

# Groton Daily Independent

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## Groton Area Schedule of Events

### 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

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



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## Giving thanks for our arts opportunities

By Jim Speirs, Executive Director, Arts South Dakota

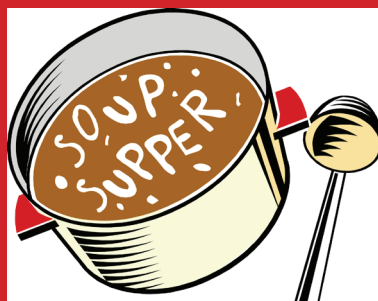
This time of year, as the harvest is gathered in, we often pause to reflect on the many things we, as South Dakotans, are uniquely thankful for. Among those things that make life worth living here on the prairie is the impressive array of arts and cultural experiences we enjoy.

South Dakota revels in having a vibrant community of working artists who have chosen our state as their home. Their creative drive energizes our classrooms, our theaters and studios in towns across South Dakota. Our state's artists illustrate, in their daily lives, that success can be achieved in the arts right here. South Dakota can also be proud of the tradition of local volunteerism which is the foundation of the community arts movement. Arts councils are not just organizations; they are vital groups of concerned local residents who understand the value and impact of the arts in their towns and on the people who live there. Without individuals willing to get involved, our state would not have the cultural advantages we share.

We can also be thankful for support of the arts, by companies, by individuals and by our state government. Volunteerism goes a long way toward success, but without funding, appreciation and validation in the form of programs and participation, the arts would suffer in South Dakota. We are still working to widen the circle of support that helps the arts grow in our state, but we should all be grateful for those who are committed to maintaining our cultural growth.

Things are not perfect in the arts. We still have populations underserved by our programs, children who are not learning as well as they might with more arts opportunities, towns that miss out on touring performances and artists who struggle to make a living. There is work to do, but we can be thankful that people involved in the arts in South Dakota care about meeting those challenges and are determined to make things even better for the next generation.

To learn more about arts opportunities, arts education, community arts support and arts advocacy in South Dakota, visit [artssouthdakota.org](http://artssouthdakota.org).



**Thursday,  
Nov. 29  
5:30 p.m.  
to 6:30 p.m.**

**Groton Care & Rehab**  
1106 N 2nd St, Groton

**Free Will Donation**

## Doeden, Maine named to All-Conference Team

Two Groton Area volleyball players were named to the Northeast Conference All-Conference Team. They are Jennie Doeden and Payton Maine.

Others named to the team are Jamie Ewart, Megan Streier and Mariah Winegar from Roncalli; Abbie Bratland and Janae Kolden from Clark/Willow Lake; Jaydyn Tegantvoort from Deuel; Brynn Alfson and Logan Keszler from Hamlin; Gabbi Cummins and Jacey Engebretson from Milbank Area; Addie Rozell and Olivia Shantz from Redfield-Doland; and Janessa Storley from Webster.



**Left photo features Payton Maine. Bottom photo features Jennie Doeden ready to hit the ball as it was set by Kaylin Kucker. Maine and Doeden were named to the all-conference team.** (SoDak 16 photos by Jeslyn Kosel)

## Conde National League

### Nov 12 Team Standings:

Tigers 25, Braves 23, Cubs 22, Pirates 22, Mets 15, Giants 13

**Men's High Games:** Collin Cady 229, John Lowary 198, Russ Bethke 193.

**Men's High Series:** Collin Cady 577, Russ Bethke 559, Larry Frohling 514.

**Women's High Games:** Joyce Walter 198, Mary Larson 170, Nancy Radke 162.

**Women's High Series:** Joyce Walter 495, Mary Larson 473, Nancy Radke 438.



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## Today in Weather History

November 14, 1997: A low-pressure system produced snow and blowing snow, creating near whiteout conditions at times. Six inches of snow fell in the Sisseton foothills by Friday evening in Roberts and eastern Marshall Counties. Strong north winds gusting to near 35 mph, combined with the snow, caused visibilities to fall below one-half mile at times over a large portion of northeast South Dakota during the evening of the 13th and through the 14th. Classes were canceled around Summit because of near-whiteout conditions, while classes were delayed for two hours in Britton. Interstate 29 was closed just north of the Grant County line for a time after a semi-trailer rolled. Some snowfall amounts include; 6.5 inches in Summit; 6.2 inches in Waubay; 6.0 inches in Roscoe; and 5.0 inches in Sisseton and Wilmot.

1921: During the afternoon hours, thunderstorms brought severe hail to portions of Alabama. The hailstones ranged from about the size of buckshot to as large as a baseball. The largest stoned weighed as much as a pound.

1964 - With the help of a fresh three inch cover of snow, the temperature at Ely, NV, dipped to 15 degrees below zero to establish an all-time record low for the month of November. That record of -15 degrees was later equalled on the 19th of November in 1985. (The Weather Channel)

1969: Apollo 12 was launched into a threatening gray sky with ominous cumulus clouds. Pete Conrad's words 43 seconds after liftoff, electrified everyone in the Control Center: "We had a whole bunch of buses drops out," followed by "Where are we going?" and "I just lost the platform." Lightning had stricken the spacecraft. Warning lights were illuminated, and the spacecraft guidance system lost its attitude reference.

1974 - A storm produced 15 inches of snow at the Buffalo, NY, airport, and 30 inches on the south shore of Lake Erie. (David Ludlum)

1986 - An early season cold wave set more than 200 records from the northwestern U.S. to the east coast over a seven day period. For some places it proved to be the coldest weather of the winter season. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987)

1987 - The first major snowstorm of the season hit the Southern and Central Rockies, producing 12 inches at the Brian Head ski resort in Utah overnight. Strong and gusty winds associated with the storm reached 52 mph at Ruidoso NM. In the eastern U.S., the temperature at Washington D.C. soared to 68 degrees, just three days after being buried under more than a foot of snow. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - A massive storm produced snow and gusty winds in the western U.S., with heavy snow in some of the higher elevations. Winds gusted to 66 mph at Show Low AZ, and Donner Summit, located in the Sierra Nevada Range of California, was buried under 23 inches of snow. Heavy rain soaked parts of California, with 3.19 inches reported at Blue Canyon. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Unseasonably warm weather prevailed east of the Rockies. Temperatures reached 70 degrees as far north as New England, and readings in the 80s were reported across the southeast quarter of the nation. Nineteen cities reported record high temperatures for the date. For the second time in the month Dallas/Fort Worth TX equalled their record for November with an afternoon high of 89 degrees. The high of 91 degrees at Waco TX was their warmest of record for so late in the season. Heavy snow blanketed parts of Wyoming overnight, with a foot of snow reported at Cody, and ten inches at Yellowstone Park. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Today



Sunny

High: 52 °F

Tonight



Partly Cloudy

Low: 27 °F

Thursday



Sunny then  
Mostly Sunny  
and Breezy

High: 48 °F

Thursday  
Night



Mostly Cloudy

Low: 27 °F

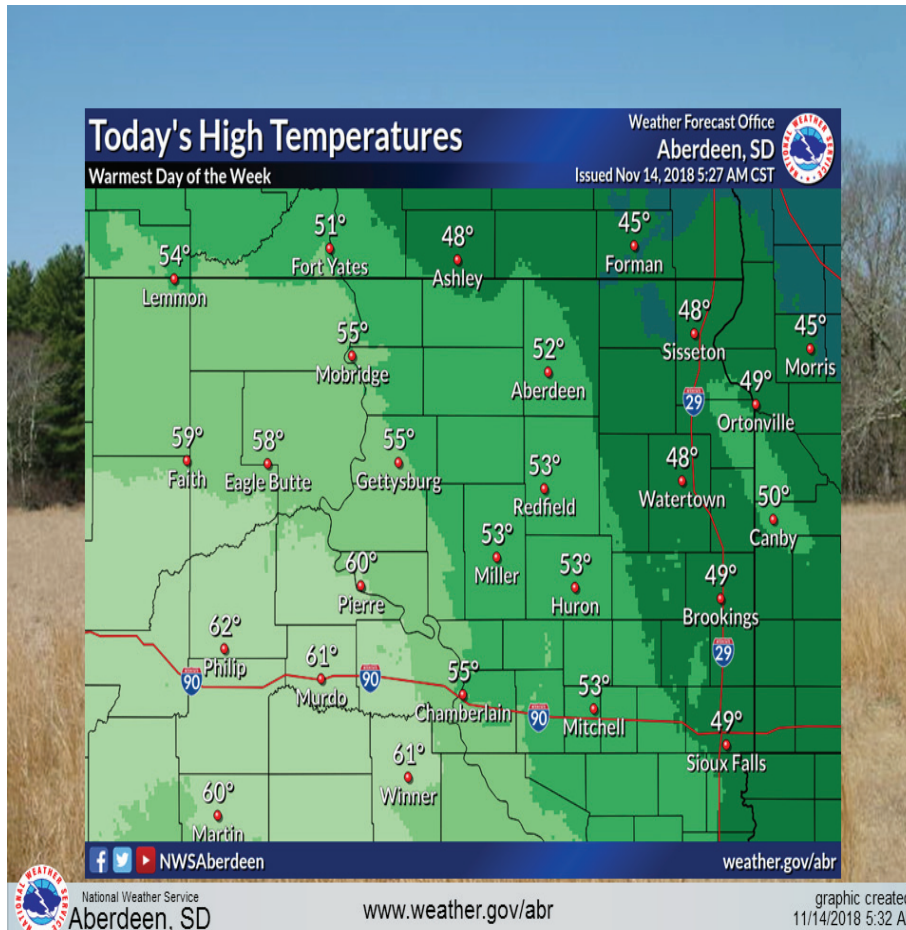
Friday



40% 60%

Chance Snow  
then  
Rain/Snow  
Likely

High: 35 °F



The warmest temperatures of the week are expected today with highs even climbing into the 60s in south central SD. Breezy downslope winds will develop along the eastern coteau and I-29 this afternoon and persist through this evening. Winds could gust as high as 40 mph.

