

# Groton Daily Independent

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**OPEN:** Recycling Trailer in Groton  
The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.

**Harry Implement**  
*"Family Owned & Operated Since 1935!"*



(605) 395-6421

Ferney

## Groton Area Schedule of Events

### Monday, November 12, 2018

2:00pm: Veteran's Day Program, Groton Area School District

4:15pm: Basketball: Girls 7th/8th Game vs. Webster MS @ GHS Arena (7th Grade 4:15pm 8th Grade 5:30pm)

7:00pm- 9:00pm: School Board Meeting, Groton Area High School

### Tuesday, November 13, 2018

Debate at Watertown High School

Region Oral Interp at Aberdeen Central High School

### Wednesday, November 14, 2018

8:30am- 11:35am: 6th Grade MathCounts at Aberdeen Holgate Middle School

### Friday, November 16, 2018

Debate & Oral Interp, McGovern at Mitchell High School

LifeTouch Retake Pictures at Groton Area Schools

### Saturday, November 17, 2018

Debate & Oral Interp, McGovern at Mitchell High School

Robotics at Harrisburg High School

### Monday, November 19, 2018

5:00pm- 7:00pm: Family Night at GHS Gymnasium

7:00pm: City Council Meeting at Groton Community Center

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**Thank You Veterans\***

Enjoy a

**FREE**

**Medium Blizzard<sup>®</sup>** Treat  
**on Veterans Day**

**Sunday, Nov. 11, 2018**

\* Active duty and retired members of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, National Guard or Reserves. This is a local store marketing offer and is only available at participating locations. Must either be in uniform or show valid proof of service (military ID, veterans designation on driver's license or DD214 paperwork). Limit one per customer, per visit. Not valid with other offers, promotions, or discounts. No cash value. Plus tax if applicable.

**Groton DQ Grill & Chill Restaurant**

**11 E. Hwy 12, Groton, SD**

## **Kolton Roth picks up a first place finish at 141 pounds, Wolves tally four top-three finishes at DWU Open**

Mitchell, S.D. – Wolves wrestling competed in the Dakota Wesleyan Open Saturday and finished in fourth place as a team with four top three finishes. Lead by Kolton Roth's first place finish at 141 pounds. The Wolves tallied 121.5 team points with 16 wrestlers competing in the tournament.

Kolton Roth had a great outing for the Wolves going 5-0 on the day, he kicked off the day with a pin against Collin Stilson. Then defeated conference opponent Eric Halverson of St. Cloud State by an 8-3 decision. He then face Trevor Fauver of U-Mary in the quarterfinals and picked up an 18-12 decision. In the semifinals, Roth matched up with Adam Hedin of St. Cloud State and pinned him in 34 seconds. Roth then picked up a major decision in the championship match against Augustana's Hunter Burnett.

Caden Moore picked up a second place finish at the 149 class, opening up with a 7-5 decision win over Max Bruss from U-Mary. Picked up a major decision in the second round over Dallas Hooper of Southwest Minnesota State by a final of 14-5. Moore face Williams Simmons of Buena Vista in the quarterfinal round and defeated him by tech fall 18-2. In the semifinal round, Moore won by a 5-1 decision over Noah North of Augustana. He dropped the championship match to St. Cloud State's James Pleski by a 2-3 decision finishing in second place.

Dayne Morton's tallied a third place finish at 125 pounds, earning a bye to start the day. Picked up a 5-2 decision over Mario Ybarra from Concordia, Neb. Lost to Brett Velasques from St. Cloud State by a 1-0 decision. Picked up three straight wins over Willie Meine of SMSU, Ethan Cota of Augustana, and Braedon Clopton of Briar Cliff to wrestle back into the third place match. Morton picked up a third place finish with a 5-3 decision over Austin Boles of Northwestern (Iowa).

Kaden Campbell also picked up a third place finish at 184 pounds, earning a bye in the first round. He then won by fall over Brady Childers of Northwestern (Iowa) in 54 seconds. He then dropped a match to Daniel Bishop of Augustana by a score of 6-1. Campbell picked up three straight wins with two falls and a tech fall of Caleb Boyles from Northwestern (Iowa), Joshua Nelsen of Concordia (Neb.), and Darrin Miller of Concordia (Neb.). Campbell won by fall over Riley Vanik of St. Cloud State in the third place match.

Diego Gallegos picked up a fifth place finish going 5-2 on the day and picked up 11 team points for the Wolves. Josh Moore and Billy Holten both went 3-2 on the day and picked up 3.5 points. David Opheim went 2-2 on the day picking up two team points. Bryan Burnett tallied four victories on the day and 8 points. Caleb Lefferdrink picked up four victories on the day picking up 8 team points.

Northern returns to action next Saturday at the Cobber Open. The tournament starts at 9 a.m. from Moorhead, Minnesota.

## This Amazing Lady is Turning 80



**Happy Birthday Mom!**

Love,  
Anne, Arden, Dave, DeLynne,  
Susie, Steve, Diane

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## Wolves drop 2018 season finale to No. 6 Minnesota Duluth

Duluth, Minn. – In the final game of the season, the Northern State University football team fell to No. 6 Minnesota Duluth 40-13. The Wolves finish the year with a 4-7 record overall and 3-4 mark in the NSIC North.

The Bulldogs took a 22-0 lead through the opening minutes of the second quarter with three touchdowns. Northern answered back with the clock winding down, as Chaka Kelly ran for his fourth touchdown of the season, a 1-yard rush.

Down 32-7 in the third, Northern struck again with an 80-yard touchdown reception by Boston Bauer. The long ball from Hunter Trautman brought the Wolves within 19 with 6:43 to play in the third.

The Wolves tallied 236 yards passing and 30 yards rushing, for 266 yards of total offense. NSU averaged 16.9 yards per completion. Defensively, they tallied 70 tackles, including seven tackles for a total loss of eight yards.

Trautman threw for 214 yards, averaging 8.2 yards per pass with one touchdown to Bauer. Bauer led the Wolves receivers with 92 total yards, averaging 30.7 yards per catch. Dakota Larson followed with 46 yards, while Spencer Johnson and Jacob Streit notched 39 and 35 respectively.

Alex Gray led the Wolves defense with eight tackles, including seven solo stops. Brady Thielges added six tackles, while eight Wolves recorded four tackles. Jacob Rader tallied the team's lone sack in the game. Noah MacPherson tallied the team's fumble recovery in the game, which came on the Bulldogs first drive at the Northern State 20.

Jacob Wiedrich punted for 256 total yards, averaging 42.7 yards per punt with a 52-yard long. The senior also added 132 yards on kickoffs, averaging 44.0 yards per kick.

Northern State seniors, Etienne Ezeff, Jacob Wiedrich, K.C. Yeargain, Chaka Kelly, Brady Thielges, Josh Coyle, Alex Gray, Noah MacPherson, Drew Fahrman, Olaf Hanson, Zech Culbreath, and Tyler Trefethren exhausted their eligibility playing their final game in a Wolves uniform.

## **Wolves pick up first win of the 2018-19 season, in 33-point victory against Arkansas Tech**

Kansas City, MO – Women's Basketball picks up the first win of the 2018-19 season with a big victory over Arkansas Tech Saturday afternoon by a final score of 84-51. With the win, it marks the first win under Paula Krueger as head coach for the Wolves.

Northern State started fast against Arkansas Tech jumping out to a 15-4 lead and lead after one quarter by a score of 26-17. NSU out-scored the Golden Suns in the second quarter by a score of 17-13 taking a 13-point lead into the halftime break. The Wolves finished the first half-shooting 52.0 percent from the field and out-rebounding Arkansas Tech 18-16.

NSU only out-scored the opponents by two points in the third quarter taking a 15-point leading heading into the final quarter. The Wolves started the fourth quarter with a 15-0 run that lasted over five minutes before Arkansas Tech scored their first points in the quarter. The Wolves only allowed seven points in the final quarter in the 33-point victory. Northern State finished shooting 48.2 percent from the field, 42.9 percent from behind the arc, and 21-25 from the free-throw line.

Four Wolves in double figures including first double-double of her career with 16 points, and 13 rebounds, two blocks, and one steal. Lexi Wadsworth was the leading scorer for the Wolves with 18 points and seven rebounds. Brooke Luitjens tallied 17 points, four rebounds, three assists, one block, and one steal. Anika Fredrick recorded four points and two rebounds in the victory. Tori Mekash rounding out the starters with three assists and zero turnovers.

Kendall Kohler led the bench in scoring 10 of her 12 points from the free-throw line, three rebounds, and two assists. Alayna Johnson tallied six points in the victory. Joie Spier tallied four points, four assists, and four rebounds. Rachel Guthmiller recorded three points and three rebounds off the bench for the Wolves. Zoe Hardwick tallied two points, one block, and one rebound. Caryssa Mielitz tallied two points and one rebound for the Wolves.

Wolves host Presentation College for the first home game of the season Thursday night November 15th. Tip-off is scheduled for 6 p.m. against the Saints.



## Thank You

On November 6, South Dakota gave me the honor of a lifetime - the opportunity to serve as the next governor of the state I love most. I'm humbled beyond words. I'm blessed. I'm grateful.

South Dakota has always been my heart. Even when I was a little girl, I recognized this was a special place where I wanted to eventually raise a family and spend my career. I'm grateful I've had the opportunity to do that.

I grew up with a dad who worked hard every day to build a farm large enough for his kids to come home to, if we wanted. My dad didn't make it to see today, but his dreams did. As much as he wanted us to carry on our family farm and ranch, what he really wanted was to give the next generation an opportunity to thrive. That dream serves as the foundation of my vision for South Dakota.

We need to make sure we're setting our kids up for success in the education system. That means empowering families and doing more with every taxpayer dollar. It means putting civics education back in our classrooms and encouraging kids to explore in-demand, high paying jobs earlier. I believe we can bolster opportunities to generate a culture where our kids want to stay, a place where they can succeed.

We also need to work toward improving the public safety system. There is a better way to tackle the drug addiction issue. I want to be aggressive on that front because it's time to end the meth and opioid crisis. We also have some tremendous opportunities to expand mental health access throughout the state, so that the criminal justice system is no longer a primary provider of mental health services in the state.

Workforce development is another area where there is great need. That means getting folks the skills they need, but it also means making sure workers have affordable housing, good schools, and access to quality healthcare. This also necessitates improving rural broadband. Ensuring high-speed internet across the state is the best way to encourage businesses to hire locally while empowering them to sell globally.

As you can see, I have big plans for our state, and I know it'll take a lot of work to get them done. But I'm committed to working hard, listening to your voices, and bringing our state together around the tenants that make us strong: faith and that good old South Dakota grit.

Thank you for trusting me to be your next governor.

## Utilize Corn Stalks for Grazing

BROOKINGS, S.D. - Corn residue can serve many purposes on cow/calf operations in the Upper Midwest. And, it may be one of the most underutilized resources cow/calf producers have access to, explained SDSU Extension Cow/Calf Field Specialist Taylor Grussing.

"Producers looking for ways to decrease feed costs during winter months should utilize corn stalks as a grazing resource for mid-gestation cows," Grussing said. "The combination of dropped ears, grain, husks and leaves provide an adequate ration for spring calving cows, and can be managed to maintain body condition or even add weight with supplementation."

Although the amount of residue per acre is correlated to pounds of grain produced, Grussing said the most palatable portion of residue, the husks and leaves, make up approximately 15 pounds of every bushel of corn.

"So if a field yields 150 bushels-per-acre, there would be 2,250 pounds of husks and leaves available for grazing," she said.

Similar to pasture, grazing recommendations of take half, leave half still stand.

"After trampling, wind and waste disappearance, etc., there should be enough residue remaining on one acre to support a 1300-pound cow for a little more than 30 days," Grussing said.

Managing residue for grazing

Managing residue grazing should always start with a walk through the field to identify any spills or large amounts of grain that need to be removed prior to grazing in order to decrease risk of rumen upset.

In addition, Grussing reminds producers to examine fences and ensure there are adequate water resources.

"Cross fencing can be utilized to facilitate strip grazing which will provide a more balanced ration for cattle over the winter," she said.

Grussing added that if residue is not sectioned off, quality of the ration will decrease over the winter.

"Cattle will seek out corn first, then go to husks, leaves and then less digestible cobs and stalks," she said.

As the grain disappears, Grussing encourages producers to supplement cattle with a protein source to maintain proper rumen function and avoid decreased performance.

"And, always provide mineral and salt to cattle while grazing stalks," she said.

Grazing agreements

Grazing corn stalk residue can reduce feed costs for cow/calf producers, and save crop farmers time and money by decreasing time spent running equipment over the field to remove excess residue.

When establishing a grazing agreement between cattle and crop operators, Grussing said a good place to start is by answering a few questions:

- When will grazing begin and end?
- What is the stocking rate?
- What is fencing and water availability?
- Who is responsible for management of fence/water/cattle?

"There is no one size fits all rental agreement for grazing corn residue as it will vary by the needs of both parties," Grussing said.

She added that recently, if water and fence are available, the cattle operator will pay anywhere from 50 cents to \$1 per-head-per-day for corn stalks based on yield.

However, if no fence or water access is provided, a lower rate is realized to account for the cattle operator's labor inputs.

"Corn residue can also be rented on a per-acre basis, adjusted similarity for fence, water and labor," Grussing explained. "This method eliminates the stocking rate question, but has some risk as potential, heavy snowfall may limit the amount of residue that can be removed."

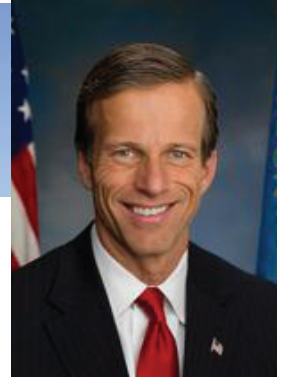
Regardless of snowfall, Grussing said grazing residue should cease before the ground thaws or excessive moisture is experienced to avoid major soil disturbance and extra compaction.

Similar agreements can be made when grazing cover crops in the spring or fall; however, the value of cover crops will differ based on quality, quantity and input costs.

For more information on grazing corn stalks or rental agreements, contact an SDSU Extension Cow/Calf Field Specialist or Livestock Business Management Field Specialist. A complete listing can be found at iGrow.org under the Field Staff icon.



**John Thune**  
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



## Fueling South Dakota's Economy

I was humbled and honored to have joined the president, vice president, and secretary of agriculture in the Oval Office when the president announced to me and several of my agriculture-state Senate colleagues that he was directing his administration to move forward with the year-round sale of 15-percent ethanol-blended fuel (E15), something the president had pledged to do when he ran for office and a result for which I've advocated for more than a decade now.

There are a lot of things worth fighting for, and, like this one, I've found that many of the biggest, most consequential fights of my legislative career have revolved around South Dakota's agriculture industry. They've always been worth it.

Agriculture makes our state tick. It gives life to the hardworking families and businesses who support it, and it helps people around the world who are nourished by the products that come from our own backyard.

Our ranchers help raise a large percentage of the beef and pork that eventually make it to family dinner tables around the country, and our farmers grow crops, like corn and soybeans, which are critical components of our nation's food supply. And as the largest industry in South Dakota, agriculture is an essential part of our state's economy, employing tens of thousands of people and infusing billions of dollars into the state each and every year.

There's no doubt our crops play an important role in helping feed the country (and world, for that matter), which is obvious to most South Dakotans, but many people, particularly those who live outside of the Midwest and Great Plains, don't often realize that our crops also help fuel the country, too.

Lisa Richardson, executive director of the South Dakota Corn Growers Association, summarized the importance of corn and ethanol to our state well: "In South Dakota, our entire economy is based upon agriculture. The largest piece of that is corn. To put this in perspective, in South Dakota, we raise about 800 million bushels of corn. We're going to use 400 million [bushels] for ethanol production in this state – over half of our crop."

In fact, as a result of the president's decision, an additional 2 billion bushels of corn nationwide will be converted into biofuels. This is good news for farmers, jobs and the economy, and consumers who will see reduced rates at the pump. This is a true win-win solution.

According to Dean Frederickson, general manager of POET, "It keeps high-tech jobs here in South Dakota. It keeps people from having to move away to use [the] education and experience that they have."

When I was just a freshman senator, I saw the value of year-round E15 fuel and the potential boost it could provide to consumers and South Dakota agriculture, which is why in 2007, I first called for a regulatory waiver process that would have permitted higher blends of ethanol in the United States.

While we hit several roadblocks along the way, the fight continued, and with President Trump's commitment to U.S. farmers that he'd finally pursue this policy, I knew we had a partner in the White House who would help deliver.

Before the president even took the oath of office, I met with the person he intended to nominate to head the Environmental Protection Agency to stress the importance of agriculture and expanding E15. Since then, we've continued to keep pressure on the administration, and the results speak for themselves.

I've already heard from South Dakota farmers and other stakeholders in the agriculture industry about what this means to them. They're excited by the announcement and are glad the president stuck to his word. I am, too.

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## Election Wrap up and Look Ahead

As Americans, we recently participated in one of our country's most sacred traditions: voting for our state, local and federal elected officials. Closely coinciding with Veterans Day, we also recognize that it is because of our men and women in uniform that we are able to participate in our election process. Like so many elections past, the 2018 election was filled with seemingly endless advertisements, unexpected twists, some upsets and many long hours on the campaign trail for the candidates and their teams.

In South Dakota, voter turnout was nearly 10 percentage points higher this year than our last midterm election. We made history by electing our first female governor, Kristi Noem. South Dakotans also overwhelmingly voted in Dusty Johnson to be our next Congressman. Congratulations to them and to all the candidates who won their races this year. I've had the pleasure of working closely with both Kristi and Dusty over the years, and I look forward to continue working with them to advance South Dakota priorities and improve the quality of life for hardworking families.

