

Groton Daily Independent

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

Midwest Masonry & concrete pumping

Greg Heilman, owner

405 E 1st Ave., Groton

Greg: 253/929-9137

Mike: 605/492-7041

midwestmasonry1@yahoo.com



Groton Area Schedule of Events

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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Superintendent Joe Schwan had an idea to revamp the gate going to the football field. Schwan talked with the industrial technology instructor, Don Donley, and together, with these students, they made the new gate with the Tiger and GT logo. Students working on this project last year were Joe Gleason, Cole Johnson, Colby Merkel, Jameson Stange and Kayde Stange. (Courtesy Photo)

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The bell has returned to the front of the Groton Area Middle/High School building. These students, under the direction of Don Donley, helped with the concrete pad and assisted in placing the bell on the pad beside the flag pole. From left to right; Cole Johnson, Dylon Graf, Joe Gleason, Kayde Stange, Colby Merkel and Kenzie Patton. (Courtesy Photo)

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SOUTH DAKOTA FOOTBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION 2018 ACADEMIC ALL-STATE TEAM

The requirements for this award are the following: 1. Must be a Senior; 2. Must have a 3.5 GPA; and 3. Must have played or managed 3 years of football.

CLASS 11 AAA

Aberdeen Central- Brock Baker, Jackson Rohlfs, Don Weigel, Alex Harms, Kaden Johnson
Watertown- Parker Schmidt, Jacob Tishcer, Adam DeJong, Matthew Glines, Brandon Flory, Adam Turbak, Thomas Bierschbach.
Brandon Valley- Jordan Blok, Isaac Burchill, Quinn Grode, Andrew Hanson, Jack Harvison, Caden Johnson, Tanner Niewenhuis, Carter Olthoff, Ethan Tellinghuisen
RC Stevens- Jackson Steiner, Caden McNabb, Tyrese Morris, Ben Sobczak
RC Central- Dylan Dunn, Tyler Liebig, Jetzon Olson, Tate Remmers
SF O'Gorman- CJ Stukel, Jon Suing, Aiden Diedrich, Brady Beck, Noah Reeves, George Schwebach, Logan Wolf, Canyon Bauer, Andrew Pujado, Elle Hove, Bean Blount
SF Roosevelt- Joey Ottn, Kurtis Solberg, Devlin McManus, Kevin Ramnzani
SF Lincoln- Terel Eisenbraun, Nolan Ransom, Austin Sorensen, Braedon Treadway
SF Washington- Hanthaniel Freese, Jayden Johannsen, Cody Jennings, Dylan Versluys, Peyton Nieuwsma, Matthew Ruesch, Robert Dougherty, Jhett Andersen, Dillon Gard, Carson Wilson, Adam Durland

CLASS 11AA

Mitchell- Max Scheoenfelder, Carson Max, Carter Max, Zach Mohr, Jackson Sadler, Jared Street, Tegan Alm, Kaden Soukup, Koby Larson, Jared Miller, Hannah Morgan, Tristen Hildebrandt
Harrisburg- Cole Teigen, Ryan Hill, Max Anderson, Cole Patten, Jacob Just
Yankton- Rex Ryken, Justin Cap, Ethan Wishon, Cole Sawatzke, Hunter Antrobus, Nick Kurtenbach, Elijah Jones, Owen Phillips, Case Roth
Huron- Jett McGirr, Emerson DeVries, Bryce Steffen, Matt Katz, Parker Broer, Gabe Rieger
Sturgis Brown- Jay Krull, Gavin West, Andrew Nielan
Pierre TF Riggs- Jack Maher, Lee Snyder, Alec Miller, Josh Rounds, Lisa Stein
Brookings- Justin Devine, Parker Beers, Logan Bowes, Tucker Christie, Matt Osmanski

CLASS 11A

Madison- Jerett Lurz, Caileb Reilly, Nic Comes, Thomas Gors, Bear Shipley, Johnny Ricke
Milbank- Jacob Sandvig, Jordan Riley
West Central-Jackson Miller, Layton Davis
Lennox- Brock Anderson, Tyson Stoebner, Christian Tolliver
Tea Area-Cade Clayberg, Trevor Cox, Kaleb Joffer, Troy Ljunggren, Nathan Ochsner, Wyatt Powers, Kade Stearns, Jalon Wipf
Dell Rapids-Eddie Price, Tate Kolbeck, Tayte Gleason, Max Lamer, Jacob Rechtenbaugh, Logan Heim, Matthew Benda
St Thomas More-Riley Olsen, Dillion Woods
Todd County- Bryant Burnette
Dakota Valley-Ryan Hughes, Cole Schulz, Mitchell Kistner, Casey Voichahoske, Cole Reinhardt
Vermillion- Rylan Craig, Ben Fairholm, Justin Hall, Regan Heine, Gray Peterson, Jacob Peterson
Tri-Valley-Tristen Ruesch
Belle Fourche-Tater Fox, Carson Gubbrud, Zane Ranklin, Bryce Nicholas, Jackson Mailloux, Tee McAmis
Hot Springs- Thane Lockhart, Brand Baker, Caden Shanklin, Garrett Heil

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CLASS 11 B

Redfield-Doland- Trevor Ford, Drew Masat
Bridgewater-Emery/Ethan- Jamin Arend, Sawyer Schultz, Jevin Eddy, Garrett Clendening, Joslyn Schrank, Abbi Arend, Tessa Burnham
Stanley County-JD Carter, Logan Chase, Joey Fischer, Trevor Habeck, Austin Hand, Riley Hannum
Elk Point-Jefferson- Skyler Oberg
Woonsocket/Wessington Springs/Sanborn Central- Kadin Schlenker, Rylie Stevens, Chandler Flowers, Sawyer Senska
McCook Central/Montrose- Kyle Butzke, Martin Flood, Tanner Peterson, Rylee Klinkhammer, Cole Grasma, Dylan Klinkhammer



Alexis Simon
(Facebook Page
Photo)

Groton Area- Alexis Simon
Aberdeen Roncalli- Brady Morgan, Salesi Mouna, Brandon Fauth
Chamberlain- Collin Powell, Dylan Hopkins
Canton- Hunter Jacobsen, Charles Lewison, Jacob Mundahl, Scott Peterson, Dylan Weihe
Mount Vernon/Plankinton- Zaach Mikkonen, Lucas Wieczorek, Hayden Haak, Nolan Sampson
Mobridge-Pollock- Isaac Olson, Jimmy Richards, Tucson Freeman, Braxton Albers
Flandreau- James Auren, Nate Kneebone
Winner- Casey Stickland, Logan Tunnisen, Nolan Sachtjen, Brandon Volmer, Tyson Westendorf, Elijah Blare
Beresford- Jack Antonson, Tyler Kropuenske, Blake Peterson, Beau VanGelder
Wagner- Tysin Arpan, Faith Tyler

CLASS 9AA

Gregory- Isaac Barreto, JJ Beck, Peyton Feyereisen, Tyler Murray, Matt Sinclair
Irene-Wakonda- Trey King, Ben Sees
Wolsey-Wessington- Mark Hamilton, McKenzie Hochhalter, Donavon Smith, Seth Spiehs
Deuel- Logan Eide
North Border- Nick Brander, Chase Hatlesick, Carson Kunz
Arlington/Lake Preston- Devon Heuer, Nicholas Kersting, Connor Hoffman
Garretson- Brennan Mudder, Dakota Johnson
Bon Homme- John Kubal, Tyler Kopp, Christian Uecker, Beau Rothschadl, Joey Slama, Josh Schmidt, Zach Cuka
Baltic- Sam Muston, Isaak Swartwant, Allie Knopf
Webster Area- Parker Roerig, Ethan Ninke
Miller-Highmore-Harrold- Eli Jones, Joey Simpson
Menno/Marion- Kyle Munkvold, Trey Bohlmann, Logan Klaudt, Jaedyn Oplinger, Tess Oplinger, Easley Saylor
Kimball-White Lake- Tyler Resick, Javen Holan, Darby Deffenbaugh,
Parkston- Slayton Neugebauer
Parker- Blake Olson, Joe Joffer, Sam Gillespie
Great Plains Lutheran-
Viborg-Hurley- Chase Gust, Kolby Lee
Dakota Hills- Lucas Breske
Hamlin- Mitchell Noem, Kirby Antonen, Devan Weelborg, Connor Bawdon, Trevor Thue

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CLASS 9A

Britton-Hecla- Jory Flanery, Dayton Wade
Potter County- Kolten Kirby, Miriam Knoble, Cole Nafziger, Peter Rausch, Shad Sharp, Aaron Smith, Autumn Wieseler
Howard- Trevor Petrik
Canistota/Freeman-Jared Tieszen, Braxton Schmidt
Alcester-Hudson- Eli Skoglund, Kendra Jensen
Avon- Lauren Sees
Deubrook Area-Clayton Koppatschek, Jacob Johnson
Elkton-Lake Benton-Dylan Kuehl
Oldham-Ramona-Rutland- Taylor Hojer, Jack Olson
Ipswich/Edmunds Central- Jacob Nierman, Ben Kulesa
DeSmet-Max Poppinga, Jessie Todd, Kristen Poppen
Corsica-Stickney- Caysen Eide, Jaden Barse, Haley Johnson, Heather Johnson
Platte-Geddes- Stewart Zan Zee, Dominique Girron
New Underwood- Wylie Flint, Nate Ludonissie
Lyman- Grant Chester, Jacob Hoffer
Warner- Zack Jones
Hanson- Caleb Hernes, Will Kayser
Timber Lake- Trey Bollinger, Ty Ducheneaux, Tucker Kraft
Clark-Willow Lake-Micah Burke, Grayson Florey, Cutler Michalski, Travis O'Neill, Caleb Orris, Jeffrey Paulson, Jacob Prouty, Janae Kolden
Chester Area- Ben Schoeberl, Bayden Schneider

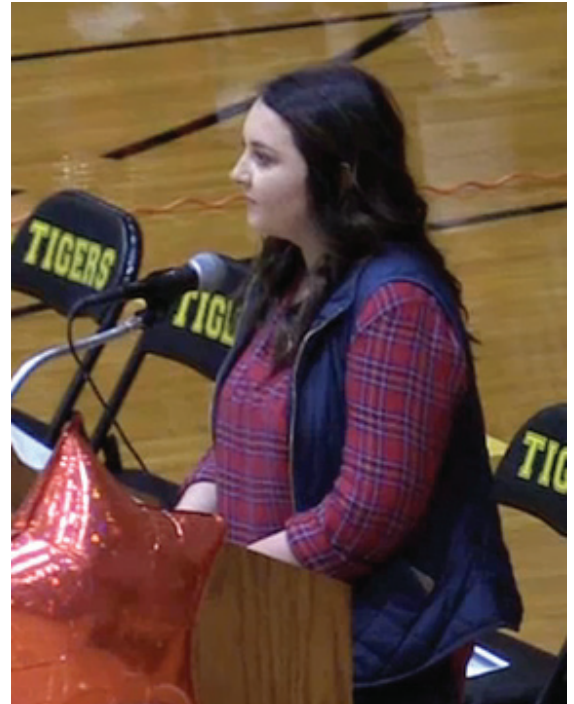
CLASS 9B

Sully Buttes- Braeden Peery, Cade Currier,
Edgemont- Chance Grill, Kaleb Darrow, Dalton Reutler
Hitchcock-Tulare- Peyton Nelson, Grant Hamilton
Kadoka Area- Marcus Herber, Tel VanderMay, Kaylee Eisenbraun, Anna Stone
Burke-South Central- Cade Bailey, Lahna Matucha
Faulkton- Tyler Ogle
Castlewood- Justin Alderman, Brandon Benike, Brad Heyn, Kyler Tvedt
Sunshine Bible Academy- Willie Anderson, Jace Burma, Ben Deal
Harding County- Brandon Cordell, Reese Jensen
Wall- Jacob Bielmaier, Cooper McConaghy
Northwestern-Caleb Schantzel, Gavin Bohl, Zach Toennies
Estelline/Hendricks- Zach Loomis
Waverly-South Shore- Ethan Whitted
Colome- Layton Thieman, Jackson Kinzer
Scotland- Lucas Pedersen, Dallas Fuerst

Veteran's Day Commemoration



Bruce Babcock and Robert Wegner presented the colors. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)



Alexis Simon gave the opening remarks at the Groton Area School Veteran's Day Commemoration. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)



The Chamber Choir sang the "Star Spangled Banner." (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)

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The High School Choir sang, "Stand with the Brave." It featured Cassie Schultz on trumpet. The choir is directed by Cody Swanson. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)



The junior high band performed, "This is My Country," under the direction of Desiree Yeigh. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)

**DVD of the Veteran's Day Program can be ordered
at the Groton Daily Independent
e-mail paperpaul@grotonsd.net to order a copy
They are \$15 plus tax and shipping**

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The junior kindergarten, kindergarten and first grade students sang, "This Land is Your Land." (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)



The second and third graders sang, "Because of You." (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)

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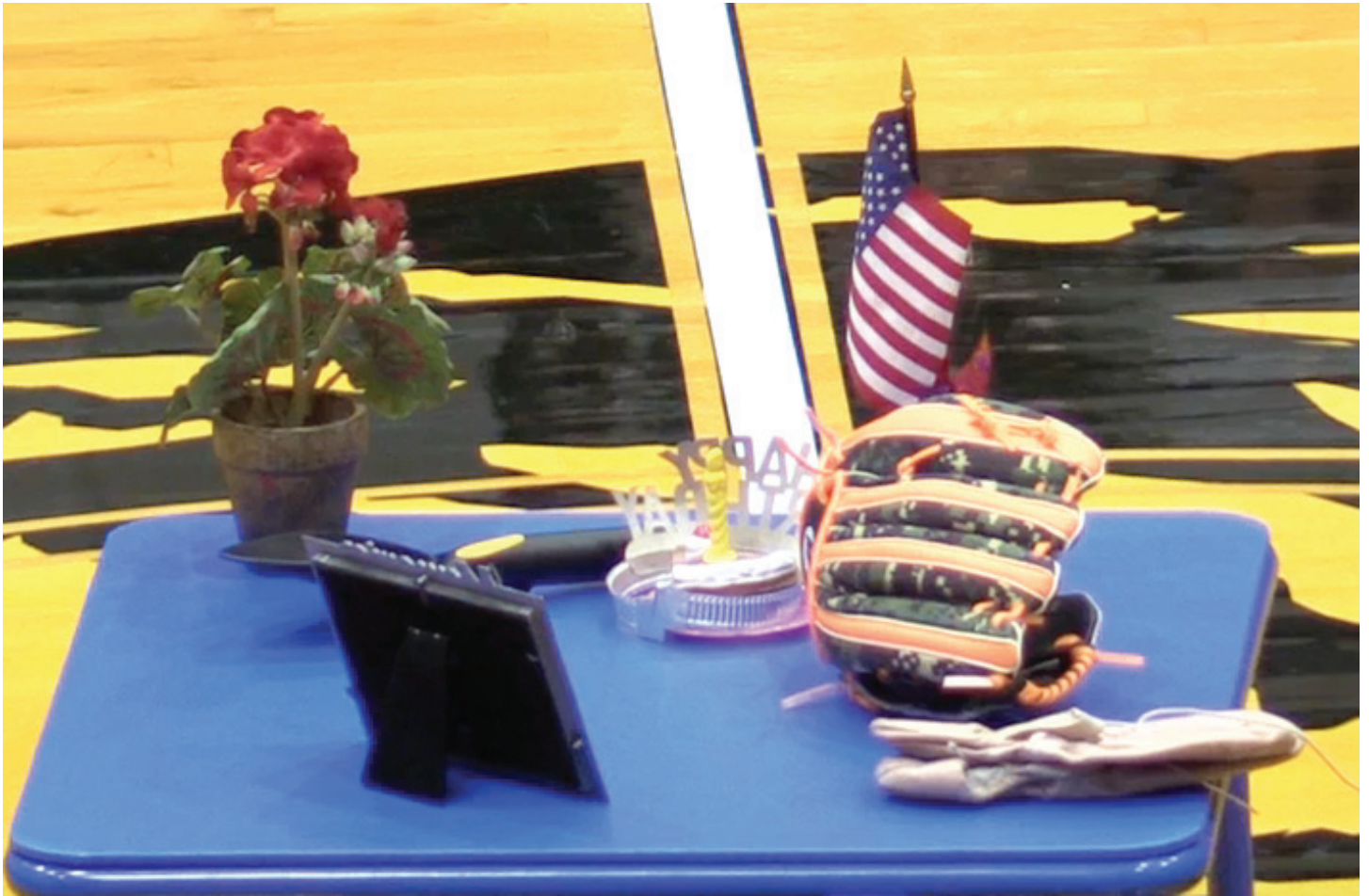
The fourth and fifth graders sang, "Song of Peace." (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)



