desire for a trial collided with Cannon's deliberative, often quixotic, style that permitted drawn-out disputes on seemingly peripheral motions and produced flashes of exasperation.

When Cannon initially permitted the defense to file a motion that would include names of government witnesses, prosecutors implored her to reconsider, citing what they said were security risks. When she asked the two sides to formulate jury instructions, prosecutors complained that she had articulated a "fundamentally flawed" premise of the case.

Under her watch, long-shot defense requests lingered for months, causing delays that led her to indefinitely postpone the trial date. She held a hearing on Trump's legally questionable claim that he was permitted under the Presidential Records Act to take the files to Mar-a-Lago, and agreed before dismissing the case to revisit a different judge's order that gave prosecutors access to Corcoran, Trump's lawyer.

Smith's team had hoped for a trial that could have started last spring. Instead, prosecutors found themselves before Cannon for a multiday hearing in June over Smith's appointment, where Harbach lamented that defense lawyers had been permitted to "hijack" the proceedings with what he said were frivolous arguments.

Days later, Trump's lawyers got an unexpected lift from the Supreme Court immunity ruling, which included a concurring opinion from Justice Clarence Thomas backing their position that Smith's appointment was illegal.

Just like that, an argument that to many legal experts seemed dubious had an endorsement from a member of the nation's highest court.

Even as frustrations mounted, department officials never sought Cannon's removal from the case, a low-probability request that likely would have exacerbated relations had it failed. They did not do so even when they told the Atlanta-based 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in August that her order dismissing the case relied on a "nonsensical" analysis.

The appeal is pending before that court, which has the option to reassign the case if it reverses Cannon's ruling.

The Washington delay

Late last year, the judge overseeing Trump's election interference case was pushing toward trial.

With an eye toward a March 2024 date, U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan planned to summon District of Columbia residents to complete a questionnaire in a step toward winnowing the potential juror pool. Officials braced for a crush of reporters covering the historic trial.

It screeched to a halt in December.

From the start, allegations that Trump broke the law through actions he took in the White House seemed destined for a protracted court fight testing the limits of presidential power. So it was hardly surprising when Trump's lawyers demanded the case's dismissal, arguing he enjoyed absolute immunity from prosecution.

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Chutkan, who was nominated by Democratic President Barack Obama, rejected the argument with a December ruling that said the office of the president “does not confer a lifelong ‘get-out-of-jail-free’ pass.”

But crucially, she put the case on hold to give Trump time to appeal to Washington’s federal appeals court and ultimately the Supreme Court.

It would be nearly a year from the time the case was frozen before it was back in Chutkan’s courtroom. By then, the indictment was slimmed down, and it wasn’t clear when — if ever — there would be a trial.

The investigation into the attack on the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021 — which has become the largest in Justice Department history — had consumed agents and prosecutors by the time Garland was sworn in as attorney general two months later.

Prosecutors had begun charging rioters through a bottom-up investigative strategy heavily focused on the most violent offenders who attacked police and far-right militia group members who were suspected of planning and coordination. Another investigative effort searching for financial ties between the rioters and Trump allies ultimately hit a dead end.

One year into the investigation, Garland defended the department’s deliberate pace as pressure mounted for the Justice Department to hold accountable more than just those who stormed the seat of American democracy.

“The Justice Department remains committed to holding all January 6th perpetrators, at any level, accountable under law — whether they were present that day or were otherwise criminally responsible for the assault on our democracy,” Garland said at the time. “We will follow the facts wherever they lead.”

The facts led squarely to Trump, according to a conspiracy and obstruction indictment filed nearly nine months after Smith’s appointment. Trump, for his part, has repeatedly maintained that he was entitled to challenge an election that he still insists was stolen even though judges and his own attorney general concluded otherwise.

The Trump team’s pursuit of immunity claims, which Chutkan swatted away without a hearing, snarled the case before it could ever develop.

Without ever explicitly mentioning the 2024 election, Smith’s team in December asked the Supreme Court to leapfrog Washington’s federal appeals court and rule quickly on whether Trump could be prosecuted. Acknowledging the “extraordinary request,” Smith’s team called it “an extraordinary case.” Trump’s campaign accused Smith of trying to rush to trial for political purposes.

After the Supreme Court denied Smith’s request to immediately take up the case, the federal appeals court heard arguments and joined Chutkan in turning aside the immunity claims. It would be another two months before the Supreme Court, in late April, said it was prepared to consider the case.

During arguments, several conservative justices indicated they were prepared to limit when former presidents might be prosecuted.

“This case has huge implications for the presidency, for the future of the presidency, for the future of the country,” said Justice Brett Kavanaugh. The court, added Justice Neil Gorsuch, is writing a decision “for the ages.” Both were nominated by Trump.

The Supreme Court moved quickly in prior cases involving presidents, deciding the 1974 Watergate tapes case against Republican President Richard Nixon just 16 days after arguments. In Trump’s case, the justices issued their ruling on July 1, the last day of their term and more than nine weeks after having heard arguments.

The decision held that Trump was absolutely immune from prosecution for acts involving core constitutional functions — in the process, stripping from the indictment Trump’s dealings with the Justice Department — and at least presumptively immune for other official actions. The court also reaffirmed that no immunity exists for a president’s private acts, like those taken as a candidate.

But the justices didn’t spell out which allegations Trump could be prosecuted for, leaving it to Chutkan to decide. Smith subsequently filed a new indictment removing references to allegations that prosecutors believed could be considered official acts.

Among the acts in legal limbo is Trump’s badgering of his vice president, Mike Pence, to refuse to certify

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the electoral results. Pence, who had declined to testify before Congress, became an important witness for Smith's team after prosecutors secured court approval to enforce a subpoena for his grand jury testimony. It was a key courtroom victory given his proximity to the then-president and the fact that Pence took contemporaneous notes of conversations with Trump.

With prosecutors and Trump's lawyers back in her courtroom for the first time this year, Chutkan vowed in September that the election would not affect how she proceeded. She acknowledged that whatever she decided would be appealed again, likely to the Supreme Court.

That means a trial, if it happens at all, could be a year or more away.

"There's no rush to judgment here," Chutkan said.

## The path forward

The classified documents case remains frozen unless an appeals court resurrects it.

That's in contrast to the election interference case, where, in an effort to persuade Chutkan that the case should proceed, prosecutors submitted a 165-page brief featuring revelations about the alleged conspiracy.

In one example, the filing unsealed this month quotes Trump as saying "the details don't matter" when he was told that bogus election fraud claims would not stand up in court. And it says he responded with "So what?" when informed that Pence was in potential peril at the Capitol on Jan. 6.

No matter what happens, the cases' topsy-turvy trajectory provides further proof that accountability for a president — whether through an impeachment process or criminal case — is never guaranteed, said Princeton University presidential historian Julian Zelizer.

The public is "counting on elected presidents to follow certain legal guardrails." But, he added, "holding them accountable is not very easy at all."

## **Dodgers tie postseason mark of 33 straight scoreless innings, top Mets 9-0 in NLCS opener**

By BETH HARRIS AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — After spending the first seven years of his big league career back East, Jack Flaherty came home. He joined a winning team in the Los Angeles Dodgers and helped make a bit of playoff history.

Flaherty combined on a three-hitter and Los Angeles Dodgers pitchers tied the postseason record of 33 consecutive scoreless innings by routing the New York Mets 9-0 Sunday night in the NL Championship Series opener.

"I saw some family out there when I was warming up and I had gone to games here with them before, so it just kind of lets you relax a little bit," he said. "Felt I tried to do too much the last couple times out in some big games. Just allowed me to be myself and just go out and pitch and trust my stuff and trust the guys behind me."

Los Angeles knocked out a wild Kodai Senga in the second inning, built a six-run lead by the fourth and matched the scoreless record set by Baltimore Orioles pitchers over the first four games of the 1966 World Series against the Dodgers.

Backed by chants of "MVP! MVP!" Shohei Ohtani was 2 for 4 with a walk while scoring two runs and driving in another.

Mookie Betts added a three-run double in the eighth in the largest shutout victory margin in Dodgers postseason history, also the Mets' most one-sided postseason shutout defeat.

"Our energy all started with Jack," Betts said. "Jack really gave it to us today."

Game 2 of the best-of-seven series is Monday afternoon.

Flaherty allowed two hits over seven innings in the Dodgers' first scoreless postseason start of seven-plus innings since Clayton Kershaw's eight innings in the 2020 NL Wild Card Series.

"It was just a pitching clinic," Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said. "I thought he did a great job of filling up the strike zone with his complete mix. Once we caught a lead, he did a great job of just going after those guys and attacking. For us to get seven innings in a long series was huge."



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Flaherty left to a standing ovation from the sellout crowd of 53,503. The 28-year-old right-hander from nearby Burbank returned home from Detroit at the July 30 trade deadline and has been a steadying presence in a rotation hard-hit by injuries.

"He's got an aura about him," Dodgers catcher Will Smith said. "He's super competitive, super focused."

Flaherty got a hug from Roberts and then the pitcher hugged his mother who sat behind home plate. Some of his buddies from their Little League days in the San Fernando Valley were on hand, too.

"This game is a lot of fun and I've been lucky to do it since I was a little kid," Flaherty said. "As high pressure as they get, I just tell the guys it's going to be fun. We've got to remember that sometimes."

Flaherty retired his first nine batters, extending the Dodgers streak of consecutive hitters retired to 28, before walking Francisco Lindor leading off the fourth. New York's only hits off him were a pair of singles by Jesse Winker and Jose Iglesias in the fifth. Flaherty struck out six.

"He was getting ahead with his fastball and then the slider, the breaking ball, the slow curve kept us off-balance, but he was getting ahead and making pitches," rookie Mets manager Carlos Mendoza said.

"He tried to make us chase, which we did the first time through the order. Then he was just on."

Daniel Hudson and Ben Casparius pitched an inning each.

Lindor was 0 for 3 with a walk and a strikeout and Pete Alonso went hitless in three at-bats with a walk and a strikeout.

The Dodgers rallied from the brink of elimination against San Diego to win the NL Division Series in five games with shutouts in the last two games.

They opened their pursuit of a record 25th NL pennant by chasing Senga after 1 1/3 innings of his just third overall start in a year decimated by injuries. The Japanese right-hander walked four of his first eight batters, including three in a row in a 14-pitch span in the first inning.

"He didn't have it," Mendoza said. "He didn't have the life on his fastball and a lot of balls out of hand, non-competitive pitches, especially the split. You could tell that the way that they were taking those pitches they were balls out of the hand."

Senga walked the bases loaded with one out in the first, when just seven of his 23 pitches were thrown for strikes. Max Muncy singled up the middle, scoring Betts and a hobbled Freddie Freeman, who touched the plate with his left foot to protect his sprained right ankle. He staggered into the arms of Betts, who steadied the much bigger and taller Freeman.

Ohtani chased Senga with an RBI single in the second and the Dodgers tacked on three runs in the fourth off reliever David Peterson as Tommy Edman and Freeman had RBI singles.

UP NEXT

Mets Sean Manaea starts Game 2 after winning Game 3 of the NL Division Series against Philadelphia. It'll be the first time the Dodgers face a lefty starter in this postseason. The Dodgers didn't say who will start a bullpen game for them.

## Republican lawsuits target rules for overseas voters, but those ballots are already sent

By CHRISTINA A. CASSIDY and NICHOLAS RICCARDI Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — The latest method of voting to fall into the political crosshairs is the way overseas voters — including members of the military stationed abroad — cast their ballots.

The process is governed by federal law and implemented by states. In recent weeks, Republicans have been challenging how states handle these voters, something former President Donald Trump didn't do in 2020 when he and his allies challenged his loss in court.

But things have changed, with just a month before Election Day and a tight race between Trump and Vice President Kamala Harris. It's part of a broader legal strategy by Republicans to position themselves for post-election challenges should Trump lose.

Ballots already have been sent to overseas and military voters under a federally mandated deadline.

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Trump and his Republican allies contend these ballots could be part of an elaborate scheme to steal the election from him, a claim for which there is no evidence. Their challenge comes as the voters who receive the ballots are increasingly from groups that are presumed to be Democratic.