It takes courage to run for elected office. To all candidates who put their names on the ballot, no matter what the outcome, we thank you. To those who volunteered for campaigns, worked on campaigns or supported candidates throughout the process, we thank you. And to all who voted to make their voice heard, we especially thank you. Our election process is only as good as the men and women who participate in it.

Campaigns often highlight divisions between candidates and parties, for obvious reasons. With the election now behind us, it is time to put our differences aside and work together on the most pressing issues before our country. All sides of the political spectrum can agree that we want to work toward policies that make us safer, stronger and more prosperous for the future.

In the immediate future, Congress must still complete its work on the farm bill, which provides our farmers and ranchers with much-needed stability and certainty. We must also work to finalize trade deals and open new markets to sell our products. While we made significant process this year on getting our appropriation work done on time, a number of appropriations bills are operating under a Continuing Resolution until December 7, thus requiring Congressional action to prevent a partial shutdown of government services. Additionally, South Dakota families continue to be concerned about rising health care costs, largely due to failing Obamacare policies. Recent discussions about birthright citizenship and the caravan of Central Americans headed to the U.S. have highlighted the need for comprehensive immigration reform that is merit-based, prioritizes border security and reduces chain migration. And we are constantly working to make certain our military remains the strongest, most powerful force in the world. To be the most successful at addressing these issues, it will require all sides to work in good faith and with respect for opposing viewpoints. We are Americans first, and we must always remember that what unites us is far more powerful than the issues that divide us.

I look forward to welcoming our newly-elected officials in the coming months and continuing to work to make South Dakota and America even stronger and better than it is today.

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South Dakota Governor  
Dennis Daugaard



## On Veterans Day, We Recognize Commitment and Courage

When I was a young boy, sometimes on trips to town I would see an old soldier or sailor on the street. The Korean War was still fresh in our minds, and World War II as well. The veterans I spotted didn't go out of their way to be noticed. Folks around town just knew who they were and what they had done. They were some of my boyhood heroes, and on Veterans Day, the whole town turned out to recognize them.

As an adult, I understand better what heroes those veterans were. I recognize and appreciate what their service means, far more than I did as a child.

Sunday is Veterans Day. This year marks a century since the signing of the armistice that ended fighting in World War One. The armistice to end "The War to End All Wars" was signed in a railcar in a forest in France at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. The first Armistice Day was observed the very next year.

In 1954, President Eisenhower, himself an Army veteran and military hero, signed an act changing the name to Veterans Day. It's a solemn time, a time to recognize the commitment and sacrifice of those who have served in the armed forces of the United States. It's our chance to express, aloud in words and song or quietly in our hearts and prayers, our gratitude for their willingness to stand up for the rest of us and the country we love.

Throughout our history, our veterans have been responsible for the peace we've enjoyed. That's important to remember. The late President Ronald Reagan said, "Peace fails when we forget what we stand for." Our veterans are visible reminders of what the United States stands for.

Throughout our history, our veterans have been responsible for the security we've felt in our lives. Retired Gen. Martin Dempsey said security "demands effort, sacrifice, courage and commitment. It requires generations of men and women willing to go to distant lands to - as the Korean War Memorial in Washington says - defend countries they never knew and a people they've never met."

In the century since the armistice was signed in that rail car in France, America's armed forces have served in the treacherous forests and villages of Europe, the hostile islands of the South Pacific, the frozen hills of Korea, the steaming jungles of Vietnam, the hot sands of the Middle East and the forbidding mountain passes of Afghanistan. They go where they are sent and they do the job they must.

On Veterans Day, we recognize that commitment and courage. We keep in our hearts all veterans, the fallen, the still missing and the ones currently on duty, whether at home or in a foreign land.

We can show our appreciation and gratitude by never forgetting our veterans. Please take a moment to remember - not only on November 11 but every other day, too - the women and men who served. They deserve no less.

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## **PRESIDENT TO PARDON SOUTH DAKOTA TURKEYS Public Asked to Help Suggest Names for Turkeys**

PIERRE, S.D. – For the first time ever, the President of the United States will pardon two turkeys that were raised in South Dakota, and the public has a chance to name them.

This year, the two lucky birds were raised by a turkey farmer near Huron, South Dakota. Before the “presidential flock” makes their way to Washington, D.C. for the pardoning ceremony, they will be sent off with a tour of their hometown and local school visits on Wednesday, November 14.

“We are excited and honored that these South Dakota birds will be on a national stage leading up to the Thanksgiving holiday. While the first official National Thanksgiving Turkey Presentation at the White House was with President Truman, historical records show that President Lincoln once spared a turkey, and with his face carved into Mount Rushmore National Memorial, it seems fitting to have South Dakota provide the National Turkey this year,” said James Hagen, Secretary of the Department of Tourism. “Now, we are asking for the public’s help in suggesting names for the turkeys.”

Until November 11, South Dakotans and people across the country will have an opportunity to help provide a pair of names for this year’s turkeys on the South Dakota Department of Tourism’s website and social media channels. The top pairs of names will be sent on to the White House for final consideration and selection. Last year, President Trump pardoned Drumstick and Wishbone and, in 2016, President Obama saved Tater and Tot.

After the pardoning, the turkeys head to “Gobbler’s Rest” at Virginia Tech to live out the rest of their days in comfort.

Names for the turkeys can be submitted on this page: <https://woobox.com/ebi6ht>.

The South Dakota Department of Tourism is comprised of Tourism and the South Dakota Arts Council. The department is led by Secretary James Hagen.

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## GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT #06-6

### School Board Meeting

November 12, 2018 – 7:00 PM – GHS Conference Room

#### AGENDA:

1. Call to Order with members present. Approve agenda as proposed or amended.

#### POTENTIAL CONFLICTS DISCLOSURE PURSUANT SDCL 23-3

#### CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Approval of minutes of October 9, 2018 school board meeting as drafted.
2. Approval of North Central Special Education Co-Op (NCSEC) agenda items...*as fiscal agent*.
3. Approval of October 2018 Financial Report, Agency Accounts, and Investments.
4. Approval of October 2018 District bills for payment.
5. Approval of October 2018 School Transportation report.

#### OLD/CONTINUING BUSINESS:

1. Open Forum for Public Participation...in accordance with Board Policy & Guidelines.
2. School Board Committee Reports:
  - a. **Building, Grounds, & Transportation:** Clint Fjelstad, Merle Harder
  - b. **Personnel, Policy, & Curriculum:** Deb Gengerke, Kara Pharis
  - c. **Negotiations:** Grant Rix, Steve Smith, Marty Weismantel
3. Administrative Reports: (a) Superintendent's Report; (b) Principal's Reports; (c) Business Manager Report

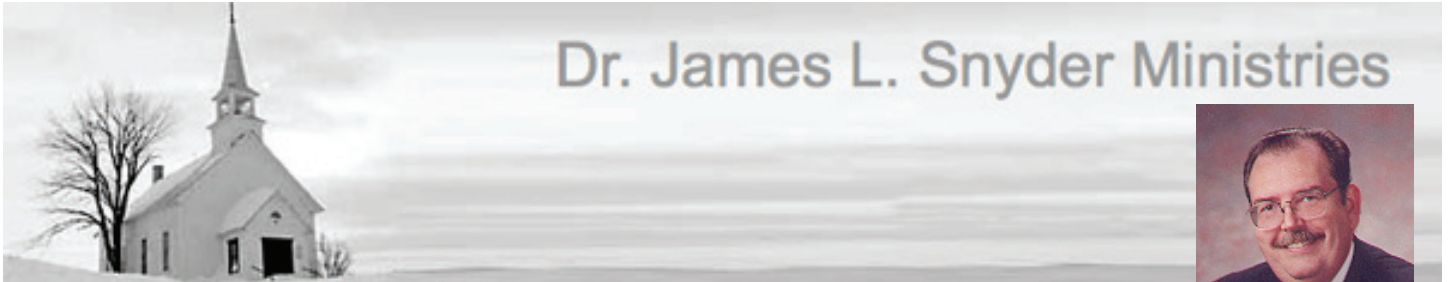
#### NEW BUSINESS:

1. First reading of recommend amendment to MS/HS Student Handbook regarding dual credit enrollment.
2. Approve resignation from Sandi Sippel, Wrestling Cheerleading Advisor.
3. Approve resignation from Scott Thorson, Assistant Football Coach.
4. Approve agreement with Loren Bahr for bus driving.
5. Review Department of Health Food Service Inspections of Groton Area Elementary and Groton Area MS/HS from October 15, 2018.
6. Executive session pursuant SDCL 1-25-2(2) student issue and SDCL 1-25-2(1) personnel.

#### ADJOURN

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Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries

## Not Everything in Life Is Automatic

Two days in the year I don't like. Somebody is thinking it is my wife's birthday and our wedding anniversary.

I worked that out a long time ago. My birthday is two days before the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and our anniversary is three weeks after our birthday. No way can I forget that.

When my wife gives me a birthday card with some gift it reminds me that I have two days to reciprocate. And reciprocate, I do very well. I love it when a plan comes together.

I remember my wife's birthday and I remember our wedding anniversary, but more often than not, I cannot remember the years. I do not know how old my wife is. At least, that's my story. And, I am not sure how long we've been married.

I know we have been married long enough to work out many things.

The two days I'm not very happy with are the days when we turn the clock forward an hour and then turn the clock backward an hour. I still do not know why in the world we do that. We gain an hour in the spring, but then we lose an hour in the fall. What's the sense in all that?

I finally figured out what the sense of all that is. It is to confuse me, in particular. It is not that I am easily confused, but rather, I confuse easily. If that makes sense, I have a bridge I want to sell you.

Why would you want to gain something and then give it back a couple months later?

I grew up in the non-technical age. I had to wind my watch every day to make sure it had the right time. It was not like it is today where the time is set automatically.

I look at my cell phone and the time is updated automatically. I look at our TV set and see that the time is updated automatically. I like that.

My problem is that I like it too much. I have become accustomed to things being adjusted automatically.

Now they have cars that part automatically and you can be sure I'm not going to buy one. I am satisfied with the automatic setting of my clock and TV.

When I was in high school, I worked part-time for a woman. I mowed the grass and cleaned inside the house. One big thing she had in the house was about 25 clocks. I'm serious. Twenty-five clocks that all had to be set manually.

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The first time I did it, I did not realize that each clock was set differently. You go upstairs and the clocks were 15 minutes faster than the clocks on the first floor so she would not be late for an appointment.

Being my employer, it would have been nice for her to explain that to me. But, as most employers do, they do not explain everything to their employees.

I was the kind of employee that liked to impress my employer with how good I was.

It was in the fall and we were to set the clocks back one hour. I thought she would appreciate the fact that I went around and reset all 25 of her clocks. After all, I was doing something on my own that needed done.

The thing I did not know of course, the clocks were all set different on different levels of the house. I went around and set all 25 clocks to the same time. I was so happy.

I did not tell her because I wanted her to be surprised.

I was anxious to hear her commend me for a "job well done." I was not prepared for what she was going to do.

When I arrived on her property, she comes out yelling and screaming at me at the top of her lungs. Trust me, she had lungs. At first, I could not understand what she was so upset about.

"Did you," she said hysterically, "reset all the clocks in my house?"

I smiled back at her and said quite cheerfully, "Yes, ma'am, I did."

Courtesy keeps me from quoting her right here. It was more than French she was yelling back at me.

I have never been yelled at so much in my life and I did not really understand why.

I stayed away from her for a couple of days and then I was working for her husband at his store. When I walked in, he looked at me and laughed hysterically.

I was not sure what he was laughing at that he motioned me to come over. So, I did.

"My wife," he said between laughs, "told me what you did the other day." Then he broke into some more hysterical laughter.

Why he was so cheerful about the incident was beyond me at the time.

Then he sat me down and explained the whole situation to me. I must confess when he finished telling me the whole story, I joined him in some hysterical laughter. We kept this to ourselves for as long as I worked there.

I thought of what Paul said, "Let's not get tired of doing what is good, for at the right time we will reap a harvest—if we do not give up" (Galatians 6:9).

Not everything is automatic, some things you have to work for.

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## Today in Weather History

November 11, 1982: Wet snow and winds gusting to over 50 mph snapped almost a thousand power lines and poles. Snowfall amounts were 4 to 6 inches but ranged to nearly a foot or more in Brookings County. Wind Gusts of 75 mph were recorded in McCook County. Several semi-trucks jackknifed on ice covered roads, and numerous other automobile accidents were also reported.

November 11, 2000: Heavy snow of 6 to 14 inches fell across central and northeast South Dakota and west central Minnesota on November 11th and 12th, causing driving difficulties throughout the region. Many vehicles became stuck in the snow or slid into ditches. There were also several accidents, and many events were canceled. Some snowfall amounts include, 14.0 inches in Miller; 13.8 inches near Mellette; 12.5 inches in Highmore; 11.5 inches near Iona; 11 inches in Wilmot; 10 inches in Aberdeen, near Bryant, and Artichoke Lake MN; 9.5 inches in Clark; and 9.0 inches in Clear Lake, near Onida, and Webster.

1911: A powerful cold front, known as the Great Blue Norther of 1911, produced some the most extreme temperature changes to the Nation's midsection. Ahead of the cold front, a warm and moist environment caused a severe weather outbreak with several strong tornadoes reported in Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, and Michigan. An estimated F4 tornado occurred from Janesville to Milton, Wisconsin and caused extensive damage to several farms and killed nine people. The citizens of Janesville, Wisconsin, reported blizzard conditions with a temperature near zero within an hour of the tornado. Click [HERE](#) for more information, including temperatures maps from the National Weather Service Office in Louisville, Kentucky.

1940: An Armistice Day storm raged across the Great Lakes Region and the Upper Midwest. A blizzard left 49 dead in Minnesota, and gales on Lake Michigan caused shipwrecks resulting in another 59 deaths. Up to seventeen inches of snow fell in Iowa, and at Duluth MN the barometric pressure reached 28.66 inches. The blizzard claimed a total of 154 lives and killed thousands of cattle in Iowa. Huge snowdrifts isolated whole towns.

1911 - The central U.S. experienced perhaps its most dramatic cold wave of record. During the early morning temperatures across the Central Plains ranged from 68 degrees at Kansas City to 4 above North Platte NE. In Kansas City, the temperature warmed to a record 76 degrees by late morning before the arctic front moved in from the northwest. Skies become overcast, winds shifted to the northwest, and the mercury began to plummet. By early afternoon it was cold enough to snow, and by midnight the temperature had dipped to a record cold reading of 11 degrees above zero. Oklahoma City also established a record high of 83 degrees and record low of 17 degrees that same day. In southeastern Kansas, the temperature at Independence plunged from 83 degrees to 33 degrees in just one hour. The arctic cold front produced severe thunderstorms and tornadoes in the Mississippi Valley, a blizzard in the Ohio Va

1940 - An Armistice Day storm raged across the Great Lakes Region and the Upper Midwest. A blizzard left 49 dead in Minnesota, and gales on Lake Michigan caused ship wrecks resulting in another 59 deaths. Up to seventeen inches of snow fell in Iowa, and at Duluth MN the barometric pressure reached 28.66 inches. The blizzard claimed a total of 154 lives, and killed thousands of cattle in Iowa. Whole towns were isolated by huge snowdrifts. (David Ludlum)

1955 - An early arctic outbreak set many November temperature records across Oregon and Washington. The severe cold damaged shrubs and fruit trees. Readings plunged to near zero in western Washington, and dipped to 19 degrees below zero in the eastern part of the state. (David Ludlum)

1987 - A deepening low pressure system brought heavy snow to the east central U.S. The Veteran's Day storm produced up to 17 inches of snow in the Washington D.C. area snarling traffic and closing schools and airports. Afternoon thunderstorms produced five inches of snow in three hours. Gale force winds lashed the Middle and Northern Atlantic Coast. Norfolk VA reported their earliest measurable snow in 99 years of records. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Low pressure brought snow to parts of the Rocky Mountain Region. Totals in the San Juan Mountains of southwestern Colorado ranged up to 10 inches at Summitville. Evening thunderstorms produced large hail in central Oklahoma and north central Texas. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)



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**Veterans  
Day**



Partly Sunny

**High: 26 °F**

**Tonight**



Mostly Cloudy

**Low: 6 °F**

**Monday**



Mostly Sunny

**High: 19 °F**

**Monday  
Night**



Mostly Clear

**Low: 1 °F**


**Tuesday**



Mostly Sunny

**High: 31 °F**

**Mostly Cloudy Today With Breezy  
Northwest Winds 20 – 35 mph  
Highs in the Mid 20s to Low 30s  
Lows Tonight in the Single Digits**

 National Weather Service  
Aberdeen, SD

[www.weather.gov/abr](http://www.weather.gov/abr)

Graphic created  
11/11/2018 5:10 AM

Published on: 11/11/2018 at 5:13AM

Persistent early morning flurries will taper off leaving a mix of sun and clouds over the region. Northwest winds will be gusty across the area today until high pressure builds in overnight.

