

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 115 ~ 1 of 90

- [1- Upcoming Events](#)
- [2- 1440 News Headlines](#)
- [4- Groton Area netters beat Deuel in three sets](#)
- [4- Soccer Pep Rally on GDILIVE.COM](#)
- [5- Dog Licenses Due](#)
- [6- South Dakota Housing awards \\$741,000 to nine housing opportunity fund programs](#)
- [8- U.S. Winter Outlook: Warmer and drier South, wetter North](#)
- [13- Manhart Ad](#)
- [14- Mayo Clinic: Understanding the difference between biological age and chronological age](#)
- [15- Football game today on GDILIVE.COM](#)
- [16- Constitutional Amendment F](#)
- [17- No. 23 Wolves Secure Fourth NSIC Win of 2024](#)
- [18- GDI Living Heart Fitness Center Ad](#)
- [19- SD News Watch: What to watch for in South Dakota's 2024 legislative races](#)
- [22- SD SearchLight: With Republican control of Legislature assured, Democrats target competitive districts](#)
- [25- SD SearchLight: Company proposing Lake Preston jet fuel plant receives \\$1.46 billion federal endorsement](#)
- [27- SD SearchLight: Social Security and Medicare: Where do Harris and Trump stand?](#)
- [29- SD SearchLight: Anti-abortion faith group emerges after earlier formation of abortions-rights group](#)
- [30- Weather Pages](#)
- [35- Daily Devotional](#)
- [36- Subscription Form](#)
- [37- Lottery Numbers](#)
- [38- Upcoming Groton Events](#)
- [39- News from the Associated Press](#)

## Friday, Oct. 18

Senior Menu: Scalloped potatoes with ham, peas, Mandarin orange salad, whole wheat bread.  
School Breakfast: Egg bake.  
School Lunch: Walk the plank crunchers, peas.  
Football hosts Baltic, 7 p.m.

## Saturday, Oct. 19

Girls state soccer: Groton Area vs. SF Christian, 5 p.m. in Yankton  
Common Cents Community Thrift Store, 209 N Main, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Groton Daily Independent**

**PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445**

**Paul's Cell/Text: 605-397-7460**



## Sunday, Oct. 20

United Methodist: Conde worship, 8:30 a.m.; Groton worship, 10:30 a.m.; Sunday School, 10 a.m. (practice and snack), Sing in church at 10:30 then dismiss for Sunday School; Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.

St. John's Lutheran: Worship with communion: St. John's at 9 a.m., Zion at 11 a.m., Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship with communion, 10:30 a.m., with confirmation/Milestones; No Sunday School, Choir, 6 p.m.

Catholic: SEAS Confession, 7:45-8:15 a.m.; SEAS Mass, 8:30 a.m.; Turton Confession, 10:30-10:45 a.m.; Turton Mass, 11 a.m.

First Presbyterian Church: Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.

Groton CM&A: Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 115 ~ 2 of 90

# 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.**

## **Yahya Sinwar Killed**

Yahya Sinwar, the military head and de facto leader of Hamas, was killed during an Israeli raid in southern Gaza Wednesday, officials confirmed yesterday. Sinwar had long been considered Israel's top target and is believed to have been the architect of the Oct. 7 attack in Israel, which killed almost 1,200 people and kick-started the current Israel-Hamas war.

Sinwar, designated a terrorist by the US, has a winding personal biography. Born in a Gazan refugee camp in 1962, he spent more than two decades in an Israeli prison starting in 1988—during which time an Israeli doctor removed a tumor from his brain. Released in 2011 in a prisoner exchange, Sinwar quickly became a senior figure in Hamas, planning a number of attacks in the intervening decade.

US officials said Sinwar's death offered a chance for a cease-fire in Gaza. An estimated 97 Israeli hostages taken on Oct. 7 remain unaccounted for, while the death toll in Gaza has surpassed 42,000, according to the Hamas-run Health Ministry.

## **Goodbye, Kmart Shoppers**

The last full-scale Kmart in the continental US is set to close Sunday in Bridgehampton, New York, marking the end of an era for the once-iconic retailer. Known for its "Blue Light Specials"—flash discount announcements—and celebrity partnerships, the chain struggled over the years to compete with Walmart, Target, and online retailers.

Founded in 1899 as SS Kresge—the first Kmart branch opened in 1962—it was a pioneer in discount retailing. At its peak in the 1980s, annual revenues exceeded \$36B with over 2,000 stores. By 1986, the store was the second-largest retailer, behind Sears. Kmart eventually filed for bankruptcy in 2002 and again in 2018, largely due to mismanagement, failed acquisitions, outdated locations, and failure to adapt to online shopping trends. After merging with Sears in 2005, both brands suffered losses, and Kmart's remaining stores gradually closed.

Only a small Kmart outlet in Miami and a few locations in Guam and the US Virgin Islands remain.

## **Rare US Constitution Sold**

A rare 237-year-old privately held copy of the US Constitution sold for \$9M at auction yesterday. The artifact is one of 100 official copies printed in 1787 and is among eight copies known to exist today that were sent to state leaders for review before being formally adopted. Seven of the eight copies are held by public institutions. See photos here.

The sold Constitution was discovered in 2022 inside a metal filing cabinet in a neglected room of a property in Edenton, North Carolina, once owned by the state's first governor, Samuel Johnston. Johnston, who was governor from 1787 to 1789, oversaw the state convention that ratified the Constitution. The copy was also found with a letter from George Washington asking for ratification.

The last copy of the Constitution sent to states was sold for \$400 in 1891. The last copy of the Constitution sent to delegates (one of 14 known copies) was sold to billionaire investor Kenneth Griffin for a record \$43.2M in 2021, who outbid cryptocurrency group ConstitutionDAO.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 115 ~ 3 of 90

## Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

Netflix adds 5 million subscribers in Q3, bringing its total global subscriber base to 283 million.

Universal Orlando's fourth theme park, Epic Universe, to open May 2025.

Mitzi Gaynor, actress and singer best known for starring role in "South Pacific" film, dies at age 93.

Stage musical adaptation of "Dirty Dancing" set for late 2025 Broadway opening.

Famed music festival the Warped Tour returning to three cities in 2025 after a five-year hiatus.

## Science & Technology

Astronomers detect 13-billion-year-old quasars—extremely bright galactic cores powered by supermassive black holes—floating in relatively empty space; discovery challenges current theory about quasar formation.

AI-powered model reveals how sperm cells stick to eggs across a range of vertebrate species; findings may help develop new fertility treatments in humans.

Researchers develop "smart" insulin, which can turn itself on or off in response to varying blood sugar levels; therapy may eventually replace injections for diabetics.

## Business & Markets

US stock markets close mixed (S&P 500 -0.0%, Dow +0.4%, Nasdaq +0.0%); Nvidia shares close at new record.

TSMC shares close up 10% after chipmaker reports strong Q3 earnings.

Lucid shares close down 18% after EV maker announces public stock offering to raise \$1.67B.

European Central Bank cuts interest rates for the third time in four months, lowering key rate by a quarter point to 3.25%; inflation rate in September slowed to 1.7%, falling below the 2% annual target for first time in three years.

FBI arrest Alabama man in connection to January hacking of the US Securities and Exchange Commission's X account and a fake post that led to a spike in the value of Bitcoin.

1440 launches second-ever newsletter, 1440 Business & Finance, bringing weekly deep dives into topics ranging from venture capital to 401(k) plans; 100% free product to launch Oct. 31.

## Politics & World Affairs

Independent panel investigating July assassination attempt of former President Donald Trump recommends Secret Service to undergo overhaul in findings released yesterday.

Grand jury indicts father, son for September mass shooting at Apalachee High School in Winder, Georgia, which killed four people.

Archdiocese of Los Angeles agrees to pay \$880M to settle sex abuse claims; settlement is the largest single payout by an archdiocese.

Biden administration forgives \$4.5B in federal student debt for 60,000 public service workers under fixes to the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program.



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 115 ~ 4 of 90

## Groton Area netters beat Deuel in three sets

The Groton Area volleyball team traveled to Clear Lake on Thursday where the Tigers had a clean sweep in all minimum sets.

Groton Area won the varsity match, 25-14, 25-16 and 25-11. Rylee Dunker had 11 kills, two blocks and one assisted block; Chesney Weber had seven kills, one solo and one assisted block, nine assists and seven digs; Faith Traphagen had six kills, one solo and one assisted block; Taryn Traphagen had four kills and one assisted block; Jaedyn Penning had two kills, four ace serves, four assists and six digs; Laila Roberts had three ace serves and one kill; Sydney Locke had five ace serves; Kella Tracy had four kills; Elizabeth Flihs had one ace serve and 15 assists and Jerica Locke had eight digs.

Deuel's Alayna Carlson had four kills; Tory Engebretson had two kills, one block and two ace serves; Claryssa Hanson had two kills and two blocks; Camdyn Peterreins and Emma Sattler each had two kills; Roxanne Raml had one ace serve; Addison Timmons had 10 digs; Ella Kerkvliet six digs and Grayn Gohring had eight assists.

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

Groton Area won the junior varsity match by identical scores of 25-19 in two sets. Emerlee Jones had six kills, Talli Wright four kills and two ace serves, Kella Tracy three kills and one ace serve, Makenna Kruase had three kills and six ace serves; McKenna Tietz had three kills and Liby Althoff had one kill and two ace serves.

The junior varsity match was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Adam and Nicole Wright.

Groton won the C match, 2-0.

Next week, Groton Area will host Langford Area on Monday, will be at Northwestern on Tuesday and host Redfield on Friday.

Coming up on [GDILIVE.COM](http://GDILIVE.COM)

Groton Area  
Tigers  
**GT**



**Friday, Oct. 18**  
**Soccer Pep Rally**  
**Sendoff to the**  
**State**  
**Championship**  
**Game**  
**10:15 a.m.**  
**GHS Arena**

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



## 2025 DOG LICENSES DUE BY 12/31/2024



LICENSE YOUR DOG.



**Licenses due by December 31, 2024**

**Fines start January 1, 2025**

**Spayed/Neutered dogs are \$5 per dog,  
otherwise \$10 per dog**

**Proof of rabies shot information is REQUIRED!!**

Email proof to [city.kellie@nvc.net](mailto:city.kellie@nvc.net)

fax to (605) 397-4498 or bring a copy to City Hall!!

Please contact City Hall as soon as possible if you no longer have a dog(s) that  
were previously licensed!

Questions call (605) 397-8422

## South Dakota Housing awards \$741,000 to nine housing opportunity fund programs

PIERRE, S.D. (11/17/24) – South Dakota Housing’s Board of Commissioners today awarded more than \$741,000 in Housing Opportunity Fund (HOF) funds to assist with nine affordable housing programs.

Administered by South Dakota Housing, the Housing Opportunity Fund was created to be used for new construction or the purchase and rehabilitation of rental or homeownership housing, housing preservation, including home repair grants and grants to make homes more accessible to individuals with disabilities, homelessness prevention activities, and homebuyer assistance.

Below is information regarding funded program recipients:

Housing Opportunity Fund

Program name: BASEC Homeowner Rehab Program

Program location: Scattered Sites in Beadle, Spink and Kingsbury Counties

Applicant: Beadle and Spink Enterprise Community, Inc. (BASEC)

Housing Opportunity Funds approved: \$75,350

Program summary: Funding for a homeowner rehabilitation program that will assist an estimated ten homeowners at or below 115 percent of the area median income for their respective county of Beadle, Spink or Kingsbury.

Program name: BHA Habitat for Humanity Homebuyer Assistance

Program location: Rapid City

Applicant: Black Hills Area Habitat for Humanity Inc. (BHAHFH)

Housing Opportunity Funds approved: \$55,688

Program summary: Funding for a homebuyer assistance program that will assist five homeowners at or below 80 percent of the area median income for Pennington County.

Program name: BHA Habitat for Humanity Homeowner Rehab Program

Program location: Rapid City

Applicant: Black Hills Area Habitat for Humanity (BHAHFH)

Housing Opportunity Funds approved: \$54,450

Program summary: Funding for a homeowner rehabilitation program that will assist an estimated 10 homeowners at or below 80 percent of the area median income for Pennington County.

Program name: GROW South Dakota Homebuyer Assistance

Program location: Sioux Falls and Rapid City

Applicant: GROW South Dakota

Housing Opportunity Funds approved: \$55,688

Program summary: Funding for homebuyer assistance that will assist an estimated five homebuyers at or below 115 percent of the area median income for the respective county.

Program name: ICAP – Homelessness Prevention Program

Program location: Sioux Falls

Applicant: Inter-Lakes Community Action Partnership (ICAP)

Housing Opportunity Funds approved: \$55,688

Program summary: Funding for homelessness prevention activities that will assist an estimated seven households at or below 30 percent of the area median income for Sioux Falls.

# Broton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 115 ~ 7 of 90

Program name: ICAP Homeowner Rehab Program  
Program location: Scattered Sites in 14 counties in Rural Eastern South Dakota  
Applicant: Inter-Lakes Community Action Partnership (ICAP)  
Housing Opportunity Funds approved: \$129,800  
Program summary: Funding for a homeowner rehabilitation program that will assist nine homeowners at or below 50 percent of the area median income for the respective county.

Program name: NESDCAP Homeowner Rehab Program  
Program location: Scattered Sites in Eastern and South-Central South Dakota  
Applicant: Northeast South Dakota Community Action Partnership (NESDCAP)  
Housing Opportunity Funds approved: \$129,800  
Program summary: Funding for a homeowner rehabilitation program that will assist an estimated seven homeowners at or below 80 percent of the area median income for the respective county.

Program name: NLS Homebuyer Assistance  
Program location: Scattered Sites in Western South Dakota  
Developer: Neighborhood Lending Services, LLC  
Housing Opportunity Funds approved: \$129,800  
Program summary: Funding for homebuyer assistance that will assist an estimated 15 homebuyers at or below 115 percent of the area median income for the respective county.

Program name: ROCS Homelessness Prevention  
Program location: Scattered Sites in Eastern and South-Central South Dakota  
Applicant: Rural Office of Community Services, Inc.  
Housing Opportunity Funds approved: \$55,000  
Program summary: Funding for homelessness prevention activities that will assist an estimated 60 households at or below 115 percent of the area median income for the respective county.

## About South Dakota Housing

South Dakota Housing was created by the South Dakota Legislature in 1973 with a stated mission to provide opportunities for quality, affordable housing for South Dakotans. South Dakota Housing is a self-supporting, nonprofit entity known for our commitment for providing innovative financing solutions to create and preserve affordable housing. South Dakota Housing utilizes housing bonds, tax credits, and other federal and state resources to fund housing programs which provide mortgage and downpayment assistance, housing construction and rehabilitation, homelessness prevention, rental assistance, and educational opportunities.



## U.S. Winter Outlook: Warmer and drier South, wetter North

### Drought relief likely in the Ohio River Valley and Great Lakes regions due to La Nina

A slowly-developing La Nina is favored to influence conditions for the upcoming winter across most of the country, according to NOAA's U.S. Winter Outlook released today by the Climate Prediction Center — a division of NOAA's National Weather Service. This outlook is for December 2024 through February 2025 and contains information on likely conditions throughout the country for temperature, precipitation and drought.

This winter, NOAA predicts wetter-than-average conditions for the entire northern tier of the continental U.S., particularly in the Pacific Northwest and the Great Lakes region, along with northern and western Alaska. Meanwhile, drier-than-average conditions are expected from the Four Corners region of the Southwest to the Southeast, Gulf Coast and lower mid-Atlantic states.

"In September, we announced a \$100 million investment into NOAA's high-performance computer system to advance research on weather, climate and ocean predictions because understanding our climate system is essential for making longer-term predictions like the Winter Seasonal Outlook, which provides vital information for many of our partners and the public," said Michael Morgan, Ph.D., NOAA's assistant secretary of commerce for observation and prediction. "We continue to innovate in this space, developing new ways to share winter forecast information with the public."

"This winter, an emerging La Nina is anticipated to influence the upcoming winter patterns, especially our precipitation predictions," said Jon Gottschalck, chief of the Operational Prediction Branch of the Climate Prediction Center.

La Nina conditions are expected to develop later this fall and typically lead to a more northerly storm track during the winter months, leaving the southern tier of the country warmer and drier. As a result, NOAA forecasters, in collaboration with the National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS), expect drought conditions to persist and worsen across the central and southern Plains of the U.S.

"Unfortunately, after a brief period in the spring of 2024 with minimal drought conditions across the country, more than a quarter of the land mass in the continental U.S. is currently in at least a moderate drought," said Brad Pugh, operational drought lead with NOAA's Climate Prediction Center. "And the winter precipitation outlook does not bode well for widespread relief."

### Temperature

Warmer-than-average temperatures are favored from the southern tier of the U.S. to the eastern Great Lakes, eastern seaboard, New England and northern Alaska. These probabilities are strongest along the Gulf Coast and for most of Texas.

Below-average temperatures are most likely in southern Alaska, with below-average temperatures slightly favored from the Pacific Northwest to the northern High Plains.

The remaining areas have equal chances of below-, near-, or above-average seasonal mean temperatures.

### Precipitation

Wetter-than-average conditions are most likely in the Great Lakes states, and above-average precipitation is also favored in northern and western Alaska, the Pacific Northwest and across the northern tier of the U.S. These probabilities are strongest in portions of Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky.

The greatest likelihood for drier-than-average conditions are in states bordering the Gulf of Mexico, as well as in Texas and southern New Mexico.

Much of California, the central Plains states and the I-95 corridor from Boston to Washington, D.C., have equal chances of below-average, near-average or above-average seasonal total precipitation.

### Drought

Widespread moderate to extreme drought continues across much of the Great Plains and in portions of the Rocky Mountains, especially farther south.

Drought conditions are expected to improve or end in the Ohio River Valley, the Great Lakes region and portions of the northwestern U.S., including eastern Washington and Oregon and northern and central Idaho.

Drought conditions are expected to persist across the Great Plains.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 115 ~ 9 of 90

Drought is likely to develop or worsen across portions of the Southwest and Gulf Coast.

## **Winter forecasting tools: Here's what's new at NOAA**

Over the past year, NOAA implemented several upgrades and improvements to its forecasting tools. In late 2023, the experimental Probabilistic Winter Storm Severity Index (WSSI-P) became operational. The product enhances communication with external partners, media and the public by visually representing the likelihood of potential societal impacts due to expected winter hazards over a 7-day period. This is complemented by an existing operational version of the Winter Storm Severity Index (WSSI), which is based on the official National Weather Service forecast of the most likely conditions over the next three days.

NOAA is simplifying its suite of cold weather products to improve messaging of these hazards and provide better decision support services. As of October 2024, the Wind Chill Watch, Warning, and Advisory products were consolidated into the Extreme Cold Watch and Warning and Cold Weather Advisory products, respectively. The Hard Freeze Watch and Warning products were consolidated into the existing Freeze Watch and Warning products, respectively. More information can be found within this hazard simplification project webstory.

NOAA will make the Experimental Probabilistic Precipitation Portal publicly available beginning in early November. This webpage will enable users to view the Low-End, Expected and High-End amounts of snow and rain, as well as probabilities of exceeding threshold amounts of precipitation. Data will be available through an interactive map, tables and graphics to assist local partners, including emergency management, with decision support.

## **About NOAA's seasonal outlooks**

NOAA's seasonal outlooks provide the likelihood that temperatures and total precipitation amounts will be above-, near- or below-average, and how drought conditions are anticipated to change in the months ahead. The outlook does not project seasonal snowfall accumulations as snow forecasts are generally not predictable more than a week in advance.

NOAA's Climate Prediction Center updates the three-month outlook monthly. The next update will be available November 21.

Seasonal outlooks help communities prepare for what is likely to come in the months ahead and minimize weather's impacts on lives and livelihoods. Resources such as [drought.gov](https://drought.gov) and [climate.gov](https://climate.gov) provide comprehensive tools to better understand and plan for climate-driven hazards. Empowering people with actionable forecasts, seasonal predictions and winter weather safety tips is key to NOAA's effort to build a more Weather- and Climate-Ready Nation.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 115 ~ 10 of 90

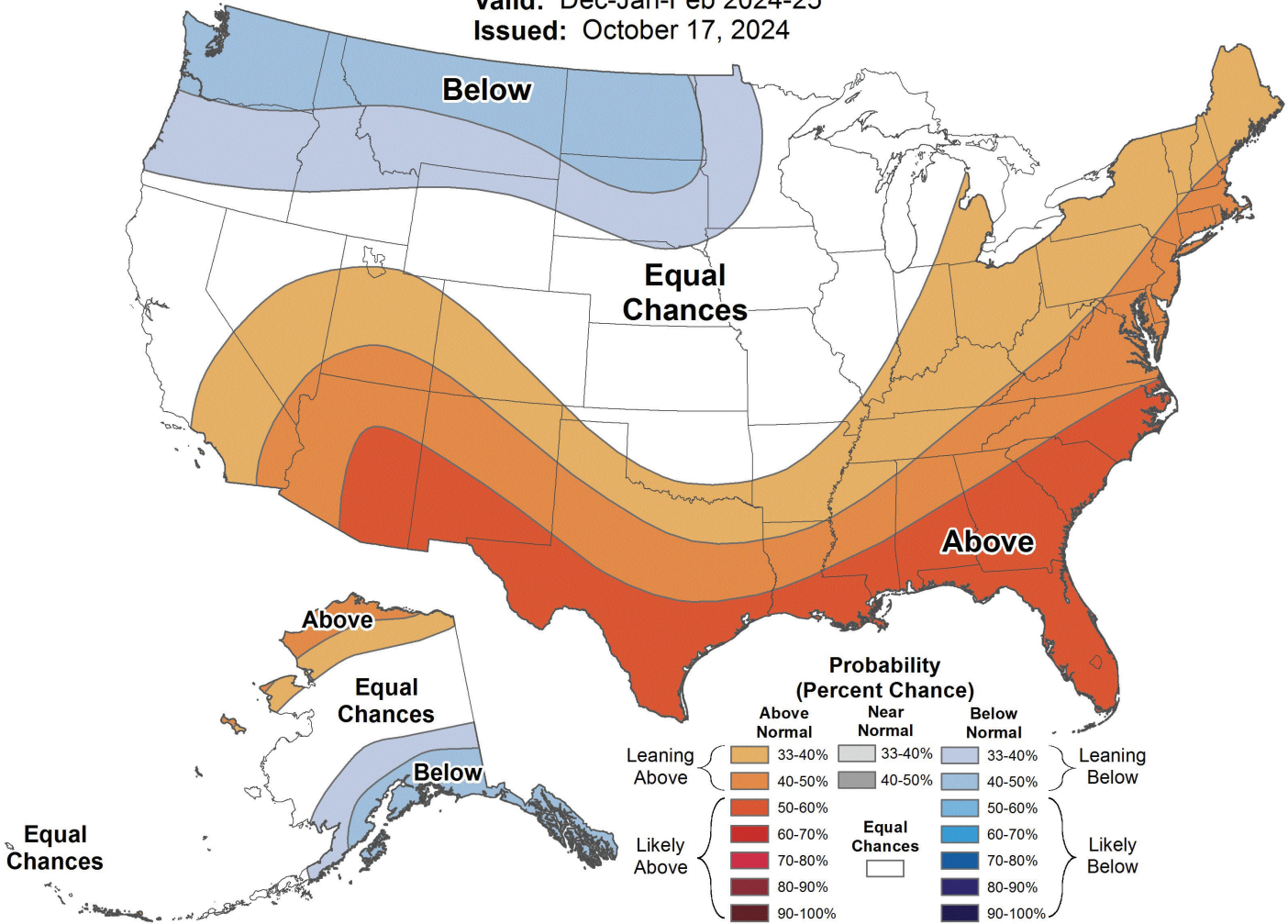


## Seasonal Temperature Outlook



Valid: Dec-Jan-Feb 2024-25

Issued: October 17, 2024



The 2024-2025 U.S. Winter Outlook map for temperature shows the greatest chances for cooler-than-average conditions in the Pacific Northwest of the U.S. (Image credit: NOAA)

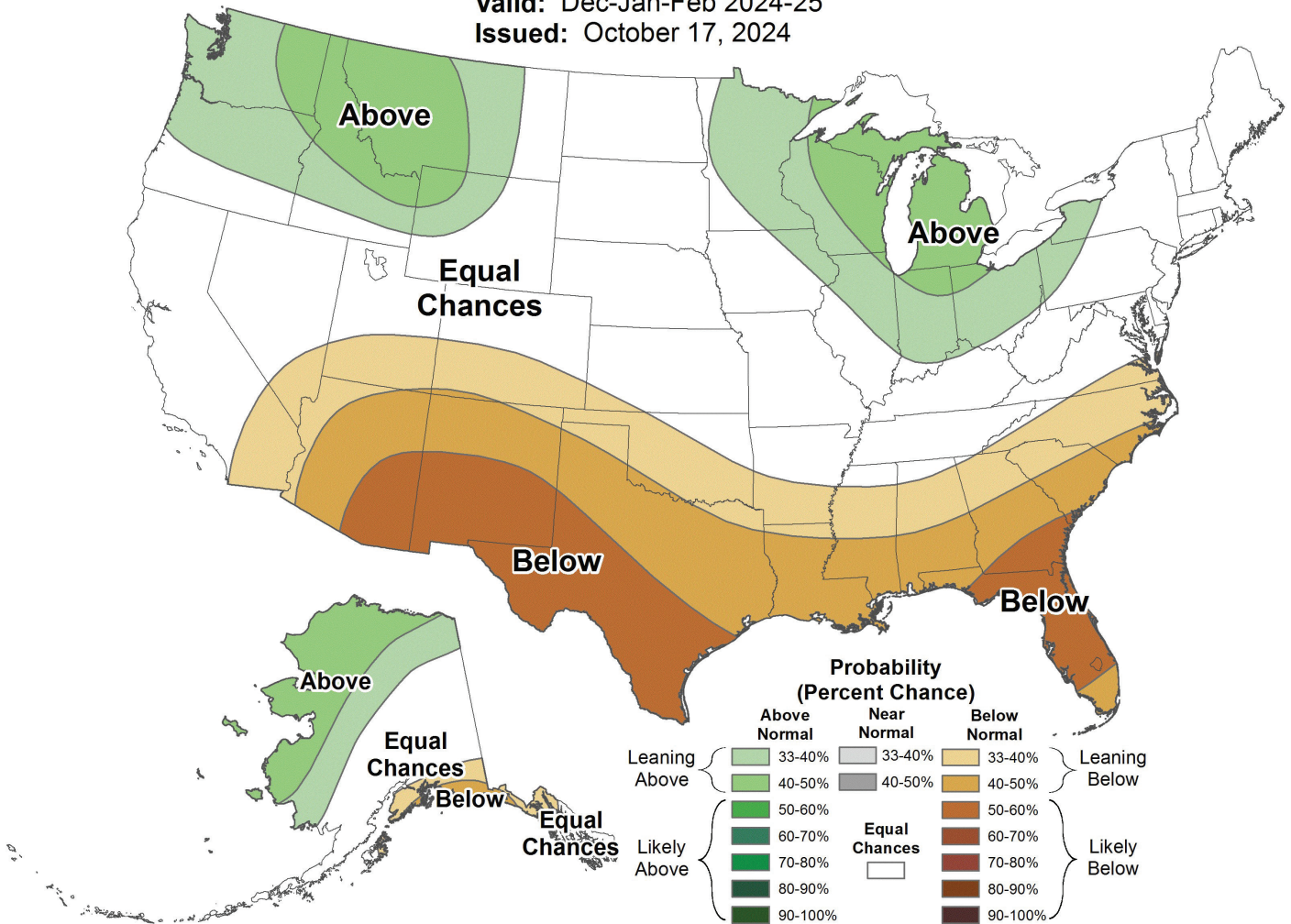




## Seasonal Precipitation Outlook



Valid: Dec-Jan-Feb 2024-25  
Issued: October 17, 2024



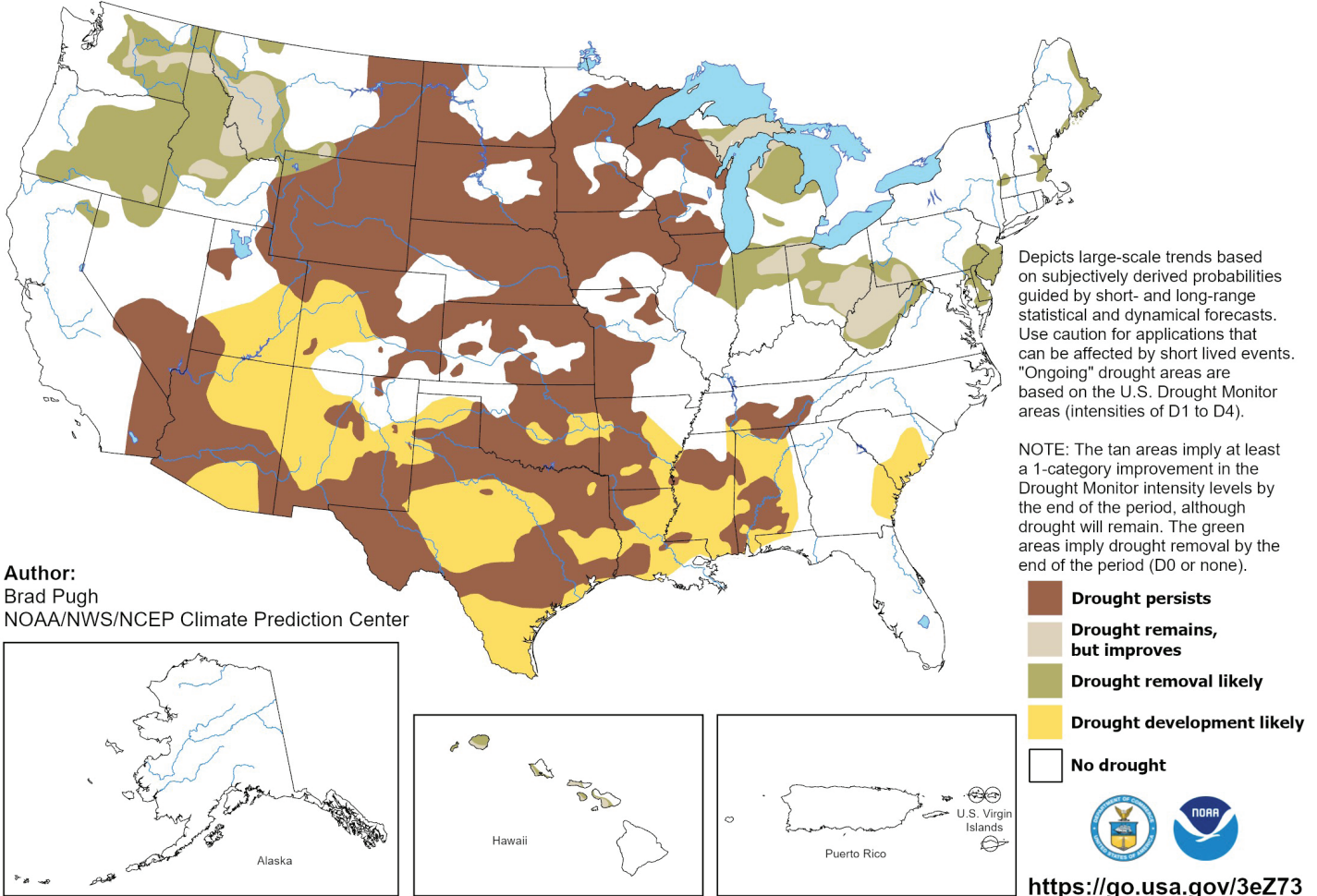
The 2024-2025 U.S. Winter Outlook map for precipitation shows wetter-than-average conditions are most likely across the Great Lakes region of the U.S.. Drier-than-average conditions are forecast for parts of the U.S. Gulf Coast. (Image credit: NOAA)

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 115 ~ 12 of 90

## U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for October 17, 2024 - January 31, 2025  
Released October 17, 2024



The U.S. Drought Outlook map for November 2024 through January 2025 predicts drought improvement in the Ohio River Valley and the northern Rockies. Drought is likely to persist in portions of the Great Plains and the Midwest. Drought development is expected from the Four Corners region to the western Gulf coast. (Image credit: NOAA)

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 115 ~ 13 of 90

## Working to Protect & Promote Traditional American Values

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



Visit the Campaign Site  
[ManhartForHouse.com](https://ManhartForHouse.com)



Paid for by Manhart for State House

# 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**





Press

## Understanding the difference between biological age and chronological age

by Francisco Lopez-Jimenez, M.D.