Here's a look at the issues involved and what's driving the claims.

Who are these voters?

Congress passed a law in 1986 that was signed by then-President Ronald Reagan requiring states to allow certain groups of citizens to register and vote absentee in federal elections. Known as the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, or UOCAVA, it applies to military members, their family and U.S. citizens living outside the country.

In 2020, states sent more than 1.2 million ballots to military and overseas voters. Of those, more than 900,000 were returned and nearly 890,000 were counted, according to data collected by the U.S. Election Assistance Commission.

Before 2016, military members and eligible family members represented most of these voters, according to the commission. But that has shifted slightly. In 2020, overseas citizens accounted for 57.4% of the registered voters. Overall, 40% of all military and overseas ballots were cast in three states: California, Florida and Washington.

That shift explains why Trump and other Republicans may be turning on the program. While military voters are presumed to vote for the GOP, other overseas voters are widely assumed to lean Democratic. This year, for the first time, the Democratic Party is spending money to try to turn them out.

The Federal Voting Assistance Program, which supports military and overseas voters, estimates that 2.8 million U.S. citizens of voting age were living overseas in 2022.

Election officials who receive their applications "do everything they can to verify that these are eligible voters and not just persons without any kind of identification," said Election Assistance Commission member Christy A. McCormick.

How do overseas voters register and cast ballots?

Federal law allows qualified military or overseas voters to register to vote and request an absentee ballot at the same time, using what is known as the federal postcard application, which can be submitted electronically in many states. This is aimed at addressing the challenges military and overseas voters can face, such as slow or even unavailable mail delivery. Other accommodations include requiring states to have a system for delivering ballots electronically.

The federal postcard application asks applicants to provide their name, address, birth date, Social Security number and driver's license. That information is logged and checked based on state procedures, according to Tammy Patrick, a former election official with the National Association of Election Officials.

"It's not the case that anyone in the world can apply for a ballot. They still have to demonstrate they are an eligible American citizen," she said.

Each person completing the form must also sign an oath under penalty of perjury that the information is correct, that they are a U.S. citizen, that they are not disqualified from voting and are not requesting a ballot or voting in any other jurisdiction in the U.S.

Unlike other voters, overseas voters can use an address where they have not lived for several years.

All but 13 states allow U.S. citizens born overseas but who have never lived in the U.S. to register and vote using a parent's last residential address, according to data collected by the Election Assistance Commission.

What are the Republicans' claims?

In Pennsylvania, a group of Republican members of Congress is asking a federal judge to order county elections officials to verify the identity and eligibility of military and overseas voters. They also want ballots cast by those voters to be kept apart from other ballots for the Nov. 5 election.

The lawsuit claims current practices have created "an illegally structured election process which makes Pennsylvania's elections vulnerable to ineligible votes by individuals or entities who could purport to be UOCAVA-eligible."

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Out of nearly 27,000 military and overseas ballots cast in Pennsylvania in 2020, 1,363 — or 5% — were rejected. That's a higher rejection rate than all but one state, according to federal data.

The lawsuits filed by the Republican National Committee argue that Michigan and North Carolina should not be allowing overseas voters who have never lived in their state to vote.

Why are these claims being raised now?

The warnings about overseas ballot fraud join a very long list of Trump allegations of rampant fraud in U.S. elections, even though there has been no evidence of any widespread fraud. Reviews, recounts and audits in the battleground states where Trump disputed his 2020 loss all affirmed President Joe Biden's victory, and his own attorney general said there was no evidence of fraud that could have tipped the election.

Trump has claimed without evidence that huge numbers of non-citizens vote, that mail ballots are forged and that voting machines are secretly programmed against him. The goal has been to sow doubt about the reliability of any election he loses, enabling him to try to overturn his defeat.

Politically, Trump has tried to distinguish between military voters, who traditionally vote Republican, and other overseas voters. The Democratic Party in August announced it planned to spend about \$300,000 trying to turn out overseas voters on behalf of Harris, its first expenditure on that group.

"They want to dilute the TRUE vote of our beautiful military and their families," Trump claimed of Democrats in a Sept. 23 post on his social media network.

It's likely, though, that challenges to these voters would carry consequences for both groups, including the military voters that Republicans routinely count on to pad their totals in close elections.

A spokesperson for the Republican National Committee said the litigation is aimed at preventing unlawful votes from diluting lawful ones.

"The point of the election integrity lawsuits is to fix the holes that we know exist as much as possible before the election," RNC spokesperson Claire Zunk said.

What do election officials say?

With less than a month before the Nov. 5 election, now is not the time to raise objections to state law that has been in place for 13 years, said Patrick Gannon, a spokesman for the North Carolina State Board of Elections.

"This lawsuit was filed after voting had already begun in North Carolina for the general election," Gannon said in a statement. "The time to challenge the rules for voter eligibility is well before an election, not after votes have already been cast."

In Michigan, the relevant state laws and procedures also have been on the books for years, according to state election officials. A state law passed in 1995 says a spouse or dependent of an overseas voter who is a U.S. citizen can register using their parent's or spouse's Michigan address.

State election officials said local offices follow standard procedures to check the identity of all those seeking to register to vote in Michigan. That includes military and overseas voters, who are required to renew their status every year. Their ballots also are subject to the same checks as those cast by non-military and overseas voters, including signature verification.

"This is not a legitimate legal concern — just the latest in the RNC's PR campaign to spread unfounded distrust in the integrity of our elections," said Angela Benander, spokeswoman for the Michigan secretary of state's office.

In Pennsylvania, ballots cast by ineligible voters occur at "extremely low" rates and are investigated, said Matt Heckel, spokesman for the state election office. Heckel said anyone who lies on the form faces substantial penalties, including a potential felony conviction, prison sentence and fine.

The Democratic National Committee has filed a motion to dismiss the Pennsylvania case.

"Plaintiffs' inexcusably belated request for relief in the middle of an election would create chaos for election administration, confuse voters and potentially disenfranchise tens of thousands of eligible Pennsylvanians who wear their nation's uniform or are otherwise living overseas," the DNC said in its brief.

## Trump's protests aside, his agenda has plenty of overlap with Project 2025

By BILL BARROW Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Donald Trump insists that Project 2025, a nearly 1,000-page blueprint for a hard-right turn in American government and society, does not reflect his priorities for a White House encore.

"I haven't read it. I don't want to read it — purposefully," the Republican presidential nominee said Sept. 10 on the debate stage.

Yet from economics, immigration and education policy to civil rights and foreign affairs, there are common ideas and shared ideology between Project 2025 and Trump's outline for another term — from his official "Agenda 47" slate, the Republican platform he personally approved and his other statements.

There are also differences: Project 2025, led by the Heritage Foundation and written by many conservatives who worked in or with Trump's administration, offers more particulars on some issues than the former president.

Here's a look at how Trump's 2024 campaign and Project 2025 align and deviate:

**Key tax proposals could benefit the wealthy**

**TRUMP:** His tax policies lean broadly toward corporations and wealthier Americans. That's mostly due to his promise to extend his 2017 overhaul while lowering the corporate rate to 15% from the current 21%. He also would end Inflation Reduction Act levies that are financing energy measures intended to combat climate change. Those ideas aside, Trump has put more emphasis on his plans aimed at working- and middle-class Americans: exempting earned tips, Social Security payments and overtime wages from income taxes. His proposal on tips, however, could give a back-door tax break to top wage earners by allowing them to reclassify some pay as tip income — a prospect that, at its most extreme, could see hedge-fund managers or top attorneys taking advantage of a provision Trump frames as an aid to restaurant servers, bartenders and other service workers.

**PROJECT 2025:** The document goes further than Trump, calling for two federal income tax rates — 15% and 30% — while eliminating most deductions and credits. It envisions a "nearly flat tax on wage income beyond the standard deduction" by adjusting what income is subjected to the payroll taxes that pay for Social Security and Medicare. An effectively flat tax federally would increase the overall share of taxes paid by poorer and middle-class Americans. That's because many state and local tax codes, anchored by transactional taxes and flatter income taxes, are more regressive than current federal income tax brackets. Project 2025 also calls for requiring a two-thirds vote in Congress to raise corporate or individual income taxes in the future.

**Both want to reimpose Trump-era immigration limits**

**TRUMP:** "Build the wall!" from 2016 has become creating "the largest mass deportation program in history." Trump calls for enlisting National Guard and police, though he's not said how he'd ensure they target only people in the U.S. illegally. He has pitched "ideological screening" for would-be entrants and ending birthright citizenship (which likely would require a constitutional change). He has also said he'd reinstitute first-term policies such as "Remain in Mexico," limiting migrants on public health grounds and severely limiting or banning entrants from certain majority-Muslim nations. In full, his approach would not just crack down on illegal migration but also limit immigration altogether.

**PROJECT 2025:** There is a litany of detailed proposals for various U.S. immigration statutes, executive branch rules and agreements with other countries — reducing the number of refugees, work visa recipients and asylum seekers, for example. Perhaps the most instructive statement from Project 2025 is its call to reinstate "every rule related to immigration that was issued" during Trump's 2017-2021 term.

**Both would ramp up executive power and the authority to fire federal employees**

**TRUMP:** He frames regulatory cuts as an economic cure-all. He pledges precipitous drops in U.S. households' utility bills by removing speed bumps for fossil fuel production, including opening all federal lands for exploration. (U.S. energy production and exports are at record highs under President Joe Biden.) Trump promises to boost housing stock by cutting regulations, though most construction rules come from state

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and local governments.

Two broad proposals and ideas stand out: The first would make it easier to fire federal workers by classifying thousands more of them as being outside civil service protections. That almost certainly would weaken the government's power to enforce statutes and rules by reducing the number of employees engaging in the work. The second is Trump's assertion that the president has exclusive power to control federal spending despite Congress' appropriations power. Trump argues that lawmakers "set a ceiling" on spending but not a floor — meaning the president's constitutional duty to "faithfully execute the laws" grants him discretion on whether to spend the money.

PROJECT 2025: The authors make scores of calls for the president, Cabinet and other political appointees to slash regulations, reclassify federal employees to make them easier to fire, reduce "unaccountable federal spending" and set a course from the West Wing. "The Administrative State is not going anywhere until Congress acts to retrieve its own power from bureaucrats and the White House," they write. "In the meantime, there are many executive tools a courageous conservative president can use to handcuff the bureaucracy (and) bring the Administrative State to heel."

Both would roll back DEI and LGBTQ programs

TRUMP: The former president wants to end government diversity programs, using federal funding as leverage, and he would target existing protections for LGBTQ individuals. On transgender rights, he promises to end "boys in girls' sports," a practice he insists, without evidence, is rampant. Trump would reverse Biden's extension of Title IX civil rights protections to transgender students and ask Congress to allow only two gender choices at birth.

PROJECT 2025: Government should "affirm that children require and deserve both the love and nurturing of a mother and the play and protection of a father." That philosophy permeates Project 2025, which defines the ideal family — and individual — in narrow, traditionalist terms. Authors envision consolidating federal civil rights efforts within the Justice Department's civil rights division, with enforcement coming only through litigation. That effectively would concentrate the choice of how and when to enforce civil rights law with the attorney general — and, by extension, the White House.

Both would abolish the Department of Education

TRUMP: The Department of Education would be targeted for elimination. That does not mean Trump wants Washington out of classrooms. Among other maneuvers, he would use federal appropriations as leverage to scrap diversity programs at all levels of education and compel K-12 schools to abolish tenure and adopt merit pay for teachers. He calls for pulling money from "any school or program pushing Critical Race Theory, gender ideology, or other inappropriate racial, sexual, or political content on our children."

Trump calls for redirecting universities' endowment money into an online "American Academy" offering college credentials to all Americans without charging tuition. "It will be strictly non-political, and there will be no wokeness or jihadism allowed," Trump said on Nov. 1, 2023.

PROJECT 2025: Congress should "shutter" the Department of Education and "return control of education to the states," Project 2025 argues, echoing Trump's argument that U.S. educational infrastructure imposes progressive indoctrination. The authors propose, among other things, eliminating the Head Start program, turning the Title I program into block grants and eventually phasing out that federal financing, and using the tax code to incentivize at-home child care, something GOP vice presidential nominee JD Vance advocates.