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## Yesterday's Weather

**High Outside Temp: 30 °F at 10:19 PM**

**Low Outside Temp: 17 °F at 7:59 AM**

**High Gust: 32 mph at 10:59 AM**

**Precip: 0.00**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 70° in 2012, 1909**

**Record Low: -8 in 1896, 1966**

**Average High: 42°F**

**Average Low: 21°F**

**Average Precip in Nov.: 0.29**

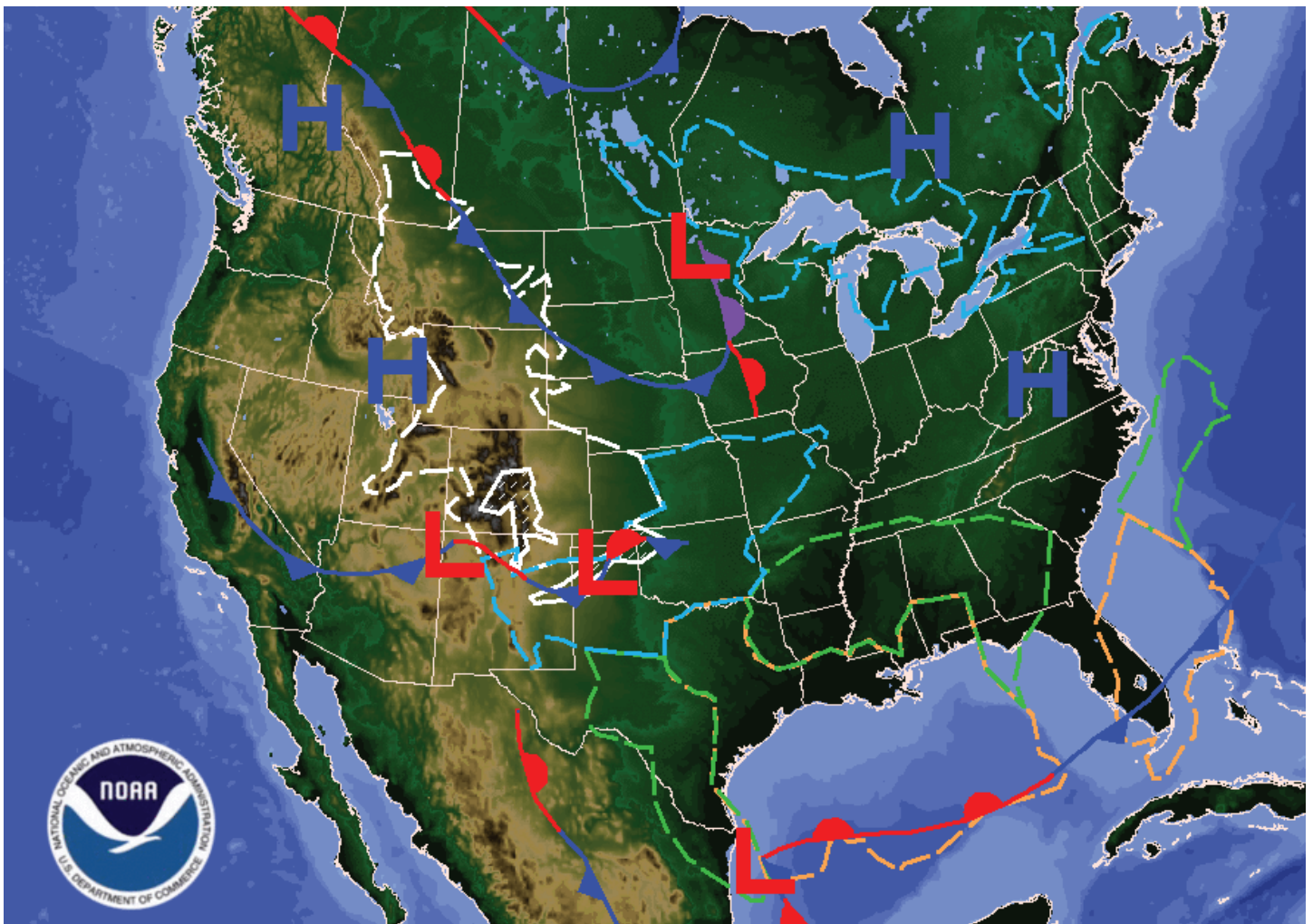
**Precip to date in Nov.: 0.76**

**Average Precip to date: 20.76**

**Precip Year to Date: 15.81**

**Sunset Tonight: 5:08 p.m.**

**Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:29 a.m.**



### Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sun, Nov 11, 2018, issued 3:22 AM EST  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by Kebede with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain

Rain and T'Storms

Rain and Snow

Snow

Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)

Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)

Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)

Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)

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## PROCLAIM HIS MIGHTY ACTS!

Not many people have ever heard of Mithridates the Great, King of Pontus, from northern Asia Minor, in 88 B.C. He was famous for his size, his strength, and his skill of mastering the languages of the twenty-five nations that he ruled. There's also Cardinal Mezzofanti, who was born in Bologna, Italy who spoke more than one hundred languages and dialects. Language is important. It connects us.

Today, philologists claim that there are between 6,000 and 7,000 different languages that people use to communicate with one another. The majority of the languages in our world flow from one person to another. Some languages exist that have never been reduced to writing. Every one of them evolves and changes over time. When people connect with other people in other places, languages become richer and more inclusive. Some languages add new words while other words are deleted when they no longer make sense. Some words lose their meaning and are soon forgotten.

Yet, no matter how many words there may be or how many languages are spoken, the Psalmist put things into the proper context when he asked, Who can proclaim the mighty acts of God, or fully declare His praise?

We will never be able to praise God as much as He deserves, but we can praise Him with a heart that is sincere. If we ever begin to realize the magnitude of Gods love and mercy that saved us, and now sustains us, our hearts will be filled with such joy that our voices will never cease to express our gratitude and thanks!

Prayer: Father, may we lift our voices in praise to You for Your love for us and the gift of Your Son, our Savior. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 106:2 Who can proclaim the mighty acts of God, or fully declare His praise?

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## 2018 Groton SD Community Events

- Groton Lion's Club Bingo- Wednesday Nights 6:30pm at the Groton Legion (Year Round)
- Nov./Dec./Jan./Feb./Mar. Groton Lion's Club Wheel of Meat- Saturday Nights 7pm at the Groton Legion (Fall/Winter Months)
- 1/27/2019 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm
- 4/13/2019 Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 5/4/2019 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)
- 5/27/2019 Groton American Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Program at the Cemetery, Lunch to follow at the American Legion (Memorial Day)
- Transit Fundraiser (Middle Thursday in June)
- SDSU Golf at Olive Grove
- 6/15/2019 Triathlon (Saturday before Father's Day)
- 7/4/2019 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
- 7/14/2019 Summer Fest
- 9/7/2019 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
- 10/12/2019 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
- 10/11/2019 Lake Region Marching Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
- 10/31/2018 Trunk or Treat (Halloween)
- 11/10/2018 Groton American Legion Post #39 Turkey Shoot (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
- 12/01/2018 Olive Grove Golf Course 2018 Holiday Party
- Best Ball Golf Tourney
- SDSU Golf Tourney
- Sunflower Golf Tourney
- Santa Claus Day
- Fireman's Stag
- Tour of Homes
- Crazy Dayz/Open Houses
- School Events

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## News from the Associated Press

### SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) \_ These South Dakota lotteries were drawn Saturday:

Dakota Cash  
03-09-21-26-29  
(three, nine, twenty-one, twenty-six, twenty-nine)  
Estimated jackpot: \$67,000

Lotto America  
10-17-21-26-45, Star Ball: 4, ASB: 2  
(ten, seventeen, twenty-one, twenty-six, forty-five; Star Ball: four; ASB: two)  
Estimated jackpot: \$11.13 million

Mega Millions  
Estimated jackpot: \$106 million

Powerball  
05-29-34-53-57, Powerball: 24, Power Play: 2  
(five, twenty-nine, thirty-four, fifty-three, fifty-seven; Powerball: twenty-four; Power Play: two)  
Estimated jackpot: \$92 million

### Saturday's Scores

By The Associated Press  
PREP FOOTBALL  
Class 11AAA  
State Championship  
Brandon Valley 28, Sioux Falls Washington 22

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

### Daum powers South Dakota State past Bemidji State, 86-63

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Mike Daum earned his third straight double-double and South Dakota State beat Division II-Bemidji State, 86-63 to complete a sweep of a three-game, season-opening home stand Saturday.

Daum finished with 26 points and 11 rebounds and is now 64 points shy of Nate Wolters' school record 2,363 career points and has scored in double digits 99 times in his career.

The Beavers, who played the game as an exhibition, kept the game close through much of the first half, trailing by four, 31-27 after Jacob Hoffman's layup with 6:17 remaining. But the Jackrabbits closed the half on a 17-9 run and took a 48-36 lead into intermission and maintained a double-digit lead the rest of the way.

South Dakota State shot 50.6 percent from the field and was 24 of 27 from the free throw line. David Jenkins finished with 16 points, Skyler Flatten and Tevin King added 13 and 11 points, respectively.

Logan Bader and Derek Thompson finished with 16 and 15 points, respectively, to lead Bemidji State.

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## **Simmons sends S. Dakota past W. Illinois for a 17-12 victory**

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — Austin Simmons threw for 220 yards and a score and rushed for 66 yards and South Dakota beat Western Illinois 17-12 on Saturday.

Simmons led a 13-play, 75-yard drive that ended with his 2-yard scoring pass to Caleb Vander Esch for a 7-3 lead with 5:29 left in the first quarter and South Dakota (4-6, 3-4 Missouri Valley Football Conference) never trailed again.

Kai Henry's 4-yard touchdown run with 9:14 to play made it a 17-6 score. The Leathernecks scored their lone TD when Joe Turk blocked Brady Schutt's punt that Daymon Murray recovered in the end zone.

Western Illinois (5-5, 4-3) quarterback Sean McGuire threw for 251 yards with 116 going to Clint Ratkovich. The Coyotes limited Western Illinois to 21 yards rushing on 22 attempts.

## **Oglala Sioux Tribe's new police chief revamps department**

PINE RIDGE, S.D. (AP) — The Oglala Sioux Tribe's new police chief has revamped the department six months into the position, bringing new ideas and programming to the law enforcement agency that was lacking leadership and manpower.

Robert Ecoffey, the tribe's police chief, told the Rapid City Journal that the biggest impact in the last six months has been the number of officers the department has spread throughout Pine Ridge Reservation. The Oglala Sioux Tribe's police department now has 54 police officers, compared to 24 officers in April, he said.

Ecoffey said police's response time used to be much slower because officers would have to respond to calls from up to 60 miles away, at times.

"Our presence is much more felt by the community," he said.

The 64-year-old came out of a five-year retirement to become the tribe's new police chief. Ecoffey said he made the decision because the tribe was having issues finding stable leadership.

Ecoffey also encouraged a former colleague to come out of retirement to work in a cold case unit he created. The unit works on unsolved missing and murdered person cases, including the October 2016 disappearance of Larissa Lonehill.

Ecoffey said he's assigned three full-time officers to work on enforcing the tribe's drug and alcohol laws on the reservation, where alcohol sale and consumption are illegal.

Many people thought illegal alcohol sales would decrease after the border town of Whiteclay, Nebraska, shuttered its beer stores, but Ecoffey said he's seen more bootlegging.

He said he's found people selling vodka disguised as plastic water bottles.

"They're selling everything and anything to anybody," Ecoffey said. "There's no control over what they're selling."

Information from: Rapid City Journal, <http://www.rapidcityjournal.com>

## **Electric cooperatives team up to clean up abandoned cemetery**

DELL RAPIDS, S.D. (AP) — Crews from two electric cooperatives teamed up to clean up trees affected by emerald ash borers at an abandoned cemetery near Dell Rapids.

KSFY-TV reports that the work by Sioux Valley Energy and East River Electric began Friday. The project is the brainchild of one of East River's foremen, who noticed fallen tree limbs affecting graves in abandoned cemeteries.

The cemetery board has a budget of about \$1,500 a year and members say they could not keep the cemetery clean without volunteer help.

Information from: KSFY-TV, <http://www.ksfy.com>

## Democratic wins could mean state action on health care, guns

By DAVID A. LIEB and GEOFF MULVIHILL, Associated Press

From New York to New Mexico, residents in a number of states can expect a leftward push for expanded health care coverage, gun control, education funding and legalized recreational marijuana as Democrats who gained new or stronger powers in the midterm elections seek to put their stamp on public policy.

While Republicans remain in charge in more states, Democrats nearly doubled the number of places where they will wield a trifecta of power over the governor's office and both chambers of the state legislature. Democrats also broke up several Republican strongholds, forcing GOP lawmakers who have been cutting taxes and curbing union powers to deal with a new reality of a Democratic governor.

All told, Democrats gained seats in 62 of the 99 partisan state legislative chambers, according to data provided by the National Conference of State Legislatures (Nebraska is the lone state with a single, non-partisan chamber). Democrats also added seven new governorships.

In New York, where a new Democratic-run Senate will provide the missing link in liberals' political power, the expansive agenda could go beyond guns, pot and health care to also include more protections for abortions rights and higher taxes on millionaires.

"We will finally give New Yorkers the progressive leadership they have been demanding," said Sen. Andrea Stewart-Cousins, who stands to lead the Senate when the new session begins in January.

The U.S. is a deeply divided nation politically, a fact reflected in a midterm vote that gave Democrats the U.S. House while adding to the Republican majority in the U.S. Senate. But within states, the overall outcome of the 2018 elections was a continued trend of one-party control — Democrats in some places, Republicans in others.

For the first time since 1914, there will be only one state — Minnesota — with its two legislative chambers led by different parties.

If Republican gubernatorial candidates maintain their slim leads in Florida and Georgia, Republicans will hold full control over the governor's office and legislative chambers in 22 states compared with 14 for Democrats. Just 13 states will have a split partisan control between the governor's office and legislature, nearly matching the 60-year low point set in 2012.

There also has been a decrease in ticket-splitting between governors and state attorneys general, with the number of such divisions expected to decline from 12 to 10 as a result of Tuesday's elections.

"This is the most hyper-polarized, hyper-partisan time we've see in generations, and nobody can deny that," said Illinois state Sen. Toi Hutchinson, a Democrat who is president of the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Illinois is one of a half-dozen states where Tuesday's election put Democrats in control of the governor's office and legislature.

Democrat J.B. Pritzker, who ousted Republican Gov. Bruce Rauner, wants to legalize and tax recreational marijuana. He also has promised to push for a constitutional amendment to replace Illinois' flat income tax system with a progressive one that requires the wealthy to pay a greater share.

Democrats also are planning aggressive agendas in other states where they expanded their political power:

— Nevada is expected to pass a ban on bump stocks on guns as the state Legislature meets for the first time since the October 2017 mass shooting on the Las Vegas Strip. Democrats also will be pushing to spend more on education, expand Medicaid coverage, raise the minimum wage and require employers to provide paid sick leave.

— In New Mexico, Democratic Senate Majority Leader Peter Wirth said minimum wage and teacher pay increases will be at the top of the agenda. Democrats also could overhaul the state's approach to climate change, gun control and marijuana.

— In Colorado, Democrats are planning a renewed push to expand health coverage, adopt gun controls, boost public education funding and enhance environmental protections.

— In Maine, new Democratic Gov.-elect and Attorney General Janet Mills has vowed to finally expand Medicaid as voters demanded in a 2017 referendum but which has been slowed by her Republican pre-

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decessor.

The states shifting to Democratic dominance can look to New Jersey, which held its governor's election in 2017 and replaced a Republican with a Democrat. With the Legislature already controlled by Democrats, the state promptly tightened gun regulations, passed a paid sick-leave requirement and restored funding to Planned Parenthood.

But it hasn't been like Christmas every day for liberals. It took a last-day deal before the budget expired over the summer to avoid a state government shutdown as Democrats disagreed over which taxes to raise. Lawmakers have missed their own deadlines on legalizing marijuana for adults, and some advocates are upset the state has not moved faster to boost the minimum wage.

New Jersey state Sen. Loretta Weinberg, a Democrat who's been in the legislature since 1992, said there's a big difference in legislative debates when there's one-party control.

"It is more about details than the broader principles," she said.

Some states that became accustomed to Republican control over the past decade also will be making adjustments.

In Wisconsin, Republican lawmakers have been privately discussing ways they could limit the rule-making powers of Democratic Gov.-elect Tony Evers, who narrowly defeated Republican Gov. Scott Walker. Republican Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald said they are looking at reconstituting boards to make sure they have equal representation.

North Carolina's Republican-led Legislature did something similar after Democrat Roy Cooper won the governor's race in 2016. But Cooper successfully sued over a law weakening his influence over the state elections board.

In Kansas, Democrat Laura Kelly's election as governor immediately recasts the debate over several big fiscal issues.

She supports expanding the state's Medicaid health coverage as encouraged by the Affordable Care Act. While bipartisan backing for that has grown, supporters had not achieved the legislative supermajorities that would have been needed to overcome the opposition of Republican Govs. Sam Brownback and Jeff Colyer.

Kelly also is pledging to reinstate an executive order barring anti-LGBT bias in state hiring and employment decisions, something Brownback rescinded in 2015.

In Michigan, Democratic Gov.-elect Gretchen Whitmer broke a Republican trifecta while campaigning to "fix the damn roads" and replace aging water pipes with a multibillion-dollar infrastructure plan. But tax increases or increased borrowing could be a tough sell in the Legislature, which remains under Republican control.

The next Senate majority leader, Republican Sen. Mike Shirkey, signaled that he would oppose raising Michigan's corporate income tax and said he would fight any attempt to repeal Michigan's right-to-work laws "with every ounce of my body."

Republicans who control the Minnesota state Senate said they will fight Democratic Gov.-elect Tim Walz if he follows through with a proposal to raise the gas tax to pay for infrastructure improvements. A number of states have taken that step in recent years to fund road repairs. That includes states where Republicans control the legislature and governor's office, including Indiana, Oklahoma and Tennessee.

Split power at the Minnesota Legislature also could lead to gridlock on the top issue from the election — health care. Walz campaigned on expanding one of the state's low-income health care programs to offer a public option, but Senate Republicans have shot that down as an unworkable government takeover of health care.

\_\_\_ Lieb reported from Jefferson City, Missouri, and Mulvihill from Cherry Hill, New Jersey.