Despite the fact that aging is universal, there is no universal experience of aging. Some people remain active and sharp both mentally and physically well into their 80s or even 90s, while other people begin to experience a decline in their health or quality of life decades earlier.

Researchers used to believe that life span was chiefly determined by genetics — meaning if your parents and grandparents lived long lives, you and your children would be much more likely to as well. However, more-recent research indicates that genetic factors account for only 15% to 25% of aging. As it turns out, graceful aging has a lot more to do with lifestyle than it does with hitting the genetic lottery.

There is also an important difference between how old someone is, known as chronological age, and the overall state of someone's body, known as biological age. This distinction may help demystify the aging process and allow you to take a more empowered, holistic approach to your health.

"The key word is holistic," says Francisco Lopez-Jimenez, M.D., M.S., chair of the Division of Preventive Cardiology at Mayo Clinic. "It's important to focus on a holistic, multifactorial approach to aging and quality of life, rather than focusing on just a number."

### The difference between biological age and chronological age

Both chronological age and biological age are ways of measuring aging and how the passage of time impacts the body.

"Chronological age measures the number of years someone has been alive," says Dr. Lopez-Jimenez. We use chronological age all the time to celebrate a birthday, fill out a form for a medical appointment or to get a drink at a bar. Everyone born in the same year has the same chronological age, regardless of how old or young they look or feel.

Biological age, on the other hand, isn't necessarily the same for everyone and can better reflect the diversity of the aging process across individuals. "Biological age captures how a person is aging, according to many different factors and biomarkers," says Dr. Lopez-Jimenez. Biomarkers are measurements that offer a snapshot of what is happening in a cell or the body. A routine blood pressure assessment, for example, can give a biomarker, as can imaging technology and laboratory tests. Other biomarkers use genes and proteins to assess the body at the molecular and cellular levels.

There is no one biomarker or test that can determine your age. Typically, a number of laboratory-based biomarkers, such as a blood assessment, and clinically based biomarkers, such as heart rate and blood pressure, are taken into account. Technological advances also are being made every day. Mayo Clinic researchers found that an artificial intelligence-enabled EKG was able to find the difference between chronological age and biological age — and gaps between these two ages were associated with cardiovascular mortality. There is also research suggesting that studying certain damaged cells — called senescent cells — can help determine biological age.

Even aside from these advanced measures, Dr. Lopez-Jimenez says it's possible to guess how someone is aging with a physical assessment and conversation. There are appearance-based markers of age, such as balding, hair color and wrinkles, as well as physical factors like mobility, speed of gait and frailty.

"When we talk about the difference between biological and chronological aging, we are talking about how some people age more or less than others," says Dr. Lopez-Jimenez. "Understanding why this happens will help us unlock how people can live longer and better."

### What can impact someone's bio age?

In its most basic sense, aging is the result of changes to the body's cells, typically cell breakdown or deterioration that, in turn, make cells work less efficiently. Over time, these small changes to the cells compound and lead to the physical markers of age, such as wrinkles, as well as chronic conditions or illnesses like heart disease or dementia.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 115 ~ 15 of 90

There are a number of factors that impact the speed of cell deterioration, some of which you can control and some you can't. Though there are many theories on why exactly aging happens, researchers believe genetics, DNA damage, oxidative stress, and telomere erosion on chromosome tips, senescent cells and chronic inflammation all play a part in how the body ages on the cellular level.


Additionally, there are a number of factors outside the body that also can impact aging. Perhaps unsurprisingly, people who experience high levels of stress, use tobacco and drink alcohol, and lead a sedentary lifestyle and consume a low-quality diet are more likely to develop early-onset illnesses and premature death. Likewise, social connectedness can play a big role in biological aging. People who don't have strong social connections are more likely to be biologically older than their chronological ages, while people with strong relationships are more likely to age well and stay sharp.

It may seem simple, then, to age gracefully or even slow your biological age. But it's important to remember that not everyone has access to the same resources, such as reliable medical care and well-stocked and affordable grocery stores, or even fresh air and clean water. In fact, research has shown that poverty, pollution and unhealthy living conditions are associated with accelerated biological age and reduced longevity.

## The bottom line of healthy aging

Dr. Lopez-Jimenez says small, consistent habits can have a powerful impact both on how you age and the quality of your life in later years. So far, research has shown that maintaining a balanced diet, refraining from tobacco use, getting regular physical activity, managing stress and keeping up a meaningful, well connected social life — or what is more or less common sense for healthy living — allow most people to maintain both quality and length of life.


But keep in mind that healthy aging isn't about looking younger than you are or even avoiding all illnesses or health conditions — for most people, that simply isn't realistic. Instead, emphasize the habits and lifestyle that can support your health span, reduce your risk of cumulative conditions, and keep you feeling satisfied, active and able to adapt to a changing (and aging) body.



# Tiger Football

on [GDILIVE.COM](http://GDILIVE.COM)

Friday, Oct. 18,  
7 p.m.



## Groton Area hosts Baltic

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 115 ~ 16 of 90

**We'll be publishing each ballot measure in the GDI.  
Today it's Constitutional Amendment F**

## 2024 Statewide Ballot Measures

Underscores indicate new language.

~~Overstrikes~~ indicate deleted language.

### **Constitutional Amendment F**

**Title:** An Amendment to the South Dakota Constitution Authorizing the State to Impose a Work Requirement on Individuals Eligible for Expanded Medicaid Benefits.

**Attorney General Explanation:** The Medicaid program is funded by the State and the federal government to provide medical coverage for certain low-income people who qualify for the program. In 2022, the voters approved a Constitutional provision that expanded Medicaid eligibility for any person over age 18 and under 65 whose income is at or below 133% of the federal poverty level, plus 5% of the federal poverty level for the applicable family size.

This constitutional amendment authorizes the State to impose work requirements on any person eligible to receive benefits under the expanded Medicaid program, except for those persons who are physically or mentally disabled. The amendment does not identify any specific work requirement that may be imposed on those receiving expanded Medicaid benefits. Any work requirement proposed by the State must be approved by the federal government prior to implementation.

Vote "Yes" to adopt the amendment.

Vote "No" to leave the Constitution as it is.

### **Full Text of Constitutional Amendment F:**

A JOINT RESOLUTION, Proposing and submitting to the voters at the next general election, an amendment to the Constitution of the State of South Dakota, authorizing the state to impose work requirements on certain individuals who are eligible for expanded Medicaid.

**Section 1.** That at the next general election held in the state, the following amendment to Article XXI, § 10 of the Constitution of the State of South Dakota, as set forth in section 2 of this Joint Resolution, which is hereby agreed to, shall be submitted to the electors of the state for approval.

### **Section 2. That Article XXI, § 10 of the Constitution of the State of South Dakota, be AMENDED:**

Beginning July 1, 2023, the State of South Dakota shall provide Medicaid benefits to any person over eighteen and under sixty-five whose income is at or below one hundred thirty-three percent of the federal poverty level plus five percent of the federal poverty level for the applicable family size, as authorized by federal law as of January 1, 2021. Such person shall receive coverage that meets or exceeds the benchmark or benchmark-equivalent coverage requirements, as such terms are defined by federal law as of January 1, 2021.

The State of South Dakota may not impose greater or additional burdens or restrictions on eligibility or enrollment standards, methodologies, or practices on any person eligible under this section than on any person otherwise eligible for Medicaid under South Dakota law, except that the State of South Dakota may, to the extent permitted by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, impose a work requirement on any person, eligible under this section, who has not been diagnosed as being physically or mentally disabled.

No later than March 1, 2023, the Department of Social Services shall submit all state plan amendments necessary to implement this section to the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

The State of South Dakota shall take all actions necessary to maximize the federal financial medical



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 115 ~ 17 of 90

assistance percentage in funding medical assistance pursuant to this section.

This section shall be broadly construed to accomplish its purposes and intents. If any provision in this section or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid or unconstitutional, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect other provisions or applications of the section that can be given effect without the invalid or unconstitutional provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this section are severable.

## No. 23 Wolves Secure Fourth NSIC Win of 2024

Aberdeen, S.D. – The No. 23 Northern State University volleyball team returned to the win column Thursday evening with a sweep over MSU Moorhead from Wachs Arena. The Wolves held the Dragons under 20 points in the first and third sets.

### THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 3, MSUM 0

Records: NSU 12-4 (4-4 NSIC), MSUM 7-9 (2-6 NSIC)

Attendance: 532

### HOW IT HAPPENED

Northern took the match with set scores of 25-19, 25-23, and 25-18

The Wolves led the contest with a .248 attack percentage, as well as 43 kills, 42 assists, and 60 digs

They added six blocks and five aces, while forcing 20 opponent hitting errors in the win

Natalia Szybinska and Hanna Thompson led the offense with 15 and 11 kills respectively, while Thompson hit a team best .455

Abby Meister led three in defensive double figures with 18 digs, averaging 6.00 per set

Keri Walker and Reese Johnson followed with 17 and ten digs respectively, while Walker added 34 assists and two blocks

Abby Brooks led the team at the net with four blocks and Johnson added to her team leading ace column with two in the win

### NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

Hanna Thompson: 11 kills, .455 attack%, 1 block

Keri Walker: 34 assists, 17 digs, 2 blocks

Abby Meister: 18 digs

### UP NEXT

Northern State hits the road for a Saturday match-up against Minot State. First serve is set for 2 p.m. against the Beavers.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 115 ~ 18 of 90

15 N Main St. - Ste. 101  
Downtown Groton

Call/Text Paul: 605-397-7460

Call/Text Tina: 605-397-7285



Open 24/7

Senior Citizens 65+  
Physical Therapy.

**\$20 a month**



### Equipment Spotlight

The NuStep is a recumbent cross trainer that offers many benefits, including:

**Low impact:** Simulates walking without putting stress on joints

**Full-body workout:** Works arms and legs, and can be used by most users, including those in wheelchairs

**Improves functional fitness:** Helps build muscle strength, increase cardiovascular endurance, and improve balance and mobility

**Helps with rehabilitation:** Can help people recover from hip, knee, or shoulder surgery, cardiac events, strokes, and spinal cord injuries

**Helps manage symptoms:** Can help manage symptoms of conditions like arthritis and diabetes, or the effects of stroke and Parkinson's

**May lower blood pressure:** Some users report that regular NuStep workouts can help lower blood pressure

**May reduce pain:** Some users report that their pain drastically decreased or stopped all together when using their NuStep regularly

**Easy to use:** Has a low inertia start up, so you shouldn't feel any pain or discomfort

**Adjustable:** The step length can be controlled to tailor the NuStep to your needs

**Knee pain relief:** Strengthening your knees can reduce stress on the joint and help with pain from osteoarthritis.

**Versatile:** You can program the StairMaster for different amounts of time, so you can start slowly and work up.

Type	Month-to-month	Annual Agreements	
	Paid Monthly	Paid Monthly	Paid Yearly
Student	<input type="radio"/> \$35.15	<input type="radio"/> \$29.82	<input type="radio"/> \$255.60
Single	<input type="radio"/> \$40.48	<input type="radio"/> \$35.15	<input type="radio"/> \$319.50
2-Person	<input type="radio"/> \$59.78	<input type="radio"/> \$54.45	<input type="radio"/> \$575.10
Family	<input type="radio"/> \$72.43	<input type="radio"/> \$67.10	<input type="radio"/> \$702.26
Daily Fee	<input type="radio"/> \$5.00		



## What to watch for in South Dakota's 2024 legislative races

BY STU WHITNEY

South Dakota News Watch

There are two main questions surrounding South Dakota's 2024 state legislative elections and how they will shape the upcoming session in Pierre.

Can Democrats improve their strikingly low representation at the Capitol, where Republicans outnumbered the junior party 94-11 the past two years, including 63-7 in the House and 31-4 in the Senate?

And, perhaps more significantly, can a surge among populist candidates within the GOP lead to changes in Republican caucus leadership, threatening the ability of the party's establishment to craft and control policy?

"The battle within the Republican Party is more interesting than the battle between the two major parties," said Jon Schaff, a political science professor at Northern State University in Aberdeen. "The carbon pipeline issue has galvanized a certain sector of the party, and Freedom Caucus types are using it to good effect. It will be interesting to see what the makeup of the next Legislature is going to be."

Clarity on those questions will begin to emerge Nov. 5, when South Dakotans select representatives from the state's 35 legislative districts. With 16 of the Senate and 12 of the House races uncontested, there won't be a ton of drama, unless you know where to look.

Here's what to watch for as Election Day draws nearer.

### Balance of power in Republican caucus

The GOP schism between pro-business institutionalists and limited-government populists flared in the June primaries, fueled by landowner rights and lingering rhetoric over election security and government distrust.

In some respects, the die is already cast.

The Republican primary saw 14 sitting legislators defeated, 11 of whom were running for the same office. They were foiled in many cases by their support of Referred Law 21, a "Landowner Bill of Rights" package that critics decried as more favorable to ethanol producers and pipeline companies.

The Freedom Caucus and groups such as Dakota First PAC exploited the issue in competitive primaries by highlighting the votes of incumbent legislators.

These efforts, criticized by Republican leadership as playing loose with the law's intent, increased rancor between the factions while narrowing the gap in legislative influence, making the populist right less of a fringe movement.

It's an open question whether the Senate caucus will be split enough to take the vote for president pro tempore – who appoints committees and assigns bills – to the floor. House leadership could also be in flux, with the GOP's incumbent establishment trying to maintain a slight edge entering the election.

### Sioux Falls key to leadership races

Those leadership battles could be decided in Sioux Falls, where there are enough competitive Democratic candidates to sway the legislative metrics.

In District 12, which includes southwest and south-central Sioux Falls, incumbent Republican Arch Beal, CEO of beer wholesaler Beal Distributing, is being challenged by Democrat Clay Hoffman, a former staffer to 2018 gubernatorial candidate Billie Sutton.

Hoffman has run aggressively in a swing district that Gov. Kristi Noem carried by just 43 votes over Democratic challenger Jamie Smith in 2022, four years after Noem lost the district to Sutton.

Beal is still the favorite and has shown flexibility within the caucus. But a Democratic upset would mean one less pro-business Republican senator voting for leadership in 2025.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 115 ~ 20 of 90

There's a similar scenario in District 14 in southeast Sioux Falls, where Democrat Sandra Henry is challenging Republican incumbent Larry Zikmund, who prevailed with 56% of the vote in 2020 and 54% in 2022.

Henry, a former middle school teacher, has been active in trying to flip this district, a tall order with a 55% GOP electorate. If she's successful, establishment Republicans would lose one of their own in Zikmund, an Air Force veteran who has a background in technical education.

In District 11 in southwest Sioux Falls, the populist wing is counting on Republican Chris Karr being able to cross over from the House and win this Senate seat against Democrat Steve Natz. The seat was vacated by term-limited Jim Stalzer, who won with 55% of the vote in 2022 against current Democratic U.S. House candidate Sheryl Johnson.

## All eyes on the Cathedral district

Another key battleground is District 15 in north-central Sioux Falls, also known as the Cathedral district. The former Democratic stronghold has turned more independent, with a current registration breakdown of 34% Republican, 28% Democrat and 37% Independent/No Party Affiliation.

Smith, the former Democratic state legislator who ran unsuccessfully against Noem for governor in 2022, is trying to hold the seat previously held by fellow Democrat Reynold Nesiba, who is term-limited in the Senate.

Smith's opponent is Republican Brenda Lawrence, a former corrections officer who lost to Nesiba in 2022 with 47% of the vote. Lawrence, a member of the Air Force Reserves, has touted "education over indoctrination" and landowner rights in her campaign.

A Republican upset here would be a major boost for the populist movement in Pierre. Democrats, meanwhile, are counting on Smith's experience and name recognition to prevent what would be a staggering setback for their cause.

## Pivotal race in Yankton, Clay counties

Among the Republican incumbents defeated in the June primary was Sen. Jean Hunhoff of Yankton, whose 24 years in the Legislature included 18 on the Joint Committee on Appropriations.

She lost in District 18, which includes Yankton and Clay counties, to Lauren Nelson, who ran to Hunhoff's right on a platform of limited government, property rights and Second Amendment protections.

Democrats, seeing a chance to win over moderates and independents chagrined by Hunhoff's loss, replaced their original candidate with Sarah Carda, president of the Yankton School Board and a former vice president at Mount Marty University.

Carda's campaign committee chair is former state legislator Bernie Hunhoff, Jean's brother-in-law and the Democrats' 1998 gubernatorial nominee.

Dan Ahlers, executive director of the South Dakota Democratic Party, said Jean Hunhoff's primary loss helped mobilize activity in Yankton and Clay counties, both of which favored Sutton over Noem in the 2018 governor's race.

"Seeing a former colleague and a pretty good legislator like Jean Hunhoff lose, we certainly saw an opportunity to pick up a seat," Ahlers told News Watch.

## Democrats see registration gains

Recruiting candidates has been a struggle for South Dakota Democrats, who haven't won a statewide election since 2008 and left 28 of this year's legislative general election races uncontested, including 16 of 35 in the Senate.

The party's seven-member House roster in 2022-23 represented a 76% drop from two decades ago, when the party had 29 House members, a 20-15 advantage over Republicans in the state Senate and were on the cusp of having all three members of the state's congressional delegation in Washington.

Ahlers, a former state legislator and U.S. House candidate from Dell Rapids, pointed to signs that the party's outlook is trending slightly upward.

After 16 years of voter registration declines, Democratic numbers have climbed the past three months to 144,745. That's an improvement but still 24% of the state's total, compared to 312,463 Republicans, or 51%, and 154,820 independent/non-affiliated voters, who make up 25% of the total.



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 115 ~ 21 of 90

Democrats also have benefitted from the fractious state of the South Dakota GOP when it comes to fundraising. In the reporting period from January 2023 to August 2024, the South Dakota Democratic Party had \$341,000 in individual contributions, compared to \$113,000 for its Republican counterpart.

Of course, Ahlers knows that political parties are ultimately judged by elections, which means the SDDP needs to show tangible improvement on Nov. 5 to validate its vision.

"If voter turnout is good and we do an effective job of reaching independent voters and doing all of those things that you need to do to win, I think we'll take some steps forward and gain some (legislative) seats," Ahlers said. "I think we have to gain some seats in order to call this cycle a success."

## Seeking influence in Indian Country

Traditionally, the most reliable drivers of Democratic representation are the state's predominantly Native American districts. But redistricting and declining party influence have eroded some of that Indian Country advantage in recent years.

House District 27, which includes Bennett, Jackson, Pennington and Oglala Lakota counties and the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, will be an indicator of whether renewed Democratic efforts to court Indigenous support is paying dividends.

The district, which is 47% Democratic and 29% Republican, is currently represented by Democrat Rep. Peri Pourier of Rapid City and Republican Rep. Liz May of Kyle, running as incumbents for the district's two House seats.

Pourier and District 27 Sen. Red Dawn Foster helped persuade Lakota rancher and longtime business leader Elsie Meeks to run for House in the district, potentially giving Democrats a Native female triumvirate if Pourier and Meeks both outduel May, the lone Republican on the ballot.

"The odds are very bad for one candidate in a party running against two candidates from another political party," said Michael Card, an emeritus professor of political science at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion. "Turnout is key and not to be taken for granted in these districts, especially given the distances, weather on Nov. 5 and a lingering drought."

Meeks, Bernie Hunhoff's running mate in the 1998 governor's race, is a former member of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission whose re-entry to politics is one of the more intriguing storylines of the 2024 legislative election.

She represents the sort of quality candidate that the Democrats have struggled to attract in recent cycles as the party's influence in the state waned, allowing the Republicans to build their supermajority in Pierre.

With GOP higher-ups focused on intraparty strife, Democrats could be a few feel-good victories away from finding a morsel of momentum on the South Dakota political scene.

*This story was produced by South Dakota News Watch, an independent, nonprofit news organization. Read more in-depth stories at [sdnewswatch.org](https://sdnewswatch.org) and sign up for an email every few days to get stories as soon as they're published. Contact Stu Whitney at [stu.whitney@sdnewswatch.org](mailto:stu.whitney@sdnewswatch.org).*



## SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

### **With Republican control of Legislature assured, Democrats target competitive districts**

**All 105 seats are on South Dakotans' Nov. 5 ballot**

**BY: MAKENZIE HUBER - OCTOBER 17, 2024 3:25 PM**

It's no secret that Republicans will keep control of the South Dakota Legislature this election year. The questions heading into the Nov. 5 election are whether the results will widen the party's internal fracturing and whether Democrats will improve their meager numbers.

All 105 seats in the Legislature are up for election, and Democrats currently hold only 11 of those positions. Republicans are already guaranteed a near majority in both the House and Senate next year, due to Democrats' failure to field candidates in some districts.

"There's 12 or 15 races that are going to basically shape what the composition of the Legislature in terms of partisan split will look like," said House Majority Leader Will Mortenson, R-Fort Pierre.

Of South Dakota's 66 counties, those that include Native American reservations have the strongest share of Democratic voter registrations in the state. While nine of the 14 seats representing reservation lands have been won by Republicans in recent years, high turnout expected because of this year's presidential race could change that.

And in South Dakota's urban districts, including a handful in Sioux Falls, Democrats are hoping to be competitive.

"I think both sides have put up pretty strong candidates and are trying to run vigorous races in those areas, because I think they know that they're the most contested areas," Mortenson said.

Meanwhile, 14 incumbent Republican legislators lost to challengers from their own party in the June primary, leading to speculation about the future direction of the party. Many of the challengers described themselves as more politically conservative than the incumbents.

Following are summaries of some noteworthy legislative races. Voters elect one senator and two representatives in each district, except in split House districts — 26A and B, and 28A and B — where voters select one representative.

#### **Districts with high Native American populations**

District 1: Up until 2018, District 1 was a Democratic stronghold in the northeast corner of the state. Democratic Senate and House candidates went unchallenged from 2008 through 2018. But when Tamara St. John became the first Republican elected from the district since 1998, the district shifted red, with the Republican Party taking the Senate seat in 2020 and both House seats in 2022.

Although Aberdeen Sen. Michael Rohl is uncontested in the general election, St. John was ousted by two Republican challengers in the June House primary. The district will have a six-way House race among two Republicans, two Democrats and two Libertarians:

Libertarians Josh Dennert and Tamara Lesnar.

Republicans Logan Manhart and Christopher Reder.

Democrats Steven McCleerey (a former representative for the district from 2015 to 2020) and Mark Sumption.

District 26: The south-central district includes some of the highest Democratic voter registration percent-

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 115 ~ 23 of 90

ages in the state, including 63% in Buffalo County and 60% in Todd County. The district's House seats are split between the west (Mellette, Todd and part of Jones counties) and the east (Brule, Buffalo, Lyman and parts of Hughes, Hyde and Jones counties).

Democrats have held the Senate seat since 2004 and the 26A House seat since 2006, following an ACLU lawsuit to protect minority voting rights. Incumbent Sen. Shawn Bordeaux faces Republican challenger Tamara Grove. Bordeaux, a member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, won his Senate seat in 2022 with 58% of the vote. Democratic incumbent Eric Emery, also a member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, won his 26A House seat in 2022 with 67% of the vote. He faces Republican Ron Frederick and independent William Craig Lafferty.

District 26B House incumbent Republican Rebecca Reimer has held her seat since she was appointed in 2018. She faces an independent challenger in David Reis, who previously ran unsuccessful campaigns as a Democrat in District 26. The 26B House seat has been filled by a Republican since the district was split.

District 27: Oglala Lakota County is No. 1 in the state for Democratic voter registration, at 65%. Bennett County, No. 8 in the state, reports nearly 38% Democratic registered voters, and Jackson reports 32%. The district also includes eastern Pennington County, which is strongly Republican.

In the House race, incumbent Republican Liz May faces incumbent Democrat Peri Pourier and Democrat Elsie Meeks, both members of the Oglala Sioux Tribe. Meeks ran as Bernie Hunhoff's running mate in the 1998 gubernatorial race and is a former member of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission. May served in the House for three terms before losing her seat to Pourier and Republican Steve Livermont in 2018 by 51 votes. She was reelected in 2020 when she earned the majority of votes against two Democratic candidates.

In the Senate race, Democratic incumbent Red Dawn Foster faces Republican Anthony Kathol.

District 28: Dewey, Ziebach and Corson counties within the district have some of the highest Democratic voter registration rates in the state, at 53%, 47% and 42.5%, respectively. The other counties in the district — Harding, Butte and Perkins— have some of the lowest Democratic voter registration numbers in the state.

The Senate race is a contest among former lawmaker Sam Marty, a Republican who served District 28B (Harding, Butte and part of Perkins counties) in the House from 2015 to 2022; independent Shane Farlee; and Democratic former lawmaker Dean Schrempp, who represented District 28A (Dewey, Ziebach, Corson and part of Perkins counties) in the House starting in 1993 and ending his last term in 2016.

The longstanding Democratic seat in 28A is also under pressure. With Democrat Rep. Oren Lesmeister opting not to run for reelection, voters are left to choose between Democratic candidate Carl Petersen, a Cheyenne River Sioux tribal member, and Republican Jana Hunt, who is backed by the conservative Liberty Tree PAC and beat longtime Republican legislator Ryan Maher in the June primary.

District 28 was the first split House district in South Dakota, formed in 1991 to protect minority voting rights.

## Sioux Falls contests

District 11: Western Sioux Falls could see competitive races in its District 11 Senate and House contests.

The district is 43.2% Republican, 29.8% "other" and 27% Democratic, according to the Minnehaha County Auditor's Office. "Other" includes Libertarian, independent, the No Labels Party, and people who registered without any political affiliation.

Republican Sen. Jim Stalzer term-limited out of the Senate, leaving the seat open for current District 11 Republican Rep. Chris Karr to try for the seat. He's challenged by Democrat Steve Natz.

In the House race, Republican Brian Mulder is up for reelection in a race that includes Republican Keri Weems and Democrats Aaron Matson and Sonja Mentzer.

District 12: Incumbent Republican Sen. Arch Beal will vie for reelection. Beal won in 2022 with 54% of the vote. Republicans won the Senate seat in 2020 with 54% and won in 2018 by 27 votes. Beal is challenged

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 115 ~ 24 of 90

by Democrat Clay Hoffman, who served as a personal assistant for Billie Sutton in his 2018 gubernatorial campaign and as Senate minority secretary with the Legislative Research Council in 2017.

On the House side, Republican incumbents Greg Jamison and Amber Arlint each took 28% of the vote in 2022, with Democratic challengers taking 22% and 21%. Jamison and Arlint will face Democrats JR Anderson and Erin Royer. This is the third election in a row Royer is running for the Legislature.

According to Minnehaha and Lincoln county auditors, District 12 voter registration is 43% Republican, 30.5% "other" and 26.5% Democratic.

District 14: Democratic Rep. Erin Healy held one of the district's House seats from 2019 to 2022 before moving to District 10. The Republicans' share of the district's Senate vote dwindled from 69% in 2016 to 54% in 2022. The district's voter registration is 44.4% Republican, 28.2% Democratic and 27.4% "other," according to the Minnehaha County Auditor's Office.

Democrat Sandra Henry is challenging Republican incumbent Larry Zikmund for the district's Senate seat. In the House race, Democratic challengers Keith Block and B.J. Motley face Republican candidates Tony Kayser, who was backed by conservative Liberty Tree PAC during the primary, and incumbent Taylor Rehfeldt.

District 15: Two of the Democratic Party's leading lawmakers, Sen. Reynold Nesiba and Rep. Linda Duba, are not seeking legislative seats this year, leaving two seats open in District 15.

Former lawmaker and 2022 Democratic gubernatorial nominee Jamie Smith hopes to succeed Nesiba, but faces Republican Brenda Lawrence. Nesiba won his seat in 2020 with 55% of the vote and in 2022 with 53%, which was also against Lawrence.

In the House, Democratic incumbent Kady Wittman won her first term in 2022 by 97 votes. Democrats went unchallenged for House seats in District 15 in 2018 and won with 31% and 28% of the vote in 2016. Wittman and fellow Democratic candidate Eric Muckey face Republicans Joni Tschetter and Brad Lindwurm in the current race.

The district has the most "other" registered voters in Minnehaha County at 38.4%, followed by 33.5% Republicans and 28.1% Democrats.

## Other noteworthy races

District 7: The City of Brookings' District 7 reports a 42.6% Republican voter registration, 31.75% "other" and 25.6% Democratic.

Republican incumbent Sen. Tim Reed is unopposed, but Republican House incumbents Mellissa Heermann and Roger DeGroot face challenges from Democrats Blake Stevens and Fedora Sutton-Butler.

District 18: South Dakota's longest-serving female legislator Jean Hunhoff was ousted in the June Republican primary by challenger Lauren Nelson, setting a showdown for the Senate race. Nelson will face Democrat Sarah Carda, Yankton School Board president and former Mount Marty University vice president.

District 18 encompasses Yankton County and a portion of Clay County. Voter registration in the district is 49.87% Republican, 26.37% "other" and 23.8% Democrat, according to the Clay County Auditor's Office and the Secretary of State's Office.

District 32: The central Rapid City district reports the highest share of Democratic voters in the city. The district is 44.3% Republican, 35% Democrat and 20.6% "other," according to the Pennington County Auditor's Office.

Republican incumbent Sen. Helene Duhamel faces independent Karen McNeal, without a Democratic challenger. Republicans Brook Kaufman and incumbent Steve Duffy face Democrat Nichole Uhre-Balk for the House seats.

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



## Company proposing Lake Preston jet fuel plant receives \$1.46 billion federal endorsement

**Conditional loan guarantee from Energy Department tied to South Dakota facility plans**

**BY: JOHN HULT - OCTOBER 17, 2024 11:59 AM**

The U.S. Department of Energy has granted a conditional loan guarantee worth \$1.46 billion to Gevo, the Colorado company that aims to build the nation's first ethanol-to-jet-fuel facility near Lake Preston in South Dakota.

A news release from the department's Loan Programs Office said the loan guarantee "supports the Biden-Harris administration's goal" of producing 3 billion gallons of sustainable aviation fuel nationwide by 2030, and 35 billion gallons a year by 2050. The conditional commitment indicates an intent to finance the project after a federal environmental review, as well as other technical, legal, environmental, commercial and financial conditions.

The Gevo project is called "Net-Zero 1." The facility would include a plant to produce ethanol exclusively for use in aviation fuel, using corn from farmers contracted to produce their crops using a set of climate-friendly practices, such as cover cropping and no-till agriculture.

That ethanol would be transformed to jet fuel in a separate facility at the same site. Gevo also intends to build a wind farm to help power the operations, and a facility called Dakota Renewable Hydrogen to produce hydrogen for use in fuel production.

The U.S. currently produces about 30 million gallons of low-emission jet fuel each year, the Energy Department release says. Net-Zero 1 could produce twice that amount annually.

The Gevo fuel would reduce annual carbon emissions by 600,000 metric tons a year, according to the department. The facilities would also produce 1.3 billion pounds of animal feed and 30 million gallons of corn oil per year as byproducts of the fuel production process.

Under the Biden administration, the loan guarantee program requires applicants to have a "Community Benefits Plan" that would "meaningfully engage" with community and labor groups "to create good-paying jobs and improve the well-being of residents and workers."

"The Lake Preston facility is located near disadvantaged communities that face high rates of expected population loss," the release says.

The Energy Department announced its loan guarantee for Gevo on Wednesday afternoon. It also announced a \$1.44 billion loan guarantee for a company called Montana Renewables on Wednesday, meant to support a project that aims to produce sustainable aviation fuel using vegetable oil.

In its own news release on the loan guarantee, Gevo pointed to a report prepared for it by Charles River Associates that says the Lake Preston project would support the local agricultural operations and the businesses supported by them, create 1,300 jobs during construction and 100 permanent jobs. The report put Net-Zero 1's annual economic impact at "over \$100 million."

"We expect that NZ1 will kickstart new growth in the economy, create jobs, and present additional opportunities for the agricultural community in the region around Lake Preston, across South Dakota, and even reaching other states," Gevo Senior Vice President of Public Affairs Lindsay Fitzgerald said in the press release.

### South Dakota support, opposition

Gevo's plan has drawn support and criticism in South Dakota. Gov. Kristi Noem called it the largest economic development project in state history during an address to the Legislature in 2023, and Lt. Gov. Larry Rhoden appeared at the project's groundbreaking in 2022.

Noem's son-in-law, Kyle Peters, is a registered lobbyist for Gevo.

Noem spokesman Ian Fury did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the loan announcement Thursday.