Both blast climate policy

TRUMP: Trump claims falsely that climate change is a "hoax" as he disparages Biden spending on cleaner energy designed to reduce U.S. reliance on fossil fuels. Trump would anchor energy and transportation policy to fossil fuels: roads, bridges and combustion-engine vehicles. Trump says he does not oppose electric vehicles but promises to end incentives that encourage EV-market development. And he would lower fuel efficiency standards.

PROJECT 2025: The document criticizes the Biden administration's "climate fanaticism." It proposes closing or limiting many programs for environmental protection and regulation, including those many Americans

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take for granted. Among them: the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which Project 2025 would eliminate, and the National Weather Service, which the document would steer toward exclusively selling weather data to private forecasters. It would leave the National Hurricane Center in place — though NHC depends on the National Weather Service to make forecasts. The plan would not repeal laws like the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act, but its regulatory and bureaucracy cuts would reduce their reach.

Project 2025 backs Ukraine's defense, while Trump has questioned US support

TRUMP: His strategy is more isolationist diplomatically, noninterventionist militarily and protectionist economically than the U.S. has been since World War II. But the details are more complicated. Trump pledges military expansion, promises robust Pentagon spending and proposes a missile defense shield — an idea from the Reagan era. He insists he can end Russia's war in Ukraine and Israel-Hamas fighting, though he has not explained how. He remains openly critical of NATO and top U.S. military brass. "I don't consider them leaders," he says. And he repeatedly praises authoritarians like Hungary's Viktor Orban and Russia's Vladimir Putin.

PROJECT 2025: Echoing Trump's vibe, the document calls for "tough love" in international relations — but with distinctions from Trump. On military preparedness, Project 2025 would curtail the number of generals but expand the number of enlisted personnel, though the authors do not call for reinstating a draft, as critics have alleged. Project 2025 is perhaps even more aggressive than Trump in its China rhetoric: "Economic engagement with China should be ended, not rethought," the foreword states.

On NATO, the blueprint echoes Trump's emphasis on other member nations paying more for their own defense, but it does not carry the inherent skepticism of NATO alliances that Trump has projected for years. And while Trump steadfastly refuses to criticize Putin for invading Ukraine, Project 2025 states: "Regardless of viewpoints, all sides agree that Putin's invasion of Ukraine is unjust and that the Ukrainian people have a right to defend their homeland."

## **Ailing and silenced in prison, Belarus activist symbolizes the nation's repression**

By YURAS KARMANAU Associated Press

TALLINN, Estonia (AP) — The last time any of Maria Kolesnikova's family had contact with the imprisoned Belarusian opposition activist was more than 18 months ago. Fellow inmates at the penal colony reported hearing her plead for medical help from inside her tiny and smelly cell.

Her father, Alexander Kolesnikov, told The Associated Press by phone from Minsk that he knows she's seriously ill and tried to visit her several months ago at the facility near Gomel, where she is serving an 11-year sentence, but has failed whenever he goes there.

On his last attempt, he said the warden told him, "If she doesn't call or doesn't write, that means she doesn't want to."

The 42-year-old musician-turned-activist is known to have been hospitalized in Gomel in May or June, but the outcome was unclear, said a former prisoner who identified herself only as Natalya because she feared retaliation from authorities.

"I can only pray to God that she is still alive," Kolesnikov said in an interview. "The authorities are ignoring my requests for a meeting and for letters — it is a terrible feeling of impotence for a father."

Kolesnikova gained prominence when mass protests erupted in Belarus after the widely disputed August 2020 election gave authoritarian President Alexander Lukashenko a sixth term in office. With her close-cropped hair, broad smile and a gesture of forming her outstretched hands into the shape of a heart, she often was seen at the front of the demonstrations.

She became an even greater symbol of defiance in September of that year when Belarusian authorities tried to deport her. Driven to the Ukrainian border, she briefly broke away from security forces in the neutral zone at the frontier and tore up her passport, then walked back into Belarus. She was convicted a year later of charges including conspiracy to seize power.

Natalya, whose cell was next to Kolesnikova's before being released in August, said she had not heard

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her talking to guards for six months. Other inmates heard Kolesnikova's pleas for medical assistance, she said, but reported that doctors did not come for "a very long time."

In November 2022, Kolesnikova was moved to an intensive care ward to undergo surgery for a perforated ulcer. Other prisoners become aware of her movements because "it feels like martial law has been declared" in the cellblock, Natalya said. "Other prisoners are strictly forbidden not only to talk, but even to exchange glances with Maria."

Her sister, Tatiana Khomich, said she was told by former inmates that the 5-foot-9-inch Kolesnikova weighed only about 45 kilograms (100 pounds).

"They are slowly killing Maria, and I consider that this is a critical period because no one can survive in such conditions," said Khomich, who lives outside Belarus.

The last time Kolesnikova wrote from prison was in February 2023. Letters to her "are ripped up before her eyes by prison personnel," her sister said, relaying accounts from other former inmates.

Kolesnikova, who before the 2020 protests was a classical flautist who was especially knowledgeable about baroque music, is one of several major Lukashenko opponents to disappear behind bars.

The prisons department of the Belarusian Interior Ministry refused to comment on Kolesnikova's case.

The U.N. Human Rights Committee has repeatedly demanded Belarusian authorities take "urgent protective measures" in relation to Kolesnikova and other political prisoners held incommunicado. In September, the European Parliament demanded that Belarus release all political prisoners.

Former inmates say Kolesnikova wore a yellow tag that indicates a political prisoner. That marks them for additional abuse by guards and officials, rights advocates say.

The human rights group Viasna counts about 1,300 political prisoners in Belarus, including the group's Nobel Peace Prize-winning founder, Ales Bialiatsky. At least six have died behind bars.

"It was too late to save Alexei Navalny (from prison in Russia), and it was too late for six people in Belarus. We and the Western world don't have much time to save Maria's life," Khomich said.

Amnesty International has begun a campaign to raise awareness about Kolesnikova's fate, urging people to take up her plight with Western officials and politicians.

Other prominent opposition figures who are imprisoned and have not been heard from in a year or more include Siarhei Tsikhanouski, who planned to challenge Lukashenko in the 2020 election but was imprisoned; his wife, Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, took his place on the ballot and was forced to leave the country the day after the vote.

Aspiring opposition candidate Viktor Babaryka also was imprisoned before the election as his popularity among prospective voters soared. Kolesnikova was his campaign manager but then joined forces with Tsikhanouskaya. Prominent opposition figure Mikola Statkevich and Kolesnikova's lawyer, Maxim Znak, are imprisoned and have not contacted the outside world since the winter of 2023.

Lukashenko denies Belarus has any political prisoners. At the same time, in recent months he has unexpectedly released 115 prisoners whose cases had political elements; those released had health problems, wrote petitions for pardons and repented.

Belarus is deeply integrated with Russia and some observers believe Lukashenko is concerned about the extent of his dependence on Moscow, hoping to restore some ties with the EU by releasing political prisoners ahead of a presidential election next year.

"Minsk is returning to the practice of bargaining with the West to try to soften sanctions and achieve at least partial recognition of the results of the upcoming presidential election," said Belarusian analyst Alexander Friedman. "Lukashenko's regime is interested in not becoming part of Russia and therefore wants at least some communication with the West, offering to talk about political prisoners"

Lukashenko's critics and human rights activists say they see no real change in government policy, since all leading pro-democracy figures are still behind bars and authorities have seized three times as many opposition activists to refill the prisons.

"It is difficult to consider these pardons as a real thaw, since the repressions continue, but the West should encourage Lukashenko to continue releasing political prisoners," Khomich said. "The regime is sending clear signals to Western countries about its readiness to release people, and it's very important

that (the signal) is heard, and the opportunity is seized.”

## **Indigenous Peoples Day celebrated with an eye on the election**

By HALLIE GOLDEN Associated Press

As Native Americans across the U.S. come together on Monday for Indigenous Peoples Day to celebrate their history and culture and acknowledge the ongoing challenges they face, many will do so with a focus on the election.

From a voting rally in Minneapolis featuring food, games and raffles to a public talk about the Native vote at Virginia Tech, the holiday, which comes about three weeks before Election Day, will feature a wide array of events geared toward Native voter mobilization and outreach amid a strong recognition of the power of their votes.

In 2020, Native voters proved decisive in the presidential election. Voter turnout on tribal land in Arizona increased dramatically compared with the previous presidential election, helping Joe Biden win a state that hadn't supported a Democratic candidate in a White House contest since 1996.

Janeen Comenote, executive director of the National Urban Indian Family Coalition, which is involved with at least a dozen of these types of voting events across the country, said this year it's especially important to mobilize Native voters because the country is selecting the president. But she cautioned that Native people are in no way a monolith in terms of how they vote.

“We're really all about just getting Native voters out to vote, not telling them how to vote. But sort of understanding that you have a voice and you're a democracy, a democracy that we helped create,” said Comenote, a citizen of the Quinault Indian Nation.

In Arizona, her coalition is partnering with the Phoenix Indian Center to hold a town hall Monday called “Democracy Is Indigenous: Power Of The Native Vote,” which will feature speakers and performances, along with Indigenous artwork centered on democracy.

In Apex, North Carolina, about 14 miles (23 kilometers) southwest of Raleigh, the coalition is working with the Triangle Native American Society for an event expected to include a celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Indian Citizenship Act of 1924 and a booth with nonpartisan voter information and giveaways.

While not a federal holiday, Indigenous Peoples Day is observed by 17 states, including Washington, South Dakota and Maine, as well as Washington, D.C., according to the Pew Research Center. It typically takes place on the second Monday in October, which is the same day as the Columbus Day federal holiday.

## **Trump tested the limits on using the military at home. If elected again, he plans to go further**

By STEPHEN GROVES Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — During his first term as president, Donald Trump tested the limits of how he could use the military to achieve policy goals. If given a second term, the Republican and his allies are preparing to go much further, reimagining the military as an all-powerful tool to deploy on U.S. soil.

He has pledged to recall thousands of American troops from overseas and station them at the U.S. border with Mexico. He has explored using troops for domestic policy priorities such as deportations and confronting civil unrest. He has talked of weeding out military officers who are ideologically opposed to him.

Trump's vision amounts to a potentially dramatic shift in the role of the military in U.S. society, carrying grave implications for both the country's place in the world and the restraints that have traditionally been placed on domestic use of the military.

As Trump's campaign heads into its final stretch against Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris, he is promising forceful action against immigrants who do not have permanent legal status. Speaking in Colorado on Friday, the Republican described the city of Aurora as a “war zone” controlled by Venezuelan gangs, even though authorities say that was a single block of the Denver suburb, and the area is safe again.

“I will rescue Aurora and every town that has been invaded and conquered,” Trump said at the rally.



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"We will put these vicious and bloodthirsty criminals in jail or kick them out of our country."

In an interview aired on Fox News' "Sunday Morning Futures," Trump was asked about the potential of "outside agitators" disrupting Election Day and he pivoted to what he called "the enemy from within."

"I think the bigger problem is the enemy from within," Trump said. He added: "We have some very bad people. We have some sick people, radical left lunatics. And I think they're the big — and it should be very easily handled by, if necessary, by National Guard, or if really necessary, by the military, because they can't let that happen."

Trump has repeatedly invoked the phrase "enemy from within" in recent speeches. On Saturday, he used it to refer to Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., a prominent Trump critic who oversaw the congressional investigation that led to Trump's first impeachment. Schiff is now running for the Senate.

The former president and his advisers are developing plans to shift the military's priorities and resources, even at a time when wars are raging in Europe and the Middle East. Trump's top priority in his platform, known as Agenda 47, is to implement hardline measures at the U.S.-Mexico border by "moving thousands of troops currently stationed overseas" to that border. He is also pledging to "declare war" on cartels and deploy the Navy in a blockade that would board and inspect ships for fentanyl.

Trump also has said he will use the National Guard and possibly the military as part of the operation to deport millions of immigrants who do not have permanent legal status.