\_\_\_ AP reporters Jim Anderson in Denver; Scott Bauer in Madison, Wisconsin; David Eggert in Lansing, Michigan; John Hanna in Topeka, Kansas; David Klepper in Albany, New York; Morgan Lee in Albuquerque, New Mexico; John O'Connor in Springfield, Illinois; Kyle Potter in St. Paul, Minnesota; Michelle Price in Las Vegas; and Marina Villeneuve in Augusta, Maine, contributed to this report.

\_\_\_ Follow Lieb at <http://www.twitter.com/davidalieb> and Mulvihill at <http://www.twitter.com/geoffmulvihill>



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## World leaders gather in Paris a century after WWI armistice

By JOHN LEICESTER, RAF CASERT and LORI HINNANT, Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — World leaders with the power to make war but a duty to preserve peace solemnly marked the end of World War I's slaughter 100 years ago at commemorations Sunday that drove home the message "never again" but also exposed the globe's new political fault lines.

As Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin and dozens of other heads of state and government listened in silence, French President Emmanuel Macron used the occasion, as its host, to sound a powerful and sobering warning about the fragility of peace and the dangers of nationalism and of nations that put themselves first, above the collective good.

"The old demons are rising again, ready to complete their task of chaos and of death," Macron said.

"Patriotism is the exact opposite of nationalism. Nationalism is a betrayal of patriotism," he said. "In saying 'Our interests first, whatever happens to the others,' you erase the most precious thing a nation can have, that which makes it live, that which causes it to be great and that which is most important: Its moral values."

Trump, ostensibly the main target of Macron's message, sat stony-faced. The American president has proudly declared himself a nationalist.

As well as spelling out the horrific costs of conflict to those with arsenals capable of waging a World War III, the ceremony also served up a joyful reminder of the intense sweetness of peace, when high school students read from letters that soldiers and civilians wrote 100 years ago when guns finally fell silent on the Western Front.

Brought alive again by people too young to have known global war themselves, the ghostly voices seemed collectively to say: Please, do not make our mistakes.

"I only hope the soldiers who died for this cause are looking down upon the world today," American soldier Capt. Charles S. Normington wrote on Nov. 11, 1918, in one of the letters. "The whole world owes this moment of real joy to the heroes who are not here to help enjoy it."

The Paris weather — gray and damp — seemed aptly fitting when remembering a war fought in mud and relentless horror.

The commemorations started late, overshooting the centenary of the exact moment when, 100 years earlier at 11 a.m., an eerie silence replaced the thunder of war on the front lines. Macron recalled that 1 billion shells fell on France alone from 1914-1918.

As bells marking the armistice hour started ringing out across Paris and in many nations hit by the four years of slaughter, Macron and other leaders were still on their way to the centennial site at the Arc de Triomphe.

Under a sea of black umbrellas, a line of leaders led by Macron and his wife, Brigitte, marched in a stony silence on the cobbles of the Champs-Elysees, after dismounting from their buses.

Trump arrived separately, in a motorcade that drove past two topless protesters with anti-war slogans on their chests who somehow got through the rows of security and were quickly bundled away by police. The Femen group claimed responsibility.

Last to arrive was the Russian president, Putin. German Chancellor Angela Merkel was positioned in pride of place between Trump and Macron, a powerful symbol of victors and vanquished now standing together, shoulder to shoulder. Overhead, fighter jets ripped through the sky, trailing red, white and blue smoke in homage to the French flag.

The geographical spread of the more than 60 heads of state and government in attendance showed how the "war to end all wars" left few corners of the earth untouched but which, little more than two decades later, was followed so quickly and catastrophically by the even deadlier World War II.

On the other side of the globe, Australia and New Zealand held ceremonies to recall how the war killed and wounded soldiers and civilians in unprecedented numbers and in gruesome new, mechanized ways.

Those countries lost tens of thousands of soldiers far away in Europe and, most memorably in the brutal 1915 battle of Gallipoli, in Turkey. In central London, Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, clad in black, watched

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from a balcony as her son Prince Charles laid a wreath on her behalf at the foot of the Cenotaph, a memorial honoring fallen servicemen and women.

In Paris, the jewel that Germany sought to capture in 1914 but which the Allies fought successfully to defend, the armistice commemorations were being followed by the afternoon opening of a peace forum pushed by Macron.

Trump will be the most notable absentee at the forum, where Macron's defense of multilateralism will take center stage. Trump lives by an "America First" credo, and plans to visit the American cemetery at Suresnes on the outskirts of Paris before heading home.

On Saturday, he was criticized for canceling a visit to the Belleau Wood battleground northeast of Paris because of rain.

In the four years of fighting, remembered for brutal trench warfare and the first use of gas, France, the British empire, Russia and the U.S. had the main armies opposing a German-led coalition that also included the Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman empires. Almost 10 million soldiers died, sometimes tens of thousands on a single day.

The U.S. came late to the war, in April 1917, but over 1½ years it became a key player in the conflict and tipped the scales for the allies. When the war ended on Nov. 11, 1918, the U.S. armed forces were on the cusp of becoming the major military power in the world.

Even though Germany was at the heart of provoking two world wars over the past century, the nation has become a beacon of European and international cooperation since.

On Sunday, Chancellor Angela Merkel met with the head of the United Nations, born from the ashes of World War II, and the president of Serbia. It was a Serb teenager, Gavrilo Princip, who assassinated the Austro-Hungarian crown prince in Sarajevo in 1914 to set off events which led to the outbreak of war.

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For more information on World War I, go to The Associated Press' WWI hub: <https://www.apnews.com/WorldWarI>

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World War I: An AP Centennial Commemorative Edition. Available now exclusively at Amazon: <https://amzn.to/2JGrx5U>

## Florida election recount underway, tensions rise

By **BRENDAN FARRINGTON** and **KELLI KENNEDY**, Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — The first election workers have begun the enormous task of recounting ballots in Florida's bitterly close races for the U.S. Senate and governor, ramping up their efforts after the secretary of state ordered a review of the two nationally watched contests.

Miami-Dade County election officials began feeding ballots into scanning machines Saturday evening. The tedious work in that one South Florida county alone could take days, considering some 800,000 ballots were cast. Multiply that by 67 counties in the nation's third most populous state, and the scope of the task was beginning to sink in Sunday.

The Florida secretary of state ordered the recounts Saturday, an unprecedented step for the two flagship races in a state that took five weeks to decide the 2000 presidential election. Secretary of State Ken Detzner's office said it was unaware of any other time either a race for governor or U.S. Senate in Florida required a recount, let alone both in the same election.

Florida's 67 counties can decide when to begin their recounts, but must complete them by Thursday. Elections officials in two large counties in the Tampa Bay area — Pinellas and Hillsborough — said they would begin recounts Sunday morning.

Unofficial results show that Republican former U.S. Rep. Ron DeSantis led Democratic Tallahassee Mayor Andrew Gillum by less than 0.5 percentage points, which will require a machine recount of ballots. In the Senate race, Republican Gov. Rick Scott's lead over Democratic incumbent Bill Nelson is less than 0.25 percentage points, requiring a hand recount of ballots from tabulation machines that couldn't determine

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which candidate got the vote.

The recount opens against a backdrop of political tensions. President Donald Trump on Saturday tweeted without evidence that the elections were being stolen. Angry protesters gathered at an elections office in Broward County on Saturday, waving signs and shouting with bullhorns.

Following the announcement of a recount, Gillum withdrew his concession in the governor's race.

"Let me say clearly, I am replacing my words of concession with an uncompromised and unapologetic call that we count every single vote," he said, adding that he would accept whatever outcome emerges.

In a video statement released Saturday, DeSantis said the election results were "clear and unambiguous" and that he was preparing to become the state's next governor. He also thanked the state's supervisors of elections, canvassing boards, and the staffs for "working hard to ensure that all lawful votes are counted."

"It is important that everyone involved in the election process strictly adhere to the rule of law which is the foundation for our nation," he said.

In the Senate recount, Scott implored the state's sheriffs to "watch for any violations and take appropriate action" during the recount.

Scott and his supporters, including Trump, have alleged that voter fraud is underway in Democratic-leaning Broward County, where the Republican lead has narrowed since Election Day. There's no evidence of voter fraud and the state's election division, which Scott runs, said Saturday that its observers in Broward had seen "no evidence of criminal activity."

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement said Friday it has not launched any investigation into election fraud.

The scene recalled the 2000 presidential recount, when it took more than five weeks for Florida to declare George W. Bush the victor over Vice President Al Gore by 537 votes, and thus giving Bush the presidency.

Florida was mocked for the way it handled the infamous 2000 recount, especially since there was no uniform process then on how to proceed. That has changed, with the Legislature passing a clear procedure on how a recount should be conducted.

Florida is also conducting a recount in a third statewide race. Democrat Nikki Fried had a 0.07 percentage point lead over Republican state Rep. Matt Caldwell in the race for agriculture commissioner, one of Florida's three Cabinet seats.

AP writer Kelli Kennedy in Fort Lauderdale and Tamara Lush in St. Petersburg contributed to this report.

For AP's complete coverage of the U.S. midterm elections: <http://apne.ws/APPolitics>

## **N. California fire officials begin agonizing search for dead**

**By GILLIAN FLACCUS, DON THOMPSON and PAUL ELIAS, Associated Press**

PARADISE, Calif. (AP) — Sheriff's investigators have begun the agonizing task of scouring through the wreckage of California's most destructive fire on record in search of the dead. By Saturday, the death toll had reached 23, but it seemed likely to climb.

With the entire town of Paradise wiped out and the fire still raging furiously in surrounding communities, Butte County Sheriff Kory Honea said the county was bringing in a fifth search and recovery team. An anthropology team from California State University, Chico was also assisting, because in some cases "the only remains we are able to find are bones or bone fragments."

"This weighs heavy on all of us," Honea said. "Myself and especially those staff members who are out there doing what is important work but certainly difficult work."

The victims have not been identified, but the department has a roster of 110 people believed missing. Officials hope many of the elderly on the list simply are elsewhere without cellphones or away to contact loved ones. Honea said the agency was also bringing in a mobile DNA lab and encouraged people with missing relatives to submit samples to aid in the identification process.

The death toll made the Camp Fire the third-deadliest on record in the state, another statistic for a blaze

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now logged at 164 square miles (425 square kilometers) that has cost at least \$8.1 million to fight so far, said Steve Kaufmann, a spokesman for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

Entire neighborhoods were leveled, destroying more than 6,700 buildings, almost all of them homes, and the business district was destroyed by a blaze that threatened to explode again with the same fury that largely incinerated the foothill town.

More firefighters headed to the area Saturday, with wind gusts of up to 50 miles per hour expected through Monday, raising the risk of conditions similar to those when the fire started Thursday, said Alex Hoon with the National Weather Service.

Two people were also found dead in a wildfire in Southern California, bringing the total number of fatalities statewide to 25 as the fires tore through Malibu mansions and working-class suburban homes. State officials put the total number of people forced from their homes statewide at more than 200,000. Evacuations included the city of Malibu, home to some of Hollywood's biggest stars.

Back in Paradise, the air still clogged with smoke, residents who stayed behind to try to save their property or who managed to get back to their neighborhoods found cars incinerated and homes reduced to rubble.

People sidestepped metal that melted off cars and Jet-Skis and donned masks as they surveyed ravaged neighborhoods despite an evacuation order for all of Paradise, a town of 27,000 founded in the 1800s. Some cried when they saw nothing was left.

Jan MacGregor, 81, got back to his small two-bedroom home in Paradise with the help of his firefighter grandson. He found his home leveled — a large metal safe and pipe work from his septic system the only recognizable traces. The safe was punctured with bullet holes from guns inside that went off in the scorching heat.

He has lived in Paradise for nearly 80 years, moving there in 1939 when he said the town had just 3,000 people and was nicknamed Poverty Ridge. The fire was not a complete surprise, he said.

"We knew Paradise was a prime target for forest fire over the years," he said. "We've had 'em come right up to the city limits — oh yeah — but nothing like this," he said.

MacGregor said he probably would not rebuild: "I have nothing here to go back to."

Homes and other buildings in Paradise were still burning, and fire crews were trying to extinguish those blazes, said Scott McLean, a captain with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. Officials warned firefighters to wear their helmets and be careful of falling trees.

Drought, warmer weather attributed to climate change and home construction deeper into forests have led to more destructive wildfire seasons that have been starting earlier and lasting longer.

California emerged from a five-year drought last year but has had a very dry 2018. Much of the northern two-thirds of the state, including where the fire is burning, is abnormally dry, according to a U.S. government analysis.

Elinor "Jeannie" Williams, 86, was not among the nine victims of the blaze but died as she waited to be airlifted from an evacuated hospital where she was being treated for a head injury.

She was dying, and the family expected to lose her in a few days, said her stepdaughter, Lisa. Still, her death has been hard on her 84-year-old father, Robert, who also may have lost his home, she said.

"He's lost, he's confused, he's trying to hang in there," she said. "It's hitting him hard. Everything is gone, including his wife."

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Associated Press writers Daisy Nguyen, Olga R. Rodriguez and Sudhin Thanawala in San Francisco contributed to this report. Darlene Superville contributed from Paris.

## Southern Californians battered by wildfires that killed 2

By JONATHAN J. COOPER and ANDREW DALTON, Associated Press

MALIBU, Calif. (AP) — Just a day ago, Arik Fultz was feeding the horses on his 40-acre ranch near Malibu. Now, after wildfires roared through parts of Southern California, there's nothing left of his ranch but charred remains. His family and his 52 horses survived. But two houses, two barns, three trailers and

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decades of accumulated possessions are gone.

"It just doesn't feel real that it's all gone," he said.

Southern Californians like Fultz battered by the wildfires got to take a breath Saturday and take store of what the wildfires did to them. A lull in fierce winds that drove a pair of destructive fires allowed firefighters to make their first real progress in stopping the blazes.

But a sustained stretch of vicious winds, and the strong possibility of a new round of troubles, were set to start Sunday.

Two people were found dead amid the larger of the two fires, Los Angeles County sheriff's Chief John Benedict said Saturday.

The severely burned bodies were discovered in a long residential driveway on a stretch of Mulholland Highway in Malibu, where most of the surrounding structures had burned.

Benedict did not have any details about the identities of the dead. He said detectives were investigating.

The deaths came as authorities in Northern California announced the death toll from a massive wildfire there has reached 23 people, bringing the statewide total to 25.

Southern California's fire had destroyed at least 150 homes, from Malibu mansions to modest dwellings in inland canyon communities.

No growth was reported Saturday on the larger of the two fires, which had torched 109 square miles (282 square kilometers). Firefighters now have the blaze 5 percent contained. Los Angeles County Fire Chief Daryl Osby said.

Progress also came against the smaller fire, prompting Ventura County officials to allow people in a handful of communities to return to their homes.

Hundreds of thousands across the region remain under evacuation orders, and could stay that way for days as winds pick up again.

Fire burned in famously ritzy coastal spots like Malibu, where Lady Gaga, Kim Kardashian West, Guillermo del Toro and Martin Sheen were among those forced out of their homes amid a citywide evacuation order.

"It was way too big a firestorm," said Lani Netter, whose Malibu home was spared while her neighbor's burned. "We had tremendous, demonic winds is the only way I can put it."

The flames also stretched into the suburb of Thousand Oaks, a city of 130,000 people that just a few days ago saw 12 people killed in a mass shooting at a country music bar.

Wildfire raged on both sides of the city still in mourning, where about three-quarters of the population are under evacuation orders that officials urged them to heed.

"We've had a lot of tragedy in our community," said Ventura County Supervisor Linda Parks, whose district includes Thousand Oaks. "We don't want any more. We do not want any more lives lost."

At the Fultz ranch near Malibu, all of the 52 horses survived after a wild scramble to save them.

Fultz's mother, 61-year-old Tricia Fultz, said everyone expected the fire to stay well south of their property, but shifting winds forced them to take the horses out to open pastures as quickly as they could.

Three were still in their pens when the adjacent barn caught fire, and Tricia Fultz just had to open the pens, burning her hands and hoping for the best.

She, her husband and six others rode out the fire in a tunnel a short distance up the road as the fire burned the hillsides above and all around them.

"It's so surreal because it's so dark, and when we're in the tunnel you can't see anything," Tricia Fultz said. "There was so much burning and so much black."

The fire hopscotched around the Oak Park neighborhood of 70-year-old Bill Bengston, leaving most houses untouched.

The home for 22 years of Bengston and his wife, Ramona, was the only house on his block that burned. And it burned everything.

"It's all gone," he said softly as he sifted through the remains. "It's all gone."

The hardest to lose were the photos and the mementos handed down through the family — a cigar box that belonged to his great-grandfather; the handcuffs his father carried in World War II.

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"We're somewhat devastated," Bengston said. "Still a little bit numb."

Dalton reported from Los Angeles.

## Gunman who killed 12 died from self-inflicted gunshot

By JONATHAN J. COOPER, Associated Press

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. (AP) — An autopsy determined that the gunman who killed 12 people at a Southern California bar died from a self-inflicted gunshot, police said Saturday.

Ian David Long, a 28-year-old ex-Marine machine-gunner, fatally shot 11 people at the Borderline Bar and Grill in Thousand Oaks and a police officer who responded just before midnight Wednesday. The officer exchanged gunfire with Long, who was found dead at the scene.

Ventura County Sheriff Bill Ayub said an autopsy determined Long fatally shot himself.

Authorities have yet to determine a motive and are exploring all possibilities. Among them is whether Long believed a former girlfriend might have been at the bar, which was filled with about 150 people on its popular college night that attracts students from several nearby schools.

Sheriff's Capt. Garo Kuredjian said investigators were still interviewing witnesses, have served a search warrant at Long's home and searched the car Long drove to the bar.

"We're going to exhaust every investigative means possible," Kuredjian told the Ventura County Star.

Kuredjian said there is no timeline for completing the investigation. The analysis of items obtained in the searches could take months, he said.

