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Service Notice: Betty Weihrauch

Memorial services for Betty Weihrauch, 94, of Groton will be 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 14th at Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton. Rev. William Duncan will officiate. Private inurnment will be in Union Cemetery, Groton. Visitation will be held for one hour prior to services on Wednesday.

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

JOHNSON AGENCY

Real Estate & Insurance

Jay Johnson, Broker

www.johnsonagencygroton.com

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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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Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

The Minnesota Vikings are on a bye week, and if you're like me you are having withdrawals and unsure what to do with a weekend without Vikings football. Since there is no game to recap, I thought this would be a good opportunity to look at the rest of the division and see how the Vikings stack up.

It's somewhat of a surprise, but the Chicago Bears currently lead the NFC North with a record of 6-3. The Bears have found a rhythm on offense, averaging 29.4 points per game (6th best in the NFL). The Bears made a big move earlier this year when they traded for All-Pro defensive end/linebacker Khalil Mack – and they have been rewarded with five sacks, four forced fumbles, and an interception. Led by Mack, the Bears' defense is the fourth best unit in the NFL and only allows 19.1 points per game.

The Bears upcoming schedule: Vikings, @ Lions, @ Giants, Rams, Packers, @ 49ers, @ Vikings

The Vikings are 2nd in the division with a record of 5-3-1. Minnesota's offense is slightly above average and is scoring 24.6 points per game (13th). Part of that can be attributed to a new quarterback and offensive coordinator, who will take time to be on the same page, so hopefully that side of the ball will get better as the season continues. On the defensive side of the ball, the Vikings have taken a big dip from last year, when they were the best defense in the NFL. This year they are allowing 22.7 points per game (13th) but have only allowed 18.3 ppg over the last four games.

The Vikings upcoming schedule: @ Bears, Packers, @ Patriots, @ Seahawks, Dolphins, @ Lions, Bears

The Green Bay Packers are third in the division with a record of 4-4-1, and they would miss the playoffs if the season ended today. They have Aaron Rodgers back, but still haven't managed to figure out a running game to balance the offense. The Packers are right behind the Vikings in points scored per game, averaging 24.0 (14th). On defense, Green Bay has struggled to keep teams out of the end zone and are 20th in the NFL, allowing 25.5 points per game.

The Packers upcoming schedule: @ Seahawks, @ Vikings, Cardinals, Falcons, @ Bears, @ Jets, Lions

The Detroit Lions are bringing up the rear of the NFC North with their 3-6 record. The Lions have the 20th ranked offense in the NFL, averaging 22.5 points per game, and the offense got worse when the team traded Golden Tate, who was their best wide receiver. The Lions' defense hasn't fared any better, as they are giving up 26.3 points per game (23rd).

The Lions upcoming schedule: Panthers, Bears, Rams, @ Cardinals, @ Bills, Vikings, @ Packers

Looking ahead, the Vikings and Bears will clash in a battle for the NFC North this Sunday, November 18. The game was recently "flexed", so it will be the Sunday night game instead of a regular noon start time. It will air on NBC and will start at 7:20 pm (CT). The Bears are favored in this one, with ESPN giving the Bears a 55% chance to win. The Vikings also haven't played well after a bye week in recent years, so this game could be ugly. Hopefully the Vikings have used their week of rest wisely and will come into this game ready for a hard-fought battle. Skol!

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From the Editors of E - The Environmental Magazine

Dear EarthTalk: I drink a lot of coffee and I'm wondering how bad this is for the environment? And how I can make sure I'm feeding my 3-cup-a-day habit in the greenest way possible? – Denny Mahon, Worcester, MA

About half of Americans over age 18 (some 150 million of us) drink coffee in some form—drip, iced or in an espresso or latte—every day, with three cups a day a typical average. These 450 million daily cups represent about one-fifth of the total daily global coffee consumption of 2.25 billion cups a day.

Traditionally grown in shady groves under the canopy of fruit trees, coffee has been one of the greenest crops there is. But modern demand, coupled with the so-called “Green Revolution” to boost yields by any means necessary, has dictated that coffee production follow the same monocultural path as other key commodity crops. Indeed, nowadays most of the coffee we drink comes from plantations where it is grown in full sun without competition from other crops and with lots of chemical inputs. The result has been widespread deforestation across the tropics (and a resulting devastation to biodiversity) to make room for more highly profitable coffee plantations.

Another big environmental problem with coffee production is water waste. A landmark 2003 study by Dutch researchers found that some 37 gallons of water are used (and subsequently wasted) to produce a single cup of coffee. And yet another hurdle for the coffee industry to overcome is the exploitation of workers, which in recent decades led to the birth of a “fair trade” movement to try to ensure economic justice in the industry.

So how do we make sure our coffee habit isn't making these situations worse? Look for one or more certification labels on the coffee you buy. The “Rainforest Alliance Certified” frog logo shows you that the coffee in question comes from farms that provide habitat for tropical birds while paying workers fair wages. Meanwhile, the “Fair Trade USA Certified” globe with two baskets symbol means that the coffee you're buying was produced using sustainable methods by workers and farmers who are not only paid fair wages but also get access to education, health care, clean water and job training. Yet another certification to look for is the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center's “Bird-Friendly” mark which denotes that the coffee for sale is 100 percent shade-grown, fair trade and organic. UTZ Certified and Counter Culture Direct Trade Certified coffees are also produced and distributed without harming the environment or exploiting workers.

How you make your coffee also impacts the environment. The good old “pour over” method rivals the French press not only in simplicity but also in eco-friendliness given that neither rely on electricity. At the other end of the spectrum are the Keurig-type coffee makers, each cup of which yields not only your coffee but also an empty wasted plastic K-Cup pod to clog up your local landfill. If you can't give up the convenience of your Keurig coffee maker at home—or you don't have a choice at the office—at least source coffee that comes in compostable pods. Woken Coffee, for instance, comes in 100% compostable pods that can be tossed into food and yard waste bins after use to become part of someone else's topsoil.

CONTACTS: Rainforest Alliance Certified Coffee, www.rainforest-alliance.org/articles/rainforest-alliance-certified-coffee; Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center's “Bird-Friendly” Coffee, nationalzoo.si.edu/migratory-birds/bird-friendly-coffee; Fair Trade Certified, www.fairtradecertified.org; UTZ Certified, utz.org; Counter Culture Direct Trade Certified, counterculturecoffee.com/sustainability; Woken Coffee, <https://woken.coffee>.

EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. To donate, visit www.earthtalk.org. Send questions to: question@earthtalk.org.

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What's going on in state government this week?

Gov. Dennis Daugaard's Public Commitments; Public Meetings:

Wednesday, November 14, 8 a.m. CDT, Pierre – Gov. Dennis Daugaard will speak at the 2018 Bureau of Human Resources (BHR) Leadership Conference, Ramkota, Pierre.

Thursday, November 15, 9 a.m. CDT, Brookings – Gov. Dennis Daugaard will speak at the Livestock Development Summit, SDSU Performing Arts Center, Brookings.

Thursday, November 15, 1:30 p.m. CDT – Gov. Dennis Daugaard will be the speaker at the Second Circuit Court Drug Team Graduation, Minnehaha County Courthouse, Sioux Falls.

Thursday, November 15, 3 p.m. CDT, Dell Rapids – Gov. Dennis Daugaard will speak at the Carstensen Contracting Ribbon Cutting ceremony, 800 E. Quartzite, Dell Rapids.

Thursday, November 15, 5 p.m. CDT, Sioux Falls – Gov. Dennis Daugaard attend and speak at Sioux Falls Development Foundation Annual Meeting, Holiday Inn City Centre, Sioux Falls.

Friday-Sunday, November 16-18, Colorado Springs, CO. – Gov. Dennis Daugaard will attend the 2018 National Governors Association Seminar for New Governors, Colorado Springs, CO.

Tuesday, November 13, 9:30 a.m. CDT, Pierre – The REDI (Revolving Economic Development and Initiative) Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 13, 2018 at 9:30 a.m. CDT in the GOED board room at Dolly-Reed Plaza, 711 E Wells Ave. Please contact Cassie Stoesser, GOED's director of finance, at 605-773-4633 or cassie.stoesser@sdreadytowork.com for more information or go to <https://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=31>.

Wednesday, November 14, 10 a.m. CDT, Pierre – The South Dakota Professional Teachers Practices and Standards Commission will meet on first floor of the Mackay Building in the Library Commons, 800 Governors Drive. A proposed agenda is available at <http://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=79>.

Wednesday, November 14, 11 a.m. CDT, Pierre – The Railroad Board of the South Dakota Department of Transportation will hold a meeting in the Commission Room of the Becker-Hansen building located at 700 E. Broadway Ave. The public is invited to attend. To view the meeting agenda, posted 72 hours in advance, visit <http://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Template.aspx?id=88>. For more information call 605-773-3265.

Thursday, November 15, 8:15 a.m. CDT, Pierre – The State Conservation Commission will hold a meeting at the Pierre Chamber of Commerce. A full agenda can be found at <https://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/bcuploads/Conservation%20Commission%20Agenda%20November%2015%20%202018.pdf>.

Thursday, November 15, 8:30 – 11 a.m. MDT, Rapid City – The Board of Technical Professions will hold a regular meeting at the Board office, 2525 W. Main St., Suite 211. Meeting agenda and materials can be viewed at <http://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=37>. If you have questions, please contact Kathryn Patterson at 605-394-2510 or Kathryn.Patterson@state.sd.us.

Thursday, November 15, 9 a.m. CDT, Pierre – The Transportation Commission of the South Dakota Department of Transportation will hold a meeting via conference call. Staff will be available in the Commission Room of the Becker-Hansen building located at 700 E. Broadway Ave. in Pierre. The public is invited to attend. To view the meeting agenda, posted 72 hours in advance, visit <http://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=96>. For more information call 605-773-3265

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Thursday, November 15, 9 a.m. CDT, Sioux Falls – The South Dakota Board of Nursing will be holding a board meeting at 4305 S. Louise Ave., Suite 201. For more information or to view the agenda please visit <https://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=68>.

Thursday, November 15, 10 a.m. CDT, Telephone Conference Call – DENR’s Board of Minerals and Environment will meet via Teleconference. Agenda items are available at <https://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?Boardid=67>. For more information, contact Brenda Binegar at 605-773-4216.

Thursday, November 15, 1 – 4 p.m. CDT, Pierre – The Department of Social Services’ Behavioral Health Advisory Council will hold a meeting at RedRossa Italian Grille. For more information, or to view the agenda, please visit <http://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=55>.

Thursday, November 15, 1 p.m. MDT, Deadwood – The South Dakota Commission on Gaming will hold its quarterly meeting. The meeting will be held in the city commission chambers of Deadwood City Hall, located at 102 Sherman St.

Thursday, November 15, 2 p.m. CDT, Pierre – The School Finance Accountability Board will meet on fourth floor of the Capitol Building in Room 412, 500 E. Capitol Ave. A proposed agenda, including call-in information, is available at <https://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=165>.

Thursday, November 15, 3 p.m. CDT – The South Dakota State Interagency Coordinating Council will meet via webinar. A proposed agenda, including access information, is available at <https://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=57>.

Friday, November 16, 8 a.m. CDT, Sioux Falls, State Penitentiary – The Board of Pardons and Paroles will meet in the Jameson Annex Visit Room. For more information, go to <http://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=74>.

Friday, November 16, 10 a.m. CDT – The 9-1-1 Coordination Board meets in the South Dakota Association of County Commissioners Building, 211 E. Prospect Ave., Pierre. Draft agenda will be added. For more information, contact Shawnie Rechtenbaugh at 605-773-8145.

You Might Also Be Interested To Know:

Monday, November 12 to Thursday, November 15: The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs Field Service Officers will be at the following County and Tribal Veterans Service Offices to assist with veteran related claims, issues, and questions.

Monday, November 12: State Offices Closed

Tuesday, November 13:

- 9:30 a.m. – 11 p.m. MDT, Belle Fourche – 849 5th Ave. 605-280-4307
- 1 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. CDT, Clear Lake – 415 3rd Ave. S. 605-360-7819
- 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. MDT, Eagle Butte – Tribal Office 605-280-4308
- 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. CDT, Hayti – 300 4th St. 605-360-7819
- 12 p.m. – 2 p.m. MDT, Sturgis – 1300 Sherman St. #212 605-280-4307
- 11:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. CDT, Webster – 711 W. 1st St. 605-280-4306

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Wednesday, November 14:

- 1 p.m. – 2 p.m. CDT, Aberdeen – 101 1st Ave. SE, Suite 100 605-280-4306
- 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. CDT, Britton – 909 S. Main St. 605-280-4306
- 10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. CDT Herreid – American Legion 605-280-4308
- 8 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. CDT, Parker – 700 S. Main St. 605-360-7819
- 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. CDT, Pine Ridge – 1 Veterans Dr. 605-280-4307
- 1:30 p.m. – 3 p.m. CDT, Vermillion – 211 W. Main St. #203 605-360-7819

Thursday, November 15:

- 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. CDT, Brookings – 530 3rd St., Suite 210 605-360-7819
- 12 p.m. – 3 p.m. MDT, McIntosh – 108 1st East Main 605-280-4307
- 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. CDT, Pierre – 104 E. Capitol Ave. 605-280-4308
- 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. CDT, Redfield – 210 E. 7th Ave. 605-280-4306

Tuesday, November 13, to Wednesday, November 14 – The South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation will host Job Search Assistance Programs (JSAP). JSAP is a workshop for people recovering from job loss or enhancing their job search skills. Trained instructors speak on modern-day techniques used to successfully find employment. Topics covered include resume and cover letter writing, interviewing etiquette, networking effectively, using social media and much more. JSAP will be offered at the following locations:

Tuesday, November 13, 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. CDT, Madison – At 223 S. Van Eps Ave. For more information, call 605-256-5300 or visit www.sdjobs.org.

Tuesday, November 13, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. MDT, Rapid City – At 2330 N. Maple Ave. For more information, call 605-394-2296 or visit www.sdjobs.org.

Wednesday, November 14, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. MDT, Spearfish – At 1300 North Ave. For more information, call 605-642-6900 or visit www.sdjobs.org.

Tuesday, November 13, to Wednesday, November 14 – The South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation will hold itinerant office hours. Both job seekers and employers interested in receiving employment and career services at no cost may visit or call during these office hours. More information on programs and services is available at www.sdjobs.org. Itinerant office hours will be held at the following locations:

Tuesday, November 13, 1 – 3 p.m. CDT, Redfield – At the Spink County Court House, third floor or call 605-380-8930 during these hours and 605-626-2340 at any other time. Additional information at www.sdjobs.org.

Wednesday, November 14, 1 – 4:30 p.m. CDT, Wagner – At City Hall, 60 S. Main. For more information, call 605-487-7607, ext. 207 or 212 or visit www.sdjobs.org.

Wednesday, November 14, 1 – 3 p.m. CDT, Webster – At the Day County Court House basement or call 605-380-8930 during these hours and 605-626-2340 at any other time. Additional information at www.sdjobs.org.

Tuesday, November 13, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. CDT, Sioux Falls – Sanford Health will be conducting an employer information session at Sioux Falls Job Service, 811 E. 10th St. Positions are available for environmental service technicians, food service assistants and nursing assistants. For more information, call 605-367-5300 or visit www.sdjobs.org.

Tuesday, November 13, 1 – 4:30 p.m. CDT, Mitchell – The Department of Labor and Regulation will host the Start Today SD Summit to promote Registered Apprenticeships and kick off National Apprenticeship Week at Mitchell Technical Institute, Technology Center, 1800 E. Spruce St. The summit features apprentice and sponsor testimonials. Recipients of the Start Today SD incentive funding will be announced. Businesses,

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apprenticeship sponsors, policy makers, and workforce and education professionals are invited to attend at no cost. Register online at <https://www.starttodayd.com/Summit2018>.

Tuesday, November 13 – Benefits specialists from the Department of Social Services' Division of Economic Assistance will be available at the following itinerant office locations. For more information, contact Tia Kafka, 605-773-3165.