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## Yesterday's Weather

**High Outside Temp: 34 °F at 3:32 PM**

**Low Outside Temp: 7 °F at 7:55 AM**

**High Gust: 13 mph at 2:33 PM**

**Precip: 0.00**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 68° in 2015**

**Record Low: -17 in 2014**

**Average High: 40°F**

**Average Low: 20°F**

**Average Precip in Nov.: 0.37**

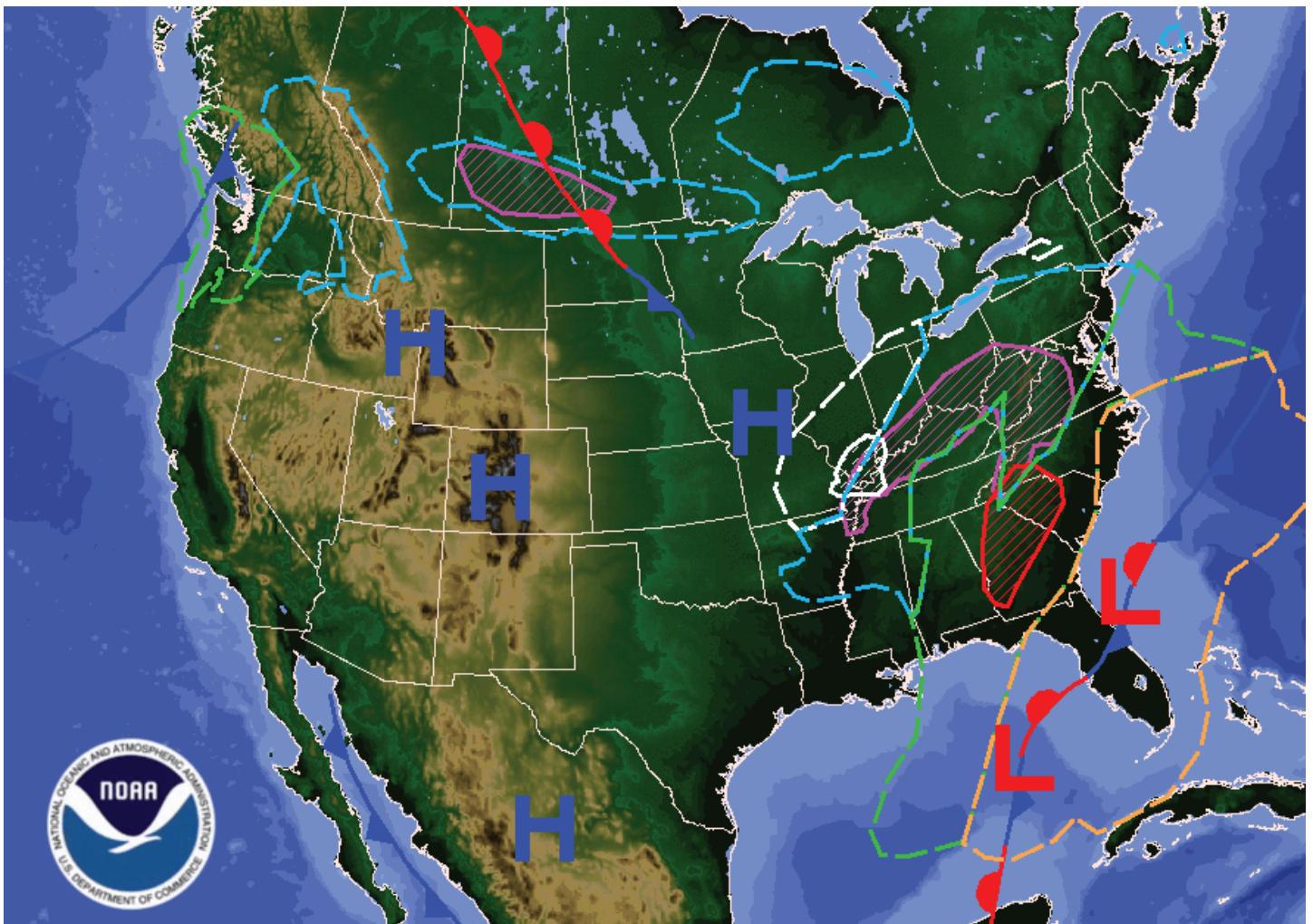
**Precip to date in Nov.: 0.76**

**Average Precip to date: 20.84**

**Precip Year to Date: 15.81**

**Sunset Tonight: 5:05 p.m.**

**Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:33 a.m.**



### Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Wed, Nov 14, 2018, issued 3:29 AM EST  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by Kebede with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain  
Rain and T'Storms  
Rain and Snow  
Snow

Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)  
Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)  
Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)  
Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)

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## FORTIFIED BY FAITH

If we knew what was going to happen, we would not need faith. We could plan for tomorrow and the next day and the next with confidence. But only God knows what tomorrow will bring into our lives. So, we need faith.

Faith enables us to live courageously, live life with confidence, and know that with God beside us, His Son within us and the Holy Spirit to empower us, we can be more than conquerors.

Unfortunately, not all Christians walk by faith. Some squeak through life by sight. But, the two principles of action are exclusive of each other and contradictory.

Sight is concerned with things that are material and visible. Faith is concerned with things that are invisible and spiritual. Each principle struggles to master the other. As Christians, we must choose which one will be our master.

If we walk by sight, we will encounter many things that will frighten us. We see this in the lives of the people of Israel. When they left Israel, they were followed by the best fighters that Egypt had.

When they came to the Red Sea and saw the enemy about to destroy them, they were frightened. But in spite of their lack of faith, the Lord saved them. He caused the sea to divide and provided a dry road for their escape.

Then, states the Psalmist, they believed His words. When? After they saw His miracle. It was not necessary for them to experience such despair and the fear of destruction. Their lack of faith in the presence and power of God caused them to doubt His promises. Lord, help our unbelief! said one disciple. What about you?

Prayer: Lord, help us to take You at Your Word and trust in You for everything. Please increase our faith now. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 106:12 Then they believed his promises. Then they sang his praise.

## 2018 Groton SD Community Events

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



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## News from the Associated Press

### SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Mega Millions

34-46-57-65-69, Mega Ball: 11, Megaplier: 3

(thirty-four, forty-six, fifty-seven, sixty-five, sixty-nine; Mega Ball: eleven; Megaplier: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$106 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$107 million

### Excerpts from recent South Dakota editorials

By The Associated Press

#### Rapid City Journal, Nov. 9

##### Success will require optimism, support

Congratulations to Rep. Kristi Noem on becoming South Dakota's first woman governor. The young women of this state can now more easily see their own paths to the state's highest office. Everyone benefits when each of us stretches our aspirations.

Congratulations are also due to the winning team of state Republicans. Prosperity is the shared goal of Republicans and Democrats alike, even if they disagree on the formulas. Voters have selected from the competing strategies, and we should all hope the winning vision yields success.

Serious obstacles were waiting regardless of who won. Agriculture struggles. Soybeans planted with the intentions of feeding Chinese hogs and chickens now pile up outside of grain bins. We hope Gov. Noem can help convince President Trump to speedily achieve the best possible settlement and put an end to this trade war with China.

Methamphetamine, meanwhile, continues to fill our costly but necessary state prisons. We'd like to hear more about how the new governor and incoming Attorney General Jason Ravnsborg can reverse this trend, protecting citizens and saving lives while also saving dollars.

During her campaign, Noem stressed the necessity of filling a big hole in mental health services. She noted that untreated mental health problems have crowded our jails, increased homelessness and ruined lives. The need is especially acute West River. While it may be difficult to find funds for a West River mental health hospital, perhaps there's a creative interim solution that better meets patient needs without vastly increasing costs.

The deepening political divide in Washington, meanwhile, will leave South Dakota increasingly to its own devices. Let's hope there is a sane path forward to agreements on a new farm bill and infrastructure financing. Our farmers need help, and so do our roads and bridges.

Dusty Johnson, incoming delegate to the U.S. House, has undoubtedly begun reading the Senate version of the farm bill. The House version he read over the summer faded with the House Republican majority. South Dakota farmers will need certainty when they begin preparing for next spring. Johnson will need every ounce of his considerable energy, likability and pragmatism to achieve maximum wins for state farmers.

Meanwhile, the defeat of IM 25, the tobacco tax proposed to fund technical schools, won't make it easy to create the skilled workforce our state businesses demand. The Journal opposed the tax, mostly because it added a financial burden on people whose addictions already cause them to struggle with bills. To ensure a bright future for our children, we must somehow limit the rising costs of tuition for all post-secondary

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education. Noem has proposed advancing private-public partnerships to help build our skilled workforce. We're hoping businesses around the state stand ready to lend assistance and expertise.

The quicker we can move past the divisiveness of the recent campaigns the better. The more optimism we can maintain, the more likely we will succeed. There's too much at stake. The problems are hard. Success will require contributions and encouragement from everyone.

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## American News, Aberdeen, Nov. 10

### Ageless Adam Vinatieri continues to wow us with his leg

Pride pumps through our veins when a South Dakotan does well on the national stage.

Adam Vinatieri, age 45, has been providing us with prideful moments for decades during his 23- season NFL kicking career.

Born in Yankton, educated in Rapid City and kicker-interned in Brookings, Vinatieri is now the all-time NFL scoring leader. He has scored 2,550 points in 345 games — either three or one point at a time.

Vinatieri was a solid kicker at Rapid City Central High School and South Dakota State University. However, he was better known for his punting abilities than field-goal making skills. He once lost his field-goal job for the Jacks to a defensive lineman.

But he was athletic, determined and focused. Plus, he had a cannon hidden in his right kicking foot.

One of the coaches who helped unleash it was a man who used a wheelchair his whole life. Doug Blevins used his mind instead of his legs to become the kicking guru who kick-started Vinatieri's pro career by teaching him to become a better and more accurate kicker.

That led to a European football team tryout which led to an NFL tryout. But Vinatieri almost didn't survive his rookie season in 1996.

He missed four of his first seven field goal attempts in the pros. His New England coach, the no-nonsense Bill Parcells, basically told his team, the press and his rookie kicker that he was one kick shy of a pink slip.

Vinatieri produced, and has continued to do so.

Vinatieri began to reach legendary status in the 2001 season. In a downpour of snow at night in New England, Vinatieri kicked a 45-yard field goal against the Oakland Raiders to force overtime. Vinatieri then kicked the game winner a few minutes later.

He then made the winning 48-yard field goal on the final play of that season's Super Bowl XXXVI against the St. Louis Rams. Vinatieri's clutch kicks led the Patriots to their first championship and helped launch a dynasty.

Two years later, Vinatieri made another Super Bowl winning kick from 41 yards with four seconds left to lift New England past Carolina. Vinatieri and the Patriots won the Super Bowl again the following year in 2005. Vinatieri was part of his fourth Super Bowl-winning team in 2007 with Indianapolis.

Soon to be 46 in a few weeks, Vinatieri is now the oldest player in the NFL. But he certainly is not acting his age.

"I never thought I'd play that long," Vinatieri told reporters after his record-breaking game on Oct. 28 when he helped his Colts defeat Oakland 42-28. "I never thought I'd be standing here talking to you guys about all-time records. But I love my teammates — all of them — for the last 20-something years, unselfishly going out there and helping me do my job. A lot of great memories along the way. I think that's the best part about this day — less the record and more that we got the record in a win."

Vinatieri has pretty much convinced the world of two things: he is a future Hall of Famer and the greatest kicker in the history of the sport.

Thanks for taking us and the rest of South Dakota on this journey, Adam.

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## Madison Daily Leader, Madison, Nov. 13

### Hot Springs could be great veterans spot

Gov.-elect Kristi Noem has suggested that Hot Springs, South Dakota, could be developed into a vacation destination for military veterans, and we think it's an excellent idea.

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Hot Springs is already home to a veterans hospital, started more than 100 years ago as a sanitarium for those suffering from rheumatism or tuberculosis. More recently, the hospital has adapted to treat veterans with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, as well as alcohol and drug disorders.

Treating veterans with these conditions is becoming more important for the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Hot Springs facility has the potential to grow in importance to the VA.

The remote location (only 7,000 people live in Fall River County), modest winters (statistics show Hot Springs has the warmest winters of any South Dakota city) and natural beauty (the Black Hills National Forest, Wind Cave National Park and the Buffalo Gap National Grassland are nearby) make it a very attractive destination. The people of Hot Springs have great respect for retired and rehabilitating veterans, which would help as a tourist destination for veterans.

We aren't sure what it would take to see the vision to fruition, but we'd like to see it happen. The state Department of Tourism and the Governor's Office of Economic Development will need to work with Hot Springs officials to put together a successful plan. We urge them to pursue the idea.

## Noem sees Hot Springs as vacation destination for veterans

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Gov.-elect Kristi Noem said this week that she wants to make a southern Black Hills city known for its Veterans Affairs health care campus a vacation destination for military veterans from across the country.

While serving in Congress, Noem helped stave off the closure of the campus in Hot Springs, a historic community about 50 miles south of Mount Rushmore National Memorial that also houses the State Veterans Home. Noem broached her idea during a postelection rally in Rapid City the day after Veterans Day, the Rapid City Journal reported .

"My vision is that Hot Springs will be America's veterans town," Noem said.

Noem said she has spoken to the mayor and City Council members in Hot Springs about the idea, which she said would require cooperation from state tourism and economic development officials. Mayor George Kotti said the city of about 3,500 people looks forward to working with Noem to make it happen.

"Hot Springs is a veterans town, and that's our DNA," he said. "It's just a unique town that people really kind of come and feel at home here, and so I think that that added push, not only will help visitors come, but I think some will choose to stay on here."

Kotti said Hot Springs is also seeking to build a "veterans walkway" looking over the Fall River that would be adorned with flags and could include a patriotic light show in the future. Area attractions include Wind Cave National Park, the Black Hills Wild Horse Sanctuary and the Mammoth Site of Hot Springs.