Former Sheriff Geoff Dean, whose last day on the job was Friday, said investigators believe Long targeted the bar but don't know why. At least a half-dozen people interviewed by The Associated Press who described themselves as regulars at the bar don't ever recall seeing Long there.

Authorities described an attack of military efficiency. When Long shot his .45-caliber pistol, he killed. All of the injured suffered cuts, bruises and other minor injuries in frantic attempts to escape the gunfire. Some smashed windows and jumped out.

Based on time stamps, investigators say, Long posted to Instagram during the attack. The post involved his mental state and whether people would believe he was sane.

His social media accounts have been taken down but a law enforcement official said Long posted about his mental state and whether people would believe he was sane. The official, who was briefed on the investigation but not authorized to discuss it publicly, spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

Long grew up in Thousand Oaks and several people who knew him described him in disturbing terms. Long made others feel uncomfortable going back to his teens.

Dominique Colell, who coached girls' track and field at the high school where Long was a sprinter, remembers an angry young man who could be verbally and physically combative.

In one instance, Colell said Long used his fingers to mimic shooting her in the back of the head as she talked to another athlete. In another, he grabbed her rear and midsection after she refused to return a cellphone he said was his.

"I literally feared for myself around him," Colell said in an interview Friday. "He was the only athlete that I was scared of."

Police said Long had no criminal record. However, last April, yelling and loud banging noises coming from the home Long shared with his mother prompted a next-door neighbor to call authorities.

Deputies responded and a mental health specialist who assessed Long worried he might be suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder but found no grounds to hospitalize him.

## Excerpts from letters written on final day of World War I

PARIS (AP) — A hundred years later, their words can still pierce hearts. Fighters writing home from opposing front lines of World War I, a Chinese laborer marveling at the war's end, a woman dreaming of reuniting with her soldier love.

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At a Paris ceremony Sunday marking the centennial of the armistice ending the first global war, eight teenagers born in the 21st century were to read from letters and notes written on the day the bloodshed stopped, Nov. 11, 1918.

Here are excerpts from the readings:

“My darling parents,

Today has been perfectly wonderful. We got news of the armistice at 9:30 this morning. I got 10 minutes to sort out a detachment for a grand parade in the square of Mons, so I got everybody I could lay hand to scrub the mud off. The streets were packed with wildly cheering civilians chucking flowers at us and carrying on like only a foreigner can. All the street and the square was a blaze of color, mostly, of course the Belgian colors red, yellow and black. Union Jacks, French flags, American flags, in fact every conceivable flag of the allies.”

--British officer Charles Neville, Royal Horse Artillery

“The war is over and in an hour we will leave. We will never have to come back here.

A light fog curls over the ground and we can clearly see the line of pits and trenches. . These elements of a frightening world and an unforgiving life.

In an hour's time, everything will have disappeared and disappeared to the point that one might believe it never existed. How can we comprehend this?

And we who are here, who should laugh and cry out for joy, feel a heaviness in our stomachs.”

--German foot soldier and writer Erich Maria Remarque, Regiment of the XV Infantry Reserve, from the book “After”

“The sirens of the factories seemed to be sounding and cries and joyful songs ring out. The end of the war was announced.

... At 11 a.m., arms and work stopped everywhere. I wanted to see for myself how the French celebrated the armistice. In the city, there was already a sea of people: men and women, young and old, soldiers and civilians, people of all skin colors marched together, hand in hand, singing or cheering.”

--Chinese laborer Gu Xinggqing, working in a depot in the Normandy city of Rouen; tens of thousands of Chinese laborers were brought to support the war effort.

“In the parade were hundreds of thousands of soldiers from the U.S., England, Canada, France, Australia, Italy and the colonies. Each soldier had his arms full of French girls, some crying, others laughing; each girl had to kiss every soldier before she would let him pass. There is nowhere on earth I would rather be today than just where I am. ...

I only hope the soldiers who died for this cause are looking down upon the world today. The whole world owes this moment of real joy to the heroes who are not here to help enjoy it.”

--American soldier Capt. Charles S. Normington, 127th Infantry, 32nd Division

“My Pierre, my darling...

As I write to you, in your distant Alsatian forest you are learning the incredible news! Here, the bells ring out wildly.

I am sick with happiness. I cannot write. I'm sobbing desperately with joy.

Never, I can never, express to you the feeling and delirious joy of this first day of armistice. The upheaval to the very depths of my being, and this incredible thought that not one more man will fall, that the immense length of the front is silent. Nothing but silence. Great tears fall, as I think that it is all over.”

--Frenchwoman Denise Bruller, in a letter addressed to her fiance Pierre Fort

“Am I dreaming? I wonder if I am. ... As soon as I realize how happy I am, I think of my brother and

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sister, both victims of the war, and my eyes mist over.”

“More than ever I am convinced that the war is over. The weapons have been put down: they will not be picked up again. I still have much to write, but finally the whirl of the shells and the whistling of the bullets are over.”

--French soldier Sergeant Major Alfred Roumiquieres, 343rd infantry regiment

“Blewu was composed by Togolese singer Bellow in the mina language. It is a song of gratitude for the dedication of others and also a celebration of living together. The beauty and serenity of this melody evoke for me a future of universal peace and reconciliation.”

--Angelique Kidjo, a Grammy-award winning singer from Benin, singing in honor of colonial soldiers recruited from around Africa and Asia to fight and die for European armies

For more information on World War I, go to The Associated Press’ WWI hub: <https://www.apnews.com/WorldWarI>

World War I: An AP Centennial Commemorative Edition. Available now exclusively at Amazon: <https://amzn.to/2JGrx5U>

## Rescues, not firefight prove emotional for firefighters

By DON THOMPSON, Associated Press

CHICO, Calif. (AP) — Casey Peck had never prayed so hard.

His fire engine was trapped with dozens of cars and panicked people as an inferno roared through the Sierra Nevada foothills town of Paradise on Thursday, hot enough to peel the firetruck’s paint and melt its hoses, blowing relief valves designed to withstand 900 degrees and immolating nearby vehicles.

Four people fleeing their flaming cars pounded on the firetruck’s doors and were pulled inside, including a nurse from a nearby hospital with her pant leg on fire. The firefighters pressed fire-resistant blankets against the truck’s windows to provide insulation against the searing heat, then waited out the firestorm.

“Faith,” Peck said Saturday as he came off a 48-hour double shift. “I don’t think I’ve ever prayed that hard in my life.”

The fire that leveled the hillside town of Paradise, population 27,000, and claimed at least 23 lives, roared in so fast that for the first 24 hours, there was no firefight at all — just rescues. They mostly had to watch Paradise burn around them; the opposite of what most firefighters are used to doing.

“It’s not an understatement to say that you got your butts kicked” during the initial fire run Thursday, Cal Fire Butte County Unit Chief Darren Read told assembled firefighters Saturday, pausing several times to gather his emotions.

“We had very little time to evacuate our communities, the people were trapped in their homes and their cars, their houses,” said Read, who doubles as Paradise fire chief. “And you guys saved the lives of thousands of people in our communities. Truly heroic efforts.”

Cal Fire safety officer Jack Piccinini warned firefighters Saturday to watch out for “emotional fatigue” and said many who lost homes themselves in the series of devastating wildfires “were just kind of stunned.”

“Between last year and this year, all of you have been on fires where you have seen communities experience devastating losses, not just property damage but also civilian fatalities as well as firefighter fatalities and serious injuries,” Piccinini said.

It was the worst fire Thor Shirley had seen in 18 years as a Nevada City-based Cal Fire firefighter.

“It was round-robin trips, just pulling people out of their houses or people trapped on the road,” he said. “It was just scoop `em up, load `em up and go.”

His crew rescued 14 people, including several who were bed-ridden, three nurses, a doctor, a sheriff’s deputy and a California Highway Patrol officer.

“At that point the only thing you can do is protect life. ... It’s frustrating because you want to save prop-



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erty and lives. You just have to readjust what you do, conditions dictate the tactics — to save people's lives is our No. 1 goal."

Peck and Shirley, who work out of separate fire stations, were each halfway through breakfast Thursday morning when the emergency call came in. Hours later their engines were caught in the same traffic jam as cars ignited and trapped firefighters and fleeing residents alike.

They all might have burned right there were it not for a Cal Fire bulldozer operator who "saved our bacon," Peck said. The bulldozer plowed flaming vehicles out of the roadway to clear a lane for the fire engines and several dozen vehicles to move to a grassy area that the bulldozer had scraped down to fireproof mineral soil. They all stayed in the makeshift refuge until the worst of the fire passed.

"Every year you do this, things just add up and you kind of numb yourself to it," Piccinini said standing by his truck, his eyes bloodshot, his hair disheveled, 48-hours of stubble freckling his face. "But every once in a while it's just like right off the Richter scale."

## In Georgia, black voters see echoes of voter suppression

By ERRIN HAINES WHACK, AP National Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — When Barbara Williams arrived at the Pittman Park Recreation Center just before noon on Election Day to cast her vote, she saw a line so long that the end wasn't in sight.

"There were so many people, you couldn't count them," Williams recalled. "They were looped around. The line started at the door and it snaked around to the left."

She ultimately waited four hours to use one of the three voting machines at the precinct where the 58-year-old retiree has voted in every election since she turned 18. Others reported similar challenges to voting at Pittman Park, located in the heart of Atlanta's oldest black neighborhood: Hours-long waits and voters leaving in frustration. For Williams and others who sought to vote at Pittman Park, the hurdles echoed a long history of voter suppression unfolding in a race in which Democrat Stacey Abrams is seeking to become the nation's first black female governor.

"I feel like they didn't want her to win," Williams said of Abrams. "They made things so that we would get aggravated and people would leave."

The race between Abrams and her Republican opponent, Brian Kemp, is still too close to call five days after the election. Kemp has denied any attempt to suppress the vote. But his background as someone who, as secretary of state, deleted inactive voters from registration rolls and enforced an "exact match" policy that could have prevented thousands from registering to vote, has brought the issue of minority access to the polls to the forefront.

That's especially true at Pittman Park, which has long been a center of black civic and community life. Many residents learned to swim there at the only pool they were allowed to use during the segregation era. Today, it offers after school care, classes for seniors and a space for local meetings.

It has been a precinct for as long as Douglas Dean, head of the Pittsburgh Neighborhood Association, can remember. Three years ago, it was consolidated with a nearby polling station, doubling the number of registered voters to nearly 3,800, according to the Fulton County Board of Elections, one of the factors that may have played into last week's lines.

"There is no excuse for what happened here in this election," said Dean, 71, and a former state representative. "Georgia is changing and there are some whites who want everything to stay the same so that they remain in power. We've been fighting this battle for years. This is nothing new."

The Rev. Jesse Jackson, who had been troubleshooting election irregularities in the city that day, was at the precinct Tuesday to investigate.

"They were four deep in the room," Jackson said, describing the scene in an interview. "Some were in wheelchairs, some were on walkers, some were sick. I appealed to them to stay. Either incompetence or corruption or both is what happened."

Williams fought back, maintaining her place in line and pleading with others to do the same.

"It was important for me to vote," she explained. "I vote in every election. I'm a human being and I have

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a life and I try for it to be better. A whole lot of people left. I even tried to get some of them to stay. I said, 'That's what they want you to do.'"

Joseph Jarrett came at around the same time as Williams, with his 4-year-old son in tow to show him the significance of voting. When he saw the line, Jarrett left, not wanting to stand there with a restless toddler.

He debated whether or not to come back. On his mind were lessons from childhood. He thought of the Mississippi voting activist Fannie Lou Hamer, a personal hero, and what she did for the community. Jarrett returned to the line just after 2 p.m. Three hours later, he cast his ballot.

"I was determined to vote," said Jarrett, 38. "Our whole community was galvanized by Stacey Abrams' campaign. But some people came in, saw the line, and walked right back out."

Others also tried to persuade people to be patient, attempting to counter frustration with a festive atmosphere. A band arrived and played music. Dozens of pizzas and refreshments appeared. When the rain broke, the sizzle of a grill began in the parking lot.

Jackson took selfies to try to lift spirits. He also went to a playbook that has worked for him since the civil rights movement: He mobilized the press and created a scene. Soon, five brand new machines, still in the wrapper, were brought to the concrete building on Garibaldi Street. But by then, some of the damage had already been done.

"Some people had to leave and go to work," Jackson said. "Some had to go home and get their medicine. Some people became discouraged. Denial of opportunity, denial of access to democracy ... That's what voter suppression looks like. I've seen this for a long time."

Voters in other black neighborhoods complained of long lines and inadequate resources, too. As the hour drew near for the polls to close, the Georgia NAACP won its lawsuit to extend voting hours for three precincts in Fulton County, including Pittman Park. When the lights were turned off after the last ballot was cast, it was 1 a.m., according to workers at the center.

Nearly a week after the election, even those who were able to vote are left wondering whether they were excluded from the process, despite their perseverance. The fight continues, as Abrams has sued a southwest Georgia county over absentee ballots and has vowed to stay in the race until the recount is complete.

"I think she probably did win, but I don't think she'll be the governor, because I don't think they'll do the right thing," Jarrett said of Abrams. "It's a damn shame, because people really came out. For their votes not to be counted ... it's like a disgrace to democracy."

Whack is The Associated Press' national writer on race and ethnicity. Follow her work on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/emarvelous>.

## Kemp pushes Abrams to concede in Georgia gubernatorial race

By JAY REEVES, Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Republican Brian Kemp is pressing Democrat Stacey Abrams to concede Georgia's tight gubernatorial race as civil rights groups urge her to stay and fight.

Kemp's campaign issued a statement Saturday that said it was mathematically impossible for Abrams to even force a runoff, much less win outright. It called Abrams' refusals to concede "a disgrace to democracy" that "completely ignore the will of the people."

But members of civil rights groups including the Atlanta-based Southern Christian Leadership Conference and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People held a small rally urging Abrams to keep fighting until every vote is counted.

"That is a promise she made," said Ben Williams, president of the Cobb County branch of the SCLC, founded by the late Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

Erick Allen, a black Democrat newly elected to the Georgia House, said allegations of voter suppression and questions about Election Day problems could dog Kemp as governor if he ultimately prevails.

"The erosion in trust is done," said Allen.

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Abrams is seeking to become the first black woman elected governor in the United States, while Kemp is attempting to continue GOP dominance in a diversifying state that could be a battleground in the 2020 presidential election.

On Saturday, she released a statement that she had met with voters who experienced difficulties casting ballots. She said her campaign had heard stories of voters turned away from the polls, students and military members who requested absentee ballots that never arrived or were "lost in the mail" — and first-time and longtime voters who found their names were "no longer on the list."

She vowed to continue to fight.

"I am fighting to make sure our democracy works for and represents everyone who has ever put their faith in it. I am fighting for every Georgian who cast a ballot with the promise that their vote would count," Abrams added.

Unofficial returns show Kemp with 50.3 percent of almost 4 million total votes, a roughly 63,000-vote lead over Abrams. The margin is enough for an outright Kemp victory if totals remain the same, but it's a tight race considering the large turnout. Abrams has argued that tens of thousands of provisional and military ballots need to be counted before the race is over.

The Kemp campaign said a maximum of 17,495 provisional and military ballots remain to be counted. The Abrams campaign contends at least 30,823 votes remain, including nearly 27,000 provisional ballots; that could be enough to prompt a recount.

The Associated Press has not declared a winner. AP will reassess the race Tuesday, the deadline for counties to certify election results to the state.

Abrams' supporters and volunteers made a push to get people who cast provisional ballots on Tuesday to provide information required to count their ballots by a Friday deadline. It wasn't clear how many did so.

The Kemp campaign said it didn't matter because there were far too few outstanding ballots for Abrams to erase his lead.

The Abrams campaign attempted to reserve television advertising time in case she makes it into a runoff with Kemp that would be held Dec. 4, but Atlanta TV station WSB said it wouldn't accept any commercials until votes are certified.

After each of Georgia's 159 counties certifies final returns by Tuesday, the state must certify a statewide result by Nov. 20.

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For AP's complete coverage of the U.S. midterm elections: <http://apne.ws/APPolitics>

## Death toll in Northern California wildfire rises to 23

By **GILLIAN FLACCUS, DON THOMPSON and PAUL ELIAS, Associated Press**

PARADISE, Calif. (AP) — The few residents of the burned-out Northern California city of Paradise who were able to inspect their property on Saturday saw nothing but disappointment.

Nearly the entire city of 27,000 residents lay in ruins and most were still barred from returning to the still hazardous town where small fires continued to flare.

Butte County Sheriff Kory Honea said Saturday 14 additional bodies were found, bringing the death toll to 23. The victims have not been identified. Two people were found dead in a wildfire in Southern California, bringing the total number of fatalities for the state to 25.

The fire became California's third deadliest since record-keeping began, with the death toll surpassing that from a blaze last year that ravaged the city of Santa Rosa.

An additional search and recovery team on top of the four already on the ground was being brought in to search for remains, Honea said. An anthropology team from California State University, Chico was helping with that effort, he said. The state Department of Justice was sending a mobile DNA lab to the area to collect genetic material from the surviving relatives of the missing to speed the identification process.

The sheriff's office still has 110 outstanding reports of missing people, Honea said.

In some cases, investigators have only been able to recover bones and bone fragments, he said. He

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encouraged family members of the missing to submit DNA samples that could be compared with remains that are recovered.

"This weighs heavy on all of us," he said. "Myself and especially those staff members who are out there doing what is important work but certainly difficult work."

Honea added that he's hopeful that more of those missing people will be found. The department initially had more than 500 calls about citizens who were unable to reach loved ones.

But they have been able to help find many, he said.

The flames burned down more than 6,700 buildings, almost all of them homes, making it California's most destructive wildfire since record-keeping began.

More firefighters headed to the area Saturday, with wind gusts of up to 50 miles per hour expected, raising the risk of conditions similar to those when the fire started Thursday, said Alex Hoon with the National Weather Service.