Kayla Jensen, at the podium, narrated the Military Child's Table Setting Ceremony. Groton Area has four families who have someone serving in the military. Doing the setting are Ava Kramer, Ethan Pigors, Kyrie Yeigh and Layne Hanson. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)

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The Military Child's Table Setting. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)



The high school band, under the direction of Austin Fordham, played the "Service Songs."
(Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)

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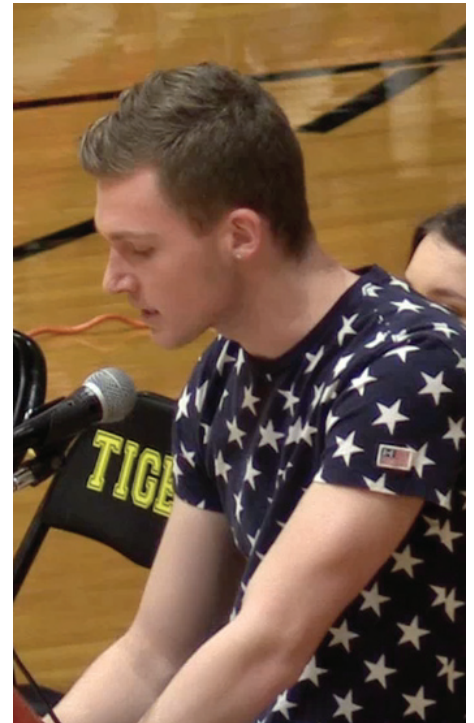
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Cadence Feist talked about her grandpa, Richard Taylor, and her mom's uncle, Joseph K. Maule. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)



Kaleb Antonsen talked about his interview with Stephan Wright. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)



Tylan Glover introduced the speakers for the Veteran interviews. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)



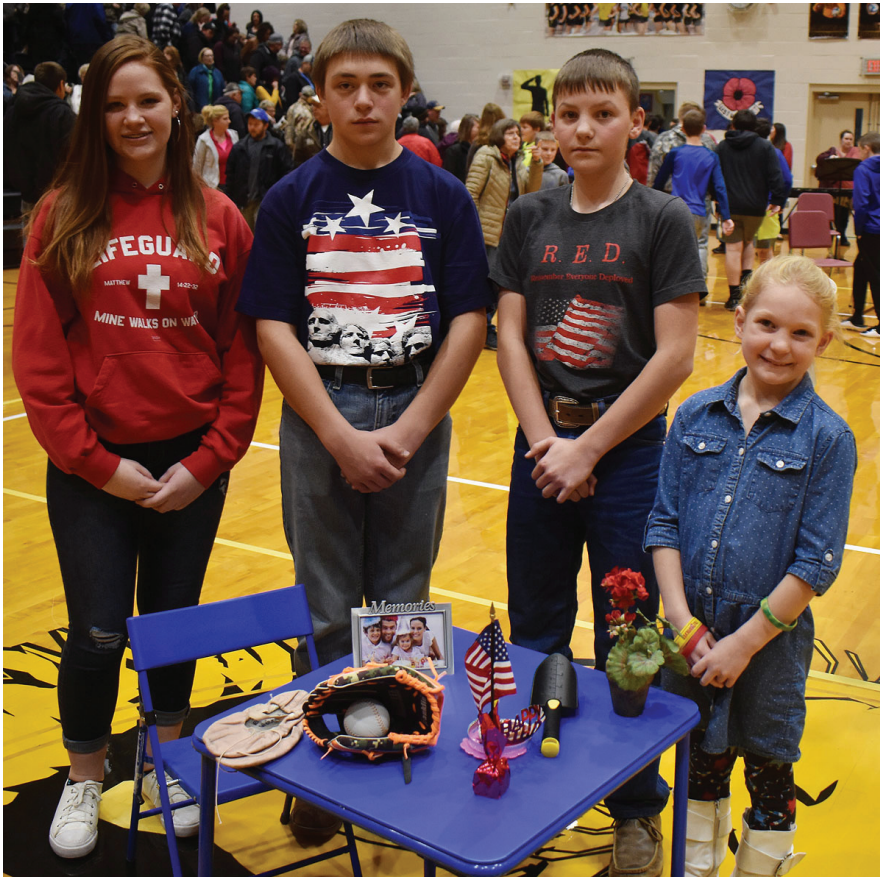
AnneMarie Smith played "Taps" at the end of the commemoration. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)



Camryn Kurtz talked about her uncle Arden Dohman. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)

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Doing the Military Child's Table Setting Ceremony were Ava Kramer, Ethan Pigors, Layne Hanson and Kyrie Yeigh.
(Photo by Paul Kosel)



Kayla Jensen did the narrating for the Military Child's Table Setting Ceremony. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)



Those doing the Veteran Interviews were Kaleb Antonsen, Camryn Kurtz and Cadence Feist. The Veterans pictured are Richard Taylor and Arden Dohman. Not pictured is Stephan Wright. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

The Life of 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.

Betty passed away November 9, 2018 at Groton Care and Rehabilitation Center.

Betty Ruth Weihrauch was born May 15, 1924 on a farm northwest of Groton, SD to Henry Jr. and Agnes (Jost) Weihrauch. She was baptized and confirmed in the Trinity Lutheran Church at James, SD. Betty attended grade school in the Henry Township and graduated from Groton High School in 1942. She was employed at Woolworths for 3 years, Northwestern Bell Telephone Company for 7 years, South Dakota Employment Security Department for 8 years and retired in March of 1989 after 23 years at the Brown County Auditor's office.

She was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church, Groton, SD, Good Cheer Circle and LWML Ladies Aid where she served several times as the treasurer. Betty enjoyed sewing, crocheting and serving her church.

Betty is survived by her nephew, Clyde (Colleen) Neuman of Portsmouth, Rhode Island, grand-nephews, Brian (Erika) Neuman and Sean Neuman; five great-grand-nephews and one great-grand-niece, and special friends, JoAnne and Wynella.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her sister and brother-in-law Alvera (Eugene) Neuman; and a grand-niece, Michaela Neuman.

Condolences may be sent to JoAnne Ehresmann, PO Box 227, Groton, SD or Wynella Abeln, 306 North 3rd St, Groton, SD, 57445.

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Enrollment in Dual Credit classes increased

The Groton Area School Board gave first reading to allow seniors to enroll in up to four classes for Dual Credit. Seniors are currently allowed up to three classes (three periods per day per semester). Middle/High School Principal Kiersten Sombke said that if students take advantage of the dual credit hours, they could have the whole first year of college credits taken care of by the time they graduate from high school. Superintendent Joe Schwan cautioned that dual credit is not for everyone. "Some students may not be ready for dual credit courses," Schwan said. "If you use the dual credit courses for college, it is a good way to go, but if not, it would be a waste of money." Board member Deb Gengerke said that she had heard that a student walked into college with the freshmen year all done thanks to dual credit courses in high school. A second reading will be required before it becomes official.

The Groton Area School received good reports on the Department of Health Food Service inspections. The elementary school received a 99 out of 100. The only thing the elementary school got a mark on was that there was a screw hole by the dishwasher that needed to be filled. The high school received a 98 out of 100 with the negative mark coming from having boxes on the floor in the walk-in cooler. Superintendent Joe Schwan also reported that along the same lines from the inspection, the district had to purchase a new wrestling scale because the district's scale is not certified.

The board approved the resignation of Sandi Sippel as basketball and wrestling cheer coach. The board also approved the resignation of Scott Thorson as an assistant football coach contingent on finding a suitable replacement.

Business Manager Mike Weber reported that the school audit is under way.

Superintendent Joe Schwan reported that the Groton Area School passed the teacher compensation accountability, according to the Department of Education. The lowest month ending cash balance for the last school year was 11.38 percent. The requirement is under 30 percent. Also, the average teacher compensation was \$61,213 and the projected amount for this year is \$61,870. The required amount needs to be above \$60,293. Schwan said that 30 schools did not pass one or both of those requirements and they will have to meet before the DOE board.

Elementary Principal Brett Schwan reported that the OST numbers are very good, compared to what they were when he first started. They used to be 20 to 25 in the afternoon. Numbers now are between 39 and 42 students in the afternoon.

There were 49 Veterans that came to the school breakfast on Monday this year. That is down from the previous 70 to 75 Veterans. Schwan also reported that the elementary enrollment is unchanged and added that is the first time in four years that there has not been a change in enrollment at this point. He did indicate that he is expecting an increase in preschool numbers by the time of the next report.

Middle/High School Principal Kiersten Sombke reported on a number of upcoming events: Football Athletic Banquet is Nov. 13, FBLA Blood Drive is Nov. 14, Lifetouch Picture retakes is Nov. 16, Groton FFA Operation Christmas Child packages need to be dropped off by Nov. 16, Family Night is Nov. 19, Dual Credit Class registration began Nov. 1, Thanksgiving Break is Nov. 21-23, ACT practice test is Dec. 5 and the Winter Formal is Dec. 1.



Front row from left; Simmons, 1st place, Masyn Schutter, Emily Ringgenberg, Alice Vogel, Ethan Fergel and Coach Ashley Brockhaus

Second Row From Left; Warner, 2nd place, Isaac Hoeft, Carter Moen, Allison Ray, and Levi Scepaniak

Third Row From Left; Groton 3rd place: Ethan Clark, Jackson Dinger, Jacob Lewandowski, and Ellie Weismantel. (Courtesy Photo)

Eighth Grade MathCounts team takes third

The Roncalli Invitational MathCounts Competition was held on Wednesday, October 31, 2018. Over 140 students from nine Aberdeen area schools (Britton-Hecla, Eureka, Frederick, Holgate, Northwestern, Roncalli, Simmons, Warner, and Groton) participated in the event, which was sponsored by 3M of Aberdeen.

Ethan Clark, Jackson Dinger, Jacob Lewandowski, and Ellie Weismantel were awarded the third place trophies in the eighth grade team competition. Ethan Clark also received the sixth place medal in the eighth grade individual/countdown round.

MathCounts is a nationwide coaching and competition program for middle school students that promotes excellence in mathematics. The next junior high competition will be the Roncalli Invitational MathCounts Countdown Competition on Wednesday, December 5.

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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).

1933 - The first dust storm of the great dust bowl era of the 1930s occurred. The dust storm, which had spread from Montana to the Ohio Valley the day before, prevailed from Georgia to Maine resulting in a black rain over New York and a brown snow in Vermont. Parts of South Dakota, Minnesota and Iowa reported zero visibility on the 12th. On the 13th, dust reduced the visibility to half a mile in Tennessee. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1946 - General Electric scientists produced snow in the Massachusetts Berkshires in the first modern day cloud seeding experiment. (The Weather Channel)

1953 - Strong southeasterly winds associated with a Pacific cold front reached 70 mph at Sacramento CA to equal their all-time record. The previous record had been established in a similar weather pattern on December 12th of the previous year. (The Weather Channel)

1981 - A powerful cyclone brought high winds to Washington State and Oregon. The cyclone, which formed about 1000 miles west of San Francisco, intensified rapidly as it approached the Oregon coast with the central pressure reaching 28.22 inches (956 millibars). A wind trace from the Whiskey Run Turbine Site, about 12 miles south of Coos Bay in Oregon, showed peak gusts to 97 mph fifty feet above ground level. The wind caused widespread damage in Washington and Oregon, with 12 deaths reported. As much as four feet of snow fell in the Sierra Nevada Range of northern California. (Storm Data)

1987 - A storm moving off the Pacific Ocean produced rain and gale force winds along the northern and central Pacific coast, and heavy snow in the Cascade Mountains. Cold weather prevailed in the southeastern U.S. Five cities reported record low temperatures for the date, including Asheville NC with a reading of 21 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Low pressure brought rain and snow and gusty winds to the northeastern U.S. A thunderstorm drenched Agawam MA with 1.25 inches of rain in fifteen minutes. Winds gusted to 58 mph at Nantucket MA. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Thirty-two cities in the central and eastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date as readings warmed into the 70s as far north as Michigan and Pennsylvania. Afternoon highs in the 80s were reported from the Southern Plains to the southern Atlantic coast. Columbia SC reported a record high of 86 degrees, and the high of 71 degrees at Flint MI was their warmest of record for so late in the season. (The National Weather Summary)

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Today



Sunny

High: 34 °F

Tonight



Partly Cloudy

Low: 17 °F

Wednesday



Sunny

High: 51 °F

Wednesday
Night



Partly Cloudy

Low: 25 °F

Thursday



Mostly Sunny
then Mostly
Sunny and
Breezy

High: 47 °F

The Warm Up Begins!

Today	Wednesday	Thursday
27 to 45°	44 to 58°	43 to 54°

warmest temperatures over south central South Dakota

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

www.weather.gov/abr

Published on: 11/13/2018 at 5:41AM

graphic created
11/13/2018 5:38 AM

Warmer temperatures and dry conditions are in store through Thursday. Temperatures will climb to near 60 degrees in central SD on Wednesday.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 20 °F at 3:12 PM

Low Outside Temp: 7 °F at 8:47 PM

High Gust: 22 mph at 9:12 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 71° in 2016

Record Low: -11 in 1919

Average High: 41°F

Average Low: 20°F

Average Precip in Nov.: 0.34

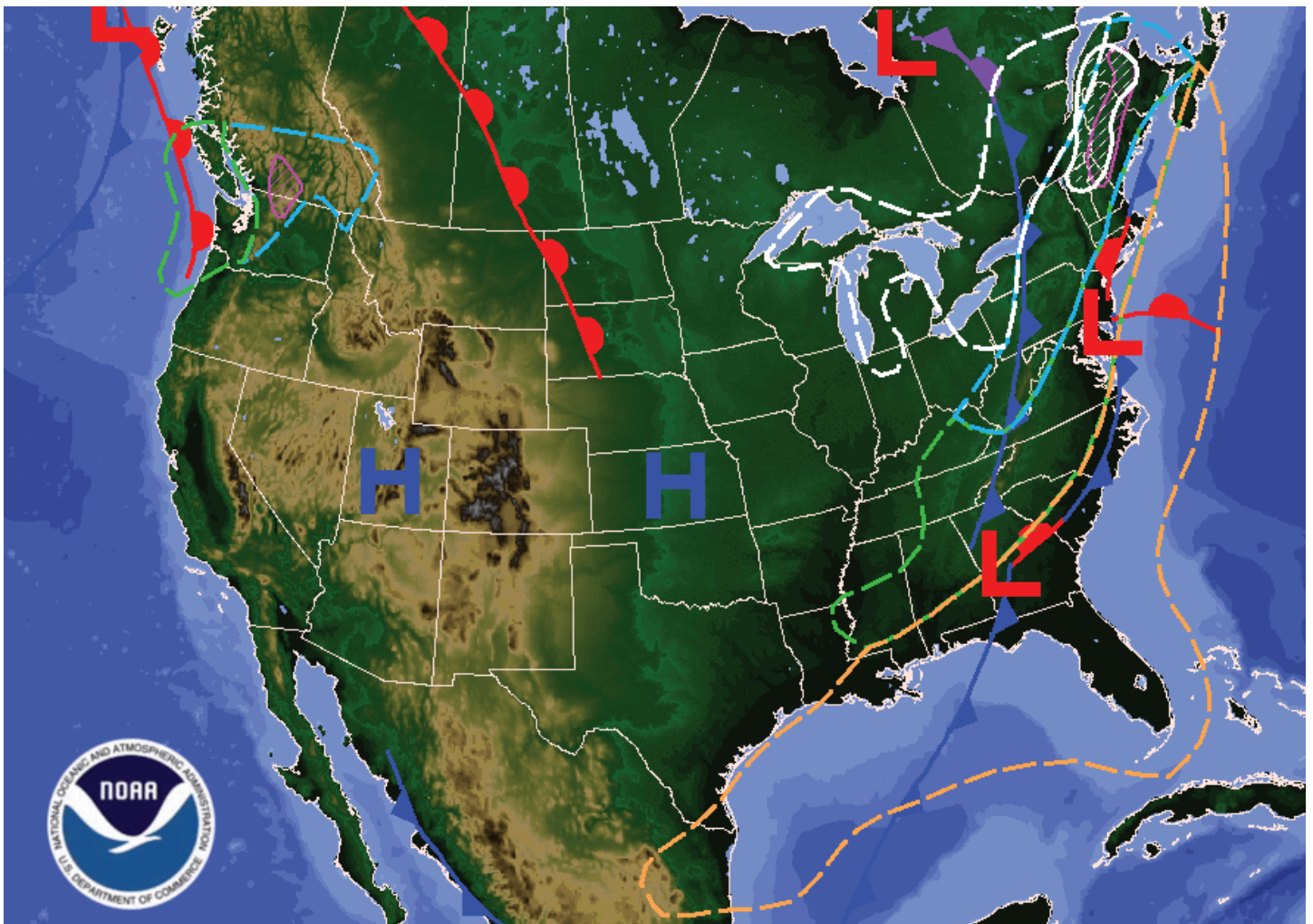
Precip to date in Nov.: 0.76

Average Precip to date: 20.81

Precip Year to Date: 15.81

Sunset Tonight: 5:06 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:31 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Tue, Nov 13, 2018, issued 4:22 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds 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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REMEMBER ME!