Kotti said tourism has a huge impact on Hot Springs' economy; It's also a major industry for the state, bringing 13.9 million visitors who spent \$3.9 billion in 2017.

Noem defeated Democrat Billie Sutton in the general election. The incoming Republican governor named her transition team last week and will be sworn into office on Jan. 5.

Another priority Noem listed at the rally is a plan to put caseworkers in the governor's office to help residents who encounter difficulties with state offices, similar to congressional offices that have staff members who help constituents who run into problems with federal government agencies.

## South Dakota ethanol plant investors to vote on merger

GROTON, S.D. (AP) — Investors of an ethanol plant in South Dakota will soon decide whether to merge with the plant's parent company, POET Biorefining LLC.

The POET ethanol plant near Groton is among seven POET plants that haven't had investors vote on merging operations, Aberdeen American News reported. But Groton plant investors plan to do so this month.

Jeff Lutt, president of POET Biorefining, said officials recently met with Groton plant investors in Aberdeen to discuss the potential merger. Investors at 19 other individual POET sites have already voted in favor of merging with the parent company, Lutt said.

Company officials have been working on the merger for several years.

"In the past, POET facilities have operated as individual business units," Lutt said. "As such, they have not been able to leverage the benefits that come with operating as a combined entity."

A merger would give the seven remaining POET facilities access to capital for growth and a way to diversify their portfolios and increase investor liquidity, he said.

Previous mergers have allowed POET to expand some of its plants and build a new one in Indiana, according to Lutt.

The Groton plant installed a new fermenter last year, but there could be hope for more expansion.

President Donald Trump last month instructed the Environmental Protection Agency to begin allowing year-round sales of E-15, which is a form of gasoline with a higher concentration of ethanol. Under environmental regulations, E-15 sales have been banned during summer months to limit air pollution when potential health risks are higher.

"With President (Donald) Trump's recent announcement that E-15 will be available year-round, we expect more opportunities in the future for biofuels," Lutt said. "POET Biorefining has access to far more capital than any individual plant. We are well-positioned to lead that new growth."

Companies like POET hope the new rule will be in place by next summer.

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Information from: Aberdeen American News, <http://www.aberdeennews.com>

## **Premier Center general manager no longer employed with SMG**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The man who led operations at the Denny Sanford Premier Center since it opened in Sioux Falls four years ago is no longer employed with the company that manages the facility.

Mayor Paul TenHaken's office confirmed to the Argus Leader that Premier Center General Manager Terry Torkildson's employment with SMG is over.

What that means for the 12,000-seat entertainment venue isn't clear. The Premier Center and SMG's corporate office in Pennsylvania didn't immediately comment, and Torkildson declined comment.

Mayor Deputy Chief of Staff T.J. Nelson says the city doesn't get involved with internal staffing changes for companies that manage city-owned facilities.

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Information from: Argus Leader, <http://www.argusleader.com>

## **No one hurt in fire that destroys Hosmer machine shop**

HOSMER, S.D. (AP) — No one was hurt in a fire that destroyed a machine shop in the Edmunds County town of Hosmer.

Emergency Management Director Leland Treichel tells the American News that the late Friday blaze likely started near a wood burner in the shop. The exact cause wasn't immediately determined.

Treichel says a person who worked in the building and also lived in a sectioned-off part of the structure got out safely. But the building was a total loss, along with the tools inside.

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Information from: Aberdeen American News, <http://www.aberdeennews.com>

## **Southeast Asian-centered trade deal set for further delays**

**By ANNABELLE LIANG and ELAINE KURTENBACH, Associated Press**

SINGAPORE (AP) — Leaders of Southeast Asian nations have again pushed back an agreement on a pan-Asian free trade deal amid a whirlwind of diplomacy Wednesday at their annual summit.

In convening talks among the leaders of countries participating in the plan, Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said a final agreement on the deal, which is expected to encompass nearly half the world's population and 40 percent of world trade, will be delayed until 2019.

Lee's comments confirmed earlier expectations that the 16 countries in the plan, called the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, or RCEP, would not meet their goal of finalizing the accord this year.

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The trade talks followed scores of bilateral meetings among the leaders and talks on other issues such as regional security, how to keep peace in the South China Sea and the crisis over hundreds of thousands of ethnic Rohingya Muslims who have fled to Bangladesh to escape violence in Myanmar.

During the meetings in Singapore, Lee has championed the region's commitment to free trade and a multilateral approach to sorting out the issue — in contrast with U.S. President Donald Trump's "American First" preference for bilateral trade deals and distrust of international institutions.

"We are meeting at a critical time. Protectionism and anti-globalization sentiments are on the rise. This can have a devastating impact on the regional as well as the global economy, and business confidence in Asia is already being affected," Lee said.

"It's important that we redouble our economic integration efforts and maintain a free, open and rules-based multilateral trading system which has underpinned our growth and prosperity," he said.

Trump withdrew from a Pacific Rim trade initiative, the Trans-Pacific Partnership, just after taking office last year. That trade pact is due to take effect on Dec. 30. The U.S. is not part of the RCEP initiative, which includes China, India, Australia and most other Asian economies.

Lee said participating countries had finished seven of 18 chapters in their agreement and shown "strong political will" to finish it. He warned that further delays in reaching an agreement, already in negotiations for six years, would damage the RCEP's credibility.

"We are now at the final stage of negotiations. With a strong momentum generated this year, I am pleased to note that the RCEP negotiations are poised for conclusion in 2019," he said.

The 10 Association of Southeast Asian Nations members are Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. Earlier Wednesday, the ASEAN leaders met with their counterparts from Australia, China, South Korea, Russia and Japan.

Managing conflict in the South China Sea is a perennial concern. China is pitted against its smaller neighbors in multiple disputes in the sea over coral reefs and lagoons in waters crucial for global commerce and rich in fish and potential oil and gas reserves.

While in Singapore, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang has sought to reassure China's neighbors.

"We have found the way to properly manage and defuse differences, for example, on the issue of the South China Sea in the past years," Li said, adding that the situation was moving toward "greater stability" with progress toward a single draft text on a code of conduct in the sea. He reiterated Beijing's hope to have a final agreement within three years.

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte said such a code is needed "at all cost" to prevent dangerous miscalculations.

The Philippines softened its earlier harsh criticism of China's assertive moves in the disputed waters after Duterte sought to repair relations with Beijing once he took office in 2016 and sought infrastructure funding, trade and investment from Beijing.

The region already has a nonbinding "Declaration of Conduct" but is working toward a more robust agreement, with China appearing to win support for its calls to ban involvement by outside powers, such as the United States, in maritime disputes.

Duterte cited a risk of "serious miscalculation" and potential clashes that could trigger military action based on mutual defense treaties.

"So you are there, so you are in possession, you have occupied it, but tell us what route we should take, what kind of behavior," he said.

"Everything's been excellent between China and the rest of ASEAN except for the fact that there's friction between the Western nations and China," Duterte told reporters as he headed into meetings.

While the Singapore meetings were typically focused on cooperation and goodwill, concerns over Myanmar's treatment of its ethnic Rohingya Muslims flared with unusually sharp comments to the country's leader, Nobel Peace Prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi.

U.S. Vice President Mike Pence told Suu Kyi on Wednesday that the situation was inexcusable. He also took aim at Myanmar's arrest and imprisonment of two Reuters journalists.

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On Tuesday, Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed lambasted Suu Kyi for her handling of the crisis that led to mass killings and the exodus of more than 700,000 Rohingya from Buddhist-majority Myanmar since August 2017.

Mahathir, whose own country has a Muslim majority, said he told Suu Kyi that as a former political detainee, she should show more compassion.

"They are actually oppressing these people to the point of, well, killing them, mass killing, and burial in graves dug by the victims and that kind of thing," said Mahathir, a 93-year-old political veteran whose own past treatment of dissidents at times drew opprobrium. "That may be relevant in ancient times, but in modern days, we don't do that kind of thing."

## N. California fires death toll now at 48; many still missing

By MARTHA MENDOZA and GILLIAN FLACCUS, Associated Press

CHICO, Calif. (AP) — A message board at a shelter for the many people who fled California's deadliest wildfire is filled with photos of the missing, as well as pleas for any information about relatives and friends.

"I hope you are okay," reads one hand written note on the board filled with white and yellow sheets of notebook paper. Another had a picture of a missing man: "If seen, please have him call."

Authorities on Tuesday reported six more fatalities from the Northern California blaze, bringing the total number of dead so far to 48. They haven't disclosed the total number still missing, but earlier in the week that figure was more than 200.

Butte County Sheriff Kory Honea said a list of the missing would be released soon and that 100 National Guard troops would help teams already looking for remains.

"We want to be able to cover as much ground as quickly as we possibly can," he said. "This is a very difficult task."

As authorities increased efforts, people waited for any word on those still not found.

Greg Gibson was one of the people searching the message board Tuesday, hoping to find information about his neighbors. They've been reported missing, but he doesn't know if they tried to escape or hesitated a few minutes longer than he did before fleeing Paradise, the town of 27,000 which was consumed last Thursday. About 7,700 homes were destroyed.

"It happened so fast. It would have been such an easy decision to stay, but it was the wrong choice," Gibson said from the Neighborhood Church in Chico, California.

More than 1,000 people were at shelters set up for evacuees.

Inside the church, evacuee Harold Taylor chatted with newfound friends.

Taylor, a 72-year-old Vietnam veteran who walks with a cane, said he received a call Thursday morning to evacuate immediately. He saw the flames leaping up behind his house, left with the clothes on his back and barely made it out alive.

Along the way, he tried to convince his neighbor to get in his car and evacuate with him, but the neighbor declined. He doesn't know what happened to his friend.

"We didn't have 10 minutes to get out of there," he said. "It was already in flames downtown, all the local restaurants and stuff," he said.

The search for the dead was drawing on portable devices that can identify someone's genetic material in a couple of hours, rather than days or weeks.

"In many circumstances, without rapid DNA technology, it's just such a lengthy process," says Frank DePaolo, a deputy commissioner of the New York City medical examiners' office, which has been at the forefront of the science of identifying human remains since 9/11 and is exploring how it might use a rapid DNA device.

Before the Paradise tragedy, the deadliest single fire on record in California was a 1933 blaze in Griffith Park in Los Angeles that killed 29.

At the other end of the state, firefighters made progress against a massive blaze that has killed two people in star-studded Malibu and destroyed well over 400 structures in Southern California.

The flames roared to life again in a mountainous wilderness area Tuesday, sending up a huge plume of smoke near the community of Lake Sherwood. Still, firefighters made gains.

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said he canceled a trip to Asia and will visit the fire zones Wednesday and Thursday.

The cause of the fires remained under investigation, but they broke out around the time and place two utilities reported equipment trouble. Gov.-elect Gavin Newsom, who takes office in January, sidestepped questions about what action should be taken against utilities if their power lines are found to be responsible.

People who lost homes in the Northern California blaze sued Pacific Gas & Electric Co. Tuesday, accusing the utility of negligence and blaming it for the fire. An email to PG&E was not immediately returned.

Linda Rawlings was on a daylong fishing trip with her husband and 85-year-old father when the fire broke out.

Her next-door neighbors opened the back gate so her three dogs could escape before they fled the flames and the dogs were picked up several days later waiting patiently in the charred remains of their home, she said.

Rawlings learned on Tuesday morning — after days of uncertainty — that her “Smurf blue” home in Magalia was burnt to the ground.

She sat looking shell-shocked on the curb outside a hotel in Corning.

“Before, you always have hope. You don’t want to give up. But now we know,” she said.

Contributing to this report were Associated Press writers Sudhin Thanawala, Janie Har, Jocelyn Gecker and Olga R. Rodriguez in San Francisco.