The blaze grew to 164 square miles (425 square kilometers), but crews made gains and it was partially contained, officials said. It has cost \$8.1 million to fight so far, said Steve Kaufmann, a spokesman for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

People sidestepped metal that melted off cars and Jet-Skis and donned masks as they surveyed ravaged neighborhoods despite an evacuation order for all of Paradise, a town of 27,000 founded in the 1800s. Some cried when they saw nothing was left.

Jan McGregor, 81, got back to his small two-bedroom home in Paradise with the help of his firefighter grandson. He found his home leveled — a large metal safe and some pipe work from his septic system the only recognizable traces. The safe was punctured with bullet holes from guns inside that went off in the scorching heat.

He has lived in Paradise for nearly 80 years, moving there in 1939 when he said the town had just 3,000 people and was nicknamed Poverty Ridge. The fire was not a complete surprise, he said.

"We knew Paradise was a prime target for forest fire over the years," he said. "We've had 'em come right up to the city limits — oh yeah — but nothing like this," he said.

McGregor said he probably would not rebuild: "I have nothing here to go back to."

Homes and other buildings in Paradise were still burning, and fire crews were trying to extinguish those blazes, said Scott McLean, a captain with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. Officials warned firefighters to wear their helmets and be careful of falling trees.

Abandoned, charred vehicles cluttered the main thoroughfare, evidence of the panicked evacuation as the wildfire tore through Thursday. The dead were found mostly inside their cars or and outside vehicles and homes.

Five of the dead panicked when they couldn't escape by car because their route was cut off by a wall of fire, said Gabriel Fallon, who rode out the blaze with his parents to care for the horses, cows and livestock on their 10-acre farm in Paradise.

The group turned the other way and dashed down the paved street until it turned into dirt and passed the Fallons' farm, he said. One of the drivers stopped and asked Fallon if the direction they were going would lead them to safety. Fallon said he shook his head as the fire roared closer.

The motorists parked at the end of the road. On Saturday, the charred shells of the five cars remained where they had been parked.

Fallon went back to his property, where he, and his parents and their animals weathered the fire with a garden hose. The fire consumed their home, but left the barn intact.

"I was scared as hell," said Fallon, 42. "I didn't know if I was going to die."

His mother, Cathy Fallon, said she tries not to think of what she lost when her house burned to the ground. Two of her dogs and nine cats died. She also lost her great-grandmother's mandolin and end table.

"I just can't think about it," she said, beginning to cry. "The thing that hurts the most is that I lost my cats."

Elinor "Jeannie" Williams, 86, was not among the nine victims of the blaze but died as she waited to be airlifted from an evacuated hospital where she was being treated for a head injury.

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She was dying, and the family expected to lose her in a few days, said her stepdaughter, Lisa. Still, her death has been hard on her 84-year-old father, Robert, who also may have lost his home, she said.

"He's lost, he's confused, he's trying to hang in there," she said. "It's hitting him hard. Everything is gone, including his wife."

Two destructive wildfires also burned in Southern California, tearing through Malibu mansions and working-class suburban homes and killing two people.

State officials put the total number of people forced from their homes by California's fires at more than 200,000. Evacuation orders included the entire city of Malibu that is home to some of Hollywood's biggest stars.

President Donald Trump issued an emergency declaration providing federal funding for fires on both ends of the state. He later threatened to withhold payments to California, claiming its forest management is "so poor."

Trump tweeted Saturday that "there is no reason for these massive, deadly and costly fires in California." Trump said "billions of dollars are given each year, with so many lives lost, all because of gross mismanagement of the forests. Remedy now, or no more Fed payments!"

California Governor-elect Gavin Newsom responded on Twitter that this was "not a time for partisanship."

"This is a time for coordinating relief and response and lifting those in need up," he said.

Trump took a more empathetic tone later in the day, tweeting sympathies for firefighters, people who have fled their homes and the families of those killed by the flames.

Drought, warmer weather attributed to climate change and home construction deeper into forests have led to more destructive wildfire seasons that have been starting earlier and lasting longer.

California emerged from a five-year drought last year but has had a very dry 2018. Much of the northern two-thirds of the state, including where the fire is burning, is abnormally dry, according to a U.S. government analysis.

Just 100 miles (160 kilometers) north, the Carr Fire near Redding that burned this summer was the sixth-most-destructive wildfire in California history and one of the earliest. It killed eight people in July and August and burned about 1,100 homes.

"The fact is that we are saturated with these kind of fires," safety officer Jack Piccinini told firefighters in Chico.

He warned of "emotional fatigue" among crews from the devastation, death and injuries.

"We need to make sure we take care of one another, we look out for our brothers and sisters out there," he said.

Associated Press writers Daisy Nguyen, Olga R. Rodriguez and Sudhin Thanawala in San Francisco contributed to this report. Darlene Superville contributed from Paris.

## Trump visit to US cemetery in France canceled due to rain

By JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — President Donald Trump canceled a planned visit Saturday to a cemetery for Americans killed in World War I, the White House citing bad weather that grounded his helicopter.

Trump had been scheduled to lay a wreath and observe a moment of silence at the Aisne-Marne American Cemetery and Memorial, located adjacent to Belleau Wood and about 60 miles (100 kilometers) northeast of Paris.

Instead, Trump spent much of the day following a meeting and lunch with French President Emmanuel Macron at the U.S. ambassador's residence, where he was staying during events to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I.

Attending in Trump's place were the White House chief of staff, retired Marine Gen. John Kelly; the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Marine Gen. Joe Dunford; and several members of the White House staff. The Battle of Belleau Wood was a critical conflict in the war and a pivotal encounter in Marine Corps history.

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The Secret Service determines when it's safe to fly Marine One, the president's helicopter. Paris was covered in clouds with drizzling rain through most of Saturday.

Trump was scheduled to join dozens of world leaders Sunday at a ceremony in the shadow of the Arc de Triomphe marking Armistice Day. He was to deliver remarks at the Suresnes American Cemetery and Memorial, located five miles west of Paris, before returning to Washington.

The cancellation of Saturday's visit drew criticism from those who say the president should have found a way to travel to Aisne-Marne regardless of the weather.

Ben Rhodes, who was deputy national security adviser for President Barack Obama, accused Trump of "blowing off honoring American servicemen who died for us" and said the White House should have had a fallback option.

## Migrant caravan heads north after departing Mexico City

By CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN, Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Thousands of Central American migrants set up tents and strung tarps at a stadium in the central Mexican city of Queretaro, where they arrived Saturday afternoon after departing the country's capital at dawn on their long trek to the U.S. border.

Their day began with dedicated Mexico City metro trains whisking them to the outskirts of the capital. At the end of the metro line, migrants began making their way to a main highway to resume walking and hitching rides with the tacit approval of Mexican officials.

Near a major toll plaza about 19 miles (30 kilometers) north of the city, Mexico state police and human rights officials helped load men, women and children onto eighteen-wheelers and asked passing buses and trucks if they would carry migrants.

Maria Yesenia Perez, a 41-year-old who left La Ceiba, Honduras nearly a month ago with her 8-year-old daughter, said she was prepared to wait to gain entry at the U.S. border.

"I decided to come (with the caravan) to help my family," she said, before she and her daughter were hoisted onto the back of a semitrailer.

Perez is now one of roughly 4,000 migrants who proceeded to Queretaro — a state capital 124 miles (200 kilometers) to northwest of Mexico City— and then possibly to Guadalajara, Culiacan, Hermosillo and eventually Tijuana on the U.S. border.

Whereas migrants like her carried tiny knapsacks with bare essentials in Mexico's tropical south, however, their belongings swelled noticeably after a multiday stop in Mexico City.

Many are now hauling bundles of blankets, sleeping bags and heavy clothing to protect against colder temperatures in the northern part of the country. Some left the capital with bottles of water and clear plastic bags of bananas and oranges for the long trek. Others were given juice and ham sandwiches from volunteers as they set out.

Astrid Daniela Aguilar, who was traveling with two cousins aged 3 and 4, lined up alongside the highway to await a chance at hitching a ride.

"You can't find work there," she said of her home country of Honduras.

When they arrived in the stadium that Queretaro officials had prepared for them, they began getting ready for the night. Some set up tents, others found shelter beneath its concourse.

Volunteers offered sandwiches, tortillas and rice to the travelers.

The caravan planned to leave Queretaro for Irapuato about 62 miles (100 kilometers) to the west at 5 a.m. Sunday.

The caravan became a campaign issue in U.S. midterm elections and U.S. President Donald Trump has ordered the deployment of over 5,000 military troops to the border to fend off the migrants. Trump has also insinuated without proof that there are criminals or even terrorists in the group.

Many migrants say they are fleeing rampant poverty, gang violence and political instability primarily in the Central American countries of Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador and Nicaragua, and they have now been on the road for weeks.

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On Thursday, the U.N. rejected a demand by caravan representatives for buses to the border, saying its agencies were "unable to provide the transportation demanded by some members of the caravan."

Mexico City is more than 600 miles from the nearest U.S. border crossing at McAllen, Texas, but the area around the Mexican border cities of Reynosa, Matamoros and Nuevo Laredo is rife with drug gangs and the migrants consider it too risky.

Migrants are now taking a still perilous, but somewhat safer and longer route to Tijuana in Mexico's far northwest, across from San Diego.

Mexico has offered refuge, asylum or work visas to the migrants, and its government said 2,697 temporary visas had been issued to individuals and families to cover them while they wait for the 45-day application process for a more permanent status.

But most vowed to continue to the United States.

Giselle Owen, a 15-year-old from San Pedro Sula, Honduras, belted out romantic ballads as the day's journey got underway.

"It relaxes me and I feel like I don't get tired," she said. "I can walk hours singing."

Others got ahead by taking rides from friendly Mexicans.

Angelica Martinez saw David Rodriguez pushing his friend Rafael Peralta of San Pedro Sula, Honduras down the side of the highway in a wheelchair.

She stopped in a lane of the highway to load the two migrants and the wheelchair into her small Volkswagen hatchback and said she would take them as far as she was going up the road.

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Associated Press writer Maria Verza contributed to this report.

## Recounts ordered in Florida Senate, governor races

By **BRENDAN FARRINGTON** and **KELLI KENNEDY**, Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — The Florida secretary of state ordered recounts in the U.S. Senate and governor races on Saturday, an unprecedented review of two major contests in the state that took five weeks to decide the 2000 presidential election.

Secretary Ken Detzner issued the order after the unofficial results in both races fell within the margin that by law triggers a recount. His office was unaware of any other time either a race for governor or U.S. Senate in Florida required a recount, let alone both in the same election.

The recount sets up what could be several days of political tension in this deeply divided state. President Donald Trump tweeted without evidence that the elections were being stolen. Protesters gathered at an elections office in Broward County, which is quickly becoming a battleground in the recount. The protesters waved signs, used bullhorns and even harangued a food delivery person at one point, asking if there were ballots inside the food bags.

The unofficial results show that Republican former U.S. Rep. Ron DeSantis led Democratic Tallahassee Mayor Andrew Gillum by 0.41 percentage points in the election for governor.

In the Senate race, Republican Gov. Rick Scott's lead over Democratic incumbent Bill Nelson is 0.14 percentage points.

Detzner ordered machine recounts in both races. Once completed, if the differences in the races are at 0.25 percentage points or below, a hand recount will be ordered, said Department of State spokeswoman Sarah Revell.

Following the announcement, Gillum withdrew his concession in the governor's race.

"Let me say clearly, I am replacing my words of concession with an uncompromised and unapologetic call that we count every single vote," he said, adding that he would accept whatever outcome emerges.

In a video released Saturday afternoon, DeSantis thanked the state's supervisors of elections, canvassing boards, and the staffs for "working hard to ensure that all lawful votes are counted. He said he is preparing to become the state's next governor.

"It is important that everyone involved in the election process strictly adhere to the rule of law which is

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the foundation for our nation," he said, adding that the election results were "clear and unambiguous."

In a statement, Scott implored the state's sheriffs to "watch for any violations and take appropriate action" during the recount.

Scott and his supporters, including Trump, have alleged that voter fraud is underway in Democratic-leaning Broward County, where the Republican lead has narrowed since Election Day. There's no evidence of voter fraud and the state's election division, which Scott runs, said Saturday that its observers in Broward had seen "no evidence of criminal activity."

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement said Friday it has not launched any investigation into election fraud.

Florida's 67 counties will decide when to begin their recounts, but they must be completed by Thursday. Revell said Saturday that recounts can't begin until the county canvassing boards post a public meeting notice, hold that meeting and then do a public test of equipment.

Miami-Dade County elections officials disclosed they had begun a machine recount Saturday evening. The process involved loading paper ballots into scanning machines and could take days, considering there were some 800,000 ballots cast.

Elections officials in two large counties in the Tampa Bay area — Pinellas and Hillsborough — said they would begin recounts Sunday morning.

Machine recounts must be finished by 3 p.m. Thursday.

The Associated Press had called the governor's race for DeSantis. Following the recount announcement, the AP retracted its call. It is AP policy not to call a race that is facing a recount. No new call will be made until the recount is complete and the results of the election are certified by Florida officials.

The scene was reminiscent of the 2000 presidential recount, when it took more than five weeks for Florida to declare George W. Bush the victor over Vice President Al Gore by 537 votes, and thus giving Bush the presidency.

Florida was mocked for the way it handled the infamous 2000 recount, especially since there was no uniform process then on how to proceed. That has changed, with the Legislature passing a clear procedure on how a recount should be conducted.

Florida is also conducting a recount in a third statewide race. Democrat Nikki Fried had a 0.07 percentage point lead over Republican state Rep. Matt Caldwell in the race for agriculture commissioner, one of Florida's three Cabinet seats.

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AP writer Kelli Kennedy in Fort Lauderdale and Tamara Lush in St. Petersburg contributed to this report.

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For AP's complete coverage of the U.S. midterm elections: <http://apne.ws/APPolitics>

## Homeowners - famous and not - await word of wildfire's toll

By LYNN ELBER, AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Rich or not, famous or not, there was little reprieve Saturday from the California wildfires sweeping through towns as different as the star-filled oceanside enclave of Malibu and the modest communities nearby and in the state's north.

Lady Gaga, Martin Sheen and Kim Kardashian West were among the celebrities who joined thousands of others in evacuating from the affluent coastal city that is as well-known as its residents. Stars went online to share their worries, with some able to follow up with good news Saturday.

Alyssa Milano, who on Friday tweeted that her house was "in jeopardy" but she had gotten needed help to evacuate her horses and that her children were safe, was among the lucky ones.

"My house is still standing. I'm on my way to bring firefighters water and food," she tweeted. She previously said her heart was with others facing "this awful disaster."

Others were left to wait.



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"I am thinking so deeply for everyone who is suffering today from these abominable fires & grieving the loss of their homes or loved ones," Lady Gaga tweeted. "I'm sitting here with many of you wondering if my home will burst into flames. All we can do is pray together & for each other. God Bless You."

There were shout-outs as well to the firefighters struggling to contain the fires in what were described as especially difficult conditions.

"These guys are heroes," filmmaker Guillermo del Toro posted on Twitter. His so-called "Bleak House," which contains his collection of items too scary to be kept in the family home, was endangered.

Shannen Doherty, who'd been out of town when the fire broke out, said online that friends staying at her Malibu house evacuated safely with her dogs. She expressed gratitude to firefighters "putting their lives on the line for all of us" and sympathy for others affected by the fire.

Sheen ("The West Wing," "Apocalypse Now"), interviewed by a TV station on the beach Friday night after fleeing his home, said the fire was the worst he has ever seen. He said he expects his house was destroyed.

The interview occurred after his son, actor Charlie Sheen, tweeted that he'd been unable to contact his father, and the Los Angeles Fox affiliate KTTV tracked him down. Martin Sheen gave a shoutout to his family to let them know he and his wife, Janet, were safe and planned to sleep in their car by the beach.

The status of Martin Sheen's home was unknown Saturday.

"Beverly Hills, 90210" star Doherty said her "heart is ripped apart" by the loss of a Malibu home where she and husband Kurt Iswarienko were married in 2011, posting on Instagram a wedding-day photo of the smiling couple on a tree-lined path at the property apparently owned by a friend.

She had previously found refuge in the house when her father died in 2010, Doherty wrote.

"It's the place I felt my dad with me. It's gone. Fire has taken it away. I'm devastated by all that's happening," she said.

The blaze started Thursday night and by Friday had pushed toward Malibu and the Pacific Ocean, prompting evacuations in Malibu, Calabasas, Agoura Hills and other nearby areas. Authorities said Saturday that two people were found dead in the fire zone and at least 150 homes burned.

Officials stressed late Saturday that high winds are expected to resume on Sunday and mandatory evacuations must remain in place.

In Northern California, the small inland town of Paradise was virtually wiped out by a fast-moving blaze that destroyed more than 6,700 buildings and claimed nine lives as of Saturday.

Rainn Wilson, who played Dwight on "The Office," indicated online that he and his family were away when flames "roared down the creek bed behind our house and missed it by a dozen yards!"

"Thousands of others have lost homes and pets and precious belongings. Especially the residents of Paradise who have lost lives," he tweeted.

Although the fatalities overshadowed any loss of property, Malibu's fame inevitably called attention to the state of its multimillion-dollar homes, including one made famous in ABC's reality dating series "The Bachelor."

The show's producers said in a statement Saturday that, with the area closed to traffic, they didn't know the condition of what is primarily a private residence. They said their main concern "is with the family who has been displaced, their neighbors, and all the communities impacted by this tragic fire."

Also left waiting was Caitlyn Jenner, whose hilltop home appeared intact when it was shot by a photographer for The Associated Press on Saturday morning. Jenner's representative noted that the Olympic gold medalist wouldn't know the extent of any damage to the home until she was allowed to return to it.