Kyle, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. MDT

Canton, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CDT

Flandreau, 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. CDT

Webster, 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. CDT

Timber Lake, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. MDT

Wednesday, November 14, to Thursday, November 15 – Bring Your 'A' Game to Work encompasses seven different skills including Appreciation, Attitude, Attendance, Appearance, Ambition, Accountability and Acceptance. These soft skills and a willingness to take direction are generally more desired by employers than the specific skills a particular job requires. Bring Your 'A' Game is being offered at no cost to businesses and individuals. For more information or to register online, visit https://dlr.sd.gov/workforce_services/individuals/training_opportunities/soft_skills_training.aspx. The workshop will be offered at the following location(s):

Wednesday, November 14, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. MDT, Rapid City – At Rapid City Job Service, 2330 N. Maple Ave. For more information or to register, contact Gloria at 605-394-5120. You may also register online at the link above.

Wednesday November 14, 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. CDT, Sioux Falls – At 811 E. 10th St. Registration required. For more information or to register, call 605-367-5300. You may also register online at the link above. Any class without four people registered by the previous Friday will be canceled.

Thursday, November 15, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. CDT, Vermillion – At Cornerstones Career Learning Center, 904 E. Cherry St. For more information or to register, call 605-677-6912. You may also register online at the link above.

Thursday, November 15, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. CDT, Mitchell – At Cornerstones Career Learning Center, 1315 N. Main St. For more information or to register, call 605-995-8927. You may also register online at the link above.

Wednesday, November 14, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CDT, Yankton – General Education Development (GED) testing will take place at Yankton Job Service, 3113 Spruce St., Suite 124. For more information, call 605-668-2900 or visit www.GED.com.

Wednesday, November 14 – Benefits specialists from the Department of Social Services' Division of Economic Assistance will be available at the following itinerant office locations. For more information, contact Tia Kafka, 605-773-3165.

Wanblee, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. MDT

Salem, 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. CDT

Dupree, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. MDT

Flandreau, 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. CDT

Thursday, November 15, 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CDT, Yankton – General Education Development (GED) testing will take place at Yankton Job Service, 3113 Spruce St., Suite 124. For more information, call 605-668-2900 or visit www.GED.com.

Thursday, November 15 – Benefits specialists from the Department of Social Services' Division of Economic Assistance will be available at the following itinerant office locations. For more information, contact Tia Kafka, 605-773-3165.

Canton, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CDT

Kyle, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. MDT

Flandreau, 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. CDT

Lemmon, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. MDT

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Today in Weather History

November 12, 1993: A winter storm moved through the area on November 12th and 13th. A wintry mix of precipitation in the form of freezing rain, sleet, and snow began during the afternoon on the 12th in western portions of Minnesota, while heavy snow fell in a swath from southwest South Dakota through central and northeast parts of the state, with generally four to eight inches reported. Freezing rain also preceded the snow in south-central South Dakota. Significant accumulation of ice occurred within about a 70-mile wide area from west central Minnesota into the Arrowhead region. Up to five inches of snow fell on top of the ice, making travel extremely hazardous. In South Dakota, locally heavier snowfall amounts included 12 inches at Midland and 10 inches central Hughes County. Several schools and other community events were closed due to the ice and snow. In south central South Dakota, trees were damaged by heavy ice, some of which fell on power lines, causing an outage. Other snowfall amounts include; 8.0 inches in Blunt; 7.0 inches in Murdo and near Victor; and 6.0 inches near Onida, Faulkton, Highmore, and Leola.

November 12, 2003: High winds brought down a 70-foot gas station sign in Kennebec. The sign fell onto a shed, causing considerable damage to the shed. A 25-foot radio tower on the Kennebec courthouse was also knocked down by the winds.

1970: The deadliest tropical cyclone ever recorded, and one of the deadliest natural disasters in modern times occurred on this day in East Pakistan, now Bangladesh. The Bhola Cyclone first formed over the Bay of Bengal on November 8 and traveled north. This cyclone reached peak intensity, Category 3, on the 11, and made landfall on the coast of East Pakistan the following afternoon. The Bhola Cyclone killed an estimated 500,000 people and caused nearly \$90 million in damage (1970 USD).

1906 - The mercury soared to 106 degrees at Craftonville, CA, a November record for the U.S. (The Weather Channel)

1959 - Between Noon on the 11th and Noon on the 12th, a winter storm buried Helena, MT, under 21.5 inches of snow, which surpassed their previous 24 hour record by seven inches. (The Weather Channel)

1968 - A severe coastal storm produced high winds and record early snows from Georgia to Maine. Winds reached 90 mph in Massachusetts, and ten inches of snow blanketed interior Maine. (David Ludlum)

1974 - A great Alaska storm in the Bering Sea caused the worst coastal flooding of memory at Nome AK with a tide of 13.2 feet. The flooding caused 12 million dollars damage, however no lives are lost. (David Ludlum)

1987 - Heavy snow spread across much of New England. Totals in Massachusetts ranged up to 14 inches in Plymouth County. The seven inch total at the Logan Airport in Boston was their highest of record for so early in the season, and the 9.7 inch total at Providence RI was a record for November. Roads were clogged with traffic and made impassable as snowplow operators were caught unprepared for the early season snowstorm. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Thunderstorms developing ahead of a cold front produced severe weather in the Lower Mississippi Valley during the afternoon and early evening hours. Thunderstorms produced wind gusts to 80 mph at Bovina MS. Morning thunderstorms drenched Atlanta TX with more than four inches of rain. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Thirty-three cities reported record high temperatures for the date as readings soared into the 70s and 80s from the Southern and Central Plains to the Southern and Middle Atlantic Coast Region. The afternoon high of 80 degrees at Scottsbluff NE was a record for November, and highs of 76 degrees at Rapid City SD and 81 degrees at Chattanooga TN were the warmest of record for so late in the season. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2003 - Thunderstorms developed in southern California and produced torrential downpours across parts of the Los Angeles area. More than 5 inches of rain fell in just 2 hours in southern Los Angeles, producing severe urban flooding. Small hail also accompanied the storms, accumulating several inches deep in some areas of the city. Nearly 115,000 electrical customers lost power as the storms affected the area (Associated Press).

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Today



Decreasing
Clouds

High: 18 °F

Tonight



Mostly Clear

Low: 3 °F

Tuesday



Mostly Sunny

High: 36 °F

Tuesday
Night



Partly Cloudy


Low: 16 °F

Wednesday






Sunny

High: 51 °F

Searching for Warmer Weather? 

Wednesday is your day!

Today	Tuesday	Wednesday
15 to 24°	31 to 46°	47 to 61°
		
AM flurries, breezy		
warmest temperatures over south central South Dakota		

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

www.weather.gov/abr

graphic created
11/12/2018 4:52 AM

Published on: 11/12/2018 at 4:58AM

The region will see a brief reprieve from the chilly temperatures by Wednesday. Today will start with flurries and breezy northwest winds, but as high pressure builds in over the Dakotas this afternoon, winds will diminish and flurries will taper off.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 31 °F at 12:00 AM

Low Outside Temp: 16 °F at 7:46 AM

High Gust: 22 mph at 9:51 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 68° in 1905

Record Low: -14 in 1896

Average High: 42°F

Average Low: 21°F

Average Precip in Nov.: 0.32

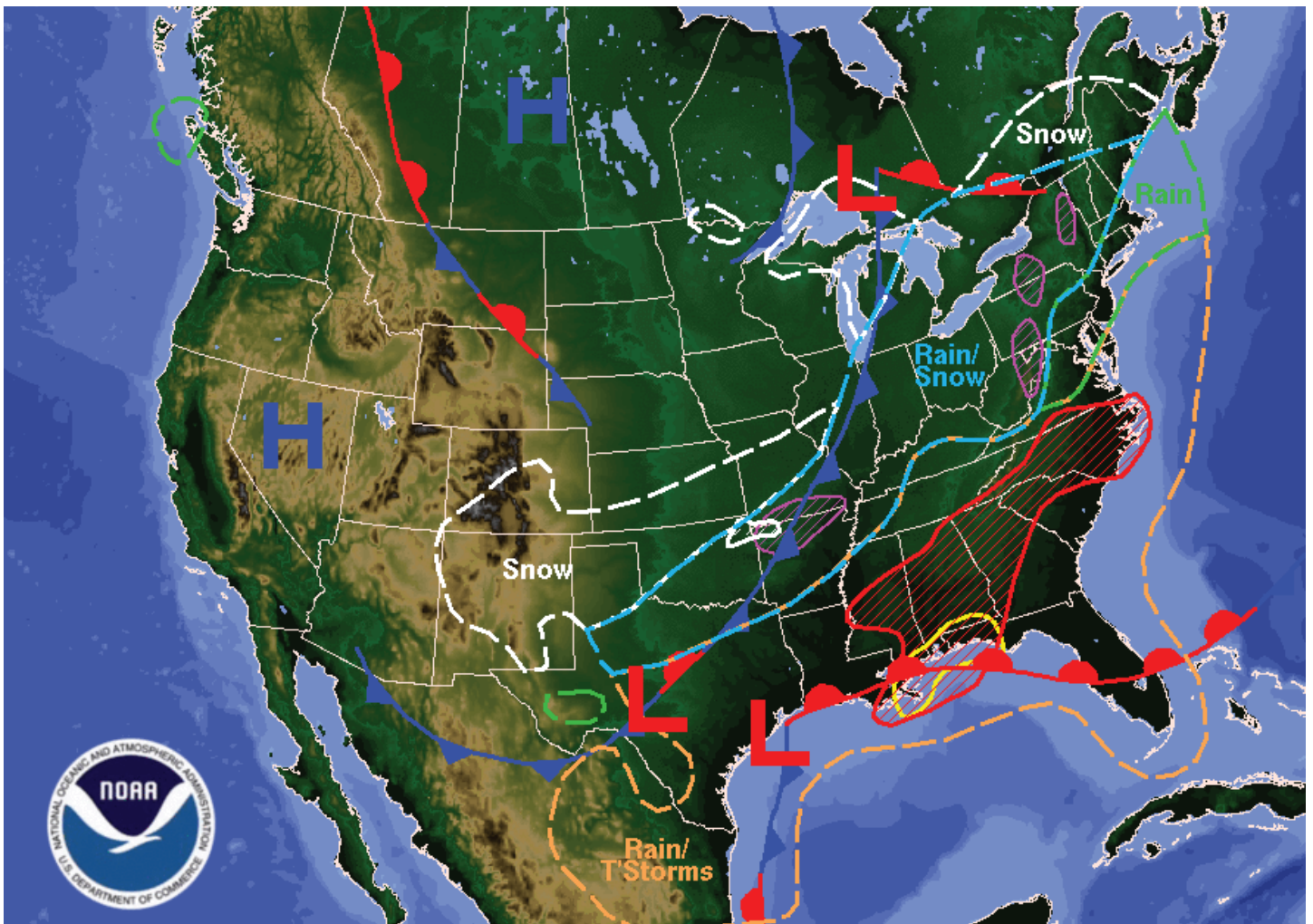
Precip to date in Nov.: 0.76

Average Precip to date: 20.79

Precip Year to Date: 15.81

Sunset Tonight: 5:07 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:30 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Mon, Nov 12, 2018, issued 4:37 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Mcreynolds 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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DO RIGHT!

Blessed are they..., said the Psalmist, who constantly do what is right. Jesus, too, emphasized the importance of righteousness when He began His public ministry. Blessed, said Jesus, are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Doing what is right and hungering and thirsting for righteousness is not a priority in the lives of many who call themselves Christian. It sounds like a lifestyle that is more suitable for monks who live in a monastery and spend their time reading the Bible and praying than for people who work for a living. Monks can avoid the real things of life and be righteous.

Perhaps when we think of being righteous and doing what is right we shudder because it sounds so limiting on the one hand, and impossible on the other. What fun is there in being righteous? we ask. Or, If I do right I'll live a life of gloom and doom with no room for happiness and joy. What a grim prospect.

But the exact opposite is true. God has a specific plan for each of our lives and will enable us to fulfill it. Ultimately we will become like His Son. If we seek and follow the plan and purpose He has for our lives, we will walk in paths of righteousness for His names sake. If we want to know the path of righteousness He has for our lives, we must study His Word. And, the more we study His Word, the more we will become like Him. If we desire to do right and become righteous, we will need to spend time with Him, get to know Him, and love Him. If we do right, we will become right.

Prayer: Lord, we all want to do right. But we cannot do right unless we are willing to spend time with You. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 106:3 There is joy for those who deal justly with others and always do what is right.

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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

News from the Associated Press

Lab aims to encourage youth to pursue Mitchell tech industry

By SHEILA SLATER, The Daily Republic

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — All of it is possible due to the Smart Lab at the Mitchell Middle School, which is now fully implemented after receiving an additional \$25,000 in grant money from America's Farmers Grow Rural Education program, sponsored by Monsanto.

Principal Justin Zajic started looking into replacing the industrial technology course last December and put together a committee involving the Mitchell Area Development Corporation, Toshiba, Muth Electric, Mitchell Technical Institute and other community members, the Daily Republic reported.

"We discovered we were having problems getting people into these major tech industries that we have here in Mitchell, so we brainstormed on how to grow locally. We wanted to look at curriculums that would put our middle schoolers on the right path to develop skills for these industries," Zajic said.

The program offers a combination of curriculum and assessment, hardware and software. The classroom is what used to be the former woodshop, and one will not find a teacher standing in front of the class lecturing the students. Instead, autonomy is encouraged and collaboration among the students is the norm.

"The students come in and set a goal to create or make something. They have to complete the goal and then we reflect on what they have worked on," math teacher Sara Stelke said. "I am actually considered a facilitator in the Smart Lab. Our kids observe who has done what project and we have a rule called 'three before me,' that teaches them to interact with each other and exchange what they have learned among themselves."

Students interested in coding can explore the world of programming in a game setting.

"You have a character on the screen and the kids have to write code using a diagram and make it walk over the screen," Zajic said. "It's very introductory, but then as you dig deeper it goes into how to code an application or a game. Hopefully we will have some kids from here that start designing a new school app for us one day."

The kids also learn to work with user manuals, do research online and gain valuable problem solving skills.

"It helps children learn how to do stuff on their own and help others build their confidence. Every day, you are exploring something new and learning more every single day. I think it's a really good knowledge builder," said student Brooklyn Smith.

Every sixth-grader can register for the exploratory course that covers about three or four modules and lasts a quarter of a semester. The eighth-grade program is offered as a more in-depth elective and lasts two quarters of a semester.

"If everything goes as planned, we should be able to get kids interested in certain aspects of this program into high school classes, which will put them into college classes either at MTI or others. Hopefully, these kids will then come back to the Mitchell area and work here locally," Zajic said.

The school had been awarded a state grant of almost \$80,000 for its Smart Lab in February and received the additional \$25,000, sponsored by Monsanto, shortly before school started.

Information from: The Daily Republic, <http://www.mitchellrepublic.com>

Blevins, Montana State beat NAIA Presentation College 83-68

BOZEMAN, Mont. (AP) — Keljin Blevins scored 26 points, on 12-of-15 shooting, and grabbed a career-high 16 rebounds to help Montana State beat NAIA Presentation College 83-68 on Sunday night.

Tyler Hall added 15 points, Ladan Ricketts scored 13 and Devin Kirby 12, on 5-of-5 shooting, for Montana State (1-2).

Blevins hit a jumper and Hall made a 3-pointer before Kirby's basket made it 7-0 and the Bobcats never

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trailed. Hall was fouled behind the arc and hit all three free throws and Ricketts made a 3 to make it 19-8 about 6½ minutes in. Blevins made a layup that pushed the lead into double figures for good and sparked an 11-2 run that made it 37-19 with 2:17 left in the first half.

Quadre Lollis led Presentation with 16 points and Jalen Guidry added 15. They combined to make 13 of 19 from the field while the rest of the Saints were 9-of-37 (24 percent) shooting.

Montana State shot 58 percent overall despite hitting just 6 of 20 from 3-point range.

Former South Dakota House Speaker Roger Hunt dies at 80

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Former South Dakota House Speaker Roger Hunt has died following complications from surgery. He was 80.

Matt Pepper, funeral director at Heritage Funeral Home, said Hunt died Friday. The Argus Leader reports Hunt served one term as speaker during his 20 years in the House.