## The hidden toll of American drones in Yemen: Civilian deaths

By **MAGGIE MICHAEL** and **MAAD AL-ZIKRY**, Associated Press

ATAQ, Yemen (AP) — The United States has waged a drone war in Yemen for 16 years, trying to suppress al-Qaida’s branch here. But the campaign has had a hidden cost: civilians cut down by the drones’ missiles.

There is no comprehensive count of civilian deaths because of the difficulty of confirming identities and allegiances of those killed. But in an examination of drone strikes this year alone, The Associated Press found that at least 30 of the dead likely did not belong to al-Qaida.

That is around a third of all those killed in drone strikes so far in 2018. The Pentagon does not release its assessment of the death toll, but an independent database considered one of the most credible in tracking violence in Yemen counted 88 people — militants and non-militants — killed by drones this year.

The AP count gives a glimpse, even if incomplete, into how often civilians are mistakenly hit by drone strikes, at a time when the Trump administration has dramatically ramped up the use of armed drones. It has carried out 176 strikes during its nearly two years in office, compared to the 154 strikes during the entire eight years of the Obama administration, according to a count by the AP and the Bureau of Investigative Journalism.

The AP based its count on interviews with witnesses, families, tribal leaders and activists. Most of those killed, 24, were civilians; at least 6 others were fighters in pro-government forces — meaning ostensibly on the same side as the U.S. — who were hit in strikes away from the front lines while engaged in civilian life.

This story was produced in partnership with the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting

The drone toll goes almost unnoticed in the region’s conflicts. Immensely greater destruction has been wreaked by U.S. allies in the Saudi-led coalition’s air campaign against Iranian-backed Shiite rebels known as Houthis. More than 57,000 civilians and combatants have been killed in Yemen’s civil war, by some estimates, and thousands more may have died of starvation caused by the conflict.

Yet the killing of a single man — Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi, slain by Saudi operatives in his own country’s consulate — has raised more international uproar than any of those deaths in a war waged by

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a coalition led by Saudi Arabia and backed by the U.S.

In comparison, the toll from U.S. drones in Yemen runs in the hundreds, including both militants and civilians. Several databases are trying to track the deaths, with varying results. The Bureau for Investigative Journalism counted up to 1,020 killed by strikes from 2009 to 2016, under President Barack Obama, compared to up to 205 killed in 2017 and 2018. Another database, by the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project, counted 331 killed the past two years.

Counting civilians among those numbers is complicated by the difficulty in determining who belongs to al-Qaida in a country of multiple warring militias. Al-Qaida has joined the battle against the Houthis, and many of its fighters are incorporated into militias armed and funded by the U.S.-backed coalition.

The campaign has scored some military successes. In 2015, U.S. strikes took out Nasser al-Wahishi, the top leader of al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, or AQAP as the Yemeni branch is known, and several senior lieutenants.

But drones have been most effective in forcing al-Qaida to limit its movements and hide in the mountains, avoid large gatherings and restrict cellphone use. The group withdrew from areas it controlled in the south but was allowed to keep weapons and money under secret deals it struck with the United Arab Emirates, a coalition member.

Over the years, the cost of the pursuit of senior leadership has been high.

For example, the U.S. has killed at least 66 civilians, 31 of them children, in the unsuccessful hunt for one man, Qassim al-Rimi, one of AQAP's founders who in 2015 succeeded al-Wahishi as the group's chief.

Those deaths came in two raids reportedly targeting al-Rimi. The first was in 2009 in the southern village of al-Majalah. The second came on Jan 27, 2017, only days after Trump's inauguration, in a U.S. special forces assault on a village in Bayda province.

The civilian deaths come in a war conducted from a vast distance.

Drone pilots work remotely at American bases, most often in the U.S., sometimes on 11- to 14-hour shifts housed in rooms like shipping containers lined with electronics. They operate based on intelligence from informants but they also carry out so-called "signature strikes," based on observing suspicious patterns of behavior. They have a list of characteristics, and if a subject on the ground shows a number of them, he could be targeted, a former participant to the drone program told the AP, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss the operations.

Mistakes happen from bad intel or misjudging behavior, he said. Rights groups have expressed concern that some of the intelligence may come from prisoners held in jails run by Emirati-backed militias where torture is widespread.

Some of the strikes from 2018 that the AP examined appeared to be mistakes.

On Jan. 1, a drone missile slammed into a farm in Bayda province where 70-year-old Mohammed Mansar Abu Sarima sat with a younger relative, killing both, according to a relative, Mohammed Abu Sarima.

The slain men had just returned from mediating a local dispute. In a country where tribal links are powerful and the justice system nearly non-existent, such mediations are common to resolve conflicts over land or deaths. They involve large gatherings of tribesmen who are often armed, potentially raising drone operators' suspicions.

"We don't have any affiliation. They are simple farmers who don't know how to read or write," said the brother. "We live in fear. Drones don't leave the sky."

Several weeks later, a 14-year-old shepherd, Yahia al-Hassbi, was struck by a drone as he tended goats several kilometers (miles) from a checkpoint that al-Qaida had tried recently to seize. He was killed along with a construction worker passing by at the time, according to relatives and three local human rights workers, who spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals.

Further east, in Hadramawt province, drones carried out several consecutive days of strikes in March, targeting vehicles on a main highway. Some of the strikes killed al-Qaida militants, according to rights activists in the area.

But others struck down cars carrying people who had fled to the area from a nearby province, Jawf, to escape fighting. A drone's missile on March 5 killed a 10-year-old boy, Ammer al-Mahshami, and wounded



the driver, according to three relatives. Four days later, another car was hit, killing six men and boys, including a 14-year-old and an 18-year-old, travelling to a funeral.

Saleh al-Wahir, the brother of one of the dead, was in a car behind them. "I saw it before my eyes," he said of the blast. "Bodies were ripped apart." A report from the Jawf Human Rights office concluded the men were civilians.

Survivors are rare. Adel al-Mandhari recounted how his car was thrown through the air by the blast of a drone's missile. He lost his legs and an arm and was burned all over his body. The four others in the car — his brother, uncle, cousin and another relative — were all killed. None were connected to al-Qaida, said al-Mandhari, a civil servant. Two other relatives and the three rights workers in Bayda confirmed his account.

Since the attack, al-Mandhari has spoken to the media and rights groups, seeking ways to get compensation and an apology from the U.S. "I lost hope," he said. "Nothing is going to happen."

Even some strikes that the AP did not include in its count may have killed civilians, though there is some dispute over them.

On May 14, two men, Hussein al-Dayani and Abdullah al-Karbi, were killed when a drone struck their pickup truck in an area of Shabwa province where al-Qaida is known to have a presence.

Al-Dayani's brother, Khaled, denied they were militants. He said his brother was a fighter in a militia battling the Houthis. "We are against those people," Khaled said of al-Qaida.

Two weeks later, a 17-year-old, Mahdar Hussein al-Hag, died in a strike while driving his motorcycle in the same area. Mahdar's father said he was a high school student and was returning from buying vegetables. "He might have been mistaken for al-Qaida youth who are active in this area."

A Yemeni security official said the dead in those strikes were all al-Qaida members, though he did not provide evidence. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the press.

## Israeli defense minister resigns over Gaza cease-fire deal

By ARON HELLER, Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman abruptly resigned his post Wednesday in protest over a cease-fire reached with Gaza militants, in a move that rocked the Israeli political scene and seemed likely to bring about early elections.

Lieberman termed the cease-fire ending two days of intense fighting "surrender to terrorism," and said he could no longer serve a government that endorsed it. Lieberman had demanded a far stronger Israeli response to the most intense round of rocket fire against Israel since a 50-day war in 2014, but appeared to have been overruled by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

His resignation delivers a major blow to Netanyahu's coalition government and sparked immediate calls for early elections. Lieberman said he hoped that in the coming days a date would be set for a new vote. The opposition parties joined his call.

The government could technically survive without Lieberman's Yisrael Beiteinu faction. But with elections currently set for November 2019, it's unlikely to last that long in lame-duck form.

Lieberman's resignation will take effect in 48 hours and Netanyahu will take over on an interim basis.

Residents of southern Israel had greeted news of the cease-fire with anger as dozens of protesters in the rocket-battered town of Sderot chanted "Disgrace!" at what they saw as the government's capitulation to violence and its inability to provide them with safety.

Recent months have seen sporadic rocket attacks as well as militant infiltration attempts and a wave of incendiary kites that have destroyed Israeli crops.

Netanyahu presented the decision to step back from a full-blown conflict as a unified one made by his Security Cabinet and based on the military's recommendations. But Lieberman and Education Minister Naftali Bennett, another hard-line member of the Security Cabinet, later expressed reservations, saying

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they favored a stronger response.

Netanyahu defended his actions at a memorial ceremony for Israel's first prime minister, David Ben-Gurion. "I see the big picture of Israeli security that I cannot share with the public," he said. "Our enemies begged for a cease-fire and they know well why. I cannot detail our plans for the future. We will dictate the time and circumstances that are right for Israel and are right for the security of our people."

"In times like these, leadership is not doing the easy thing. Leadership is doing the right thing, even if it is hard. Leadership is sometime facing criticism," he added.

The Israel-Gaza frontier remained quiet overnight. Palestinian militants had fired 460 rockets and mortars into Israel in a 24-hour period, while the Israeli military carried out airstrikes on 160 Gaza targets. Seven Palestinians, including five militants, were killed. In Israel, one person was killed in a rocket strike and three were critically wounded.

With air raid sirens wailing throughout southern Israel and the explosions of airstrikes thundering in Gaza, the two sides had appeared to be on the verge of their fourth war in a decade. Instead, Gaza's Hamas rulers abruptly announced a cease-fire and Israel's Security Cabinet ended a seven-hour discussion with an apparent decision to hold its fire.

The news was greeted with celebrations in Gaza, with Hamas declaring victory in the latest round of violence, which was triggered by a botched Israeli raid on Sunday that left seven Palestinian militants and a senior Israeli military officer dead.

Hamas has staged near-weekly border protests since March in an effort to lift the Israeli-Egyptian blockade imposed after the Islamic militant group seized control of the coastal strip in 2007. The blockade has ravaged Gaza's economy, and Israel refuses to lift it unless Hamas disarms, a demand rejected by militant group, which is pledged to Israel's destruction.

Demonstrators each week have approach the border fence, throwing firebombs, grenades and burning tires at Israeli troops. Israeli snipers have killed about 170 people, most of them unarmed. Israel says it is defending its border against attackers, but it has come under heavy international criticism for shooting unarmed people.

Before Sunday's raid, Egyptian and U.N. mediators had made progress in reducing tensions. In recent days, Israel had allowed fuel shipments to increase the power supply in Gaza, which suffers from frequent blackouts, and agreed to additional Qatari assistance to allow Hamas to pay the salaries of its thousands of government workers.

The standoff has produced repeated rounds of violence in recent years, including indiscriminate Gaza rocket fire at Israeli towns and cities and punishing Israeli military offensives, but Hamas remains firmly in control.

"We are third-class citizens here in Sderot and the communities on the border with Gaza," complained David Maimon, a local resident. "It's a shame. Instead of helping us and letting us live quietly, they let us suffer."

The current round of violence began when an Israeli commando unit on an undercover mission was caught behind enemy lines in Gaza by Hamas militants, setting off a deadly battle late Sunday. Hamas and other militant groups responded with a wave of rocket attacks the following day.

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

## 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. 'IF SEEN, PLEASE HAVE HIM CALL'

A message board at a shelter for those who fled California's deadliest wildfire is filled with photos of the

missing, as well as pleas for any information about relatives and friends.

## 2. PENCE CRITICAL OF MYANMAR'S HANDLING OF ROHINGYA CRISIS

But Aung San Suu Kyi rebuffs the face-to-face criticism from the U.S. vice president and other leaders over her government's crackdown on its ethnic Muslim minority.

## 3. AP SOURCES: TRUMP MULLING A WIDE-RANGING SHAKEUP

The president is souring on Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen and White House chief of staff John Kelly, in part over frustration with enforcing his immigration policy.