Even outside the evacuation zone, the impact of the fire was being felt by others in the entertainment industry.

"The world is literally on fire right now. And unfortunately it's becoming more and more common here in California," actress Natalie Portman said Friday night in Hollywood at an American Film Institute Fest premiere of her film "Vox Lux."

She said she was hoping for the best for friends and everyone else affected by the blaze. She said she'd spoken to her own two children about the fires because "they need to feel safe" and also understand that

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there are broad regional effects, like poor air quality.

Paramount Pictures canceled Sunday's premiere of the film "Instant Family" in Los Angeles due the wildfire. The studio said it would donate food ordered for the after party to the American Red Cross, and would screen the film at an evacuation center.

Kardashian West posted video on Instagram of an area on fire with a message "Pray for Calabasas." She said she landed back home, spent one hour packing and evacuated shortly afterward.

In addition to homes destroyed, Paramount Ranch's "Western Town," a landmark film location dating back to 1927 that included a jail, hotel and saloon, burned to the ground. The TV series "Westworld" is among the many productions that have filmed at the ranch in the mountains west of Los Angeles.

AP Entertainment Writer Ryan Pearson contributed to this report.

## Leaders laud fallen soldiers on eve of armistice centennial

By RAF CASERT and ANGELA CHARLTON, Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Traveling from across the world to monuments honoring soldiers who fell 100 years ago, victors and vanquished alike marked those sacrifices Saturday ahead of Armistice Day and assessed alliances that have been redrawn dramatically since the dark days of World War I.

The leaders of former enemies France and Germany, in an intimate gesture that underscored their countries' current roles as guarantors of peace in Europe, held their heads together at the site north of Paris where the defeated Germans and the Allies signed the agreement that ended the 1914-18 war.

After Chancellor Angela Merkel briefly snuggled her head into the neck of French President Emmanuel Macron, the two went inside a replica of the train car where the armistice was reached and put their names in a guestbook. Macron then took Merkel's hand in his, again highlighting the changes on the continent where two world wars were fought in the 20th century.

"Our Europe has been at peace for 73 years. There is no precedent for it, and it is at peace because we willed it and first and foremost, because Germany and France wanted it," he said.

Merkel was equally convinced of the power their friendship exudes.

"The will is there, and I say this for Germany with full conviction, to do everything to achieve a more peaceful order in the world even though we know we have very, very much work still ahead of us," she said.

The open show of affection was a welcome antidote for Macron. Earlier Saturday, the French leader had a somewhat awkward meeting with U.S. President Donald Trump. As Air Force One landed in Paris on Friday night, Trump wrote on Twitter he had been "very" insulted by comments Macron made in the days before that he considered anti-American.

A century ago, the entry of U.S. troops into World War I tipped the momentum toward its allies, including France and Britain. Even as he embarked on two days of observances for the Nov. 11, 1918 armistice, Trump said the United States now bears far too much of the burden to defend the West.

A flurry of Armistice-related diplomacy once again turned Paris, the jewel that Germany sought to take in 1914 but which the Allies successfully fought to defend, into the center of global attention Saturday as dozens of world leaders arrived in the French capital on the eve of the solemn centennial commemorations.

Merkel's appearance in Compiègne marked how her nation's bloodstained history with France has become a close alliance that is now the driving force behind the European Union.

In the four years of fighting, remembered for brutal trench warfare and the first use of gas, France, the British empire, Russia and the United States had the main armies opposing a German-led coalition that also included the Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman empires.

Almost 10 million soldiers died. France lost 1.4 million and Germany 2 million.

Yet, despite a war that was supposed to end all wars, World War II pitted both sides against each other once again in 1940.

Across the line that once marked the Western Front, leaders lauded the courage of soldiers who were killed during the unprecedented slaughter, before converging on Paris for a dinner.

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At the dinner, Macron warned world leaders against taking peace for granted, saying "we will talk about this peace that our predecessors tried to construct 100 years ago but failed to preserve, because 20 years later a new war broke out."

The armistice entered into force on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918, and on Sunday 69 world leaders will commemorate the centennial of the event at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, underneath the Arc de Triomphe in central Paris.

At dawn Saturday, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau went to Vimy Ridge, the battlefield in northern France where Canada found its sense of self when it defeated German opposition against the odds.

Standing amid the white headstones against an ashen sky, Trudeau addressed the fallen, saying what Canada has achieved in the past century has been "a history built on your sacrifice. You stand for the values on which Canada was built."

In southern Belgium's Mons, Canadians were also lauding George Price, the last Commonwealth soldier to die in the war when he was shot by a German sniper two minutes before the armistice took effect.

Trump was looking beyond the tragedy of death and destruction, asking in a tweet: "Is there anything better to celebrate than the end of a war, in particular that one, which was one of the bloodiest and worst of all time?"

After his meeting with Macron, Trump had been scheduled to head to the battlefield of Belleau Wood, 90 kilometers (55 miles) northeast of the capital, where U.S. troops had their breakthrough battle by stopping a German push for Paris shortly after entering the war in 1917.

The battle of Belleau Wood proved America's mettle to allies and foes alike, and by the time the war ended U.S. forces were at least an equal to any of the other major armies, which were exhausted and depleted.

However, Trump canceled his visit because of bad weather and immediately came in for criticism.

"It's incredible that a president would travel to France for this significant anniversary - and then remain in his hotel room watching TV rather than pay in person his respects to the Americans who gave their lives in France for the victory gained 100 years ago tomorrow," David Frum, a speechwriter for former President George W. Bush, tweeted,

The White House sent a delegation that included chief of staff John Kelly in Trump's place. Ben Rhodes, who served as deputy national security adviser in the Obama administration, said the White House should have had a fallback plan for the president.

"There is always a rain option. Always," Rhodes said.

Trump is scheduled to visit a different U.S. cemetery close to Paris on Sunday.

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John Leicester contributed.

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For more information on World War I, go to The Associated Press' WWI hub: <https://www.apnews.com/WorldWarI>

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World War I: An AP Centennial Commemorative Edition. Available now exclusively at Amazon: <https://amzn.to/2JGrx5U>

## **Erdogan: Saudi officials, others heard tapes of writer death**

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Officials from Saudi Arabia, the United States, Germany, France and Britain have listened to audio recordings related to the killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi at the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul, Turkey's president said Saturday, in the first public acknowledgement of the existence of tapes of the slaying.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan also told reporters that Saudi Arabia had to "act fairly" and disclose those responsible for the Oct. 2 killing of The Washington Post journalist to rid itself of "suspicion."

"We gave them the tapes. We gave them to Saudi Arabia, to America, to the Germans, the French, to the British, to all of them," Erdogan said before departing for Paris to attend ceremonies marking the 100th

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anniversary of the end of World War I.

"They (Saudi officials) also listened to the conversations and they know. There is no need to distort this. They know for certain who among the 15 is the killer or are the killers," he said.

He was referring to an alleged 15-member assassination squad that Turkey believes was sent to kill Khashoggi at the consulate where he had arrived to obtain papers to marry his Turkish fiancée.

CIA Director Gina Haspel, who visited Turkey last month for information on the investigation, is reported to have heard the audio recordings of the killing. The existence of the recordings was leaked to the media but never openly confirmed until now.

Turkey says Khashoggi, who was critical of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, was strangled and dismembered at the consulate as part of a premeditated killing. Media reports have suggested that his body could have been chemically dissolved.

Turkey is seeking the extradition of 18 suspects who have been detained in Saudi Arabia, so they can be put on trial in Turkey. They include the 15 members of the alleged assassination squad.

Saudi Arabia had insisted for weeks after Khashoggi disappeared that he had walked out of the consulate, before changing its account to say he died in a brawl.

Last month, Saudi Arabia acknowledged that Turkish evidence indicates that Khashoggi's killing was premeditated, shifting its explanation in an apparent effort to ease international outrage over the death.

Saudi officials characterize the killing as a rogue operation carried out by Saudi agents who exceeded their authority. Yet some of those implicated in the killing are close to the crown prince, including a member of the prince's entourage on foreign trips who was seen at the consulate before Khashoggi's slaying.

Erdogan accused Saudi Arabia's chief prosecutor, who was sent to Istanbul last month as part of a joint probe, of employing "delaying tactics."

"Saudi Arabia needs to accept that (the killer) is among the 18 and needs to get rid of the suspicion by responding to Turkey's good will and acting fairly," Erdogan said.

## **Military veterans, 2 friends, bar workers killed in shooting**

**By JONATHAN J. COOPER, TERRY TANG and REBECCA BOONE, Associated Press**

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. (AP) — One was a veteran police officer who didn't hesitate to run toward danger. Another had survived the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history. Others include two friends who loved off-roading, a Marine veteran who dedicated his life to service and a recent college graduate who worked with children with special needs.

They were among a dozen people killed in a shooting at a country music bar in suburban Los Angeles on Wednesday night. Authorities believe the gunman, Ian David Long, ultimately killed himself.

### **RON HELUS: 'COP'S COP'**

Ventura County sheriff's Sgt. Ron Helus was talking to his wife when calls started coming in about a shooting at the Borderline Bar and Grill.

"Hey, I got to go handle a call. I love you. I'll talk to you later," he told her, according to Sheriff Geoff Dean.

It was the last time she would talk to her husband.

Helus rushed toward the shooting and immediately exchanged fire with the gunman, Dean said. Helus was hit multiple times.

Sgt. Eric Buschow, who said Helus was a friend, described him as a "cop's cop."

"The fact that he was the first in the door doesn't surprise me at all," he said. "He's just one of those guys that wouldn't hesitate in a situation."

Helus took up fly fishing a few years ago and loved pursuing the hobby in the Sierra Nevada mountains with his grown son, Buschow said.

"He was just a great guy, a gentle soul," Buschow said. "Patient. Calm no matter what. When you call 911, he's one of the guys you want showing up."

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Helus was on the SWAT team for much of his career and worked in narcotics and investigations, he said. "If you were a victim of a crime, you want him investigating the case," Buschow said. "He would go to the ends of the Earth to find a suspect."

Dean choked back tears talking about Helus and called him a hero.

"He went in there to save people and paid the ultimate price," he said.

## CODY COFFMAN: 'THE BIG BROTHER THAT MY KIDS NEED'

Cody Coffman, who had just turned 22, was talking with Army recruiters and preparing to fulfill his dream of serving his country, father Jason Coffman said, weeping.

Cody adored his siblings — three brothers between ages 6 and 9 — and he couldn't wait for the birth of a sister, due on Nov. 29, his father said.

"Cody was the big brother that my kids need," he said. "He was so excited to have his first sister and now she'll never know ..."

He trailed off, sobbing, then said, "Oh, Cody, I love you, son."

Jason Coffman said his son was passionate about baseball, serving as an umpire for a little league, and they fished together.

"That poor boy would come with me whether he liked it or not," he said. "That's the kind of stuff I am truly going to miss."

Jason Coffman said he last spoke to his son Wednesday night before Cody headed to the bar.

"The first thing I said was, 'Please don't drink and drive,'" he said. "The last thing I said was, 'Son, I love you.'"

## JUSTIN MEEK: 'FULL OF LIGHT AND HAPPINESS'

Newly graduated from California Lutheran University, Justin Meek performed as a singer and worked at the Borderline.

Meek, 23, also worked for Channel Island Social Services as a respite caregiver, supporting families with children with special needs, mostly developmental disabilities, chief executive Sharon Francis said.

"Parents just adored him. He was able to bond with their kids," she said. "He was just an all-around guy."

Danielle Gallo, who also works at the family-run organization, said he was dedicated to the kids he worked with.

"You could tell he really had a heart for what he did," she said, sobbing.

Meek also toured professionally as an a cappella singer, said family friend Patrick Ellis, who called Meek a talented musician, singer and athlete and a "fantastic human being."

"He was a hero every day of his life," Ellis said. "It was just always positive energy. ... Anything he could do for you, he was just there."

Meek worked at the bar with his sister and fellow Cal Lutheran student, Victoria Rose Meek, who survived, Ellis said.

Meek played water polo for Cal Lutheran. He also lent his full, velvety voice to the school choir, where "every time he sang, you could just feel it in your soul," recalled choir member Rachel Counihan, 20.

"He cared so much about his craft and just cared so much about other people," she said. "He was just full of light and happiness."

Scott Roberts, 20, a junior at the school and friend of Victoria Rose Meek's, recalled Meek being "just the nicest dude."

## ALAINA HOUSLEY: 'AN INCREDIBLE YOUNG WOMAN'

Alaina Housley was just 18, a promising student at Pepperdine University with plans to study law, her family said.

Adam Housley, a former Fox News correspondent, and Tamera Mowry-Housley, an actress known for the 1990s TV series "Sister Sister," said their niece was killed at the bar where she had gone line dancing with friends.

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"Alaina was an incredible young woman with so much life ahead of her, and we are devastated that her life was cut short in this manner," the couple said in a statement.

Alaina was bright, popular and well-loved, a student who had a 4.5 grade-point average since junior high school and earned college scholarships, said her grandfather, Art Housley.

She played soccer and tennis all through high school, studied piano and violin, and sang, he said. "She's a really good kid," he said, fighting tears. "Everybody loves her."

## NOEL SPARKS: 'ALL-AROUND GOOD GIRL'

Noel Sparks, a 21-year-old college student, loved going to the Borderline Bar and Grill, so friends and family were not surprised when she posted a photo of herself dancing there Wednesday night.

Her aunt Patricia Sparks of Morristown, Tennessee, told The Associated Press that the family was "in shock."

She described her niece as an "all-around good girl. She was the kind of girl that if you had friends, you'd want them to marry her."

Sparks, who was majoring in art at nearby Moorpark College, often went to Borderline with friends and her mom, going there for Halloween and her 21st birthday in August.

When friend Jackie Jones heard about the shooting, she jumped into her car and headed to the bar, determined to find Sparks.

"She would do that for me," Jones said.

The two met through church two years ago and became fast friends. Sparks worked part time at Calvary Community Church in Westlake Village, helping with children's programs, the Rev. Shawn Thornton said.

"She loved kids. We had a lot of parents show up today to say, 'She made my child feel important and that they mattered,'" Thornton said.

## SEAN ADLER: 'A VERY, VERY BIG PERSONALITY'

Sean Adler, 48, was a security guard at Borderline who would stay late to ensure people could get home safely, said Debbie Allen, a longtime friend.

The married father of two boys died doing what he was passionate about — protecting people, Allen said. "He was a very, very big personality and had a very, very gorgeous smile," she said, adding that he had once considered becoming a police officer.

His other passion, she said, was coffee. Adler recently opened his own coffee shop, Rivalry Roasters, in Simi Valley, said Phil Englander, another longtime friend.

"He was just the most passionate person about coffee you would ever want to meet," Englander said.

Adler joked about being a "coffee dealer" and spoke energetically, using his hands.

"He always had that energetic personality," he said. "He's just such a warm and friendly and passionate person about everything in his life."

Englander said he stopped by the coffee shop Wednesday to visit Adler.

"We talked about family, and we reminisced about an old friend of ours we haven't seen in years," he said.

## TELEMACHUS ORFANOS: VEGAS SURVIVOR KILLED

Telemachus Orfanos, 27, lived through the mass shooting in Las Vegas last year only to die inside Borderline, less than 10 minutes from his home, according to his mother.

"Here are my words: I want gun control," Susan Schmidt-Orfanos said, her voice shaking with grief and rage. "I don't want prayers. I don't want thoughts."

She said she wants Congress to "pass gun control so no one else has a child that doesn't come home."

Orfanos was a U.S. Navy veteran and Eagle Scout with a thick beard, an easy smile and a gladiator helmet tattoo. His friends called him "Tel."

One of them, Aliza Thomas, said she knew Orfanos since high school and called him one of the nicest men she's ever known.

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"He was the most likely person to throw himself in front of that gun," Thomas said. "He would have thrown himself on top of someone else, 100 percent."

She said it's especially tragic that Orfanos survived Vegas only to die in another mass shooting.

"He survived Vegas, where a lot more people died than this. It's just unreal," Thomas said. "It's not fair."

## DANIEL MANRIQUE: 'A SAINT'

Daniel Manrique, 33, dedicated his life to service — as a hospital volunteer, U.S. Marine and manager of an organization that helps veterans adjust after leaving the military.

He was a radio operator with the 2nd Combat Engineer Battalion, 2nd Marine Division based at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, and he deployed to Afghanistan in 2007 with the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit, the Orange County Register reported.

After the military, Manrique began volunteering with Team Red White and Blue, an organization that works to help veterans avoid isolation by connecting them to their community. He was named a regional program manager last month.

"The best way I can describe him is as a saint. He truly believed in service," friend and business partner Tim O'Brien told the newspaper. "Dan was the guy you could rely on if you ran out of gas in the middle of the night. He would help you out if something bad happened. He was there, dedicated, loyal."

The two high school friends were preparing to open a veteran-oriented brewery called "O'brique" — a combination of their last names.

Manrique also volunteered at a hospital helping the homeless and at a local church.

"Dan's life was dedicated to serving others, during his military career and beyond," Team Red White and Blue executive director John Pinter said on the organization's website. "We offer our deepest condolences to the Manrique family."

## BLAKE DINGMAN: 'HIS LAUGHTER AND SMILE WERE SO SPECIAL'

Blake Dingman was passionate about working on cars and motorcycles, challenging himself to make repairs on anything mechanical even if he wasn't exactly sure how to do it, mother Lorrie Dingman said. The 21-year-old always had a smile on his face and grease under his fingernails, she said.

Blake was working in the electrical field and was excited about getting a new job, his mother said.

His large group of friends went off-roading in the desert and mountains, with Blake and his friend Jake Dunham, who also was killed at the Borderline, "always in the center of the fun."