But Im not that important to God. I have not accomplished anything with my life, and Im too old now to do anything about it. I cant imagine that I will make any difference in Gods scheme of things, he said. How could any God love someone as worthless as me? Im hopeless!

It seems as though the writer of Psalm 106 felt the same way. Remember me, O Lord, when You show favor to Your people, come to my aid when You save them. He felt alone, abandoned, forsaken - perhaps even worthless. He could not imagine God including him in His plan of redemption. Im excluded! he cried. No hope.

Another man made a similar statement. This one was a thief hanging on a cross dying for his crimes. How interesting it is to note that he was hanging next to some One who had never committed any crimes, but was dying for the crimes he - the thief - had committed. He had no time to turn over a new leaf and lead a better life. He could not go to the people he had wronged and ask for forgiveness, or attend a religious ceremony for cleansing. He could not perform any good works - his hands were nailed to a cross. All he could do was to call on the name of the Lord and ask Jesus to Remember me! And, we too, must remember that no one is beyond the grace of God.

Although he was a thief condemned to die for his crimes, our Lord loved him just as much as He loves us. Today, Jesus assured him, you will be with Me in paradise.

God has no favorites. His love includes everyone.

Prayer: Thank You, Father, for Your love that includes all of us no matter who we are or what we have done! In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 106:4 Remember me, O Lord, when You show favor to Your people, come to my aid when You save them.

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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

Simpson, Peterson, Armstrong get South Dakota past NAU 90-74

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — Triston Simpson, Tyler Peterson and Brandon Armstrong combined for 69 points to help South Dakota beat Northern Arizona 90-74 on Monday night.

Northern Arizona (1-1) trailed 40-31 at halftime and stayed within single digits for most of the second half, but a 13-6 surge stretched South Dakota's (2-0) lead to 80-68 with 3:27 to play. Peterson scored five points and Simpson had four during the stretch.

Simpson scored 24 points on 6-of-8 shooting and made 10 of 12 free throws. Peterson was 6 of 9 from the field and had 23 points. Armstrong made 6 of 7 3-pointers and finished with 22 points.

Carlos Hines had 23 points to lead Northern Arizona. Ted McCree chipped in 16 points.

The Coyotes improve to 9-0 in November since the opening of Sanford Coyote Sports Center in 2016. It was just the second trip to Vermillion for the Lumberjacks, and the first since the 1959-60 season.

Diocese withdraws offer to house priest at retirement home

PIEDMONT, S.D. (AP) — The Diocese of Rapid City has withdrawn an offer to house a priest accused of child sexual abuse at a priest retirement home.

Some parents in Piedmont objected to the possible release of 38-year-old John Praveen to the diocese's supervision at Casa Maria, a property in Piedmont for retired priests. Community members were upset that the retirement home is near a school and church.

But the Rapid City Journal reports the diocese said in a news release Friday that the retirement home has been removed as an option because of community concerns.

Praveen was charged last month with sexually abusing a 13-year-old child. The priest formerly served with the Rapid City diocese.

Prosecutors last week objected to the release and asked the judge to continue Praveen's \$100,000 bond.

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

New \$5.2M center for children with behavioral issues to open

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A Rapid City residential facility for children struggling with chemical dependency or behavioral issues will move into a new \$5.2 million treatment center this week.

WellFully is transitioning into its new Premier Adolescent Care Center after outgrowing its former Rapid City treatment locations for at-risk children ages 10 to 17. The new 47-bed facility can now treat more children per year and expand WellFully's medical and mental health services, according to the organization's website.

About 27 children will begin living at the care center this week, the Rapid City Journal reported.

Officials said the new center was designed with bright colors and vast window space to contribute to a feeling of openness and healing.

"When someone is struggling, you don't want them to be in a deep, dark facility," said Burke Eilers, WellFully's chief executive officer. "It's bright and cheerful and exciting. That's actually therapeutic."

The center features separate residential wings for those in chemical dependency treatment and those undergoing treatment for family and behavioral issues. The chemical dependency unit is the only existing facility for such treatment in the region of South Dakota west of the Missouri River, according to board chairman Dan Maguire.

Funding for the space came from a more than \$1 million donation from the city's Vision Fund, along with grants and other donations. WellFully administrators are seeking another \$3 million to help pay off the building.

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Residents at the facility were asked to help with the branding of the new facility. One teen redesigned the logo and another girl created the name WellFully, Maguire said.

"She said, 'I'm here to get fully well,'" Maguire said.

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

Prisoner missing from Yankton work center back in custody

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — A state prisoner who went missing from the Yankton Community Work Center for more than a week is back in custody.

The Daily Press & Dakotan reports that 27-year-old Vance Orth was apprehended in Sioux Falls on Sunday. Authorities had been looking for him since Nov. 1.

Orth is serving sentences for third-degree burglary and possession of a controlled substance in Minnehaha County. He also could now face a felony escape charge.

Information from: Yankton Press and Dakotan, <http://www.yankton.net/>

Special election set on \$15 million Yankton aquatic center

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — Residents of Yankton will decide the fate of a proposed aquatic center next month. The Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan reports that the City Commission has scheduled a special election Dec. 11 on whether to raise property taxes to help pay for the \$15 million facility.

The commission recently voted unanimously to approve a 20-year opt-out of the state property tax freeze to help pay for an aquatic center to replace the 71-year-old Fantle Memorial Park pool. But opponents filed enough petitions to refer the matter to a public vote.

The city earlier committed \$2 million toward the project.

Information from: Yankton Press and Dakotan, <http://www.yankton.net/>

Form Audible to Whole Foods: A look at Amazon's empire

By JOSEPH PISANI, AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Amazon is hard to escape.

Whether you've bought shoes at Zappos, picked up milk at Whole Foods or listened to an audiobook on Audible, you've been caught up in Amazon's growing web of businesses.

And now, Amazon's sprawling empire will stretch even further. The company is expected to announce Tuesday that it will open two more bases outside of its Seattle headquarters: one in Crystal City in northern Virginia and the other in New York's Long Island City neighborhood.

Amazon, which got its start as an online bookstore two decades ago, has grown to a behemoth that had nearly \$180 billion in revenue last year. Its workforce has ballooned to more than 610,000 employees worldwide, making it the second largest U.S.-based, publicly-traded employer behind Walmart, according to FactSet. That growth has also made its founder and CEO Jeff Bezos one of the world's richest people, with his stake in Amazon worth more than \$135 billion.

Here's a look at some of the various businesses Amazon has its hand in:

ONLINE SHOPPING

Online sales are still Amazon's biggest money maker, bringing in \$108 billion in revenue last year. That's slightly more than 60 percent of its total revenue.

Besides Amazon.com, it also owns several smaller sites, including shoe retailer Zappos.com, rare books seller AbeBooks.com, deal site 6pm.com and women's clothing retailer Shopbop. It recently began selling medication after purchasing online pharmacy PillPack in September for \$753 million.

PHYSICAL STORES

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Amazon's largest brick-and-mortar push was its nearly \$14 billion purchase of Whole Foods last year, giving it about 500 grocery stores.

It has created its own shops, too. There are 18 Amazon bookstores, five cashier-less convenience stores and three 4-star stores, which sell toys, cookware and other items. There are also dozens of Amazon pop-up shops inside malls and Kohl's department stores where shoppers can touch and try out its gadgets.

Its physical locations had revenue of \$13 billion in the first nine months of 2018.

WEB SERVICES

There's more to Amazon than just shopping. Its Amazon Web Services unit, founded in 2006, provides cloud computing services to corporations and government agencies, and is one of Amazon's fastest growing businesses.

It had revenue of \$17 billion last year, about 10 percent of its total revenue.

ADVERTISING

The ads at the top of Amazon search results are becoming a big business for the company. Amazon doesn't say exactly how much revenue it makes from ads, but an executive said that ad revenue makes up the majority of the "other revenue" listed in its financial reports. In its most recent quarter, its "other revenue" was \$2.5 billion, more than double its revenue in the same period the year before.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Amazon Prime is a way to cement customer loyalty and get them to spend more on the site. For \$119 a year or \$12.99 a month, members get free shipping, access to its video streaming service and other perks. The company disclosed for the first time earlier this year that it had more than 100 million paid Prime subscribers worldwide. Revenue from subscriptions topped \$9.7 billion last year.

GADGETS

Amazon has been churning out some successful gadgets, including: Kindle tablets, Echo voice-activated speakers and Fire TV video streaming devices. The company doesn't break out revenue for these products.

HOLLYWOOD STUDIO

Amazon produces TV shows for its video streaming service, such as Emmy-winning "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel," and films, such as "Manchester by the Sea." Amazon doesn't break out revenue for its studio.

VIDEO GAMES, AUDIOBOOKS AND MORE

Amazon also owns Twitch, a video streaming service for gamers; Audible, the audiobooks seller; and IMDb.com, an online database of movie and TV show stars, directors and other information. Amazon doesn't break out revenue for these businesses.

AMAZON BRANDS

Instead of relying on famous brands, Amazon has been creating its own. It designs sofas for its Rivet brand, men's shirts for Goodthreads and batteries for AmazonBasics. Amazon has about 130 private label brands, according to TJI Research, which tracks Amazon and its businesses.

More races go to Democrats, including Senate seat in Ariz.

By STEVE PEOPLES, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — No, it wasn't a blue wave. But a week after the voting, Democrats are riding higher than they thought on election night.

As vote counting presses on in several states, the Democrats have steadily chalked up victories across the country, firming up their grip on the U.S. House and statehouses. The slow roll of wins has given the party plenty to celebrate.

President Donald Trump was quick to claim victory for his party on election night. But the Democrats, who hit political rock bottom just two years ago, have now picked up at least 32 seats in the House — and lead in four more — in addition to flipping seven governorships and eight state legislative chambers.

They are on track to lose two seats in the Senate in a year both parties predicted more. On Monday night, Democratic Rep. Kyrsten Sinema won Arizona's Senate race, beating Republican Rep. Martha McSally to take the seat held by retiring GOP Sen. Jeff Flake.

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The overall results in the first nationwide election of the Trump presidency represent the Democratic Party's best midterm performance since Watergate.

"Over the last week we've moved from relief at winning the House to rejoicing at a genuine wave of diverse, progressive and inspiring Democrats winning office," said Ben Wikler, Washington director of the liberal group MoveOn.

The blue shift alters the trajectory of Trump's next two years in the White House, breaking up the Republican monopoly in Washington. It also gives Democrats stronger footing in key states ahead of the next presidential race and in the redrawing of congressional districts — a complicated process that has been dominated by the GOP, which has drawn favorable boundaries for their candidates.

Trump and his allies discounted the Democratic victories on Monday, pointing to GOP successes in Republican-leaning states.

"Thanks to the grassroots support for @realDonaldTrump and our party's ground game, we were able to #DefyHistory and make gains in the Senate!" Republican National Committee Chairwoman Ronna McDaniel tweeted, citing Senate wins in Indiana, Missouri, North Dakota and Tennessee, among others.

Indeed, just once in the past three decades had a sitting president added Senate seats in his first midterm election. But lost in McDaniel's assessment was the difficult 2018 Senate landscape for Democrats, who were defending 10 seats in states Trump carried just two years ago.

Democratic National Committee Chairman Tom Perez said in an interview: "I believe in facts. And the fact of the matter is, the Democratic Party had a historic night at the ballot box — and we are not resting,"

He said, "Our goal was to compete everywhere, to expand and reshape the electorate everywhere — and that's exactly what we've done."

The Democrats found success by attracting support from women, minorities and college-educated voters. Overall, 50 percent of white college-educated voters and 56 percent of women backed Democrats nationwide, according to AP VoteCast, a wide-ranging survey of the electorate.

Democrats featured historic diversity on the ballot.

Their winning class includes Massachusetts' first African-American female member of Congress, Ayanna Presley, and Michigan's Rashida Talib and Minnesota's Ilhan Omar, the first two Muslim women to serve in Congress, along with Kansas' Sharice Davids, the first lesbian Native American.

They also won by running candidates with military backgrounds who openly embraced gun ownership, such as Pennsylvania Rep. Conor Lamb and Maine's Jared Golden, who is poised to win his contest because of the state's ranked-choice voting system.

The Democrats needed to gain 23 seats to seize the House majority. Once all the votes are counted, which could take weeks in some cases as absentees and provisional ballots are tallied, they could win close to 40.

Democrats have not lost a single House incumbent so far. Yet they defeated Republican targets such as Reps. Mike Coffman of Colorado, Barbara Comstock of Virginia, Carlos Curbelo of Florida and Dana Rohrabacher of California.

They could win as many as 19 House races in districts carried by Trump two years ago, according to House Democrats' campaign arm.

Ten House races remained too close for the AP to call as of Monday evening.

Far more of the Senate landscape was decided early, although contests in Florida and Mississippi remain outstanding.

While there were notable statehouse Democratic losses in Iowa and Ohio, the party flipped governorships in seven states: Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Nevada, Kansas, New Mexico and Maine.

Republicans now control 25 governorships nationwide compared to 23 for Democrats. High-profile contests in Florida and Georgia remain outstanding, though Republicans hold narrow leads in both states.

Overshadowed perhaps by the higher-profile statewide elections, Democratic gains in state legislatures could prove deeply consequential.

Overall, they flipped state legislative chambers in eight states this midterm season, including Washington state's Senate in 2017. The others include the state Senates in Maine, Colorado, New York, New Hampshire

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and Connecticut in addition to the state Houses of Representatives in New Hampshire and Minnesota.

With hundreds of races still too close to call, Democrats have won at least 370 new state legislative seats nationwide, according to the Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee, although the new seats were offset by Republican wins in some cases. The pickups include surprises in West Virginia, where Democrats knocked off the GOP majority leader-designate in the House and the majority leader in the Senate.

"We have elected a new generation of inspiring leaders and we know that a new era of democratic dominance is on the horizon," said the committee's executive director Jessica Post.

Still, Republicans will control the majority of state legislative chambers, governorships, the U.S. Senate and the White House. And even before the new Democrats take office, attention has begun to shift toward 2020.

Many Democrats have yet to shake off the stinging losses of 2016. Publicly and privately, Democrats are lining up for the chance to take down Trump in two years.

"This is step one of a two-step process to right the ship," Guy Cecil, chairman of the pro-Democrat super PAC Priorities USA, said of the midterms. "Democrats have every reason to be optimistic."

Grim calculus: Coroners search for those killed in wildfire

By GILLIAN FLACCUS, Associated Press

PARADISE, Calif. (AP) — The blue of an unfurled body bag has become a gut-wrenching splash of color in this apocalyptic landscape as pressure mounts to account for the hundreds of missing people after a wildfire roared through the California town of Paradise.

Coroner search teams, many accompanied by a chaplain, have fanned out across Paradise, visiting dozens of addresses that belong to people reported missing since last week's explosive blaze leveled this town of 27,000. At least 42 people were confirmed dead, making it the deadliest in state history.

The searchers use a grim calculus at each scene: No cars in the driveway is good, one car a little more ominous and multiple burned-out vehicles equals a call for extra vigilance.

When a body is found, a call goes out, yellow police tape goes up — and the blue body bag arrives. In many cases, there is almost nothing left. The long bag looks almost empty as it's carefully carried out of the ruins and placed in a black hearse.

Sometimes there are no answers.

Barbara Hall has been searching for a woman she considers her aunt, Arlene Bickel. Arlene Bickel and her husband, Paul Bickel, are in their 80s and 90s and have not been heard from since the fire. It appears they made it out of their home in a retirement community because the house is still standing and they are not home — but Hall has had no luck finding them.

"Did they make it in their car? Did they get away? Did their car go over the edge of a mountain somewhere? I just don't know," said Hall, who is 66 and making calls with her daughter's mobile phone from nearby Redding, where her daughter lives.

A coroner's search team visited the address — one of dozens they had — on Monday and found the Bickels' unit still standing. No one answered the door, and it was dark inside.

"It doesn't help my worries because they're still missing," she said.

Hall planned to come to Chico, the nearest town not in the evacuation zone, on Tuesday to be closer.

Authorities were bringing more resources in to find the dead - two mobile morgue units and dozens of additional search and rescue personnel.

Some relatives have received answers, but not the ones they wanted.