Hunt championed conservative causes, including sponsoring bills to restrict abortion. Gov. Dennis Daugaard says Hunt was a gentleman and “true public servant.”

Born in 1938, Hunt grew up in Sioux Falls, later becoming the first in his family to attend college. After law school, he joined the U.S. Navy and served for 22 years in the Judge Advocate General’s Corps.

Hunt returned to South Dakota after retiring from the Navy and won his first legislative term in 1990. Capitol flags will fly at half-staff the day of Hunt’s funeral.

South Dakota House Republicans keep Qualm as majority leader

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota House Republicans have nominated Rep. Steven Haugaard to serve as House speaker and elected Rep. Lee Qualm to another term as their majority leader.

House Republicans on Saturday also nominated Rep. Spencer Gosch to be speaker pro tempore. They selected Rep. Arch Beal to be assistant majority leader and elected Reps. Michael Diedrich, Tim Goodwin, Jon Hansen, Kevin Jensen and Chris Karr as majority whips.

Haugaard is set to succeed retiring House Speaker Mark Mickelson. House Republicans first chose Qualm as majority leader in 2016.

Officials: Owners have neglected Deadwood historic house

DEADWOOD, S.D. (AP) — Owners of a century-old historic house in Deadwood have neglected the property and allowed it to fall into disrepair, according to city officials.

The Deadwood Historic Preservation Commission recently approved giving the historic house the status of “demolition by neglect,” the Black Hills Pioneer reported. The status orders the property’s owners, Marsha and Wyatt Morris, to create a plan to address the building’s deteriorated condition within 30 days and complete the plan within 90 days.

The designation under city ordinance gives the Historic Preservation Commission authority to identify and protect resources that might potentially be demolished from the owners’ deliberate, intentional or inadvertent neglect.

Deadwood officials inspected the property after receiving complaints in May that the house creates a safety hazard in the neighborhood and appears in danger of collapse.

Marsha Morris said they’re doing their best and have invested \$100,000 into the house. Morris said she has been having trouble completing repair work because a neighbor won’t allow access from their side of the property, which is needed to address issues.

“As far as neglect, my husband fell this spring . so we have been doing this on a budget,” Marsha Morris said. “I am the only one working. With the 90 days, I don’t know how we’re going to do that with winter.”

Historic Preservation Officer Kevin Kuchenbecker said he believes the owners “need to put some of the work toward the outside and not worry about the inside at this time, since it’s not leaking, and try to get the outside in a better state of repair.”

Wyatt Morris promised to fix the issues on the outside of the house.

Building Inspector Trent Mohr will work with the couple to compile a list of repairs over the 30-day period.

Information from: Black Hills Pioneer, <http://www.bhpioneer.com>

Trump largely alone as world leaders take aim at nationalism

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE and JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — For President Donald Trump in Paris, America First meant largely America alone.

At a weekend commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I, the president who proudly declares himself a “nationalist” stood apart, even on a continent where his brand of populism is on the rise.

He began his visit with a tweet slamming the French president’s call for a European defense force, arrived at events alone and spent much of his trip out of sight in the American ambassadors’ residence in central Paris. On Sunday, he listened as he was lectured on the dangers of nationalist isolation, and then he headed home just as the inaugural Paris Peace Summit was getting underway.

Back at the White House on Monday, Trump tweeted that “much was accomplished” in his meetings, but voiced a familiar complaint about America’s allies. He said the U.S. pays billions “protecting other countries, and we get nothing but Trade Deficits and Losses.” He added: “It is time that these very rich countries either pay the United States for its great military protection, or protect themselves.”

His France trip made clear that, nearly two years after taking office, Trump has dramatically upended decades of American foreign policy posture, shaking allies. That includes French President Emmanuel Macron, who on Sunday warned that the “ancient demons” that caused World War I and millions of deaths were once again making headway.

Macron, who has been urging a re-embrace of multinational organizations and cooperation that have been shunned by Trump, delivered a barely veiled rebuke of Trumpism at the weekend’s centerpiece event: A gathering of dozens of leaders at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at the base of the Arc de Triomphe to mark the passage of a century since the guns fell silent in a global war that killed millions. Bells tolled across Europe’s Western Front and fighter jets passed overhead to mark the exact moment the devastating war came to a close.

With Trump and other leaders looking on, Macron took on the rising tide of populism in the United States and Europe and urged leaders not to turn their backs by turning inward.

“Patriotism is the exact opposite of nationalism: Nationalism is a betrayal of patriotism,” Macron said, adding that, when nations put their interests first and decide “who cares about the others” they “erase the most precious thing a nation can have ... its moral values.”

After Trump was gone, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who recently announced that she will not be seeking re-election, made an impassioned plea for global cooperation at the peace forum, saying World War I had “made clear what disastrous consequences a lack of compromise in politics and diplomacy can have.”

Trump, who has made clear that he has limited patience for broad, multilateral agreements, sat mostly stone-faced as he listened to Macron, who sees himself as Europe’s foil to the rising nationalist sentiment, which has taken hold in Hungary and Poland among other countries.

Trump did engage with his fellow leaders, attending a group welcome dinner hosted by Macron at the Musée d’Orsay on Saturday night and a lunch on Sunday. He also spent time with Macron on Saturday, when the two stressed their shared desire for more burden-sharing during a quick availability with reporters.

But Trump was terse during some of his private conversations with world leaders, according to people with direct knowledge of his visit. One of the people described the president as “grumpy.” They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss private conversations.

The symbolism during Trump’s visit couldn’t have been more stark.

Trump was missing from one of the weekend’s most powerful images: A line of world leaders, walking

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shoulder to-shoulder in a somber, rain-soaked procession as the bells marking the exact moment that fighting ended — 11 a.m. on Nov. 11, 1918 — finished tolling.

The president and first lady Melania Trump had traveled to the commemoration separately — White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders cited security protocols — from the other dignitaries, who had traveled together by bus from the Élysée Palace.

As Trump's motorcade was making its solo trip down the grand Champs-Élysées, which was closed to traffic, at least one topless woman breached tight security, running into the street and shouting "fake peace maker" as the cars passed. She had slogans, including the words "Fake" and "Peace," written on her chest.

Police tackled the woman and the motorcade continued uninterrupted. The feminist activist group Women later claimed responsibility.

Also traveling on his own was Russian President Vladimir Putin, who shook Trump's hand, flashed him a thumbs-up sign and patted Trump's arm as he arrived. Trump responded with a wide smile.

National security adviser John Bolton had said at one point that Putin and Trump would meet in Paris, but they will instead hold a formal sit-down later this month at a world leaders' summit in Buenos Aires. A Kremlin official said later that U.S. and Russian officials decided to drop plans for the Paris meeting after French officials objected.

Trump, who ran on an "America First" platform, has jarred European allies with his actions. He has slapped tariffs on the European Union, pulled the U.S. out of the landmark Paris Climate Accord and the Iran nuclear deal and suggested he might be willing to pull the U.S. out of NATO if member countries don't significantly boost their defense spending. Trump's eagerness to get along with the Russian leader — in spite of Russia's meddling in the 2016 election and numerous other aggressive moves in recent years — has alarmed those who view Russia as a growing threat.

Trump has also repeatedly branded himself a "nationalist," despite criticism from some that the term has negative connotations. At a news conference last week, Trump defended his use of the phrase. "You know what the word is? I love our country," he said, adding: "You have nationalists. You have globalists. I also love the world and I don't mind helping the world, but we have to straighten out our country first. We have a lot of problems."

But Trump did not broach the divide as he paid tribute Sunday to U.S. and allied soldiers killed in World War I during "a horrible, horrible war" that marked America's emergence as a world power.

"We are gathered together at this hallowed resting place to pay tribute to the brave Americans who gave their last breath in that mighty struggle," Trump said at the Suresnes American Cemetery and Memorial in the suburbs of Paris, where more than 1,500 Americans who died in the war are buried.

"It is our duty to preserve the civilization they defended and to protect the peace they so nobly gave their lives to secure one century ago," he said after spending a moment, standing alone amid the cemetery's white crosses, holding a black umbrella.

The Veterans Day speech came a day after Trump was criticized for failing to visit a different American cemetery about 60 miles (100 kilometers) outside of Paris on Saturday because rain grounded the helicopter he had planned to take. A handful of senior administration officials, including White House Chief of Staff John Kelly, went in the president's place, while Trump remained behind at the ambassador's residence with no alternate schedule for hours.

Trump delivered the speech as other leaders were gathered for the Paris Peace Forum, which aims to revive collective governance and international cooperation to tackle global challenges. Afterward he flew back to Washington.

France was the epicenter of World War I, the first global conflict. Its role as host of the main international commemoration highlighted the point that the world mustn't stumble into war again, as it did so quickly and catastrophically with World War II.

Associated Press writers Robert Burns and Julie Pace in Washington and Lori Hinnant and Angela Charlton in Paris contributed to this report.

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

Follow Superville and Colvin on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/dsupervilleap> and <https://twitter.com/colvinj>

Bar gunman was 'out of control' in high school, coach says

By AMANDA LEE MYERS, Associated Press

MONTCLAIR, Calif. (AP) — A second high school coach of the gunman who killed 12 people at a Southern California bar recalled him on Sunday as volatile and intimidating, and said that repeated complaints to school administrators about his behavior failed to prompt any discipline.

Evie Cluke coached Ian David Long on Newbury Park High School's track team in 2007 and 2008. In an interview with The Associated Press, she said Long was a "ticking time bomb" who constantly lost his temper, threw tantrums and would scream at coaches when he didn't like their decisions. She said she once witnessed him assault a fellow coach.

That coach, Dominique Colell, said Long grabbed her rear and midsection after she refused to return a cellphone. Another time, he used his hand to mimic shooting her, Colell said, adding that she feared for herself whenever she was around him.

Cluke said she also witnessed Long pretending to shoot Colell.

"When Dominique turned around and saw that, she turned pale as a ghost and it was very, very scary," Cluke said. "Just sadistic. ... He was out of control. He would scream and cuss and his face would turn bright red and people would actually back away from him."

Long, a 28-year-old former Marine machine-gunner who served in Afghanistan, opened fire during college night at the Borderline Bar and Grill in Thousand Oaks on Wednesday night. He killed 11 people and a police officer who responded, and then fatally shot himself, police said.

Authorities have not determined a motive.

Colell kicked Long off the track team immediately after he assaulted her, but she and Cluke said the boy's track coach urged her to reconsider because that could compromise Long's goal of joining the Marines. The head track coach, Cluke said, reversed Colell's decision to throw Long off the team and told her she didn't have that authority, while the now-retired principal brushed it aside as a one-time incident.

Long rejoined the team after apologizing in front of several coaches and administrators.

Cluke said she, Colell and her father, also a track coach at the school at the time, repeatedly reported Long's behavioral problems, to no avail.

"You need to do something about this kid. He needs some help," Cluke said she told administrators. "And they're like, 'Well, he's got a good heart he'll be fine. Just talk to him.'"

Emails to various administrators at the high school were not immediately answered Sunday. Attempts to get comment by phone and in person from officials at the school and its district were unsuccessful Friday, when both were closed because of a massive and deadly wildfire in the area.

Cluke recalled a time when she and her father sat down with Long for a talk and asked him why he wanted to join the military. His answer, she said, "is burned in my soul."

"He said he wanted to be in the Marines because he wanted to go fight in the war for our country and he wanted to kill for our country," she said. "When you hear somebody say they want to be in the military because they want to kill people in the name of our country, that's chilling. It chilled me right down to my bones."

She said it's time for school administrators across the country to take behavioral problems seriously.

"It's not the military or video games or music that causes this," she said. "It's the inaction of people in authority."

She said that if other coaches and school administrators had acted following complaints about Long, "he could've gotten help and 12 innocent people wouldn't be dead now."

"The warning signs were there," she said.

Amazon HQ favorites: Similar basics, different vibes

By JENNIFER PELTZ and MATTHEW BARAKAT, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The communities said to be favored to become homes to a pair of big, new East Coast bases for Amazon are both riverfront stretches of major metropolitan areas with ample transportation and space for workers.

But there are plenty of differences between New York's Long Island City and Crystal City in northern Virginia.

Set within eyeshot of the nation's capital, Crystal City is a thicket of 1980s-era office towers trying to plug into new economic energy after thousands of federal jobs moved elsewhere.

Rapidly growing Long Island City is an old manufacturing area already being reinvented as a hub for 21st-century industry, creativity and urbane living.

Seattle-based Amazon, which set out last year to situate one additional headquarters but now may reportedly open two, has declined to comment on its plans. But people familiar with the talks said this week that Long Island City and Crystal City have emerged as front runners for the "HQ2" project and its total of 50,000 jobs.

A look at two communities said to be at the top of Amazon's list.

LONG ISLAND CITY

It's already the fastest-developing neighborhood in the nation's most populous city, and Amazon could pump up the volume in this buzzy part of Queens.

If chosen, the neighborhood stands to burnish New York City's reputation as a tech capital. Landing Amazon would also cement Long Island City's transformation from a faded manufacturing zone to a vibrant, of-the-moment enclave of waterfront skyscrapers, modernized warehouses and artsy-tech ambience across the East River from midtown Manhattan.

"I joke that we're experiencing explosive growth 30 years in the making," says Elizabeth Lusskin, president of the Long Island City Partnership, a neighborhood development group.

But Long Island City also has been straining to handle its growth.

Days before the potential Amazon news emerged, the city announced a \$180 million plan to address Long Island City's packed schools, street design and a sewage system that groans in heavy rain. But those projects will just catch up with current needs, says area City Councilman Jimmy van Bramer.

"I know that there are a lot of people cheerleading for this, but HQ2 has to work for Queens and the people of Queens. It can't just be good for Amazon," says van Bramer, a Democrat.

Once a bustling factory and freight-moving area, Long Island City saw many of its plants and warehouses closed as manufacturing shriveled in New York City.

The neighborhood's rebirth began in the 1980s, when officials broached redeveloping a swath of the waterfront, while artists were drawn by warehouse spaces, affordable rents and a building that is now the MoMA PS1 museum. Silvercup Studios — where such TV shows as "Sex and the City," "30 Rock" and "The Sopranos" have been filmed — opened in 1983.

Long Island City gained a new commercial stature, and the start of a high-rise skyline, when the banking giant now called Citi opened an office tower there in 1989. But the area's growth lately has been driven by residential building.

Some 9,150 new apartments and homes have been built since 2010, more than in any other New York City neighborhood, according to the city Planning Department. Thousands more units are in the works.

New York has striven for nearly a decade to position itself as a tech hotspot.

Venture capitalists poured \$5.8 billion into New York-area startups last quarter, more than any other region except the San Francisco area, according to the consulting and accounting firm PwC. Established tech giants, including Google and Facebook, have been expanding their New York footprints.

Still, landing HQ2 would represent "incredible validation of just how far New York has come," says Jonathan Bowles, executive director of the Center for an Urban Future think tank.

Waiting for a subway, Long Island City community board chairwoman Denise Keehan-Smith could envision Amazon benefiting the neighborhood.

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"But I think we have to be careful about it," she said.

CRYSTAL CITY

If any place in America can absorb 25,000 Amazon jobs without disruption, it may well be Crystal City, Virginia, where nearly that many jobs have vanished over the last 15 years.

The neighborhood in Arlington County is bounded by the Potomac River and the nation's capital on one side, by the Pentagon on another and Reagan National Airport on a third.

Despite its prime location and abundant transportation options, the neighborhood has been hit by a massive outflow of jobs. The Patent and Trademark Office began moving more than 7,000 jobs out of Crystal City in 2003. In 2005, the Defense Department announced plans to move roughly 17,000 jobs elsewhere as part of a base realignment.

Arlington County has worked hard to bring in new employers, and had some success. The Public Broadcasting Service moved its headquarters to Crystal City in 2006.

Still, large swaths of the neighborhood remain vacant. Among other challenges, the area has fought to overcome a reputation for outdated architecture.

Crystal City is populated by '70s and '80s-era office buildings. The buildings are connected by a network of tunnels populated with food-court style dining options, hair salons and newsstands. The tunnels leave the ground-level outdoor streetscape sometimes looking empty.