While Trump's campaign declined to discuss the details of those plans, including how many troops he would shift from overseas assignments to the border, his allies are not shy about casting the operation as a sweeping mission that would use the most powerful tools of the federal government in new and dramatic ways.

"There could be an alliance of the Justice Department, Homeland Security and the Department of Defense. Those three departments have to be coordinated in a way that maybe has never been done before," said Ron Vitiello, who worked as the acting director of Immigrations and Customs Enforcement under Trump.

While both Democratic and Republican presidential administrations have long used military resources at the border, the plans would be a striking escalation of the military's involvement in domestic policy.

Advocates for human rights and civil liberties have grown alarmed.

"They are promising to use the military to do mass raids of American families at a scale that harkens back to some of the worst things our country has done," said Todd Schulte, president of FWD.us, an immigration advocacy organization.

In Congress, which has the power to restrict the use of military force through funding and other authorizations, Republicans are largely on board with Trump's plans.

"The reason I support Donald Trump is he will secure the border on Day 1. Now that could be misinterpreted as being a dictator. No, he's got to secure the border," said Rep. Joe Wilson, R-S.C., a member of the House Armed Services Committee.

Many Republicans argue that Trump's rhetoric on immigration reflects reality and points to the need for military action.

"There is a case that this is an invasion," said North Carolina Sen. Ted Budd, a Republican on the Senate Armed Services Committee. "You look at 10 million people, many of which are not here for a better future, and, unfortunately, it's made it necessary. This is a problem that the Biden administration and Harris administration have created."

Still, Trump's plans to move military assets from abroad could further inflame tension within the GOP between those hawkish on foreign policy and Republicans who promote Trump's brand of "America First" isolationism.

Republican Rep. Mike Rogers of Alabama, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, insisted Trump would not move active-duty troops to the border, even though Trump's platform clearly states he would.

In the Senate, where more traditional Republicans still hold sway, Mississippi Sen. Roger Wicker, the top Republican on the Armed Services Committee, issued a statement encouraging the Department of

Defense to assist with border security, but adding that the effort “needs to be led by the Department of Homeland Security.”

Trump’s designs for the military may not stop at the border.

As Trump completes a campaign marked by serious threats to his life, his aides already made an unusual request for military aircraft to transport him amid growing concerns over threats from Iran.

During his first term while riots and protests against police brutality roiled the nation, Trump also pushed to deploy military personnel. Top military officers, such as then- Gen. Mark Milley, resisted those plans, including issuing a memo that stressed that every member of the military “swears an oath to support and defend the Constitution and the values embedded within it.”

Trump’s potential actions would likely require him to invoke wartime or emergency powers, such as carrying out mass deportations under the Alien Enemies Act, a 1798 law, or quelling unrest under the Insurrection Act, an 1807 law that allows a president to deploy the military domestically and against U.S. citizens. It was last used by President George H.W. Bush in 1992 during rioting in Los Angeles after police officers beat the Black motorist Rodney King.

Ahead of a potential second term for Trump, Democrats in Congress tried to update presidential powers like the Insurrection Act but found little success.

That’s left them instead issuing dire warnings that Trump now has fewer guardrails on how he could use the military. He has shown an ability to bend institutions to his goals, from a Supreme Court willing to reconsider long-standing interpretations of presidential powers to a military scrubbed of officers and leaders likely to push back on his plans.

Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., who introduced legislation to update the Insurrection Act, said the plans “illuminate Donald Trump’s total misunderstanding of the United States military as a force for national defense, not for his personal preferences to demagogue an issue.”

But Rep. Dan Crenshaw, R-Texas, underscored how many in his party have grown comfortable with deploying the military to confront illegal immigration and drug trafficking.

“Whatever fixes the border, I think we’re OK with,” he said.

## **Trump calls for adding 10,000 Border Patrol agents after derailing a bipartisan border bill**

By MEG KINNARD and NICHOLAS RICCARDI Associated Press

PRESCOTT VALLEY, Ariz. (AP) — Former President Donald Trump on Sunday proposed hiring 10,000 additional Border Patrol agents and giving them a \$10,000 retention and signing bonus, after he derailed a bipartisan bill earlier this year that included funding for more border personnel.

Trump made his pledge during a rally in Prescott Valley, Arizona, roughly 260 miles north of the state’s border with Mexico. He accepted an endorsement from the agents’ union, the National Border Patrol Council, which is a longtime Trump backer that endorsed him during his prior two campaigns.

Trump has made illegal immigration the focus of his campaign and blamed Vice President Kamala Harris, his Democratic opponent, for a record spike in unauthorized crossings at the U.S.-Mexico border. He frequently denounces people entering the U.S. illegally as invaders and criminals, and he has vowed to stage the largest deportation operation in American history if he is elected president again.

He did defy the union earlier this year when he convinced Republicans to kill a bipartisan immigration bill that contained additional border resources. According to the White House, the bill would have funded 1,500 personnel at U.S. Customs and Border Protection, which includes the Border Patrol.

Trump at the time said he did not want to give Democrats a political victory on his key issue. At the rally, Trump contended the legislation was “a horrible bill.”

Trump and his allies routinely call Harris the “border czar,” even though she’s never had that title. President Joe Biden did ask Harris early in his administration to study the “root causes” of migration from Central America.

“If we allow Border Czar Harris to win this election, every city, every community in this great country

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is going to go to hell," union president Paul Perez said as he stood next to Trump on stage with a group of agents.

Matt Corridoni, a spokesperson for the Harris campaign, noted Trump's move against the border bill and his vows that Mexico would pay for his signature border wall, which ultimately was funded by the U.S. government.

"Trump doesn't care about solving problems, he only wants to run on one," Corridoni said in a statement.

Trump has vowed to complete a border wall if he's returned to the White House. He routinely trumpets his comparatively low numbers of border crossings with the much higher ones during Biden's first three years in office, though currently crossings are back down to levels at or below those seen during most of Trump's term.

Trump's term was also marked by a struggle to crack down on illegal crossings before the COVID-19 pandemic led to international border closures. Under his administration, Border Patrol agents separated immigrant children from their parents, one of several enforcement programs the Trump administration implemented to target illegal immigration.

On Sunday, Trump said that Border Patrol agents deserved the higher pay and bonuses and bemoaned how he said Biden and Harris had neglected the border.

## Florida neighbors band together to recover after one-two punch from hurricanes Helene and Milton

By RUSS BYNUM and LAURA BARGFELD Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — When ankle-deep floodwaters from Hurricane Helene bubbled up through the floors of their home, Kat Robinson-Malone and her husband sent a late-night text message to their neighbors two doors down: "Hey, we're coming."

The couple waded through the flooded street to the elevated front porch of Chris and Kara Sundar, whose home was built on higher ground, and handed over their 8-year-old daughter and a gas-powered generator.

The Sundars' lime-green house in southern Tampa also became a refuge for Brooke and Adam Carstensen, whose house next door to Robinson-Malone also flooded.

The three families met years earlier when their children became playmates, and the adults' friendships deepened during the coronavirus pandemic in 2020. So when Helene and Hurricane Milton struck Florida within two weeks of each other, the neighbors closed ranks as one big extended family, cooking meals together, taking turns watching children and cleaning out their damaged homes.

And as Milton threatened a direct strike on Tampa last week, the Malones, the Sundars and the Carstensens decided to evacuate together. They drove more than 450 miles (725 kilometers) in a caravan to metro Atlanta — seven adults, six children, four dogs and teenage Max Carstensen's three pet rats.

"Everyone has, like, the chain saw or a tarp," Robinson-Malone said Sunday. "But really the most important thing for us was the community we built. And that made all the difference for the hurricane rescue and the recovery. And now, hopefully, the restoration."

Recovery efforts continued Sunday in storm-battered communities in central Florida, where President Joe Biden surveyed the devastation. Biden said he was thankful the damage from Milton was not as severe as officials had anticipated. But he said it was still a "cataclysmic" event for people caught in the path of the hurricane, which has been blamed for at least 11 deaths.

The number of homes and businesses in Florida still without electricity dropped to about 500,000 on Sunday, according to Poweroutage.us. That was down from more than 3 million after Milton made landfall Wednesday as a Category 3 storm.

Fuel shortages also appeared to be easing as more gas stations opened, and lines at pumps in the Tampa area looked notably shorter. Gov. Ron DeSantis announced nine sites where people can get 10 gallons (38 liters) each for free.

While recovery efforts were gaining steam, a full rebound will take far longer.

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DeSantis cautioned that debris removal could take up to a year, even as Florida shifts nearly 3,000 workers to the cleanup. He said Biden has approved 100% federal reimbursement for those efforts for 90 days.

"The (removal of) debris has to be 24/7 over this 90-day period," DeSantis said while speaking next to a pile of furniture, lumber and other debris in Treasure Island, an island city near St. Petersburg that has been battered by both recent hurricanes. "That's the way you get the job done."

National Weather Service meteorologist Paul Close said rivers will keep rising for the next several days and result in flooding, mostly around Tampa Bay and northward. Those areas got the most rain, which came on top of a wet summer that included several hurricanes.

Meanwhile, residents unable to move back into their damaged homes were making other arrangements. Robinson-Malone and her husband, Brian, bought a camper trailer that's parked in their driveway. They plan to live there while their gutted home is repaired and also improved to make it more resilient against hurricanes.

"These storms, they're just going to keep happening," she said. "And we want to be prepared for it."

The Carstensens plan to demolish what's left of their flooded, low-slung home, which was built in 1949, and replace it with a new house higher off the ground. For the time being they are staying with Brooke Carstensen's mother.

Chris Sundar said he's questioning his plan to remain in Tampa until his children have all graduated from high school a decade from now. His house remains the home base for the families' kids, ages 8 to 13. On the wall there is a list of chores for them all, from folding laundry to emptying wastebaskets. Brooke Carstensen, a teacher, has helped the children through an extended period without school.

The Sundars lost both their vehicles when Helene's storm surge flooded their garage, so they drove Robinson-Malone's car when they evacuated to Georgia. Arriving, exhausted after the 14-hour trek, Chris Sundar said to Robinson-Malone: "This is where community shines or it falls apart."

"And that night we got together and we all hung out," he said.

On Sunday back in Florida, they worked together to remove sticks and logs from a large oak limb that dangled over another neighbor's driveway. Brian Malone cut it up with a chain saw.

Tackling recovery as a group has made it seem far less overwhelming, Brooke Carstensen said. The families share tips and ideas on a group text thread. The Sundars threw an impromptu 13th birthday party for her son at their house between the storms. And she found solace and laughter from Brian Malone's advice about rebounding: "How do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time."

It's why she wants to remain in Tampa, despite her concerns that Helene and Milton won't be the last storms.

"Why do we live here in a place that's trying to destroy us?" Brooke Carstensen said. "Well, it's all the people that we have here."

## Historic Jersey Shore amusement park closes after generations of family thrills

By WAYNE PARRY Associated Press

OCEAN CITY, N.J. (AP) — For generations of vacationers heading to Ocean City, the towering "Giant Wheel" was the first thing they saw from miles away.

The sight of the 140-foot-tall (42-meter) ride let them know they were getting close to the Jersey Shore town that calls itself "America's Greatest Family Resort," with its promise of kid-friendly beaches, seagulls and sea shells, and a bustling boardwalk full of pizza, ice cream and cotton candy.

And in the heart of it was Gillian's Wonderland Pier, an amusement park that was the latest in nearly a century-long line of family-friendly amusement attractions operated by the family of Ocean City's mayor.

But the rides were to fall silent and still Sunday night, as the park run by Ocean City's mayor and nurtured by generations of his ancestors, closed down, the victim of financial woes made worse by the lingering aftereffects of the COVID-19 pandemic and Superstorm Sandy.

Gillian and his family have operated amusement rides and attractions on the Ocean City Boardwalk for 94

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years. The latest iteration of the park, Wonderland, opened in 1965.

"I tried my best to sustain Wonderland for as long as possible, through increasingly difficult challenges each year," Mayor Jay Gillian wrote in August when he announced the park would close. "It's been my life, my legacy and my family. But it's no longer a viable business."