Mike Carlson began looking for his mother, Barbara Carlson, her sister Shirley Haley and their dog named Strawberry after learning about the wildfire Thursday night.

He and his daughter Annika drove more than 100 miles from their home in the Central Valley to the fire zone to look for them. They made numerous calls, posted flyers and sought help on social media by creating a special hashtag.

"We checked with the Red Cross, hospitals, police, filed missing person reports, and we've got nothing,"

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Carlson said in a telephone interview Sunday as he headed to Chico to visit makeshift shelters in the area. He said he requested a welfare check with the sheriff's department, but was deflated when told he was 400th on the request list. He also felt discouraged when he saw his mother's address on a map of the burned area, but he held out hope.

His niece was the last person to talk to his mother by phone as flames bore down on the house. She said she wasn't leaving, because God would save her, Carlson recalled.

But on Sunday night, two deputies came to Carlson's door with the news he didn't want to hear.

A fire engine crew doing a check of homes had found two bodies at his mother's address on Heavenly Place.

Associated Press writers Janie Har and Daisy Nguyen contributed to this story.

China's premier reassures region on growth, South China Sea

By ANNABELLE LIANG, Associated Press

SINGAPORE (AP) — China's premier sought Tuesday to reassure its neighbors that Beijing will push ahead with reforms needed to support growth across the region and also keep the peace in contested waters in the South China Sea.

Premier Li Keqiang said his government will favor reforms in the world's No. 2 economy over temporary boosts from economic stimulus as China copes with a gradual slowing of growth and a trade war with the United States.

China can energize its slowing economy by adjusting policies, such as streamlining procedures like business registrations, taxes and fees, Li said in a lecture on the sidelines of the annual summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations that brings together leaders from the U.S. and across the region.

"Despite the downward pressure, we will not resort to massive stimulus. We will make adjustments as appropriate. We want to energize the market, in particular, market entities, and we have the conditions to do that," Li said in the wide-ranging speech that touched on China's role in regional development.

Li said the government also will "crack down harshly" on businesses that infringe on patents and other intellectual property rights and engage in "other cheating activities."

"China will not stop in its opening up. The door will only open wider and China will continue to deepen reform. Reform and opening up have brought China to where it is today," Li added.

China and the U.S. are locked in a trade dispute over Washington's complaints that China uses predatory tactics to acquire technologies that could undermine U.S. industrial leadership. The two countries have raised import duties on billions of dollars of each other's goods, including soybeans, electric cars and whiskey.

While they have rebuffed U.S. demands that Beijing tone down its technology ambitions, China's leaders have sought to enhance their own market opening credentials by lowering tariffs and easing access for foreign companies operating in China for some industries.

In the quarter that ended in September, China's economic growth slowed to 6.5 percent from a year earlier, down from the previous quarter's 6.7 percent. The deceleration reflects long-term efforts to guide the economy toward a more sustainable model of growth and away from excessive reliance on construction spending and exports. But the trade tensions with Washington are adding to the challenges for the Communist leadership, with the two countries imposing tariffs on billions of dollars of each other's goods.

Li expressed hopes for a compromise. U.S. President Donald Trump and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping are to meet at the Group of 20 summit in Argentina this month.

"We hope that negotiations will be carried out on the basis of mutual respect, balance, mutual benefit and good faith, so that a solution can be found acceptable to both sides," he said.

The meetings in Singapore this week will be followed by an annual summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in Papua New Guinea.

Both gatherings address similar concerns about trade, economic integration, regional security and development.

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Li also said China was hoping to see within three years a regional "code of conduct" governing activities in the South China Sea, the location of several territorial conflicts that have raised tensions in the region.

Over U.S. objections, Beijing has moved to cement its claim to most of the South China Sea, including by building artificial islands and military airstrips atop coral reefs. Talks on a code that would belatedly constrain such activities have made slow progress.

"China and ASEAN countries will benefit in that process. It will also be conducive to free trade and go on to serve the interest of other parties," Li said.

"I want to reaffirm here that China will stay firm on the course of peaceful development," he said. "What we hope is to have a harmonious relationship with our neighbors and together, we benefit from our good neighborliness."

At Southeast Asian summit, pushback against going it alone

By ANNABELLE LIANG and ELAINE KURTENBACH, Associated Press

SINGAPORE (AP) — The annual gathering of Southeast Asian leaders began Tuesday with a warning from the host, Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, about threats against international rules that underpin world stability and economic growth.

"The international order is at a turning point," Lee said at the opening ceremony of the summit of the 10-nation Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

"The existing free, open and rules-based multilateral system, which has underpinned ASEAN's growth and stability, has come under stress," Lee said.

U.S. President Donald Trump's "America First" foreign policy and his resistance to multilateral agreements and institutions are viewed as an affront and a challenge in a region whose modern economies are largely driven by global trade.

Among issues on the agenda for ASEAN and other leaders attending meetings in Singapore this week, including U.S. Vice President Mike Pence, are talks on a new regional trade pact that would commit member countries and others in the Asian-Pacific region to opening markets further.

Lee said ASEAN and other participating countries including India and China, but not the United States, have made "substantive progress" on the market-opening initiative, called the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership.

However, it's unclear if a deal will be reached in Singapore. Participants say India, for one, is balking at opening its markets wider to imports from China under the accord.

Trump is staying away from the Singapore summit, and also from the annual meetings of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum that will begin later this week in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.

Chinese leaders are busy burnishing their own free trade credentials as they speak out against Trump's efforts to get Beijing to change policies aimed at making Chinese industries leaders in advanced technologies.

Three days after taking office, Trump pulled out of a Pacific Rim trade initiative, the Trans-Pacific Partnership. He has ordered punitive tariffs on billions of dollars of Chinese products, among other measures, to address complaints over the U.S. trade deficit, China's technology policies and other market access issues.

"All countries are linked in the same industrial chain in the world today and China and the U.S. are an important part of it. No one wants or expects to see an interruption of it," Chinese Premier Li Keqiang said Tuesday in a lecture on the sidelines of the summit.

ASEAN groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

The globalization of manufacturing has been a key factor driving dynamic growth in the regional economy, which has more than doubled in size since 2007 to \$2.8 trillion in 2017.

The momentum must be in the direction of more, not less, open trade, said Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad.

Otherwise, he warned, there could be a "domino effect" in which countries engage in increasingly pro-

tective measures against their rivals.

Inward-looking, protectionist policies have gained ground in ASEAN as elsewhere, he said.

"This is not the time to close our doors by invoking trade protectionism measures but instead we should be actively engaged in finding amicable solutions," Mahathir said. "It is now that we must continue to expand our intraregional trade and deepen the economic integration within ASEAN."

While talks on the ASEAN-centered trade accord stumble along, the 11 countries that have remained in the Trans-Pacific Partnership are preparing to inaugurate their revised trade deal.

Renamed the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership, it is due to take effect on Dec. 30.

Several other economies are hoping to join the pan-Pacific accord, including the Philippines and South Korea.

Japanese media reported that Taiwan's representative in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, former chairman of Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. Morris Chang, plans to ask Japan to back the island's request to also become a member.

Associated Press video journalist Jerry Harmer contributed to this report.

Holding out slim hope as crews search for more fire dead

By MARTHA MENDOZA and GILLIAN FLACCUS, Associated Press

PARADISE, Calif. (AP) — More than a dozen coroner search and recovery teams looked for human remains from a Northern California wildfire that killed at least 42 -- making it the deadliest in state history -- as anxious relatives visited shelters and called police hoping to find loved ones alive.

Lisa Jordan drove 600 miles (1,000 kilometers) from Yakima, Washington, to search for her uncle, Nick Clark, and his wife, Anne Clark, of Paradise, California. Anne Clark suffers from multiple sclerosis and is unable to walk. No one knows if they were able to evacuate, or even if their house still exists, she said.

"I'm staying hopeful," she said. "Until the final word comes, you keep fighting against it."

Butte County Sheriff Kory Honea updated the confirmed fatality number Monday night -- a figure that is almost certain to spike following the blaze that last week destroyed Paradise, a town of 27,000 about 180 miles (290 kilometers) northeast of San Francisco.

Authorities were bringing in two mobile morgue units and requesting 150 search and rescue personnel. Officials were unsure of the exact number of missing.

"I want to recover as many remains as we possibly can, as soon as we can. Because I know the toll it takes on loved ones," Honea said.

Chaplains accompanied some coroner search teams that visited dozens of addresses belonging to people reported missing. For those on the grim search, no cars in the driveway is good, one car a little more ominous and multiple burned-out vehicles equals a call for extra vigilance.

State officials said the cause of the inferno was under investigation.

Meanwhile, a landowner near where the blaze began, Betsy Ann Cowley, said she got an email from Pacific Gas & Electric Co. the day before the fire last week telling her that crews needed to come onto her property because the utility's power lines were causing sparks. PG&E had no comment on the email.

Stan Craig's sister, Beverly Craig Powers, has not returned numerous texts and calls, and the adult children of her partner, Robert Duvall, have not heard from their father, he said. The couple was last seen evacuating their Paradise home on Thursday with two pickup trucks and a travel trailer, so they could be camping.

He knows friends and family are still being reunited with missing loved ones, but he said his unease grows every day. Still, the Fresno, California, resident wasn't planning on heading to the fire area. As a former firefighter himself, he said he understands the chaos wildfires cause.

"I'm going to stay here until I have something more to go on," he said.

The blaze was part of an outbreak of wildfires on both ends of the state. Together, they were blamed for 44 deaths, including two in celebrity-studded Malibu in Southern California, where firefighters appeared

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to be gaining ground against a roughly 143-square-mile (370-square-kilometer) blaze that destroyed at least 370 structures, with hundreds more feared lost.

All told, more than 8,000 firefighters statewide were battling wildfires that destroyed more than 7,000 structures and scorched more than 325 square miles (840 square kilometers), the flames feeding on dry brush and driven by blowtorch winds.

There were tiny signs of some sense of order returning to Paradise and anonymous gestures meant to rally the spirits of firefighters who have worked in a burned-over wasteland for days.

Large American flags stuck into the ground lined both sides of the road at the town limits, and temporary stop signs appeared overnight at major intersections. Downed power lines that had blocked roads were cut away, and crews took down burned trees with chain saws.

The 42 dead in Northern California surpassed the deadliest single fire on record, a 1933 blaze in Griffith Park in Los Angeles. A series of wildfires in Northern California's wine country last fall killed 44 people and destroyed more than 5,000 homes.

Contributing to this report were Associated Press writers Sudhin Thanawala, Janie Har, Jocelyn Gecker and Daisy Nguyen in San Francisco and Andrew Selsky in Salem, Oregon.

Florida recount chugs along as more irregularities surface

By TERRY SPENCER, Associated Press

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — Florida's election recount is chugging along as more irregularities are uncovered and a judge asked the warring sides to "ramp down the rhetoric," saying it erodes public confidence in the election for Senate and governor.

One county revealed Monday that it had allowed some hurricane-displaced voters to cast their ballots by email — a violation of state law. Another had to restart its recount after getting about a quarter finished because someone forgot to push a button. And in oft-criticized Broward County, additional sheriff's deputies were sent to guard ballots and voting machines, even though a judge said no Republican who has publicly alleged fraud in the county's process — a list that includes President Donald Trump and Gov. Rick Scott — has presented any evidence to law enforcement.

"An honest vote count is no longer possible" in Florida, Trump declared Monday, without elaborating. He demanded that the election night results — which showed the Republicans leading based upon incomplete ballot counts — be used to determine the winner.

Trump went on to allege that "new ballots showed up out of nowhere, and many ballots are missing or forged" and that "ballots (are) massively infected." It was unclear what he was referring to.

State law requires a machine recount in races where the margin is less than 0.5 percentage points. In the Senate race, Scott's lead over incumbent Democrat Bill Nelson was 0.14 percentage points. In the governor's contest, unofficial results showed Republican former Rep. Ron DeSantis ahead of Democratic Tallahassee Mayor Andrew Gillum by 0.41 percentage points.

Once the recount is complete, if the differences in any of the races are 0.25 percentage points or less, a hand recount will be ordered. All 67 counties face a state-ordered deadline of Thursday to finish their recounts.

Trump's comments came just hours before Broward Chief Circuit Judge Jack Tuter held an emergency hearing on a request by Scott's lawyers that deputies be put in charge of ballots and voting machines that aren't being used until the recount is over.

An attorney for Election Supervisor Brenda Snipes described layers of security including keycard and password access to rooms where ballots are kept, secured by deputies and monitored by security cameras and representatives of both campaigns and parties.

Scott's lawyers had alleged in court documents that Snipes was engaging in "suspect and unlawful vote counting practices" that violate state law and that she might "destroy evidence of any errors, accidents

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or unlawful conduct.”

The judge said he could see no evidence of any violations, and said “I am urging because of the highly public nature of this case to ramp down the rhetoric.”

“If someone in this lawsuit or someone in this county has evidence of voter fraud or irregularities at the supervisor’s office, they should report it to their local law enforcement officer,” Tuter said. “If the lawyers are aware of it, they should swear out an affidavit, but everything the lawyers are saying out there in front of the elections office is being beamed all over the country. We need to be careful of what we say. Words mean things these days.”

Scott’s motion was supported by lawyers representing the state Republican Party and opposed by Snipes’ office, Nelson’s campaign and the state Democratic Party. After Tuter told all sides to meet to discuss a compromise, they agreed to add three deputies to the elections office.

Meanwhile, Elections Supervisor Mark Andersen in heavily Republican Bay County told the Miami Herald on Monday that he allowed about 150 people to cast ballots by email, which is illegal under state law. The county was devastated by a Category 4 hurricane in October, and Scott ordered some special provisions for early voting there.

Manatee County, south of Tampa Bay, had to restart its recount Monday because a needed button on the machine wasn’t pushed. The error was caught after about a quarter of the county’s nearly 165,000 votes had been recounted, said Michael Bennett, the county’s Republican elections supervisor. It shouldn’t affect the county’s ability to meet Thursday’s deadline.

Associated Press 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. HOPE DWINDLES IN CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES

Relatives visit shelters and call police hoping to find loved ones alive as the death toll from the Northern California wildfire spikes to 42 — the deadliest in state history.

2. ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN TENSIONS WORST SINCE 2014 WAR

Gaza militants fire dozens of rockets at southern Israel, killing a man in a strike on a residential building, and warn they will escalate their attacks if Israel continues bombarding the Gaza Strip. The cross-border attacks were triggered by a botched Israeli undercover raid into the blockaded coastal territory.

3. DEMOCRAT MAKES HISTORY IN ARIZONA

Kyrsten Sinema becomes the first woman in the state elected to the U.S. Senate in a race that was among the most closely watched in the nation.

4. ASEAN LEADERS LAMENT US TRADE MOVE

The potential damage to global trade brought on by Trump’s tariffs battle with Beijing looms at the key economic summit in Singapore.

5. WHO AFGHANS ARE BLAMING FOR WAR

After 17 years of conflict, Americans once hailed as liberators are now increasingly seen as architects of their country’s demise.

6. IN MEXICO CARAVAN, LGBTQ MIGRANTS STICK TOGETHER FOR SAFETY

Transgender women and gay men fleeing violence and discrimination back home are finding the journey north to be just as threatening.

7. US COLLEGES ATTRACTING FEWER FOREIGN STUDENTS

The report’s authors cite sharper competition from other countries including Australia and Canada, along

with the rising cost of education in the U.S.

8. BELLA AND OLIVER ABOUT TO GET HEALTHIER FARE

Petco bans artificial ingredients as demand for natural pet food grows.

9. THE GENIUS OF STAN LEE

It's no stretch to say that the father of Marvel helped redraw the world of American fiction as he presented a pantheon of deeply flawed protagonists.

10. GIANTS SNAP LOSING SKID

Eli Manning's late touchdown pass helps New York snap a five-game losing streak by beating the San Francisco 49ers 27-23.

Incoming House members prep for do's and don'ts on the Hill

By LAURIE KELLMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Don't hire someone you can't fire, like the son of a campaign donor or the child of the mayor. No matter what you may have said during the campaign about changing Congress, hire enough Hill veterans to make the office run smoothly. And make sure the person answering the phone sounds like folks from back home.

That's only some of the advice headed for the historic class of House freshmen of both parties streaming into Washington this week for orientation on the nuts and bolts underpinning a job like none other. They are a younger generation of lawmakers — including a record number of women — arriving flush with victory and optimism. The Democrats are ready to take on President Donald Trump in the biggest and most diverse class of new lawmakers since Watergate.

"I hope that we are ushering in a new era," one of the class stars, Massachusetts Rep.-elect Ayanna Pressley, said Monday.