Brookings Institution urban planner Jenny Schuetz suggested the buildings may require an upgrade, or even replacement. But she noted that while people often associate tech companies with converted lofts or state-of-the-art workspaces, many big Silicon Valley tech companies actually work out of '80s-era office buildings.

For all the talk about antiquated architecture, people who've actually worked in Crystal City appreciate its convenience and its worker-friendly features, including the tunnels.

"I loved it here," said Christine Gentry of Greenbelt, Maryland, as she ate breakfast in a largely empty food court. She works for the Patent and Trademark Office and preferred the days when her office was in Crystal City.

"Everything is accessible here," she said. "When it was raining or snowing or sleeting, I never had to go out."

Perhaps no place better illustrates the vibe of Crystal City than the region's only revolving restaurant, the Skydome atop the Doubletree Crystal City. Diners enjoy a panoramic view of the D.C. skyline, completing a full rotation every 47 minutes.

Sam Getachew, the hotel's food and beverage manager, said the restaurant fits the neighborhood's retro atmosphere.

"It's huge draw," Getchew said. "People come for the curiosity of it."

The only downside, he said, is that "when customers get up to go to the restroom, they don't know where they are when they come back."

Barakat reported from Crystal City, Virginia.

A grim search for more fire victims in Northern California

By GILLIAN FLACCUS and DON THOMPSON, Associated Press

PARADISE, Calif. (AP) — As wildfires continued to rage at both ends of California, officials released another grim statistic: six more dead in a swath of Northern California wiped out by fire, raising the death toll there to 29. It matched California's record for deaths in a single fire.

Another 228 remain unaccounted for as crews stepped up the search for bodies and missing people. Two people were killed in a wildfire in Southern California.

Ten search teams were working in Paradise — a town of 27,000 that was largely incinerated last week — and in surrounding communities in the Sierra Nevada foothills. Authorities called in a DNA lab and teams of anthropologists to help identify victims.

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Statewide, 150,000 remained displaced as more than 8,000 fire crews battled wildfires that have scorched 400 square miles (1,040 square kilometers), with out-of-state crews continuing to arrive. Whipping winds and tinder-dry conditions threaten more areas through the rest of the week, fire officials warned.

"This is truly a tragedy that all Californians can understand and respond to," Gov. Jerry Brown said at a press briefing. "It's a time to pull together and work through these tragedies."

Brown, who has declared a state emergency, said California is requesting aid from the Trump administration. President Donald Trump has blamed "poor" forest management for the fires. Brown said federal and state governments must do more forest management but that climate change is the greater source of the problem.

"And those who deny that are definitely contributing to the tragedies that we're now witnessing, and will continue to witness in the coming years," he said.

Drought and warmer weather attributed to climate change, and the building of homes deeper into forests have led to longer and more destructive wildfire seasons in California. While California officially emerged from a five-year drought last year, much of the northern two-thirds of the state is abnormally dry.

Firefighters battling fire with shovels and bulldozers, flame retardant and hoses expected wind gusts up to 40 mph (64 kph) overnight Sunday.

In Southern California, firefighters beat back a new round of winds Sunday and the fire's growth and destruction are believed to have been largely stopped. Malibu celebrities and mobile-home dwellers in nearby mountains were slowly learning whether their homes had been spared or reduced to ash. Two people were killed and the fire had destroyed nearly 180 structures.

Los Angeles County Fire Chief Daryl Osby stressed there were numerous hotspots and plenty of fuel that had not yet burned, but at sunset he said there had been huge successes despite "a very challenging day."

Celebrities whose coastal homes were damaged or destroyed in a Southern California wildfire or were forced to flee from the flames expressed sympathy and solidarity with less-famous people hurt worse by the state's deadly blazes, and gave their gratitude to firefighters who kept them safe. Actor Gerard Butler said on Instagram that his Malibu home was "half-gone," adding he was "inspired as ever by the courage, spirit and sacrifice of firefighters."

Flames also besieged Thousand Oaks, the Southern California city in mourning over the massacre of 12 people in a shooting rampage at a country music bar on Wednesday night.

In Northern California, where more than 6,700 buildings have been destroyed, the scope of the devastation was beginning to set in even as the blaze raged on.

Butte County Sheriff Kory Honea said the county consulted teams of anthropologists because, in some cases, investigators have been able to recover only bones and bone fragments.

In some neighborhoods "it's very difficult to determine whether or not there may be human remains there," Honea said.

Public safety officials toured the Paradise area to begin discussing the recovery process. Much of what makes the city function is gone.

"Paradise was literally wiped off the map," said Tim Aboudara, a representative for International Association of Fire Fighters. He said at least 36 firefighters lost their own homes, most in the Paradise area.

"Anytime you're a firefighter and your town burns down, there's a lot of feelings and a lot of guilt and a lot of concern about both what happened and what the future looks like," he said. "Every story that we've heard coming through has been that way, like 'I wish I could have done more, What's going to happen to our community, Where are my kids going to go to school?'"

Others continued the desperate search for friends or relatives, calling evacuation centers, hospitals, police and the coroner's office.

Sol Bechtold drove from shelter to shelter looking for his mother, Joanne Caddy, a 75-year-old widow whose house burned down along with the rest of her neighborhood in Magalia, just north of Paradise. She lived alone and did not drive.

As he drove through the smoke and haze to yet another shelter, he said, "I'm also under a dark emotional cloud. Your mother's somewhere and you don't know where she's at. You don't know if she's safe."

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The 29 dead in Northern California matched the deadliest single fire on record, a 1933 blaze in Griffith Park in Los Angeles, though a series of wildfires in Northern California wine country last fall killed 44 people and destroyed more than 5,000 homes.

Firefighters made progress against the blaze, holding containment at 25 percent on Sunday, but they were bracing for gusty winds predicted into Monday morning that could spark “explosive fire behavior,” California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection spokesman Bill Murphy said.

Fire officials are bracing for potentially more fires in Southern California’s inland region as high winds and critically dry conditions were expected to persist into next week.

“We are really just in the middle of this protracted weather event, this fire siege,” Cal Fire Chief Ken Pimlott said.

He said officials were moving resources and preparing for “the next set of fires” as winds are expected to pick up. The chief warned that fire conditions will continue until the parched state sees rain.

“We are in this for the long haul,” Pimlott said.

Contributing to this report were Associated Press writers Janie Har and Daisy Nguyen in San Francisco; Paul Elias and Martha Mendoza in Chico, California; and Andrew Selsky in Salem, Oregon.

Training kids to kill at Ukrainian nationalist camp

By YURAS KARMANAU, Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine (AP) — The campers, some clad in combat fatigues, carefully aim their assault rifles. Their instructor offers advice: Don’t think of your target as a human being.

So when these boys and girls shoot, they will shoot to kill.

Most are in their teens, but some are as young as 8 years old. They are at a summer camp created by one of Ukraine’s radical nationalist groups, hidden in a forest in the west of the country, that was visited by The Associated Press. The camp has two purposes: to train children to defend their country from Russians and their sympathizers — and to spread nationalist ideology.

“We never aim guns at people,” instructor Yuri “Chornota” Cherkashin tells them. “But we don’t count separatists, little green men, occupiers from Moscow, as people. So we can and should aim at them.”

The nationalists have been accused of violence and racism, but they have played a central, volunteer role in Ukraine’s conflict with Russia — and they have maintained links with the government. Earlier this year, the Ministry of Youth and Sports earmarked 4 million hryvnias (about \$150,000) to fund some of the youth camps among the dozens built by the nationalists. The purpose, according to the ministry, is “national patriotic education.”

Ministry spokeswoman Natalia Vernigora said the money is distributed by a panel which looks for “signs of xenophobia and discrimination, it doesn’t analyze activities of specific groups.”

Cherkashin is a veteran of the fight against pro-Russia separatists in eastern Ukraine; he was wounded in combat and later came to lead Sokil, or Falcon, the youth wing of the Svoboda party. It is important, he says, to inculcate the nation’s youth with nationalist thought, so they can battle Vladimir Putin’s Russia as well as “challenges that could completely destroy” European civilization.

Among those challenges: LGBT rights, which lecturers denounce as a sign of Western decadence.

“You need to be aware of all that,” said instructor Ruslan Andreiko. “All those gender things, all those perversions of modern Bolsheviks who have come to power in Europe and now try to make all those LGBT things like gay pride parades part of the education system.”

While some youths dozed off during lectures, others paid attention. Clearly, some were receptive.

During a break in training, a teenager played a nationalist march on his guitar. It was decorated with a sticker showing white bombs hitting a mosque, under the motto, “White Europe is Our Goal.”

Aside from the lectures — and songs around the campfire — life for the several dozen youths at the Svoboda camp was hard.

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Campers were awakened in the middle of the night with a blast from a stun grenade. Stumbling out of their tents, soldiers in training struggled to hold AK-47s that were, in some cases, almost as tall as they were. They were required to carry the heavy rifles all day, and one of the girls broke down in tears from exhaustion.

At 18, Mykhailo was the oldest of the campers. The training, he said, was necessary.

"Every moment things can go wrong in our country. And one has to be ready for it," he said. "That's why I came to this camp. To study how to protect myself and my loved ones"

Southern California tally of burned homes expected to rise

By CHRISTOPHER WEBER, Associated Press

MALIBU, Calif. (AP) — Relief and heartache await those starting to return home to a Southern California wildfire zone.

Eager to know the status of his house, 69-year-old Roger Kelly defied evacuation orders Sunday and hiked back into Seminole Springs, his lakeside mobile home community in the Santa Monica Mountains north of Malibu.

His got the thrill of finding his house intact. But some a half-block away were laid to waste, as were dozens more, and virtually everything on the landscape around the community had been turned to ash.

"I just started weeping," Kelly said. "I just broke down. Your first view of it, man it just gets you."

The community where Kelly and his wife have lived for 28 years and raised two children was among the hardest hit by the so-called Woolsey fire that broke out Thursday, destroying at least 177 homes and leaving two people dead.

Despite strong Santa Ana winds that returned Sunday, no additional structures were believed to have been lost, meaning many would return in the coming week to find their home as Kelly did, authorities said.

Santa Ana winds, produced by surface high pressure over the Great Basin squeezing air down through canyons and passes in Southern California's mountain ranges, are common in autumn and have a long history of fanning destructive wildfires in the region.

Huge plumes of smoke still rose in the fire area, which stretches miles from the northwest corner of Los Angeles' San Fernando Valley to the Malibu coast.

Airplanes and helicopters swooped low over hills and canyons to drop loads of fire retardant and water.

A one-day lull in the dry, northeasterly winds ended at midmorning and authorities warned that the gusts would continue through Tuesday.

The lull allowed firefighters to gain 10 percent control of the Woolsey fire, which has burned more than 130 square miles (335 square kilometers) in western Los Angeles County and southeastern Ventura County since Thursday.

Los Angeles County Fire Chief Daryl Osby stressed there were numerous hotspots and plenty of fuel that had not yet burned, but at sunset he said there had been huge successes despite "a very challenging day."

The count of destroyed homes was expected to increase when an update is reported Monday. Osby noted that a November 1993 wildfire in Malibu destroyed more than 270 homes and said he would not be surprised if the total from the current fire would be higher.

The fire's cause remained under investigation but Southern California Edison reported to the California Public Utilities Commission that there was an outage on an electrical circuit near where it started as Santa Ana winds blew through the region.

SoCal Edison said the report was submitted out of an abundance of caution although there was no indication from fire officials that its equipment may have been involved. The report said the fire was reported around 2:24 p.m. Thursday, two minutes after the outage.

Venture County Fire Chief Mark Lorenzen hadn't heard about the Edison report. "It wouldn't surprise me" if it turns out that winds caused equipment failure that sparked a fire, he said.

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

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said investigators believed the driver became disoriented and the car was overcome by fire.

The deaths came as authorities in Northern California announced the death toll from a massive wildfire there has reached 29 people, matching the deadliest fire in state history.

Progress was made on the lines of smaller fire to the west in Ventura County, which was 70 percent contained at about 7 square miles (18 square kilometers), and evacuations were greatly reduced. But thousands remained under evacuation orders due to the Woolsey fire.

Three firefighters suffered minor injuries, Osby said.

Also injured was a well-known member of the Malibu City Council. Councilman Jefferson "Zuma Jay" Wagner was injured while trying to save his home, which burned down, Councilman Skylar Peak told reporters Sunday.

Peak said Wagner was hospitalized but was expected to recover. Wagner runs Zuma Jay Surfboards, a longtime fixture on Pacific Coast Highway near the landmark Malibu Pier.

The extensive celebrity community within Malibu wasn't spared. Singer Robin Thicke and actor Gerard Butler and were among those whose homes were damaged or destroyed.

Spot fires continued to occur late Sunday afternoon near the Malibu campus of Pepperdine University, where 3,500 students were sheltering in place. The university said it was closing Malibu campus and its Calabasas campus to the north until Nov. 26 but classes would be remotely administered online and through email.

But fire officials say fire behavior has changed statewide after years of drought and record summer heat that have left vegetation extremely crisp and dry. That change has impacted the ability to move firefighting resources around the state.

"Typically this time of year when we get fires in Southern California we can rely upon our mutual aid partners in Northern California to come assist us because this time of year they've already had significant rainfall or even snow," said Osby, the LA County fire chief.

With the devastation and loss of life in the Northern California fire, "it's evident from that situation statewide that we're in climate change and it's going to be here for the foreseeable future," he said.

Associated Press writers John Antczak and Andrew Dalton contributed to this report from Los Angeles.

Mishaps, protests and litigation overshadow Florida recount

By **KELLI KENNEDY** and **TERRY SPENCER**, Associated Press

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — Mishaps, protests and litigation are overshadowing the vote recount in Florida's pivotal races for governor and Senate, reviving memories of the 2000 presidential fiasco in the premier political battleground state.

All 67 counties are facing a state-ordered deadline of Thursday to complete their recounts, and half had already begun. Many other counties were expected to begin the work Monday after a weekend of recount drama in Broward and Palm Beach counties, home to large concentrations of Democratic voters.

The developments make this a tumultuous political moment in Florida. This recount process is unprecedented even in a state notorious for settling elections by razor-thin margins. State officials said they weren't aware of any other time a race for governor or U.S. Senate required a recount, let alone both in the same election.

In Broward County, the recount was delayed for hours Sunday because of a problem with one of the tabulation machines. That prompted the Republican Party to accuse Broward's supervisor of elections, Brenda Snipes, of "incompetence and gross mismanagement."

Broward officials faced further headaches after acknowledging the county mistakenly counted 22 absentee ballots that had been rejected. The problem seemed impossible to fix because dismissed ballots were mixed in with 205 legal ballots and Snipes said it would be unfair to throw out all the votes.

Gov. Rick Scott, the Republican candidate for Senate, filed suit against Snipes. He's seeking a court order for law enforcement agents to impound all voting machines, tallying devices and ballots "when not in use

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until such time as any recounts." The suit accused Snipes of repeatedly failing to account for the number of ballots left to be counted and failing to report results regularly as required by law.

The court didn't immediately respond, though the outcry from Democrats was immediate.

Juan Penalosa, executive director of the Florida Democratic Party, accused Scott of "using his position to consolidate power by cutting at the very core of our democracy."

Meanwhile, in Palm Beach County, the supervisor of elections said she didn't think her department could meet Thursday's deadline to complete that recount, throwing into question what would happen to votes there.

The recount in other major population centers, including Miami-Dade and Pinellas and Hillsborough counties in the Tampa Bay area, has been continuing without incident. Smaller counties were expected to begin reviews between Monday and Wednesday.

Unofficial results showed Republican former U.S. Rep. Ron DeSantis ahead of Democratic Tallahassee Mayor Andrew Gillum by 0.41 percentage points in the governor's contest. In the Senate race, Scott's lead over Democratic incumbent Bill Nelson was 0.14 percentage points.

State law requires a machine recount in races where the margin is less than 0.5 percentage points. Once completed, if the differences in any of the races are 0.25 percentage points or below, a hand recount will be ordered.

Republicans urged their Democratic opponents to give up and let the state to move on.

Gillum and Nelson insist that each vote should be counted and the process should take its course.