## 4. WHAT DOWNSIDE TO AMAZON WINNING BIDS MAY BE

The influx of jobs and investment to Virginia and New York is sure to swell already-high home prices and apartment rents and could overwhelm public transportation systems.

## 5. WHO QUIT OVER GAZA CEASE-FIRE

Israeli Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman says he is resigning in protest over the truce reached with Gaza militants, making early elections likely.

## 6. A BOY LOST WHERE US DRONES PROWLED

A Yemeni boy one morning heard that al-Qaida were giving away free motorcycles, so he ran off with a friend to get one, never thinking that a U.S. drone was overhead, hunting for militants.

## 7. GENE-EDITED FOOD ON HORIZON

By early next year, the first foods from plants or animals that had their DNA "edited" are expected to reach grocery stores, AP learns.

## 8. FLORIDA RECOUNT SAGA PERSISTS

Democrats will ask a judge to set aside the state law that mandates that a vote be thrown out if signatures on mail ballot envelopes don't match the signature on file with election authorities.

## 9. HOW STAN LEE ADVOCATED FOR TOLERANCE

Some fans remember how the late Marvel wizard used his pen to conquer real-world foes like racism and xenophobia.

## 10. HYPED NFL GAME MOVED FROM MEXICO

The Rams' Monday night showdown with the Chiefs is moved by the league from Mexico City to Los Angeles due to poor field conditions at Azteca Stadium.

## Florida's partisan recount battle goes back to court

By **TERRY SPENCER** and **GARY FINEOUT**, Associated Press

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — Florida's ongoing recount battle heads back to a courtroom Wednesday. Lawyers for Democrats will ask a federal judge to set aside the state law mandating that mailed-in votes be thrown out if the signature on the envelope doesn't match the signature on file with election authorities.

This is the latest skirmish in Florida's legally mandated vote recount, which is drawing national attention, including a stream of tweets from President Donald Trump.

Trump on Tuesday called on Democratic Sen. Bill Nelson to admit that he lost his re-election bid to Republican Gov. Rick Scott. Trump implied, again without evidence, that officials in two pivotal South Florida counties are trying to steal the election.

"When will Bill Nelson concede in Florida?" Trump wrote. "The characters running Broward and Palm Beach voting will not be able to 'find' enough votes, too much spotlight on them now!"

There have been bumps as Florida undergoes recounts for both the governor and Senate races. Palm Beach County said it won't finish its recount by the Thursday deadline. In oft-criticized Broward County, additional sheriff's deputies were sent to guard ballots and voting machines, a compromise aimed at alleviating concerns. Those counties are both Democratic strongholds.

Still, the state elections department and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, both run by Republican appointees, have said they have seen no evidence of voter fraud. A Broward County judge challenged anyone who has evidence of fraud to file a report.

While the counting goes on, there are now four lawsuits pending in a Tallahassee federal court that seek

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to throw out ballot counting rules or extend deadlines for recounts.

Marc Elias, a campaign attorney for Nelson, argued ahead of the looming court battle that “we should all be able to agree that the goal here is a legal and accurate count.” Republicans have responded by contending that Democrats want to bend or skirt existing election laws to alter the outcome.

“We got to keep the heat on these people to make sure they follow the law,” said Republican U.S. Rep. Francis Rooney to reporters on a recount update organized by Scott’s campaign.

Presidents have historically sought to rise above the heated partisan drama surrounding election irregularities. Former President Barack Obama wasn’t so publicly involved when a recount and legal process in the 2008 election delayed a Democrat taking a Minnesota Senate seat until July 2009. Former President Bill Clinton struck a lower tone during the 2000 presidential recount, which also centered on Florida.

But this Florida recount has been personal for Trump. He aggressively campaigned in the state, putting his finger on the scales of the Republican gubernatorial primary this summer by endorsing former Rep. Ron DeSantis for governor. After Election Day, Trump’s aides pointed to the GOP’s seeming success in the state as a validation that the president’s path to re-election remained clear — a narrative that has grown hazier as the outcomes have become less certain.

White House spokeswoman Mercedes Schlapp said Tuesday the president “obviously has his opinion” on the recount.

“It’s been incredibly frustrating to watch,” she said.

U.S. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer said Trump is attempting to bully Florida election officials out of doing their jobs. Schumer and Nelson, both Democrats, spoke with reporters Tuesday in Washington.

“It’s just plain wrong. It’s un-American.” Schumer said. “If he really wants an honest and fair election, President Trump will stop bullying, harassing and lying about the vote in Florida, and let the election proceed without the heavy hand of the president tipping the scale of justice.”

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 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 machine recount is complete, a hand recount will be ordered in any race where the difference is 0.25 percentage points or less, meaning it could take even longer to complete the review of the Senate race if the difference remains narrow.

If the Senate race does go to a hand recount, the deadline for counties to finish is Sunday. But two of the pending four lawsuits ask that a federal judge delay the deadlines so that all counties can finish processing the crush of ballots.

Elias argued that there’s no need to rush, since the winner of the Nelson-Scott race won’t be sworn into office until January.

Meanwhile, in Palm Beach, Elections Supervisor Susan Bucher said the county’s 11-year-old tallying machines aren’t fast enough to complete the recount by Thursday. The county is doing the Senate race first and will then do the governor’s race. If the deadline is not met in a race, the results it reported Saturday will stand.

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Associated Press writers Tamara Lush in St. Petersburg, Florida; Brendan Farrington in Tallahassee, Florida; and Alan Fram, Darlene Superville and Zeke Miller in Washington contributed to this report.

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

## Trump ally Kevin McCarthy hopes to lead shrunken House GOP

By LISA MASCARO, AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — The speaker’s gavel now out of reach, Republican Kevin McCarthy is poised to take over the shrunken House GOP caucus in closed-door elections that will determine party leadership

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and set the tone for the new Congress.

The race for minority leader is McCarthy's to lose Wednesday, but the Californian, who is an ally of President Donald Trump, must fend off a challenge from conservative Rep. Jim Jordan, who has support from the right flank and outside groups as a co-founder of the House Freedom Caucus.

"We've got a plan," McCarthy told reporters as he ducked into a closed-door meeting of House Republicans late Tuesday.

Trump has stayed largely on the sidelines ahead of elections that will determine party leadership not only for House Republicans, but also for Senate Democrats and Republicans. Voting for the biggest race, Rep. Nancy Pelosi's bid to return as the Democrats' nominee for speaker, is later this month.

At Tuesday's meeting, McCarthy and Jordan encountered frustration, finger-pointing and questions as lawmakers sorted through an election defeat and began considering new leadership for the next congressional session.

Republicans complained about the unpopularity of the GOP tax law they blamed for losses in New York and other key states, some attendees told reporters after the meeting. Some in the meeting said Republicans should have tried harder to fulfill Trump's priorities, like funding for the border wall with Mexico. They also warned that they need a new fundraising mechanism to compete with the small-dollar online donors that powered Democrats to victory.

"There's a little rawness still," Rep. Mark Walker, R-N.C., who is running unopposed for a down-ballot position as vice chair of the GOP conference, told reporters outside the meeting room. "But there's an opportunity for us to come together and get single-focused on the message."

Jordan told reporters that he made a pitch to his colleagues at a sometimes-tense session in the Capitol basement focused on three questions: "Why'd we lose, how do we get it back and what we're up against." The former college wrestling champ said he told Republicans they need a fighter to confront Pelosi and her new majority.

"I think we're entering a world we haven't really seen," Jordan said, rattling off the names of the Democratic chairmen who are poised to investigate Trump. "It's going to take an attitude and an intensity about standing up for the truth and fighting."

Most GOP lawmakers, though, prefer McCarthy's more affable approach, and he remained favored to win Wednesday.

GOP Whip Steve Scalise, the Louisiana Republican who was gravely wounded in last year's congressional baseball practice shooting and is running unopposed for another term in leadership, said McCarthy "knows what he needs to do" to win over his colleagues — and win back the majority — and is well-positioned to do both.

"You always look in the mirror and see what you can do better," Scalise said as he entered the room. Republicans, he said, "need to do a better job of letting people know what we stand for."

Rounding out the GOP leadership team will be Rep. Liz Cheney of Wyoming, a daughter of former Vice President Dick Cheney, who wants to bring a more aggressive stance to the GOP's communications and messaging strategy in the No. 3 spot.

In the Senate, Majority Leader Mitch McConnell is expected to win another term, but the most interesting race is down-ballot, where Republicans are poised to elect their first woman to leadership in almost a decade, as they try to smooth the optics of a GOP side that's dominated by men.

Nebraska Sen. Deb Fischer has made a bid for vice chair of the conference "to help bring our party's big tent together." She faces GOP Sen. Joni Ernst of Iowa.

The rest of the GOP line-up is expected to shuffle slightly. Sen. John Cornyn of Texas, the GOP whip, is being forced out by term limits. That allows Sen. John Thune of South Dakota to move up to the No. 2 spot. Sen. John Barrasso of Wyoming and Sen. Roy Blunt of Missouri take over the third- and fourth-ranking spots.

Senate Democrats are keeping their team headed by Minority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York, even though one of the two new Democratic senators-elect, Krysten Sinema of Arizona, has said she wouldn't

vote for him.

Newly elected lawmakers in the House and Senate will cast their first votes during closed-door meetings Wednesday even before they're sworn into office as part of the new Congress in January.

Dan Meuser, a new Republican from Pennsylvania, said he's talked with both McCarthy and Jordan in recent days about their plans for the new minority and has been giving his vote "a lot of thought."

"I would say I have not made a decision yet," said Meuser at freshman orientation. He said he's "gotten close with Kevin McCarthy. I think very highly of him. I think he's a very good conservative, he's showed a lot of leadership. He's certainly earned the position. On the same note, I think Jim Jordan's a smart, tough, focused individual. So I respect him as well. So, yeah, we'll see."

McCarthy has been here before, and he's making the case that he's best suited to lead his party back to power. He played a similar role a decade ago, helping to recruit candidates after Democrats won control in 2006, leading to the tea party election that swept Republicans to power in 2010.

Most of those Republicans he ushered to office eight years ago are long gone, and now the House GOP's leader will shepherd a more conservative caucus aligned with Trump and eager to confront Pelosi and Democrats.

Rep. Thomas Massie, R-Ky., said he told McCarthy this week he would be voting for Jordan. "I think it would be irresponsible of us to put the same people in leadership that put us in the minority," he said.

And some just want to avoid more infighting as Republicans return to the minority for the first time in eight years

"Whoever loses needs to get behind whoever wins," said Rep. Steve Palazzo, R-Miss.

Associated Press writers Laurie Kellman and Alan Fram in Washington contributed to this report.

Follow on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/lisamascaro> and AP's political coverage at <https://apnews.com/apf-politics>

This story has been corrected to show Rep. Mark Walker is from North Carolina, not South Carolina.

## D-Day for May as she seeks backing for draft Brexit deal

By JILL LAWLESS, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — British Prime Minister Theresa May will try to persuade her divided Cabinet on Wednesday that they have a choice between backing a draft Brexit deal with the European Union or plunging the U.K. into political and economic uncertainty.

May called a special Cabinet meeting after negotiators from Britain and the EU broke a months-long logjam and reached agreement on divorce terms, including a plan to keep the border between Ireland and Northern Ireland open after Brexit.

May was meeting with ministers one-on-one Wednesday morning ahead of the Cabinet meeting at 2 p.m. (1400 GMT) in a bid to build agreement and stave off potential resignations.

Pro-Brexit lawmakers in May's Conservative Party — including some members of the Cabinet — say the agreement will leave Britain tethered to the EU after it departs and unable to forge an independent trade policy.

May's supporters argue that the deal is the best on offer, and the alternatives are a chaotic "no-deal" Brexit that would cause huge disruption to people and businesses, or an election that could see the Conservative government replaced by the left-of-center Labour Party.