Gillian did not respond to numerous requests for comment over the past week.

Sheryl Gross was at the park for its final day with her two children and five grandchildren, enjoying it one last time.

"I've been coming here forever," she said. "My daughter is 43 and I've been coming here since she was 2 years old in a stroller. Now I'm here with my grandchildren."

She remembers decades of bringing her family from Gloucester Township in the southern New Jersey suburbs of Philadelphia to create happy family memories at Wonderland.

"Just the excitement on their faces when they get on the rides," she said. "It really made it feel family-friendly. A lot of that is going to be lost now."

There were long lines Sunday for the Giant Wheel, the log flume and other popular rides as people used the last of ride tickets many had bought earlier in the year, thinking Wonderland would go on forever.

A local non-profit group, Friends of OCNJ History and Culture, is raising money to try and save the amusement park, possibly under a new owner who might be more amenable to buying it with some financial assistance. Bill Merritt, one of the non-profit's leaders, said the group has raised over \$1 million to help meet what could be a \$20-million price tag for the property.

"Ocean City will be fundamentally different without this attraction," he said. "This town relies on being family-friendly. The park has rides targeted at kids; it's called 'Wonderland' for a reason."

The property's current owner, Icona Resorts, previously proposed a \$150-million, 325-room luxury hotel elsewhere on Ocean City's boardwalk, but the city rejected those plans.

The company's CEO, Eustace Mita, said earlier this year he would take at least until the end of the year to propose a use for the amusement park property.

He bought it in 2021 after Gillian's family was in danger of defaulting on bank loans for the property.

At a community meeting last month, Gillian said Wonderland could not bounce back from Superstorm Sandy in 2012, the pandemic in 2020 and an increase in New Jersey's minimum wage that doubled his payroll costs, leaving him \$4 million in debt.

Mita put up funds to stave off a sheriff's sale of the property, and gave the mayor three years to turn the business around. That deadline expired this year.

Mita did not respond to requests for comment.

Merritt said he and others can't imagine Ocean City without Wonderland.

"You look at it with your heart, and you say 'You're losing all the cherished memories and all the history; how can you let that go?'" he said. "And then you look at it with your head and you say, 'They are the reason this town is profitable; how can you let that go?'"



**People ride the Giant Wheel and flying chair ride at Gillian's Wonderland, the popular amusement park on the boardwalk in Ocean City, N.J., during its final day of operation before shutting down for good, Sunday, Oct. 13, 2024.** (AP Photo/Wayne Parry)

## From the pulpit, Harris calls out Trump for hurricane misinformation. Biden surveys Florida's damage

By JOSH BOAK, AAMER MADHANI and DARLENE SUPERVILLE Associated Press

GREENVILLE, N.C. (AP) — Kamala Harris used an appearance Sunday before a largely Black church audience in battleground North Carolina to call out Donald Trump for spreading misinformation about the government's hurricane response. President Joe Biden visited Florida for the second time this month to survey storm damage.

Harris, the Democratic presidential nominee, did not speak Trump's name, but he is most prominent among those promoting false claims about the Biden administration's response to Hurricanes Milton and Helene. Florida was in the path of both storms, with Helene also hitting North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia, while Milton headed for the open Atlantic.

The vice president spoke at the Koinonia Christian Center about the "heroes" all around who are helping residents without regard to political affiliation.

"Yet, church, there are some who are not acting in the spirit of community, and I am speaking of these who have been literally not telling the truth, lying about people who are working hard to help the folks in need, spreading disinformation when the truth and facts are required," Harris said.

"The problem with this, beyond the obvious, is it's making it harder, then, to get people life-saving information if they're led to believe they cannot trust," she said. "And that's the pain of it all, which is the idea that those who are in need have somehow been convinced that the forces are working against them in a way that they would not seek aid."

Harris said they are trying "to gain some advantage for themselves, to play politics with other people's heart break, and it is unconscionable," she said. "Now is not a time to incite fear. It is not right to make people feel alone."

"That is not what leaders, as we know, do in crisis," she said.

Trump made a series of false claims after Helene struck in late September, including saying that Washington was intentionally withholding aid from Republicans in need across the Southeast. The former president falsely claimed the Federal Emergency Management Agency had run out of money to help them because it was spent on programs to help immigrants who are in the United States illegally.

He pressed that argument on Fox News' "Sunday Morning Futures," saying the White House response was "absolutely terrible" and repeating the claim about FEMA's dollars. "It came out from there and everybody knew it," Trump said in an interview that was taped Thursday and broadcast Sunday.

Before Harris spoke in church, Biden was surveying hurricane damage on a helicopter flight between Tampa and St. Pete Beach on the Gulf Coast. From the air, he saw the torn-up roof of Tropicana Field, home of the Tampa Bay Rays baseball team. On the ground, the president saw waterlogged household furnishings piled up outside flooded homes. Some houses had collapsed.

The president said he was thankful that Milton was not as bad as officials had anticipated, but that it still was a "cataclysmic" event for many people, including those who lost irreplaceable personal items. He also praised the first responders, some of whom had come from Canada.

"It's in moments like this we come together to take care of each other, not as Democrats or Republicans, but as Americans," Biden said after he was briefed by federal, state and local officials, and met some residents and responders. "We are one United States, one United States."

Harris opened her second day in North Carolina by speaking at the Christian center in Greenville, part of her campaign's "Souls to the Polls" effort to help turn out Black churchgoers before the Nov. 5 election.

The vice president later spoke to roughly 7,000 supporters at a Sunday afternoon rally at East Carolina University's arena, suggesting that Trump's team has stopped him from releasing medical records or debating her again because they might be "afraid that people will see that he is too weak and unstable."

The North Carolina appearances mark the start of a week that will find Harris working to shore up support among Black voters, a key constituency for the Democratic Party. She is counting on Black turnout in competitive states such as North Carolina to help her defeat Trump, who has focused on energizing men

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of all races and has tried to make inroads with Black men in particular.

On Tuesday, she will appear in Detroit for a live conversation with Charlamagne tha God, a prominent Black media personality.

Black registered voters have overwhelmingly favorable views of Harris and negative views of Trump despite his attempts to appeal to nonwhite voters, according to a recent poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. But the poll also shows that many Black voters aren't sure whether Harris would improve the country overall or better their own lives.

In Florida, which Biden had visited the Big Bend region on Oct. 3 after Helene struck, the president announced \$612 million for six Department of Energy projects in hurricane-affected areas to bolster the region's electric grid. The money includes \$47 million for Gainesville Regional Utilities and \$47 million for Switched Source to partner with Florida Power and Light.

With a little more than three weeks before the election, the hurricanes have added another dimension to the closely contested presidential race.

Trump has said the Biden administration's storm response was lacking, particularly in western North Carolina after Helene. Biden and Harris have hammered Trump for promoting falsehoods about the federal response.

Biden said Trump was "not singularly" to blame for the spread of misinformation but that he has the "biggest mouth."

"They blame me for everything. It's OK," Trump told Fox.

Biden has pressed for Congress to act quickly to make sure the Small Business Administration and FEMA have the money they need to get through hurricane season, which ends Nov. 30 in the Atlantic. He said Friday that Milton alone had caused an estimated \$50 billion in damages.

Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, whose department oversees FEMA, said the hurricane season is far from over and there are other natural disasters for which the agency must be ready.

"We don't know what's coming tomorrow, whether it's another hurricane, a tornado, a fire, an earthquake. We have to be ready. And it is not good government to be dependent on a day-to-day existence as opposed to appropriate planning," Mayorkas said on CBS' "Face the Nation."

House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., said there was plenty of time and that lawmakers would address the funding issue when Congress comes back into session after the Nov. 5 election.

"We'll provide the additional resources," Johnson told CBS.

Milton made landfall in Florida as a Category 3 storm on Wednesday evening. At least 10 people were killed and hundreds of thousands of residents remain without power. Officials say the toll could have been worse if not for widespread evacuations. ee.

## **Billy Crystal and Spike Lee take their places at the Hall of Fame as basketball superfans**

By BRIAN MAHONEY AP Basketball Writer

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. (AP) — Honored for his devotion to a basketball team that doesn't have a Hall of Fame history, Billy Crystal couldn't help but note the irony.

"How strange to be getting a ring before any of the Clippers," he said.

The actor is being added to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame's James F. Goldstein SuperFan Gallery and took part in a ceremony Sunday along with fellow entertainer and filmmaker Spike Lee and Philadelphia businessman Alan Horwitz. Longtime Lakers fan Jack Nicholson is also being added but the three-time Academy Award winner was not able to attend.

Crystal wore a sports jacket and slacks, while Lee and Horwitz dressed as if they were sitting courtside. Lee, with an orange vest over a New York sweatshirt and topped by a black Knicks bucket hat, sparred with the opposition as if he was in his seat at Madison Square Garden.

"I saw some Boston Celtic green. Uh-uh," he said, before showing the fans that he had brought coach Red Holzman's 1973 NBA championship ring, the last one won by the Knicks.

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"It's been a long time, but I think this year it's going to be orange-and-blue skies," Lee said.

Horwitz, known as the 76ers' Sixth Man, wore a 76ers sweatshirt, a blue Sixers hat and blue-and-white colored sneakers. He got choked up while thinking about how proud his mother would have been had she known about his honor.

Their time as basketball fans goes back more than five decades. Horwitz watched the Philadelphia Warriors when Wilt Chamberlain was a rookie in 1959. Crystal was in high school a couple of years earlier when he was drawn to another high schooler, Larry Brown, who would later be enshrined after winning championships as a coach in college and the NBA.

Lee was in the arena when the Knicks won their first championship in 1970 and Crystal was at MSG plenty of times himself, having started out as a Knicks fan. He went to Lakers games when he moved across the country, before someone recommended he check out a Clippers game.

"And I said, 'Why?'" Crystal said.

But he enjoyed it and has remained with them ever since, even though the team has never rewarded him with a championship. Lee has had Knicks season tickets since 1985, when they drafted Patrick Ewing, though it took a while to get to the prime real estate he occupies now.

"Every film I moved down," he said.

While Lee is talking title this season, Crystal doesn't have such high expectations for the Clippers. But he noted that the devoted fans stick with their teams no matter what.

Not that it's always easy. A baby started crying as he spoke.

"That's how we felt for the last 30 years," Crystal said.

## Prison operator under federal scrutiny spent millions settling Tennessee mistreatment claims

By JONATHAN MATTISE, TRAVIS LOLLER and KRISTIN M. HALL Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — The leading private prison company in the U.S. has spent more than \$4.4 million to settle dozens of complaints alleging mistreatment — including at least 22 inmate deaths — at its Tennessee prisons and jails since 2016.

More than \$1.1 million of those payouts involved Tennessee's largest prison, the long-scrutinized Trousdale Turner Correctional Center, which is now under federal investigation.

Details of nearly 80 settlements provided to The Associated Press through public records requests allege brutal beatings, medical neglect and cruelty at CoreCivic's four prisons and two jails in Tennessee.

In one case, a Trousdale inmate who feared for his life beat his cellmate, Terry Childress, to death to get transferred to a different prison, the federal lawsuit says. No guards came to Childress' aid at the chronically understaffed facility, the suit claims. Childress' family received a \$135,000 settlement.

The family's attorney, Daniel Horwitz, was ordered by a judge to stop publicly disparaging CoreCivic and to take down tweets calling it a "death factory." He is suing over the gag order.

The U.S. Department of Justice recently announced an investigation of Trousdale, noting that reports of violence have been endemic since its 2016 opening. The investigation comes after years of well-documented "reports of physical assaults, sexual assaults, murders and unchecked flow of contraband and severe staffing shortages," U.S. Attorney Henry Leventis has said.

"It does certainly appear as though settling lawsuits is a cost of doing business, rather than an alarm, a wake-up call, a siren," said Mary Price, general counsel of Families Against Mandatory Minimums, which advocated for the Trousdale investigation.

CoreCivic, headquartered in Brentwood, Tenn., has a value of \$1.44 billion as measured by market capitalization.