But Net-Zero 1's future is also dependent on the controversial Summit Carbon Solutions pipeline project.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 115 ~ 26 of 90

Summit's proposed pipeline would pump carbon produced by Midwestern ethanol plants, including Gevo's proposed plant, to a site in North Dakota for underground sequestration. The pipeline has been denied a permit by the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission, but Summit has said it plans to reapply.

Some landowners are vehemently opposed to the project, and have lobbied lawmakers for legislation to prevent Summit from using eminent domain to build beneath their property. Some county commissions, meanwhile, have passed restrictions on pipeline projects that Summit argues would make the project all but impossible to complete.

Lawmakers in South Dakota passed a bill dubbed the "landowner bill of rights," which was signed into law by Gov. Noem. The law would ensure annual payments from carbon pipeline companies for property tax relief and outlines carbon pipeline companies' responsibilities to landowners, including minimum depth requirements and the protection of agricultural drain tiling.

Anti-pipeline activists successfully petitioned the law onto the Nov. 5 ballot, however, arguing that it would erode local control.

Gevo donated \$167,000 to support efforts to convince voters to support the pipeline law at the ballot box in November.

Eleven of the state legislative incumbents who lost their bid for a slot on the general election ballot in the June primary fell to opponents who campaigned on an anti-pipeline platform.

Gevo's leadership has repeatedly spoken of the Summit pipeline as a critical part of its business plan. The potential profitability of Gevo's jet fuel is tied in part to federal tax credits for carbon abatement, meant to incentivize the reduction of carbon emissions that contribute to climate change, as well as incentives for low-carbon fuels in states like California. Gevo would need to sequester the carbon produced by its facilities to minimize the carbon footprint of its jet fuel.

CEO Patrick Gruber has said that the Net-Zero 1 project might not be feasible in South Dakota without Summit's pipeline.

## Federal loan linked to SD location

Last month, Gevo announced its intention to acquire an existing ethanol plant in North Dakota that sits atop the geologic formation where the Summit pipeline would sequester carbon, potentially enabling the company to produce its jet fuel at that location in the absence of a carbon pipeline.

Gruber told South Dakota Searchlight at the time he believes the Summit project will be completed, but that the company "would have to consider" moving its operations to North Dakota "if there is no hope" for a carbon pipeline in South Dakota.

During an investor call Thursday morning, Gruber was asked about another potential political issue, in this case on the federal level. One of the investors asked if the company's loan would remain viable in the event Republican Donald Trump is elected president in November. Trump has signaled plans to undo many of President Biden's climate change policies.

"The conditional commitment survives administrations," Gruber said, referring to the loan guarantee.

The loan guarantee is tied to the South Dakota site, Gruber told South Dakota Searchlight in an email. The funds would not be used for the facility in North Dakota.

But Gruber also reiterated his confidence in the future of the Summit pipeline.

"It's hard to imagine a scenario where a pipeline in SD doesn't eventually get built," he said.

The news of the North Dakota acquisition and the federal loan have boosted the company's stock price. Until recently, Gevo was at risk of being delisted from the Nasdaq stock exchange for failure to maintain a share price of \$1 or higher for five consecutive days. Its stock price climbed over that \$1 mark shortly after the North Dakota announcement. Its share price opened trading above \$3 on Thursday morning.

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

## Social Security and Medicare: Where do Harris and Trump stand?

BY: JENNIFER SHUTT - OCTOBER 17, 2024 10:23 AM

WASHINGTON — The presidential debate in early September included just one mention of Social Security and three references to Medicare, making the safety net programs a minuscule part of the policy discussion, despite their importance to tens of millions of Americans.

Democratic nominee Kamala Harris and Republican candidate Donald Trump have both mentioned the programs numerous times during appearances, though neither campaign has sought to elevate the financial stability of the two programs as a core issue.

More often than not, Harris and Trump rebuke their opponent, while committing to “save” Social Security and Medicare — skipping over the details or the role Congress must play in the discussion.

How to address projected shortfalls for both the Social Security and Medicare trust funds will become an increasingly important topic for the president and Congress during the next decade.

The latest Social Security trustees report expects the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance and the Disability Insurance trust funds will be able to pay full benefits until 2035, after which, without action by lawmakers, benefits would drop to about 83%.

The trustee report for Medicare shows the funding stream for the hospital insurance trust fund can cover all of its bills through 2036 before it would only be able to cover 89% of costs.

There are currently 67.5 million people enrolled in Medicare, which provides health insurance and prescription drug coverage for people over the age of 65 as well as younger people who have certain severe illnesses or disabilities.

Nearly 68 million people receive some level of benefit from Social Security each month, accounting for about \$1.5 trillion in spending by the federal government annually, according to a fact sheet.

While the issue is somewhat less pressing for Trump, who would be term limited to another four years, Harris could theoretically spend the next eight years in the Oval Office, making the solvency of the trust funds an issue she would likely need to address with Congress.

### Protecting seniors

During the September debate, Harris brought up Social Security and Medicare following a question about how her policy beliefs on fracking, assault weapons and border security have changed over time.

“My work that is about protecting Social Security and Medicare is based on long-standing work that I have done. Protecting seniors from scams,” Harris said as part of a longer answer. “My values have not changed. And what is important is that there is a president who actually brings values and a perspective that is about lifting people up and not beating people down and name-calling.”

Harris later brought up Medicare again, noting that legislation Congress approved during Biden’s term in office allowed program administrators to negotiate certain prescription drug prices for the first time. That law, known as the Inflation Reduction Act, also capped the cost of insulin for Medicare enrollees at \$35 per month.

Trump didn’t broach the subject of Social Security or Medicare during the September debate with Harris, but he did speak about the two programs during an earlier summer debate with President Joe Biden, before he stepped aside as the Democratic nominee.

During that debate, Trump claimed the Biden administration was going to “destroy” the two programs by allowing noncitizens to draw down benefits.

FactCheck notes on its website that comments and viral posts about noncitizens receiving Social Security benefits don’t always represent reality and sometimes confuse different programs.

“Immigrants who are lawfully living or authorized to work in the U.S. are eligible for a Social Security number and, in some cases, Social Security benefits. But viral posts make the false claim that ‘illegal immigrants’ can receive Social Security numbers and retirement benefits, and they confuse two programs managed by the Social Security Administration.”

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 115 ~ 28 of 90

KFF writes on its website that whether legal immigrants are eligible for Medicare depends on several factors, including how long they've paid into the system.

"New immigrants are not eligible for Medicare regardless of their age. Once immigrants meet the residency requirements, eligibility and enrollment work the same as they do for others."

## Trump on entitlement programs

Trump's comments on entitlement programs haven't always been consistent or entirely clear, but his campaign and he both maintain they will "save" the program.

During an interview with CNBC in March, Trump said that there are numerous things lawmakers could do to address solvency.

"There is a lot you can do in terms of entitlements, in terms of cutting and in terms of also the theft and the bad management of entitlements," Trump said, declining to list any of those policy proposals.

Trump's campaign website posted a video of him back in January 2023, saying Republicans "should not cut a penny" from Medicare or Social Security to pay for other legislation.

The problems facing Social Security and Medicare aren't related to Congress reducing the amount of tax dollars flowing into the programs. Rather it is the structure for the programs lawmakers set up previously.

Without action by Congress, the trust funds won't be able to account for benefit payments in the long term.

So the challenge for the next president won't be preventing lawmakers from taking action related to Social Security and Medicare, but helping find a bipartisan path forward on legislation to change revenue, spending, or both.

Trump does want to end taxes on Social Security benefits, writing on social media in July that "SENIORS SHOULD NOT PAY TAX ON SOCIAL SECURITY!"

Henry Aaron, the Bruce and Virginia MacLaury Chair and senior fellow in the Economic Studies Program at the Brookings Institution, wrote in a detailed analysis of the platform that Trump's proposal to end income tax on Social Security benefits "would accelerate trust fund depletion by about two years and deepen the long-run funding gap by more than 7%."

## Harris policies

Harris' campaign website says she would "protect Social Security and Medicare against relentless attacks from Donald Trump and his extreme allies."

"She will strengthen Social Security and Medicare for the long haul by making millionaires and billionaires pay their fair share in taxes," the policy page states. "She will always fight to ensure that Americans can count on getting the benefits they earned."

Harris announced in early October during an appearance on "The View" that if elected she would work toward including long-term home care for seniors enrolled in Medicare.

"There are so many people in our country who are right in the middle: They're taking care of their kids and they're taking care of their aging parents, and it's just almost impossible to do it all, especially if they work," Harris said during the live interview. "We're finding that so many are then having to leave their job, which means losing a source of income, not to mention the emotional stress."

The proposals would likely need partial, if not complete, buy-in from Congress to move forward and could come with a \$40 billion annual price tag, though the campaign noted in a fact sheet that there are pay-fors.

"These new benefits will be fully paid for and extend the life of the Medicare Trust Fund by expanding Medicare drug price negotiations, increasing the discounts drug manufacturers cover for certain brand-name drugs in Medicare and addressing Medicare fraud," it states.

A Harris administration would also "crack down on pharmaceutical benefit managers (PBMs) to increase transparency, disclose more information on cost, and regulate other practices that raise prices" and "implement international tax reform" to pay for the changes.



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

## **Anti-abortion faith group emerges after earlier formation of abortions-rights group**

**BY: SEARCHLIGHT STAFF - OCTOBER 17, 2024 4:01 PM**

A group working against the abortion-rights measure on South Dakota's Nov. 5 ballot announced Thursday that 220 faith leaders in the state oppose the measure. The announcement came one month after an abortion-rights group unveiled its own coalition of 35 faith leaders supporting the measure.

The new announcement is from the Life Defense Fund, which opposes Amendment G.

The group said the faith leaders signed a joint statement urging South Dakotans to vote against the amendment. One of the signers is the Rev. Janine Rew-Werling, of Hosanna Lutheran Church in Watertown.

"As a pastor, my heart is for post abortive women and their struggles with guilt, shame, anxiety, depression, and even their risk of suicide," Rew-Werling said in a news release. "I have witnessed the reality of post-abortion trauma, and Amendment G is too extreme, putting women in danger."

Last month's announcement of a faith leaders' coalition supporting the measure came from Dakotans for Health, the ballot question committee that petitioned the abortion-rights measure onto the ballot.

After the U.S. Supreme Court's 2022 decision that overturned *Roe v. Wade*, a trigger law that the South Dakota Legislature had adopted in 2005 immediately banned abortions in the state except when necessary to "preserve the life of the pregnant female."

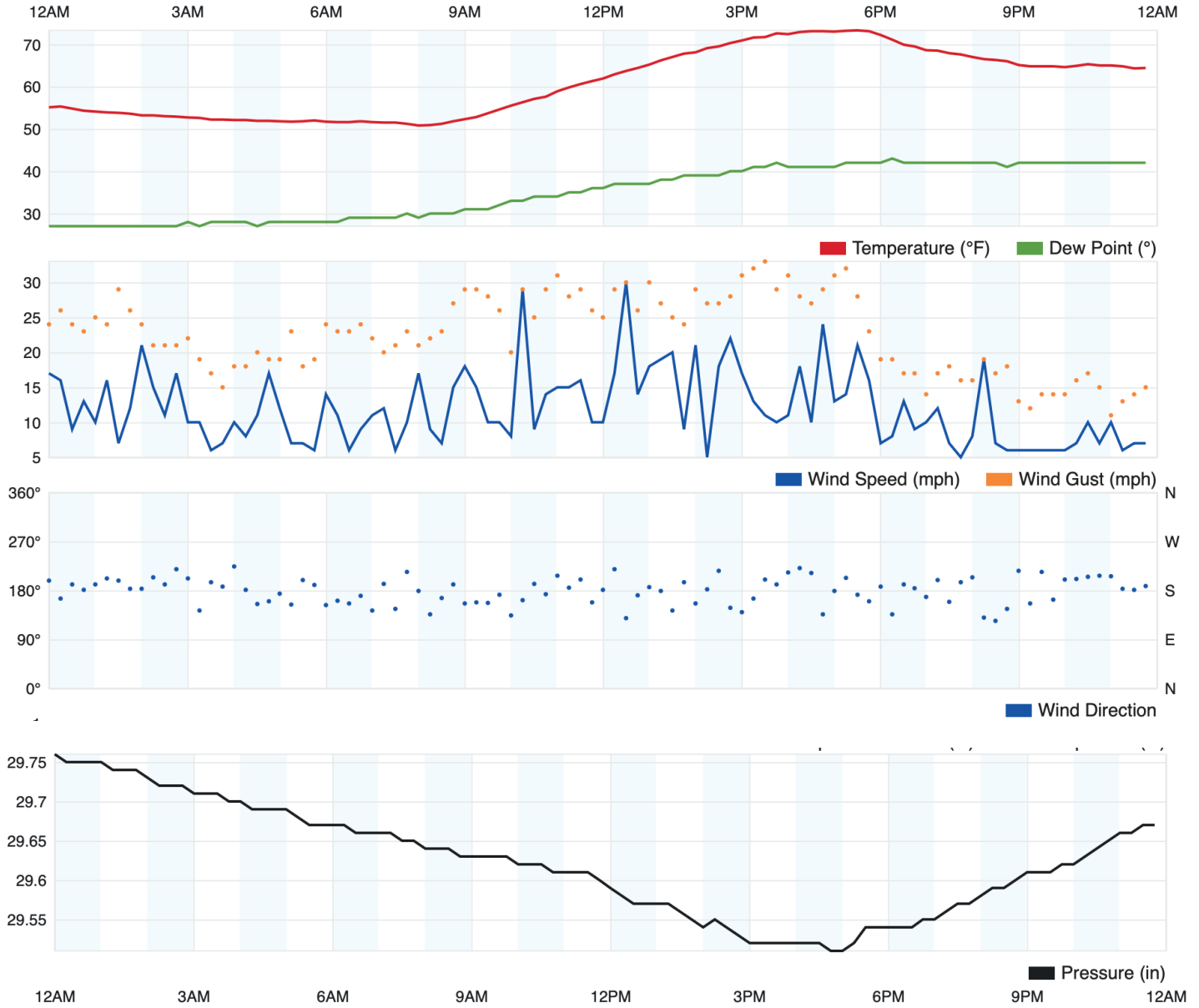
The proposed amendment would prohibit first-trimester regulations on "a pregnant woman's abortion decision and its effectuation." In the second trimester, it would allow regulations "reasonably related to the physical health of the pregnant woman." In the third trimester, it would allow an abortion ban with a mandatory exception to "preserve the life or health of the pregnant woman."

Meanwhile, a lawsuit from the Life Defense Fund aims to invalidate the ballot measure, but the lawsuit isn't scheduled for a trial until after the election. The group alleges various legal infractions by the petition circulators who gathered signatures to place the measure on the ballot.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 115 ~ 30 of 90

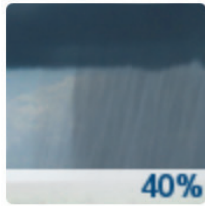
## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 115 ~ 31 of 90

Today

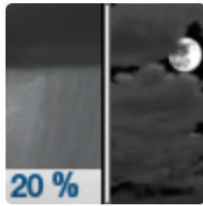


40%

High: 60 °F

Chance  
Showers

Tonight



20 %

Low: 39 °F

Slight Chance  
Showers then  
Mostly Cloudy

Saturday



High: 63 °F

Sunny

Saturday Night



Low: 46 °F

Mostly Clear

Sunday



High: 76 °F

Sunny

## Into the Weekend

Today



Highs: 51-70°F  
Lows: 32-47°F

30-50% chance of  
showers

Saturday



Highs: 61-65°F  
Lows: 40-50°F

Possible morning  
fog then becoming  
clear

Sunday



Highs: 73-77°F  
Lows: 43-56°F



Light rain showers will be possible through the day today. Rainfall totals are expected to be less than 0.1" for most areas. For the weekend, temperatures will be increasing to 15-20 degrees above average. This will continue into the first part of next week.

# Broton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 115 ~ 32 of 90



## Record High Temperatures Observed

October 17, 2024  
7:35 PM

### Maximum Temperature

For October 17th, 2024

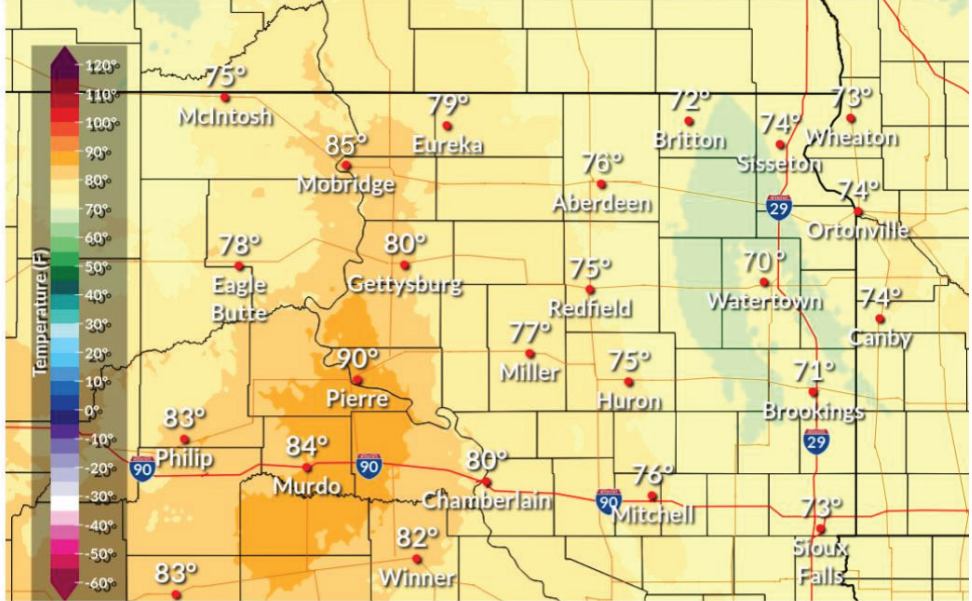
Weather Forecast Office  
Aberdeen, SD

Issued Oct 17, 2024 6:21 PM CDT



Pierre SD set a record high temperature for Oct. 17th of 90 degrees today. This breaks the old record of 83 degrees set in 1945.

A record high temperature at Mobridge SD of 85 degrees occurred today. This ties the old record of 85 degrees set in 1914.



National Weather Service  
Aberdeen, SD

Pierre broke today's record daily high temperature by reaching 90 degrees. This is 7 degrees warmer than the previous record high for Oct. 17 set in 1945. Mobridge tied their record daily high temperature today which was set in 1914, reaching 85 degrees.



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 115 ~ 33 of 90

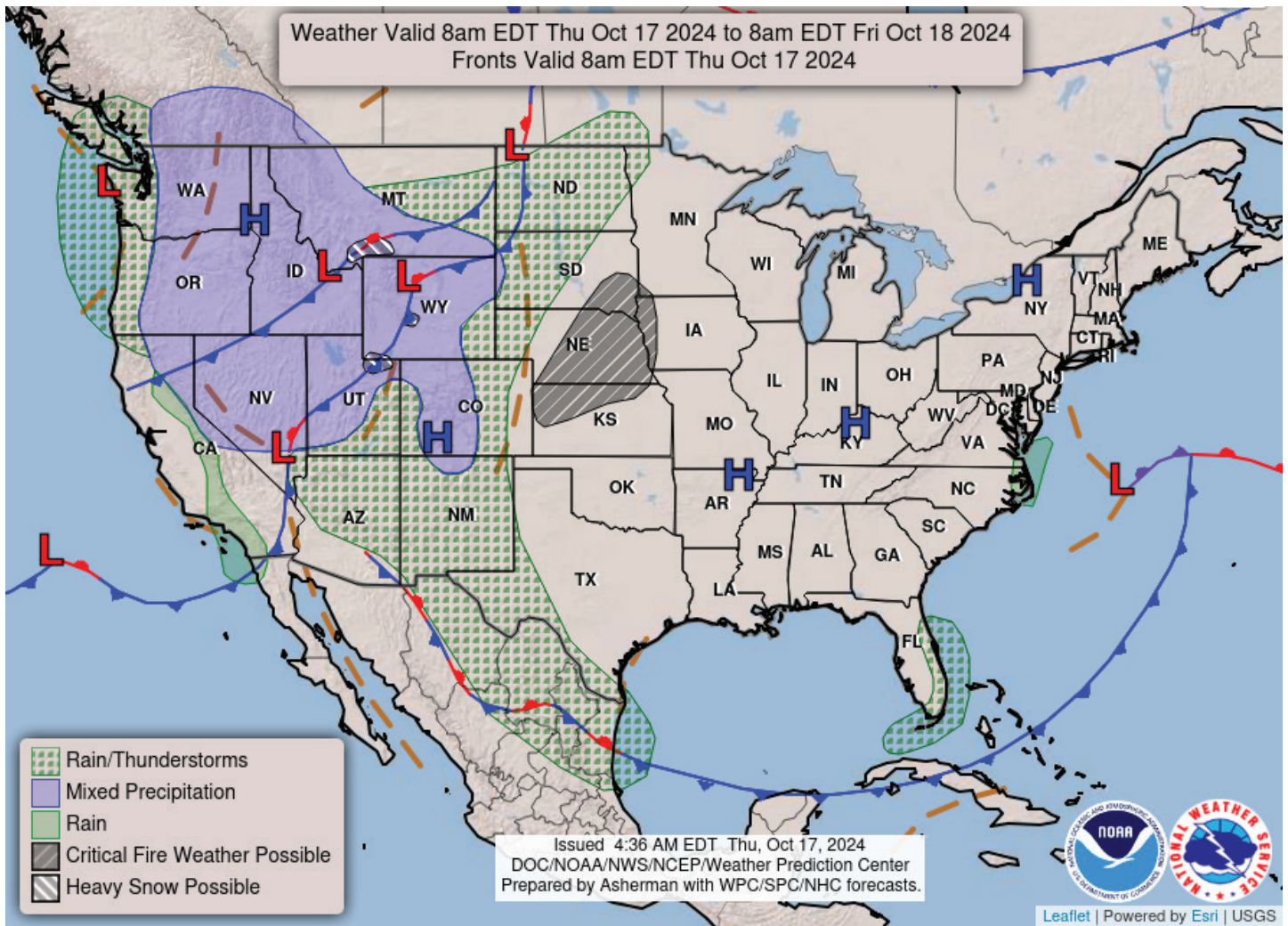
## Yesterday's Groton Weather

**High Temp: 73 °F at 4:25 PM**  
**Low Temp: 51 °F at 7:59 AM**  
**Wind: 33 mph at 12:06 AM**  
**Precip: : 0.00 (Last date we had rain: Aug. 13)**

## Today's Info

Record High: 92 in 1910  
Record Low: 15 in 1976  
Average High: 59  
Average Low: 33  
Average Precip in Oct.: 1.29  
Precip to date in Oct.: 0.00  
Average Precip to date: 19.62  
Precip Year to Date: 19.75  
Sunset Tonight: 6:42:36 pm  
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:53:32 am

Day length: 10 hours, 50 minutes



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 115 ~ 34 of 90

## Today in Weather History

October 18, 2012: An area of low pressure rapidly intensified once it moved east of the northern plains. This strengthening resulted in very strong northwest winds across the region. Some of the higher reported wind gusts include 77 mph at the Fort Pierre and Grand River RAWs sites, 74 mph at the Pierre airport, and 70 mph at Murdo, Presho, and Hayes public observation sites.

1906 - A hurricane struck South Florida drowning 124 persons stranded in the Florida Keys. (David Ludlum)

1910 - Northeasterly winds as high as 70 mph (from a hurricane moving northward up the Florida peninsula) carried water out of Tampa Bay and the Hillsboro River. The water level lowered to nine feet below mean low water. Forty ships were grounded. (The Weather Channel)

1916: A tropical depression organized to a tropical storm on October 11 in the western Caribbean. It moved westward, reaching hurricane strength on the 13th before hitting the Yucatán Peninsula on the 15th as a 110 mph hurricane. It weakened over land, and it emerged over the southern Gulf of Mexico as a tropical storm. It quickly re-strengthened to a Category 3 hurricane, hitting Pensacola on October 18. The maximum wind velocity at Mobile was 115 mph from the east at 8:25 am. Pensacola had winds of 120 mph at 10:13 am when the wind instrument tower was blown down.

1930 - A big early season lake effect snowburst on the lee shores of Lake Erie and Lake Ontario produced 47 inches at Gouverneur NY and 48 inches just south of Buffalo. (David Ludlum)

1987 - Thunderstorms in northeastern Texas produced golf ball size hail at Atlanta, along with wind gusts to 86 mph, and four inches of rain. Damage from the storm was estimated at more than a million dollars. Sunny and mild weather continued across much of the rest of the nation. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Eight cities in the southwestern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date, including Red Bluff CA with a reading of 96 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Unseasonably cold air began to invade the central and eastern U.S. Light snow fell across northern Maine, and snow was also reported in the Great Lakes Region, including the Chicago area. Bismarck ND was the cold spot in the nation with a low of 9 degrees above zero. Five cities in Florida reported record high readings for the date, as temperatures warmed above 80 degrees. Miami FL reported a record high of 90 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

2005 - With the formation of Hurricane Wilma, the 2005 Atlantic hurricane season tied the record for the most named storms for any season (21 storms in 1933), and also tied the record for the most hurricanes in a single season (12 in 1969). Wilma peaked at category-5 intensity on the 19th, with a minimum central pressure falling to 882 millibars (26.05 inches of mercury), the lowest pressure ever recorded in the Atlantic Basin. Wilma also became the most rapidly-intensifying storm on record, with a maximum-sustained surface wind speed increase of 105 mph in a 24-hour period.

2005: Hurricane Wilma developed a tiny, well-defined eye and began intensifying rapidly, reaching Category 5 strength with a record-setting pressure of 882 millibars by October 19. The rapid intensification from a tropical storm to Category 5 hurricane in 24 hours was the fastest ever recorded in the Atlantic Ocean, and the second-fastest worldwide, after Super Typhoon Forrest.

2007: A destructive fall tornado hit Nappanee, Indiana causing extensive damage along its 20-mile path across northeast Marshall, Northwest Kosciusko and southwest Elkhart Counties. High-end EF3 intensity winds near 165 mph were estimated based on the most severe damage over southeast Nappanee. Over 100 structures sustained significant damage or were destroyed in town alone. Despite the widespread damage and time of day, only minor injuries were reported.



## NO LIMITS

Shortly after birth he became physically ill. Not long after that he developed some early childhood mental problems. He entered school two years late and was asked to leave three months after enrolling. The authorities felt he was "addled."

Discouraged but not defeated, his mother began to teach him at home. But he learned so fast that she finally gave up. When he was nine years old, she purchased a chemistry book and encouraged him to read it. He was fascinated with its ideas, purchased some chemicals and began mixing them together to see what might happen. Unfortunately, one of his experiments started a fire, and he burned down his father's barn. Three years later a similar accident happened to a railroad baggage car.

Though deaf and considered by most to be "backward," he became one of the world's greatest inventors and was credited with 1,093 patents. Among his inventions are the motion picture camera, the phonograph, the long-lasting electric light bulb and what we now call industrial research parks. Thomas Edison did not allow any handicap or any person to stop him from doing what he was called to do. Because he persevered in spite of great obstacles, he was able to accomplish much.

We too can accomplish great and mighty things for God. Whatever He calls us to do, we can do because His Word assures us that we can do "all things through Him."

Prayer: Father, we look to You for insight, inspiration and encouragement to do what You have called us to do. May we use our time, talents and treasures wisely. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

Scripture For Today I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Philippians 4:13

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



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 115 ~ 36 of 90

## The Groton Independent Printed & Mailed Weekly Edition Subscription Form

All prices listed include 6.5% Sales Tax

- Black & White.....\$48.99/year
- Colored.....\$79.88/year
- Colored.....\$42.60/6 months
- E-Weekly\*.....\$31.95/year

\* The E-Weekly is a PDF file emailed to you each week. It does not grant you access to the GDI/Video Archives.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Mail Completed Form to:

Groton Independent

P.O. Box 34

Groton, SD 57445-0034

or scan and email to [paperpaul@grotonsd.net](mailto:paperpaul@grotonsd.net)

## Groton Daily Independent [www.397news.com](http://www.397news.com) Subscription Form

This option will grant you access to the GDI/Video Archives.

- 1 Month.....\$15.98
- 3 Months.....\$26.63
- 6 Months.....\$31.95
- 9 Months.....\$42.60
- 12 Months.....\$53.25

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

The following will be used for your log-in information.

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Password \_\_\_\_\_

Pay with Paypal. Type the following into your browser window:

[paypal.me/paperpaul](https://paypal.me/paperpaul)

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



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 115 ~ 37 of 90



## WINNING NUMBERS

### MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:  
10.15.24

22 34 44 54 62 3

MegaPlier: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$185,000,000**

NEXT 17 Hrs 14 Mins  
DRAW: 15 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:  
10.16.24

2 16 21 33 52 4

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$12,050,000**

NEXT 1 Days 16 Hrs 29  
DRAW: Mins 15 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:  
10.17.24

23 26 29 36 47 14

TOP PRIZE:

**\$7,000/week**

NEXT 16 Hrs 44 Mins  
DRAW: 15 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:  
10.16.24

3 5 14 24 30

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$64,000**

NEXT 1 Days 16 Hrs 44  
DRAW: Mins 15 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:  
10.16.24

29 35 41 53 68 9

TOP PRIZE:

**\$10,000,000**

NEXT 1 Days 17 Hrs 13  
DRAW: Mins 15 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:  
10.16.24

4 30 39 44 60 11

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$437,000,000**

NEXT 1 Days 17 Hrs 13  
DRAW: Mins 15 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 115 ~ 38 of 90

## 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

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 115 ~ 39 of 90

News from the **AP** Associated Press

## Thursday's Scores

The Associated Press

PREP VOLLEYBALL=

Aberdeen Christian def. Leola-Frederick High School, 25-16, 25-20, 25-18  
Baltic def. Sioux Valley, 25-17, 26-28, 25-19, 25-21  
Belle Fourche def. Mahpiya Luta Red Cloud, 23-25, 21-25, 25-16, 25-12, 15-9  
Bennett County def. Todd County, 25-22, 25-17, 25-15  
Bowman County, N.D. def. Bison, 21-25, 25-19, 25-13, 25-19  
Burke def. Gregory, 25-8, 22-25, 25-10, 25-10  
Canton def. Vermillion, 25-14, 25-8, 25-12  
Castlewood def. Estelline-Hendricks, 25-22, 23-25, 25-22, 28-26  
Centerville def. Avon, 25-16, 16-25, 25-17, 18-25, 16-14  
Chester def. Madison, 25-9, 25-14, 25-19  
Clark-Willow Lake def. Sisseton, 25-13, 25-18, 25-18  
Colman-Egan def. Oldham-Ramona-Rutland, 25-16, 25-18, 25-15  
Dell Rapids St Mary def. DeSmet, 25-20, 25-23, 25-22  
Deubrook def. Arlington, 25-17, 25-20, 25-23  
Edgemont def. Hulett, Wyo., 25-15, 25-15, 25-13  
Florence-Henry def. Wilmot, 25-19, 25-16, 25-19  
Freeman def. Sioux Falls Lutheran, 25-21, 30-28, 25-23  
Garretson def. Hills-Beaver Creek, Minn., 26-24, 25-13, 25-13  
Gayville-Volin High School def. Bridgewater-Emery, 25-16, 18-25, 25-23, 25-20  
Groton def. Deuel, 25-14, 25-16, 25-11  
Hamlin def. Britton-Hecla, 25-16, 25-19, 25-14  
Harrisburg def. Aberdeen Central High School, 25-18, 25-21, 25-11  
Herreid-Selby def. Highmore-Harrold, 25-8, 25-17, 25-22  
Hill City def. Wall, 25-12, 25-14, 25-22  
Hitchcock-Tulare def. Ipswich, 26-24, 25-8, 25-23  
Hot Springs def. Douglas, 20-25, 25-17, 20-25, 28-26, 15-10  
Irene-Wakonda def. Marty, 25-18, 25-2, 25-8  
Kadoka def. Jones County, 25-4, 25-4, 25-19  
Milbank def. Tiospa Zina, 25-18, 25-12, 25-12  
Mt. Vernon/Plankinton def. West Central, 25-19, 25-17, 25-8  
Newell def. New Underwood, 25-16, 25-15, 25-17  
North Central def. Wakpala, 25-6, 25-8, 25-10  
Northwestern def. Potter County, 25-13, 25-9, 25-18  
Philip def. Lyman, 25-19, 20-25, 23-25, 25-16, 15-12  
Platte-Geddes def. Chamberlain, 25-13, 25-18, 25-11  
Rapid City Christian def. Gordon/Rushville, Neb., 23-25, 25-14, 25-23, 25-19  
Sanborn Central-Woonsocket def. Kimball-White Lake, 25-20, 22-25, 25-21, 25-22  
Sioux Falls Christian def. Tri-Valley, 25-18, 25-17, 25-11  
Sioux Falls Jefferson def. Huron, 25-11, 25-17, 25-18  
Sioux Falls Lincoln def. Brookings, 25-18, 25-16, 18-25, 25-22  
Sioux Falls Roosevelt def. Tea, 25-16, 25-13, 25-11  
Sioux Falls Washington def. Watertown, 14-25, 25-17, 36-34, 25-23  
St Thomas More def. Custer, 25-20, 25-20, 25-19

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 115 ~ 40 of 90

Sturgis Brown High School def. Lead-Deadwood, 25-14, 25-23, 25-17  
T F Riggs High School def. Yankton, 27-29, 25-19, 25-21, 25-19  
Tripp-Delmont-Armour def. Scotland, 25-12, 25-14, 25-15  
Wagner def. Andes Central/Dakota Christian, 25-17, 25-14, 25-18  
Warner def. Faulkton, 25-17, 25-17, 25-13  
Webster def. Redfield, 25-19, 25-23, 25-19  
Winner def. Corsica/Stickney, 25-14, 23-25, 25-18, 25-19  
Wolsey-Wessington def. Wessington Springs, 25-12, 25-15, 25-13

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

## Thursday's Scores

The Associated Press

PREP FOOTBALL=

Cheyenne-Eagle Butte/Tiospaye Topa 52, Crow Creek Tribal School 0  
Little Wound 66, Flandreau Indian 0  
Lower Brule 44, Todd County 6  
Pine Ridge 52, Tiospa Zina 0  
St. Francis Indian 66, Marty 12  
White River 28, Mahpiya Luta Red Cloud 6

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

## Uphill battles that put abortion rights on ballots are unlikely to end even if the measures pass

By GEOFF MULVIHILL Associated Press

Voters in nine states are deciding next month whether to add the right to abortion to their constitutions, but the measures are unlikely to dramatically change access — at least not immediately.