Former Foreign Secretary William Hague warned "ardent Brexiteers" that if they shoot down May's deal, it could lead to a change of government and a new referendum and "Brexit might never happen at all."

Failure to secure Cabinet backing will leave May's leadership in doubt and the Brexit process in chaos, with exit day just over four months away on March 29.

If Cabinet supports the deal, it needs approval from the EU at a summit in the next few weeks. Then

May will need to win backing from Parliament — no easy task, since pro-Brexit and pro-EU legislators alike are threatening to oppose it.

The main obstacle to a withdrawal agreement has long been how to ensure there are no customs posts or other checks along the border between the U.K.'s Northern Ireland and EU member Ireland after Brexit. Britain and the EU agree that there must be no barriers that could disrupt businesses and residents on either side of the border and undermine Northern Ireland's hard-won peace process.

The proposed solution involves a common customs arrangement for the U.K. and the EU, to eliminate the need for border checks, with some provisions that are specific to Northern Ireland.

The solution is intended to be temporary, but pro-Brexit politicians in Britain fear it may become permanent, hampering Britain's ability to strike new trade deals around the world.

Pro-Brexit former Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson said the agreement would make his favored option, a loose Canada-style trade deal with the bloc, impossible. He tweeted: "Cabinet must live up to its responsibilities & stop this deal."

Northern Ireland's Democratic Unionist Party, which props up May's minority government, said it would oppose any deal that leaves Northern Ireland subject to different rules to the rest of the U.K. after Brexit.

DUP chief whip Jeffrey Donaldson said the proposed deal threatens "the constitutional and economic integrity of the U.K."

"That is not something we can support," he told the BBC.

May also faces growing opposition from pro-EU lawmakers, who say her proposed Brexit deal is worse than the status quo and the British public should get a new vote on whether to leave or to stay.

Sophie in 't Veld, a Dutch member of the European Parliament who is deputy to the legislature's Brexit chief Guy Verhofstadt, said the real problem during the negotiations "lies within the U.K., within the government, within the Tory party, between the parties, because there has not been any agreement over the relationship with the EU between any of them over the last two years."

"That is the real problem, because if the U.K. had a single agreed line, backed by the majority of parties and the majority of MPs, then the whole situation would not be so unclear."

## **Pence says Myanmar's handling of Rohingya 'without excuse'**

**By BERNAT ARMANGUE, Associated Press**

SINGAPORE (AP) — Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi rebuffed criticism from U.S. Vice President Mike Pence and other leaders Wednesday over her government's treatment of its ethnic Rohingya Muslims.

In a meeting on the sidelines of a regional summit in Singapore, Pence told Suu Kyi that he was anxious to hear about progress in resolving the crisis, which stems from a violent military crackdown in Myanmar's Rakhine state that the United Nations has called ethnic cleansing.

"The violence and persecution by military and vigilantes that resulted in driving 700,000 Rohingya to Bangladesh is without excuse," Pence said.

He added that he was eager to hear about how Myanmar will enable the Rohingya to voluntarily return home. Pence also said Myanmar's arrest and conviction of two Reuters journalists was "deeply troubling" to millions of Americans.

"I look forward to speaking with you about the premium that we place on a free and independent press," said Pence, who is representing an administration with an unusually adversarial relationship with the news media.

Pence and Suu Kyi met during the annual summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in Singapore. Pence is attending that and the summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in Papua New Guinea later this week in President Donald Trump's stead.

A day earlier Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed made an unusually harsh public criticism of Suu Kyi, saying that as a former political prisoner she should better understand suffering. He said the treatment of the Rohingya was "indefensible."

On Wednesday, Mahathir toned down his comments, saying that ASEAN leaders try to avoid criticizing

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each other. He said the issue of Rohingya had come up during a working dinner among the leaders but the main sentiment was a desire to resolve the problem.

Suu Kyi became an icon for democracy after spending about 15 years under house arrest for opposing Myanmar's earlier military dictatorship.

Though she has been the de facto head of Myanmar's civilian government since her party swept elections in 2015, she is limited in her control of the country by a constitution written under the former military junta. The military is in charge of security operations, including those in Rakhine.

Still, Suu Kyi has faced widespread criticism for not speaking out in defense of the Rohingya. Amnesty International became the latest organization to strip her of an award this week, citing the "shameful betrayal of the values she once stood for."

Responding to Pence, Suu Kyi said it was good to exchange views, but that "we understand our country better than any other country does. I'm sure you will say the same of yours, that you understand your own country better than anybody else."

"So we are in a better position to explain to you what is happening, how we see things panning out," she said.

After the meeting, senior U.S. administration officials said Pence and Suu Kyi had discussed the importance of having Rohingya return home, but only on a voluntary basis, with safety and dignity.

Pence also urged Suu Kyi to pardon the imprisoned journalists.

Myanmar's government and most of the nation's Buddhist majority say Rohingya are "Bengalis" who migrated illegally from Bangladesh, and do not acknowledge the Muslim minority as a local ethnic group even though they have lived in Myanmar for generations.

A Bangladesh official said Wednesday that authorities are ready to begin repatriating more than 2,200 Rohingya refugees to Myanmar. Bangladesh repatriation commissioner Abul Kalam said 30 refugee families would be transferred Thursday at the Gundrum border point near Cox's Bazar, where refugees have been living in cramped camps.

U.N. officials have urged Bangladesh to move cautiously on the repatriation plans, saying such a move would endanger their lives.

The office of U.N. human rights chief Michelle Bachelet said it continues to receive reports of rights violations in Rakhine state, "which include allegations of killings, disappearances and arbitrary arrests." It said some 130,000 people, including many Rohingya, remain internally displaced in central Rakhine.

The U.N. refugee agency UNHCR also has advised against the returns, saying safety should be assessed first. But it did not call for a halt to the repatriation plans.

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Associated Press reporters Annabelle Liang, Sam McNeil and Elaine Kurtenbach contributed to this report.

## Michelle Obama begins arena tour in talk with Oprah

By MICHAEL TARM, Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Michelle Obama began her 12-stop book tour Tuesday by sitting with Oprah Winfrey before an audience at the home arena of the Chicago Bulls, speaking on everything from piano lessons and washing socks to crying on a plane the day her family moved out of the White House and President Donald Trump moved in.

The crowd of 14,000 roared as the former first lady stepped onto a stage at the sold-out United Center event, which felt part talk show, part political rally and part rock concert, complete with \$35 Michelle Obama T-shirts emblazoned with her face and the title of her just-released memoir, "Becoming." Family pictures of Barack Obama and their children flashed on a screen over her shoulder as she spoke.

During the more than 90-minute conversation under Bulls' NBA championship banners in Obama's home city, she never directly criticized Trump. Crying on the plane leaving Washington on Inauguration Day 2017, she explained, had nothing to do with Trump.

"When I got on the plane, I sobbed for 30 minutes," she said. "I think it was just the release of eight



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years trying to do everything perfectly.”

Obama turned to her husband, who had just become a former president. “I said to Barack, ‘That was so hard, what we just did. That was so hard.’ She said she didn’t mention that episode in her book.

She didn’t criticize Trump directly at the event despite direct criticism of him in her book.

She writes in “Becoming” that Trump’s “loud and reckless innuendos” about her husband’s birth certificate stirred people up and put “my family’s safety at risk.” And for this,” she adds, “I’d never forgive him.”

Trump responded last week, saying Michelle Obama “got paid a lot of money” to write that book and they always expect a little controversy.” The current president said that he’d never forgive his predecessor for making the country “very unsafe.”

When Winfrey, who selected “Becoming” for her influential book club, introduced Obama she referred to the divisive political climate, also without directly naming Trump.

“So many people are feeling uneasy... afraid of the impending darkness,” Winfrey told the audience. “But you all being here tonight is a testament to the light.”

“Becoming” describes Obama’s upbringing on Chicago’s South Side and her transition to college at Princeton University. As she does in her book, she recounted Tuesday being raised in a family that struggled economically — but with parents who encouraged her to be successful.

When she was a child, she said her dad would complain to her mother that she wasn’t teaching her children how to wash socks, because he had had so few socks growing up that he had to wash them and dry them on a radiator himself.

“My mom said, ‘I’m not teaching them how to wash their socks. I’m going to teach them to go to college, so they can buy a washing machine,’” Obama said Tuesday.

She also talked about learning how to play the piano on a rickety one and her surprise at seeing her first piano that was in good condition.

“You mean there are perfect pianos out there?” she recalled thinking. “I didn’t even know about it.”

The memoir, officially released Tuesday, is already a best-seller. It topped Amazon.com’s best-seller list throughout the weekend.

The tour that started in Chicago moves on to Los Angeles, Washington, Detroit, Paris and London, and other U.S. cities. It ends next month in New York City.

Tens of thousands of people purchased tickets to Obama’s United Center appearance — paying from just under \$30 to hundreds or even thousands of dollars for VIP packages. No tickets are available online for some stops.

Although some fans have complained about the high cost, 10 percent of tickets costs are being donated to local charities, schools and community groups.

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AP Writer Jeff Karoub in Detroit also contributed.

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Follow Michael Tarm on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/mtarm>

## AP sources: Trump mulling a wide-ranging shakeup

By COLLEEN LONG, ZEKE MILLER and CATHERINE LUCEY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is weighing an administration-wide shakeup as he looks to prepare his White House for divided government, but it is unclear who is going and who is staying.

Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen was thought to be out as soon as this week, according to two people with knowledge of the issue, but she is now likely to remain in the post for a longer period because there is no obvious successor in place.

Trump has soured on Nielsen and White House chief of staff John Kelly, in part over frustration that his administration is not doing more to address what he has called a crisis at the U.S.-Mexico border, according to the people. But the scope of the contemplated changes is far broader, as Trump gears up for a wave of Democratic oversight requests and to devote more effort to his own re-election campaign.

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According to people familiar with the situation, Trump is also discussing replacing Kelly with Vice President Mike Pence's chief of staff, Nick Ayers. Kelly, a retired Marine general, has been credited with bringing order and process to a chaotic West Wing, but he has fallen out of favor with the president as well as presidential daughter Ivanka Trump and son-in-law Jared Kushner.

Ayers, a seasoned campaign operative, would restore a political-mindset to the role, but he faces stiff opposition from some corners of the West Wing, with some aides lobbying Trump directly against the move.

Other changes are afoot, as Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke are being discussed for replacement. And in an extraordinary move Tuesday, first lady Melania Trump's office called publicly for the firing of Trump's deputy national security adviser, Mira Ricardel.

For all of the talk of churn, Trump often expresses frustration with aides and then does not take action. Talk of Kelly's exit has percolated for months and he remains in place.

Nielsen had hoped to complete one year in the job and leave in December, but it appeared unlikely she would last that long, said two sources. Both people who had knowledge of the debate spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly.

Curbing illegal immigration is Trump's signature issue — and one he returns to as a way to rally his most loyal supporters.

But anyone who takes over at Homeland Security is likely to run up against the same problems that Nielsen faced. The administration has already tried to clamp down at the border but those efforts have been largely thwarted or watered down due to legal challenges.

Trump also told allies that he never fully trusted Nielsen, whom he associated with President George W. Bush, a longtime foe. And he told those close to him that he felt, at times, that her loyalty was more toward her longtime mentor — Kelly — than to the president.

Zinke, who faces several ethics investigations, said in interview with The Associated Press on Monday that he has spoken in recent days with Trump, Pence and Kelly about probes into his leadership and they remain supportive. He denied any wrongdoing.

Ross addressed turnover rumors at a Yahoo! Finance summit Tuesday, saying he was in the post to give back to the country and support Trump.

"I worked very hard to get President Trump elected," he said. "Now I'd like to work equally hard to have him succeed and be re-elected."

Questions about Nielsen's job security are not new. Earlier this year, she pushed back on a New York Times report that she drafted a resignation letter but did not submit it, after Trump scolded her at a Cabinet meeting.