They are psyched — if not exactly unified. Even among the new Democrats, there's an uncomfortable vote looming on whether Rep. Nancy Pelosi, former speaker of the House, should lead them. Rep.-elect Mikie Sherrill, D-N.J., on Monday became the latest House Democrat newcomer to say she won't vote for Pelosi because she wants "new leadership." Pelosi has said she expects to become speaker again.

Pressley and several of her classmates made their Washington debut in a packed news conference whose setting suggested as much about the new majority's intentions as the agenda they described. Gathered in the atrium of the AFL-CIO down the street from the White House, they appeared as the newest members of the ascendant House Progressive Caucus, dedicated to universal health care and new climate policy. The incoming majority, including a gain of at least 32 seats, will be fighting a Republican-led Senate and a president with a history of tweeting trouble for people who displease him.

And the newly elected Republicans are on the same side as Trump, at least in theory.

But for both parties of newcomers, those big questions are for later. The first votes on Pelosi, for example, won't unfold until after Thanksgiving. And the new Congress — the 116th session — doesn't convene until Jan. 3.

Now, for many newcomers, it's a scramble to stand up offices in the warren of Capitol Hill and back home in House districts that each represent more than 700,000 people. Every office has a budget. And every freshman who doesn't already have a home in pricey Washington will have to figure out how to rent an apartment, or just maybe just keep a rollaway bed in the office, on a \$174,000 salary.

"We focus on getting them to appreciate that there are certain activities that they have to do in the next 90 days," said Bradford Fitch, president and CEO of the nonprofit, nonpartisan Congressional Management Foundation, which is among those briefing new members.

The new crop of lawmakers includes a lot of firsts.

For the first time, two Native American women are headed to the House, in addition to two Muslim congresswomen-elect. Massachusetts and Connecticut will also send black women to Congress as firsts for their states.

But not every freshman is new to Washington.

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Rep.-elect Donna Shalala of Florida was health and human services secretary to President Bill Clinton. Former NFL linebacker Colin Allred of Texas is a civil rights lawyer who also worked in President Barack Obama's housing department. Andy Kim, a New Jersey Democrat, is an Obama administration alumnus who served as a civilian adviser in Iraq.

Whatever their background, every newly elected member is heading for a job as one of 435 colleagues in Washington juggling what can sometimes be a seven-day-a-week job of votes, constituent requests and committee meetings. All the while, those who intend to return are already thinking about — and soon will be fundraising for — their re-election campaigns in 2020.

But first things first, said Fitch. At the progressive caucus briefing for new members on Monday, he handed out a 300-page book, "Setting Course: A Congressional Management Guide," updated for the incoming Congress. It sets out everything from hiring a core staff in November and December to the culture of Congress.

Chapter One talks about Dos and Don'ts of these first days. Do learn to delegate, for example. Don't "skip the House/Senate orientations and party organizational activities."

And don't "try to do everything."

During this period, "they don't have to come up with a solution to the Middle East crisis," Fitch said.

Follow Kellman on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/APLaurieKellman>

A universe of flawed heroes: Stan Lee was ahead of his time

By TED ANTHONY, AP National Writer

It became easy, in recent years, to dismiss him as the wisecracking grandpa of the American comic book, a past-his-prime gimmick who cameled alongside Earth's angstiest superheroes in the high-grossing Marvel blockbusters of the past decade.

But Stan Lee, who died Monday, was far more than that. It's no stretch to say that he helped redraw the world of American fiction. And he certainly made sure everyone knew it.

From the ashes of pulp magazines and the radioactive raw material of postwar uncertainty about science and power, he summoned — not singlehandedly, but certainly without parallel or peer — a textured, self-sustaining universe of imperfect heroes.

While Updike and Cheever were doing it in literature, while Kubrick and Lumet and Penn were doing it at the movies, the father of Marvel presented comic-book America — which meant, at the time, mostly adolescent boys — with a pantheon of deeply flawed protagonists who, despite their presence in so many tales to astonish, were in many ways just like you and me.

These outcasts and misfits rose to the alarm clock's buzzing and slogged to work each morning to get the job done, not in a fanciful Metropolis or Gotham but on the actual streets of New York City and in the imperfect America beyond it. For them, the struggle was the thing — no matter whether the task was saving the world, paying the rent or trying to make ends meet as a freelance photographer or a blind lawyer or an itinerant stunt motorcyclist.

Unlike DC Comics' iconic heroes, many of whom had been destined for greatness as the last sons of doomed planets, Amazon royalty or rightful kings of the sea, the likes of Spider-Man, the Fantastic Four, Iron Man, the Ghost Rider and the Incredible Hulk composed a catalog of human frailties — schmoes who inadvertently, or negligently, wandered into the traffic of destiny.

Some moneyed, some working-class, all neurotic, they had powers thrust upon them by misfortune or questionable choices. Their abilities were just as often bane as boon. And sometimes it was hard to tell the heroes and the villains apart. Sort of like real life.

This was in no small measure due to Lee, who as Marvel's editor-in-chief wrote many of the books himself during comics' "Silver Age" years of the early 1960s. With seemingly boundless energy and a staggering variety of voices, he breathed personality, ambiguity and a common narrative into soon-to-be-beloved characters.

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"One of the things we try to demonstrate in our yarns is that nobody is all good, or all bad," Lee wrote in a column for Marvel's March 1969 issues. "Even a shoddy super-villain can have a redeeming trait, just as any howlin' hero might have his nutty hang-ups."

It's hard to overestimate how groundbreaking this philosophy was in a nation that, with a tone set by production-code Hollywood since the early 1930s, had spent three decades positioning largely unambiguous heroes at the center of its rising mass culture. Add government efforts in the 1950s to demonize comics as the mind-decayers of America's youth, and to push publishers back toward pablum, and you'll have some idea what Lee accomplished at the beginning of the 1960s.

Suddenly here was Tony Stark, a genius inventor with daddy issues (and, we would eventually learn, an alcoholic narcissist) who fixed his literally broken heart by turning himself into Iron Man. Here was Peter Parker, a meek high-school nerd who had no clue how to handle the creepy abilities and hormonal changes bestowed upon him by the bite of a radioactive spider on a class field trip. Talk about playing to your target audience.

Here was Bruce Banner, a military scientist who tried to save someone from one of his test blasts and ended up locked in a battle with his own angry, destructive id — hardly an incidental narrative in an era when psychotherapy and self-help were sharply on the rise. And here was Matt Murdock, blinded in a horrible accident by irradiated waste, proving every night with precision radar powers, as Daredevil, that disability isn't necessarily destiny. And here were the X-Men, mutants and perpetual outsiders whose struggle to find a place in the mainstream on Earth has been variously framed as a parable for race relations, anti-Semitism and the Red Scare.

Even Steve Rogers, whose Captain America was the most Superman-like of the bunch, had demons. He was the skinny kid rejected by his World War II draft board who wanted so badly to fight that he volunteered to be a guinea pig for a "supersoldier serum" that would turn him into the ultimate fighting machine.

Captain America debuted during the war years when Marvel was still called Timely Comics, but Lee and his team updated the story for the 1960s by giving Rogers even more ghosts: He lay frozen in ice for nearly two decades after falling into the sea, and awakened out of time in a fast-changing, morally murky world he barely recognized or could navigate.

There was another, less-noticed corner where Lee was equally groundbreaking. As Marvel's editor, in an age before computers were in every pocket, he worked tirelessly to develop a relationship with his audience.

He talked about stuff behind the scenes and curated a tallish tale of a wacky, collegial studio of writers and artists who might do just about anything in their pursuit of good stories. His regular column, "Stan's Soapbox," talked directly to readers in a way that presaged the kind of access to celebrities that Twitter, Facebook and Instagram afford today.

Many felt Lee didn't share enough credit with such comics pioneers as Jack Kirby and Steve Ditko, who worked alongside him in those early years as he developed the "Marvel Method" of story development. Fair enough. But part of Lee's genius was his ability to be a master of collage.

Like a Bob Dylan or a Gene Roddenberry, Lee took cultural threads — elements already afoot in society — and constructed his own quilt. While his source material was sometimes derivative, what he stitched was something new under the sun.

And within his emerging pantheon of white male angst, Lee was often an enthusiastic champion of progressive views about race, if not always gender. The now-fabled Black Panther first appeared in a Marvel comic book in 1966, becoming one of the earliest mainstream superheroes of African descent, though it took until 1973 for him to snag a marquee spot in a comic entitled "Jungle Action."

"None of us is all that different from each other. We all want essentially the same things outta life," Lee wrote in the pages of Marvel Comics in February 1980. "So why don't we all stop wasting time hating the 'other' guys. Just look in the mirror, mister — that other guy is you."

Marvel is a calibrated commercial juggernaut now, its stories drowning in the merchandise that amplifies them. It has been dismissed as mass-produced storytelling for a mass-produced age. Yet somehow, among the things Lee manages to leave behind is a lingering sense — snake oil, maybe, but potent nonetheless

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— that with Marvel's tales, still, anything might happen.

Because, as Stan Lee knew well before America did, we still want our fantastic, unlikely superheroes to be just like us. Or, more saliently, we want to believe that we can be just like them. And who knows what they might do to prevail because, after all, who really knows what we might do? Maybe we can be heroes, sure, but the rent's still due on the 15th.

Ted Anthony, director of digital innovation for The Associated Press, writes frequently about American culture. Follow him on Twitter at @anthonyted

Why wait? Democrats openly flirt with 2020 White House bids

By THOMAS BEAUMONT, JUANA SUMMERS and JULIE PACE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In the days after the midterm election, New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker worked the phones with Democratic luminaries in Iowa. Montana Gov. Steve Bullock courted high-dollar donors in New York. Other Democrats openly mused about their White House ambitions on live television.

Motivated by an urgency to unseat President Donald Trump and the prospect of a historically large primary field, Democrats see little incentive to delay or downplay their 2020 presidential hopes. Their more transparent approach is upending one of Washington's favorite "will they or won't they" parlor games and pushed the campaign calendar up earlier than ever before.

"No one is waiting for anyone in the race to run for president," said Jim Messina, who managed President Barack Obama's 2012 campaign. "Those days are long, long over."

Running for president used to involve a familiar routine, with potential candidates spending months publicly demurring about their ambitions and professing to be content in their current roles. Advisers labored to keep meetings with donors and potential staff under wraps ahead of formal, carefully choreographed campaign announcements.

This time around, many Democrats believe it would be too risky to wait much longer before making their intentions known, particularly those with lower national profiles who could quickly be overshadowed by a field that could have more than two dozen candidates.

There are practicalities to consider, given the limited supply of money and top-flight staff available to run a campaign. But another driving factor is more visceral: Democrats are simply eager to take on the president.

"This is starting very fast," said former Iowa Democratic Party Chairwoman Sue Dvorsky. She said that given the imperative to beat Trump, "it kind of needs to."

Two long-shot Democrats have already declared their candidacy.

West Virginia state Sen. Richard Ojeda, a retired Army paratrooper who lost a race for Congress last week, announced his plans to run for president on Monday. Ojeda joins Maryland Rep. John Delaney, who has been running for the Democratic nomination since July 2017, and has already traveled to Iowa 19 times and made 12 trips to New Hampshire.

Delaney said he believes that his early start will help put him at an advantage ahead of would-be rivals.

"We not only know what the talent is, but they know us and they know about our message," said Delaney, whose campaign currently has about 10 staffers in Iowa. He expects that number to grow to at least 20 by January and 100 by June.

Higher-profile Democrats have also started to lift the veil on their White House hopes.

On Monday, Ohio Sen. Sherrod Brown, said he was "seriously looking at" a presidential campaign, saying in an interview that his election to a third term shows "a strong progressive can win." He called his Senate campaign "a blueprint for our nation in 2020."

New York Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand was also up front about her White House ambitions, telling ABC's "The View" Monday that she was indeed considering a campaign.

"I believe right now every one of us should figure out how we can do whatever we can with our time, with our talents, to restore that moral decency, that moral compass and that truth of who we are as

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Americans," Gillibrand said.

Unlike in 2016, when Hillary Clinton's shadow loomed large over the party, Democrats enter the 2020 campaign without a clear favorite. Former Vice President Joe Biden occupies the most similar role, with broad name recognition and a deep political network.

But Biden associates say he is still conflicted about whether to run, and he has pointedly said other would-be 2020 candidates should not defer to his plans. Biden is expected to make a decision by January.

Booker has been among the most aggressive in courting supporters in early-voting states. After the midterms, he called each member of the Iowa Democratic statewide ticket, for whom the New Jersey senator campaigned ahead of the midterm, the day after the election.

Booker was in touch with former Gov. Tom Vilsack, a veteran Democrat in the early-voting state, as well as candidates and operatives in other early-voting states he visited this fall.

California Sen. Kamala Harris, who would be considered an early favorite in the White House race, also called candidates she campaigned for in early-voting presidential states, including Deidre DeJear, who was Iowa's first African-American woman nominated for statewide office but lost in her bid for secretary of state.

Montana's Bullock, who has made several stops in Iowa this year, traveled to New York after Election Day to meet with potential donors. Though Bullock has a lower profile than many possible Democratic contenders, he has an experienced team of political advisers, including chief of staff Tom Lopach — the former executive director of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee — and Nick Baldick, a veteran Democratic strategist.

Bullock also sent a staffer to Iowa to work for Tim Gannon, who lost his race for state agriculture secretary last week, a move aimed at giving Bullock an early foothold in the crucial caucus state.

And while the midterms showed that Trump remains a powerful force in the GOP, at least two Republicans are considering taking Trump on: retiring Arizona Sen. Jeff Flake and outgoing Ohio Gov. John Kasich.

Kasich will be in New Hampshire on Thursday for a speech at a First Amendment event. Ahead of his remarks, Kasich will have private meetings with several prominent New Hampshire Republicans, including state and county GOP chairs.

Beaumont reported from Des Moines, Iowa. Associated Press writer Dan Sewell in Cincinnati contributed to this report.

Follow Thomas Beaumont at <http://twitter.com/tombeaumont>, Juana Summers at <http://twitter.com/jmsummers> and Julie Pace at <http://twitter.com/jpaceDC>

Hamas warns of more rocket attacks amid Israel-Gaza fighting

By ARON HELLER and FARES AKRAM, Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Gaza militants fired dozens of rockets at southern Israel early on Tuesday, killing a man in a strike on a residential building, and warning they would escalate their attacks if Israel continues bombing targets in the Gaza Strip.

The cross-border attacks, which were triggered by a botched Israeli undercover raid into Hamas-ruled Gaza late Sunday, marked the most serious escalation since an Israel-Hamas war in 2014.

International mediators appealed for restraint, hoping to avert another war.

The Israeli military said some 400 rockets and mortars have been launched from Gaza since the current round began on Monday afternoon, with about 100 of them intercepted by Israel's Iron Dome defense system.

Israel has hit more than 100 targets it says are linked to militants in Gaza, including a strike that destroyed the TV station of Hamas, the Islamic militant group that rules Gaza.

On Tuesday, Gaza's health ministry said two Palestinians in their 20s were killed in separate airstrikes, raising the number killed since the Israeli offensive began Monday to six, including four militants. At least 25 people have been wounded.

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Israeli medical officials said a 48-year-old man was found early Tuesday under the rubble of a building hit by a rocket in the southern city of Ashkelon. Relatives in the West Bank town of Halhoul identified the man as Mahmoud Abu Usbeh, a Palestinian laborer who had been working in Israel. He left a wife and six children behind.

"Everyone in town is sad. It's God's will and there nothing we can do about it," said his cousin, Jihad Abu Usbeh.

At least 20 people have also been wounded in Israel, three critically, according to medical officials.

The military said jets struck several "key strategic" Hamas targets, including military compounds, rocket launching posts and part of its vast underground tunnel network. Also targeted was a Gaza City building serving Hamas' military and intelligence forces that houses a munition warehouse.

The armed wing of Hamas threatened to step up its attacks and fire rockets further north toward the Israeli cities of Ashdod and Beersheba if Israel continued its airstrikes.

The spokesman for the Hamas military wing, identified only as Abu Obeida, said the deadly attack on the coastal city of Ashkelon showed the city "has entered the range of fire as a response to the bombing of buildings in Gaza." He said Ashdod and Beersheba "are the next targets if the enemy continues bombing civilian buildings."

School has been cancelled in large parts of southern Israel and a local election has been postponed because of the threat of further attacks.

Over the past few months, the sides have come close to a major escalation several times, only to step back in favor of giving a chance to a long-term Egyptian mediated truce.

However, the current level of escalation and angry rhetoric, including Hamas' warnings to strike deeper inside Israel, might make it more difficult to restore calm.

The Israeli security Cabinet began meeting to discuss the next steps, as the United Nations appealed for calm and said it was trying to broker a cease-fire.

The eruption of fighting cast doubt over recent understandings brokered by Egypt and U.N. officials to reduce tensions. Earlier this week, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had defended those understandings, saying he was doing everything possible to avoid another war. But he will now be under intense pressure to retaliate, given Hamas' unrelenting rocket barrages.