Instead, voter approval would launch more lawsuits on a subject that's been in the courts constantly — and more than ever since the U.S. Supreme Court in 2022 overturned *Roe v. Wade* and opened the door to state abortion laws. In some states where the issue is on the ballot, it's already widely available.

If Missouri's amendment passes and takes effect in December, the measure would not repeal a state ban at all stages of pregnancy or the layers of other regulations — including a 72-hour waiting period and 44-inch (112-centimeter) doorway rule for clinics — that forced Planned Parenthood to stop abortions in two offices years before *Roe* was overturned.

"A yes vote for this is not a vote to overturn anything. It is a vote to ensure that the courts will have to fight this out for a long time," said Republican state Sen. Mary Elizabeth Coleman.

Coleman, who is also a conservative constitutional lawyer, said the Republican-dominated Legislature could also go back to voters to ask them to undo the amendment if it passes.

Still, the measure would mean that "the wind will be at our back" in court fights to overturn restrictions, said Emily Wales, the president and CEO of Planned Parenthood Great Plains, which operates in four states and is the only group in recent years to provide abortions in Missouri. The last clinic in Missouri, run by another Planned Parenthood affiliate, stopped offering abortions just before *Roe* was overturned.

"It will feel tremendously different to us to say, 'Missourians have a constitutional right. If you're going to interfere with it, you've got to have a pretty good cause,'" she said.

There's some precedent for an amendment not settling everything right away. An Ohio measure passed last year all but undid a law that banned abortion after cardiac activity can be detected, at about six weeks and before women often realize they're pregnant. Enforcement had already been blocked by a court. Ohio



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 115 ~ 41 of 90

advocates have been prevailing in preliminary litigation against other regulations but those battles aren't finished yet, and they worry lawmakers will block the use of taxpayer funds to support access.

"Having fewer legal restrictions is not necessarily meaningful to someone if they can't afford the financial cost," said Lexis Dotson-Dufault, executive director of the Abortion Fund of Ohio.

The most populous state with an abortion ballot measure this year is Florida. It would take approval of 60% of voters to win. And Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis's administration has alleged fraud in the signature-gathering process that got it on the ballot. That could be the basis for a court challenge on whether the amendment would take effect on Jan. 7. Meanwhile, the measure's supporters are suing current and former state health department officials over their efforts to get TV stations to stop running one pro-amendment ad.

The office of state Attorney General Ashley Moody, a Republican who sought to keep the measure off the ballot, did not respond to an interview request.

A Nevada measure wouldn't make an immediate splash because it would be required by law to not only pass in November, but in 2026 as well.

In Colorado, Maryland and New York — where the measure doesn't say "abortion" specifically but bans discrimination based on "pregnancy outcomes" — abortion is already allowed at least until viability — generally considered to be after 20 weeks, with some exceptions.

Colorado's measure would also repeal a ban on using taxpayer funds for abortion. A new law would be needed for abortion to be added to health insurance for government employees and people with Medicaid coverage.

Arizona's amendment would go into effect with a governor's proclamation if voters approve it. The state bars abortion after 15 weeks — and most occur before then. Earlier this year, some Republican lawmakers in the political battleground state joined with Democrats to repeal a much more restrictive 1864 ban before it could be enforced.

In Nebraska, the ballot includes competing measures: One would bar abortion after 12 weeks of pregnancy, with some exceptions, echoing the current ban but leaving open the possibility of tighter restrictions. The other would allow abortion until viability.

To take effect, an amendment would need not only majority support, but more votes than the other measure.

In South Dakota, where abortion is banned throughout pregnancy, opponents and advocates have been fighting over a measure that would prohibit the state from regulating abortion in the first trimester and allow regulations for the second and third trimesters only under certain health circumstances.

If the measure is adopted and survives the challenge, it would take effect July 1, 2025.

Life Defense Fund is focused on its campaign to defeat the measure at the ballot box rather than what might come next, said group spokesperson Caroline Woods.

Dakotans for Health sponsored the amendment and expects the Republican-dominated Legislature to try to "thread that needle" and impose restrictions during the second trimester if the amendment passes, said group cofounder Rick Weiland.

And that would probably mean more lawsuits.

"This is an issue that's never going to go away," Weiland said.

## **Middle East latest: Hezbollah says its war with Israel is 'entering a new phase'**

By The Associated Press undefined

Lebanon's Hezbollah militant group said Friday it is entering a new phase in its fight against invading Israeli troops, as the region continued to reckon with Israel's claim that top Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar has been killed in a battle with Israeli forces in Gaza the previous day.

Hamas has still not responded to the Israeli announcement, but its ally Iran released a statement commemorating the Palestinian militant leader via its mission to the United Nations. Sinwar was a chief architect

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 115 ~ 42 of 90

of the attack on southern Israel that precipitated the latest escalating conflicts in the Middle East.

Many, from the governments of Israeli allies to exhausted residents of Gaza, expressed hope that Sinwar's death would pave the way for an end to the war, but Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a speech announcing the killing that "Our war is not yet ended."

On Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas-led militants blew holes in Israel's security fence and stormed in, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting another 250. Israel's offensive in Gaza has killed over 42,000 Palestinians, according to local health authorities, who do not distinguish combatants from civilians. The war has destroyed large areas of Gaza and displaced about 90% of its population of 2.3 million people.

Here's the latest:

Israel says it killed 2 militants who entered south Israel from Jordan

JERUSALEM — Israel's military said Friday that its forces killed two militants who crossed into south Israel from neighboring Jordan.

The militants entered Israeli territory south of the Dead Sea, the military said.

Such infiltrations into Israeli territory are relatively rare, especially as Israel has ramped up border security since the Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas attack on Israel, when militants from Gaza stormed southern Israel and killed around 1,200 people.

Israeli prosecutors to indict East Jerusalem man police say was planning to attack protest

JERUSALEM — Israeli prosecutors are set to indict a Palestinian from East Jerusalem on Friday who police say planned to carry out an attack on a hostage protest in Tel Aviv.

In a statement Friday, the police and Israel's Shin Bet security agency said the man was a supporter of Hamas and other militant groups, and planned to carry out multiple attacks against Israeli civilians and soldiers in retribution for Israel's offensive in Gaza.

The man had not yet acquired a weapon or explosives to carry out any of the attacks, the police said, adding that he was planning to attack a protest calling for the return of the hostages held by Hamas in Gaza. Such protests occur weekly in Tel Aviv.

Hezbollah says its war with Israel is entering 'new phase'

BEIRUT — Lebanon's Hezbollah militant group says it is entering a new phase in its fight against invading Israeli troops, adding that it has introduced new weapons over the past days.

A statement from the group's operations room early Friday said that Hezbollah's fighters have used new types of precision-guided missiles and explosive drones for the first time.

The statement appears to refer to a drone laden with explosives that evaded Israel's multilayered air-defense system and slammed into a mess hall at a military training camp deep inside Israel, killing four soldiers and wounding dozens.

The group also announced earlier this week that it fired a new type of missile called Qader 2 toward the suburbs of Tel Aviv.

The statement also said that Hezbollah's air defense units shot down this week two Israeli Hermes 450 drones.

Hezbollah said its fighters are working according to "plans prepared in advance" to battle invading Israeli troops in several parts of south Lebanon.

Iran commemorates Hamas leader whom Israel says it killed

UNITED NATIONS — Iran's Mission to the United Nations issued a statement honoring Yahya Sinwar, the leader of Hamas, after Israel said Thursday he had been killed in fighting:

"When U.S. forces dragged a disheveled Saddam Hussein out of an underground hole, he begged them not to kill him despite being armed. Those who regarded Saddam as their model of resistance eventually collapsed. However when Muslims look up to martyr Sinwar standing on the battlefield — in combat attire and out in the open, not in a hideout, facing the enemy — the spirit of resistance will be strengthened. He will become a model for the youth and children who will carry forth his path for the liberation of Palestine. As long as occupation and aggression exist, resistance will endure, for the martyr remains alive

and a source of inspiration.”

Iran and Iraq fought a brutal war in the 1980s that began when Hussein launched an invasion of Iran. It killed more than 1 million people on both sides.

## **As Biden meets with European allies, the possibility of another Trump term hangs over their talks**

By JOSH BOAK Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Even in Germany, it’s hard for President Joe Biden to escape the topic of Donald Trump. The U.S. president meets Friday with European allies for closed-door conversations about Russia’s war in Ukraine and the conflict in the Middle East. But with the U.S. presidential election just weeks away and the race extremely tight, there are worries that a Trump victory could upset the relationships that Biden is hoping to pass on to Vice President Kamala Harris, the Democratic nominee.

Trump, the Republican nominee, has an appetite for tariffing key U.S. security partners. He’s expressed indifference to the security of Ukraine, refusing to say during a presidential debate if he wants the U.S. ally to win its war against Russia. He’s voiced doubts about coming to the defense of NATO members if they come under attack.

Speaking aboard Air Force One on the way to Berlin, White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan rejected the notion that Biden wants to “Trump-proof” U.S. foreign policy, because of the political implications of that term. But Sullivan’s stated goals seem designed to thwart efforts by a potential Trump administration to stop military aid to Ukraine after more than two years of fighting.

“What the president is trying to do is to make our commitment to Ukraine sustainable and institutionalized for the long term,” Sullivan said. “And every other ally agreed that that was the responsible thing to do.”

But Sullivan cautioned that Biden ultimately can only speak for himself, not what his potential successor might do.

“What President Biden can do is what he’s done for four years, which is lay out his vision of America’s place in the world and point the way forward based on what he thinks are in America’s national security interests and in the interests of our close allies,” Sullivan said. “Beyond that, he can’t speak for anyone else and doesn’t intend to.”

Trump has said his approach will help the U.S. economy and prevent foreign countries from taking advantage of the United States. He maintains that if he were still president, Russia would never have invaded Ukraine in 2022 and Hamas would never have attacked Israel in 2023.

“I will end the war in Ukraine, stop the chaos in the Middle East, and prevent World War III,” he said at a recent rally in Georgia. “I can do that.”

At home, the president has verbally tussled with Trump over falsehoods tied to the government’s relief efforts after hurricanes Helene and Milton, with Biden saying the willingness of Trump and his allies to spread misinformation was “un-American.”

Harris, for her part, has voiced strong backing for Ukraine and tracks with Biden on support for Israel, while placing particular emphasis on the need to relieve the suffering of Palestinian civilians whose lives have been upended by the Hamas war.

Biden has long said that his message to foreign leaders is that “America is back” and engaged with allies after Trump’s time in office. But the U.S. president recalled being met with skepticism: “The comment that I hear most of all from them is they say, ‘We see America is back but for how long? But for how long?’”

Biden did not want his term to end without visiting the German capital, after having been to visit other key allies such as Japan, South Korea, France, India, the United Kingdom, Poland and Ukraine.

Biden’s first stop on Friday was Bellevue Palace, where German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier welcomed him with military honors. Biden is slated to receive Germany’s Order of Merit, an honor that was also bestowed on former U.S. President George H.W. Bush for his support of German reunification.

Biden will then meet with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz. Biden and Scholz will later meet with French

President Emmanuel Macron and U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer before the U.S. president jets home late Friday afternoon.

Biden and Scholz plan to discuss next steps in Ukraine and developments in Israel and Gaza after the killing of Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar. They also intend to touch on Lebanon and Iran, and coordinate their approaches to China as well as their respective industrial and innovation strategies. The pair are also set to talk about the development of artificial intelligence and renewable energy resources.

While Biden wants to use the trip to emphasize the importance of democratic values, he has no plans to hold a news conference to answer questions from reporters. Sullivan pushed back against the idea that a news conference would reflect democratic values after reporters raised the subject with him aboard Air Force One.

"I mean, honestly, I think invoking democracy and suggesting that President Biden is somehow insufficiently committed to it because of the structure of his press engagement on one day in Germany is a bit ludicrous," Sullivan said.

## Texas Supreme Court halts execution of man in shaken baby case after lawmakers' last-minute appeal

By JUAN A. LOZANO and MICHAEL GRACZYK Associated Press

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (AP) — The Texas Supreme Court halted Thursday night's scheduled execution of a man who would have become the first person in the U.S. put to death for a murder conviction tied to a diagnosis of shaken baby syndrome.

The late-night ruling to spare for now the life of Robert Roberson, who was convicted of killing his 2-year-old daughter in 2002, capped a flurry of last-ditch legal challenges and weeks of public pressure from both Republican and Democratic lawmakers who say he is innocent and was sent to death row based on flawed science.

In the hours leading up to the ruling, Roberson had been confined to a prison holding cell a few feet from America's busiest death chamber at the Walls Unit in Huntsville, waiting for certainty over whether he would be taken to die by lethal injection.

"He was shocked, to say the least," said Texas Department of Criminal Justice spokesperson Amanda Hernandez, who spoke with Roberson after the court stayed his execution. "He praised God and he thanked his supporters. And that's pretty much what he had to say."

She said Roberson would be returned to the Polunsky Unit, about 45 miles (72 kilometers) to the east, where the state's male death row is located.

Roberson, 57, was convicted of killing of his daughter, Nikki Curtis, in the East Texas city of Palestine. His lawyers and some medical experts say his daughter died not from abuse but from complications related to pneumonia.

Order capped a night of last-minute maneuvers

It is rare for the Texas Supreme Court — the state's highest civil court — to get involved in a criminal matter.

But how the all-Republican court wound up stopping Roberson's execution in the final hours underlined the extraordinary maneuvers used by a bipartisan coalition of state House lawmakers who have come to his defense.

Rejected by courts and Texas' parole board in their efforts to spare Roberson's life, legislators on Wednesday tried a different route: issuing a subpoena for Roberson to testify before a House committee next week, which would be days after he was scheduled to die. The unusual plan to buy time, some of them conceded, had never been tried before.

They argued that executing Roberson before he could offer subpoenaed testimony would violate the Legislature's constitutional authority. Less than two hours before Roberson's execution, a judge in Austin sided with lawmakers and paused the execution, but that was then reversed by an appeals panel. The Texas Supreme Court then weighed in with its order, ending a night of uncertainty.



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 115 ~ 45 of 90

Roberson is scheduled to testify before the committee Monday.

"This is an innocent man. And there's too much shadow of a doubt in this case," said Democratic state Rep. John Bucy. "I agree this is a unique decision today. We know this is not a done deal. He has a unique experience to tell and we need to hear that testimony in committee on Monday."

Governor and US Supreme Court did not move to halt execution

Gov. Greg Abbott had authority to delay Roberson's punishment for 30 days. Abbott has halted only one imminent execution in nearly a decade as governor and has not spoken publicly about the case.

Earlier Thursday, the U.S. Supreme Court refused to halt the execution, although Justice Sonia Sotomayor — in a 10-page statement about the case — urged Abbott to grant a 30-day delay.

Roberson's lawyers had waited to see if Abbott would grant Roberson the one-time reprieve. It would have been the only action Abbott could take in the case as the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles on Wednesday denied Roberson's clemency petition.

The board voted unanimously, 6-0, to not recommend that Roberson's death sentence be commuted to life in prison or that his execution be delayed. All board members are appointed by the governor. The parole board has recommended clemency in a death row case only six times since the state resumed executions in 1982.

The one time Abbott halted an imminent execution was when he spared the life of Thomas Whitaker in 2018.

Lawmakers invoke Texas' law on scientific evidence

The House committee on Wednesday held an all-day meeting on Roberson's case. In a surprise move at the end of the hearing, the committee issued the subpoena for Roberson to testify next week.

During its meeting in Austin, the committee heard testimony about Roberson's case and whether a 2013 law created to allow people in prison to challenge their convictions based on new scientific evidence was ignored in Roberson's case.

Anderson County District Attorney Allyson Mitchell, whose office prosecuted Roberson, told the committee a court hearing was held in 2022 in which Roberson's attorneys presented their new evidence to a judge, who rejected their claims.

"Based on the totality of the evidence, a murder took place here. Mr. Roberson took the life of his almost 3-year-old daughter," Mitchell said.

Most of the members of the House committee are part of a bipartisan group of more than 80 state lawmakers, including at least 30 Republicans, who had asked the parole board and Abbott to stop the execution.

Case puts spotlight on shaken baby syndrome

Roberson's case has renewed debate over shaken baby syndrome, known in the medical community as abusive head trauma.

His lawyers as well as the Texas lawmakers, medical experts and others including bestselling author John Grisham say his conviction was based on faulty and now outdated scientific evidence. The diagnosis refers to a serious brain injury caused when a child's head is hurt through shaking or some other violent impact, like being slammed against a wall or thrown on the floor.

Roberson's supporters don't deny head and other injuries from child abuse are real. But they say doctors misdiagnosed Curtis' injuries as being related to shaken baby syndrome and that new evidence has shown the girl died from complications related to severe pneumonia.

Roberson's attorneys say his daughter had fallen out of bed in Roberson's home after being seriously ill for a week.

Roberson's lawyers also suggested his autism, then undiagnosed at the time of his daughter's death, was used against him as authorities became suspicious of him because of his lack of emotion over her death. Autism affects how people communicate and interact with others.

**Wealthier Americans are driving retail spending and powering US**

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 115 ~ 46 of 90

## economy

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — It's a trend that has surprised many: Why, despite being squeezed by high prices, have Americans kept spending at retail stores and restaurants at a robust pace?

One key reason is a relatively simple one: Wealthier consumers, boosted by strong gains in income, home equity and stock market wealth, have increasingly driven the spending.

That trend, documented by Federal Reserve research, represents something of a shift from the pre-pandemic period. And it suggests that consumer spending, the primary driver of the U.S. economy, could help sustain healthy growth this year and next.

Lower-income consumers, by contrast, have been disproportionately squeezed by higher-priced rent, groceries and other necessities, leaving them less able to spend on discretionary items, like electronics, entertainment and restaurant meals, than they were before the pandemic. Though their spending is starting to rebound as inflation-adjusted incomes rise, it could be years before their finances fully recover.

The disparities help explain the gap between gloomy consumer sentiment and widespread evidence of a healthy U.S. economy — a major dynamic in the presidential race that is now in its final weeks. Only a portion of the American population is fueling most of the growth that is evident in government economic data.

The trends also help illustrate how the economy has managed to keep expanding at a solid pace even though the Federal Reserve, until last month, kept its key interest rate at its highest level in more than two decades. Despite the much higher borrowing costs for mortgages, auto loans and credit cards that resulted from the Fed's rate hikes, inflation-adjusted consumer spending rose 3% in 2022 and 2.5% in 2023. And it increased at a 2.8% annual rate in the April-June quarter, the government said last month.

On Thursday, the Commerce Department reported that retail sales in the United States rose 0.4% from August to September, a solid gain that suggested that shoppers are confident enough in the economy to continue spending freely. Restaurant sales jumped 1%, a particularly encouraging sign because it meant that many people felt they could spend on meals outside the home. The Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta now estimates that the economy grew at a strong 3.4% in the July-September quarter.

Higher-income households have been fortified by huge gains in housing and stock market wealth since the pandemic. Home values have marched steadily up, fueled by high demand and an unusually low supply of houses. And the stock market has been consistently hitting new highs, with the S&P 500 index up a sizzling 22.5% for the year. Roughly 80% of stock market value is owned by the richest 10% of U.S. households.

"It speaks to the ongoing strength of those Americans, which is still carrying overall spending," said Michael Pearce, deputy chief U.S. economist at Oxford Economics.

Housing and stock values have soared in particular for the wealthiest one-tenth of Americans over the past four years. The value of their home equity has leapt 70% from the first quarter of 2020 through the second quarter of this year, according to Fed data — to \$17.6 trillion. Their stock and mutual fund wealth has jumped 86%, to just under \$37 trillion. Though inflation has eroded some of those gains, they are still quite substantial.

Such sharp growth in wealth has reduced the need for affluent Americans to save from their paychecks while still ramping up their spending. A report last week by Fed economists found that before the pandemic, retail spending had been rising for all income groups at roughly the same pace. But about three years ago, the trend shifted: Upper- and middle-income consumers started spending at a much faster pace than lower-earners.

By August 2024, inflation-adjusted spending on retail goods was nearly 17% higher than it was in January 2018 for upper-income households, defined as those earning more than \$100,000. For middle-income households — earning \$60,000 to \$100,000 — their spending rose 13.3% during the same period, the Fed study found. And for those earning less than \$60,000, spending has risen just 7.9% since 2018. It actually fell from mid-2021 through mid-2023.

"Middle- and high-income households have been fueling the strong demand for retail goods," Fed econo-

mist Sinem Hacıoglu Hoke and two colleagues wrote.

Among those who have felt pressure to spend cautiously is Helaine Rapkin, a 69-year-old teacher who was shopping last week at a Kohl's in Ramsey, New Jersey, looking for discounts on athletic wear and gifts for her nephew, niece and daughter. Rapkin said she's wrestling with higher costs on a range of items and isn't feeling the benefits of a dramatically reduced inflation rate.

"I am not feeling good at all," she said. "I can't believe how expensive things have gotten...Clothes or food."

Pearce, in his own research, has found that since the pandemic, lower-income Americans have had to cut their spending on discretionary items. Inflation sharply increased the portion of their income that they had to spend on housing and food, leaving little for other purchases.

As a result, for the lowest-income one-fifth of Americans — those earning less than \$28,000 — the share of their spending on discretionary items fell 2.5 percentage points by the second quarter of this year compared with 2019. It also declined for the second-lowest one-fifth of households and for the middle fifth. But for the wealthiest one-fifth, the share of their spending on discretionary purchases actually increased.

"This has clearly been a very large shock to households, particularly those at the lower end," Pearce said. "What surprised me is how little has been clawed back."

One sign of the struggles that lower-income consumers have faced is that the proportion of borrowers who are behind on credit cards or auto loans has risen in the past two years to the highest levels in about a decade.

Karen Dynan, an economist at Harvard and a nonresident fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics, suggested, though, that such trends aren't likely to derail the overall economy.

"There are increasing cracks in consumers' spending," she said. "But it's not yet a broader economic story."

Dynan and Pearce say they're optimistic that consumers overall — including lower-income ones — will keep spending in the coming months as inflation-adjusted incomes keep rising, restoring more of Americans' purchasing power.

"We're probably past the worst, the most intense pressures on spending from both the inflation shock and from rising interest rates," Pearce said. "Now, I think the outlook is pretty strong."

## **Right-wing influencers hyped anti-Ukraine videos made by a TV producer also funded by Russian media**

By ALAN SUDERMAN and GARANCE BURKE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Kremlin could not have asked for better publicity at a better time when Ben Swann, a self-described independent journalist who promotes conspiracy theories, released a 12-part video series he promised would reveal dark truths about Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

Swann's flashy documentary-style videos were filled with innuendo, attacks on Zelenskyy's character and commentary from guests sympathetic to Russia in its two-year war with Ukraine.

The series, titled "Zelenskyy Unmasked," launched in April as Congress was debating increasing military assistance to Ukraine, and it quickly caught the attention of conservative social media influencers who hyped the project to their millions of followers.

Among those who promoted the series was Donald Trump Jr., the former president's eldest son.

"Curious about the billions of dollars and weapons Congress sent Ukraine?" Trump Jr. posted on X, Truth Social and Threads. "You need to watch the first episode of the explosive 12-part series."

Unlike other conservative media personalities who last month expressed shock upon learning they may have been secretly financed by the Kremlin, Swann has no such qualms. He's worked for Russia's state-owned media empire for years, with one of his companies earning millions of dollars for producing Kremlin-friendly shows.

The creation of "Zelenskyy Unmasked" and its viral spread reveal how widely Russia-backed talking points are traveling on social media — a trend that concerns current and former U.S. intelligence officials

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 115 ~ 48 of 90

and disinformation experts.

An investigation by The Associated Press also provides insights into the shadowy and profitable world of political influencers who are not required to disclose who is paying them, raising transparency concerns about their political endorsements in the largely unregulated realm of social media.

Swann brought on a digital marketing firm to publicize "Zelenskyy Unmasked," and at least one creator acknowledged he was paid to promote the series.

Dire warnings about Russian interference in U.S. politics

The revelations about Swann's work for Russia come as U.S. authorities have issued increasingly dire warnings about the threat posed by Russian disinformation campaigns. In addition to undermining Ukraine, the Kremlin is seeking to disrupt the presidential election and sow discord in the U.S. and elsewhere in the West, those officials have said.

U.S. officials are particularly concerned about Russia's covert efforts to take advantage of unwitting Americans to spread Moscow's message and use artificial intelligence to quickly tailor false content.

Russia's influence operation also appears aimed at boosting support for GOP presidential candidate Donald Trump, who has criticized Ukraine and praised Russian President Vladimir Putin, the officials said.

Trump has dismissed evidence of Russian influence operations, and he and many of his supporters have mocked the broader U.S. government effort to highlight Kremlin propaganda efforts.

Registered agent

Swann filed paperwork with the Justice Department two years ago to register one of his companies as working for Russian state media. In an interview with the AP, Swann said he has kept his work for Russian interests separate from what he produces for U.S. audiences. He has done this, Swann said, by operating two companies — one that generates content for Russian media and another that produces independent journalism, like "Zelenskyy Unmasked," for U.S. audiences.

"The only connection is that I own both companies," Swann said.

The AP, however, found that there was some overlap in how the two entities operated.

A handful of guests on "Zelenskyy Unmasked" also appeared on RT shows produced by Swann, according to a review of RT's video archives and records filed with the Justice Department.

Swann's shows for U.S. audiences and RT also have similar themes. The Zelenskyy series, for example, echoed Russian state media's messaging that the Ukrainian president is a would-be autocrat who has duped the West into supporting a conflict that Russia will inevitably win.

From TV anchor to working for Russian state media

Swann, 46, was a longtime TV journalist before he was fired from an Atlanta station in 2018 after promoting the debunked "Pizzagate" conspiracy that alleged Democrats were abducting children to serve as sex slaves.

He has since become a social media star who portrays himself as someone daring to ask uncomfortable questions on tough topics — revolving around unfounded claims such as whether the Sandy Hook school shooter acted alone, the coronavirus vaccine was a money-making ploy by big pharmaceutical companies, and Israel was a "participant" in the massacre of Oct. 7, 2023.

Swann joined Robert F. Kennedy Jr.'s anti-vaccine organization, Children's Health Defense, in a lawsuit pending against several news organizations, including the AP, accusing them of violating antitrust laws by taking action to identify misinformation, including about COVID-19 and COVID-19 vaccines.

Swann said he worked as a correspondent for RT America, a cable channel that was part of a Russian state media outlet, until it went off the air following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. RT officials then asked if he wanted to produce shows for the network to air outside the U.S., Swann said.

"I said, 'Well, I can't produce shows for the United States, but if these shows are for overseas, I'll help you produce them.' So I started doing that for them, and we've been doing that ever since," Swann said in a July interview.

Producing shows at RT's old U.S. studios

Swann said he produced 10 shows a week using RT America's old studios in Washington, and he stressed that those shows don't air in the U.S. or Western Europe, although they are visible across the globe on



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 115 ~ 49 of 90

RT's website.

Under the Foreign Agents Registration Act, individuals must register with the Justice Department when they seek to influence U.S. policy and public opinion on behalf of foreign governments. Not doing so can result in criminal charges.

Swann's company, Rebel Media Productions, first registered with the Justice Department in August 2022, saying it worked for RT's parent company and related entities. The disclosures show Rebel Media Productions was paid more than \$6 million in less than two years by RT-related entities.

RT, formerly known as Russia Today, is a major player in Russia's sprawling propaganda apparatus, and a target of U.S. efforts to block Moscow's covert influence.

The Justice Department has said RT has links to Russian intelligence agencies, while the U.S. State Department recently unveiled new sanctions on Russian state media. The sanctions target RT's parent organization, TV Novosti, which Swann contracted with for his Russia-related work.

### Stopped reporting work for Russia to Justice Department

In February, Swann stopped reporting Rebel Media's work for Russia to the Justice Department, even as his company kept producing RT shows.

Swann said he ended that registration with the Justice Department because his attorneys told him it wasn't necessary, despite his company's continued work for RT. "They said, 'Why are you making things more difficult for yourself?'" Swann said.

In response to the recent sanctions, Swann said his company last month severed all ties to RT.

"While we disagree with the censorship of our journalists, who were doing quality work on behalf of our client, we have and will continue to respect the rule of law," Swann said in a statement.

The Justice Department declined to comment.

### U.S. content funded by wealthy individuals

Swann said he creates content — like the "Zelenskyy Unmasked" series — for American viewers through another company, Truth in Media.

Truth in Media, Swann said, isn't profitable and is funded by wealthy U.S. individuals whom he refused to name. "Most of them own very large companies," he said, "if not publicly traded companies."

Swann said the large payouts he received from Russian state media had not influenced his work on "Zelenskyy Unmasked," but he acknowledged Russia's leaders probably liked the series' tough take on Ukraine's president.

"I don't know, I assume they don't like Zelenskyy," Swann said.

Many of the guests interviewed in "Zelenskyy Unmasked" have been RT contributors and guests on its programs.

That includes RT contributor Tara Reade, who briefly moved to Moscow after accusing President Joe Biden of assaulting her in the 1990s; former Ukrainian diplomat Andrii Telizhenko, who was sanctioned by the U.S. Treasury on allegations he had close ties to a "Russia-linked foreign influence network"; and Russell Bentley, an American citizen known to have fought with Kremlin-backed separatists and worked for Russian state media, who died earlier this year in Ukraine.

Another guest who has appeared on RT shows and in the Zelenskyy videos is Scott Ritter, a former U.N. weapons inspector sympathetic to Russia whose upstate New York home was raided in August by the FBI. Ritter told the AP that FBI agents in their questioning made clear that they were investigating his Russia-related work but did not ask specifically about his work with Swann.

Ritter provided the AP with a copy of an email he said was from a booking producer for Swann's RT shows asking him to appear in the Zelenskyy series.

Ritter said an email invitation he received to participate in "Zelenskyy Unmasked" indicated that its executive producer was Sean Stone, who hosted an RT show and is the son of the filmmaker Oliver Stone.

Sean Stone did not respond to requests for comment, and Swann did not respond to a question about Stone's involvement on the series.

Swann said his RT-linked company had passed along guest contact details to his business producing

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 115 ~ 50 of 90

"Zelenskyy Unmasked."

The two entities did not share staff, he said.