"Blake had a zest and joy for living life to the fullest," Lorrie Dingman said in an email. "No gathering was complete without Blake. His laughter and smile were so special and whenever you talked to him, he was genuinely interested in you."

She said he was confident, talented, caring and had a huge heart.

On Instagram, brother Aidan Dingman wrote that "my amazing brother was taken down by the shooter" and that his life has been forever changed.

"Words cannot describe the pain I am feeling," he wrote, adding: "Blake I love you so much and I miss you more than you can imagine."

## JAKE DUNHAM: GUTSY OFF-ROADER

Jake Dunham, 21, was known for driving his truck hard. He was a regular at rides in the desert and at group bonfires made from igniting vehicles and old dirt bikes, according to a friend.

"He always tried to convince people to (let him) drive their car. Everyone knew it was a bad idea, but sometimes they'd do it," Michael Moses told the Los Angeles Times, laughing.

Dunham was at the bar with his friend and fellow off-roader, Dingman, who also was killed.

Aliza Thomas told The Associated Press that Dunham and Dingman were her friends and grew up in a tight-knit group of young men with her younger brother Emmet.

"They were the nicest, most respectful, selfless men I've ever met," she said.

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Thomas, a single mom, cried as she recalled how Dingham and Dunham would go out of their way to make her son feel like one of the boys, "make him feel special."

Dunham's sister, Alexis Dunham, asked on her Facebook page for privacy to let the family grieve, saying "these last days have completely shattered us."

## KRISTINA MORISETTE: ENERGETIC AND THOUGHTFUL

Kristina Morisette worked at the front desk of Borderline and had just bought her first car — a 2017 Jeep Renegade — with the money she had saved, her father said.

Michael Morisette told the Los Angeles Times that his energetic and talkative 20-year-old daughter had just returned from a trip to Austin, Texas, and he hugged her, relieved she was back home safe in Simi Valley.

Kristina gave her mother a coin purse she bought for her on the trip before heading to work Wednesday. "We'd rather just curl up in a ball and turn off the lights, but there are other people out there that are hurting, too," Michael Morisette told the newspaper as he held his wife's hand. "We could either retreat and draw our curtains, or we could talk about the beauty of the things that were."

He said Kristina, the youngest of three children, was a thoughtful friend who always helped others. She enjoyed hiking and drawing and was considering applying for an animal training program in Austin.

"We didn't want her life to end, but we don't want her memories now to end, either," mother Martha Morisette told the newspaper. "We'll probably always have a hard time dealing with it."

## MARKY MEZA JR.: 'LOVING AND WONDERFUL YOUNG MAN'

Marky Meza Jr., who was less than two weeks from his 21st birthday, was working as a busboy and food runner at the bar when he was killed.

"Marky was a loving and wonderful young man who was full of life and ambition," the Meza family said in a statement provided to Santa Barbara TV station KEYT. "His family is devastated by his loss."

Meza grew up in the Santa Barbara area and had worked in the service industry since he was a teen.

He was one of the few teenagers who got hired at Sandpiper Lodge in Santa Barbara, manager Shawn Boteju said. Meza worked full time at the Sandpiper in housekeeping and would come to work on a hoverboard.

"He was extremely nice," Boteju told The Associated Press. "He obviously worked well with the rest of the staff."

Tang reported from Phoenix and Boone from Boise, Idaho. Associated Press writers Amanda Lee Myers in Los Angeles, Amy Taxin in Santa Ana, Alina Hartounian in Phoenix, Christopher Weber in Thousand Oaks, Julie Watson in San Diego and Jennifer Peltz in New York contributed.

## Sex abuse crisis tops agenda as US Catholic bishops convene

By DAVID CRARY, AP National Writer

As U.S. Catholic bishops gather for their national assembly next week, the clergy sex abuse crisis dominates their agenda amid calls from critics that church leaders finally bring about meaningful reforms to root out misbehaving priests.

The three-day assembly that starts Monday in Baltimore comes after a series of abuse scandals this year that have been stunning in their magnitude and number.

Bishops have several reforms under consideration to craft a stronger response to the scandals, but some Catholic activists are demanding further steps, including releasing the names of all clergy accused of abuse and giving a greater voice to abuse victims. One coalition of concerned Catholics, the 5 Theses movement, plans to post its proposals for reform on church doors in Baltimore and elsewhere on Sunday.

The abuse crisis is foremost among several challenges confronting Catholic leaders, who face conflicting pressures on the role of women and LGBT people in the church. And even though the Catholic population



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in the U.S. has been growing, most Catholics attend Mass rarely, and the number of active priests and nuns continues to decline.

Setting the tone for the national assembly, the president of the bishops' conference, Cardinal Daniel DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, asked his fellow bishops to spend the preceding seven days in "intensified" prayer, fasting and reparation.

The bishops will consider new steps to police their own ranks during abuse cases, and will likely approve an investigation by lay law enforcement experts of the handling of the scandal surrounding the former cardinal in Washington, D.C.

"Bishops are under intense scrutiny and pressure to deliver on both of these items," said the Rev. Thomas Berg, admissions director at St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers, New York.

In July, Pope Francis removed U.S. church leader Theodore McCarrick as a cardinal after church investigators said an allegation that he groped a teenage altar boy in the 1970s was credible. Subsequently, several former seminarians and priests reported that they had been abused or harassed by McCarrick as adults, triggering debate over who might have known and covered up his misconduct.

In August, a grand jury report in Pennsylvania detailed decades of abuse and cover-up in six dioceses, alleging that more than 1,000 children had been abused over the years by about 300 priests. Since then, a federal prosecutor in Philadelphia has begun working on a federal criminal case centered on child exploitation, and attorneys general in several other states have launched investigations.

In Baltimore, the bishops will consider several proposals approved by a committee in September. They include developing a code of conduct for bishops regarding sexual abuse and harassment, and establishing a confidential hotline — to be run by a third party — to receive allegations of sexual misconduct by bishops and relay them to appropriate church and civil authorities.

The committee also endorsed a "full investigation" into the McCarrick case that would give a role to lay law enforcement experts.

Critics have urged the bishops to go further by allowing outside investigators full access to church sex-abuse records and by supporting changes to statute-of-limitation laws so that more cases of long-ago sex abuse could be addressed in court.

Another recommendation came from a sex abuse task force at Villanova University in Philadelphia, one of the country's top Catholic schools. It said the bishops' conference should require all bishops to become mandatory reporters of suspected sexual abuse — in the same category as school teachers, social workers and others who work with children.

The step has been avoided thus far despite "the nefarious actions of certain bishops surreptitiously transferring sexually abusive priests from parish to parish, and in some cases from diocese to diocese, without notifying civil authorities of the suspected abuse," the task force said. "American bishops should never have the option of looking the other way and remaining silent again."

Most states include clergy among mandatory reporters, but some do not.

The abuse crisis overlaps with increasing tensions in the U.S. Catholic church over its approach to LGBT people. Some conservative activists have blamed the sex abuse on the presence of gay men in the priesthood, even though church-commissioned studies have disputed that claim. There's also been a conservative backlash to efforts by some liberal Catholic leaders to promote a more welcoming attitude toward gays.

The priest at a church in Chicago burned a rainbow banner, angering the local LGBT community, and was subsequently removed from his post by Chicago's archbishop. A gay employee at a Catholic church in San Diego resigned after being subjected to sustained harassment and vandalism. And conservatives have forced the cancellation of several scheduled speeches by the Rev. James Martin, a prominent Jesuit priest whose book urges more vigorous Catholic outreach to the LGBT community.

"The hatred is breathtaking," Martin tweeted last week, describing a series of insults leveled at him online and in person.

Martin says the U.S. bishops are divided over the merits of LGBT outreach.

"The majority are suspicious or struggling; the minority are welcoming and accepting," he said. "It's a

deep rift.”

The church faces similar pressures over the role of women. U.S.-based groups urging the Vatican to allow women to become priests have made little headway, but they remain active — in some cases appealing for a policy change to let women serve as deacons.

Aware of such sentiments, bishops and priests attending a multinational Vatican meeting last month called for a greater presence of women in church decision making.

All these challenges coincide with relentless demographic pressures. According to the latest data from Georgetown University’s Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate, the number of Catholic priests in the U.S. has fallen from 59,192 in 1970 to 37,181 last year, the number of nuns has dropped from 160,931 to 45,605. The number of parishes without a resident priest has risen from 571 to 3,552.

According to the center, the number of Catholics in the U.S. rose from 47.9 million to 68.5 million over that period, but a majority of them now attend church only a few times a year.

Follow David Crary at <https://twitter.com/CraryAP>

## Big studies give mixed news on fish oil, vitamin D

By **MARILYNN MARCHIONE, AP Chief Medical Writer**

CHICAGO (AP) — Taking fish oil or vitamin D? Big studies give long-awaited answers on who does and does not benefit from these popular nutrients.

Fish oil taken by healthy people, at a dose found in many supplements, showed no clear ability to lower heart or cancer risks. Same for vitamin D.

But higher amounts of a purified, prescription fish oil slashed heart problems and heart-related deaths among people with high triglycerides, a type of fat in the blood, and other risks for heart disease. Doctors cheered the results and said they could suggest a new treatment option for hundreds of thousands of patients like these.

Up to 10 percent of U.S. adults take fish oil . Even more take vitamin D , despite no major studies to support the many health claims made for it.

“Those who peddle it promote it as good for everything,” but in this definitive test, vitamin D “showed a big nothing,” said Dr. James Stein, a heart specialist at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He had no role in the studies or ties to the companies involved.

Results were revealed Saturday at an American Heart Association conference in Chicago and published by the New England Journal of Medicine.

### ABOUT FISH OIL

These oils, also called omega-3 fatty acids, are found in salmon, tuna and certain other fish. They reduce triglycerides and inflammation and may have other effects . There are different types, including EPA and DHA.

One study tested 4 grams a day of Amarin Corp.’s prescription Vascepa, which is concentrated EPA, in more than 8,000 patients with high triglycerides and a greater risk of heart problems for various reasons. All were already taking a statin such as Lipitor or Zocor to lower cholesterol. Half were given Vascepa and the rest, mineral oil capsules as a comparison.

After five years, about 17 percent of those on Vascepa had suffered one of these problems — a heart attack, stroke, heart-related death or clogged arteries requiring medical care — versus 22 percent of the others.

That worked out to a 25 percent reduction in risk. Looked at individually, heart attacks, heart-related deaths and strokes all were lower with Vascepa. Only 21 people would need to take Vascepa for five years to prevent one of the main problems studied — favorable odds, Stein said.

Side effects may be a concern: More people on Vascepa were hospitalized for an irregular heartbeat — 3 percent versus 2 percent of the comparison group. Doctors say that’s puzzling because other research suggests fish oil lowers that risk.

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The concern with the heart rhythm problem is that it can raise the risk of stroke, but there were fewer strokes among those on Vascepa, said study leader Dr. Deepak Bhatt of Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston.

Vascepa costs around \$280 a month; many insurers cover it. Amarin sponsored the study and some study leaders work or consult for the company.

## A BROADER TEST

The other study tested a lower 1 gram daily dose of a different type of fish oil — an EPA/DHA combo sold as Lovaza or Omacor and in generic form — in 26,000 people with no prior heart problems or cancer.

After about five years, rates of a combined measure of heart attacks, strokes and other problems were similar for fish oil users and a comparison group. Cancer rates and deaths also were similar.

There were fewer heart attacks in the fish oil group — 145 versus 200 in the comparison group. The study leader, Dr. JoAnn Manson at Brigham and Women's, called that "a substantial benefit," but several independent experts disagreed because of the way the study was set up to track this and certain other results.

"These findings are speculative and would need to be confirmed in a separate trial," said the Cleveland Clinic's Dr. Steven Nissen.

## FISHY COMPARISONS?

Both studies share a problem: the oils used for the comparison groups, which may not have been true placebos. The Vascepa study used mineral oil, which interferes with statin drugs, raises cholesterol, and might have made the comparison group fare worse and made Vascepa look better than it truly was.

The other study used olive oil, which might have helped that comparison group do better, possibly masking any benefit to the others from fish oil.

Leaders of both studies say any effect from the comparison oils isn't enough to alter the main results, and independent experts agreed. But Nissen, who is leading another fish oil study, is using corn oil as a comparison.

## THE 'SUNSHINE' VITAMIN

Manson's study also tested vitamin D, which the skin makes from sun exposure. It's tough to get enough from foods like milk, eggs and oily fish, though many foods now are fortified with it. Some studies have found that people with lower levels of D are more likely to develop cancer, but it's not known if supplements alter that risk.

Study participants took 2,000 international units of D-3 (the most active form of vitamin D, also called cholecalciferol) or fake vitamin pills for five years.

Vitamin D did not affect the odds of having a heart attack or stroke or developing cancer. After excluding the first two years of use, researchers saw fewer cancer deaths among those on the vitamin — 112 versus 149 in the placebo group.

"Cancer can take years to develop" so a difference may not show up right away, Manson said. "This looks promising" and people will be studied longer to see if the trend holds up, she said.

Several other experts said these numbers just hint at a possible benefit that needs more study.

"These 'positive' results need to be interpreted with caution," Dr. Clifford Rosen of Maine Medical Center Research Institute and Dr. John Keaney Jr. of the University of Massachusetts wrote in a commentary in the medical journal.

Marilynn Marchione can be followed at <http://twitter.com/MMarchioneAP>

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## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Sunday, Nov. 11, the 315th day of 2018. There are 50 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 11, 1921, the remains of an unidentified American service member were interred in a Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery in a ceremony presided over by President Warren G. Harding.

On this date:

In 1620, 41 Pilgrims aboard the Mayflower, anchored off Massachusetts, signed a compact calling for a "body politick."

In 1831, former slave Nat Turner, who'd led a violent insurrection, was executed in Jerusalem, Virginia.

In 1909, President William Howard Taft accepted the recommendation of a joint Army-Navy board that Pearl Harbor in the Hawaiian Islands be made the principal U.S. naval station in the Pacific.

In 1918, fighting in World War I ended as the Allies and Germany signed an armistice in the Forest of Compiègne (kohm-PYEHN'-yeh).

In 1942, during World War II, Germany completed its occupation of France.

In 1960, South Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem survived a coup attempt by army rebels. (However, he was overthrown and killed in 1963.)

In 1966, Gemini 12 blasted off on a four-day mission with astronauts James A. Lovell and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin Jr. aboard; it was the tenth and final flight of NASA's Gemini program.

In 1972, the U.S. Army turned over its base at Long Binh to the South Vietnamese, symbolizing the end of direct U.S. military involvement in the Vietnam War.

In 1987, following the failure of two Supreme Court nominations, President Ronald Reagan announced his choice of Judge Anthony M. Kennedy, who went on to win confirmation.

In 1992, the Church of England voted to ordain women as priests.

In 1998, President Clinton ordered warships, planes and troops to the Persian Gulf as he laid out his case for a possible attack on Iraq. Iraq, meanwhile, showed no sign of backing down from its refusal to deal with U.N. weapons inspectors.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush marked his last Veterans Day as president at a New York pier, speaking to a crowd of thousands gathered for the rededication of the USS Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum. San Francisco's Tim Lincecum won the National League Cy Young Award.

Five years ago: Iran and the United States blamed each other for the failure to reach agreement on a deal to limit Iran's uranium enrichment in exchange for an easing of Western sanctions. Bowing to pressure from Jewish groups and art experts, the German government made public details of paintings in a recovered trove of 1,400 pieces of art that might have been stolen by Nazis and said it would put together a task force to speed identification. Jose Fernandez of the Miami Marlins and Wil Myers of the Tampa Bay Rays were selected baseball's Rookies of the Year.

One year ago: The annual Pacific Rim summit stuck to its tradition of promoting free trade and closer regional ties, shrugging off the "America First" approach that was brought to the summit by President Donald Trump. After talking with Russian President Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of the summit, Trump told reporters that Putin had again insisted that Moscow had not interfered in the 2016 U.S. elections, and Trump said he believed Putin was sincere in making that claim; he accused Democrats of trying to sabotage relations between Washington and Moscow.

Today's Birthdays: Actress June Whitfield (TV and film: "Absolutely Fabulous") is 93. Actress Bibi Andersson is 83. Country singer Narvel Felts is 80. Former Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., is 78. Americana roots singer/songwriter Chris Smither is 74. Rock singer-musician Vince Martell (Vanilla Fudge) is 73. The president of Nicaragua, Daniel Ortega, is 73. Rock singer Jim Peterik (PEE'-ter-ihk) (Ides of March, Survivor) is 68. Golfer Fuzzy Zoeller is 67. Pop singer-musician Paul Cowsill (The Cowsills) is 67. Rock singer-musician

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Andy Partridge (XTC) is 65. Singer Marshall Crenshaw is 65. Rock singer Dave Alvin is 63. Rock musician Ian Craig Marsh (Human League; Heaven 17) is 62. Actor Stanley Tucci is 58. Actress Demi Moore is 56. Actress Calista Flockhart is 54. Actor Philip McKeon is 54. Rock musician Scott Mercado is 54. Actor Frank John Hughes is 51. TV personality Carson Kressley is 49. Actor David DeLuise is 47. Actor Adam Beach is 46. Actor Tyler Christopher is 46. Actor Leonardo DiCaprio is 44. Actor Scoot McNairy is 41. Rock musician Jonathan Pretus (Cowboy Mouth) is 37. Actress Frankie Shaw is 37. NFL quarterback Mark Sanchez is 32. Actress Christa B. Allen is 27. Actor Tye Sheridan is 22. Actor Ian Patrick is 16.

Thought for Today: "Old myths, old gods, old heroes have never died. They are only sleeping at the bottom of our mind, waiting for our call. We have need for them. They represent the wisdom of our race."  
— Stanley Kunitz, American poet laureate (1905-2006).