Many took a long road to a small settlement

Surviving inmates or grieving families have often fought for years to reach settlements. Some advocated publicly for their cases, speaking to news outlets and participating in demonstrations. But accepting a settlement generally required quieting down. And, typical of settlements across industries, CoreCivic did



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not admit any wrongdoing.

The largest settlement was for \$900,000 over a South Central Correctional Facility inmate's suicide where staff falsified records. Three others were for about \$300,000 apiece.

But those payouts were the exception. Half the settlements were for \$12,500 or less. Some involved no money at all.

"In a lot of these cases, unfortunately, victims and family members of victims are in this position to choose between some amount of money, which is probably more than they've seen in a long time, or speaking their truth and sharing their stories and really being able to do something that brings this to an end," said Ashley Dixon, a whistleblower who worked less than a year as a Trousdale corrections officer.

A CoreCivic spokesperson, Ryan Gustin, declined to comment on specific settlements, saying most have confidentiality terms. He said the corrections industry generally has had staffing issues and pointed to CoreCivic's hiring incentives and strategies to backfill with workers from other facilities nationally. He said CoreCivic facilities offer "comprehensive medical and mental health care" and are closely monitored by the state.

The settlements make up a fraction of the lawsuits CoreCivic has faced over its Tennessee facilities. The 22 death settlements are also only a fraction of the 300-plus deaths in the four CoreCivic prisons since 2016.

More than half the hundreds of deaths were deemed natural, including Jonathan Salada, who lay on his cell floor at Trousdale crying in pain after being denied diabetes medication, according to a 2018 lawsuit. He was taken to the infirmary but returned to his cell twice before being found unconscious three days later and pronounced dead at the hospital. The lawsuit was settled for \$50,000.

'I feel unsafe at all times'

The settled lawsuits claim that even critical staff positions are sometimes unfilled at CoreCivic prisons, leaving inmates unprotected and unable to get help when attacked.

Adrian Delk received a \$120,000 settlement after seven gang members nearly beat him to death for "between 20 minutes and one hour" with no one to intervene at Hardeman in 2016, according to his lawsuit. He was later stabbed and beaten again, suffering several permanent injuries.

Prison workers are not immune from the violence. At Trousdale in 2019, a counselor lost an eye and suffered other permanent injuries when an inmate attacked her with a homemade knife and raped her. Officials had withheld the inmate's antipsychotic medication as punishment for illegal drug use.

In a 2023 state audit, a guard noted: "While at Trousdale, I feel unsafe at all times."

Leventis, the U.S. attorney, noted that Tennessee has known of problems at its CoreCivic facilities. The state's corrections agency has fined CoreCivic \$37.7 million across four prisons since 2016, including \$11.1 million for problems at Trousdale. The violations include failures to meet staffing requirements. The state comptroller released scathing audits in 2017, 2020 and 2023.

Yet state leaders have consistently downplayed the problems and renewed contracts with CoreCivic, a company that figures prominently in political spending. Tennessee is CoreCivic's largest state customer, accounting for 10% of total revenue in 2023, according to a corporate filing. CEO Damon Hininger has even floated running for governor in 2026.

"CoreCivic has been a very important partner to the state," Republican Gov. Bill Lee told reporters after the Trousdale investigation announcement.

When Dixon, the former Trousdale guard, testified to state lawmakers in 2017 about the deaths of Salada and a second prisoner, Jeff Mihm, the committee chairman tried to cut her off at a two-minute limit.

"She just told you about a death in one of our facilities, and we're going to cut her off?" replied Democratic Rep. Bo Mitchell, prompting applause.

Mihm also had been denied psychiatric medication and treatment at Trousdale and killed himself in 2017, according to a lawsuit that eventually settled for \$5,000.

"I think it's very sad that it's a small amount that they receive, because those people's lives were worth much more than that," Dixon told the AP after learning about the settlements.

Lack of medical care played a role

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Many of the settled cases claim inmates were denied basic preventive care — diabetes medication, an inhaler, a walking cane, seizure drugs. Often the inmates were either not allowed to see a provider or the provider dismissed their concerns, the suits claim. They describe horrifying outcomes, including deaths from undiagnosed cancers and pneumonia, a suicide, a leg amputation and a brain injury.

At the Metro-Davidson County Detention Facility, Belinda Cockrill had extreme abdominal pain for months, unable to keep food down and losing more than 30 pounds (13.6 kilograms), but was treated primarily with diarrhea medication, according to a 2016 federal lawsuit brought by her mother.

Cockrill eventually became unresponsive and was rushed to the hospital, where she went into cardiac arrest and died. Only then was it discovered she had rectal cancer that spread to several organs.

Cockrill's mother received a \$45,000 settlement.

Kathy Spurgeon's son Adam died in November when he developed an infection after heart surgery while an inmate at Trousdale. Spurgeon said she was misled about her son's condition and he was denied medication, despite her requests.

Spurgeon didn't sue CoreCivic because she feared retribution against her other son, Millard, who was moved to Trousdale after Adam's death. She said prison gang members called, threatening to hurt Millard if she didn't pay thousands in protection money, which she did.

"I couldn't take a chance on getting my son killed," Spurgeon said.

## **AP Top 25: Oregon, Penn State move behind No. 1 Texas. Army, Navy both ranked for 1st time since '60**

By ERIC OLSON AP College Football Writer

Oregon and Penn State each moved up a spot in The Associated Press college football poll on Sunday following thrilling wins in high-profile games, and Top 25 newcomers Navy and Army are in the rankings together for the first time since 1960.

Texas strengthened its hold on No. 1 with its 31-point victory over Oklahoma. The Longhorns received 56 of 62 first-place votes, four more than last week and their most since they were a unanimous No. 1 in October 2008.

This weekend wasn't as crazy as the week before, when four of the top 11 teams were upset and only two teams held their spots in the ensuing rankings shuffle.

That's not to say Week 7 was devoid of excitement.

Oregon's 32-31 home win over Ohio State featured seven lead changes and moved the Ducks to No. 2 with the other six first-place votes. It's their highest ranking since they ended the 2014 season at No. 2 after losing to the Buckeyes in the inaugural College Football Playoff championship game.

Penn State rose to No. 3 with a 33-30 overtime win at Southern California, the Nittany Lions' highest ranking in seven years.

Penn State-USC was one of four games involving AP Top 25 teams that went to OT on Saturday, including three in the top 10.

Ohio State dropped two spots to No. 4 and Georgia remained No. 5. Miami, Alabama, LSU, Iowa State and Clemson rounded out the top 10.

Army, which beat UAB 44-10, and Navy, which was idle, broke through for their first simultaneous rankings since Oct. 3, 1960.

Their coinciding appearance that season lasted just one week. Army was 3-0 and ranked No. 18 before dropping two straight games and finishing 6-3-1. Navy had entered the rankings a week earlier, at No. 17, and ended the season 9-2 and ranked No. 4.

Army (6-0) and Navy (5-0) have not each been unbeaten at this point in a season since 1945, weeks after World War II ended and in the era when service academies were powerhouses of the sport.

Poll points

LSU and Mississippi were the biggest movers in the wake of the Tigers' 29-26 overtime win. The Tigers went from No. 13 to No. 8, their first top-10 appearance since they were No. 5 in the 2023 preseason

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poll. Mississippi, which lost for the second time in three games, dropped from No. 9 all the way to No. 18. No. 9 Iowa State, 6-0 for the first time since 1938, has its highest ranking since September 2021.

Tennessee had been in the top 10 in four straight polls before slipping to No. 11 following its 23-17 overtime win over Florida.

The Southeastern Conference holds down eight spots in the AP Top 25. The Big Ten continues to have three teams in the top five — Oregon, Penn State and Ohio State — and six in the Top 25.

In-and-out

Army and Navy are the only teams making their season debuts in the poll.

Utah, which has lost two straight, dropped out following its 27-19 loss at Arizona State.

Oklahoma, which had been No. 18 before its loss to Texas, is out of the AP Top 25 for the first time since the end of the 2022 season.

Conference call

SEC — 8 (Nos. 1, 5, 7, 8, 11, 14, 18, 19).

Big Ten — 6 (Nos. 2, 3, 4, 16, 22, 24).

ACC — 4 (Nos. 6, 10, 20, 21).

Big 12 — 3 (Nos. 9, 13, 17).

American — 2 (Nos. 23, 25).

Mountain West — 1 (No. 15).

Independent — 1 (No. 12).

Ranked vs. Ranked

—No. 5 Georgia at No. 1 Texas. This will be the third top-five matchup in four weeks following Georgia-Alabama and Ohio State-Oregon. The Bulldogs hope things go better than they did against 'Bama. It's only the fifth Georgia-Texas meeting since 1949 and first since the Longhorns won 28-21 in the 2019 Sugar Bowl.

—No. 7 Alabama at No. 11 Tennessee. Some of the shine has come off this matchup with Alabama's loss to Vanderbilt and its struggle against South Carolina and Tennessee's loss to Arkansas and overtime grind against Florida.

—No. 24 Michigan at No. 22 Illinois. This is the first time since 2001 that both are in the AP Top 25 entering their game. Some fans might wonder why either team is ranked this time. Two-loss Michigan, coming off an open date, has been dreadful on offense. The one-loss Illini held off lowly Purdue 50-49 in overtime at home.

## Netanyahu mulls plan to empty northern Gaza of civilians and cut off aid to those left inside

By JULIA FRANKEL Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is examining a plan to seal off humanitarian aid to northern Gaza in an attempt to starve out Hamas militants, a plan that, if implemented, could trap without food or water hundreds of thousands of Palestinians unwilling or unable to leave their homes.

Israel has issued many evacuation orders for the north throughout the yearlong war, the most recent of which was Sunday. The plan proposed to Netanyahu and the Israeli parliament by a group of retired generals would escalate the pressure, giving Palestinians a week to leave the northern third of the Gaza Strip, including Gaza City, before declaring it a closed military zone.

Those who remain would be considered combatants — meaning military regulations would allow troops to kill them — and denied food, water, medicine and fuel, according to a copy of the plan given to The Associated Press by its chief architect, who says the plan is the only way to break Hamas in the north and pressure it to release the remaining hostages.

The plan calls for Israel to maintain control over the north for an indefinite period to attempt to create a new administration without Hamas, splitting the Gaza Strip in two.

There has been no decision by the government to fully carry out the so-called "Generals' Plan," and it is unclear how strongly it's being considered.

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When asked if the evacuation orders in northern Gaza marked the first stages of the "Generals' Plan," Israeli military spokesperson Lt. Col. Nadav Shoshani said no.

"We have not received a plan like that," he added.

But one official with knowledge of the matter said parts of the plan are already being implemented, without specifying which parts. A second official, who is Israeli, said Netanyahu "had read and studied" the plan, "like many plans that have reached him throughout the war," but didn't say whether any of it had been adopted. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity, because the plan isn't supposed to be discussed publicly.

On Sunday, Israel launched an offensive against Hamas fighters in the Jabaliya refugee camp north of the city. No trucks of food, water or medicine have entered the north since Sept. 30, according to the U.N. and the website of the Israeli military agency overseeing humanitarian aid crossings.

The U.S. State Department spokesperson has said Washington is against any plan that would bring direct Israeli occupation in Gaza.

Human rights groups fear the plan's potential toll on civilians

Human rights groups say the plan would likely starve civilians and that it flies in the face of international law, which prohibits using food as a weapon and forcible transfers. Accusations that Israel is intentionally limiting food to Gaza are central to the genocide case brought against it at the International Court of Justice, charges Israel denies.

So far, very few Palestinians have heeded the latest evacuation order. Some are older, sick or afraid to leave their homes, but many fear there's nowhere safe to go and that they will never be allowed back. Israel has prevented those who fled earlier in the war from returning.

"All Gazans are afraid of the plan," said Jomana Elkhilili, a 26-year-old Palestinian aid worker for Oxfam living in Gaza City with her family.

"Still, they will not flee. They will not make the mistake again ... We know the place there is not safe," she said, referring to southern Gaza, where most of the population is huddled in dismal tent camps and airstrikes often hit shelters. "That's why people in the north say it's better to die than to leave."