An 'explosive' series

Truth in Media began teasing the "Zelenskyy Unmasked" videos earlier this year on its website, writing the "explosive" 12-part series would answer "who is really benefitting from the \$100 billion the U.S. has sent Ukraine."

At that time, hard-right congressional Republicans were fighting a proposal to send more money and weapons to Ukraine.

House Intelligence Committee Chairman Rep. Mike Turner and House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Michael McCaul, both Republicans, said some GOP lawmakers had been heavily influenced by Russian talking points.

Turner said on CNN that some of those talking points were being "uttered on the House floor."

To promote "Zelenskyy Unmasked," Swann said he paid for advertising on social media but believes the series received its most substantial boost in viewership thanks to promotion from conservative influencers. Swann's videos that were embedded in X posts garnered tens of millions of views.

"When you have different influencers that you can send it directly to, who can watch it for themselves, decide if they like it, and then share it, that's a pretty powerful tool," Swann said. "That's more powerful than the actual marketing of it on Meta or X."

With the assistance of the tech firm Bright Data, the AP identified a core group of influencers who played a significant role in helping promote the series. Posts by those influencers were shared by at least 9,300 other unique X accounts that have 33 million total followers, according to an AP analysis of "Zelenskyy Unmasked" X data created by Syracuse University's Institute for Democracy, Journalism and Citizenship.

Influencers use nearly identical language to promote series

The spread of "Zelenskyy Unmasked" highlighted how such influencers are playing increasingly pivotal roles in politics, and many have become de facto campaign surrogates for Democratic and Republican candidates. Trump told a core group of conservative content creators — who met in a "war room" during the last presidential debate — that they "are more important than I am."

Some of those same influencers promoted the series, using identical or similar language to what Swann or Truth in Media promoted online.

Chaya Raichik, the founder of the far-right Libs of TikTok social media accounts, echoed Truth in Media's promotion of the series, tweeting: "Where did \$100 billion of our tax dollars that Congress sent to Ukraine go? Watch 'Zelensky Unmasked' to find out!" Raichik did not respond to requests for comment.

When Truth In Media promoted the third episode in the series, it tweeted, "The list of rich and powerful people profiting off the war in Ukraine includes President Biden and his son, but they're far from the only ones."

A few days later, C.J. Pearson, co-chair of the Republican National Committee's Youth Advisory Council, wrote the exact same thing in a tweet about "Zelenskyy Unmasked."

Others who touted the series were former Trump campaign attorney Jenna Ellis; Morgonn McMichael, a young creator linked to the right-leaning group Talking Points USA; and Andrew Giuliani, a former New York gubernatorial hopeful and the son of Trump confidant Rudy Giuliani. Ellis, McMichael and Giuliani did not respond to requests for comment from the AP.

Conservative influencer Xaviaer DuRousseau, another member of the RNC's Youth Advisory Council, said he was paid to promote "Zelenskyy Unmasked" on X through Urban Legend, an influencer marketing firm led by a former Trump administration staffer.

DuRousseau did not disclose how much he was paid, said he was unaware of Swann's work for Russian state media until interviewed by the AP and said he would carefully consider any future collaborations.

"Is there maybe an ulterior motive to you being against Ukraine? Potentially," he said. "But I would stress myself out so much if I researched every single person in this industry that thoroughly, to be honest."

Swann said Truth in Media hired Urban Legend to help with marketing, but didn't know the details of its work.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 115 ~ 51 of 90

"We didn't know whether or not they were talking to influencers," Swann said in a statement.

Urban Legend declined to discuss its financial relationships with specific influencers. The company said in a statement that it had been unaware of Swann's ties to RT and would no longer work with Truth in Media.

Among Swann's most influential promoters was the former president's son, Trump Jr., who did not respond to requests for comment from the AP.

In a tweet on April 5, Trump Jr. hailed the series as "explosive" for exposing "the truth behind the war in Ukraine!"

The social media platform's users added a community note to his tweet that noted Swann's ties to Russia and said his claims "are likely to be disinformation."

The warning did not seem to deter Trump Jr. A few days later, he again took to X to praise Swann's work — in identical language.

## Russia flaunts its many doomsday weapons to keep the West from ramping up support for Ukraine

By The Associated Press undefined

This year has seen President Vladimir Putin repeatedly brandish the nuclear sword, reminding everyone that Russia has the world's largest atomic arsenal to try to deter the West from ramping up support for Ukraine.

He ordered his military to hold drills involving battlefield nuclear weapons with ally Belarus.

He announced Russia will start producing ground-based intermediate range missiles that were outlawed by a now-defunct U.S.-Soviet treaty in 1987.

And last month, he lowered the threshold for unleashing his arsenal by revising the country's nuclear doctrine.

Putin is relying on those thousands of warheads and hundreds of missiles as an enormous doomsday machine to offset NATO's massive edge in conventional weapons to discourage what he sees as threats to Russia's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

A look at Russia's atomic arsenal and the issues surrounding it:

Russia's strategic weapons

The Federation of American Scientists estimated this year that Russia has an inventory totaling 5,580 deployed and non-deployed nuclear warheads, while the U.S. has 5,044. Together, that's about 88% of the world's nuclear weapons.

Most of these are strategic, or intercontinental-range weapons. Like the U.S., Russia has a nuclear triad of ground-based intercontinental ballistic missiles, long-range bombers and ICBM-armed submarines.

Since Putin came to power in 2000, the Kremlin has worked to upgrade the Soviet-built components of the triad, deploying hundreds of new land-based missiles, commissioning new nuclear submarines and modernizing nuclear-capable bombers. Russia's effort to revamp its nuclear forces has helped prompt the U.S. to launch a costly modernization of its arsenal.

Russia has reequipped its land-based strategic missile forces with mobile Yars ICBMs and recently began deploying the heavy, silo-based Sarmat ICBMs — designated "Satan II" missiles in the West — to gradually replace about 40 Soviet-built R-36M missiles. Sarmat has had only one known successful test, and reportedly suffered a massive explosion during an abortive test last month.

The navy commissioned seven new Borei-class atomic-powered submarines, each with 16 Bulava nuclear-tipped missiles, and plans to build five more. They are intended to form the core of the triad's naval component alongside a few Soviet-era nuclear subs still operating.

Russia still relies on Soviet-built Tu-95 and Tu-160 strategic bombers carrying nuclear-tipped cruise missiles. Moscow has restarted production of the supersonic Tu-160 that was halted after the 1991 Soviet collapse, aiming to build several dozen modernized aircraft with new engines and avionics.

Russia's non-strategic nuclear weapons

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 115 ~ 52 of 90

The U.S. estimates that Russia has between 1,000 and 2,000 non-strategic, or tactical, nuclear weapons intended for use on the battlefield that typically are far less powerful than the strategic warheads capable of destroying entire cities.

Russia has high-precision ground-launched Iskander missiles with a range of up to 500 kilometers (310 miles), which can be fitted with either a conventional or a nuclear warhead.

The air force has a fleet of MiG-31 fighter jets that carry a hypersonic Kinzhal missile, which can be equipped with a nuclear or conventional warhead. Russia has widely used conventional versions of both Iskander and Kinzhal against Ukraine.

As part of the Kremlin's nuclear messaging, Russia and ally Belarus held drills to train their troops with the battlefield nuclear weapons in May, shortly after Putin began his fifth term.

### MAD and Russia's nuclear doctrine

Moscow and Washington have relied for decades on nuclear deterrence under the concept of mutually assured destruction — MAD for short — based on the assumption that an overwhelming retaliation would discourage either side from launching an attack.

Russia's nuclear doctrine adopted in 2020 envisaged using such ultimate weapons in response to a nuclear strike or an attack with conventional weapons that threatens "the very existence of the Russian state." Moscow hawks criticized that document as too vague, urging Putin to toughen it.

Last month, he warned the U.S. and NATO allies that allowing Ukraine to use Western-supplied longer-range weapons for strikes deep inside Russia would put NATO at war with his country.

He reinforced the message by announcing a new version of the nuclear doctrine that considers a conventional attack on Russia by a nonnuclear nation that is supported by a nuclear power to be a joint attack on his country — a clear warning to the U.S. and other allies of Kyiv.

Putin also declared the revised document envisages possible nuclear weapons use in case of a massive air attack, holding the door open to a potential nuclear response to any aerial assault — an ambiguity intended to deter the West.

Changes in the doctrine suggest Russia "is doubling down on its strategy of relying on nuclear weapons for coercive purposes" in the war in Ukraine, said Heather Williams, director of the Project on Nuclear Issues at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, in a commentary.

### The future for arms control

The 2010 New START U.S.-Russian arms reduction treaty, the last remaining arms control pact between Moscow and Washington that expires in 2026, limits each country to no more than 1,550 deployed nuclear warheads and 700 deployed missiles and bombers.

In February 2023, Putin suspended Russia's participation in New START, but vowed that Russia would abide by its limits.

In July, Putin declared Russia will launch production of ground-based intermediate range missiles that were banned under the now-defunct U.S. Soviet INF Treaty. The 1987 pact banned missiles with a range of 500 to 5,500 kilometers (310 to 3,410 miles). He said Moscow will respond in kind to the planned deployment of U.S. intermediate-range missiles to Germany, taking steps to "mirror" Washington's move.

Even as U.S.-Russian tensions soared to their highest point since the Cold War amid fighting in Ukraine, Washington has urged Moscow to resume dialogue on nuclear arms control. Putin rejected the offer, saying such negotiations are meaningless while the U.S. is openly seeking to inflict a strategic defeat to Russia in Ukraine.

### Resuming nuclear testing

Russian hawks are calling for a resumption of nuclear tests to demonstrate Moscow's readiness to use its atomic arsenal and force the West to limit aid for Kyiv.

Putin said Russia could resume testing if the U.S. does so first, a move that would end a global ban in place after the demise of the USSR.

Last month, Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said the nuclear test range on the Arctic archipelago of Novaya Zemlya is ready to resume tests if the U.S. does so.



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 115 ~ 53 of 90

Prospective new weapons

In 2018, Putin revealed an array of new weapons, claiming they would render any prospective U.S. missile defenses useless.

They include the Avangard hypersonic glide vehicle, capable of flying 27 times faster than the speed of sound and making sharp maneuvers to dodge an enemy's missile shield. The first such units have already entered service.

Putin also mentioned the nuclear-armed and atomic-powered Poseidon underwater drone, designed to explode near coastlines and cause a radioactive tsunami. Earlier this year, he said Poseidon tests are nearing completion, without giving details.

Also under development is an atomic-powered cruise missile, a concept that dates to the Cold War. But the missile, called the Burevestnik, or Petrel, has raised skepticism among experts, who cite technological obstacles and radiation safety concerns. During tests in 2019, an explosion at a naval range on the White Sea reportedly involving the Burevestnik killed five engineers and two servicemen, and caused a brief spike in radiation.

Putin said this year its development was in the final stages and the military has reportedly built a base for the missiles in the Vologda region of northwestern Russia.

## Trump delivers a pointed and at times bitter speech at Al Smith charity dinner

By JILL COLVIN Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Former President Donald Trump laced into Vice President Kamala Harris and other Democrats on Thursday in a pointed and at times bitter speech as he headlined the annual Al Smith charity dinner in New York.

Trump, in remarks that often felt more like a rally performance than a comedy routine, repeatedly criticized Harris over her decision to skip the event in a break from presidential tradition as she campaigned in Wisconsin.

She recorded a video that was played onscreen, but Trump called the decision "deeply disrespectful."

"If you really wanted Vice President Harris to accept your invitation, I guess you should have told her the funds were going to bail out the looters and rioters in Minneapolis and she would have been here, guaranteed," said Trump, urging Catholics to vote for him in response.

"You better remember that I'm here and she's not," he said.

The white-tie dinner raises millions of dollars for Catholic charities and has traditionally offered candidates from both parties the chance to trade lighthearted barbs, poke fun at themselves, and show that they can get along — or at least pretend to — for one night in the election's final stretch.

It's often the last time the two nominees share a stage before Election Day.

Trump delivered a number of one-liners that drew laughs. But he also questioned the mental fitness of Harris and President Joe Biden, commented on second gentleman Doug Emhoff's extramarital affair during his previous marriage, and made a joke about transgender women that echoed his frequent mocking of trans athletes on the campaign trail.

He said at one point that he would offer a couple of self-deprecating jokes before abandoning the effort. "Nope. I've got nothing," he said to laughs.

"I just don't see the point of taking shots at myself when other people have been shooting at me," he said, referencing his survival of two assassination attempts this year.

Of Biden, he said, "If the Democrats really wanted to have someone not be with us this evening, they would have sent Joe Biden."

Later, he said the current occupant of the White House "can barely talk, barely put together two coherent sentences, who seems to have the mental faculties of a child. This is a person that has nothing going, no intelligence whatsoever. But enough about Kamala Harris."

In the video she recorded for the occasion, Harris appeared alongside comedian and actress Molly Shan-

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 115 ~ 54 of 90

non, who reprised her long-running "Saturday Night Live" character Mary Katherine Gallagher, an awkward Catholic schoolgirl. She also poked fun at Trump for comments he made in Michigan, saying that mocking Catholics in the video would be "like criticizing Detroit in Detroit."

Harris' campaign had previously said that, with less than three weeks before Election Day, they wanted her to spend as much time as possible campaigning in battleground states that will decide the election, rather than detouring to heavily Democratic New York. Her team has told organizers that she would be willing to attend the dinner as president if she wins.

Melania Trump attended in a rare appearance

Trump was joined at the dinner by his wife, Melania, who has been an infrequent presence on the campaign trail.

The dais included a mix of Trump allies and foes, with various entanglements. They included New York Attorney General Letitia James, who brought a successful civil fraud case against Trump and his business. Robert F. Kennedy Jr., who endorsed Trump after dropping his bid for the Democratic presidential nomination, attended with his wife, Cheryl Hines.

Also in attendance were New York's embattled Mayor Eric Adams and other top city officials, as well as business leaders and sports and media personalities. Adams was charged last month with accepting illegal campaign contributions and lavish overseas trips from Turkish officials and businesspeople — a case that was mentioned repeatedly, including by Trump.

Trump has claimed, without evidence, that Adams was targeted by authorities because he criticized Biden's migrant policies.

"Mayor Adams: Good luck with everything," Trump said, adding that what Adams faces is "peanuts" compared to his own legal woes and predicting that he will win reelection nonetheless.

He also went after former New York Mayor Bill de Blasio, who was repeatedly booed by the crowd.

"To be honest, he was a terrible mayor," Trump said before offering a profanity at a religion-themed event. "I don't give a s--- if this is comedy or not."

Jim Gaffigan, who plays Tim Walz on 'SNL,' emceed

The dinner was emceed by comedian Jim Gaffigan, who plays Democratic vice presidential nominee Tim Walz on "Saturday Night Live."

Gaffigan has a history of criticizing Trump. In 2020, he wrote on X, then named Twitter, that, "We need to wake up. We need to call trump the con man and thief that he is."

Gaffigan largely kept his focus on others Thursday, but offered several pointed quips, including when he referenced allegations that the Trump Organization in the 1970s discriminated against Black renters.

"If Vice President Harris wins this election, not only would she be the first female president, a Black woman would occupy the White House, a former Trump residence," Gaffigan said. "Obviously you wouldn't be renting to her. I mean, that would never happen anyway. Maybe if Doug did the signing."

Gaffigan also mocked Harris for not coming to the dinner and joked about the Democrats replacing Biden with the vice president.

"The media has begun discussing the phenomena of secret Trump voters. I don't know if you've heard about this — people who publicly say they would never vote for Trump, but then when they go in the voting booth, they do. It's a small group. They're called the Biden family," he told the crowd.

Reprising his role

Trump's tone echoed his appearance in 2016, when he was joined by his Democratic rival, Hillary Clinton, and delivered a particularly nasty speech in which he called her "corrupt."

"Hillary believes that it's vital to deceive the people by having one public policy and a totally different policy in private," he said to jeers. "For example, here she is tonight, in public, pretending not to hate Catholics."

Mary Callahan Erdoes, vice chair of the foundation, alluded to that when she introduced Trump, suggesting she hoped for something less caustic.

"You never disappoint. Your wit is absolutely fabulous. And all of us together are going to hope for the best," she said to laughs.

Trump, too, referenced the performance Thursday, saying that, in 2016, he “went overboard. That was like terrible. And I knew I was in trouble midway through.”

That didn’t stop him, however, from similar attacks, and repeatedly straying off-script.

The Harris campaign responded to Trump’s speech with a statement saying it would remind “Americans how unstable he’s become.”

“He may refuse to release his medical records, but every day he makes it clear to the American people that he is not up to the job,” said spokesperson Ammar Moussa.

Trump’s sense of humor is often cited by his supporters as key to his appeal. While he infamously glowered through former President Barack Obama’s jokes at his expense during the 2011 White House Correspondents Dinner, he also sometimes pokes fun at himself.

At several rallies this year, he has remarked on his hair after catching a glimpse of himself onscreen.

“What the hell can you do? There’s nothing I can do about it. We’re stuck with it,” he joked at a rally in Indiana, Pennsylvania, last month.

Both Trump and Biden, who is Catholic, spoke at a virtual version of the fundraiser in 2020, which was moved online due to concerns over large gatherings at the height of the pandemic.

The Alfred E. Smith Memorial Foundation Dinner is named for the former New York governor, a Democrat who was the first Catholic to receive a major-party nomination for president when he unsuccessfully ran for the White House in 1928.

The event has become a tradition for presidential candidates since Richard Nixon and John F. Kennedy appeared together in 1960. In 1996, the Archdiocese of New York decided not to invite then-President Bill Clinton and his Republican challenger, Bob Dole, reportedly because Clinton vetoed a late-term abortion ban.

## **Sinwar’s killing opens up opportunity and much uncertainty for the war in Gaza**

By TIA GOLDENBERG and JACK JEFFERY Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — Israel’s killing of Yahya Sinwar, Hamas’ top leader and the mastermind of the group’s Oct. 7 attack, is a dramatic turning point in the brutal yearlong war that it touched off.

Sinwar’s killing on Thursday decapitates the Palestinian militant group that has already been reeling from months of assassinations up and down its ranks. And it is a potent symbolic achievement for Israel in its battle to destroy Hamas.

The killing, coming just 10 days after Israelis and Palestinians marked a year since the deadliest fighting in their decades-old conflict erupted, could set the stage for how the remainder of the war plays out, or even prompt its conclusion — depending on how Israel and Hamas choose to proceed.

Sinwar’s death could serve as an off-ramp for Israel toward ending the war

Sinwar, who was appointed head of Hamas after its previous leader was killed in a blast in July blamed on Israel, spent years building up Hamas’ military strength and is believed to have devised the Oct. 7, 2023, attack. After that assault, when Hamas-led militants killed some 1,200 people and abducted about 250 others, Israel pledged to destroy Hamas and kill each one of its leaders.

With Sinwar at the top of that wanted list, his death is a major achievement for Israel. Analysts say Sinwar’s killing has presented Israel, which has struggled to articulate an exit strategy from Gaza, with an off-ramp to end the war.

“This would really be the cherry on the icing of the cake for Israel,” said Nomi Bar-Yaacov, an associate fellow of the International Security Program at the Chatham House think tank in London. “It should be easier to reach a deal.”

With the architect of the Oct. 7 attacks eliminated, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu could now tell Israelis that one of the war’s aims has been reached. Politically, that might allow him to be more flexible on a cease-fire deal that ends the war in exchange for hostages — a condition he has so far refused to accept, at least in part, critics say, because it could threaten his rule.

Sinwar’s death could have broader implications, depending on Israel’s next moves

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 115 ~ 56 of 90

Analysts said the achievement was such a gamechanger that it was an opportunity for Israel to signal that it is ready to end the fighting further afield in the region, including in Lebanon where Israel is battling Hezbollah.

"The opportunity to end the war entirely, as well as in Lebanon, ... it is entirely in our hands," Giora Eiland, a former head of Israel's National Security Council, told Israeli Channel 12 News, saying Israel must use Sinwar's death to present its conditions for ending the wars on both fronts.

The families of hostages in Gaza had a similar message for Netanyahu. A group representing the families welcomed Sinwar's killing but recognizing the potential opportunity, called on Israel to reconcentrate its efforts toward negotiating a deal.

"Netanyahu, don't bury the hostages. Go now to the negotiators and the Israeli public and present a new Israeli initiative," Einav Zangauker, whose son Matan is held in Gaza, said in a post on social media.

Khaled Elgindy, a senior fellow at the Washington-based Middle East Institute think tank, cautioned that Netanyahu has shown few indications that he is looking for an end to the conflict, with the army intensifying its operations in the north of Gaza in recent weeks.

"The war ... is not over yet," Netanyahu said in a video statement after the killing.

Netanyahu rules with the support of two far-right parties that have threatened to topple the government if the war ends under a cease-fire deal. They repeated their opposition to a deal after Sinwar's killing. They are also supporters of establishing Israeli settlements in the Gaza Strip, something the Israeli leader has publicly ruled out.

Netanyahu, who is on trial for alleged corruption, has also seen his political fortunes rise throughout the war, after they plummeted in response to Hamas' attack last year. Prolonging the war allows him to enjoy boosts of support after whatever successes he notches.

Other top Hamas officials may be more pliable

Sinwar was seen as a hard-liner with close ties to Hamas' armed wing, and throughout repeated cease-fire negotiations with Israel was seen as having the final word on any agreement for Gaza and the release of dozens of Israeli hostages.

Sinwar's positions were directly at odds with Israel's. He stuck to demands for the release of hundreds of Palestinian prisoners, the full withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza and a lasting cease-fire — even as more than 42,000 Palestinians have been killed in the ongoing war, according to local officials, and much of the territory left in ruins.

According to Elgindy, Sinwar's death will likely give more flexibility and control to the group's political leadership in Qatar. This includes Khalil al-Hayya and Khaled Mashaal, key Hamas delegates of the monthslong talks.

Those leaders could be more responsive to pressure from Qatar, a key mediator that hosts some of Hamas' top leaders. Unlike Sinwar, these leaders are also not in hiding in Gaza, which could speed up progress on a deal.

Hamas leaders have proved replaceable in the past

For Hamas, Sinwar's killing leaves a gaping hole in the militant group's leadership, with its future in Gaza and beyond uncertain. It is a symbolic blow for a group already reeling from multiple assassinations of its leaders.

An Israeli airstrike killed Marwan Issa, deputy leader of Hamas' military wing in March. Ismail Haniyeh, Hamas' former political leader, was assassinated in the blast in Tehran in July blamed on Israel.

Then in August, Israel said it killed Mohammed Deif, Hamas' military chief and co-mastermind of the Oct. 7 attack, in an airstrike. Hamas has not confirmed that death.

Elgindy called Sinwar's killing a "major blow" to Hamas. But, he added, it was "not fatal since everyone is replaceable."

Still, with so many leaders and commanders killed, at this point, it's not clear who could fill his shoes.



## Israel says it has killed Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar in Gaza

By JOSEF FEDERMAN, MELANIE LIDMAN and WAFAA SHURAFI Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli forces in Gaza killed Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar, a chief architect of last year's attack on Israel that sparked the war, the military said Thursday. Troops appeared to have run across him unknowingly in a battle, only to discover afterwards that a body in the rubble was Israel's most-wanted man.

Israeli leaders celebrated his killing as a settling of scores just over a year after Hamas-led militants killed some 1,200 people in Israel and kidnapped 250 others in an attack that stunned the country. They also presented it as a turning point in the campaign to destroy Hamas, urging the group to surrender and release some 100 hostages still in Gaza.

"Hamas will no longer rule Gaza. This is the start of the day after Hamas," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said.

U.S. officials expressed hopes for a cease-fire with Sinwar out of the picture. But eliminating him may not end the devastating war, during which Israel has destroyed much of the Gaza Strip and killed more than 42,000 Palestinians. The Gaza Health Ministry does not distinguish between civilians and combatants but says more than half of those killed were women and children.

Sinwar's death is a crippling blow to Hamas, but the group, which receives support from Iran, has proven resilient to past losses of leaders. There was no immediate confirmation from Hamas of Sinwar's death.

Netanyahu has said Israel will keep fighting until all the hostages are free, and that it will keep control over Gaza long enough to ensure Hamas does not rearm — an effective occupation that raises the possibility of months or even years of continued fighting.

Earlier this month Israel opened a new front in its war with Hezbollah, stepping up bombardment in Lebanon and launching a ground campaign against the Iran-backed militia after a year of trading cross-border fire.

In his speech about Sinwar's death, Netanyahu said, "Our war is not yet ended."

President Joe Biden said Sinwar's death opens the way for "a political settlement that provides a better future for Israelis and Palestinians alike." He said he would talk with Netanyahu "to discuss the pathway for bringing the hostages home to their families, and for ending this war once and for all."

Sinwar has been Hamas' leader inside the Gaza Strip for years. He was elevated to the group's top leadership position in July after his predecessor, Ismail Haniyeh, was killed in an apparent Israeli strike in the Iranian capital, Tehran.

In the past months, Israel has eliminated a string of senior figures from Hamas and Hezbollah with airstrikes. Israel has claimed to have killed the head of Hamas' military wing, Mohammed Deif, but the group has said he survived.

But in Sinwar's case, troops found him by chance.

Israel military spokesperson Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari said that Israeli forces identified three Hamas militants running from building to building in Gaza's southernmost city, Rafah. The troops attempted to shoot them before they ran inside a building.

The Israeli military released drone video showing what it said were Sinwar's last moments: In a room wrecked by shelling, a man sat in a chair, his face covered with a cloth, possibly to hide his identity. The video showed the man, with one wounded hand, throwing a stick at the drone.

The military then fired an additional shell at the building, causing it to collapse and killing Sinwar, Hagari said. He said Sinwar was found with a bulletproof vest, grenades, and 40,000 shekels (\$10,707).

Some of Sinwar's DNA had previously been found in tunnels near where troops found the bodies of six hostages at the end of August, Hagari said. The military believes weeks of searches in the area had pushed Sinwar to come out of hiding, he said.

Photos circulating online showed the body of a man resembling Sinwar with a gaping head wound, dressed in a military-style vest, half buried in the rubble of a destroyed building. The security official confirmed the photos were taken by Israeli security officials at the scene. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because of the ongoing investigation.

The military said three militants were killed in the operation. Police said one of them was confirmed as

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 115 ~ 58 of 90

Sinwar by dental records, fingerprints and DNA tests. Sinwar was imprisoned by Israel from the late 1980s until 2011, and during that time he underwent treatment for brain cancer — leaving Israeli authorities with extensive medical records.

Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant addressed Hamas fighters, saying it “is time to go out, release the hostages, raise your hands, surrender.”

Netanyahu said Israel had “settled its account” with the man behind the Oct. 7 attack, and that “evil has suffered a heavy blow.” But, he added, “the task before us is not yet complete.”

He said anyone in Hamas who surrendered weapons and assisted with the return of the hostages would be allowed to leave Gaza safely. About a third of the captives still in Gaza are believed to be dead.

Hundreds of people demonstrated in Tel Aviv on Thursday night for the release of the hostages after news of Sinwar’s death emerged. Some carried signs that read “Sinwar’s end, end the war.”

Ifat Kalderon, whose cousin, Ofer Kalderon, is being held hostage in Gaza, said he was happy that Sinwar was dead but “scared about the 101 hostages. ... They might murder them or do something because of the murder of Sinwar.”

In the central Gaza town of Deir al-Balah, one Palestinian woman displaced from her home in the north said she hoped Sinwar’s death would bring an end to Israel’s campaign. “What more goals do they have than that? Enough. We want to go back,” said the woman, Umm Mohammed.

Some praised Sinwar as a symbol of resistance against Israel’s decadeslong occupation of the Palestinians in the West Bank. Ahmed Hamdouna, who also fled his home in northern Gaza, said Hamas would be able to replace him. “After the leader, a thousand leaders will come. After the man, a thousand men will come,” he said.

For more than a week, Israeli forces have been waging a ground campaign in Jabaliya refugee camp in northern Gaza, saying they are battling Hamas fighters who have once again regrouped there.

On Thursday, an Israeli strike hit a school sheltering displaced Palestinians in Jabaliya, killing at least 28 people, according to Gaza’s Health Ministry. Fares Abu Hamza, head of the Gaza Health Ministry’s emergency unit in the north, said the dead included a woman and four children.

The Israeli military said it targeted a command center run by Hamas and Islamic Jihad inside the school. It provided a list of around a dozen names of people it identified as militants who were present when the strike was called in. It was not immediately possible to verify the names.

Israel has repeatedly struck tent camps and schools sheltering displaced people in Gaza. The Israeli military says it carries out precise strikes on militants and tries to avoid harming civilians, but its strikes often kill women and children.

## **Argentine authorities probe what happened before Liam Payne’s fatal fall from his hotel balcony**

By ISABEL DEBRE Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — The circumstances surrounding the death of ex-One Direction singer Liam Payne were suspicious and possibly involved drugs, though there was no sign of a third party being involved, Argentine prosecutors said Thursday.

Payne, 31, who died on Wednesday, first shot to fame as a teenager and grappled with the pressures of global stardom.

As the news ricocheted around the world, fans and media swarmed the Casa Sur Hotel in the chic Palermo neighborhood of Argentina’s capital where Payne was found dead after plunging from his third-floor hotel room. All four of Payne’s former One Direction bandmates issued a joint statement saying they were “completely devastated.”

“The memories we shared with him will be treasured forever,” said the letter, signed by Harry Styles, Niall Horan, Zayn Malik and Louis Tomlinson. “In time, and when everyone is able to, there will be more to say.”

The Buenos Aires police said they found Payne’s hotel room “in complete disarray” with broken objects

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 115 ~ 59 of 90

and furniture. They found packs of clonazepam, a central nervous system depressant, energy supplements and over-the-counter medications strewn about his belongings. The Argentine public prosecutor said there also appeared to be alcohol and narcotics in the room.

Forensics teams reported that a whiskey bottle, lighter and cellphone were retrieved from the building's internal courtyard where Payne's body was found.

The prosecutor said that the autopsy showed internal bleeding and 25 traumatic injuries to his skull, limbs and abdomen, consistent with a fall. It said those injuries alone were enough to cause his death.

There were no signs of a third party being involved, the prosecutor said, but described Payne's case as "suspicious," citing the star's apparent alcohol and drug usage.

The lack of defensive injuries on Payne's hands indicated that he may have fallen into a state of unconsciousness, the public prosecutor said, contributing to the possibility that Payne "was going through some kind of substance abuse episode" at the time. All signs indicated that Payne was alone at the time of his death, the prosecutor added.

The results of the requested toxicology tests are pending and could take weeks to become public.

Medical examiners listed his cause of death as "multiple trauma" and "internal and external bleeding." Authorities said they took statements from three hotel employees and two women who had visited Payne in his hotel room hours earlier in an effort to reconstruct Payne's final moments.

The two women had left the hotel by the time of the incident, the prosecution said.

Hard-core fans, foreign and local, showed up in droves to cry, sing and pay their respects at the hotel where Payne died. A musically inclined devotee broke into One Direction hits, jamming on his guitar as others sang along and filmed with their phones.

Several girls with tear-stained cheeks paused to sit in trance-like silence before a makeshift memorial of candles and colorful flowers spilling prolifically onto the cordoned-off street outside the hotel. Some fans taped up portraits of Payne and handwritten notes with sorrowful slogans like "Always in my heart" on a tree trunk.

At the city's central Obelisco some kilometers away, the usual Thursday afternoon mix of food vendors, tourists and homeless people gave way to a gathering of largely young female fans united in grief.

"It's very painful that it's gone so unexpectedly," 15-year-old Melissa Acuña said from the vigil. "Obviously I came here to honor him, because it would be an ugly way for him to go if we didn't."

On Wednesday, police said Payne "had jumped from the balcony of his room," without elaborating on how they came to that conclusion or whether the jump was intentional. Police said they had rushed to the hotel in response to an emergency call just after 5 p.m. local time that had warned of an intoxicated guest acting erratically.

A hotel manager can be heard on a 911 call recording obtained by The Associated Press saying the hotel has "a guest who is overwhelmed with drugs and alcohol. ... He's destroying the entire room and, well, we need you to send someone, please."

Tributes continued pouring in Thursday from pop industry figures and fellow musicians.

Payne was known as the tousle-headed, sensible one of the quintet that went from a TV talent show to a pop phenomenon with a huge international following of swooning fans. In recent years, he had acknowledged struggling with alcoholism, saying in a YouTube video posted in July 2023 that he had been sober for six months after receiving treatment.