Scott said Sunday that Nelson wants fraudulent ballots and those cast by noncitizens to count, pointing to a Nelson lawyer's objection of Palm Beach County's rejection of one provisional ballot because it was cast by a noncitizen.

"He is trying to commit fraud to win this election," Scott told Fox News. "Bill Nelson's a sore loser. He's been in politics way too long."

Nelson's campaign issued a statement later saying their lawyer wasn't authorized to object to the ballot's rejection, as "Non-citizens cannot vote in US elections."

Gillum appeared Sunday evening at a predominantly African-American church in Fort Lauderdale, declaring that voter disenfranchisement isn't just about being blocked from the polling booth. He said it also includes absentee ballots not being counted and ballots with mismatched signatures that "a volunteer may have the option of ... deciding that vote is null and void."

Both the state elections division, which Scott runs, and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement have said they have found no evidence of voter fraud.

That didn't stop protests outside Snipes' office, where a mostly Republican crowd gathered, holding signs, listening to country music and occasionally chanting "lock her up," referring to Snipes. A massive Trump 2020 flag flew over the parking lot and a Bikers For Trump group wore matching shirts. One protester wore a Hillary Clinton mask.

Registered independent Russell Liddick, a 38-year-old Pompano Beach retail worker, carried a sign reading, "I'm not here for Trump! I'm here for fair elections! Fire Snipes!" He said the office's problems "don't make me feel very much like my vote counted."

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

For some, the recounts bring back memories 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, thus giving Bush the presidency.

Much has changed since then.

In 2000, each county had its own voting system. Many used punch cards — voters poked out chads, leaving tiny holes in their ballots representing their candidates. Some voters, however, didn't fully punch out the presidential chad or gave it just a little push. Those hanging and dimpled chads had to be examined by the canvassing boards, a lengthy, tiresome and often subjective process that became fodder for

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late-night comedians.

Now the state requires all Florida counties to use ballots where voters use a pen to mark their candidate's name, much like a student taking a multiple-choice test, and the process for recounts is clearly spelled out.

AP writers Tamara Lush in St. Petersburg and Brendan Farrington in Tallahassee contributed to this report.

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

10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

Your daily look at late-breaking news, upcoming events and the stories that will be talked about today:

1. CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES MATCH RECORD

Six more are dead in a swath of Northern California wiped out by fire, raising the death toll to 29 — matching the state's record for deaths in a single fire.

2. WITH MIDTERMS OVER, AN EYE TOWARD 2020

Unresolved races for governor in Georgia and Florida are raising strategic questions for Democrats as they turn their attention to the upcoming battle for the White House.

3. WHAT IS REVIVING MEMORIES OF 2000 IN FLORIDA

Mishaps, protests and litigation are overshadowing the vote recount in Florida's pivotal races for governor and U.S. Senate.

4. WHERE THERE'S A REAL STRUGGLE FOR POWER

North Korea is plagued by chronic power blackouts and energy options cobbled together by Kim Jong Un that are off the official grid and some flat-out illegal.

5. FRENCH LEADER WARNS AGAINST 'ANCIENT DEMONS'

With Trump and other leaders looking on, Emmanuel Macron takes on the rising tide of populism in the U.S. and Europe and urges leaders not to turn their backs by turning inward.

6. FAVORITES FOR AMAZON HEADQUARTERS VASTLY DIFFERENT

Crystal City, Virginia, is a thicket of 1980s-era office towers seeking new economic energy and Long Island City in New York is cultivating a new image as a hub for technology and arts.

7. WHO CALLED CALIFORNIA GUNMAN 'SADISTIC'

Evie Cluke coached Ian David Long on the high school track team a decade ago and she tells AP he constantly lost his temper and she witnessed him assault a fellow coach.

8. TRAINING KIDS TO KILL AT UKRAINIAN NATIONALIST CAMP

Radical nationalists are teaching kids how to use assault rifles to kill Russians and their sympathizers and being taught to deride LGBT rights, AP learns.

9. MOVE MORE, SIT LESS, START YOUNGER

New federal guidelines on exercise advise starting sooner to get children active to avoid health problems later in life.

10. 'ALL OF US NEED TO LOOK IN THE MIRROR'

That was Eagles coach Doug Pederson after Dallas' Ezekiel Elliott ran for 151 yards and the go-ahead touchdown in the Cowboys' 27-20 win over the defending Super Bowl champions.

Mississippi senator's 'public hanging' remark draws rebuke

By EMILY WAGSTER PETTUS, Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — A newly published video shows a white Republican U.S. senator in Mississippi praising someone by saying: "If he invited me to a public hanging, I'd be on the front row."

Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith, who faces a black Democratic challenger in a Nov. 27 runoff, said Sunday that her Nov. 2 remark was "an exaggerated expression of regard" for someone who invited her to speak, and "any attempt to turn this into a negative connotation is ridiculous."

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Mississippi has a bitter history of racially motivated lynchings of black people. The NAACP website says that between 1882 and 1968, there were 4,743 lynchings in the United States, and nearly 73 percent of the victims were black. It says Mississippi had 581 during that time, the most of any state.

Hyde-Smith is challenged by former congressman and former U.S. agriculture secretary Mike Espy.

"Cindy Hyde-Smith's comments are reprehensible," Espy campaign spokesman Danny Blanton said in a statement Sunday. "They have no place in our political discourse, in Mississippi, or our country. We need leaders, not dividers, and her words show that she lacks the understanding and judgment to represent the people of our state."

The video was shot in Tupelo, in front of a statue of Elvis Presley, who was born in the city in north-eastern Mississippi. It shows a small group of white people clapping politely for Hyde-Smith after a fellow cattle rancher introduced her.

Republican Gov. Phil Bryant appointed Hyde-Smith to temporarily succeed Cochran, who retired amid health concerns in April. She will serve until the special election is resolved.

Hyde-Smith and Espy each received about 41 percent of the vote in a four-person race Tuesday to advance to the runoff. The winner gets the final two years of a term started by longtime Republican Sen. Thad Cochran.

Espy in 1986 became the first African-American since Reconstruction to win a U.S. House seat in Mississippi, and if he defeats Hyde-Smith, he would be the first African-American since Reconstruction to represent the state in the U.S. Senate.

Hyde-Smith, who is endorsed by President Donald Trump, is the first woman to represent Mississippi in either chamber of Congress, and after being appointed is trying to become the first woman elected to the U.S. Senate from the state.

Lamar White Jr., publisher of a left-leaning Louisiana news site called The Bayou Brief, posted the video Sunday on social media. White told The Associated Press he received the video late Saturday from "a very reliable, trusted source," but he would not reveal the person's name. He said that source received it from the person who shot the video.

White said he believes he received the video because he has been writing about racism in the South for about a dozen years.

"There's no excuse to say what she said," White said of Hyde-Smith.

The national NAACP president Derrick Johnson, who is from Mississippi, said Hyde-Smith's comment shows a lack of judgment.

"Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith's shameful remarks prove once again how Trump has created a social and political climate that normalizes hateful and racist rhetoric," Johnson said in a statement. "Hyde-Smith's decision to joke about 'hanging,' in a state known for its violent and terroristic history toward African Americans, is sick. To envision this brutal and degenerate type of frame during a time when Black people, Jewish People and immigrants are still being targeted for violence by White nationalists and racists is hateful and hurtful."

A Republican activist who initially supported another candidate in the special U.S. Senate election said he will vote for Hyde-Smith in the runoff, even though he considers her a weak candidate.

"That comment about 'a public hanging' is much ado about nothing," said Scott Brewster of Brandon, who is white. "She's not very smart and made a tone-deaf comment. It doesn't make her a racist."

A Republican state lawmaker in Mississippi, Rep. Karl Oliver, came under sharp criticism in May 2017 after he posted on Facebook that people should be lynched for removing Confederate monuments.

For AP's complete coverage of the U.S. midterm elections: <http://apne.ws/APPolitics> . Follow Emily Wagster Pettus: <http://twitter.com/EWagsterPettus>

Kemp-Abrams feud highlights new landscape in divided Georgia

By **BILL BARROW**, Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — His election still undecided, Republican Brian Kemp is proceeding as a victorious candidate and promising to be a governor for all Georgians. That might not be so easy.

Should his narrow lead hold over Democrat Stacey Abrams and ultimately send him to the governor's mansion, Kemp would face lingering questions about how and why he oversaw his own election as secretary of state. His victory would be fueled by an even starker than usual urban-rural divide, with Abrams drawing most of her votes in metro Atlanta and smaller cities, and Kemp running up massive margins in rural and small-town Georgia, eclipsing 85 percent in some counties.

Then there's his embrace of President Donald Trump's coarse rhetoric, from Kemp warning about "illegal votes" to his promise to "round up criminal illegals" in his own pickup truck.

That all plays into what civil rights leaders and observers from both parties describe as a bitter, race-laden contest that pitted Abrams' bid to become the nation's first black woman governor against Kemp's fierce effort to preserve his overwhelmingly white party's hold on a growing, diversifying Deep South state.

The after-effects, they say, won't dissipate automatically.

"In the hypothetical scenario that Brian Kemp becomes governor," said NAACP activist and former congressional candidate Francys Johnson, "then he and Donald Trump will have both won because they were able to stoke the deepest darkest fears among their base."

Some Republicans acknowledge the atmosphere even as they defend Kemp from charges he ran a racially and culturally divisive campaign. "Some of this is beyond Brian Kemp's control," said Brian Robinson, a former adviser for outgoing Gov. Nathan Deal and for Kemp's vanquished GOP primary rival. "Brian Kemp cannot extricate himself from the national political environment that now drives every election down to the county level. You run for coroner, you have to say whether you want to 'make America great again.'"

For his part, Kemp notes "a very polarizing climate that we've been in." But he defends his pledge to "put Georgians first" — a rhetorical cousin to Trump's "America First" — and he rejects any notion that he could take office under a cloud that would make his job harder.

"It was a tough election," Kemp said as he stood in the governor's office two days after the Nov. 6 election, resigning as secretary of state to focus on a January transfer of power. He cited a "clear and convincing" result — returns showed him with 50.3 percent at the time — and he pointed back to his multiple terms as a state senator who represented what was then a swing district: "I'm going to serve this whole state and move forward with the plans we have."

Undeterred, Abrams' campaign filed a federal lawsuit Sunday asking a judge to delay the vote certification deadline by one day and make officials count any votes that were wrongly rejected. If successful, the suit would prevent officials from certifying county vote totals until Wednesday and could restore at least 1,095 votes that weren't counted. The campaign said thousands more ballots could be affected.

Leading up to the election, Abrams called Kemp "an architect of suppression." Kemp says he's faithfully enforced state and federal elections laws, though that's not convinced some voters.

Nina Durham, a 50-year-old Powder Springs resident was among a small a group of protesters outside Deal's office last week as Kemp spoke. She said she didn't have confidence in the results. Asked whether she could see Kemp as her governor, Durham, who is African-American, replied, "No. He hasn't represented me as secretary of state."

Unofficial returns show Kemp leading by about 60,000 votes out of more than 3.9 million votes cast. That's enough for a narrow majority, but Abrams asserts that enough uncounted absentee, early and provisional ballots remain to bring Kemp below a majority threshold. That would trigger a Dec. 4 runoff.

The Associated Press has not called the race. The AP will revisit its decision after Tuesday's deadline for Georgia's 159 counties to send certified results to the state.

Neighboring Florida also is caught in a contested governor's race. Democrat Andrew Gillum, trailing Republican Ron DeSantis in unofficial returns, also would make history as his state's first black governor. The Gillum-DeSantis campaign was infused with race, but Florida's electorate — with its racial and ethnic

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complexities transcending a Deep South history of black-white politics— has grown accustomed to narrowly divided results.

Robinson, the former Deal adviser, noted the razor-thin general elections are mostly new to Georgia. Eight years ago, Deal ran 10 percentage points ahead of his Democratic opponent; the margin was 7 percentage points, but Deal has managed to draw job approval ratings higher than his vote percentages. Trump won Georgia by 5 points in 2016, but barely cleared a majority. Now Kemp stands about at Trump's vote percentage with Abrams on his heels.

"Brian did what he had to do to win," Robinson said. But, "In two years, we will be at parity or a slight Democratic advantage. ... His re-election in a purple state already has to be under way" and "he has to be seen in minority communities, and not just African-American."

Robinson noted Deal's work with black lawmakers — including Abrams — on a criminal justice overhaul that is reducing mass incarceration, particularly among young black men. He said Kemp could find ways to relax his opposition to expanding Medicaid insurance, perhaps "allowing legislators from both parties to take the lead" on some compromise that could draw more federal money to Georgia's health care system. Expanding Medicaid is Abrams' top policy priority.

Ben Williams, a Southern Christian Leadership Conference leader in suburban Atlanta's Cobb County, said Kemp must acknowledge— if not apologize — for some elements of the campaign. Williams pointed to a photo of Kemp standing with a supporter later identified as a white supremacist. Kemp's campaign distanced itself at the time, noting Kemp agreed to snapshots with anyone who asked at his public rallies.

In the campaign's closing days, Kemp criticized a robocall from an out-of-state white supremacy group impersonating Oprah Winfrey and describing Abrams in racist terms. But he took heat for his campaign's official Twitter account sending out a photo of purported Black Panthers holding Abrams' campaign signs and calling it proof of her radicalism. There was no proof of the affiliation of those pictured, and they were not with Abrams' campaign.

Williams said it adds up to a "blatantly racist" effort, intentional or not.

Kemp and Deal have sidestepped mentions of race. But Deal seemingly gave a nod to the sensitivities when he tapped one of his Cabinet members to succeed Kemp as secretary of state. Robyn Crittenden is the first African-American woman to serve as a statewide constitutional office in Georgia.

For all their skepticism, Williams and Johnson predicted Kemp's leading critics always would be willing to meet with him.

Said Johnson: "In civil rights work, our mantra is this: No permanent friends, no permanent enemies, just permanent issues."

Follow Barrow on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/BillBarrowAP> .

Netanyahu rushes home after burst of Israel-Gaza violence

By TIA GOLDENBERG, Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu rushed back to Israel on Monday, hours after an Israeli army officer and seven Palestinians, including a local Hamas commander, were killed after an incursion by Israeli special forces into the Gaza Strip.

The Islamic militant Hamas, which rules Gaza, said Israeli undercover forces entered the territory in a civilian vehicle late Sunday and exchanged fire with Hamas gunmen.

The clashes prompted Israeli airstrikes and a salvo of rocket fire from Gaza toward Israel. An Israeli lieutenant colonel and several Hamas fighters were among those killed.

The cross-border fighting came just days after Israel and Hamas reached indirect deals, backed by Qatar and Egypt, to allow cash and fuel into Gaza. It was not clear if the burst of violence would derail the arrangements which are aimed at preventing a further deterioration of conditions in Gaza, under blockade by Israel and Egypt since a 2007 Hamas takeover.

The Hamas military wing, Izzedine al-Qassam, said that in Sunday's incursion, Israeli undercover forces

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drove about 3 kilometers (2 miles) into southeastern Gaza and shot and killed Nour el-Deen Baraka, a mid-level commander in the town of Khan Younis. Qassam members discovered the car and chased it, prompting Israeli airstrikes that killed several people, the group said.

The Israeli military said there had been an exchange of fire during an operation in Gaza, with troops withdrawing from the territory with the help of aircraft. It said that militants then launched 17 rockets from Gaza toward Israeli communities, where school and train service was cancelled in response, and that it had reinforced troops and its aerial defense system along the border following the flare-up.

The military provided few details about the reason for the raid. The Israeli military chief, Lt. Gen. Gadi Eisenkot said a "special force" carried out "a very meaningful operation to Israel's security," without elaborating.

Israeli military spokesman Lt. Col. Jonathan Conricus said the operation was "not intended to kill or abduct terrorists but to strengthen Israeli security." He said the force faced a "very complex battle" and was able to "ex-filtrate in its entirety."

Netanyahu returned to Israel on Monday morning, cutting short a trip to Paris where he was set to meet French President Emmanuel Macron after having participated in ceremonies marking 100 years since the end of World War I.

In a tweet after his arrival back home, Netanyahu praised the slain officer, whose identity was being kept confidential, and said "our forces acted courageously."