Nielsen has led the sprawling post-9/11 federal agency since December. She had been chief of staff to Kelly when he was Trump's first Homeland Security secretary. A DHS spokesman would not comment on whether she was leaving.

"The secretary is honored to lead the men and women of DHS and is committed to implementing the president's security-focused agenda to protect Americans from all threats and will continue to do so," spokesman Tyler Houlton said.

Nielsen advocated for strong cybersecurity defense, and often said she believed the next terror major attack would occur online — not by planes or bombs. She was tasked with helping states secure elections following interference by Russians during the 2016 election.

She pushed Trump's immigration policies, including funding for his border wall and defended the administration's practice of separating children from parents, telling a Senate committee that removing children from parents facing criminal charges happens "in the United States every day." But she was also instrumental in stopping the separations.

Just last week, the administration announced that migrants would be denied asylum at the U.S.-Mexico border if they crossed illegally, creating regulations that circumvent immigration laws stating anyone can claim asylum no matter how they arrive to the country. The decision would affect about 70,000 people annually and was immediately challenged by the American Civil Liberties Union.

Nielsen also moved to abandon longstanding regulations that dictate how long children are allowed to

be held in immigration detention, and requested bed space from the U.S. military for some 12,000 people in an effort to detain all families who cross the border. Right now there is space for about 3,000 families and they are at capacity.

She got into heated discussions with Trump and White House aides several times over immigration policy, as she sought to explain the complicated legal challenges behind immigration law and pushed for a more diplomatic approach.

It's unclear who would replace her. The job requires Senate confirmation and there is no deputy secretary. Under Secretary for Management Claire Grady would be the acting head if Nielsen left.

Associated Press Writers Darlene Superville in Washington and Jonathan Lemire in New York contributed to this report.

## **Expensive APEC summit sows division in host Papua New Guinea**

**By STEPHEN WRIGHT and JIM GOMEZ, Associated Press**

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (AP) — After three decades of promoting free trade as a panacea to poverty, the APEC grouping of nations that includes the U.S. and China is holding its lavish annual leaders' meeting in the country that can least afford it.

Barely penetrated by roads and scarred by violence, Papua New Guinea hopes the parade of world leaders will lift the mountainous Pacific nation of hundreds of tribal groups out of obscurity and attract investment.

But the expense has brought criticism when the government has a budget crisis, basic medicines are scarce, and polio, eliminated from all but a handful of countries, has returned. In 2015, the International Monetary Fund estimated that upgrading the capital for the event and hosting a year of related meetings could cost \$1 billion.

Australia, the biggest foreign aid donor to Papua New Guinea and former colonial occupier, as well as China and other countries have absorbed some of the cost but critics have already been given plenty of vindication.

In an eye-popping move, the government imported 40 luxury Maserati cars to whisk VIPs among convention venues in the secure bubble of the APEC meetings. Officials said the government would sell them to recover the cost, sparking more disbelief and suspicions of a corrupt scheme.

Chinese government money, meanwhile, has built what has been dubbed a boulevard to nowhere in the capital Port Moresby, a city described by the World Bank as among the world's most violent due to high unemployment and brazen criminal gangs known as "raskols."

A VIP terminal costing about \$19 million was added to the city's airport. Construction of an iconic building "APEC Haus" for the leaders' summit was paid for by oil and gas company Oil Search, which operates all of Papua New Guinea's oil fields, in exchange for tax credits. That avoided an immediate cost for the government but will erode its revenue in the future.

"I think the money should have been used to fix our backyard instead of decorating the front porch. We have health, education and infrastructure deficiencies that need to be addressed," said activist and writer Martyn Namorong.

"Many teachers haven't been paid and hospitals lack medicines," he said. "There is so much misery experienced by ordinary Papua New Guineans while the elite party with the world like there is no tomorrow."

What the weeklong talkfest will produce, other than its signature photo of world leaders in locally themed shirts, is unclear. In the impenetrable language of APEC, the meeting is about "Harnessing Inclusive Opportunities, Embracing the Digital Future."

Allan Bollard, executive director of the APEC secretariat, said the meeting is complicated by the tensions between China and the U.S. over trade and the broader backlash against globalization — the dominant Western-led ideology over the past four decades that freer trade and movement of people is inevitably good for all.

"This year we've had more bilateral trade friction, between the U.S. and China in particular, and that

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does make it more complex around the table in the sense that APEC only does initiatives where everybody agrees," Bollard said.

Port Moresby, a city where foreigners and the local elite live in homes barricaded behind high walls and barbed wire, will host more than 12,000 visitors for the meetings that end on Sunday.

Because of a shortage of hotels, many will stay in three cruise ships docked at Port Moresby and be shuttled back and forth in some of the hundreds of vehicles imported for the event. The city will be crawling with police and military, some of them from Australia and New Zealand, who are providing air force planes, navy patrol boats, special forces and other personnel.

Australian media reports say Canberra is spending more than \$100 million on security and other support for APEC. The Australian prime minister's office declined to release a figure, calling the assistance an "extension of long-term cooperation."

"The security is going to be so tight," said Jonathan Pryke, a Papua New Guinea expert at the Lowy Institute, an Australian think tank. "This is going to be the safest time to be in Port Moresby."

Even so, U.S. Vice President Mike Pence and his entourage will be flying into the country each day from northern Queensland in Australia.

Outside of the spruced-up capital, 2018 has been a year of renewed tribal and political violence.

Earlier this month, rioting engulfed the coastal town of Alotau more than 300 kilometers (186 miles) from Port Moresby after police leaving for APEC killed a woman and her child in a road accident, said the town's Catholic Bishop Rolando Santos. Gunfights erupted when police reinforcements arrived from the capital, he said. The growth of a Chinese diaspora, said Pryke, has also fueled economic tensions that have led to protests and riots.

"There isn't much funds for education, health," said Santos, a Filipino who's lived in Papua New Guinea for 17 years. "Many were affected because of APEC."

The country's Catholic Bishops Conference has criticized dire shortages of basic services while the government poured resources into getting the capital ready for world leaders.

"We share the concern of many about the huge amount of our limited resources being expended on this event which seems designed to entertain and impress the rich and powerful," said its president Rochus Tatamai.

Papua New Guineans, he said, are "suffering and dying in order to make APEC a success."

## Big question for Amazon's 2 chosen cities: Will it pay off?

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER, AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The awarding of Amazon's second headquarters to two affluent localities has fanned intense speculation around a key question: For the winning cities, will the economic payoff prove to be worth the cost?

Amazon's decision will bring to Arlington, Virginia, and the Long Island City section of New York a combined 50,000 jobs and \$5 billion in investment over the next two decades. But the influx is sure to swell already-high home prices and apartment rents and could overwhelm public transportation systems. And the two areas combined are providing over \$2 billion in subsidies to one of the world's richest companies — a bounty that many analysts say probably wasn't necessary to sway Amazon.

The decision to bring those jobs, which Amazon says will pay an average of \$150,000 a year, to the New York and Washington areas will also exacerbate U.S. regional inequalities, economists say. Such Midwestern cities as Columbus, Ohio, and Indianapolis, Indiana, which made Amazon's short list, would have helped spread the tech industry's high-skilled, high-paying jobs more broadly.

"It's ambiguous for the winners, not good for the 'losers' and not good at all for the nation," said Mark Muro, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution.

Still, on the surface, the deal appears to be better than most. Amazon says it's receiving \$1.525 billion in incentives and subsidies from New York state and \$573 million from Virginia and Arlington County.

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That works out to \$61,000 in incentives provided to Amazon for each job in Long Island City and roughly \$23,000 for each job in Arlington.

That compares with a much larger average figure of \$658,000 per job for other large deals, said Greg LeRoy, executive director of Good Jobs First, a nonpartisan watchdog group. Taiwanese manufacturer Foxconn, for example, received \$4.8 billion in subsidies for a plant in Wisconsin on which it broke ground this year. That deal is expected to bring just 13,000 jobs.

Still, Amazon's total subsidies will likely end up much higher, LeRoy said. Amazon said it will also apply for existing incentive programs that could add nearly \$1 billion to the subsidies from New York.

And Amazon's final selections suggest that all the subsidies and giveaways probably weren't needed, other economists said. Other state and local governments offered a lot more, including at least \$8.5 billion on behalf of Montgomery County, Maryland, and \$7 billion for Newark, New Jersey.

"If Amazon was pursuing subsidies, it made the wrong decision," said Michael Ferren, a research fellow at George Mason University's Mercatus Center. "Even the biggest subsidies you can imagine really don't sway these kinds of decisions."

Rather, Amazon's top priority was having access to a sizable pool of highly skilled employees, Ferren said, and it likely would have chosen the same two locations even without the subsidies.

"The only things they're useful for are the companies that get them and the politicians who get the credit," he said.

Indeed, Jay Carney, an Amazon senior vice president, acknowledged in an interview on CNN that the company had chosen two locations that offered less in subsidies than others had.

"That reflects that talent was really the driving factor for us," Carney said.

Some experts in regional economics suggested that the payoff for the selected cities would go well beyond Amazon's initial investment. Stephen Fuller, an economist at George Mason University, estimates that the new headquarters in Arlington would generate roughly \$1.3 billion in spending each year after the initial construction is complete. That would support nearly 50,000 jobs in the state, Fuller said, in addition to those at Amazon.

"It's really a no-brainer," Fuller said. "They're going to pay an enormous amount in real estate taxes and sales taxes."

Fuller also argues that the region is large enough to absorb the influx of new workers.

"The region adds 50,000 jobs every year, and no one complains about that," Fuller said. "They're not all coming at one time; they're coming over 15-20 years. It isn't as overwhelming as people think it's going to be."

At the same time, Tim Bartik, a senior economist at the Upjohn Institute, cautioned that with unemployment so low in both cities, many of the jobs Amazon will bring will likely go to people who don't now live in either Arlington or New York. The inflow of those workers could burden schools and transportation systems.

A coalition of nonprofit groups warned that Amazon's arrival will likely worsen housing affordability for many lower-income workers in the two cities. Roughly one-third of residents in Washington, D.C., and 40 percent in New York pay more than 30 percent of their income on housing, the groups, which include LeRoy's Good Jobs First, pointed out. The typical rent in Queens, which includes Long Island City, is already \$3,000 a month.

Some analysts had thought Amazon might follow a trend that other companies have set and add jobs in cities where salaries and housing were often cheaper. A few Wall Street banks, for example, have sent many of their back-office jobs to states far from New York. The auto factories that once filled the Midwest have migrated to the South, where labor unions have held less sway.

Instead, Amazon chose to expand its footprint to two places where salaries and home prices are relatively close to those of Seattle, its current sole headquarters city, said Aaron Terrazas, senior economist at the real estate firm Zillow.

"These two markets definitely can absorb this kind of employment shock — and they have some time to prepare for it," he said.

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AP Economics Writer Josh Boak contributed to this report.

## Jonestown survivors lost only life they knew, built new ones

By **TIM REITERMAN**, Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Jonestown was the highlight of Mike Touchette's life — for a time.

The 21-year-old Indiana native felt pride pioneering in the distant jungle of Guyana, South America. As a self-taught bulldozer operator, he worked alongside other Peoples Temple members in the humid heat, his blade carving roads and sites for wooden buildings with metal roofs. More than 900 people lived in the agricultural mission, with its dining pavilion, tidy cottages, school, medical facilities and rows of crops.

"We built a community out of nothing in four years," recalled Touchette, now a 65-year-old grandfather who has worked for a Miami hydraulics company for nearly 30 years. "Being in Jonestown before Jim got there was the best thing in my life."

Jim was the Rev. Jim Jones — charismatic, volatile and ultimately evil. It was he who dreamed up Jonestown, he who willed it into being, and he who brought it down: First, with the assassination of U.S. Rep. Leo Ryan and four others by temple members on a nearby airstrip on Nov. 18, 1978, then with the mass murders and suicides of hundreds, a horror that remains nearly unimaginable 40 years later.