"We are heartbroken. Liam will forever live in our hearts and we'll remember him for his kind, funny and brave soul," his family said in a statement through Payne's representative. "We are supporting each other the best we can as a family and ask for privacy and space at this awful time."

Rolling Stones guitarist Ronnie Wood, who performed with One Direction in 2014, said he was "shocked and saddened." The Backstreet Boys said in a social media post that their hearts go out to "Directioners around the world."

In past interviews, Payne alluded to the grueling consequences of growing up against the surreal backdrop of the entertainment industry.

"I don't think you can ever deal with that. It's all a bit crazy for us to see that people get in that sort of state of mind about us and what we do," he told the AP in 2013, recounting an experience where a fan was in a state of shock upon meeting him.

One Direction announced an indefinite "hiatus" in 2016, and Payne — like each of his erstwhile bandmates — pursued a solo career, shifting toward EDM and hip-hop.

While former bandmember Styles became a huge solo star, the others had more modest success. Payne's 2017 single "Strip That Down," featuring Quavo, reached the Billboard Top 10, and stayed on the charts for several months. He put out an album "LP1" in 2019, and his last release — a single called "Teardrops" — was released in March.

In 2020, to mark the 10th anniversary of One Direction, Payne shared a screenshot of a text message he sent to his father on the day he joined the group, which read: "I'm in a boyband."

"What a journey ... I had no idea what we were in for when I sent this text to my dad years ago at this exact time the band was formed," he wrote.

## Texas sues doctor and accuses her of violating ban on gender-affirming care

By JAMIE STENGLE Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — Texas has sued a Dallas doctor over accusations of providing gender-affirming care to youths, marking one of the first times a state has sought to enforce recent bans driven by Republicans.

The lawsuit announced by Republican Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton on Thursday alleges that Dr. May Lau, a physician in the Dallas area, provided hormones to over 20 minors in violation of a Texas ban that took effect last year.

It is the first time Texas has tried to enforce the law, said Harper Seldin, a staff attorney for the ACLU's LGBTQ & HIV Project. He also said he was not aware of other states that have tried to enforce similar bans.

"Today, enforcement begins against those who have violated the law," Paxton's office said in the lawsuit, which was filed in suburban Collin County.

The Texas law prevents transgender people under 18 from accessing hormone therapies, puberty blockers and transition surgeries, though surgical procedures are rarely performed on children.

Seldin said that while he couldn't comment on the facts of this case, he said the lawsuit is the "predictable and terrifying result" of the law, which his organization tried to prevent by challenging it.

"Doctors should not have to fear being targeted by the government when using their best medical judgment and politicians like Ken Paxton should not be putting themselves between families and their doctors," Seldin said.

Lau is an associate professor in the pediatrics department at UT Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, according to the UT Southwestern website. The lawsuit said she has hospital privileges at two area Children's Health hospitals.

The lawsuit accuses her of "falsifying medical records, prescriptions, and billing records to represent that her testosterone prescriptions are for something other than transitioning a child's biological sex or affirming a child's belief that their gender identity is inconsistent with their biological sex."

Paxton is asking the court for an injunction against Lau and for her to be fined as much as \$10,000 per violation.

Lau nor UT Southwestern immediately replied to requests for comment on Thursday. Children's Health said in a statement that it "follows and adheres to all state health care laws."

At least 26 states have adopted laws restricting or banning gender-affirming medical care for transgender minors, and most of those states face lawsuits. Federal judges have struck down the bans in Arkansas and Florida as unconstitutional, though a federal appeals court has stayed the Florida ruling. A judge's orders are in place to temporarily block enforcement of the ban in Montana. New Hampshire restrictions are to take effect in January.

The lawsuit comes just weeks before an election in which Republicans have used support of gender-



affirming health care as a way to attack their opponents. Republican Sen. Ted Cruz has repeatedly blasted his Democratic challenger, U.S. Rep. Colin Allred, for his support of transgender rights.

The Texas ban was signed into law by Republican Gov. Greg Abbott, who was the first governor to order the investigation of families of transgender minors who receive gender-affirming care.

## King Charles III's visit rekindles Australia's debate on ending ties to the British monarchy

By ROD McGUIRK Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — King Charles III and Queen Camilla will arrive in Sydney on Friday for the first Australian visit by a reigning monarch in more than a decade, a trip that has rekindled debate about the nation's constitutional links to Britain.

The Sydney Opera House's iconic sails will be illuminated with images of previous royal visits to welcome the couple, whose six-day trip will be brief by royal standards. Charles, 75, is being treated for cancer, which led to the scaled-down itinerary.

He is only the second reigning British monarch to visit Australia. His mother, Queen Elizabeth II, became the first 70 years ago.

While the welcome will be warm, Australia's national and state leaders want the royals removed from their constitution.

Monarchists expect the visit will strengthen Australians' connection to their sovereign. Opponents hope for a rejection of the concept that someone from the other side of the world is Australia's head of state.

The Australian Republic Movement, which campaigns for an Australian citizen to replace the British monarch as head of state, likens the royal visit to a touring act in the entertainment industry.

The ARM this week launched what it calls a campaign to "Wave Goodbye to Royal Reign with Monarchy: The Farewell Oz Tour!"

ARM co-chair Esther Anatolitis said royal visits to Australia were "something of a show that comes to town."

"Unfortunately, it is a reminder that Australia's head of state isn't full-time, isn't Australian. It's a part-time person based overseas who's the head of state of numerous places," Anatolitis told the AP.

"We say to Charles and Camilla: 'Welcome, we hope you're enjoying our country and good health and good spirits.' But we also look forward to this being the final tour of a sitting Australian monarch and that when they come back to visit soon, we look forward to welcoming them as visiting dignitaries," she added.

Philip Benwell, national chair of the Australian Monarchist League, which campaigns for Australia's constitutional links to Britain to be maintained, expects reaction to the royal couple will be overwhelmingly positive.

"Something like the royal visit brings the king closer in the minds of people, because we have an absent monarchy," Benwell told the AP.

"The visit by the king brings it home that Australia is a constitutional monarchy and it has a king," he added.

Benwell is critical of the premiers of all six states, who have declined invitations to attend a reception for Charles in the national capital Canberra.

The premiers each explained that they had more pressing engagements on the day such as cabinet meetings and overseas travel.

"It would be virtually incumbent upon the premiers to be in Canberra to meet him and pay their respects," Benwell said. "To not attend can be considered to be a snub, because this is not a normal visit. This is the first visit of a king ever to Australia."

Charles was drawn into Australia's republic debate months before his visit.

The Australian Republic Movement wrote to Charles in December last year requesting a meeting in Australia and for the king to advocate their cause. Buckingham Palace politely wrote back in March to say the king's meetings would be decided upon by the Australian government. A meeting with the ARM does

not appear on the official itinerary.

"Whether Australia becomes a republic is ... a matter for the Australian public to decide," said the letter from Buckingham Palace.

The Associated Press has seen copies of both letters.

Australians decided in a referendum in 1999 to retain Queen Elizabeth II as head of state. That result is widely regarded as a consequence of disagreement about how a president should be chosen rather than majority support for a monarch.

After visiting Sydney and Canberra, which are 250 kilometers (155 miles apart), Charles will then travel to Samoa to open the annual Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting.

When his mother made the last of her 16 journeys to Australia in 2011 at the age of 85, she visited Canberra, Brisbane and Melbourne on the east coast before opening the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in the west coast city of Perth.

Elizabeth's first grueling Australian tour at the age of 27 took in scores of far-flung Outback towns; an estimated 75% of the nation's population turned out to see her.

Australia then had a racially discriminatory policy that favored British immigrants. Immigration policy has been non-discriminatory since 1973.

Anatolitis noted that Australia is far more multicultural now, with most of the population either born overseas or with a overseas-born parent.

"In the '50s, we didn't have that global interconnectedness that we have now," she said.

## **Tech firms remove social media accounts of a Russian drone factory after an AP investigation**

By EMMA BURROWS Associated Press

Google, Meta and TikTok have removed social media accounts belonging to an industrial plant in Russia's Tatarstan region aimed at recruiting young foreign women to make drones for Moscow's war in Ukraine.

Posts on YouTube, Facebook, Instagram and TikTok were taken down following an investigation by The Associated Press published Oct. 10 that detailed working conditions in the drone factory in the Alabuga Special Economic Zone, which is under U.S. and British sanctions.

Videos and other posts on the social media platforms promised the young women, who are largely from Africa, a free plane ticket to Russia and a salary of more than \$500 a month following their recruitment via the program called "Alabuga Start."

But instead of a work-study program in areas like hospitality and catering, some of them said they learned only arriving in the Tatarstan region that they would be toiling in a factory to make weapons of war, assembling thousands of Iranian-designed attack drones to be launched into Ukraine.

In interviews with AP, some of the women who worked in the complex complained of long hours under constant surveillance, of broken promises about wages and areas of study, and of working with caustic chemicals that left their skin pockmarked and itching. AP did not identify them by name or nationality out of concern for their safety.

The tech companies also removed accounts for Alabuga Polytechnic, a vocational boarding school for Russians aged 16-18 and Central Asians aged 18-22 that bills its graduates as experts in drone production.

The accounts collectively had at least 158,344 followers while one page on TikTok had more than a million likes.

In a statement, YouTube said its parent company Google is committed to sanctions and trade compliance and "after review and consistent with our policies, we terminated channels associated with Alabuga Special Economic Zone."

Meta said it removed accounts on Facebook and Instagram that "violate our policies." The company said it was committed to complying with sanctions laws and said it recognized that human exploitation is a serious problem which required a multifaceted approach, including at Meta.

It said it had teams dedicated to anti-trafficking efforts and aimed to remove those seeking to abuse

its platforms.

TikTok said it removed videos and accounts which violated its community guidelines, which state it does not allow content that is used for the recruitment of victims, coordination of their transport, and their exploitation using force, fraud, coercion, or deception.

The women aged 18-22 were recruited to fill an urgent labor shortage in wartime Russia. They are from places like Uganda, Rwanda, Kenya, South Sudan, Sierra Leone and Nigeria, as well as the South Asian country of Sri Lanka. The drive also is expanding to elsewhere in Asia as well as Latin America.

Accounts affiliated to Alabuga with tens of thousands of followers are still accessible on Telegram, which did not reply to a request for comment. The plant's management also did not respond to AP.

The Alabuga Start recruiting drive used a robust social media campaign of slickly edited videos with upbeat music that show African women smiling while cleaning floors, wearing hard hats while directing cranes, and donning protective equipment to apply paint or chemicals.

Videos also showed them enjoying Tatarstan's cultural sites or playing sports. None of the videos made it clear the women would be working in a drone manufacturing complex.

Online, Alabuga promoted visits to the industrial area by foreign dignitaries, including some from Brazil, Sri Lanka and Burkina Faso.

In a since-deleted Instagram post, a Turkish diplomat who visited the plant had compared Alabuga Polytechnic to colleges in Turkey and pronounced it "much more developed and high-tech."

According to Russian investigative outlets Protokol and Razvorot, some pupils at Alabuga Polytechnic are as young as 15 and have complained of poor working conditions.

Videos previously on the platforms showed the vocational school students in team-building exercises such as "military-patriotic" paintball matches and recreating historic Soviet battles while wearing camouflage.

Last month, Alabuga Start said on Telegram its "audience has grown significantly!"

That could be due to its hiring of influencers, who promoted the site on TikTok and Instagram as an easy way for young women to make money after leaving school.

TikTok removed two videos promoting Alabuga after publication of the AP investigation.

Experts told AP that about 90% of the women recruited via the Alabuga Start program work in drone manufacturing.

## Republicans appeal a Georgia judge's ruling that invalidates seven election rules

By KATE BRUMBACK and JEFF AMY Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — National and state Republicans on Thursday appealed a judge's ruling that said seven election rules recently passed by Georgia's State Election Board are "illegal, unconstitutional and void."

The Republican National Committee and the Georgia Republican Party are appealing a ruling from Fulton County Superior Court Judge Thomas Cox, who ruled Wednesday that the State Election Board did not have the authority to pass the rules and ordered it to immediately inform all state and local election officials that the rules are void and not to be followed.

The rules that Cox invalidated include three that had gotten a lot of attention — one that requires that the number of ballots be hand-counted after the close of polls and two that had to do with the certification of election results.

In a statement Thursday announcing the appeal. RNC Chairman Michael Whatley accused Cox of "the very worst of judicial activism."

"By overturning the Georgia State Election Board's commonsense rules passed to safeguard Georgia's elections, the judge sided with the Democrats in their attacks on transparency, accountability, and the integrity of our elections," Whatley said. "We have immediately appealed this egregious order to ensure commonsense rules are in place for the election — we will not let this stand."

Alex Kaufman, a lawyer for the state Republican Party, said Thursday that the party filed an emergency notice of appeal with the Georgia Supreme Court.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 115 ~ 64 of 90

The ruling came in a lawsuit filed by Eternal Vigilance Action, an organization founded and led by former state Rep. Scot Turner, a Republican. The suit argued that the State Election Board overstepped its authority in adopting the rules.

"Seeing the Republican Party argue that unelected bureaucrats should have the power to make new law is certainly a departure from traditional conservative values," Turner wrote in a text to The Associated Press. "But we expected them to appeal and are prepared to fight on behalf of reining in this administrative-state power grab as long as we need to."

The ruling was hailed as a victory by Democrats and voting rights groups, who say rules the State Election Board has passed in recent months could be used by allies of Donald Trump to cast doubt on results if the former president loses the presidential election to Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris. Recent appointments to the five-member board have put three Trump-endorsed Republicans in the majority. They have passed new rules over the objections of the board's lone Democrat and the nonpartisan chair.

County election officials from around the state — the people who run the elections — have voiced concerns over the flood of new rules taking effect so close to Election Day.

The other rules Cox said are illegal and unconstitutional are ones that: require someone delivering an absentee ballot in person to provide a signature and photo ID; demand video surveillance and recording of ballot drop boxes after polls close during early voting; expand the mandatory designated areas where partisan poll watchers can stand at tabulation centers; and require daily public updates of the number of votes cast during early voting.

One rule that the judge overturned required that three separate poll workers count the number of Election Day ballots by hand to make sure the number of paper ballots matches the electronic tallies on scanners, check-in computers and voting machines.

Georgia voters make selections on a touchscreen voting machine that prints a paper with a human-readable list of the voter's choices as well as a QR code. The voter puts that ballot in a scanner, which records votes. The hand-count would be of the paper ballots — not the votes.

Critics, including many county election officials, argued that a hand-count could slow the reporting of results and burden poll workers at the end of an already long day. They also said there isn't enough time for adequate training.

The rule's supporters argued the count would take extra minutes, not hours. They also noted that scanner memory cards with vote tallies could be sent to county offices while the hand-count is completed so reporting of results wouldn't be slowed.

Cox wrote that the rule "is nowhere authorized" by Georgia laws, which "proscribe the duties of poll officers after the polls close. Hand counting is not among them."

Two other new rules that Cox invalidated were passed by the State Election Board in August and have to do with certification. One provides a definition of certification that includes requiring county officials to conduct a "reasonable inquiry" before certifying results, but it does not specify what that means. The other includes language allowing county election officials "to examine all election related documentation created during the conduct of elections."

Supporters argued those rules are necessary to ensure the accuracy of the vote totals before county election officials sign off on them. Critics said they could be used to delay or deny certification.

## Harris campaign features less talk of joy and more head-on digs at Trump as Election Day nears

By ZEKE MILLER and STEVE KARNOWSKI Associated Press

LA CROSSE, Wis. (AP) — Joy Olson proudly wore a "Make America Joyful Again" button Thursday as she waited in line to attend a Kamala Harris rally. But that doesn't mean the 70-year-old retiree with the happiest of names wants the Democratic nominee to shy away from taking the heat to Republican Donald Trump.

"I'm tired of her being so nice sometimes," said Olson, who called Trump "evil and scary." She added: "I hope she calls him out."



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 115 ~ 65 of 90

That's exactly what the vice president is doing as the campaign enters its final days.

Less than three weeks from Election Day, Harris is closing out her campaign painting a dark vision of the country if Trump is sent back to the White House, including airing video clips at her own rallies of the Republican nominee's more alarming rhetoric.

"Donald Trump is increasingly unstable and unhinged and will stop at nothing to claim unchecked power for himself," Harris said Thursday in La Crosse, Wisconsin.

It's a far cry from the "joy" that swirled around her elevation to the top of the Democratic ticket this summer. As that surge of enthusiasm has eased, Harris is staking her campaign on increasingly sharp attacks on Trump meant to get her supporters to turn out and to win over the tiny universe of persuadable voters left in exceedingly tight battleground states.

At her La Crosse rally, she noted that Trump falsely claimed this week that the violent Capitol riot on Jan. 6, 2021, was "a day of love."

"There were attacks on law enforcement," she said, recalling the insurrection where Trump supporters tried to block the counting of electoral votes that formalized President Joe Biden's victory. "The American people are exhausted with his gaslighting. Enough! We are ready to turn the page!"

"Roll the clip," she said a week earlier, directing a rally audience to watch a video of the former president calling for rooting out an "enemy within" the country.

And she told radio host Charlamagne Tha God during a radio town hall this week that "Yes, we can say" that Trump was threatening to bring fascism to the country.

Since taking over the top of the Democratic ticket in late July, Harris and her team have been torn between the competing priorities of introducing the vice president to voters and turning the race into a referendum on the former president after Biden's debate flop put Democrats in the spotlight.

In the opening weeks of her campaign, she tried to thread the needle by sharing with voters her background as a prosecutor, telling stories about her upbringing and laying out her vision of how she would govern if elected.

Harris has been no stranger to criticizing Trump, but the urgency and vividness of her warnings about him have noticeably ramped up in recent days.

"He wants to send the military after American citizens. He wants to prevent women from making decisions about their own bodies," Harris said in La Crosse. "He wants to threaten fundamental freedoms and rights like the freedom to vote, the freedom to be safe from gun violence, to breathe clean air and drink clean water, and the freedom to love who you love openly and with pride."

It marks a return to the guiding strategy that was first outlined by Biden aides a year ago, when he was planning his reelection bid, and that is now being deployed by his hand-picked successor.

"People go negative because it works," said Republican strategist Brendan Buck, a former top aide to GOP House Speaker Paul Ryan. "Harris needed to make herself an acceptable alternative but ultimately the coalition was always going to be more of an anti-Trump one than anything affirmatively pro-Harris."

Trump's team has noticed too. "Kamala's entire campaign is based on lies about President Trump," his campaign spokesperson Karoline Leavitt said in a statement.

Some of the attacks on Trump are part of Harris' explicit outreach urging Republican voters to cross party lines, like her rally Wednesday in Pennsylvania with dozens of anti-Trump Republican political figures. Her team views it as a unique opportunity for Harris to increase her base of support and tap into a collection of voters who've already rejected Trump in the past.

Former Biden communications director Kate Bedingfield said attacking Trump gives Harris an opening with independent and even moderate Republican voters, and shifts the political conversation to ground where she is stronger — protecting American democracy — and away from issues where Republicans are often seen as stronger, such as immigration and the economy.

"Putting the stakes of this election front and center in the final few weeks may help motivate a slice of voters who are otherwise tired of the process," she said.

At a rally in Green Bay, Wisconsin, Thursday evening, Harris was set to highlight Trump calling himself

the “father of IVF,” as her campaign casts the Republican as a threat to women’s reproductive health.

Greg Swagel, a 76-year-old retired yacht builder from Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, showed up to Harris’ rally in Green Bay wearing a Green Bay Packers sweatshirt and said he “most definitely” agrees with Harris becoming more aggressive in her rhetoric.

“She has to put (Trump) in his place,” Swagel said. “He tells lies. He calls people names. Just as long as she doesn’t become him in the sense of lowering herself.”

## Scientists show how sperm and egg come together like a key in a lock

By LAURA UNGAR AP Science Writer

How a sperm and an egg fuse together has long been a mystery.

New research by scientists in Austria provides tantalizing clues, showing fertilization works like a lock and key across the animal kingdom, from fish to people.

“We discovered this mechanism that’s really fundamental across all vertebrates as far as we can tell,” said co-author Andrea Pauli at the Research Institute of Molecular Pathology in Vienna.

The team found that three proteins on the sperm join to form a sort of key that unlocks the egg, allowing the sperm to attach. Their findings, drawn from studies in zebrafish, mice, and human cells, show how this process has persisted over millions of years of evolution. Results were published Thursday in the journal *Cell*.

Scientists had previously known about two proteins, one on the surface of the sperm and another on the egg’s membrane. Working with international collaborators, Pauli’s lab used Google DeepMind’s artificial intelligence tool AlphaFold — whose developers were awarded a Nobel Prize earlier this month — to help them identify a new protein that allows the first molecular connection between sperm and egg. They also demonstrated how it functions in living things.

It wasn’t previously known how the proteins “worked together as a team in order to allow sperm and egg to recognize each other,” Pauli said.

Scientists still don’t know how the sperm actually gets inside the egg after it attaches and hope to delve into that next.

Eventually, Pauli said, such work could help other scientists understand infertility better or develop new birth control methods.

The work provides targets for the development of male contraceptives in particular, said David Greenstein, a genetics and cell biology expert at the University of Minnesota who was not involved in the study.

The latest study “also underscores the importance of this year’s Nobel Prize in chemistry,” he said in an email.

## Who was Yahya Sinwar, the Hamas leader Israel says it killed?

By BASSEM MROUE Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Yahya Sinwar masterminded an attack on Israel that shocked the world, unleashing a still-widening catastrophe with no end in sight.

In Gaza, no figure loomed larger in determining the war’s trajectory than the 61-year-old Hamas leader. Obsessive, disciplined and dictatorial, he was a rarely seen veteran militant who learned Hebrew over years spent in Israeli prisons and who carefully studied his enemy.

On Thursday, Israel said troops in Gaza had killed Sinwar. There was no immediate confirmation from Hamas of his death.

The secretive figure feared on both sides of the battle lines engineered the surprise Oct. 7, 2023, attack into southern Israel, along with the even more shadowy Mohammed Deif, head of Hamas’ armed wing. Israel said that it killed Deif in a July airstrike in southern Gaza that killed more than 70 Palestinians.

Soon after, Hamas’ leader in exile, Ismail Haniyeh, was killed while visiting Iran in an explosion that

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 115 ~ 67 of 90

was blamed on Israel. Sinwar was then chosen to take his place as Hamas' top leader, though he was in hiding in Gaza.

Palestinian militants who carried out the October 2023 attack killed around 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducted around 250 others, catching Israel's military and intelligence establishment off guard and shattering the image of Israeli invincibility.

Israel's retaliation was crushing. The conflict has killed over 42,000 Palestinians, caused widespread destruction in Gaza, and left hundreds of thousands of people homeless and many on the verge of starvation.

Sinwar has held indirect negotiations with Israel to try to end the war. One of his goals was to win the release of thousands of Palestinians held in Israeli jails, much like the deal that got him released more than a decade ago.

He worked on bringing Hamas closer to Iran and its other allies across the region. The war he ignited drew in Hezbollah, eventually leading to another Israeli invasion of Lebanon, and led Iran and Israel to trade fire directly for the first time, raising fears of an even more expansive conflict.

To Israelis, Sinwar was a nightmarish figure. The Israeli army's chief spokesperson, Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari, called him a murderer "who proved to the whole world that Hamas is worse than ISIS," referring to the Islamic State group.

Always defiant, Sinwar ended one of his few public speeches by inviting Israel to assassinate him, proclaiming in Gaza, "I will walk back home after this meeting." He then did so, shaking hands and taking selfies with people in the streets.

Among Palestinians, he was respected for standing up to Israel and remaining in impoverished Gaza, in contrast to other Hamas leaders living more comfortably abroad.

But he was also deeply feared for his iron grip in Gaza, where public dissent is suppressed.

In contrast to the media-friendly personas cultivated by some of Hamas' political leadership, Sinwar never sought to build a public image. He was known as the "Butcher of Khan Younis" for his brutal approach to Palestinians suspected of collaborating with Israel.

Sinwar was born in 1962 in Gaza's Khan Younis refugee camp to a family that was among hundreds of thousands of Palestinians driven from what is now Israel during the 1948 war surrounding its creation.

He was an early member of Hamas, which emerged from the Palestinian branch of the Muslim Brotherhood in 1987, when the coastal enclave was under Israeli military occupation.

Sinwar convinced the group's founder, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, that to succeed as a resistance organization, Hamas needed to be purged of informants for Israel. They founded a security arm, then known as Majd, which Sinwar led.

Arrested by Israel in the late 1980s, he admitted under interrogation to having killed 12 suspected collaborators. He was eventually sentenced to four life terms for offenses that included the abduction and killing of two Israeli soldiers.

Michael Koubi, a former director of the investigations department at Israel's Shin Bet security agency who interrogated Sinwar, recalled the confession that stood out to him the most: Sinwar recounted forcing a man to bury his own brother alive because he was suspected of working for Israel.

"His eyes were full of happiness when he told us this story," Koubi said.

But to fellow prisoners, Sinwar was charismatic, sociable and shrewd, open to detainees from all political factions.

He became the leader of the hundreds of imprisoned Hamas members. He organized strikes to improve conditions. He learned Hebrew and studied Israeli society. He was known for feeding fellow inmates, making kunafa, a treat of shredded dough stuffed with cheese.

"Being a leader inside prison gave him experience in negotiations and dialogue, and he understood the mentality of the enemy and how to affect it," said Anwar Yassine, a Lebanese citizen who spent about 17 years in Israeli jails, much of the time with Sinwar.

Yassine noted how Sinwar always treated him with respect even though he belonged to the Lebanese Communist Party, whose secular principles conflicted with Hamas' ideology.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 115 ~ 68 of 90

During his years in detention, Sinwar wrote a 240-page novel, "Thistle and the Cloves." It tells the story of Palestinian society from the 1967 Mideast war until 2000, when the second intifada began.

"This is not my personal story, nor is it the story of a specific person, despite the fact that all the incidents are true," Sinwar wrote in the novel's opening.

In 2008, Sinwar survived an aggressive form of brain cancer after treatment at a Tel Aviv hospital.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu released him in 2011 along with about 1,000 other prisoners in exchange for Gilad Schalit, an Israeli soldier captured by Hamas in a cross-border raid. Netanyahu was harshly criticized for releasing dozens of prisoners held for involvement in deadly attacks.

Back in Gaza, Sinwar closely coordinated between Hamas' political leadership and its military wing, the Qassam Brigades. He also cultivated a reputation for ruthlessness. He is widely believed to be behind the unprecedented 2016 killing of another top Hamas commander, Mahmoud Ishtewi, in an internal power struggle.

He also married after his release.

In 2017, he was elected head of Hamas' political bureau in Gaza. Sinwar worked with Haniyeh to realign the group with Iran and its allies, including Lebanon's Hezbollah. He also focused on building Hamas' military power.

## Mitzi Gaynor, star of 'South Pacific,' dies at 93

By KAITLYN HUAMANI and BOB THOMAS Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Mitzi Gaynor, the effervescent dancer and actor who starred as Nellie Forbush in the 1958 film "South Pacific" and appeared in other musicals with Bing Crosby, Frank Sinatra and Gene Kelly, has died. She was 93.

Gaynor, among the last survivors of the so-called golden age of the Hollywood musical, died of natural causes in Los Angeles on Thursday morning, her long-time managers Rene Reyes and Shane Rosamonda confirmed in a statement to The Associated Press.

"As we celebrate her legacy, we offer our thanks to her friends and fans and the countless audiences she entertained throughout her long life," Reyes and Rosamonda said in a joint statement. "Your love, support and appreciation meant so very much to her and was a sustaining gift in her life."

Her entertainment career spanned eight decades across film, television and the stage, and appeared in several notable films including "We're Not Married!" and "There's No Business Like Show Business," but she is best remembered for her turn in "South Pacific."

The screen version of "South Pacific" received three Academy Award nominations and won for best sound, while Gaynor was a best actress nominee for a Golden Globe.

The role of the love-sick nurse Nellie, created on Broadway by Mary Martin, had been eagerly sought by Hollywood stars. Sinatra helped Gaynor land it.

She was starring with him in "The Joker Is Wild," when she had a one-day opportunity to audition for lyricist Oscar Hammerstein II. It was the same day she was scheduled for her biggest scene with Sinatra. When she explained her plight, he told her, "Don't worry, I'll change the schedule."

Hammerstein was impressed with Gaynor, who had already won the approval of director Josh Logan and composer Richard Rodgers. She was cast opposite Rossano Brazzi, about whom she sang "I'm in Love with a Wonderful Guy."

"South Pacific" was not the turning point in her career that Gaynor had hoped it would be, and she shifted her focus from film to television, making early appearances on Donald O'Connor's variety series "Here Comes Donald," and on CBS' "The Jack Benny Hour." In October of 1959, she was the only woman to guest star alongside Sinatra, Crosby, Dean Martin and Jimmy Durante on ABC's "The Frank Sinatra Timex Show" special.

Later in her career, Gaynor reinvented herself as a performing entertainer. Working with her husband and manager Jack Bean, she starred in her own musical revue that was a big draw in theaters throughout the U.S., Canada, the U.K. and Australia.



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 115 ~ 69 of 90

Gaynor became a mainstay in Las Vegas for several years, performing in weeks-long residencies for over a decade, notably at the Flamingo Hotel and the Riviera Hotel.

When touring with a full orchestra, a corps of dancers and backstage personnel became too unwieldy and expensive, Gaynor slimmed down the production, eventually making it a one-woman show. They continued touring every year until 2002 when Bean's illness required a hiatus.

"I love touring; I've been doing it much of my life," Gaynor said in a 2003 interview. "We go back to the same places; it's like visiting friends. After the show, people come backstage to the dressing room, and we renew friendships. We send out almost 3,000 Christmas cards every year."

"Off stage, she was a vibrant and extraordinary woman, a caring and loyal friend, and a warm, gracious, very funny and altogether glorious human being. And she could cook, too!" the statement from Rosamonda and Reyes said, referencing a song from the musical "On the Town" that Gaynor sang in one of her revue shows.

Gaynor also starred in several television variety specials, including "Mitzi...Zings Into Springs" and "Mitzi... Roarin' in the 20's." Many of the specials received nominations for Emmy Awards, with wins for choreography, lighting, art design and costume design, the last of which was awarded to Gaynor's longtime collaborator, Bob Mackie. The specials were the subject of the 2008 documentary "Mitzi Gaynor: Razzle Dazzle! The Special Years."

Born Francesca Marlene de Czanyi von Gerber (Mitzi is diminutive for Marlene) in Chicago on Sept. 4, 1931, she was a part of a musically inclined family and started singing and dancing at a young age.

In a 2003 AP interview, Gaynor said she has a clear memory of her stage debut. She had been taking ballet and tap lessons and at age 7 she was scheduled for a tap routine at the dance school recital. She had neglected to use the bathroom, and when she faced the audience, a puddle formed on the stage.

"I ran kicking and screaming off the stage," she recalls. "But I got huge applause. So I dried off and put some lipstick on. After the next girl did a hula with batons and slipped on the wet floor, I went out and said, 'I'm OK now. Can I do it?' And I got cheers!"

Gaynor and Bean married in 1954 and in 1960 bought a spacious house in Beverly Hills that became their home until his death in 2006. They rarely appeared at Hollywood events, preferring to entertain a few close friends. The couple had no children.

## **Biden says Sinwar's death is an 'opportunity' for a hostage deal and an end to war in Gaza**

By JOSH BOAK and ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — President Joe Biden said Thursday that the killing of Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar by Israeli troops is a "good day for the world," calling it an opportunity to free hostages held by the militant group and end the yearlong war in Gaza.

"Now's the time to move on. ... Move toward a cease-fire in Gaza, make sure that we move in a direction that we're able to make things better for the whole world," Biden told reporters as he arrived in Berlin for a short visit. "It's time for this war to end and bring these hostages home. That's what we're ready to do."

U.S. officials expressed such measured optimism that the killing of a militant characterized by national security adviser Jake Sullivan as a "massive obstacle to peace" might breathe new life into cease-fire talks that have failed to produce a breakthrough for months despite periodic signs of progress.

"Over the past few weeks, there have been no negotiations for an end to the war because Sinwar has refused to negotiate," State Department spokesman Matthew Miller told reporters. "We now see an opportunity with him having been removed from the battlefield, being removed from the leadership of Hamas, and we want to seize that opportunity."