The overnight violence came after several months of confrontations along the Israel-Gaza perimeter fence. Since late March, Hamas has been leading mass marches, with turnout driven by growing despair in Gaza, to try to break the border blockade. The blockade has led to over 50 percent unemployment and chronic power outages, and prevents the vast majority of Gazans from traveling.

More than 170 demonstrators, most unarmed, have been killed by Israeli army fire in the confrontations in which some of the participants threw stones, burned tires or threw grenades toward Israeli forces.

Israel says it is defending its border against militant infiltrations, but its army has come under international criticism because of the large number of unarmed protesters who have been shot.

Last week, Israel allowed Qatar to deliver \$15 million in aid to Gaza's cash-strapped Hamas rulers. Hamas responded by lowering the intensity of the border protest last Friday.

On Sunday, Netanyahu defended his decision to allow through the Qatari cash to Gaza as a way to avert an "unnecessary war," maintain quiet for residents of southern Israel and prevent a humanitarian catastrophe in the impoverished Gaza Strip.

Associated Press writers Fares Akram in Gaza City, Gaza Strip, and Angela Charlton in Paris contributed to this report.

Options limited, North Korea lit by flashlights, creaky grid

By ERIC TALMADGE, Associated Press

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP) — More than 20 years after his father almost bargained them away for a pair of nuclear reactors, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has his nuclear weapons — and a nation still plagued by chronic blackouts.

Even on the clearest days, plumes of smoke from two towering chimneys linger over the center of Pyongyang. The Soviet-era Pyongyang Combined Heat and Power Plant smokestacks are one of the North Korean capital's most recognizable landmarks.

Possibly more than anything else, this is Kim Jong Un's Achilles heel as he turns his attention from developing the country's nuclear weapons arsenal to building its economy.

If stalled nuclear talks with Washington ever get back on track, helping Kim solve his country's chronic energy deficit could be one of the biggest carrots President Trump has to offer. Washington, Seoul and Tokyo tried that back in the 1990s, and were even ready to pay for and build those two reactors Kim's father wanted.

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Years of intensive sanctions have severely impacted North Korea's supply of fossil fuels from the outside world, but they also have spurred the country to cobble together a smorgasbord of energy resources, some of them off the grid and some of them flat-out illegal.

Here's a look at where Kim stands and what he is doing to win his country's real struggle for power.

THE BIG PICTURE

Among the most iconic images of North Korea are nighttime satellite photos that reveal it as an inky abyss ringed by the bright lights of China, South Korea and Japan.

The whole nation of 25 million people uses about the same amount of electricity each year as Washington alone. It uses as much crude oil in a year as the U.S. consumes in just 12 hours. South Korea has about twice the population of the North, but its electricity consumption in 2014 was about 40 times bigger.

Hydroelectricity, which is subject to seasonal swings, provides about half of the fuel supplied to the national energy grid. Coal accounts for the other half.

The grid is leaky, archaic and badly needing repairs.

That smoke-spewing power plant in the capital, which supplies much of the power and hot water needs for central Pyongyang, dates to the 1960s. Lights in the huge concrete apartment blocks of Tongil Boulevard across town stay lit thanks largely to the East Pyongyang Thermal Power Station — built by the Soviet Union in the 1980s.

What electricity there is is unevenly distributed.

The showcase capital and cities near coal or hydroelectric power plants get the best coverage. Military facilities also take precedence and often have their own supply. So do important party and government operations, some of the higher-profile residences and hotels in the capital and even some restaurants. Lights used to illuminate portraits of the leaders at night never go out.

Still, it's not uncommon for the power even in many higher status locations to flicker on and off. Dancing beams of flashlights are commonplace on the streets or in otherwise darkened apartments. In rural villages, even that often fades to black.

KEEPING THE OIL FLOWING ...

North Korea must import about 3 million to 4 million barrels of crude oil each year to sustain its economy. Most of it flows through one pipeline.

The China-North Korea "Friendship Oil Pipeline" runs from the border city of Dandong under the Yalu River to a storage facility on the North Korean side about 13 kilometers (10 miles) outside the city of Sinuiju. From there, some is sent across country by truck or rail to the east coast, where it is stored at the port of Munchon. More is transported to Pyongyang for priority recipients such as the military, government departments and state enterprises, and to the port of Nampo, southwest of Pyongyang.

The pipeline — technically there are two, one for crude and the other for refined products — was built between 1974 and 1976.

North Korea used to have two refineries. The pipeline from China terminates at the Ponghwa Chemical Factory, which produces gasoline and diesel. The other refinery was built by the Soviet Union in the north near the Rason Special Economic Zone in the 1970s. It shut down in 1995 with the collapse of the Soviet empire. The pipeline that connected it with Siberia has long been out of use.

Under U.N. sanctions imposed late last year, North Korea can import a maximum 500,000 barrels of refined oil products along with 4 million barrels of crude oil per year.

Along with its Chinese connection, the North has been supplied by Russian tankers that ship oil and petroleum products to Munchon and another east coast port, Hungnam. It has found willing suppliers in the Middle East, or on the open market.

Since the imposition of the import cap, Pyongyang has been implicated in increasingly sophisticated schemes to augment its supplies with hard-to-track transfers of oil by tankers at sea.

Washington's ambassador to the United Nations, Nikki Haley, told the Security Council in September the United States tracked at least 148 instances of oil tankers delivering refined petroleum products obtained

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through illegal ship-to-ship transfers in the first eight months of this year. She claimed the amount of illegally transferred oil — about 800,000 barrels — was 160 percent of the annual 500,000 barrel cap.

"In reality, we think they have obtained four times the annual quota in the first eight months of this year," Haley said.

... AND GOING OFF THE GRID

David von Hippel and Peter Hayes of the Nautilus Institute have been following North Korea's energy issue for years.

Comparing Chinese trade figures from 2000 through 2017, they found explosive growth in North Korea's imports of passenger cars and trucks that put an additional 107,000 vehicles on its roads. Tractor sales also rose and sales of "electricity propelled" bicycles or scooters, a category that wasn't even listed until last year, doubled to 128,000.

The truck and tractor sales almost certainly reflect an upgrade to the North's transportation and agricultural sectors. Being able to get around is a key to doing business in a market-centric economy, and so is having enough spending power to buy things like electric scooters.

Moreover, in a study released this month, Hayes and von Hippel also found that imports of diesel- and gasoline-powered generators, coupled with solar panels that are already ubiquitous in the North, are creating an energy system increasingly independent of the national power grid.

"The data ... reinforces a picture of a DPRK in which a more vibrant, modernizing, increasingly (at least functionally) market-based economy is providing households, business and institutions with the wherewithal to invest in both off-grid electricity supplies and increased transport services," they wrote, using the acronym for the North's official name.

Still, keeping the power on often can be an elaborate routine.

Solar panels, the cheapest option, can keep a room lit, a mobile phone working and maybe a TV or another appliance going. When electricity from the grid is actually flowing, it can be used to charge batteries before the next blackout hits.

Those with a little more clout or money use diesel- or gas-powered generators that can power anything from a restaurant to an apartment block.

Or a military installation.

Talmadge is the AP's Pyongyang bureau chief. Follow him on Instagram and Twitter: @EricTalmadge

Elliott, Prescott lead Cowboys past Eagles 27-20

By **ROB MAADDI, AP Pro Football Writer**

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Ezekiel Elliott and Dak Prescott left the defending Super Bowl champions wondering how their season went wrong.

Elliott had 151 yards rushing and his go-ahead 1-yard touchdown run in the fourth quarter helped the Dallas Cowboys beat the Philadelphia Eagles 27-20 on Sunday night.

The Eagles fell to 4-5 with their third straight loss at home while the Cowboys improved to 4-5. Washington leads the NFC East at 6-3.

"All of us need to look in the mirror," Philadelphia coach Doug Pederson said. "Are we doing enough? Are we giving enough? You have to strain yourself to make plays. We didn't do it. Each person, each coach, each player in the locker room has to look at yourself and decide every day to give your best."

The Cowboys gave their all to give embattled coach Jason Garrett a week off from questions about his job security.

"You can imagine the way Jason Garrett, his resolve before the game," Cowboys owner Jerry Jones said. "I asked him before the game, 'you feeling any pressure?' (Garrett replied) 'It just makes me want to go out and do more to turn this thing.'"

Prescott had 270 yards passing, tossed for one touchdown and also ran for a score. Elliott also had a

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TD reception .

"It was absolutely mandatory that we went and got this win," Elliott said. "We wanted to keep our hopes up for winning this division and making the playoffs."

Carson Wentz threw a pair of TD passes to Zach Ertz, but his pass to Ertz on fourth down fell a yard short of a first down at the Cowboys 29 with 1:09 left. The Eagles got the ball back at their 32 with 40 seconds left and drove to the Cowboys 32 for the final play. Wentz completed a pass to Ertz inside the Dallas 10. Ertz lateraled to Golden Tate but he was tackled for no gain to end it.

"We just didn't execute," said Wentz, who finished 32 of 44 for 360 yards with one interception. "We all got to look in the mirror and ask what can we do better."

It was a defensive battle into the third quarter before the offenses went back-and-forth.

Elliott ran in from the 1 to give Dallas a 27-20 lead after Prescott completed passes of 24 yards to Amari Cooper and 23 yards to Allen Hurns on the drive.

Coming off a bye, the Eagles were listless in the first half and trailed 13-3 before rallying to tie it on Wentz's 15-yard TD pass to Ertz late in the third quarter. Wentz connected with Jordan Matthews for 18 yards on third-and-11 to extend the drive. He hit him again for 12 yards on the next play and found Ertz a few plays later.

Prescott tossed a 7-yard TD pass to Elliott to give Dallas a 20-13 lead on the ensuing possession. Elliott accounted for 57 of the 75 yards on the drive.

But the Eagles answered. Wentz hit Nelson Agholor, who made an excellent catch for a 51-yard gain to the Cowboys 8. Wentz found Ertz in the back of the end zone for a 1-yard TD pass to tie it at 20-20.

Prescott engineered a 75-yard drive in the final 90 seconds of the first half to send the Eagles into the locker room to a chorus of boos from a frustrated crowd.

Michael Gallup turned a screen pass on third-and-15 at the Cowboys 35 into a 25-yard gain. Prescott connected with Cole Beasley for 21 yards and hit Hurns for 17 yards to the Eagles 1. Prescott then sneaked in for the score.

After hearing it from their fans, the Eagles came out with a stop on defense and the offense drove to the Cowboys 11 before having to settle for Jake Elliott's 26-yard field goal.

TRICKY

The Cowboys tried a fake punt on fourth-and-2 from their 31 and Jeff Heath took a direct snap and ran three yards. A few plays later, Elliott hurdled Tre Sullivan on a 32-yard run to the Eagles 8. But Michael Bennett sacked Prescott on third down and Brett Maher kicked a 31-yard field goal for a 6-0 lead.

GOLDEN'S DEBUT

Tate, acquired by the Eagles from Detroit on Oct. 30, had only two catches for 19 yards.

INJURIES

Eagles: CB Ronald Darby left the game after injuring his knee in the second half. Starters Jalen Mills and Sidney Jones already were out of the lineup.

UP NEXT

Cowboys: Visit the Atlanta Falcons (4-5) on Sunday.

Eagles: Visit the New Orleans Saints (8-1) on Sunday.

More AP NFL: <https://apnews.com/tag/NFL> and https://twitter.com/AP_NFL

Democratic coalition won back House, fell short elsewhere

By STEVE PEOPLES, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — For much of the country, the 2018 midterm season is over. But unresolved races for governor in Georgia and Florida are raising major strategic questions for Democrats as they turn their attention to the upcoming battle for the White House.

As in other states, Democrats in Florida and Georgia drew record turnout in last week's election. The

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coalition of suburban women, young people and minorities delivered the House to Democrats for the first time in nearly a decade.

But it wasn't enough to score decisive victories in the closely watched races for governor in Georgia and Florida, where fresh-faced African-American Democratic candidates for governor trailed their older, white Republican competitors. In Georgia, Stacey Abrams hasn't conceded her race while Andrew Gillum's contest in Florida is undergoing a recount.

For some Democrats, the lesson emerging from the 2018 midterms is that massive turnout can win suburban House races across New Jersey, Pennsylvania and California. But the coalition that produced some success elsewhere may not be enough in Florida, the nation's premier presidential battleground state, and Georgia, a state Democrats view with increasing optimism.

"It's not a viable long-term plan to constantly rely on record turnout," said Democratic strategist Steve Schale, who led former President Barack Obama's efforts in Florida. "We have a national issue we have to deal with."

While Gillum and Abrams have much in common, they ran on different messages.

Gillum, the 39-year-old mayor of Florida's capital city, ran as an unapologetic member of the Trump resistance. He openly called for President Donald Trump's impeachment. And he accused his Republican opponent, former Rep. Ron DeSantis, of blatant racism.

Abrams, the 44-year-old former minority leader in Georgia's House of Representative, highlighted her bipartisan credentials throughout her bid for governor. While she and Gillum embraced liberal policy priorities, such as "Medicare for All," she promoted her work with Republicans in the state legislature, even highlighting a handshake with GOP Gov. Nathan Deal in a campaign ad.

Still, both were viewed as rising stars within the evolving Democratic Party, a new generation of Democratic leadership that could expand the party's appeal among all voters.

Racial divisions appear to have limited their appeal, however.

Both Gillum and Abrams won African-Americans and young voters by overwhelming margins. But they struggled with older, white voters, particularly noncollege-educated white voters, who make up the core of Trump's political base.

Gillum won 92 percent of black voters, according to VoteCast, a wide-ranging survey of the electorate conducted by The Associated Press. He also won 60 percent of voters 18 to 29 years old, and 54 percent of women.

But Gillum earned just 44 percent of the male vote. And he won only 39 percent of the overall white vote — and 35 percent among noncollege-educated white voters.

It was worse for Abrams, who was poised to become the nation's first African-American female governor.

She won 94 percent of Georgia's black vote, but just 25 percent of white voters. She carried 56 percent of women, but just 40 percent of men. A dismal 19 percent of noncollege-educated white men supported her, according to VoteCast.

Nationwide, 43 percent of white voters backed Democrats, including 38 percent of noncollege-educated whites.

The results "absolutely" demonstrated black candidates like Gillum and Abrams have a harder time winning in the Trump era, NAACP President Derrick Johnson told the AP.

"What the president has done is played to the lowest common denominator and created a culture of intolerance and racial hatred," Johnson said. "You build up negative energy based on fear to a point where there are segments of the population who are reacting to fear and not pure policy considerations."

Leading Democratic pollster Stan Greenberg agreed that racism likely shaped the elections.

"This was a big election in which the president used immigration to send a kind of racist message about the need to stand up whites against the invasion," Greenberg said of Trump's final-days focus on a caravan of Latin American immigrants heading to the U.S. border to seek asylum.

Trump and his allies took "every opportunity," he continued, "to attack black politicians and athletes and others. It's not subtle in terms of what they've done."

Greenberg acknowledged Democrats' nationwide struggle among working-class white men, but he

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highlighted Gillum and Abrams' ability to drive tremendous turnout overall.

With votes still being counted, Gillum received more than 4 million votes, shattering the previous mid-term record set in 2014 by Democratic gubernatorial candidate Charlie Crist, who earned 2.8 million votes. While significantly fewer voters typically participate in off-year elections, Gillum came close to matching Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton's 2016 total of 4.5 million votes.

It was much the same in Georgia, a smaller state, where Abrams actually exceeded Clinton's 2016 vote total, earning a midterm Democratic record 1.9 million votes.

But so far, at least, the Republican candidates in both states earned more votes.

The dynamic does not bode well for Democrats' fight to deny Trump a second term, even as America grows more diverse.

Schale said Democrats in Florida and Georgia — and others — must do a better job managing their losses among voters in Republican-leaning regions, which are increasingly turning away from his party. It's unclear, however, how exactly to do that.

"In a lot of places right now, it's very foreign to vote for a Democrat," he said. "We've got to find a way to broaden the appeal."

Winds cause flare-ups of big Southern California wildfire

By CHRISTOPHER WEBER, Associated Press

MALIBU, Calif. (AP) — Strong Santa Ana winds returned to Southern California on Sunday, causing flare-ups of a huge wildfire that has scorched a string of communities west of Los Angeles, but no additional structures were believed to have been lost, authorities said.