The rocket fire was triggered by a botched Israeli military raid in Gaza on Sunday. Undercover troops, apparently on a reconnaissance mission, were discovered inside Gaza, setting off a battle that left seven militants, including a Hamas commander, and a senior Israeli military officer dead. Hamas then fired a guided missile that struck a bus from which soldiers had just disembarked, an upgrade over its typical inaccurate projectiles.

The strike set the bus on fire, sending a large plume of black smoke over the area. A 19-year-old soldier was critically wounded and rocket attacks and Israeli retaliation fire quickly ensued.

The airstrikes and rocket barrages resumed at dawn Tuesday after nearly two hours of calm.

Lt. Col. Jonathan Conricus, a military spokesman, said Israeli warplanes, tanks and naval vessels were involved in strikes against military compounds, observation posts and weapons facilities belonging to the two main Gaza militant groups behind the attacks — Hamas and the Islamic Jihad.

He said the Israeli military has enhanced its deployment along the border but had yet to mobilize its reserves. He said Gaza militant groups were believed to have an arsenal in excess of 20,000 rockets and mortars of different caliber and range.

In Gaza, schools and public institutions were closed as people ventured outside to inspect the damage after a long night of aerial raids. Near the destroyed TV station, residents salvaged papers and belongings from their damaged houses. Debris was strewn across the streets and shattered window glass crunched under people's feet.

In Gaza City's Rimal neighborhood, a six-story residential building that also housed a kindergarten on its ground floor was destroyed.

"All the people here are civilians, children and families. We took our children and fled from here. When we returned, we found great destruction," said Mamdouh al-Shurafa, a resident of the building. "When

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we are bombed in the middle of the city, where we can go?"

Israel and Hamas have fought three wars since the Islamic militant group seized control of Gaza from the internationally-backed Palestinian Authority in 2007. In the most recent war, over 2,200 Palestinians were killed, more than half of them civilians, and tens of thousands were left homeless. Seventy-three people, most of them soldiers, were killed on the Israeli side.

Israel and Egypt have maintained a blockade on Gaza since the Hamas takeover, a blockade that has devastated Gaza's economy.

In recent weeks, Egyptian and U.N. mediators had appeared to make progress in brokering informal understandings aimed at quieting the situation.

Last week, Israel allowed Qatar to deliver \$15 million to Gaza to allow cash-strapped Hamas to pay the salaries of thousands of government workers. At the same time, Hamas has lowered the intensity of its border protests in recent weeks.

Netanyahu cut short a visit to Paris because of the flare-up and returned to Israel on Monday for consultations with top security officials.

Akram reported from Gaza City, Gaza Strip.

Petco, others respond to demand for natural pet foods

By DEE-ANN DURBIN, AP Business Writer

Demand for healthy, natural food is extending from humans to their pets.

Petco announced Tuesday it will stop selling dog and cat food and treats with artificial colors, flavors and preservatives, both online and at its nearly 1,500 stores in the U.S. and Puerto Rico.

"We are making sure we are always taking the nutritional high ground," Petco CEO Ron Coughlin told The Associated Press.

Petco's move, the first of its kind among major pet stores, comes at a time when sales of natural pet foods are steadily rising.

Natural pet products still account for a small portion of the U.S. market share but growth has more than doubled to 6.5 percent between 2013 and 2017, according to Nielsen, a data company. Nielsen said sales of pet food free of genetically modified ingredients jumped 29 percent last year. Sales of pet food without artificial preservatives and colors grew 4 percent.

Americans spent \$69.5 billion on their pets last year, up 4 percent from the year before, according to the American Pet Products Association.

Pet food has long mimicked human food, says John Owen, a senior food analyst for market researcher Mintel. In 1959, for example, Gravy Train dog food was introduced so dogs could enjoy gravy too.

As human tastes have grown more sophisticated, so have their demands for their pets, Owen said.

For dogs, there are bags of organic, vegetarian and grain-free food. Some brands claim to mimic ancestral diets, with kibbles made from venison or wild boar. Cans of cat food feature tilapia, rabbit and pumpkin.

Sensing the growing trend, two big food companies — J.M. Smucker Co. and General Mills — spent billions to acquire the natural pet food brands Nutrish and Blue Buffalo earlier this year.

Ashley Murphy, a 33-year-old project manager in Atlanta, has been watching the amount of sugar and preservatives in her own food. That made her question the ingredients in the food she feeds her dog Maddie, a Jack Russell mix.

Murphy recently switched to Canidae Grain Free Pure Ancestral dry dog food after reading the ingredients on lots of bags. Murphy wanted a food with more meat, fewer fillers like grains and corn, and fewer chemicals.

"Minus some of the minerals and some of the fermentation products at the very bottom of the list, I can pronounce every single ingredient in her new food," said Murphy, who said she doesn't mind spending more for the food.

Owen says young people like Murphy are driving the trend in natural pet food. He expects it will keep

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growing and lead to even more "natural" innovations, like freeze-dried raw food.

Coughlin says the majority of pet food Petco sells now doesn't contain artificial ingredients. Still, the change isn't insignificant; Petco sells around \$100 million worth of dog and cat food with artificial ingredients each year.

Coughlin said food with those ingredients will start coming off the shelves in January. Some suppliers are reformulating their food; others simply won't sell through Petco anymore, he said. Food with artificial ingredients that isn't sold by May will be donated to animal shelters.

Eventually the store plans to expand its ban on artificial ingredients to foods it sells for other animals, he said.

Dr. Whitney Miller, Petco's top veterinarian, said there is limited research into the impact of artificial ingredients on dogs and cats. And Dr. Hollie Rebo, a veterinarian based in Dearborn, Michigan, said consumers shouldn't be overly concerned since pet food makers already limit those ingredients because they add costs.

When they do add things like artificial colors, it's because it makes the food more palatable to humans. "I love the idea of getting rid of a lot of useless junk, but it's really there to sell more product," she said.

US analysts locate secret North Korean missile sites

By **MATTHEW LEE, AP Diplomatic Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. analysts said Monday they have located 13 secret North Korean missile development sites, underscoring the challenge that the Trump administration faces in trying to reach its promised broad arms control agreement with Pyongyang.

The administration has said it is hopeful about eventually reaching an agreement with North Korea. President Donald Trump declared after his historic summit in June that with President Kim Jong Un there was "no longer a nuclear threat from North Korea." But a report based on satellite imagery shows the complexity posed by an extensive network of weapons facilities that the U.S. wants to neutralize.

A report from the Center for Strategic and International Studies has identified 13 secret facilities used to produce missiles and related technology. Although the sites are not launch facilities and in some cases are rudimentary, the authors of the report say they are hidden and illustrate the scope of the North's weapons program and the country's determination to conceal its military might.

"The dispersed deployment of these bases and distinctive tactics employed by ballistic missile units are combined with decades of extensive camouflage, concealment and deception practices to maximize the survival of its missile units from pre-emptive strikes and during wartime operations," they said.

The authors say the sites, which can be used for all classes of ballistic missiles, should be declared by North Korea and inspected in any credible, verifiable deal that addresses Pyongyang's most significant threats to the United States and its allies.

South Korea's presidential office said the report didn't include any information it didn't already know. Presidential spokesman Kim Eui-kyeom said continued activity at North Korean missile sites only underlines the need for nuclear negotiations between Washington and Pyongyang to proceed at a faster pace.

Kim took exception to a New York Times article on the report that said North Korea was engaging in "great deception," saying that the North has never promised to dismantle a short-range ballistic missile base 135 kilometers (84 miles) northwest of Seoul that was highlighted by CSIS.

Kim said such suggestions can "trigger misunderstanding and potentially block dialogue ... at a time when we need dialogue between North Korea and the United States."

Seoul has worked hard to revive nuclear negotiations between the U.S. and North Korea that have reduced fears of war in South Korea following a series of North Korean weapons tests and threats of military action by Trump last year.

North Korea analysts not involved in the report said the findings were not surprising given Pyongyang's past activities but were still cause for concern. They noted that Kim had not agreed to halt either nuclear weapons or missile development in negotiations with Trump or Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

"The fact that North Korea has continued to build nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles in the midst of

high-level diplomacy with China, South Korea and the U.S. should not come as a surprise," said Abraham Denmark, the Asia program director at The Wilson Center. "Despite all the summitry, North Korea is just as dangerous today as it was a year ago."

"Improving relations with Pyongyang may be a laudable goal, but any claim that the North Korean nuclear and missile threats have been solved is either wishful thinking or purposefully deceptive," he said.

"Interesting but unsurprising report," said Kelsey Davenport, director for nonproliferation policy at the Arms Control Association. "Kim Jong Un only committed voluntarily to halt long-range missile tests."

The report was released less than a week after North Korea abruptly called off a new round of negotiations with Pompeo that had been set for Thursday in New York. The cancellation, which the U.S. ascribed to scheduling issues, followed threats from North Korean officials to resume nuclear and missile testing unless U.S. sanctions are lifted.

The administration has said repeatedly that sanctions will not be lifted until a denuclearization agreement is fully implemented.

Associated Press writer Kim Tong-hyung in Seoul, South Korea, contributed to this report.

Rohingya fearful of doctors keep faith healers in business

By RISHABH R. JAIN, Associated Press

KUTUPALONG, Bangladesh (AP) — Abul Kalam sits cross-legged on the floor of his tiny mud hut and whispers prayers into a small plastic bottle filled with water, creating what he says is a potion that will cure stomach cramps.

"I got these powers in my dreams," he says. "People come to me because I heal them."

Kalam is a boidu, or faith healer, and for decades has been treating fellow Rohingya Muslims, first in Myanmar's northern Rakhine state and now in a squalid camp in Bangladesh, where 700,000 Rohingya took refuge last year after escaping a campaign of government violence at home.

Faith healers have long been sought out in Rohingya society to treat physical and mental ailments. Their trade has thrived in part because of traditional beliefs and in part because Rohingya have lacked access to modern medical care in Buddhist-majority Myanmar, where they are one of the most persecuted minority groups in the world.

Access to medical care has changed for the better in Bangladesh, where thousands of aid workers offer Rohingya everything from vaccinations to psychological support.

Doctors Without Borders, which runs four inpatient hospitals and a dozen medical centers in the area, says it has provided more than 800,000 outpatient consultations and admitted more than 15,000 patients since August 2017.

Yet many Rohingya still seek out their faith healers.

Kalam, a 60-year-old who arrived in Bangladesh in 2012 in an earlier exodus of Rohingya, says he receives more than five clients each day.

"People come to me because they benefit from my power," he says. "That's why they keep coming back."

Myanmar officials have said they expect the repatriation of Rohingya to start this week, a move criticized by rights groups who say it is not yet safe for them to return.

Anita Saha, a clinical psychologist who has worked in the camps since August 2017, says Rohingya refugees' dependence on faith healers stems from a lack of exposure to doctors and a suspicion of scientific medicine.

She says many refugees mistakenly believe they will lose their Islamic faith and be converted to Christianity if they take vaccinations for diseases like cholera and diphtheria. And in the case of mental illness, she says, many believe it is a reflection of evil forces and is best countered by a faith healer invoking prayer.

"They don't have any doctors to prescribe psychotropic drugs. So, they believe in the boidus to overcome their problem," Saha says.

She says beliefs in the camps are slowly changing.

Ali Nesa has never known what's wrong with her teenage daughter, who spends her days in the refugee camp lying on the floor of her family's thatch hut, unable to talk, walk or eat on her own.

Nesa says her daughter has been this way since she was 3, when she had epileptic fits for nearly two weeks straight.

"I don't know if her disease is due to an evil spirit or because of difficulty in breathing," Nesa says. "If this is because of an evil spirit, then only a boidu can treat her. If it is a breathing problem, then a doctor may be able to help her."

Nesa says none of the many boidus she has visited has been able to help her daughter and she is losing her faith in them. She's now interested in seeking medical help.

Climate extremes, harsh land and unsanitary conditions make the camps a breeding ground for diseases and mental stress.

That means there's plenty of work for doctors. It also means there's plenty of business for faith healers like Kalam, who says he's doing Allah's bidding and isn't bothered by people who don't believe in his powers.

"I can't be worried by what people have to say," he says.

"Maybe the doctor will say what does a boidu know? I don't want to answer them. I don't need to fight them."

Follow Rishabh R. Jain at <https://twitter.com/RishabhRJain1>

After 17 years, many Afghans blame US for unending war

By KATHY GANNON, Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — When U.S. forces and their Afghan allies rode into Kabul in November 2001 they were greeted as liberators. But after 17 years of war, the Taliban have retaken half the country, security is worse than it's ever been, and many Afghans place the blame squarely on the Americans.

The United States has lost more than 2,400 soldiers in its longest war, and has spent more than \$900 billion on everything from military operations to the construction of roads, bridges and power plants. Three U.S. presidents have pledged to bring peace to Afghanistan, either by adding or withdrawing troops, by engaging the Taliban or shunning them. Last year, the U.S. dropped the "mother of all bombs" on a cave complex.

None of it has worked. After years of frustration, Afghanistan is rife with conspiracy theories, including the idea that Americans didn't stumble into a forever war, but planned one all along.

Mohammed Ismail Qasimyar, a member of Afghanistan's High Peace Council, wonders how U.S. and NATO forces — which at their peak numbered 150,000 and fought alongside hundreds of thousands of Afghan troops, were unable to vanquish tens of thousands of Taliban.

"Either they did not want to or they could not do it," he said. He now suspects the U.S. and its ally Pakistan deliberately sowed chaos in Afghanistan to justify the lingering presence of foreign forces — now numbering around 15,000 — in order to use the country as a listening post to monitor Iran, Russia and China.

"They have made a hell, not a paradise for us," he said.

Afghanistan is rife with such conspiracy theories. After last month's assassination of Kandahar's powerful police chief, Gen. Abdul Raziq, social media exploded with pictures and posts suggesting he was the victim of a U.S. conspiracy. Recent insider attacks, in which Afghan forces have killed their erstwhile U.S. and NATO allies, have attracted online praise.

"In 2001 the Afghan people supported the arrival of the United States and the international community wholeheartedly," said Hamid Karzai, who was installed as Afghanistan's first president and twice won re-election, serving until 2014.

"For a number of years things worked perfectly well," he said in a recent interview. "Then we saw the United States either changed course or simply neglected the views of the Afghan people and the condi-

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tions of the Afghans.”

He blames the lingering war on the U.S. failure to eliminate militant sanctuaries in neighboring Pakistan, the bombing of Afghan villages and homes, and the detention of Afghans in raids.

Others blame the notoriously corrupt government, which Karzai headed for more than a decade, and which is widely seen as yet another bitter fruit of the American invasion.

“All the money that has come to this country has gone to the people in power. The poor people didn’t get anything,” said Hajji Akram, a day laborer in Kabul’s Old City who struggles to feed his family on around \$4 a day. “The foreigners are not making things better. They should go.”

It’s not just Afghans. The United States’ own inspector general for Afghanistan’s reconstruction offered a blistering critique in a speech in Ohio earlier this month.

John Sopko pointed out that the U.S. has spent \$132 billion on Afghanistan’s reconstruction — more than was spent on Western Europe after World War II. Another \$750 billion has been spent on U.S. military operations, and Washington has pledged \$4 billion a year for Afghanistan’s security forces.

The result?

“Even after 17 years of U.S. and coalition effort and financial largesse, Afghanistan remains one of the poorest, least educated, and most corrupt countries in the world,” Sopko said. “It is also one of the most violent.”

Hamidullah Nasrat sells imported fabrics in the capital’s main bazaar on the banks of the Kabul River, a fetid trickle running through a garbage-filled trench. He remembers welcoming the overthrow of the Taliban, who had shut down his photography studio because it was deemed un-Islamic.

“After the Taliban we were expecting something good, but instead, day by day, it is getting worse,” he said. “How is it that a superpower like the United States cannot stop the Taliban? It is a question every Afghan is asking.”

The U.S. and NATO formally concluded their combat mission in 2014. Since then, the Taliban have carried out near-daily attacks on rural checkpoints and staged coordinated assaults on major cities. Authorities stopped publishing casualty figures earlier this year, deeming them classified. An Islamic State affiliate has meanwhile carried out massive bombings against the country’s Shiite minority.

Afghans who have recently served on the front lines complain of faulty equipment, inadequate supplies and reinforcements that show up late and ill-equipped, if at all.

Tameem Darvesh served in the Afghan army for nearly five years in the southern Helmand province. This year he went on holiday and never returned, trading his \$180 monthly salary for work as a day laborer making much less. He said morale is at an all-time low, with many soldiers expressing sympathy for the Taliban.