The plan has emerged as Hamas has shown enduring strength, firing rockets into Tel Aviv and regrouping in areas after Israeli troops withdraw, bringing repeated offensives.

After a year of devastating war with Hamas, Israel has far fewer ground troops in Gaza than it did a few months ago and in recent weeks has turned its attention to Hezbollah, launching an invasion of southern Lebanon. There is no sign of progress on a cease-fire in either front.

Israel's offensive on the strip has killed more than 42,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which doesn't distinguish between civilians and combatants, but says more than half of the dead are women and children.

People in northern Gaza could be forced to 'surrender or starve'

The Generals' Plan was presented to the parliament last month by a group of retired generals and high-ranking officers, according to publicly available minutes. Since then, officials from the prime minister's office called seeking more details, according to its chief architect, Giora Eiland, a former head of the National Security Council.

Israeli media reported that Netanyahu told a closed parliamentary defense committee session that he was considering the plan.

Eiland said the only way to stop Hamas and bring an end to the yearlong war is to prevent its access to aid.

"They will either have to surrender or to starve," Eiland said. "It doesn't necessarily mean that we're going to kill every person," he said. "It will not be necessary. People will not be able to live there (the north). The water will dry up."

He believes the siege could force Hamas to release some 100 Israeli hostages still being held by the group since its Oct. 7 attack that triggered Israel's campaign. At least 30 of the hostages are presumed dead.

Human rights groups are appalled.

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"I'm most concerned by how the plan seems to say that if the population is given a chance to evacuate and they don't, then somehow they all turn into legitimate military targets, which is absolutely not the case," said Tania Hary, executive director of Gisha, an Israeli organization dedicated to protecting Palestinians' right to move freely within Gaza.

The copy of the plan shared with the AP says that if the strategy is successful in northern Gaza, it could then be replicated in other areas, including tent camps further to the south sheltering hundreds of thousands of Palestinians.

When asked about the plan Wednesday, U.S. State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller said the U.S. was going to "make absolutely clear that it's not just the United States that opposes any occupation of Gaza, any reduction in the size of Gaza, but it is the virtual unanimous opinion of the international community."

In northern Gaza, aid has dried up and people are trapped

The north, including Gaza City, was the initial target of Israel's ground offensive early in the war, when it first ordered everyone there to leave. Entire neighborhoods have been reduced to rubble since then.

A senior U.N. official said that no aid, except for one small shipment of fuel for hospitals, has entered the north since Sept. 30, whether through crossings from Israel or from southern Gaza. The official spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss confidential information.

COGAT, the Israeli body facilitating aid crossings into Gaza, denied that crossings to the north have been closed, but didn't respond when asked how many trucks have entered in recent days.

The U.N. official said that only about 100 Palestinians have fled the north since Sunday.

"At least 400,000 people are trapped in the area," Philippe Lazzarini, head of the U.N.'s agency for Palestinian refugees, wrote on X Thursday. "With almost no basic supplies available, hunger is spreading."

Troops have already cut off roads between Gaza City and areas further north, making it difficult for people to flee, said two doctors in the far north — Mohammed Salha, director of al-Awda Hospital, and Dr. Rana Soloh, at Kamal Adwan Hospital.

"North Gaza is now divided into two parts," Soloh said. "There are checkpoints and inspections, and not everyone can cross easily." \_\_\_\_\_

Melanie Lidman contributed to this report from Jerusalem.

## **In an engineering feat, mechanical SpaceX arms catch Starship rocket booster back at the launch pad**

By MARCIA DUNN AP Aerospace Writer

SpaceX pulled off the boldest test flight yet of its enormous Starship rocket on Sunday, catching the returning booster back at the launch pad with mechanical arms.

A jubilant Elon Musk called it "science fiction without the fiction part."

Towering almost 400 feet (121 meters), the empty Starship blasted off at sunrise from the southern tip of Texas near the Mexican border. It arced over the Gulf of Mexico like the four Starships before it that ended up being destroyed, either soon after liftoff or while ditching into the sea. The previous one in June had been the most successful until Sunday's demo, completing its flight without exploding.

This time, Musk, SpaceX's CEO and founder, upped the challenge for the rocket that he plans to use to send people back to the moon and on to Mars.

At the flight director's command, the first-stage booster flew back to the launch pad where it had blasted off seven minutes earlier. The launch tower's monstrous metal arms, dubbed chopsticks, caught the descending 232-foot (71-meter) stainless steel booster and gripped it tightly, dangling it well above the ground.

"The tower has caught the rocket!!" Musk announced via X. "Big step towards making life multiplanetary was made today."

Company employees screamed in joy, jumping and pumping their fists into the air. NASA joined in the celebration, with Administrator Bill Nelson sending congratulations.

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Continued testing of Starship will prepare the nation for landing astronauts at the moon's south pole, Nelson noted. NASA's new Artemis program is the follow-up to Apollo, which put 12 men on the moon more than a half-century ago.

"Folks, this is a day for the engineering history books," SpaceX engineering manager Kate Tice said from SpaceX headquarters in Hawthorne, California.

"Even in this day and age, what we just saw is magic," added company spokesman Dan Huot from near the launch and landing site. "I am shaking right now."

It was up to the flight director to decide, in real time with a manual control, whether to attempt the landing. SpaceX said both the booster and launch tower had to be in good, stable condition. Otherwise, it was going to end up in the gulf like the previous ones. Everything was judged to be ready for the catch.

The retro-looking spacecraft launched by the booster continued around the world, soaring more than 130 miles (212 kilometers) high. An hour after liftoff, it made a controlled landing in the Indian Ocean, adding to the day's achievement. Cameras on a nearby buoy showed flames shooting up from the water as the spacecraft impacted precisely at the targeted spot and sank, as planned.

"What a day," Huot said. "Let's get ready for the next one."

The June flight came up short at the end after pieces came off. SpaceX upgraded the software and reworked the heat shield, improving the thermal tiles.

SpaceX has been recovering the first-stage boosters of its smaller Falcon 9 rockets for nine years, after delivering satellites and crews to orbit from Florida or California. But they land on floating ocean platforms or on concrete slabs several miles from their launch pads — not on them.

Recycling Falcon boosters has sped up the launch rate and saved SpaceX millions. Musk intends to do the same for Starship, the biggest and most powerful rocket ever built with 33 methane-fuel engines on the booster alone.

Musk said the captured Starship booster looked to be in good shape, with just a little warping of some of the outer engines from all the heat and aerodynamic forces. That can be fixed easily, he noted.

NASA has ordered two Starships to land astronauts on the moon later this decade. SpaceX intends to use Starship to send people and supplies to the moon and, eventually Mars.

## Volunteers bring solar power to Hurricane Helene's disaster zone

By GABRIELA AOUN ANGUEIRA Associated Press

BAKERSVILLE, N.C. (AP) — Nearly two weeks after Hurricane Helene downed power lines and washed out roads all over North Carolina's mountains, the constant din of a gas-powered generator is getting to be too much for Bobby Renfro.

It's difficult to hear the nurses, neighbors and volunteers flowing through the community resource hub he has set up in a former church for his neighbors in Tipton Hill, a crossroads in the Pisgah National Forest north of Asheville. Much worse is the cost: he spent \$1,200 to buy it and thousands more on fuel that volunteers drive in from Tennessee.

Turning off their only power source isn't an option. This generator runs a refrigerator holding insulin for neighbors with diabetes and powers the oxygen machines and nebulizers some of them need to breathe.

The retired railroad worker worries that outsiders don't understand how desperate they are, marooned without power on hilltops and down in "hollers."

"We have no resources for nothing," Renfro said. "It's going to be a long ordeal."

About 23,500 of the 1.5 million customers that lost power in western North Carolina still lacked electricity on Sunday, according to Poweroutage.us. Without it, they can't keep medicines cold or power medical equipment or pump well water. They can't recharge their phones or apply for federal disaster aid.

Crews from all over the country and even Canada are helping Duke Energy and local electric cooperatives with repairs, but it's slow going in the dense mountain forests, where some roads and bridges are completely washed away.

"The crews aren't doing what they typically do, which is a repair effort. They're rebuilding from the

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ground up," said Kristie Aldridge, vice president of communications at North Carolina Electric Cooperatives.

Residents who can get their hands on gas and diesel-powered generators are depending on them, but that is not easy. Fuel is expensive and can be a long drive away. Generator fumes pollute and can be deadly. Small home generators are designed to run for hours or days, not weeks and months.

Now, more help is arriving. Renfro received a new power source this week, one that will be cleaner, quieter and free to operate. Volunteers with the nonprofit Footprint Project and a local solar installation company delivered a solar generator with six 245-watt solar panels, a 24-volt battery and an AC power inverter. The panels now rest on a grassy hill outside the community building.

Renfro hopes his community can draw some comfort and security, "seeing and knowing that they have a little electricity."

The Footprint Project is scaling up its response to this disaster with sustainable mobile infrastructure. It has deployed dozens of larger solar microgrids, solar generators and machines that can pull water from the air to 33 sites so far, along with dozens of smaller portable batteries.

With donations from solar equipment and installation companies as well as equipment purchased through donated funds, the nonprofit is sourcing hundreds more small batteries and dozens of other larger systems and even industrial-scale solar generators known as "Dragon Wings."

Will Heegaard and Jamie Swezey are the husband-and-wife team behind Project Footprint. Heegaard founded it in 2018 in New Orleans with a mission of reducing the greenhouse gas emissions of emergency responses. Helene's destruction is so catastrophic, however, that Swezey said this work is more about supplementing generators than replacing them.

"I've never seen anything like this," Swezey said as she stared at a whiteboard with scribbled lists of requests, volunteers and equipment. "It's all hands on deck with whatever you can use to power whatever you need to power."

Down near the interstate in Mars Hill, a warehouse owner let Swezey and Heegaard set up operations and sleep inside. They rise each morning triaging emails and texts from all over the region. Requests for equipment range from individuals needing to power a home oxygen machine to makeshift clinics and community hubs distributing supplies.

Local volunteers help. Hayden Wilson and Henry Kovacs, glassblowers from Asheville, arrived in a pickup truck and trailer to make deliveries this week. Two installers from the Asheville-based solar company Sundance Power Systems followed in a van.

It took them more than an hour on winding roads to reach Bakersville, where the community hub Julie Wiggins runs in her driveway supports about 30 nearby families. It took many of her neighbors days to reach her, cutting their way out through fallen trees. Some were so desperate, they stuck their insulin in the creek to keep it cold.

Panels and a battery from Footprint Project now power her small fridge, a water pump and a Starlink communications system she set up. "This is a game changer," Wiggins said.

The volunteers then drove to Renfro's hub in Tipton Hill before their last stop at a Bakersville church that has been running two generators. Other places are much harder to reach. Heegaard and Swezey even tried to figure out how many portable batteries a mule could carry up a mountain and have arranged for some to be lowered by helicopters.

They know the stakes are high after Heegaard volunteered in Puerto Rico, where Hurricane Maria's death toll rose to 3,000 as some mountain communities went without power for 11 months. Duke Energy crews also restored infrastructure in Puerto Rico and are using tactics learned there, like using helicopters to drop in new electric poles, utility spokesman Bill Norton said.

The hardest customers to help could be people whose homes and businesses are too damaged to connect, and they are why the Footprint Project will stay in the area for as long as they are needed, Swezey said.

"We know there are people who will need help long after the power comes back," she said.

## Profiles in clean energy: Once incarcerated, expert moves students into climate-solution careers

By ISABELLA O'MALLEY Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Inside a converted warehouse in one of Philadelphia's poorest neighborhoods, students circle around Jackie Robinson as he quizzes them about a 1980s furnace. Although they'll encounter older equipment like this, the program is cutting edge, aimed at training people to work on homes in ways that address climate change and make clean energy affordable.

More than 3.3 million people work in the clean energy industry and the number is growing fast. But Robinson, a building trades instructor, is concerned that's not widely understood.

"A lot of low income people don't even know these jobs exist ... it's all about getting the word out," he said.

In addition to expanding an important workforce, solid career opportunities also reduce recidivism. Robinson's own transition into the clean energy workforce and ultimately to this nonprofit, the Energy Coordinating Agency, came during his time in prison.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This is part of an occasional series of personal stories from the energy transition — the change away from a fossil-fuel based world that largely causes climate change.