Biden spoke by phone with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to congratulate him on the mission that killed Sinwar. They also discussed "how to use this moment to bring the hostages home and to bring the war to a close with Israel's security assured and Hamas never again able to control Gaza," according to a White House summary of the call.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 115 ~ 70 of 90

However, Netanyahu said Thursday that "our war has not yet ended." Besides seeking the release of hostages, Netanyahu has said Israel must keep long-term control over Gaza to ensure Hamas does not rearm — opening the possibility of continued fighting.

Biden said he would be sending Secretary of State Antony Blinken to Israel in the coming days.

In an earlier statement, the president compared the reaction to Sinwar's death to the feeling in the U.S. after the killing of al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden, who was responsible for the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

He said the killing of the mastermind of the Oct. 7, 2023, attacks on Israel "proves once again that no terrorists anywhere in the world can escape justice, no matter how long it takes."

The inability to reach a cease-fire in Gaza and deliver the return of the hostages has bedeviled negotiators from the start. Hamas militants killed some 1,200 people in Israel in the attacks that launched the war and took about 250 hostage. Some 100 hostages are still inside Gaza, about a third of whom are believed to be dead.

Israel's retaliatory offensive has destroyed much of the Gaza Strip and killed more than 42,000 Palestinians. The Gaza Health Ministry does not distinguish between civilians and combatants but says more than half of those killed were women and children.

The U.S. has been working with fellow mediators Egypt and Qatar on a cease-fire proposal since the war began a year ago, sending Blinken and other envoys to the Middle East multiple times to try to broker a deal without success.

Last month, on Blinken's 10th trip to the region since the war in Gaza began, he skipped Israel and withheld optimistic projections of a breakthrough.

"On multiple occasions over the past months, Sinwar rebuffed efforts by the United States and its partners to bring this war to a close through an agreement that would return the hostages to their families and alleviate the suffering of the Palestinian people," Blinken said in a statement Thursday.

The halting progress and seemingly conflicting priorities have caused friction in the Biden-Netanyahu relationship as the Israeli leader's pledge to achieve "total victory" against Hamas has clashed with U.S. officials' concerns about large-scale civilian casualties in Gaza. Israeli leaders presented the killing of Sinwar as a moment for Hamas to surrender.

The Biden administration also had urgently called for an immediate cease-fire between Israel and Hezbollah to avoid the possibility of all-out war in the Middle East before shifting its message after Israel killed Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah in an airstrike and pressed ahead with a ground invasion in Lebanon.

Biden said with Sinwar's death "there is now the opportunity for a 'day after' in Gaza without Hamas in power, and for a political settlement that provides a better future for Israelis and Palestinians alike."

He praised U.S. special operations forces and intelligence operatives who helped advise Israeli allies on tracking and locating Sinwar and other Hamas leaders over the past year — though the U.S. said the operation that killed Sinwar was an Israeli one.

Sullivan said Sinwar's removal from the battlefield does present an opportunity to find a way forward that gets the hostages home.

"Now we will have to work to ensure that his death actually does deal the kind of long-term blow to Hamas that of all of us would like to see," he said.

## **One Direction were the internet's first boy band, and Liam Payne its grounding force**

By MARIA SHERMAN AP Music Writer

Liam Payne's voice is the first one heard in the culture-shifting boy band One Direction's debut single: "What Makes You Beautiful" launches into a bouncy guitar riff, a cheeky and borderline gratuitous cowbell and then, Payne.

"You're insecure, don't know what for / You're turning heads when you walk through the door," he sings, in a few words assuring a cross-section of generations that he's got your back, girl, and you should like

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 115 ~ 71 of 90

yourself a little bit more.

Payne, who died Wednesday after falling from a hotel balcony in Buenos Aires, Argentina, at just 31, was also the last solo voice on the band's final single, "History" — effectively opening and closing the monolithic run of one of the biggest boy bands of all time.

While the exact circumstances of his death remain unclear — Buenos Aires police said in a statement that Payne "had jumped from the balcony of his room," although they didn't offer details on how they established that or whether it was intentional — in life, Payne was a critical part of the internet's first boy band, one that secured an indelible place in the hearts of millennial and Gen Z fans.

### How One Direction became the internet's first boy band

Before One Direction became One Direction, its members auditioned for the U.K.'s "The X Factor" separately. The judges decided to put five promising, but not yet excellent, boys into a group. They were Harry Styles, Niall Horan, Louis Tomlinson, Zayn Malik and Payne, who together finished third in the 2010 competition.

As Rolling Stone contributing editor Rob Sheffield points out, it was an "unprecedented" way for a boy band to get their start.

"They were sort of assigned to be together. And you don't expect longevity out of that situation. Honestly, you don't even expect one good pop record to come out of that situation," he says. And yet, not only did it work, but One Direction essentially created "a new template for pop stardom, really."

The show allowed Day 1 fans to follow their career before their official 2011 launch with "What Makes You Beautiful." Nascent fans could use rising social media platforms like Twitter and Tumblr to find community, draw attention to the group and, in the earliest days, speak directly to the members.

"I honestly made a Twitter so that I could keep up with One Direction, and that's how I made so many different friends," says Gabrielle Kopera, 28, a fan from California who remembers the band hosting livestreams and chats. "Sometimes they would say something back and it was so much fun. I feel like that fan interaction doesn't even happen anymore."

That feeling of accessibility reinforced the group's personality and relationship with fans, says Maura Johnston, a freelance music writer and Boston College adjunct instructor.

"The fact that they came up on this British TV show and they became this worldwide phenomenon, I don't think that would have happened as acutely and as quickly and as immersive without social media, without Twitter or without people being able to mobilize around the globe," she says.

### One Direction and their fans

Millennial and Gen Z audiences practically grew up with One Direction, but the band was truly ubiquitous. That, Johnston says, is at least partially attributable to arriving in a very different media environment from today's.

"It was a lot more focused," she says of the early 2010s. "Algorithmic sorting of stuff hadn't really taken hold. So, there was this broader, mass approach. ... They were one of the last gasps of that mass phenomenon, that anyone of any age, even if they weren't a fan, had to take notice to."

But it takes more than omnipresence to cultivate a loyal fanbase. And there were myriad reasons why listeners were attracted to One Direction.

"They were five very different musical personalities, along with five very different personalities," says Sheffield.

They broke the rules associated with traditional boy bands, too: "They co-wrote many of their songs. They didn't do, you know, corny, choreographed steps on stage," he said.

After the news of Payne's death, Kopera says she "got so many messages from people I haven't talked to in years reaching out because I think everyone kind of realized that it does feel like we just lost a family member."

That sentiment was mirrored in the masses of fans who gathered Wednesday outside Buenos Aires' Casa Sur Hotel, feeding a burgeoning makeshift memorial of flowers, candles and notes as police stood guard.

"I've always loved One Direction since I was little," said Juana Relh, 18, outside Payne's hotel. "To see

that he died and that there will never be another reunion of the boys is unbelievable, it kills me.”

Liam Payne’s place in the band, and its legacy

Payne was a “brooding” older brother-type in One Direction, says Johnston. He also co-wrote many songs, especially in their later career — like the Fleetwood Mac-channeling “What A Feeling” and “Fireproof.”

“He was this grounding force in the band,” Johnston says.

In an Instagram tribute, Tomlinson called Payne “the most vital part of One Direction.”

“His experience from a young age, his perfect pitch, his stage presence, his gift for writing. The list goes on. Thank you for shaping us Liam,” he wrote.

“I always remember that he was the responsible and the sensible one of the group, and I feel like he wore his heart on his sleeve,” Kopera says.

Payne had recently been vocal about struggling with alcoholism, posting a YouTube video in July 2023 where he said he had been sober for six months after receiving treatment. Buenos Aires police said they found clonazepam — a central nervous system depressant — and other over-the-counter drugs in Payne’s hotel room, along with a whiskey bottle in the courtyard where he was found.

“Looking at what happened to Liam, it just makes you feel even more sad, that it just feels like he needed help,” Kopera says. “And it’s so scary to think about how the entertainment industry can just, like, eat up artists.”

After One Direction disbanded in 2016, Payne’s solo career — a single R&B-pop album in 2019, “LP1,” and a number of singles here and there — never took off the same way as some of his bandmates. He was “the least successful,” Sheffield says. “It’s safe to say that on the terms that he was going for, he didn’t really find what he wanted to do.”

“It’s hard, transitioning from being a boy bander to be a pop star,” Johnston says.

At Payne’s solo shows, Sheffield explains, “He would show a little montage of One Direction performing, which is the kind of thing you don’t do when you’re starting out as a solo artist. But fans took that in the spirit it was offered, which is a very generous statement that he’s like, ‘Yep, you’re here because of this history that we share, and I’m here because of that same history.’”

Despite Payne’s struggles and the tragedy of his death, Kopera is confident “his legacy is going to always point back to One Direction.”

For fans, the same is true.

“When I look back on One Direction, I’m like, that was my girlhood. One Direction was the soundtrack to growing up, and I’m so thankful for it,” she says. “They really were just a group of normal boys.”

## Panel looking into Trump assassination attempt says Secret Service needs ‘fundamental reform’

By REBECCA SANTANA Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — An independent panel investigating the attempted assassination of Donald Trump at a Pennsylvania campaign rally says the Secret Service needs fundamental reform and new leadership, and that “another Butler can and will happen again” without major changes in how candidates are protected.

The review faulted the Secret Service for poor communications that day and failing to secure the building where the gunman took his shots. It also found more systemic issues at the agency such as a failure to understand the unique risks facing Trump and a culture of doing “more with less.”

The 52-page report issued Thursday recommended bringing in new, outside leadership and refocusing on the Secret Service’s protective mission.

“The Secret Service as an agency requires fundamental reform to carry out its mission,” the authors wrote Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas of the Homeland Security Department, the Secret Service’s parent agency, in a letter accompanying their report. “Without that reform, the Independent Review Panel believes another Butler can and will happen again.”

One rallygoer was killed and two others wounded when Thomas Matthew Crooks climbed onto the roof of a nearby building and opened fire as Trump spoke. The former president was wounded in the ear before



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 115 ~ 73 of 90

being rushed off the stage by Secret Service agents. That shooting, along with another incident in Florida when Trump was golfing — a gunman there never got a line of site on the president or fired a shot — has led to a crisis in confidence in the agency.

The report by a panel of four former law enforcement officials from national and state government follows investigations by members of Congress, the agency's own investigators and by Homeland Security's oversight body.

The Secret Service said it was making changes.

"We have already significantly improved our readiness, operational and organizational communications and implemented enhanced protective operations for the former president and other protectees," the agency's acting director Ronald Rowe said in a statement Thursday. The agency said it was looking at how to retain personnel, modernize technology and bolster training, and was working with Congress to increase funding.

Mayorkas said in a statement that his department is taking action in response to "the security failures" at the rally and what the review panel "describes as systemic and foundational issues that underlie those failures."

A look at the report's key findings and recommendations:

Poor communications, no plan for key buildings

The panel echoed previous reports that have zeroed in on the failure to secure the building near the rally that had a clear line of site to where Trump was speaking and the multiple communications problems that hindered the ability of the Secret Service and local and state law enforcement to talk to each other.

The panel faulted the planning between Secret Service and the local law enforcement, and said the Secret Service failed to ask about what was being done to secure the building: "Relying on a general understanding that 'the locals have that area covered' is simply not good enough and, in fact, at Butler this attitude contributed to the security failure."

The review questioned why there were two separate command posts at the rally and found other communications problems, including the need to switch radio channels because radio traffic from agents protecting first lady Jill Biden at an event in Pittsburgh was coming across the channels of agents who were with Trump. Also, law enforcement personnel on the ground used a "chaotic mixture" of radio, cell phone, text, and e-mail. And it was unclear who had ultimate command that day.

Cultural issues within the agency

The report painted a picture of an agency struggling to think critically about how it carries out its mission, especially when it comes to protecting Trump.

The panel said agency personnel operated under the assumption that they effectively had to "do more with less." The report said the additional security measures taken to protect Trump after the Butler shooting should have been taken before.

"To be clear, the Panel did not identify any nefarious or malicious intent behind this phenomenon, but rather an overreliance on assigning personnel based on categories (former, candidate, nominee) instead of an individualized assessment of risk," the panel wrote.

The panel also noted the "back-and-forth" between the Trump security detail and Secret Service headquarters regarding how many people were needed to protect him.

The panel also faulted some of the senior-level staff who were involved in the rally for what they called a "lack of ownership." In one example, the panel said a senior agent on site who was tasked with coordinating communications didn't walk around the rally site ahead of time and did not brief the state police counterpart before the rally about how communications would be managed.

It cited the relative inexperience of two specific agents who played a role in security for the July 13 rally. One was the site agent from Trump's detail whose job it was to coordinate with the Pittsburgh field office on security planning for the rally. The panel said the agent graduated from the Secret Service academy in 2020, and had only been on the Trump detail since 2023. Before the Butler rally the agent had only done "minimal previous site advance work or site security planning."

Another agent assigned to operate a drone detection system had only used the technology at two prior

events.

What did the panel recommend?

The panel recommended new leadership, specifically from outside the agency, but the report did not say whether anyone should be fired.

Other recommendations included: having a unified command post at all large events; overhead surveillance for all outdoor events; security plans that specify how to mitigate line of site concerns out to 1,000 yards and who's in charge; and more training on how to get protectees out of dangerous scenarios.

The panel said the agency needs renewed focus on its core protective mission while expressing skepticism that the agency should continue with the investigations it currently conducts. While the Secret Service is well known for what it does to protect presidents and other dignitaries, it also investigates financial crimes.

"In the Panel's opinion, it is simply unacceptable for the Service to have anything less than a paramount focus on its protective mission, particularly while that protective mission function is presently suboptimal," the report said.

Panel members included Janet Napolitano, homeland security secretary under President Barack Obama; Mark Filip, deputy attorney general under President George W. Bush; David Mitchell, who served in numerous state and local law enforcement roles in Maryland and Delaware; and Frances Fragos Townsend, Bush's assistant for homeland security and counterterrorism.

But this is not the first time that an independent review has found fault with the agency. After a man jumped the White House fence and evaded Secret Service to run into the building, a panel a decade ago looked into how the agency protects the White House.

It recommended some of the same changes.

## **A historically Black community grapples with lasting impacts after Baltimore bridge collapse**

By LEA SKENE Associated Press

TURNER STATION, Md. (AP) — As the dust settled after the deadly collapse of Baltimore's Francis Scott Key Bridge, as the initial shock wore off and the breaking news coverage subsided, residents of this tiny peninsula found themselves facing an uncertain future.

Many had spent decades living in the shadow of the Key Bridge, an iconic landmark that placed the community of Turner Station firmly on the map. For their working-class, historically Black neighborhood, it was a lifeline to the outside world, a source of both pride and convenience.

Within seconds, it was gone. Six construction workers died after a massive container ship lost power and veered off course, striking one of the bridge's support piers in the overnight darkness of March 26.

Turner Station was already struggling with population loss and economic decline long before the bridge collapse — and its newest chapter promises even more challenges.

Plans are underway to rebuild the Key Bridge by 2028. But in the meantime, its absence will be felt most acutely by people like Loreasa Minor and her neighbors, people who routinely hopped over the bridge to run errands, visit family, attend church and get to work.

Minor has lived in Turner Station nearly all her life. Some of her earliest memories are of the bridge being built, a feat of modern engineering taking shape right in her family's backyard. When it opened to cars in 1977, the 1.6-mile (2.6-kilometer) span bypassed downtown traffic and provided a direct connection between industrial communities on either side of Baltimore's harbor.

It also made Turner Station easily accessible, allowing residents to enjoy the neighborhood's small-town feel without living in the middle of nowhere. As jobs at nearby industrial plants gradually dried up, residents started commuting farther afield and many came to rely heavily on the Key Bridge.

Without it, Minor said, her daily commute has more than doubled.

She doesn't want to leave Turner Station, where her grandparents put down roots many decades ago. She currently lives across the street from her aging parents and around the corner from her beloved church. But sometimes while she's sitting in traffic for hours on end, she ruefully watches the gas gauge

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 115 ~ 75 of 90

and contemplates her new routine.

"Do I relocate? Do I get a new job?" said Minor, who works at a state-run veteran's cemetery south of Baltimore. "I don't want to do either of those. I love my job. Who wants to start from scratch?"

From the beginning, a home for Black steelworkers

Turner Station was originally built to house Black steelworkers at a time when segregation laws limited where they could settle.

During WWI, military leaders tapped Baltimore's robust shipbuilding industry, including a sprawling steel mill northeast of the city. The federal government provided nearby housing only for white workers, so Black families started their own community in nearby Turner Station. Federal housing projects came later during WWII.

Bought by Bethlehem Steel in 1918, the mill at Sparrows Point would become the largest steel producer in the world. It provided lucrative jobs to Black people moving north, often to escape unfair sharecropping arrangements and other low-paying jobs in Southern states.

By the 1950s, Turner Station was home to many stores and other amenities, including an air conditioned movie theater, an amusement park, a community beach, doctor's offices, restaurants and cocktail lounges. It became largely self-sufficient in its heyday, an enclave of Black entrepreneurship and achievement in majority-white Baltimore County.

The population peaked at nearly 9,000 in the 1950s, but started shrinking soon after. Part of the area was rezoned for industry, resulting in the demolition of two large housing complexes. Manufacturing jobs gradually dwindled and businesses shuttered. By 1980, the population was under 4,000, according to local historians.

After decades of downsizing, the Bethlehem Steel plant closed in 2012. Younger generations started leaving Turner Station while their parents and grandparents sought to preserve its legacy.

During a recent tour of the neighborhood, longtime resident Courtney Speed marched up and down its residential streets lined with brick rowhouses and modest single-family homes. She said it shouldn't be lost on anyone that Turner Station is the product of racist housing policies, that its residents were fighting an uphill battle from day one.

She listed off a number of notable figures with ties to the community, many of them featured in the Turner Station History Center, a tiny museum filled with stories and photos.

"We've always been innovative," said Speed, 84, who owns one of Turner Station's longest operating businesses, Speed's Barber and Beauty. "It's our culture to make something out of nothing."

Henrietta Lacks, a Black woman whose cervical cells became a cornerstone of modern medicine after Johns Hopkins doctors harvested them without her consent, lived in Turner Station for almost a decade. Her name appears on commemorative street signs throughout the neighborhood and a plaque marks her former home.

Robert Curbeam, a former NASA astronaut and retired Navy captain, spent some of his childhood there.

U.S. Rep. Kweisi Mfume, former president of the NAACP, also grew up in Turner Station where he befriended NFL legend Calvin Hill. He said the community instilled in them certain core values.

"Work hard, play by the rules, love your country, cherish your faith, respect the elderly and always believe that you can succeed," he recited. "It's a fiercely proud community. We were told to be proud of who you were."

He said most of the families were relatively poor, but they took care of each other. It was a simpler life, somewhat protected from the crime and violence that plagued nearby parts of Baltimore.

Now, a new set of struggles

Mfume, a Democrat, now represents Turner Station as part of his district in Congress. Since the bridge collapse, he's been working with other members of Maryland's congressional delegation to secure 100% federal funding for the cleanup and rebuilding process.

He said Turner Station residents have expressed concern about potential damage to buildings from the seismic impact of the collapse. And they're already tired of 18-wheelers getting diverted through their neighborhood, spewing diesel fumes and wearing down the roads.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 115 ~ 76 of 90

Residents are also frustrated by rising home prices, partly a function of their desirable water views. Some worry about outside investors buying up properties, jacking up rents and pricing them out. They want to guard against the negative effects of gentrification by helping longtime renters become homeowners.

"This is some of the most valuable property in Baltimore County," Mfume said. "We don't want real estate speculation taking place."

Residents have spent years pushing government officials to adequately address flooding in Turner Station, a longstanding problem that has only gotten worse in recent years as county officials have studied the issue but failed to take significant action.

That's coupled with decades of industrial pollution making the surrounding water dangerous for swimming and fishing.

"They need to start treating this place as beautiful as it is," said Marquis Neal, whose backyard often floods during heavy rainstorms.

His neighbor Linwood Jackson, a Vietnam veteran who worked at Bethlehem Steel for over 30 years, called on elected officials to finally give Turner Station the attention and resources it deserves. That could mean bringing a grocery store back to the neighborhood, which has become a food desert in recent years. Or removing brush from the drainage ditches and replacing a rickety old fishing pier in the public park behind his house. Not to mention flood mitigation measures and continued pollution monitoring.

Jackson said he hopes Turner Station will become less of an afterthought since tragedy struck so close by. "Now we're at a crossroads again," he said.

But one thing he's learned, in war and in life, is that no one's coming to save you.

Could the new bridge bring new opportunities?

Having watched construction of the original Key Bridge "from the ground up," Vernon Banks said he looks forward to seeing its replacement take shape over the next four years. But it won't hold the same memories.

Last month, state transportation leaders awarded a contract for the massive project, which is expected to cost around \$1.7 billion.

Turner Station residents hope some of that money will make its way into their neighborhood and help spur revitalization.

State officials have pledged to include surrounding communities in the planning process and make jobs available for local workers during construction, though they haven't provided many details about the arrangements.

Turner Station has already benefited from environmental cleanup and recent redevelopment of the old Bethlehem Steel site, which now houses an Amazon warehouse and a maritime shipping terminal. Tradeport Atlantic, the site's owner, plans to continue growing the business into a major transportation and logistics hub. That also bodes well for job creation, although the glory days of steelworkers' wages are likely long gone.

Meanwhile, Turner Station residents will be doing what they've done for generations: coming together and fighting for their community.

There's Gloria Nelson, president of the Turner Station Conservation Teams, who has spent decades working with government agencies to bring resources into the community, including for housing redevelopment and a recent federal Superfund designation to support environmental cleanup in historically polluted Bear Creek. She wants to help Turner Station "move into the future while still respecting its history."

There's Antuan "Sleep" McQuaige, who's selling home-cooked meals around town and raising money to bring back a neighborhood youth football team.

There's Quanny Avondale, 30, who mentors younger men in the community, focusing on conflict resolution and financial planning. He encourages them to take advantage of Turner Station's real estate market and invest in property.

And on Sunday mornings, there's Pastor Rashad Singletary inspiring dozens of parishioners at Mount Olive Baptist Church, about 500 feet away from where the Key Bridge once stood. In the hours after the bridge fell, he opened up the church for first responders to use the bathroom or take a nap and hosted



a prayer vigil later that evening.

"Sometimes it's hard to go through and trust God when you don't see nothing working," Singletary told congregants during a recent Sunday sermon about persevering through challenges.

"I just believe that if God brought me from all the things I've been through before. He's not gonna leave me now."

His booming voice filled the sanctuary as church members nodded and clapped in affirmation, thinking back on the obstacles they've already faced and looking ahead to future possibilities.

## **McConnell called Trump 'stupid' and 'despicable' in private after the 2020 election, a new book says**

By MARY CLARE JALONICK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Mitch McConnell said after the 2020 election that then-President Donald Trump was "stupid as well as being ill-tempered," a "despicable human being" and a "narcissist," according to excerpts from a new biography of the Senate Republican leader that will be released this month.

McConnell made the remarks in private as part of a series of personal oral histories that he made available to Michael Tackett, deputy Washington bureau chief of The Associated Press. Tackett's book, "The Price of Power," draws from almost three decades of McConnell's recorded diaries and from years of interviews with the normally reticent Kentucky Republican.

The animosity between Trump and McConnell is well known — Trump once called McConnell "a dour, sullen, and unsmiling political hack." But McConnell's private comments are by far his most brutal assessment of the former president and could be seized on by Democrats before the Nov. 5 election. The biography will be released Oct. 29, one week before Election Day that will decide if Trump returns to the White House.

Despite those strong words, McConnell has endorsed Trump's 2024 run, saying earlier this year "it should come as no surprise" that he would support the Republican party's nominee. He shook Trump's hand in June when Trump visited GOP senators on Capitol Hill.

McConnell, 82, announced this year that he will step aside as Republican leader after the election but stay in the Senate through the end of his term in 2026.

McConnell was 'counting the days' until Trump left office

The comments about Trump quoted in the book came in the weeks before the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol. Trump was then actively trying to overturn his loss to Democrat Joe Biden. McConnell feared this would hurt Republicans in two Georgia runoffs and cost them the Senate majority. Democrats won both races.

Publicly, McConnell had congratulated Biden after the Electoral College certified the presidential vote and the senator warned his fellow Republicans not to challenge the results. But he did not say much else. Privately, he said in his oral history that "it's not just the Democrats who are counting the days" until Trump left office, and that Trump's behavior "only underscores the good judgment of the American people. They've had just enough of the misrepresentations, the outright lies almost on a daily basis, and they fired him."

"And for a narcissist like him," McConnell continued, "that's been really hard to take, and so his behavior since the election has been even worse, by far, than it was before, because he has no filter now at all."

Before those Georgia runoffs, McConnell said Trump is "stupid as well as being ill-tempered and can't even figure out where his own best interests lie."

Trump was also holding up a coronavirus aid package at the time, despite bipartisan support. "This despicable human being," McConnell said in his oral history, "is sitting on this package of relief that the American people desperately need."

On Jan. 6, soon after he made those comments, McConnell was holed up in a secure location with other congressional leaders, calling Vice President Mike Pence and military officials for reinforcements as Trump supporters stormed the Capitol. Once the Senate resumed debate over the certification of Biden's victory, McConnell said in a speech on the floor that "this failed attempt to obstruct the Congress, this failed

insurrection, only underscores how crucial the task before us is for our republic.”

McConnell then went to his office to address his staff, some of whom had barricaded themselves in the office as rioters banged on their doors. He started to sob softly as he thanked them, Tackett writes.

“You are my family, and I hate the fact that you had to go through this,” he told them.

The next month, McConnell gave his harshest public criticism of Trump on the Senate floor, saying he was “practically and morally responsible” for the Jan. 6 attack. Still, McConnell voted to acquit Trump after House Democrats impeached him for inciting the riot.

Years of doubts and criticism

In a statement to the AP on Thursday, McConnell referenced two fellow Republican senators — JD Vance of Ohio, the vice presidential nominee, and Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, both of whom are strong Trump allies after harshly criticizing him during his first run in 2016.

“Whatever I may have said about President Trump pales in comparison to what JD Vance, Lindsey Graham, and others have said about him, but we are all on the same team now,” McConnell said.

McConnell also had doubts about Trump from the start. Just after Trump was elected in 2016, as Congress was certifying the election, McConnell told Biden, then the outgoing vice president, that he thought Trump could be trouble, Tackett writes.

The book channels McConnell’s inner thoughts during some of the biggest moments after Trump took office, as McConnell held his tongue and as the two men repeatedly fought and made up.

In 2017, as Trump publicly criticized McConnell for the Senate’s failure to repeal the Affordable Care Act, Trump and McConnell had a heated argument on the phone. Weeks went by with no contact. Then Trump invited McConnell to the White House and called a joint news conference without telling him first. McConnell said the event went fine, and “it’s not hard to look more knowledgeable than Donald Trump at a press conference.”

After the passage of a \$1.5 trillion tax overhaul that same year, McConnell said, “All of a sudden, I’m Trump’s new best friend.”

He blamed Trump after House Republicans lost their majority in the 2018 midterm elections, Tackett writes. Trump “has every characteristic you would not want a president to have,” McConnell said in an oral history at the time, and was “not very smart, irascible, nasty.”

In 2022, as Trump continued to criticize McConnell and made racist comments about his wife, former Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao, McConnell told Tackett that “I can’t think of anybody I’d rather be criticized by than this sleazeball.”

“Every time he takes a shot at me, I think it’s good for my reputation,” McConnell said.

Also in 2022, McConnell said in his oral history that Trump’s behavior since losing the election had been “beyond erratic” as he kept pushing false allegations of voter fraud. “Unfortunately, about half the Republicans in the country believe whatever he says,” McConnell said.

By 2024, McConnell had again endorsed Trump. He felt he had to if he were to continue to play a role in shaping the nation’s agenda.

“It was the price he paid for power,” Tackett writes.

## Takeaways from The Associated Press’ reporting on extremism in the military

By JASON DEAREN, MICHELLE R. SMITH and AARON KESSLER Associated Press

An Associated Press investigation examined extremism among members of the U.S. military and veterans. Here are highlights from the reporting.

How many active-duty military and veterans are involved in extremism?

The AP received exclusive access to data collected and analyzed by the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism, or START, at the University of Maryland.

According to this data, there were more than 480 people with a military background accused of ideologically driven extremist crimes from 2017 through 2023, including the more than 230 arrested in connection

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 115 ~ 79 of 90

with the Jan. 6 insurrection. The vast majority of those included in the data were veterans, rather than active-duty servicemembers.

While the pace at which the overall population has been radicalizing has increased in recent years, people with military backgrounds have been radicalizing at a faster rate.

START researchers found that more than 80% of extremists with military backgrounds identified with far-right, anti-government or white supremacist ideologies, with the rest split among far-left, jihadist or other motivations.

The number of service members and veterans who radicalize make up a tiny fraction of a percentage point of the millions and millions who have honorably served their country.

What special dangers are posed by extremists with military backgrounds?

Extremist plots involving people with military backgrounds were more likely to involve weapons training or firearms than those plots that didn't include someone with a military background, according to an AP analysis of the data. This held true whether or not the plots were executed.

The number of people involved remains small. However, the participation of active-duty military and veterans gave extremist plots more potential for mass injury or death, according to the data.

When people with military backgrounds "radicalize, they tend to radicalize to the point of mass violence," said START's Michael Jensen, who leads the team that has spent years compiling the data, which captures detailed information about domestic extremists.

His group found that among extremists "the No. 1 predictor of being classified as a mass casualty offender was having a U.S. military background – that outranked mental health problems, that outranked being a loner, that outranked having a previous criminal history or substance abuse issues."

A mass casualty attack is defined as one that kills or injures four or more people.

The data tracked individuals with military backgrounds involved in plans to kill, injure or inflict damage for political, social, economic or religious goals. While some of the violent plots in the data were unsuccessful, those that succeeded killed and hurt dozens of people. Since 2017, nearly 100 people have been killed or injured in these plots, nearly all of them in service of an anti-government, white supremacist or far-right agenda. Those numbers do not include any of the violence on Jan. 6, which left scores of police officers injured.

Targeted attacks that the data show military-trained people are making more successful include the 2020 murders of a federal security officer and a sheriff's deputy in California by an active-duty Air Force staff sergeant and a 2018 attack by a former Army soldier who shot six women at a Florida hot yoga studio, killing two, before he killed himself.

"My primary concern is not a march on the Capitol or any other government building. It's that somebody with the skills that were imparted on them by the military to be extremely lethal uses those skills," said Jensen.

What has the Pentagon done to fight extremism in the ranks?

A month after people in tactical gear stormed up the U.S. Capitol steps in military-style stack formation on Jan. 6, the new defense secretary, Lloyd Austin, addressed the long-festering problem. He ordered a force-wide "stand down" to give time to local military commanders to discuss the issue with personnel.

Austin also empaneled the Countering Extremist Activity Working Group to study and recommend solutions. Among the group's eventual recommendations was to clarify what was prohibited under the military's ban on extremist activity. The revised policy, released in December 2021, now specifies that anti-government or anti-democratic actions are violations of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, federal laws that apply to all service members.

Are there other ways to combat extremism in the military?

The Pentagon did develop at least one way to detect extremist incidents across military branches and among civilian defense contractors. But it isn't using it.

The method was revealed in a research memo published the summer after Jan. 6 that, until now, has not been released publicly. American Oversight, a nonpartisan watchdog group, obtained the memo through a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit it brought against the Pentagon and shared it with AP.

In a project that began in September 2020 and lasted into 2021, DoD researchers studying “insider threats” and other security issues in the workforce developed a way to mine data from a DoD security clearance database to identify white supremacist and extremist incidents. This database included details from security incident reports filed about people who held security clearances – a wide swath of the military population, civilians and contractors included.

The operation identified hundreds of reported incidents of white supremacy and anti-government and other extremist activity over 20 years – the kinds of internal red flags that could identify issues with service members.

The researchers wrote that the results were a first step toward developing a way to identify incidents of extremism, and that the method could be used in other DoD databases.

The research was shared among some departments in the DoD after Jan. 6. But it never made it to the person who was leading the Pentagon’s extremism working group, the leader of that group, Bishop Garrison, told the AP.

A defense official did not address why the report was not sent to the working group. In a statement, the official said the DoD is “committed to understanding the root causes of extremism and ensuring such behavior is promptly and appropriately addressed and reported to the proper authorities,” and that the department has enhanced its ability to track extremism allegations.