Huge plumes of smoke rose in the fire area, which stretches miles from the northwest corner of Los Angeles' San Fernando Valley to the Malibu coast.

Airplanes and helicopters swooped low over hills and canyons to drop loads of fire retardant and water.

A one-day lull in the dry, northeasterly winds ended at midmorning and authorities warned that the gusts would continue through Tuesday.

The lull allowed firefighters to gain 10 percent control of the Woolsey fire, which has burned more than 130 square miles (335 square kilometers) in western Los Angeles County and southeastern Ventura County since Thursday.

Los Angeles County Fire Chief Daryl Osby stressed there were numerous hotspots and plenty of fuel that had not yet burned, but at sunset he said there had been huge successes despite "a very challenging day."

The count of destroyed homes remained at 177 but it was expected to increase when an update is reported Monday. Osby noted that a November 1993 wildfire in Malibu destroyed more than 270 homes and said he would not be surprised if the total from the current fire would be higher.

The fire's cause remained under investigation but Southern California Edison reported to the California Public Utilities Commission that there was an outage on an electrical circuit near where it started as Santa Ana winds blew through the region.

SoCal Edison said the report was submitted out of an abundance of caution although there was no indication from fire officials that its equipment may have been involved. The report said the fire was reported around 2:24 p.m. Thursday, two minutes after the outage.

Venture County Fire Chief Mark Lorenzen hadn't heard about the Edison report. "It wouldn't surprise me" if it turns out that winds caused equipment failure that sparked a fire, he said.

The death toll stood at two. The severely burned bodies were discovered in a car on a long residential driveway on a stretch of Mulholland Highway in Malibu, where most of the surrounding structures had burned. Authorities said investigators believed the driver became disoriented and the car was overcome by fire.

The deaths came as authorities in Northern California announced the death toll from a massive wildfire there has reached 29 people, bringing the statewide total to 31.

Progress was made on the lines of smaller fire to the west in Ventura County, which was 70 percent

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contained at about 7 square miles (18 square kilometers), and evacuations were greatly reduced. But thousands remained under evacuation orders due to the Woolsey fire.

Three firefighters suffered minor injuries, Osby said.

Also injured was a well-known member of the Malibu City Council. Councilman Jefferson "Zuma Jay" Wagner was injured while trying to save his home, which burned down, Councilman Skylar Peak told reporters Sunday.

Peak said Wagner was hospitalized but was expected to recover. Wagner runs Zuma Jay Surfboards, a longtime fixture on Pacific Coast Highway near the landmark Malibu Pier.

The extensive celebrity community within Malibu wasn't spared. Actor Gerard Butler and Camille Grammer Meyer of "The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills" were among those whose homes were damaged or destroyed.

Areas that suffered significant destruction included Seminole Springs, a mobile home community nestled by a lake in the rugged Santa Monica Mountains north of Malibu.

"I smelled the fire and didn't think, grabbed my dog and left," resident Lisa Kin said Sunday, tears in her eyes and her voice breaking. "It hasn't burned in decades and I knew we didn't stand a chance."

She described Seminole Springs as a "beautiful community" of families and older people who appreciate its tranquility. But she said she always feared a wildfire since she moved there 15 years ago, especially during recent years in which there's been almost no rain.

Roger Kelly, 69, who defied orders and hiked back into Seminole Springs, estimated 90 of its approximately 220 homes were destroyed. He had seen a neighbor's home intact in a TV news aerial shot and hoped his home had survived. It did, but just a half-block away others were laid to waste.

"I just started weeping," he said. "I just broke down. Your first view of it (the destruction), man it just gets you."

Kelly said he had filled trash cans with water, soaked towels and readied a garden hose to defend his home early Friday, but when the air filled with smoke he and his wife fled the community where he has lived for 28 years and raised two children.

When he returned, virtually everything on the landscape around the community had been reduced to ash.

Spot fires continued to occur late Sunday afternoon near the Malibu campus of Pepperdine University, where 3,500 students were sheltering in place. The university said it was closing Malibu campus and its Calabasas campus to the north until Nov. 26 but classes would be remotely administered online and through email.

Santa Ana winds, produced by surface high pressure over the Great Basin squeezing air down through canyons and passes in Southern California's mountain ranges, are common in the fall and have a long history of fanning destructive wildfires in the region.

But fire officials say fire behavior has changed statewide after years of drought and record summer heat that have left vegetation extremely crisp and dry.

"Things are not the way they were 10 years ago ... the rate of spread is exponentially more than it used to be," said Lorenzen, urging residents to not put their lives at risk by trying to defend their own homes instead of evacuating.

That change has impacted the ability to move firefighting resources around the state, officials said.

"Typically this time of year when we get fires in Southern California we can rely upon our mutual aid partners in Northern California to come assist us because this time of year they've already had significant rainfall or even snow," said Osby, the LA County fire chief.

With the devastation and loss of life in the Northern California fire, "it's evident from that situation statewide that we're in climate change and it's going to be here for the foreseeable future," he said.

Associated Press writers John Antczak and Andrew Dalton contributed to this report from Los Angeles.

Death toll rises in California wildfire, matching deadliest

By GILLIAN FLACCUS and ANDREW SELSKY, Associated Press

PARADISE, Calif. (AP) — As relatives desperately searched shelters for missing loved ones on Sunday, crews searching the smoking ruins of Paradise and outlying areas found six more bodies, raising the death toll to 29, matching the deadliest wildfire in California history.

Wildfires continued to rage on both ends of the state, with gusty winds expected overnight which will challenge firefighters. The statewide death toll stood at 31. The Camp Fire that ravaged a swath of Northern California was the deadliest.

A total of 29 bodies have been found so far from that fire, Butte County Sheriff Kory Honea told a news briefing Sunday evening. He said 228 people were still unaccounted for.

Ten search and recovery teams were working in Paradise — a town of 27,000 that was largely incinerated on Thursday — and in surrounding communities. Authorities called in a mobile DNA lab and anthropologists to help identify victims of the most destructive wildfire in California history.

By early afternoon, one of the two black hearses stationed in Paradise had picked up another set of remains.

People looking for friends or relatives called evacuation centers, hospitals, police and the coroner's office.

Sol Bechtold drove from shelter to shelter looking for his mother, Joanne Caddy, a 75-year-old widow whose house burned down along with the rest of her neighborhood in Magalia, just north of Paradise. She lived alone and did not drive.

Bechtold posted a flyer on social media, pinned it to bulletin boards at shelters and showed her picture around to evacuees, asking if anyone recognized her. He ran across a few of Caddy's neighbors, but they hadn't seen her.

As he drove through the smoke and haze to yet another shelter, he said, "I'm also under a dark emotional cloud. Your mother's somewhere and you don't know where she's at. You don't know if she's safe."

He added: "I've got to stay positive. She's a strong, smart woman."

Officials and relatives held out hope that many of those unaccounted for were safe and simply had no cellphones or other ways to contact loved ones. The sheriff's office in the stricken northern county set up a missing-persons call center to help connect people.

Gov. Jerry Brown said California is requesting aid from the Trump administration. President Donald Trump has blamed "poor" forest management for the fires. Brown told a press briefing that federal and state governments must do more forest management but said that's not the source of the problem.

"Managing all the forests everywhere we can does not stop climate change," Brown said. "And those who deny that are definitely contributing to the tragedies that we're now witnessing, and will continue to witness in the coming years."

Firefighters battling the Camp Fire with shovels and bulldozers, flame retardants and hoses expected wind gusts up to 40 mph (64 kph) overnight Sunday. Officials said they expect the wind to die down by midday Monday, but there was still no rain in sight.

More than 8,000 firefighters in all battled three large wildfires burning across nearly 400 square miles (1,040 square kilometers) in Northern and Southern California, with out-of-state crews arriving.

Two people were found dead in Southern California, where flames tore through Malibu mansions and working-class Los Angeles suburbs.

The burned bodies were discovered in a driveway in Malibu, where residents forced from their homes included Lady Gaga, Kim Kardashian West and Martin Sheen. Actor Gerard Butler said on Instagram that his Malibu home was "half-gone," and a publicist for Camille Grammer Meyer said the "Real Housewives of Beverly Hills" star lost her home in the seaside enclave.

Flames also besieged Thousand Oaks, the Southern California city in mourning over the massacre of 12 people in a shooting rampage at a country music bar Wednesday night.

In Northern California, Sheriff Honea said the devastation was so complete in some neighborhoods that "it's very difficult to determine whether or not there may be human remains there."

Authorities were also bringing in a DNA lab and said officials would reach out to relatives who had reg-

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istered their missing loved ones to aid in identifying the dead after the blaze destroyed more than 6,700 buildings, nearly all of them homes.

The 29 dead in Northern California matched the deadliest single fire on record, a 1933 blaze in Griffith Park in Los Angeles, though a series of wildfires in Northern California wine country last fall killed 44 people and destroyed more than 5,000 homes.

The Camp Fire on Sunday stood at 173 square miles (450 square kilometers) and was 25 percent contained, but Cal Fire spokesman Bill Murphy warned that gusty winds predicted into Monday morning could spark "explosive fire behavior."

About 150,000 people statewide were under evacuation orders, most of them in Southern California, where nearly 180 structures were destroyed, including a large mobile home community in rugged Santa Monica Mountains north of Malibu.

Brown's request for a major-disaster declaration from Trump would make victims eligible for crisis counseling, housing and unemployment help, and legal aid.

Drought, warmer weather attributed to climate change, and the building of homes deeper into forests have led to longer and more destructive wildfire seasons in California. While California officially emerged from a five-year drought last year, much of the northern two-thirds of the state is abnormally dry.

"Things are not the way they were 10 years ago. ... The rate of spread is exponentially more than it used to be," said Ventura County Fire Chief Mark Lorenzen, urging residents to evacuate rather than stay behind to try to defend their homes.

One of the Northern California fire's victims was an ailing woman whose body was found in bed in a burned-out house in Concow, near Paradise.

Ellen Walker, who was in her early 70s, was home alone when the fire struck on Thursday, according to Nancy Breeding, a family friend.

Breeding said Walker's husband was at work and called a neighbor to tell his wife to evacuate, but she was on medication and might not have been alert. Authorities confirmed her death late Friday.

"A fireman took him to the house to confirm," Breeding said. "This is a devastating thing, and it's happening to so many people."

Selsky reported from Salem, Oregon. Associated Press writers Janie Har and Daisy Nguyen in San Francisco; Don Thompson and Martha Mendoza in Chico, California; Christopher Weber in Malibu, California; and Andrew Dalton and John Antczak in Los Angeles contributed to this story.

Gerard Butler's house 'half-gone,' others await fire's toll

By ANDREW DALTON, AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Celebrities whose coastal homes have been damaged or destroyed in a Southern California wildfire or were forced to flee from the flames expressed sympathy and solidarity with less-famous people hurt worse by the state's deadly blazes, and gave their gratitude to firefighters who kept them safe.

"Returned to my house in Malibu after evacuating," Gerard Butler wrote in an Instagram post next to a photo that showed a burned-out structure and a badly scorched vehicle. "Heartbreaking time across California. Inspired as ever by the courage, spirit and sacrifice of firefighters."

"Half-gone" the "300" actor grumbled in his Scottish accent in a video that shows embers, ashes and what's left of his home.

Robin Thicke's Malibu home burned down entirely, according to his representative.

The 41-year-old singer said on Instagram that he, his girlfriend and his two kids are "safe and surrounded by friends and family" and were thankful to firefighters.

"As we drove to safety, they risked their lives trying to save our home," Thicke said.

Camille Grammer Meyer of "The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills" also lost her Malibu home on Saturday night, her publicist, Howard Bragman, said in an email to The Associated Press.

"Sadly my house couldn't be saved," Meyer, the ex-wife of actor Kelsey Grammer, wrote in an Instagram

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post that showed a huge house engulfed in flames.

Caitlyn Jenner was among the fortunate ones, learning Sunday that her house was spared.

"Yay, our house made it!" Jenner said in an Instagram video then showed the bare, blackened landscape surrounding the house.

"It was devastating out here in Malibu," Jenner said. The hills are just totally scorched. Fried to say the least....we're very, very lucky."

Many others including Orlando Bloom, Alyssa Milano, Lady Gaga, "The Office" actor Rainn Wilson and fashion designer Donna Karan were among evacuees. Some knew their homes were safe (for now) and waited for a chance to return. Others were in the dark, posting pictures of plumes of smoke and saying their houses were somewhere in there.

"Stay safe, California — and keep those prayers coming America," Wilson said on his Twitter account, where over the weekend he was sharing photos of some of the more than 100 people missing in the huge wildfire in Northern California that has killed at least 23.

Milano said her house is "still in jeopardy" as strong winds kicked up again Sunday.

Southern California's wildfire has killed two and destroyed at least 177 homes. The blaze started Thursday night and pushed toward Malibu and the Pacific Ocean, prompting evacuations in Malibu, Calabasas, Agoura Hills and other nearby areas.

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.

"LA is a pretty great place but if fires are all we have to deal with, you know, we're lucky," "Rules of Engagement" actor Oliver Hudson told the AP at a charity event in Culver City. "There's a lot of people in the world who are dealing with a lot more."

Actress Julie Bowen of "Modern Family" said everyone affected by the flames is deserving of sympathy.

"I think there are lots and lots of people who think of Malibu as just being a celebrity second-home culture," Bowen said at the Culver City event, "but there are people who is this is their first, last and only homes are there and going all up and down those canyons and they're not necessarily, 'who cares they're rich and glamorous they can afford to lose a home'. This is life and death and it's really tragic."

Follow Andrew Dalton on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/andyjamesdalton>

Florida election recount continues amid tensions, litigation

By **KELLI KENNEDY** and **TERRY SPENCER**, Associated Press

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — Mishaps, protests and litigation dominated Florida's first day of recounting the vote for pivotal races for governor and Senate, bringing back memories of the 2000 presidential fiasco.

Much of the drama on Sunday centered on Broward and Palm Beach counties, home to large concentrations of Democratic voters.

In Broward County, the recount was delayed for several hours Sunday morning because of a problem with one of the tabulation machines. That prompted the Republican Party to slam Broward's supervisor of elections, Brenda Snipes, for "incompetence and gross mismanagement."

Broward officials faced further headaches after they acknowledged the county mistakenly counted 22 absentee ballots that had been rejected. The problem seemed impossible to fix because the dismissed ballots were mixed in with 205 legal ballots and Snipes said it would be unfair to throw out all of those votes.

By the end of the day, Gov. Rick Scott, the Republican candidate for Senate, filed suit against Snipes in a circuit court. He sought a judge's order that law enforcement agents impound and secure all voting machines, tallying devices and ballots "when not in use until such time as any recounts." The lawsuit accused Snipes of repeatedly failing to account for the number of ballots left to be counted and failing to report results regularly as required by law.

Juan Penalosa, the executive director of the Florida Democratic Party, accused Scott of "using his posi-

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tion to consolidate power by cutting at the very core of our democracy.”

Meanwhile, in Palm Beach County, the supervisor of elections said she doesn't believe her department will be able to meet the state's Thursday deadline to complete the recount, throwing into question what would happen to votes there.

The developments added up to a tumultuous day in America's premier political battleground state. More than half of Florida's 67 counties began a recount process that's unprecedented even in a state notorious for settling elections by razor-thin margins. State officials said they weren't aware of any other time a race for governor or U.S. Senate required a recount, let alone both in the same election.

The recount in other major population centers, including Miami-Dade and Pinellas and Hillsborough counties in the Tampa Bay area, was ongoing without incident Sunday. Smaller counties are expected to begin their reviews in coming days.

Unofficial results showed 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, Scott's lead over Democratic incumbent Bill Nelson was 0.14 percentage points.

State law requires a machine recount in races where the margin is less than 0.5 percentage points. Once completed, if the differences in any of the races are 0.25 percentage points or below, a hand recount will be ordered.

As the recount unfolded, Republicans urged their Democratic opponents to give up and let the state to move on. Scott said Sunday that Nelson wants fraudulent ballots and those cast by noncitizens to count, pointing to a Nelson lawyer objecting to Palm Beach County's rejection of one provisional ballot because it was cast by a noncitizen.