He was locked up for 27 years on a drug trafficking conviction.

"I was a top student in school, no question. But then sometimes you think you're slick and you fall in with the wrong people ... and you're thinking, 'hey, it's great money, easy money, but ... there's no good ending in it,'" he said.

His three young children were the motivation to use all that time inside to learn new skills so he could take care of them when he got out.

Robinson took courses in welding, carpentry, accounting, fashion merchandising and Arabic. "If it was a free class that educated me on something, I took it," he said.

"They got the body, fine," he said, referring to incarceration, and raising his hands to his eyes, "but I could go a lot of places in my mind."

Johnson Controls, the international building equipment company, also offered classes inside the prison system. That's where Robinson first got a look at the energy field and had the chance to work on refrigerators and heating and air conditioning equipment. Johnson Controls hired some people when they were released from prison, and Robinson was one.

After working there and at another organization that offered apprenticeship programs, Connection Training Services, he came to this equity-focused nonprofit housed in a sprawling warehouse in Philadelphia's Kensington neighborhood. Where Civil War uniforms were once sewn, a life-size roof sits on the floor for students to practice installing solar panels, and mazes of walls display exposed piping.

With his keys jingling and cane gently tapping on wood floors, Robinson, 59, leads a group into a back classroom to study circuits. Above a window, painted on the wall, there is a quote by Benjamin Franklin that Robinson said is one of his favorites: "He who hath a trade, hath an estate."

It speaks to his reason for wanting to teach these skills. "It changes the financial structure of his whole family," he said. "As people in the community make more money, the standard of the community raises up. We improve housing and everything in process."

That's the dream for Quenton McClellan, 61, who heard about the training from his workforce advisor at Narcotics Anonymous. He was working as a bartender and struggling with alcohol and drug abuse. "I was drinking, you know, tremendously ... I took a long look at myself and I went and got some help," he said.

Today McClellan is going on two years drug- and alcohol-free. "It feels good, 'cause now I can think, and at one time I couldn't even think. And it's just a wonderful feeling ... I want to learn. I want to advance." The students also look out for each other, McClellan said, in a way no one ever looked out for him before.

He is getting certified to install heat pumps, a climate-friendly replacement for old furnaces and air conditioners.



"These types of workers are absolutely and desperately needed right now, and organizations that can train them up are in high demand," said Bob Keefe, executive director of Environmental Entrepreneurs, also known as E2, a nonpartisan business group that advocates for clean energy.

The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, with its tax credits for heat pumps, solar panels and clean energy manufacturing incentives, is expected to create more than 109,000 new jobs, Keefe said. Heat pumps can be installed anywhere, creating a need for workers in every state.

"When I was trying to put heat pumps in my house several years ago, I couldn't even find a contractor who knew how to do it. I eventually had to end up doing it myself," he said.

As he gives a lesson on installing this type of heating and air conditioning, Robinson notes a couple of students at the back of the room on their phones, and makes a mental note to connect with them later. He often texts students to check on them, he said, to give guidance, life advice.

The Energy Coordinating Agency trains more than 200 people each year as building analysts, solar panel installers, and commercial heating, ventilation and air conditioning technicians. It offers the classes free, with funding from grants. Low-income people from the neighborhood can also come in for help with their utility bills and budget counseling.

Seeing students who have felt "left out of the equation" start careers and support their families is what brings fulfillment, Robinson said.

"This work that I do is just my legacy. I learned I know how to do something, and I can pass it on to the next generation, and we use it to earn a living and increase generational wealth," he said.

## **Moreno's abortion comment rattles debate in expensive Senate race in Republican-leaning Ohio**

By JULIE CARR SMYTH Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — An off-the-cuff comment about reproductive rights by Republican Bernie Moreno in Ohio's tight Senate race has put abortion at the center of debate in the most expensive Senate campaign this year. And that's just where Democratic Sen. Sherrod Brown wanted it.

Moreno insists he was joking after cellphone video surfaced of him criticizing women whose votes are driven by concerns about government involvement in abortion decisions.

"Sadly, by the way, there's a lot of suburban women, a lot of suburban women that are like, 'Listen, abortion is it,'" Moreno said at a town hall in Warren County on Sept. 20. "If I can't have an abortion in this country whenever I want, I will vote for anybody else.' OK. It's a little crazy, by the way, but — especially for women who are like past 50, I'm thinking to myself, 'I don't think that's an issue for you.'"

Brown and his allies pounced on the comment, which went to the heart of the Democrat's bid for a fourth term representing the Republican-leaning state. A woman featured in one TV ad wondered why, if a 50-year-old woman doesn't have standing to feel strongly about abortion, a 57-year-old man — that's Moreno's age — running for Senate would.

Even fellow Republican Nikki Haley, the former presidential candidate, criticized Moreno as #ToneDeaf. "Are you trying to lose the election? Asking for a friend," she quipped on X.

Brown has made access to abortion a priority, and Moreno's comment meant the campaign was focused less on the economy and immigration, issues the Republican and his party would rather talk about.

Throughout the race, Brown has said he voted for and would honor an amendment that Ohioans supported by wide margins last year that enshrined into the state constitution people's right to make their own reproductive choices. Presidential nominee Kamala Harris and Democrats on down the ballot are banking on the abortion issue to win votes in the first White House election since the U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* in 2022.

"The people of Ohio think women should have the power to make their own health care decisions, Bernie Moreno thinks he should," Brown said in a statement. "As a man over the age of 50, I care deeply about a woman's right to make health care decisions for herself — for my daughters, my granddaughters, and all Ohio women, regardless of their age."

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Unseating Brown is a Republican priority. With Democrats defending twice as many Senate seats as Republicans, a loss in Ohio would jeopardize Democrats' narrow majority.

The most expensive Senate contest

Ad spending topped \$400 million in early October, making the Senate race the most expensive in the country so far, according to data from AdImpact, which tracks campaign spending on advertising. That total includes a competitive Republican primary earlier this year.

In the general election, the data shows Republicans have outspent Democrats on Brown-Moreno race. As of Friday, Republicans had spent roughly \$188.4 million on ads since the March 19 primary, compared with \$159.7 million by Democrats. The parties and affiliated groups have an additional \$68.5 million in ad spots reserved between now and Nov. 5.

Moreno, a wealthy Cleveland businessman endorsed by Donald Trump — was undeterred by the controversy that ensued after his abortion comments surfaced. His campaign said the comment was made tongue in cheek, and that Brown and Harris are the ones disrespecting women.

"Bernie's view is that women voters care just as much about the economy, rising prices, crime, and our open southern border as male voters do, and it's disgusting that Democrats and their friends in the left-wing media constantly treat all women as if they're automatically single-issue voters on abortion who don't have other concerns that they vote on," spokesperson Reagan McCarthy said in a statement.

Republicans have reasons for optimism

Ohio Republicans have plenty of reasons to be optimistic about the race. The onetime bellwether state has shifted to the right and supported Trump twice by wide margins, and he's once more atop the ticket.

Trump's endorsement has carried weight in Ohio — from JD Vance, the first-term senator who is Trump's running mate, to GOP state Rep. Derek Merrin, who prevailed in a messy primary to challenge Marcy Kaptur, a long-serving Democratic congresswoman. Trump's backing boosted Moreno to victory in a hard-fought primary.

Republicans have hammered Brown on his record, claiming he voted to allow "biological men in women's sports" and supported providing stimulus checks and federal benefits for immigrants who are in the United States illegally. Both claims stretch the truth: Brown didn't vote to allow transgender people to play women's sports but to prevent federal dollars from being stripped from schools that allowed it, and the immigrant-related vote in question involved a nuanced issue in legislation that already prevented stimulus checks going to immigrants without lawful status in the country.

Still, the attacks have been repeated often enough to register with voters.

"Bernie Moreno has rapidly closed the gap on Sherrod Brown even as Chuck Schumer and DC Democrats spend millions lobbying baseless smears and racist attacks at Moreno," National Republican Senatorial Committee spokesperson Philip Letsou said in a statement. The reference was to pro-Brown ads questioning the business dealings of some family members of Moreno, who was born in Bogota, Colombia.

Senate Majority PAC, an independent group aligned with Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York, reserved \$65 million in advertising time in Ohio from Labor Day to the end of the campaign. The group's president, JB Poersch, said Brown's reputation, strong campaign and superior fundraising prowess will help put the veteran politician over the top.

"We have a pretty big communication advantage in that state," he said.

More than 90% of Republican spending — all but \$1.9 million of Moreno's ad support — has come from outside groups, according to AdImpact data.

Brown has raised \$51 million for his own campaign account, compared with Moreno's \$15.3 million, which includes \$4.5 million Moreno loaned to his own campaign. The Republican has reported spending about \$10 million of that so far, with his latest campaign finance report not yet filed.

The debate over immigration in Springfield

Republicans are expected to keep tying Brown to the Biden-Harris administration's immigration policy, a key vulnerability this year for Democrats.

When it came to the turmoil in Springfield, Ohio, Moreno tried to blame Brown and Harris, slamming the "Haitian invasion" as a failure of the federal government to prepare before expanding the number of

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Haitians able to apply for Temporary Protected Status in the United States.

Brown did not name Trump and Vance, who intensified the spotlight on the city with unsubstantiated claims about Haitians eating pets, but he faulted "people playing politics" for making things worse. At one point, state and local government offices and schools in Springfield closed due to dozens of bomb threats.

Moreno, meanwhile, has faced other challenges, including an Associated Press report about a profile created with Moreno's email account on an adult website. Moreno's lawyer said the profile was created by a former intern as a prank.

The candidate retained support from Trump after the report and was given a coveted speaking spot at the Republican National Convention in July.

## Today in History: October 14, Billy Mills wins gold in Tokyo

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Monday, Oct. 14, the 288th day of 2024. There are 78 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Oct. 14, 1964, in one of the greatest upsets in Olympic history, American Billy Mills won the 10,000 meter race at the Tokyo Summer Games.

Also on this date:

In 1066, Normans under William the Conqueror defeated the English at the Battle of Hastings.

In 1586, Mary, Queen of Scots, went on trial in England, accused of committing treason against Queen Elizabeth I. (Mary was beheaded in February 1587.)

In 1910, aviator Claude Grahame-White flew his biplane over Washington, D.C. and landed it on West Executive Avenue, next to the White House.

In 1944, German Field Marshal Erwin Rommel took his own life rather than face trial and certain execution for allegedly conspiring against Adolf Hitler.

In 1947, U.S. Air Force Capt. Chuck Yeager became the first test pilot to break the sound barrier as he flew the experimental Bell XS-1 rocket plane over Muroc Dry Lake in California.

In 1964, civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. was named winner of the Nobel Peace Prize.

In 1981, the new president of Egypt, Hosni Mubarak (HOHS'-nee moo-BAH'-rahk), was sworn in to succeed the assassinated Anwar Sadat.

In 1986, Holocaust survivor and human rights advocate Elie Wiesel (EL'-ee vee-ZEHL') was named winner of the Nobel Peace Prize.

In 2008, a grand jury in Orlando, Florida, returned charges of first-degree murder, aggravated child abuse and aggravated manslaughter against Casey Anthony in the death of her 2-year-old daughter, Caylee. (She was acquitted in July 2011.)

In 2012, retired Air Force Brig. Gen. Chuck Yeager, at the age of 89, marked the 65th anniversary of his supersonic flight by smashing through the sound barrier again, this time in the backseat of an F-15 that took off from Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada.

Today's Birthdays: Former White House counsel John W. Dean III is 86. Fashion designer Ralph Lauren is 85. Football Hall of Famer Charlie Joiner is 77. Golf Hall of Famer Beth Daniel is 68. Musician Thomas Dolby is 66. Fashion designer Isaac Mizrahi is 63. Actor Steve Coogan is 58. TV host Stephen A. Smith is 57. Country singer Natalie Maines (The Chicks) is 50. Singer Usher is 46. Actor-comedian Jay Pharoah is 37. NFL quarterback Jared Goff is 30.