## **Liam Payne, former One Direction member, dies at 31 in Argentina hotel fall**

By ISABEL DEBRE and KAITLYN HUAMANI Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — Former One Direction singer Liam Payne, 31, whose chart-topping British boy band generated a global following of swooning fans, was found dead Wednesday after falling from a hotel balcony in Buenos Aires, local officials said.

Buenos Aires police said in a statement that Payne fell from the third floor of the Casa Sur Hotel in the trendy Palermo neighborhood of Argentina’s capital, resulting in “extremely serious injuries.” Medics confirmed his death on the spot, the statement said.

The police statement to The Associated Press said Payne “had jumped from the balcony of his room.” Police rushed to the hotel in response to an emergency call just after 5 p.m. local time warning of an “aggressive man who could be under the influence of drugs or alcohol,” the statement added.

The hotel manager can be heard on a 911 call obtained by the AP saying they had “a guest who is overwhelmed with drugs and alcohol ... He’s destroying the entire room and, well, we need you to send someone, please.” The manager’s voice became more anxious as the call went on, noting the room had a balcony.

Alberto Crescenti, head of the state emergency medical system, told Argentina’s Todo Noticias TV channel that authorities were investigating the circumstances of his death and conducting an autopsy.

Payne had been vocal about struggling with alcoholism, posting a video in July 2023 to his YouTube channel where he said he had been sober for six months after receiving treatment. Representatives for Payne did not immediately return emails and calls.

Dozens of One Direction fans flocked from across Buenos Aires to the Casa Sur Hotel after the news broke, forming lines that spilled into the cordoned-off street outside the hotel where police stood sentinel. Forensic investigators were seen exiting the hotel, from where Payne’s body was removed around three hours after the fall. Young women filming with their cellphones expressed shock and heartbreak as a makeshift memorial with rows of candles and bouquets quickly grew outside the hotel.

“I didn’t think he was going to die so young,” 21-year-old Isabella Milesi told the AP.

Payne was one of five members of One Direction, which formed when they each auditioned for the British singing competition series “The X Factor” in 2010, two years after Payne’s first attempt to get on the show. At 16 the second time around, Payne sang Michael Bubl e’s version of “Cry Me a River,” appearing nervous at the start but warming up with the audience’s cheers and applause.



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 115 ~ 81 of 90

After each singer failed to make it through the competition as solo acts, Simon Cowell and his fellow judges combined Payne, Zayn Malik, Harry Styles, Niall Horan and Louis Tomlinson into what would become one of the most successful boy bands — even though they lost the competition.

Each member had their own persona, with Payne — who hailed from Wolverhampton, a city in the West Midlands region of England — being known as the responsible one. The band became known for their pop sound and romantic hits like “What Makes You Beautiful,” “Night Changes” and “Story of My Life.” Payne had prominent solos on songs including “Stole My Heart” and “Change Your Ticket,” co-writing several of the band’s hits. They had six Top 10 hits on the Billboard charts by the time they disbanded in 2016 and a highly loyal fan base, known as “Directioners,” many of whom were teen girls.

“I’ve always loved One Direction since I was little,” said 18-year-old Juana Relh, another fan outside Payne’s hotel. “To see that he died and that there will never be another reunion of the boys is unbelievable, it kills me.”

With his meteoric rise to fame, Payne had said that it took some time to adjust to the public eye.

“I don’t think you can ever deal with that, it’s all a bit crazy for us to see that people get in that sort of state of mind about us and what we do,” he said in a 2013 interview with the AP after recounting an experience where a fan was in a state of shock upon meeting him.

After the group’s dissolution, Payne — like each of his erstwhile bandmates — pursued a solo career, shifting toward EDM and hip-hop. His 2017 single “Strip That Down,” featuring Quavo, reached the Billboard Top 10, and stayed on the charts for several months. He put out an album “LP1” in 2019, and his last release — a single called “Teardrops” — was released in March.

Payne had a 7-year-old son, Bear Grey Payne, with his former girlfriend, the musician Cheryl who was known as Cheryl Cole when she performed with Girls Aloud. She was an “X Factor” judge during One Direction’s season, although their relationship began years later. Payne was previously engaged to Maya Henry, from August 2020 to early 2022. Henry released a novel earlier this year that she said was based on their relationship.

In addition to his son, he is survived by his parents, Geoff and Karen Payne, and his two older sisters, Ruth and Nicola.

## **Harris and Trump say America tanks if they lose. So why the exuberance at their rallies?**

By CAROLYN THOMPSON, JEFF AMY and CALVIN WOODWARD Associated Press

Shortly after taking the stage 91 minutes late for his Atlanta rally this week, Donald Trump did what he can’t help doing — go off on a tangent. This was clearly going to be a night at the improv.

He marveled at length about how Elon Musk’s SpaceX rocket booster was snatched from the skies by mechanical arms on its return. All that fire and smoke. “Coolest thing I’ve seen in a long time,” he told his crowd. “Was that crazy?” Talk about a rocket’s red glare.

A day earlier in Erie, Pennsylvania, Kamala Harris was buzzing with energy and blinding smiles on stage, and so were the thousands there to see her. No tangents.

She delivered a lacerating putdown of her opponent, polishing the art of looking incredulous about the man half the country might be voting for. If she’d held up a sign, “WTF” would have nailed the expression on her face. Her crowd was on a sugar high.

If next month’s election is the ultimate battle of good vs. evil, which we are told by both sides that it is, why are all these Georgia and Pennsylvania people dancing in the hall and having all this fun?

Harris’ rhetoric is existential, the country’s very foundation susceptible to crumbling away Nov. 5, in her reckoning. Trump’s always provocative words have gone darker still, even with violent undertones at times.

Yet in a country sick of what American politics has become, here were thousands marinating in it. Enjoying it. Making a date night out of it. Cocooned in it.

The Harris rally Monday and the Trump one Tuesday were on different planets, to borrow Trump’s phrase for the world each candidate is offering Nov. 5. Trump looked ahead by looking back, promising a return

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 115 ~ 82 of 90

to the country "you were born in." Harris was fiercely future-focused.

Chants of "U.S.A., U.S.A" rang out at both events and love of America was in the air. But what America?

For U.S. Rep. Byron Donalds, who warmed up the crowd for the tardy Trump, it's the country where boys grow to be men — "manhood is needed" — and girls become strong women who get husbands. Added Trump when he spoke, "Transgender insanity will be out of our schools immediately" if he wins.

For Harris, it's the country where people have "the freedom to love who you love openly and with pride."

At the Trump rally, Jonathan Cordero, 31, a former Bernie Sanders supporter now backing the Republican, was asked whether he recognizes that Democrats are patriots, too. He said yes, and compared patriotism to religion — different faiths all devoted to a deity.

"Somebody who believes in, let's say, Islam or Hinduism, they fully are committed to that belief system," he said. "Same concept here — if somebody is for Harris and they're chanting 'U.S.A.,' that's because that's their vision for where the country should go."

Erie was electrified

More than four hours before Harris took the stage, the line to get inside the Erie Insurance Arena wrapped around a city block. Once inside, people had more than two hours to kill before the first speaker addressed them.

Many were on their feet much of that time, dancing as a high-energy DJ spun a club mix heavy on female artists like Katy Perry, Whitney Houston, Beyonce, Madonna and Taylor Swift.

People danced the Cha Cha Slide at their seats when prompted by the DJ. "Woah, we're halfway there!" the crowd shouted when Bon Jovi's "Livin' on a Prayer" came on, with those lyrics.

Before the speakers started, Robert Cabaniss, a 28-year-old music artist from Pittsburgh, two hours away, and his companion on a fishing trip showed up to support a strongly Democratic friend at the rally.

If not a pure party loyalist himself, Cabaniss nevertheless supports Harris because "she fights for all of us" and, in his mind, she's the only grownup running.

"It's like, man, did he grow out of his shoe size yet?" he said about Trump and his "spoiled brat talk." He went on: "I'm still waiting. It's like Peter Pan hasn't grown up yet."

As for Trump's supporters, he said, "I think they love their country, but not the right way."

A few sections over sat Angela Cox and her adult daughter, Taylor Norton, who had driven from Buffalo, New York, about 90 minutes away, after learning about the rally online. They were in line two hours before settling in their seats, and Cox had no complaints about that.

"I've been having conversations with people all day long, and I love it," she said. "The camaraderie."

The hall was electrified when Harris walked out and launched into a half hour speech hitting on the touchstones of her campaign — her plans, biography, patriotism and the "brutally serious consequences" should Trump, whom she's come to call an "unserious man," win.

In a twist for her, she had the crowd watch a video on the jumbo screen of Trump musing about using the military to suppress "the enemy within" — the political opponents, investigators and resistant bureaucrats he branded as more dangerous than Russia or China.

"You heard his words coming from him," she said. "He's talking about the enemy within, Pennsylvania. ... He considers anyone who doesn't support him or who will not bend to his will an enemy of our country." Lusty boos washed over the hall.

Her rally-goers were jazzed throughout. Afterward, she snaked through the crowd on the floor, shaking hands and chatting for 20 minutes.

"I think she's superb," said Luther Manus, a 97-year-old World War II and Vietnam veteran as the arena started emptying out. "And it's something, because what we had we don't need again."

It was date night in Atlanta

The upper-crust suburban setting outside the 2,800-seat Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre put something of a damper on the carnival-hawker midway vibe that traditionally accompanies an outdoor Trump rally in a fairground setting.

But the usual merch was on display, like the T-shirts saying "I'm voting for the felon and the hillbilly," a reference to Trump's criminal conviction and running mate JD Vance's 2016 memoir, "Hillbilly Elegy."

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 115 ~ 83 of 90

"I just want to be around people that feel the same way I feel," said Lydia Ward, a 33-year-old makeup artist, mother of two and longtime Trump supporter. "I've never been to something like this. The weather's great, and we were able to get a babysitter and kind of made a date out of it."

The typical attendee invested as many as eight hours in Trump's event, from joining the lineup into the home of Atlanta's ballet and opera companies to seeing him leave the stage with Village People's 1978 song "Y.M.C.A." blasting.

A screen over the stage flashed slides that few seemed to heed. Some slides made dystopian threats about the consequences of a Harris victory that focus on an America overrun by violent migrants. "Kamala's border plan: Make America Haiti," proclaimed one, with a dog picking its way down a junk-strewn street. "Kamala is responsible for a broken economy, broken border and broken world," said another.

Whether because he was tired in his third event of the day or just feeling chill, Trump was a bit lower key and shorter in his remarks than in some recent speeches, clocking in at 70 minutes. But he covered his bases.

He cracked up his crowd with one-liners. He made common cause with MAGA supporters by telling them his rich friends are "boring as hell," though one of the world's richest, Trump supporter Musk, plainly fascinates him.

He mocked Harris for being wed to a teleprompter and not knowing what inflation is ( she does ). He tapped the thrill of group transgression, as when he said that under Democrats, "Everything turns to ..." The crowd completed the sentence.

A hearty ovation greeted one of his newer lines about immigration: "The United States is now an occupied country, but Nov. 5 is liberation day."

"I love the excitement," said Kay Bomar, a retiree from Ringgold in northwest Georgia. "You can talk to these people about what you feel and they tell you what they feel. You can say what you think here and not have to be afraid of offending somebody because they feel something different."

Cordero, the former Bernie Sanders supporter, plans to vote for Trump for the first time. "There's similarity," he said. "Not in the literal sense, but in the sense of the energy that they provoke out of people. They are very about change."

Cordero, who lives in the Atlanta suburb of Marietta and works in technology and advertising, showed up to be part of history.

"I'm Hispanic," he said. "I'm Puerto Rican, and there's some people who would say that Latin people shouldn't like Trump, or that Hispanics shouldn't support somebody like Trump. But I disagree with that statement.

"I think that Trump, this time around, has really reached all kinds of people simply by saying that we're going to get the economy to a good place. We're going to get our country safe again."

Harris got under Trump's skin in their debate by noting how his crowds can thin out while he's still speaking. A few did bail Tuesday night, starting about 25 minutes into his much-delayed speech. Most hung in.

Among them were Julius Adams, a student collecting disability who is Black, and his wife, Tanya Young-Adams, who delivers pizzas for Papa Johns and is white.

He has faith that Trump will follow through on deporting those immigrants who are "causing trouble," even if he doesn't pull off the mass deportations he's promised. She is sold on Trump's plan to exempt tips and car loans from taxes.

"We're on disability," she said. "We can barely get by with trying to buy groceries. And I've got a car payment and gas is outrageous."

Trump and Harris gave their supporters a night away from that sort of grind. In Erie and Atlanta both, it was a welcome-to-the-tribe party, a performance and a chance to cut loose.

The election results will tell which rally's exuberance proved more rational.

## Prosecutors ask Massachusetts' highest court to allow murder retrial for Karen Read

By MICHAEL CASEY Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Prosecutors have called on the state's highest court to allow them to retry Karen Read for murder in the death of her Boston police officer boyfriend, arguing against defense claims that jurors had reached a verdict against some of her charges before the judge declared a mistrial.

Read is accused of ramming into John O'Keefe with her SUV and leaving him to die in a snowstorm in January 2022. Read's attorneys argue she is being framed and that other law enforcement officers are responsible for O'Keefe's death. A judge declared a mistrial in June after finding that jurors couldn't reach agreement. A retrial on the same charges is set to begin in January.

In a brief filed late Wednesday to the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, prosecutors wrote that there's no basis for dismissing the charges of second degree murder and leaving the scene of the accident.

There was "no viable alternative to a mistrial," they argued in the brief, noting that the jury said three times that it was deadlocked before a mistrial was declared. Prosecutors said the "defendant was afforded a meaningful opportunity to be heard on any purported alternative."

"The defendant was not acquitted of any charge because the jury did not return, announce, and affirm any open and public verdicts of acquittal," they wrote. "That requirement is not a mere formalism, ministerial act, or empty technicality. It is a fundamental safeguard that ensures no juror's position is mistaken, misrepresented, or coerced by other jurors."

In the defense brief filed in September, Read's lawyers said five of the 12 jurors came forward after her mistrial saying they were deadlocked only on a manslaughter count, and they had agreed unanimously — without telling the judge — that she wasn't guilty on the other counts. They argued that it would be unconstitutional double jeopardy to try her again on the counts of murder and leaving the scene of an accident resulting in death.

Oral arguments will be heard from both sides on Nov. 6.

In August, the trial judge ruled that Read can be retried on all three counts. "Where there was no verdict announced in open court here, retrial of the defendant does not violate the principle of double jeopardy," Judge Beverly Cannone wrote.

Read's attorney, Martin Weinberg, argued that under Cannone's reasoning, even if all 12 jurors were to swear in affidavits that they reached a final and unanimous decision to acquit, this wouldn't be sufficient for a double jeopardy challenge. "Surely, that cannot be the law. Indeed, it must not be the law," Weinberg wrote.

The American Civil Liberties Union supported the defense in an amicus brief. If the justices don't dismiss the charges, the ACLU said the court should at least "prevent the potential for injustice by ordering the trial court to conduct an evidentiary hearing and determine whether the jury in her first trial agreed to acquit her on any count."

"The trial court had a clear path to avoid an erroneous mistrial: simply ask the jurors to confirm whether a verdict had been reached on any count," the ACLU wrote in its brief. "Asking those questions before declaring a mistrial is permitted — even encouraged — by Massachusetts rules. Such polling serves to ensure a jury's views are accurately conveyed to the court, the parties, and the community — and that defendants' related trial rights are secure."

Prosecutors said Read, a former adjunct professor at Bentley College, and O'Keefe, a 16-year member of the Boston police, had been drinking heavily before she dropped him off at a party at the home of Brian Albert, a fellow Boston officer. They said she hit him with her SUV before driving away. An autopsy found O'Keefe had died of hypothermia and blunt force trauma.

The defense portrayed Read as the victim, saying O'Keefe was actually killed inside Albert's home and then dragged outside. They argued that investigators focused on Read because she was a "convenient outsider" who saved them from having to consider law enforcement officers as suspects.

The lead investigator, State Trooper Michael Proctor, was relieved of duty after the trial revealed he'd



sent vulgar texts to colleagues and family, calling Read a "whack job" and telling his sister he wished Read would "kill herself." He said his emotions had gotten the better of him.

## Adult day centers offer multicultural hubs for older people of color

By DEVI SHASTRI and LAURA BARGFELD AP Health Writers  
BERGENFIELD, N.J. (AP) — At Sunshine Adult Day Center, every morning starts with a parade around the room.

Today, the theme is multicultural, and the flag bearers have no shortage of countries: Philippines, India, Haiti, Mexico, United States. Most of them older adults, attendees dance through the room, waving streamers and banging drums as Pitbull's "I Know You Want Me" blasts.

Proudly representing her home country of Nigeria, Charity Wogwugwu, 87, is dressed to the nines in a pistachio green skirt embroidered with red and gold flowers, a lemon yellow floral top with puffed sleeves and a pleated gold headwrap.

"They pay attention to us. They recognize us," said Wogwugwu, who lives in neighboring Teaneck with her daughter and six grandkids. "I love coming to Sunshine."

Everyone at the center has a health need, be it mobility issues, dementia or difficulty completing daily tasks on their own. Sunshine staff say they have one goal: keep people mentally and physically sharp enough that they can stay out of places like nursing homes for as long as possible.

Adult day centers are the most racially diverse long-term care setting in the U.S., with many tailoring their offerings to the foods, traditions and cultures of their clientele and serving as key resource hubs to older people of color and immigrants. Day centers also serve the least amount of people of all long-term care settings, in part because of the cost and limited insurance coverage options; federal Medicare, the largest insurer of older adults, doesn't cover them.

Sixty percent of people who use adult day centers identify as people of color, according to U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data. Centers like Sunshine are microcosms of their communities, attracting people from families who are especially reluctant to put their elders in residential long-term care due to cultural norms or their experiences with racism.

Overall, they're "underrecognized" for the role they play in communities of color, said Tina Sadarangani, an adult and geriatric nurse practitioner who researches the aging of older immigrants at New York University.

"The biggest problem that adult day services contends with is public perception," she said of the centers, which are sometimes seen as an equivalent to child "day cares."

### Battling isolation

On the other side of the country, He Fengling wakes up at 5:30 a.m. on days she goes to Hong Fook Adult Day Health Care Center near Oakland, California's Chinatown district. It serves people of Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese backgrounds.

A day-center bus drops her off at about 8:30 a.m. She settles into her routine of a breakfast of toast and jam with a glass of milk, and reading the Sing Tao Daily, a Hong Kong newspaper. Then it's time for physical therapy to relieve her arthritis and sciatica.

There are different pre-lunch activities each day. Today it's table games: mahjong, tien gow, and Chinese chess, plus bingo. An automated voice says the bingo numbers in English, and a staff member follows with a translation.

"Everybody who sees me raises their thumb to tell me how great I'm doing, that I insist on coming," said He, who is in her late 80s.

Corinne Jan, CEO of Family Bridges Inc., the nonprofit that runs Hong Fook, said they serve their clients in ways that other places can't. She said the center's focus is on the familiar -- food, language and faces.

"I think all of our participants are monolingual, so they don't speak English," Jan said. "Imagine having to be in a nursing home or even just five days in a hospital or in the emergency room and not being able to communicate."

Many older adults can feel isolated even among family as they age out of a caregiving role and into

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 115 ~ 86 of 90

needing care themselves, experts said.

He came to the U.S. in the late 1990s to help her daughter with a new baby. Now, the same grandson that she helped raise checks on her and brings her to doctor's appointments.

She has memory issues and reduced mobility, which has sometimes isolated her from simple interactions in her day-to-day life, like going to the store.

"After coming here ... my thoughts are much more cheerful," she said of the day center.

Older immigrants who might lack transportation, education, income and face language barriers can become "marginalized and sidelined in their own household," Sadarangani said – even if they live with family. Adult day centers create a "kinship network" for them, she said.

And socialization can hold off depression, motivate people to stay active and even ease symptoms of dementia.

Sadarangani's grandmother went to Sunshine in New Jersey before the pandemic. Her family's experience inspired her to study the centers. She recalled the center giving her grandmother new experiences, including a tour of New York City in Hindi.

Serving families and communities

Advocates argue day centers are the most cost-effective long-term care. About 80% of people who attend day centers pay for it with Medicaid, which means the centers inherently serve a population that is not just more diverse but one that is almost entirely low-income.

The centers also are one-stop shops for communities of color to connect to resources that are otherwise hard to find and navigate.

Sunshine's director of social work, Evan Heidt, spends each day talking with clients who are running out of food or have lost their housing. He wades through their Medicaid renewals and schedules surgeries and doctor's appointments. Meanwhile, clients visit the in-house physical therapist to work on their mobility by pedaling a stationary bike, tossing balls and pulling exercise bands. Staff nurses check vitals, take blood sugar readings and administer medications daily.

Many adult day center clients report eating one meal per day – the one the center gives them, Sadarangani said. Heidt estimated some 20% of Sunshine's clients have been homeless.

"We are the epicenter of the community, really," Heidt said. "Not just the clients, but the families come to us, too."

"Anybody have any problem, they solve it," said Avtar Khullar, who attends Sunshine with his wife, Avinash. He came to the U.S. from New Delhi in 2007, and his aging parents attended Sunshine before they died.

But little is streamlined when serving such a diverse population. For breakfast alone, Sunshine's small kitchen staff whips out 120 meals with 10 different options, including vegetarian, American, Filipino, Indian, kidney-friendly and fasting-friendly (fruits and nuts).

Grant funding is key for day centers, too, especially to bus clients there and home. Centers sent people care packages, activity books and meals during the pandemic even though they didn't have enough money for it, said Lauren Parker, a gerontologist at Johns Hopkins University.

"A lot of programs actually ended up closing," Parker said.

Sunshine has plenty of open spots, especially in its afternoon program. Many people didn't come back after pandemic lockdowns were lifted.

Those who did say the center is a critical part of their routine and social life. That includes Theomene Valentine, 84, one of several Haitians who Sunshine buses in from Newark, an hour ride each way.

"I come here to talk in Creole with my friends," she said.

Leticia Borromeo, 82, loved Sunshine so much she recruited her friends to attend with her. She is Filipino, and loves how the center exposes her to different cultures, foods and religions.

"We are like one family," she said.

## Russian lawmakers give initial approval to a bill targeting those who advocate not having children

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia's lower house of parliament on Thursday gave quick initial approval to a bill outlawing "propaganda" that discourages people from having children, the latest in a slew of restrictive laws as the Kremlin tightens control over the society amid the fighting in Ukraine.

The new legislation, which requires two more readings in the State Duma and the upper house's vetting before being sent to President Vladimir Putin for final approval, criminalizes spreading information that advocates voluntary childlessness and makes it punishable by fines of up to 5 million rubles (\$50,000).

Measure proponents contend that public arguments against having children are part of purported Western efforts to weaken Russia by encouraging population decline.

"It's an element of professional propaganda, part of a hybrid war aimed at population reduction," said Elvira Aitkulova, one of the bill's authors.

Aitkulova declared the bill is intended to "cleanse the information space from destructive content" and "create a favorable information environment for our families."

"This is a strategic bill for the sake of a strong, productive and healthy future," she said before lawmakers unanimously voted to tentatively approve the bill.

State Duma speaker Vyacheslav Volodin described it as part of authorities' efforts to protect "traditional values."

He dismissed warnings from the bill's critics that it would trample on freedom of expression, saying that "we are defending children, families and our values."

Putin and his top officials in recent years have increasingly called for observing so-called "traditional values." As Russia's population declines, Putin has made statements advocating large families and last year urged women to have as many as eight children.

Since he sent troops into Ukraine in February 2022, the Kremlin leader has repeatedly characterized the West as "satanic" and accused it of trying to undermine Russia by exporting liberal ideologies.

In 2022, Putin signed a law prohibiting the distribution of LGBTQ information to people of all ages, expanding a ban issued in 2013 on disseminating the material to minors.

And last year, the Russian Supreme Court outlawed the so-called "international LGBTQ movement" as extremist. Some Russians since then have been jailed for short periods or fined for displaying rainbow-themed material.

Last month, Russian lawmakers gave preliminary approval to a bill prohibiting the adoption of Russian children by citizens of countries where gender transitioning is legal.

## Trump is consistently inconsistent on abortion and reproductive rights

By CHRISTINE FERNANDO Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Donald Trump has had a tough time finding a consistent message to questions about abortion and reproductive rights.

The former president has constantly shifted his stances or offered vague, contradictory and at times nonsensical answers to questions on an issue that has become a major vulnerability for Republicans in this year's election. Trump has been trying to win over voters, especially women, skeptical about his views, especially after he nominated three Supreme Court justices who helped overturn the nationwide right to abortion two years ago.

The latest example came this week when the Republican presidential nominee said some abortion laws are "too tough" and would be "redone."

"It's going to be redone," he said during a Fox News town hall that aired Wednesday. "They're going to, you're going to, you end up with a vote of the people. They're too tough, too tough. And those are going to be redone because already there's a movement in those states."

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 115 ~ 88 of 90

Trump did not specify if he meant he would take some kind of action if he wins in November, and he did not say which states or laws he was talking about. He did not elaborate on what he meant by “redone.”

He also seemed to be contradicting his own stand when referencing the strict abortion bans passed in Republican-controlled states since the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*. Trump recently said he would vote against a constitutional amendment on the Florida ballot that is aimed at overturning the state’s six-week abortion ban. That decision came after he had criticized the law as too harsh.

Trump has shifted between boasting about nominating the justices who helped strike down federal protections for abortion and trying to appear more neutral. It’s been an attempt to thread the divide between his base of anti-abortion supporters and the majority of Americans who support abortion rights.

About 6 in 10 Americans think their state should generally allow a person to obtain a legal abortion if they don’t want to be pregnant for any reason, according to a July poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. Voters in seven states, including some conservative ones, have either protected abortion rights or defeated attempts to restrict them in statewide votes over the past two years.

Trump also has been repeating the narrative that he returned the question of abortion rights to states, even though voters do not have a direct say on that or any other issue in about half the states. This is particularly true for those living in the South, where Republican-controlled legislatures, many of which have been gerrymandered to give the GOP disproportionate power, have enacted some of the strictest abortion bans since *Roe v. Wade* was overturned.

Currently, 13 states have banned abortion at all stages of pregnancy, while four more ban it after six weeks — before many women know they’re pregnant.

Meanwhile, anti-abortion groups and their Republican allies in state governments are using an array of strategies to counter proposed ballot initiatives in at least eight states this year.

Here’s a breakdown of Trump’s fluctuating stances on reproductive rights.

## Flip-flopping on Florida

On Tuesday, Trump claimed some abortion laws are “too tough” and would be “redone.”

But in August, Trump said he would vote against a state ballot measure that is attempting to repeal the six-week abortion ban passed by the Republican-controlled Legislature and signed by Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis.

That came a day after he seemed to indicate he would vote in favor of the measure. Trump previously called Florida’s six-week ban a “terrible mistake” and too extreme. In an April *Time* magazine interview, Trump repeated that he “thought six weeks is too severe.”

## Trump on vetoing a national ban

Trump’s latest flip-flopping has involved his views on a national abortion ban.

During the Oct. 1 vice presidential debate, Trump posted on his social media platform Truth Social that he would veto a national abortion ban: “Everyone knows I would not support a federal abortion ban, under any circumstances, and would, in fact, veto it.”

This came just weeks after Trump repeatedly declined to say during the presidential debate with Democrat Kamala Harris whether he would veto a national abortion ban if he were elected.

Trump’s running mate, Ohio Sen. JD Vance, said in an interview with NBC News before the presidential debate that Trump would veto a ban. In response to debate moderators prompting him about Vance’s statement, Trump said: “I didn’t discuss it with JD, in all fairness. And I don’t mind if he has a certain view, but I don’t think he was speaking for me.”

## ‘Pro-choice’ to 15-week ban

Trump’s shifting abortion policy stances began when the former reality TV star and developer started flirting with running for office.

He once called himself “very pro-choice.” But before becoming president, Trump said he “would indeed support a ban,” according to his book “*The America We Deserve*,” which was published in 2000.

In his first year as president, he said he was “pro-life with exceptions” but also said “there has to be some form of punishment” for women seeking abortions — a position he quickly reversed.



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 115 ~ 89 of 90

At the 2018 annual March for Life, Trump voiced support for a federal ban on abortion on or after 20 weeks of pregnancy.

More recently, Trump suggested in March that he might support a national ban on abortions around 15 weeks before announcing that he instead would leave the matter to the states.

Views on abortion pills, prosecuting women

In the Time interview, Trump said it should be left up to the states to decide whether to prosecute women for abortions or to monitor women's pregnancies.

"The states are going to make that decision," Trump said. "The states are going to have to be comfortable or uncomfortable, not me."

Democrats have seized on the comments he made in 2016, saying "there has to be some form of punishment" for women who have abortions.

Trump also declined to comment on access to the abortion pill mifepristone, claiming that he has "pretty strong views" on the matter. He said he would make a statement on the issue, but it never came.

Trump responded similarly when asked about his views on the Comstock Act, a 19th century law that has been revived by anti-abortion groups seeking to block the mailing of mifepristone.

IVF and contraception

In May, Trump said during an interview with a Pittsburgh television station that he was open to supporting regulations on contraception and that his campaign would release a policy on the issue "very shortly." He later said his comments were misinterpreted.

In the KDKA interview, Trump was asked, "Do you support any restrictions on a person's right to contraception?"

"We're looking at that and I'm going to have a policy on that very shortly," Trump responded.

Trump has not since released a policy statement on contraception.

Trump also has offered contradictory statements on in vitro fertilization.

During the Fox News town hall, which was taped Tuesday, Trump declared that he is "the father of IVF," despite acknowledging during his answer that he needed an explanation of IVF in February after the Alabama Supreme Court ruled that frozen embryos can be considered children under state law.

Trump said he instructed Sen. Katie Britt, R-Ala., to "explain IVF very quickly" to him in the aftermath of the ruling.

As concerns over access to fertility treatments rose, Trump pledged to promote IVF by requiring health insurance companies or the federal government to pay for it. Such a move would be at odds with the actions of much of his own party.

Even as the Republican Party has tried to create a national narrative that it is receptive to IVF, these messaging efforts have been undercut by GOP state lawmakers, Republican-dominated courts and anti-abortion leaders within the party's ranks, as well as opposition to legislative attempts to protect IVF access.

## Today in History: October 18, 'Mr. October' hits three homers to clinch World Series

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Friday, Oct. 18, the 292nd day of 2024. There are 74 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Oct. 18, 1977, Reggie Jackson hit three home runs in Game 6 of the World Series to lead the New York Yankees to an 8-4 win and a 4-2 Series victory over the Los Angeles Dodgers; his success in the Fall Classic earned him the nickname "Mr. October."

Also on this date:

In 1867, the United States took formal possession of Alaska from Russia.

In 1898, the American flag was first raised in Puerto Rico, shortly before Spain formally relinquished control of the island to the U.S.

# Groton Daily Independent

**Friday, Oct. 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 115 ~ 90 of 90**

In 1931, inventor Thomas Alva Edison died at his home in West Orange, New Jersey, at the age of 84.

In 1954, Texas Instruments unveiled the Regency TR-1, the first commercially produced transistor radio.

In 1962, James D. Watson, Francis Crick and Maurice Wilkins were honored with the Nobel Prize for Medicine and Physiology for determining the double-helix molecular structure of DNA.

In 1968, American Bob Beamon shattered the previous long jump world record by nearly two feet, leaping 29 feet, 2 1/4 inches (8.90 meters) at the Summer Olympics in Mexico City.

In 1972, Congress passed the Clean Water Act, overriding President Richard Nixon's veto.

In 1977, West German commandos stormed a hijacked Lufthansa jetliner on the ground in Mogadishu, Somalia, freeing all 87 hostages and four crew members and killing three of the four hijackers.

In 2018, President Donald Trump threatened to close the U.S. border with Mexico if authorities could not stop a caravan of migrants making their way from Central America.

Today's Birthdays: Football Hall of Famer Mike Ditka is 85. Composer Howard Shore is 78. Actor Joe Morton is 77. Author Terry McMillan is 73. Tennis Hall of Famer Martina Navratilova is 68. Boxing Hall of Famer Thomas Hearns is 66. Actor Jean-Claude Van Damme is 64. Jazz musician Wynton Marsalis is 63. Musician Ne-Yo is 45. Olympic gold medal skier Lindsey Vonn is 40. Jazz singer-musician Esperanza Spalding is 40. Actor Freida Pinto is 40. Actor Zac Efron is 37. WNBA center Brittney Griner is 34. Actor Tyler Posey is 33. Actor Barry Keoghan is 32.