“He is trying to commit fraud to win this election,” Scott told Fox News. “Bill Nelson's a sore loser. He's been in politics way too long.”

Nelson's campaign issued a statement Sunday saying their lawyer wasn't authorized to object to the ballot's rejection as “Non-citizens cannot vote in US elections.”

In Fort Lauderdale, Gillum appeared at a predominantly African-American church Sunday evening, telling an overflow crowd that voter disenfranchisement isn't just about being blocked from the polling booth. He said it also includes absentee ballots not being counted and ballots where “the ‘w’ in their signature may look different today than the ‘w’ in their signature yesterday, that a volunteer may have the option of looking at that ballot and deciding that vote is null and void.”

The fact that Trump and Scott “are fighting like you know what to stop the vote count, that ought to tell you something,” Gillum said. “They don't get to shut down the process because they're not winning.”

Gillum and Nelson have argued each vote should be counted and the process should take its course. Both the state elections division, which Scott runs, and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement have said they have found no evidence of voter fraud.

That didn't stop protests outside Snipes' office, where a crowd of mostly Republicans gathered, holding signs, listening to country music and occasionally chanting “lock her up,” referring to Snipes.

A massive Trump 2020 flag flew over the parking lot and many members of a Bikers For Trump group wore matching shirts and carried flags, mingling among a crowd that included a protester wearing a Hillary Clinton mask.

Registered independent Russell Liddick, a 38-year-old retail worker from Pompano Beach, carried a sign reading, “I'm not here for Trump! I'm here for fair elections! Fire Snipes!” He said the office's problems “don't make me feel very much like my vote counted.”

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.

The recounts might dredge up memories 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, thus giving Bush the presidency.

But much has changed since. In 2000, each county had its own voting system. Many used punch cards — voters poked out chads, leaving tiny holes in their ballots representing their candidates. Some voters, however, didn't fully punch out the presidential chad or gave it just a little push. Those hanging and dimpled chads had to be examined by the canvassing boards, a lengthy, tiresome and often subjective process that became fodder for late-night comedians.

Now the state requires all Florida counties use ballots where voters use a pen to mark their candidate's name, much like a student does when taking a multiple-choice test. And how counts proceed is now clearly spelled out.

Those ballots are now being run through scanning machines in each county for a second time under the watchful eye of representatives of both parties and the campaigns. Any ballot that cannot be read for any of the recounted races will be put aside.

AP writers Tamara Lush in St. Petersburg and Brendan Farrington in Tallahassee contributed to this report.

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

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, and 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 town of 27,000 people and claimed at least 23 lives roared in so fast that for the first 24 hours, there was virtually 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.

At least 36 firefighters lost their own homes, most in the Paradise area, and dozens more likely burned, said International Association of Fire Fighters state service representative Tim Aboudara on Sunday. At least three firefighters' homes were confirmed lost in a Southern California blaze south of Simi Valley. The confirmed losses affect more than 110 family members and 75 pets, but all are believed to have escaped with their lives.

"Paradise was literally wiped off the map," Aboudara said. "Anytime you're a firefighter and your town burns down, there's a lot of feelings and a lot of guilt and a lot of concern about both what happened and what the future looks like. Every story that we've heard coming through has been that way, like 'I

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wish I could have done more, What's going to happen to our community, Where are my kids going to go to school?

The union is providing financial and emotional support to the affected firefighters.

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 property 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," Shirley 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."

This version corrects attribution to a quote.

'Am I dreaming?' Letter excerpts from WWI's last day

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.

At a Paris ceremony Sunday marking the centennial of the armistice ending the first global war, eight teenagers born in the 21st century read from letters and notes written on the day the bloodshed stopped, Nov. 11, 1918. They then helped French President Emmanuel Macron rekindle the flame at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Some 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."

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--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 Xinggong, 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 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

"Gently, we are grateful, gently, we are grateful, oh gently.

... Nothing is eternal

Gently, we are grateful"

--Song of peace and reconciliation in the mina language of Benin, sung by Grammy award winner Angélique Kidjo in honor of colonial soldiers recruited from 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>

Democratic state gains may mean tighter gun, looser pot laws

By DAVID A. LIEB and GEOFF MULVIHILL, Associated Press

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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 state legislative chambers, according to data provided by the National Conference of State Legislatures (Nebraska is the lone state with a single legislature). 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 abortion 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. Voters demanded that in a 2017 referendum, but the effort has been slowed by departing Republican Gov. Paul LePage.

The states shifting to Democratic dominance can look to New Jersey, which held its governor's election

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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>

Warming hurting shellfish, aiding predators, ruining habitat

By PATRICK WHITTLE, Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — Valuable species of shellfish have become harder to find on the East Coast because of degraded habitat caused by a warming environment, according to a pair of scientists that sought to find out whether environmental factors or overfishing was the source of the decline.

The scientists reached the conclusion in studying the decline in the harvest of four commercially important species of shellfish in coastal areas from Maine to North Carolina — eastern oysters, northern quahogs, softshell clams and northern bay scallops. They reported that their findings came down squarely on the side of a warming ocean environment and a changing climate, and not excessive harvest by fishermen.

One of the ways warming has negatively impacted shellfish is by making them more susceptible to predators, said the lead author of the study, Clyde MacKenzie, a shellfish researcher for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration who is based in Sandy Hook, New Jersey.

"Their predation rate is faster in the warmer waters. They begin to prey earlier, and they prey longer into the fall," MacKenzie said. "These stocks have gone down."

MacKenzie's findings, the product of a collaboration with Mitchell Tarnowski, a shellfish biologist with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, appeared recently in the journal *Marine Fisheries Review*. The findings have implications for consumers of shellfish, because a declining domestic harvest means the prices of shellfish such as oysters and clams could rise, or the U.S. could become more dependent on foreign sources.

The scientists observed that the harvest of eastern oysters from Connecticut to Virginia fell from around 600,000 bushels in 1960 to less than 100,000 in 2005. The harvest of the four species declined from 1980 to 2010 after enjoying years of stability from 1950 to 1980, they found.

The scientists reported that a positive shift in the North Atlantic Oscillation led to the degradation of shellfish habitat. The oscillation is an irregular fluctuation of atmospheric pressure that impacts weather and climate, which in turn affects things like reproduction and food availability for shellfish.

The study mirrors what Maine clam harvesters are seeing on the state's tidal flats, said Chad Coffin, a clammer and the president of the Maine Clammers Association. Maine's harvest of softshell clams — the clams used to make fried clams and clam chowder — dwindled to its lowest point since 1930 last year.

It will take adopting new strategies, such as shellfish farming, for the fisheries to survive, Coffin said.

"Clammers aren't the reason there's no clams," he said. "We need to adapt, we need to focus our efforts on adapting to the environment we have."

Some near-shore shellfish harvests in the U.S. remain consistently productive, such as the Maine sea scallop fishery, which takes place in bays and coastal areas in the winter. The state's scallop fishery bottomed out at about 33,000 pounds in 2005, but has climbed in recent years, and its 2017 total of almost 800,000 pounds was the most since 1997.

Many in Maine attribute the health of the fishery to conservative management, said Alex Todd, a scallop fisherman who also works the waters off Massachusetts.

"Up and down the coast, there have been good years recently compared to 10 or 15 years ago," he said.

But the scientists' findings track with others who have studied the impact of warming waters on shellfish, such as Brian Beal, a professor of marine ecology at the University of Maine at Machias. Beal, who was not involved in the study, has said rising seawater temperature could spell "doom and gloom for the clamming industry and probably for other industries as well."

That's especially true of valuable species that are important food items, like clams and mussels, he said.

"None of this can be attributed to overfishing, a term that is used willy-nilly and applied erroneously to these declines in commercially important shellfish," Beal said.

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'Dr. Seuss' The Grinch' makes off with \$66M at box office

By ANDREW DALTON, AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — You're a mean one — and you're number one — Mr. Grinch.

"Dr. Seuss' The Grinch" sledged past mixed reviews and made off with \$66 million for Universal Pictures to top the weekend North American box office, according to studio estimates Sunday.

Last week's top film, the Queen biopic "Bohemian Rhapsody," drops to second for 20th Century Fox with a \$30.8 million weekend that brings its overall take to \$100 million.

Illumination, the Universal-owned animators behind "The Minions" and "Despicable Me," produced the latest interpretation of Seuss' 1957 book that led to a 1966 TV special and first came to the big screen as a live-action feature starring Jim Carrey in 2000.

Paramount Pictures' war-horror hybrid "Overlord" was third in its first weekend with \$10.1 million. Disney's "The Nutcracker and the Four Realms" brought in \$9.5 million and finished fourth in its second week. The weekend's other major debut, "The Girl in the Spider's Web," made just \$8 million and finished fifth.

Illumination's "Grinch," narrated by Pharrell Williams, gives the title character, voiced by Benedict Cumberbatch, a backstory in an orphanage and fills out the story of his foil Cindy Lou Who.

It's the second Seuss adaptation for Illumination. Its version of "The Lorax" opened with a comparable \$70 million weekend and went on to gross \$348.8 million worldwide.

"The Grinch" was widely expected to be No. 1 with few other major openings this weekend, but it surpassed projections that had it bringing in closer to \$60 million, continuing what's become a trend in 2018.

"The Grinch' is just the latest in a string of over-performers," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for Comscore. "Bohemian Rhapsody' was bigger than expected, 'A Star Is Born' was bigger than expected. It's fueling a box-office surge."

The industry has reached a cumulative box office total of \$10 billion faster than in any other year, Dergarabedian said.

The Christmas theme of "The Grinch" could sustain it through the holidays and Universal hopes it has a longer life than that.

"With Thanksgiving coming, we're poised to have a great run through that," said Jim Orr, president of domestic distribution for Universal. "Illumination's created such a classic take on this beloved character that audiences will be enjoying it for a really long time."

But big rivals loom soon, including "Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald" next week and "Ralph Breaks The Internet" on Nov. 21.

"We've got a lot of competition coming up for family audiences," Dergarabedian said.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to comScore. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday also are included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

1. "Dr Seuss' The Grinch," \$66 million (\$12.7 million international).
2. "Bohemian Rhapsody," \$30.8 million (\$63 million international).
3. "Overlord," \$10.1 million, (\$9.2 million international).
4. "The Nutcracker and the Four Realms," \$9.5 million, (\$13.5 million international).
5. "The Girl in the Spider's Web," \$8 million, (\$6.2 million international).
6. "A Star Is Born," \$8 million (\$9 million international).
7. "Nobody's Fool," \$6.5 million.
8. "Venom," \$4.8 million (\$118.2 million international).
9. "Halloween," \$3.8 million (\$5.9 million).
10. "The Hate U Give," \$2 million.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at international theaters (excluding the U.S. and Canada), according to comScore:

1. "Venom," \$118.2 million.

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2. "Bohemian Rhapsody," \$63 million.
3. "The Nutcracker and the Four Realms," \$13.5 million.
4. "Dr Seuss' The Grinch," \$12.7 million.
5. "Detective Conan: Zero the Enforcer," \$12.4 million.
6. "Intimate Strangers," \$9.2 million.
7. "Overlord," \$9.2 million.
8. "A Star Is Born," \$9 million.
9. "The Girl in the Spider's Web," \$6.2 million.
10. "Halloween," \$5.9 million.

This story has been corrected to show that "Overlord" earned \$10.1 million, not \$19 million.

Follow Andrew Dalton on Twitter at: <https://twitter.com/andyjamesdalton> .

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Monday, Nov. 12, the 316th day of 2018. There are 49 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 12, 1927, Josef Stalin became the undisputed ruler of the Soviet Union as Leon Trotsky was expelled from the Communist Party.

On this date:

In 1866, Chinese revolutionary Sun Yat-sen, the first provisional president of the Republic of China, was born.

In 1920, baseball got its first "czar" as Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis was elected commissioner of the American and National Leagues.

In 1936, the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge opened as President Franklin D. Roosevelt pressed a telegraph key in Washington, D.C., giving the green light to traffic.

In 1942, the World War II naval Battle of Guadalcanal began. (The Allies ended up winning a major victory over Japanese forces.)

In 1948, former Japanese premier Hideki Tojo and several other World War II Japanese leaders were sentenced to death by a war crimes tribunal.

In 1970, the Bhola cyclone struck East Pakistan; it's believed half a million people, possibly more, were killed.

In 1977, the city of New Orleans elected its first black mayor, Ernest "Dutch" Morial, the winner of a runoff.

In 1984, space shuttle astronauts Dale Gardner and Joe Allen snared a wandering satellite in history's first space salvage; the Palapa B2 satellite was secured in Discovery's cargo bay for return to Earth.

In 1987, the American Medical Association issued a policy statement saying it was unethical for a doctor to refuse to treat someone solely because that person had AIDS or was HIV-positive.

In 1996, a Saudi Boeing 747 jetliner collided shortly after takeoff from New Delhi, India, with a Kazak Ilyushin-76 cargo plane, killing 349 people.

In 1998, Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley filed a \$433 million-dollar lawsuit against the firearms industry, declaring that it had created a public nuisance by flooding the streets with weapons deliberately marketed to criminals. (A judge dismissed the lawsuit in 2000; an appeals court ruled in 2002 that the city of Chicago could proceed; but the Illinois Supreme Court dismissed the lawsuit in 2004.)

In 2001, American Airlines Flight 587, an Airbus A300 headed to the Dominican Republic, crashed after takeoff from New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport, killing all 260 people on board and five people on the ground.

Ten years ago: Same-sex marriages began in Connecticut, a month after the state Supreme Court ruled

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that gays had the right to wed. Kenny Chesney took home his fourth entertainer of the year trophy at the CMA Awards. Mitch Mitchell, the England-born drummer for the Jimi Hendrix Experience, was found dead in his hotel room in Portland, Ore.; he was 61.

Five years ago: An international panel of architects announced that the new World Trade Center tower in New York would replace Chicago's Willis Tower as the nation's tallest building upon its completion. Terry Francona of the Cleveland Indians won the AL Manager of the Year award in a close vote, and Clint Hurdle of the Pittsburgh Pirates was a runaway winner in the National League after both guided small-budget teams to the postseason. British composer John Tavener, 69, died in Child Okeford, England.

One year ago: President Donald Trump said he believed U.S. intelligence agencies, which concluded that Russia meddled in the 2016 U.S. presidential election, but that he also believed that Russia's Vladimir Putin felt that Russia did not interfere. Trump exchanged taunts with North Korea's leader, tweeting, "Why would Kim Jong-un insult me by calling me 'old,' when I would NEVER call him 'short and fat?'" A powerful earthquake shook the border between Iran and Iraq, killing more than 500 people. Syndicated gossip columnist Liz Smith died at the age of 94.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Brian Hyland is 75. Actor-playwright Wallace Shawn is 75. Rock musician Booker T. Jones (Booker T. & the MGs) is 74. Sportscaster Al Michaels is 74. Singer-songwriter Neil Young is 73. Rock musician Donald "Buck Dharma" Roeser (Blue Oyster Cult) is 71. Sen. Jack Reed, D-R.I., is 69. Country/gospel singer Barbara Fairchild is 68. Actress Megan Mullally is 60. Actor Vincent Irizarry is 59. Olympic gold medal gymnast Nadia Comaneci (koh-muh-NEECH') is 57. Actor Sam Lloyd is 55. Rock musician David Ellefson is 54. Retired MLB All-Star Sammy Sosa is 50. Figure skater Tonya Harding is 48. Actress Rebecca Wisocky is 47. Actress Radha Mitchell is 45. Actress Lourdes Benedicto is 44. Actress Tamala Jones is 44. Actress Angela Watson is 44. Singer Tevin Campbell is 42. Actress Ashley Williams is 40. Actress Cote de Pablo is 39. Actor Ryan Gosling is 38. Contemporary Christian musician Chris Huffman is 38. Actress Anne Hathaway is 36. Pop singer Omarion is 34. Folk-rock musician Griffin Goldsmith (Dawes) is 28. Actress Macey Cruthird is 26.

Thought for Today: "It's all right to have a train of thoughts, if you have a terminal." — Richard R. Bowker, American publisher (1848-1933).