Jawad Mohammadi served for more than seven years in the security forces until 2015, when he stepped on a land-mine he was tasked to clear and lost both his legs. He was just 25 years old.

He recalls how the foreign instructors told him to always check his mine detector by waving it over a piece of metal before heading out into the field. But whenever a device failed to respond, his Afghan commander would tell him to use it anyway.

“I was told that’s all we have. That’s what we were given, you just have to use it,” he said.

The next time he went out with a faulty device, his foot found a bomb the detector had missed.

“I felt myself being thrown through the air. I looked and I saw my legs were near me and there was so much blood. I yelled: ‘Please help me.’”

Associated Press writer Amir Shah in Kabul, Afghanistan, contributed to this report.

Centrist Democrat Kyrsten Sinema flips Arizona Senate seat **By NICHOLAS RICCARDI, Associated Press**

In a year of liberal challenges to President Donald Trump, an avowed centrist scored the Democratic Party’s biggest coup -- flipping a red state’s U.S. Senate seat.

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Rep. Kyrsten Sinema won the Arizona Senate seat being vacated by Republican Jeff Flake to become the first woman to win a U.S. Senate seat in the state. The race against Republican Rep. Martha McSally was tight enough that a winner wasn't decided until Monday, after a slow count of mail-in ballots gave her an insurmountable lead.

Sinema's win achieves a longtime Democratic goal of making Arizona, with its growing Latino population, a competitive state. And she did it by pointedly not running against the president, or even critiquing his hardline immigration stance.

"She didn't put the progressive bit in her mouth and run with it," said Chuck Coughlin, a GOP strategist in Phoenix. "She spit it out and did something else."

Sinema targeted moderate Republican and independent women by painting herself as a nonpartisan problem-solver who voted to support Trump's agenda 60 percent of the time. Her nearly single-issue campaign talked about the importance of health care and protections for people with pre-existing conditions.

She knew McSally was vulnerable there because she backed the Republicans' failed attempt to repeal President Barack Obama's health care law.

Sinema tailored her campaign for conservative-leaning Arizona rather than the national environment, but it may be a guide for Democrats who hope to expand the electoral map in 2020. While some liberals won important races in California, Colorado and Kansas, the left's highest-profile champions disappointed on Election Day.

Rep. Beto O'Rourke fell short in his challenge to Sen. Ted Cruz in Texas. Stacey Abrams trails her Republican opponent in the still undecided bitter Georgia gubernatorial race, and Tallahassee Mayor Andrew Gillum, who once led in the polls in the race for Florida governor, is now awaiting the results of a recount.

Sinema prevailed while the Democratic candidate for governor, David Garcia, ran as an avowed progressive and got trounced by Republican incumbent Doug Ducey.

"Kyrsten was the perfect candidate for this race," said Democratic strategist Chad Campbell, who previously served with Sinema in Arizona's state legislature. "We saw that with Garcia."

Sinema first came to prominence as an openly bisexual Green Party activist in Phoenix, and McSally raked the Democrat over her protests against the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. Sinema was elected as a Democrat to the state legislature in 2004 and carved out a reputation as a liberal who could work with her conservative colleagues.

By the time she was elected to Congress representing a suburban Phoenix swing district in 2012, Sinema had completely remade herself into a centrist. She voted against Nancy Pelosi as the Democratic leader, supported relaxed regulations on banks and a law to increase penalties on people illegally re-entering the country. She supported a bill making it easier to deport immigrants identified by police as gang members.

During the Senate campaign, Sinema stuck to her centrist message, almost robotically at times. She faced only a nominal primary challenge from her left and was free to burnish her nonpartisan credentials, unlike McSally, who faced two primary challengers from the right and tied herself to Trump.

On Election Day, Sinema swung by Arizona State University's downtown Phoenix campus to hand out doughnuts and gleefully posed for photos. She has four degrees from the school and teaches two classes there.

"What are you going to do for people who are a little more on the left?" voter Petra Morrison asked. The candidate said she wasn't focused on party labels or ideology. Morrison later told a reporter she was going to vote for Sinema, even though "she seems to come across as a Democrat in sheep's clothing."

Though Sinema wooed moderates, she needed liberals like Morrison in her corner for her win. She benefited from a longtime organizing push by activists who especially targeted the state's young, growing and Democratic-leaning Latino electorate. "It's been 10 years and even more, this mobilization and galvanizing," said Lisa Magana, a professor in ASU's School of Transborder Studies.

And though Trump's rhetoric on immigration seemed pitched to Arizona voters' anxieties about the border, both Democratic and Republican polls throughout the race showed the president had more people disapproving of him.

Trump visited only once on McSally's behalf in mid-October. The following week, Democratic Rep. Ruben

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Gallego said there was a notable spike in Latinos returning their early ballots; most Arizona residents vote by mail.

"It was like they spent the weekend at the kitchen table" filling out the ballots in anger, Gallego said.

Annette Villelas was one of those angry voters. She registered for the first time so she could vote for Democrats and against Trump. It wasn't just the way the president deals with immigrants, she said after shaking Sinema's hand at a Phoenix taco shop.

"The way he talks just to the public, it's not right," Villelas said. "I want to vote and get him out and get someone in for the people."

Ron Horsford, a 50-year-old Republican, was at the same event and said he was excited to vote for Sinema. He liked her message of "I'm going to work with the other side."

The question for Democrats in Arizona is whether they can attract voters like Horsford and Villelas in 2020. Not only does the party hope it can put the state in play in the presidential race, voters will get to choose the John McCain's permanent successor. Republican Sen. Jon Kyl, who was appointed after McCain's death, has pledged not to run.

Despite its image as a staunch Republican bastion, Arizona is attracting younger, educated voters from elsewhere in the United States. In this election, Democrats expanded their share in the state Legislature, though they're still the minority. They took a 5-4 majority in the state's congressional seats and remain competitive in two down-ballot and uncalled statewide races.

Manning's late TD pass leads Giants past 49ers 27-23

By JOSH DUBOW, AP Pro Football Writer

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP) — Eli Manning threw a 3-yard touchdown pass to Sterling Shepard with 53 seconds left and the New York Giants snapped a five-game losing streak by beating the San Francisco 49ers 27-23 on Monday night.

"It means a lot," Manning said. "That's what I told the guys this week. We've worked too hard not to be rewarded with wins. ... We just weren't able to get some of the outcomes or make the plays we needed to win. Today we were able to do that."

Manning threw two TD passes to Odell Beckham Jr. and then engineered the late game-winning drive with help from a pair of third-down penalties against Malcolm Smith and Ahkello Witherspoon.

Saquon Barkley then had a 23-yard catch to get the ball into the red zone and Manning connected with Shepard on third down to give the Giants (2-7) the win.

"I just saw man-to-man coverage," Shepard said. "That's something we've been practicing. I was able to capture the outside edge and Eli put the ball in a perfect place."

Matt Breida ran for 101 yards and scored two touchdowns for the 49ers (2-8), who were unable to win consecutive games under third-string quarterback Nick Mullens. Breida's 23-yard run helped set up a 30-yard field goal by Robbie Gould that gave the Niners a 23-20 lead with 2:46 to play.

But the 49ers allowed the go-ahead score and couldn't pull it out at the end as Mullens' pass from the Giants 20 sailed out of the end zone on the final play.

Mullens wasn't nearly as sharp as he was in his NFL debut against the Raiders on Nov. 1 when he joined Hall of Famers Jim Kelly and Fran Tarkenton as the only players with at least 250 yards passing, three touchdown passes and no interceptions in the first career game.

Mullens threw for 250 yards and had an 11-yard TD pass to Breida that made it 20-10 early in the third quarter. But Mullens also threw two interceptions with the first setting up a 10-yard TD pass from Manning to Beckham.

Those two connected again on a 20-yard score in the third quarter as New York rallied from 10 points down to tie the game in the second half.

HARD HIT

Niners receiver Marquise Goodwin was hit in the helmet by Alec Ogletree on a catch late in the third quarter and briefly left the game. On his first play back in to start the fourth quarter, a pass from Mullens

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deflected off Goodwin's hands for the second interception of the game by B.J. Goodson . Goodwin was slow to get up after that play and went back into the medical tent for observation. Goodwin returned to the game later in the fourth quarter.

MISSED OPPORTUNITY

The Giants entered the game converting just 40 percent of their red zone trips into TDs. They missed a golden opportunity for one late in the first half. On a third down from the 3, the 49ers left Beckham unguarded in the slot but Manning stuck with a run play to Barkley that gained only 1 yard. New York settled for a field goal that tied the game at 10.

The Niners then drove down for a late field goal to take the lead at the break as the Giants trailed at the half for the eighth time this season.

PLAYING FOR PARADISE

Niners GM John Lynch welcomed the high school football team from Paradise, a town destroyed by the wildfires in Butte County, about 175 miles north. Players and cheerleaders from the school were on the field for the national anthem. The air quality for the game was at an unhealthy level because of the fires.

The Air Quality Index was at 161 at kickoff, which is in the unhealthy zone, and smoke could be smelled throughout the stadium. The NFL had monitored the situation but the AQI never got near 200, the level where the game would have needed to be moved.

UP NEXT

Giants: Host Tampa Bay on Sunday.

49ers: Visit Tampa Bay on Nov. 25.

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

Spiritual first responders hit the streets amid drug crisis

By MICHAEL HILL, Associated Press

Sidewalk prayers near shoot-up spots. Sunday sermons in the back of a bar. Pleas to struggling souls to surrender to God. Funerals for members of their flock who didn't make it.

Clergy members have become spiritual first responders in the opioid crisis, often leaving the pulpit to minister on the streets.

They can be reverends, rabbis, priests or pastors. Though their faiths differ, they invariably approach people with addiction as equals. No Bible-thumping, no blaming. Quite a few are in recovery themselves.

Despite some signs of a slowdown, the nation's all-time deadliest drug overdose epidemic endures. Opioids were involved in most of the deaths, killing nearly 48,000 people last year.

A spiritual element to recovery is familiar to people who have worked 12-step programs, with their references to an undefined higher power. Scientific studies have found evidence that religious faith can help substance abusers with their recovery.

Working with addicted people means trips to hospital rooms and fresh graves. But there are flashes of light in the darkness, too.

Three dispatches from the front lines:

A CHURCH FOR IMPERFECT PEOPLE

Nine minutes into his sermon, Pastor Brad Hill made a confession.

"I gotta be honest. I ask myself a lot of the times, 'God, why did you allow me to be an addict?'" Hill says from the pulpit of his Grace Downtown Church. "Why are my friends dying of an overdose? ... I gotta ask God, 'Why, God, do you allow this?'"

Hill hears those questions a lot.

The church Hill started in the back of a Winchester, Virginia, bar moved this year to a space that can accommodate hundreds, many trying to turn the page on their addictions. Six and a half years in recovery, Hill calls it a totally judgment-free zone, "a church for imperfect people."

Hill has a salty beard, smiling eyes and booming voice to sermonize about the suffering he sees so often

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in the Shenandoah Valley. His phone lights up constantly with messages from struggling people and their loved ones. One recent text read: "Do those who commit suicide still go to heaven?"

Too often, Hill speaks at funerals for overdose victims, three in the past three months alone. He honors the dead while telling survivors, "You don't have to be like this person. There is a way out."

A funeral in September for a 38-year-old married father of four was especially hard on Hill. They were friends, and Hill had been talking to him about his struggle just a week before he died. It was Hill who welcomed the man's grieving family to a Sunday service.

"They lost one of ..." Hill swallowed, clapped his hands together twice, and continued in a softer voice. "They lost one of my favorite people. So I just ask that we pray real quick for them, OK?"

Hill's own addiction to painkillers led to a prescription fraud conviction in 2007 and a yearlong jail sentence that cost him a thriving church in Virginia Beach.

About four years ago, he came to Winchester and started Sunday services in the backroom of a downtown bar called Brewbaker's for a handful of people struggling with addiction. They'd drop a sheet over the liquor bottles before services.

It grew by attracting people like Matthew Fanning, who met Hill at a Narcotics Anonymous meeting.

Hill would talk about spirituality, but Fanning wasn't ready to hear it until he relapsed into heroin addiction. Hill visited him in rehab in 2015, encouraged him and gave him Bible-based homework.

Fanning is now in recovery and a Grace Downtown regular.

"You don't have to come in your quote-unquote Sunday best," Fanning said. "You come as you are, whether you're struggling, or whether you don't believe, or whether you're just curious."

The nondenominational church moved this year to a nearby strip mall with room to seat 400.

While some churches merely welcome the homeless, Grace Downtown picks them up in a van. Other worshippers come from local rehabilitation centers. Hill estimates that more than half who show up on Sundays are in recovery or related to someone who is.

"I have folks that come in that just got high the night before," Hill says. "I've got folks that overdosed the night before. I've got folks who have lost everything."

NEVER STOP GETTING OUR HANDS DIRTY

Pastor Jamie Casey prays with addicted people all over New Bedford, Massachusetts. He joins hands with them in their living rooms days after overdoses, in hospital emergency rooms and on sidewalks in front of wind-beaten houses in this struggling city.

The 45-year-old associate pastor in a nondenominational church is part of a team of clergy from a variety of faiths who regularly crisscross town with police officers and counselors. Their goal is to get people into treatment and, if they will listen, to offer some spiritual advice.

"Surrender," Casey told Brian Peets, who stepped out from his makeshift shelter beneath a railroad track platform.

"I can't," Peets said.

"Surrender."

"I can't right now."

"Surrender," Casey repeated, alluding to his own addictions that started with alcohol and cocaine.

"For 20 years I fought and fought and fought against myself. Because you're your biggest enemy. You know that, right?" he told Peets. "So what ended up happening is that I ended up in a place that I lost almost everything. But then I had to surrender to this addiction, surrender to my circumstances, surrender to myself and then surrender to God."

New Bedford logged 56 opioid-related overdose deaths last year, a per-capita rate a third higher than nearby Boston. Police hope such outreach ride-alongs can get struggling people into treatment before the next setback.

The three-person teams cold-call homes where there have recently been overdoses to see if anyone wants help.

On a recent evening, Casey put on his shirt with "CHAPLAIN" on the back to ride with Officer Scott Carola and counselor Peter Lagasse around the city in an unmarked car.

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Casey had a list of addresses of recent overdoses. But when they knocked on doors, most people either weren't home or weren't answering.

The trio was unfazed.

The person who ignores you today might embrace you tomorrow, said the Rev. David Lima, who heads the Inter-Church Council of Greater New Bedford and directs the program.

Only a small percentage will get treatment, but participating clergy contend that it's about more than numbers. Says Rabbi Raphael Kanter, quoting the Talmud, "if you save one life, it's as if you've saved the whole world."

They spotted James Sessine talking to friends on a busy corner outside a food market. The 29-year-old has struggled with addiction and recently has been living in a tent.

Sessine's friends scattered as the car stopped, but he stayed and listened to Casey's suggestion that he get a treatment slot.

Casey called a provider. Can they give him a time tomorrow? Yes.

Sessine got on the phone and promised he'll be ready the next morning, meanwhile, "I'm going to walk around all night, like I do every night."

Sessine ended the call and hugged Casey.

"I shoot heroin daily," Sessine explained a few minutes later, "and it's coming to the point where enough is enough."

Casey says his preaching, teaching and intervening is all part of his goal to "love people back to life."

"My best friend and I, we made a deal," Casey said, his voice catching. "He looked at me and he said, 'Promise me we'll never stop getting our hands dirty,' And I made that promise to him and God, because had people given up on me, I wouldn't be here."

They picked up Sessine the next morning.

Casey looked for Peets too, but could not find him.

FRIARS FLYING THE JESUS FLAG

With his bushy beard and long gray robe cinched by a rope, the Rev. Giuseppe Siniscalchi would look at home illuminating manuscript in a monastery. But he and his fellow Franciscan friars are familiar figures on the sidewalks of Newburgh, New York.

They walk in pairs by row houses, empty storefronts and shoot-up spots in this Hudson River city. They offer people hot chocolate, iced tea or bagels along with their Roman Catholic blessings.

"When we approach the people on the street, whether they're addicted, whether they're even drunk, or whether they're high at the moment or they're a prostitute, whatever's going on in their life, we want to approach them first of all in love," Siniscalchi says.

On one afternoon walking with the Rev. Antonio Maria Diez de Medina, the pair greeted men on a street corner, a mom on her front steps and kids on scooters. Diez de Medina greeted some people in Spanish.

A dark-haired woman ran up to them from across the street and proudly told him about her recovery.

She acted calmly, different from when Siniscalchi saw her sitting restlessly in a parked car months ago. He offered to pray for her. The two friars laid a hand on her shoulders as they all bowed their heads on the sidewalk.

She closed her eyes so tightly her nose crinkled.

The friars are not specifically looking for people struggling with drugs, but they make a point of walking past some of the most troubled corners of Newburgh.

This once-grand city about an hour north of New York City has a poverty rate higher than that of the Bronx. For every fixed-up row house, there is another run down or abandoned. A hospital two blocks from the friary reported that it saved the lives of 205 overdose patients over a year's time.

"There been a few times where I've come across people with their little hypodermic needle kit ready to shoot up ... and you just say, 'Hi. How are you? How you doing,'" Siniscalchi says. "They kind of recognize or get a sense of who we are, and a conversation ensues."

The friars moved to an old church rectory here in 2016, establishing the St. Mary of the Assumption

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Friary. They take turns on the four-times-a-week walkabouts with Brother Peter Anthony Curtis.

In recent months, they started dispensing drinks from a metal cart they push down the streets. The rubber-wheeled cart sports a Jesus flag and a picture of Our Lady of Guadalupe, a resonant image in a city with a robust Hispanic population.

After two years, the sight of robed men with long beards chatting up people barely draws second glances. Quite a few people chat.

On one walk, a middle-aged bicyclist asked, "You guys Catholics or something?" He then had his silver crucifix blessed. A passing woman took a blue plastic crucifix that matched her clothes. At one point, Siniscalchi sat down next to a downcast woman, pulled out a crucifix and told her Jesus loves her.

"People don't," she replied, looking down.

That doesn't matter, he said, Jesus does.

After a few minutes, the friars said goodbye to go greet more souls.

Michael Hill is a multi-format AP journalist based in Albany, New York. He can be reached on Twitter at @MichaelTHill .

Red-carpet fanfare dropped amid deadly California fires

By LYNN ELBER, AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Hollywood cut back on the glamor trappings of movie premieres as a vast wildfire destroyed or imperiled the homes of celebrities and other Southern California residents.

A red carpet for the Sandra Bullock film "Bird Box" was canceled Monday by the studio and one planned for "Under the Silver Lake" with Andrew Garfield was switched to a photo opportunity, an AFI Fest spokeswoman said.

That followed the decision by Netflix to call off the AFI Fest's Sunday red carpet ceremony for filmmaker-brothers Ethan and Joel Coen's "The Ballad of Buster Scruggs."

Separately, Paramount canceled a red carpet ceremony and after-party for "Instant Family" with Rose Byrne and Mark Wahlberg, citing the "ongoing, active fires being battled in the area." The studio said food intended for the party was being donated to the American Red Cross.

While premieres shed their glitz, there were few reports of industry production affected by the wildfire that has killed two and destroyed more than 400 homes. The fire began Thursday and raced toward Malibu and the Pacific Ocean, prompting evacuations in Malibu and nearby areas including Calabasas and Agoura Hills.

Comedy Central's "Drunk History" series resumed production Monday in downtown Los Angeles after taping was halted Friday in King Gillette Ranch, a Santa Monica Mountains park, because of the fire burning in the distance.

Celebrities including Gerard Butler and Caitlyn Jenner shared their loss or luck online after discovering the fate of their properties.

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

"Half-gone," the Scottish actor ("300") said in a video that showed embers, ashes and what's left of his home.

Robin Thicke's Malibu home was destroyed, according to his representative. The 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.

Shannen Doherty said online "our house is fine," adding she was heartbroken that a friend's Malibu home where she was married in 2011 had burned. The "Beverly Hills, 90210" star posted a photo with four firefighters she called "this great crew."

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Lady Gaga, who evacuated her Malibu home and posted online Friday that she was wondering if it will "burst into flames," visited a Red Cross shelter Sunday. Her property's condition was not known Monday.

"This is an emergency, but you are not alone," the actress-pop star told evacuees in a video of her remarks posted by website TMZ.

Fire officials lifted some evacuation orders Monday, but they warned Southern California residents to remain on alert as strong winds fanned new fires. Flames have claimed multimillion-dollar mansions along with modest homes.

In Northern California, more than 40 people were confirmed dead in the wildfire that wiped out the town of Paradise, making it the deadliest wildfire in recorded state history. The search for bodies continued Monday.

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Scientists: Wind, drought worsen fires, not bad management

By SETH BORENSTEIN, AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Both nature and humans share blame for California's devastating wildfires, but forest management did not play a major role, despite President Donald Trump's claims, fire scientists say.

Nature provides the dangerous winds that have whipped the fires, and human-caused climate change over the long haul is killing and drying the shrubs and trees that provide the fuel, experts say.

"Natural factors and human-caused global warming effects fatally collude" in these fires, said wildfire expert Kristen Thornicke of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research in Germany.

Multiple reasons explain the fires' severity, but "forest management wasn't one of them," University of Utah fire scientist Philip Dennison said.

Trump tweeted on Saturday: "There is no reason for these massive, deadly and costly forest fires in California except that forest management is so poor. Billions of dollars are given each year, with so many lives lost, all because of gross mismanagement of the forests."

The death toll from the wildfire that incinerated the Northern California town of Paradise and surrounding areas climbed to 42, making it the single deadliest single blaze in California history. Statewide, the number of fire dead stood at 44, including two victims in Southern California.

One reason that scientists know that management isn't to blame is that some areas now burning had fires in 2005 and 2008, so they aren't "fuel-choked closed-canopy forests," Dennison said.

In those earlier fires, Paradise was threatened but escaped major damage, he said. In the current blazes, it was virtually destroyed.

The other major fire, in Southern California, burned through shrub land, not forest, Dennison said.

"It's not about forest management. These aren't forests," he said.

The dean of the University of Michigan's environmental school, Jonathan Overpeck, said Western fires are getting bigger and more severe. He said it "is much less due to bad management and is instead the result of our baking of our forests, woodlands and grasslands with ever-worsening climate change."

Wildfires have become more devastating because of the extreme weather swings from global warming, fire scientists said. The average number of U.S. acres burned by wildfires has doubled over the level from 30 years ago.

As of Monday, more than 13,200 square miles (34,200 square kilometers) have burned. That's more than a third higher than the 10-year average.

From 1983 to 1999, the United States didn't reach 10,000 square miles burned annually. Since then, 11 of 19 years have had more than 10,000 square miles burned, including this year. In 2006, 2015 and 2017, more than 15,000 square miles burned.

The two fires now burning "aren't that far out of line with the fires we've seen in these areas in recent decades," Dennison said.

"The biggest factor was wind," Dennison said in an email. "With wind speeds as high as they were, there

was nothing firefighters could do to stop the advance of the fires.”

These winds, called Santa Ana winds, and the unique geography of high mountains and deep valleys act like chimneys, fortifying the fires, Thornicke said.

The wind is so strong that fire breaks — areas where trees and brush have been cleared or intentionally burned to deprive the advancing flames of fuel — won't work. One of the fires jumped over eight lanes of freeway, about 140 feet (43 meters), Dennison said.

Southern California had fires similar to the Woolsey fire in 1982, when winds were 60 mph, but “the difference between 1982 and today is a much higher population in these areas. Many more people were threatened and had to be evacuated,” Dennison said.

California also has been in drought for all but a few years of the 21st century and is now experiencing its longest drought, which began on Dec. 27, 2011, and has lasted 358 weeks, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor . Nearly two-thirds of the state is abnormally dry.

The first nine months of the year have been fourth-warmest on record for California, and this past summer was the second-hottest on record in the state.

Because of that, there are 129 million dead trees, which provide fuel for fires, Thornicke said.

And it's more than trees. Dead shrubs around the bottom of trees provide what is called “ladder fuel,” offering a path for fire to climb from the ground to the treetops and intensifying the conflagration by a factor of 10 to 100, said Kevin Ryan, a fire consultant and former fire scientist at the U.S. Forest Service.

While many conservatives advocate cutting down more trees to prevent fires, no one makes money by cutting dead shrubs, and that's a problem, he said.

Local and state officials have cleared some Southern California shrub, enough for normal weather and winds. But that's not enough for this type of extreme drought, said Ryan, also a former firefighter.

University of Alberta fire scientist Mike Flannigan earlier this year told The Associated Press that the hotter and drier the weather, the easier it is for fires to start, spread and burn more intensely.

It's simple, he said: “The warmer it is, the more fire we see.”

For every 1.8 degrees Fahrenheit that the air warms, it needs 15 percent more rain to make up for the drying of the fuel, Flannigan said.

Federal fire and weather data show the years with the most acres burned were generally a degree warmer than average.

“Everyone who has gardened knows that you must water more on hotter days,” Overpeck said. “But, thanks in part to climate change, California isn't getting enough snow and rain to compensate for the unrelenting warming caused by climate change. The result is a worsening wildfire problem.

Follow Seth Borenstein on Twitter: @borenbears .

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Returning winds have Southern California firefighters wary

By **CHRISTOPHER WEBER** and **BRIAN MELLEY**, Associated Press

MALIBU, Calif. (AP) — With Santa Ana winds returning and hundreds of homes in ashes, firefighters were struggling to corral a devastating Southern California wildfire that has ravaged scenic canyons and celebrity enclaves near the ocean.

Crews taking advantage of a weekend lull in the winds had the immense Woolsey blaze about 30 percent contained. But at least 435 buildings had burned — most of them homes — and the hot embers smoldering there could become the sparks for more devastation, fire officials said.

The fire, which stretches from north of Los Angeles to the Pacific Ocean, was only 30 percent contained — although that was significant progress from only a few days earlier thanks to a weekend lull in Santa Ana winds.

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Fire crews had to stamp out two new blazes on Monday while still working to corral the hot western and eastern sides of the fire, which had burned its way through drought-stricken canyonlands in and around Malibu, burning celebrity houses along with modest mobile homes.

The hot, dry gusty winds were expected to blow through Wednesday, although not quite as furiously as last week. Winds, coupled with higher average annual temperatures, tinder-dry brush and a lack of rain in recent years, make the "perfect ingredients" for explosive fire growth around the state, said Chris Anthony, a division chief with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

"I've been doing this job for 31 years and probably in the last five, maybe seven years, every year seems to get worse," California Fire Chief Scott Jalbert told The Associated Press.

The fire has burned more than 80 percent of National Parks Service land in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, officials said.

Fire officials lifted some evacuation orders Monday in Los Angeles County while warning Southern California residents to remain vigilant as strong winds fanned new fires. While some returned home, others were told to leave. As one major freeway reopened, another was closed.

The return to normal for some was juxtaposed with the arrival of chaos for others, illustrating how quickly conditions can turn. At least 57,000 homes were still considered threatened, state fire officials said, and more than 200,000 people remained under evacuation orders.

Relief and heartache awaited those who were allowed to return home Monday. Paul Rasmussen, his pregnant wife and 6-year-old daughter fled their mountainside Malibu home Friday for what they thought would be the last time.

Paul Rasmussen gasped Monday as he rounded corners on the road home that revealed the extent of damage with more than a dozen nearby houses reduced to rubble. But their home survived. His next-door neighbor, Randy Berkeley, protected his home and the Rasmussens' house.

Berkeley and his wife, Robyn Berkeley, choked back tears as they recounted their ordeal holding back a 100-foot wall of flames and then repeatedly beating back hot spots that continued to flare up throughout the night and next day.

The couple and their 25-year-old son, Colin, used hoses, buckets of water and chain saws to battle flames and cut back brush as the fire kept coming to life.

"Just when you think everything is dying down, everything keeps coming back," Randy Berkeley said.

The death toll stood at two, a pair of adults found last week in a car overtaken by flames a couple miles from Rasmussen's house. Those fatalities added to California's growing wildfire-related death toll.

At least 42 people were confirmed dead in the wildfire that obliterated the Northern California town of Paradise, making it the deadliest wildfire in recorded state history. The search for bodies continued.

The cause of the Southern California fires remained under investigation.

Southern California Edison reported to the California Public Utilities Commission "out of an abundance of caution" that there was an outage on an electrical circuit near where the fire started Thursday. The report said there was no indication its equipment was involved in the fire reported two minutes after the outage.

Downed powerlines and blown transformers have been blamed for several of the deadly fires that have burned in recent years.

Melley reported from Los Angeles. Associated Press writer John Antczak contributed to this report from Los Angeles.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Nov. 13, the 317th day of 2018. There are 48 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 13, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a measure lowering the minimum draft age

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from 21 to 18.

On this date:

In 1775, during the American Revolution, the Continental Army captured Montreal.

In 1789, Benjamin Franklin wrote in a letter to a friend, Jean-Baptiste Leroy: "In this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes."

In 1909, 259 men and boys were killed when fire erupted inside a coal mine in Cherry, Illinois.

In 1956, the Supreme Court struck down laws calling for racial segregation on public buses.

In 1969, speaking in Des Moines, Iowa, Vice President Spiro T. Agnew accused network television news departments of bias and distortion, and urged viewers to lodge complaints.

In 1974, Karen Silkwood, a 28-year-old technician and union activist at the Kerr-McGee Cimarron plutonium plant near Crescent, Oklahoma, died in a car crash while on her way to meet a reporter.

In 1982, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was dedicated on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

In 1985, some 23,000 residents of Armero, Colombia, died when a volcanic mudslide buried the city.

In 1994, Sweden voted in a non-binding referendum to join the European Union, which it did the following year.

In 2000, lawyers for George W. Bush failed to win a court order barring manual recounts of ballots in Florida. Florida Secretary of State Katherine Harris announced she would end the recounting at 5 p.m. Eastern time the next day -- prompting an immediate appeal by lawyers for Al Gore.

In 2001, President George W. Bush approved the use of a special military tribunal that could put accused terrorists on trial faster and in greater secrecy than an ordinary criminal court. President Bush and Russian President Vladimir Putin met at the White House, where they pledged to slash Cold War-era nuclear arsenals by two-thirds.

In 2015, Islamic State militants carried out a set of coordinated attacks in Paris on the national stadium, restaurants and streets, and a crowded concert hall, killing 130 people in the worst attack on French soil since World War II.

Ten years ago: A wind-driven fire erupted in Southern California; the blaze destroyed more than 200 homes in Santa Barbara and neighboring Montecito. Investors did an abrupt turnaround on Wall Street, muscling the Dow Jones industrial average up more than 550 points after three straight days of selling. Colombian rocker Juanes (WAH'-neh-s) won five awards, including record of the year and album of the year, at the Latin Grammys in Houston. Cleveland's Cliff Lee won the American League Cy Young Award.

Five years ago: The Obama administration revealed that just 26,794 people had enrolled for health insurance during the first, flawed month of operations for the federal "Obamacare" website. (More than 79,000 others had signed up in the 14 states with their own websites.) Toronto Mayor Rob Ford admitted during a heated City Council meeting that he'd bought illegal drugs while in office, but he adamantly refused calls from councilors to step down and seek help. Clayton Kershaw of the Los Angeles Dodgers and Max Scherzer of the Detroit Tigers won baseball's Cy Young Awards. Former Raiders tight end Todd Christensen died during liver transplant surgery in Utah; he was 57.

One year ago: A second woman accused Alabama Republican Senate candidate Roy Moore of sexually assaulting her as a teenager in the late 1970s; Moore described the charge as "absolutely false" and a "political maneuver." Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said Moore should drop out of the race. (Moore went on to lose a special election to Democrat Doug Jones.) A North Korean soldier was shot several times by his comrades as he fled over the border to the South; he underwent surgery and recovered at a South Korean hospital. The Oakland Raiders broke ground on a 65,000-seat domed stadium in Las Vegas. The Food and Drug Administration approved the first drug with a sensor that alerts doctors when the medication has been taken. President Donald Trump picked former pharmaceutical executive Alex Azar to be his health secretary.

Today's Birthdays: Journalist-author Peter Arnett is 84. Actor Jimmy Hawkins is 77. Country singer-songwriter Ray Wylie Hubbard is 72. Actor Joe Mantegna is 71. Actress Sheila Frazier is 70. Musician Andrew Ranken (The Pogues) is 65. Actress Tracy Scoggins is 65. Actor Chris Noth (noth) is 64. Actress-comedian

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Whoopi Goldberg is 63. Actor Rex Linn is 62. Actress Caroline Goodall is 59. Actor Neil Flynn is 58. Former NFL quarterback and College Football Hall of Famer Vinny Testaverde is 55. Rock musician Walter Kibby (Fishbone) is 54. Comedian and talk show host Jimmy Kimmel is 51. Actor Steve Zahn is 51. Actor Gerard Butler is 49. Writer-activist Ayaan Hirsi Ali is 49. Actor Jordan Bridges is 45. Actress Aisha Hinds is 43. Rock musician Nikolai Fraiture is 40. Former NBA All-Star Metta World Peace (formerly Ron Artest) is 39. Actress Monique Coleman is 38. Actor Rahul Kohli is 33. Actor Devon Bostick is 27.

Thought for Today: "If we like a man's dream, we call him a reformer; if we don't like his dream, we call him a crank." — William Dean Howells, American author (1837-1920).