But some lived. Dozens of members in Guyana slipped out of Jonestown or happened to be away that day. Plunged into a new world, those raised in the temple or who joined as teens lost the only life they knew: church, jobs, housing — and most of all, family and friends.

Over four decades, as they have built new lives, they have struggled with grief and the feeling that they were pariahs. Some have come to acknowledge that they helped enable Jim Jones to seize control over people drawn to his interracial church, socialist preaching and religious hucksterism.

With their lives, the story of Jonestown continues, even now.

### CHILD OF BERKELEY

Jordan Vilchez's parents were Berkeley progressives in the 1960s — her father African-American, her mother Scotch-Irish. They divorced when Jordan was 6.

When a friend invited her family to Peoples Temple's wine country church, they were impressed by the integrated community. And when her 23-year-old sister joined, Jordan went to live with her at age 12.

"The temple really became my family," she said.

Devotion to its ideals bolstered her self-worth. At 16, she was put on the Planning Commission where the meetings were a strange mix of church business, sex talk — and adulation for Jones. "What we were calling the cause really was Jim," she said.

Instead of finishing high school, Vilchez moved to San Francisco, where she lived in the church. Then, after a 1977 New West magazine expose of temple disciplinary beatings and other abuses, she was sent to Jonestown.

Grueling field work was not to her liking. Neither were the White Nights where everyone stayed up, armed with machetes to fight enemies who never arrived.

Vilchez was dispatched to the Guyanan capital of Georgetown to raise money. On Nov. 18 she was at the temple house when a fanatical Jones aide received a dire radio message from Jonestown. The murders and suicides were unfolding, 150 miles away.

"She gives us the order that were supposed to kill ourselves," Vilchez recalled.

Within minutes, the aide and her three children lay dead in a bloody bathroom, their throats slit.

For years, Vilchez was ashamed of the part he played in an idealistic group that imploded so terribly. "Everyone participated in it and because of that, it went as far as it did," she said.

Vilchez worked as office manager at a private crime lab for 20 years and now, at 61, sells her artwork.

This past year, she returned to long-overgrown Jonestown. Where the machine shop once stood, there was only rusty equipment. And she could only sense the site of the pavilion, the once-vibrant center of Jonestown life where so many died — including her two sisters and two nephews.

"When I left at 21, I left a part of myself there," she said. "I was going back to retrieve that young per-

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son and also to say goodbye.”

## THE JONES FIRSTBORN

Though he waved and smiled at Peoples Temple services, seemingly enraptured like the rest, Stephan Gandhi Jones says he always had his doubts.

“This is really crazy,” he recalls thinking.

But Stephan was the biological son of Jim and Marceline Jones. And the temple was his life — first in Indiana, later in California.

“So much was attractive and unique that we turned a blind eye on what was wrong,” he said, including his father’s sexual excesses, drug abuse and rants.

As a San Francisco high school student, he was dispatched to help build Jonestown. It would become a little town where people of all ages and colors raised food and children.

Stephan helped erect a basketball court and form a team. In the days before Ryan’s fact-finding mission to the settlement, the players were in Georgetown for a tourney with the Guyana national teams.

Rebelling, they refused Jones’ order to come back. Stephan believed he was too cowardly to follow through with the oft-threatened “revolutionary suicide.”

But after temple gunmen killed the congressman, three newsmen and a church defector on the Port Kaituma airstrip, Jones ordered a poisoned grape-flavored drink administered to children first. That way no one else would want to live.

Stephan Jones and some other team members believe they might have changed history if they were there. “The reality was we were folks who could be counted on to stand up,” he said. “There is no way we would be shooting at the airstrip. That’s what triggered it.”

He went through years of nightmares, mourning and shame. To cope, he says he abused drugs and exercised obsessively. “I focused my rage on Dad and his circle, rather than deal with me,” he said.

More than 300 Jonestown victims were children. Now, Stephan Jones is father of three daughters, ages 16, 25 and 29, and works in the office furniture installation business.

He says his daughters have seen him gnash his teeth when he talks about his father, but they also have heard him speak lovingly of the man who taught him compassion and other virtues.

“People ask, ‘How can you ever be proud of your father?’” he said. “I just have to love him and forgive him.”

## NINTH GRADER FROM FRESNO

Eugene Smith recalls how his mother, a churchgoing African-American, bought into Jim Jones’ dream after they attended a service in Fresno. She gave her house to the Peoples Temple and they moved to San Francisco.

He was 18 and running a temple construction crew when the church sanctioned his marriage to a talented 16-year-old singer, Ollie Wideman. After Ollie became pregnant, she was sent to Jonestown; Eugene remained behind.

When Smith reunited with his mother and wife in Jonestown, Ollie was 8½ months pregnant.

The reunion with Jones was not as joyous. Jones berated three other new arrivals for misbehavior on the trip; they were beaten and forced to work 24 hours straight.

“He made a promise — once we get to Jonestown there is no corporal punishment,” Smith said. “In an hour, that promise was broken.”

Life became more tolerable after the couple’s baby, Martin Luther Smith, was born. Ollie worked in the nursery, and Eugene felled trees. But he said his discontent festered.

When he was ordered to Georgetown to help with supply shipments, Smith said he concocted an escape plan: Ollie and other temple singers and dancers, he believed, would soon be sent to Georgetown to perform, and the family would flee to the U.S. Embassy.

But the entertainers stayed in Jonestown to entertain Ryan. And Smith’s wife, son and mother died.

“All I could do is weep,” he said.

After more than 22 years at California’s transportation department, Smith retired in 2015. He’s 61 now.

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He's never remarried, and Martin Luther Smith was his only child.

## BORN INTO TEMPLE FAMILY

When John Cobb was born in 1960 in a black section of Indianapolis, his mother and older siblings already were temple members. But in 1973, John's oldest brother and a sister, along with six other California college students, quit the church and became its enemies. When the prodigals visited, the Cobbs kept it secret from Jones.

John was attending a San Francisco high school when he was allowed to join his best friends in Jonestown. There, as part of Jones' personal security detail, Cobb saw the once captivating minister strung out on drugs, afraid to venture anywhere for fear of his legal problems.

"If anything, we felt pity for him," he said, "and it grew into a dislike, maybe hate."

He too was a member of the basketball team. His biggest regrets revolve around the team's refusal to return to Jonestown. "I believe 100 percent that not everyone would have been dead," he said.

Cobb lost 11 relatives that day, including his mother, youngest brother and four sisters.

Now 58, he owns a modular office furniture business in the East Bay and is married with a daughter. 29. One day, when she was in high school, she came home and told her parents that her religion class had discussed Peoples Temple; only then did her father share the story of how his family was nearly wiped out.

She wept.

## JONESES' ADOPTED BLACK SON

The Joneses adopted a black baby in Indiana in 1960, and Jim gave the 10-week-old infant his own name. "Little Jimmy" became part of their "Rainbow Family" of white, black, Korean-American and Native American children.

In California, he was steeped in temple life. Those who broke rules were disciplined. At first it was spanking of children. Then it was boxing matches for adults.

"To me the ends justified the means," he said. "We were trying to build a new world, a progressive socialist organization."

The church provided free drug rehabilitation, medical care, food. It marched for four jailed Fresno newsmen. When Jim Sr., a local Democratic Party darling, met with future first lady Rosalyn Carter, Jim Jr. proudly went along.

After the temple exodus to Guyana, he was given a public relations post in Georgetown — and was part of the basketball team.

He was summoned to the temple radio room. In code, his father told him everyone was going to die in "revolutionary suicide."

"I argued with my Dad," he said. "I said there must be another way."

Jim Jr. would lose 15 immediate relatives in Jonestown, including his pregnant wife, Yvette Muldrow.

In the aftermath, he built a new life. He remarried three decades ago, and he and his wife Erin raised three sons. He converted to Catholicism and registered Republican. He built a long career in health care, while weathering his own serious health problems.

Of course, even if he wanted to forget Jonestown, his name was an ever-present reminder.

He has taken a lead role in a 40th Jonestown anniversary memorial to be held Sunday at Oakland's Evergreen Cemetery, where remains of unclaimed and unidentified victims are buried. Four granite slabs are etched with names of the 918 people who died in Guyana— including James Warren Jones, which deeply offends some whose relatives perished.

"Like everyone else, he died there," his son said. "I'm not saying he didn't cause it, create it. He did."

Tim Reiterman, AP environment team editor, covered Jonestown for the San Francisco Examiner and was wounded when temple members fired on Rep. Leo Ryan's party in 1978. He is the author with the late John Jacobs of "Raven: The Untold Story of the Rev. Jim Jones and His People."



## When it came to racism, the pen was Stan Lee's superpower

By TERRY TANG and COREY WILLIAMS, Associated Press

Stan Lee was a seminal part of Miya Crummell's childhood. As a young, black girl and self-professed pop culture geek, she saw Lee was ahead of his time.

"At the time, he wrote 'Black Panther' when segregation was still heavy," said the 27-year-old New Yorker who is a graphic designer and independent comic book artist. "It was kind of unheard of to have a black lead character, let alone a title character and not just a secondary sidekick kind of thing."

Crummell spent much of the '90s engrossed in Marvel Comics. And she felt so indebted to Lee that she waited in line to meet him at a 2012 convention.

"I had a chance to tell him he was my hero," she said. "He influenced my whole career path and I got to thank him for that."

Lee, the master and creator behind Marvel's biggest superheroes, died at age 95 on Monday.

As fans celebrate his contributions to the pop culture canon, some have also revisited how Lee felt that with his comic books came great responsibility. The Marvel wizard used his pen to conquer such real-world foes as racism and xenophobia. Since the 1960s, Lee advocated for tolerance through the only platform he had: the comic book pages. It was on those pages that he wrote "Stan's Soapbox" columns preaching against bigotry and that he introduced characters of color. While Marvel's representation of minorities in comics hasn't been without its stereotyping hiccups, there's no denying Lee broadened the image of the quintessential superhero.

Under Lee's leadership, Marvel Comics introduced a generation of comic book readers to an African prince who rules a mythical and technologically advanced kingdom, a black ex-con whose brown skin repels bullets and the X-Men, a group of heroes whose superpowers are as different as their cultural backgrounds.

The works and ideas of Lee and the artists behind T'Challa, the Black Panther; Luke Cage, Hero for Hire; and Professor Xavier's band of merry mutants — groundbreaking during the 1960s and 1970s — have become a cultural force breaking down barriers to inclusion.

Lee had his fingers in all that Marvel produced, but some of the characters and plot lines "came from the artists being inspired by what was happening in the '60s," said freelance writer Alex Simmons.

Still, there was some pushback by white comics distributors when it came to black heroes and characters. Some bundles of Marvel Comics were sent back because some distributors weren't prepared for the Black Panther and the phenomenal super African kingdom of Wakanda developed by artist and co-creator Jack Kirby.

"Stan had to take those risks," Simmons said. "There was a liberation movement, and I think Marvel became the voice of the people, tied into that rebellious energy and rode with it."

In 1968, a tumultuous year in the nation that saw the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., Lee wrote one of his most vocal "Soapbox" essays calling bigotry and racism "the deadliest social ills plaguing the world today."

"But, unlike a team of costumed super-villains, they can't be halted with a punch in the snoot, or a zap from a ray gun," Lee wrote. "The only way to destroy them is to expose them — to reveal them for the insidious evils they really are."

Marvel's characters always were at the forefront of how to deal with racial and other forms of discrimination, according to Mikhail Lyubansky, who teaches psychology of race and ethnicity at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

"The original X-Men were less about race and more about cultural differences," Lyubansky said. "Black Panther and some of the (Marvel) films took the mantle and ran with the racial issue in ways I think Stan didn't intend. But they were a great vehicle for it."

Some of the efforts to break out minority characters haven't aged well. Marvel characters like the Fu Manchu-esque villain The Mandarin and the Native American athletic hero Wyatt Wingfoot were considered groundbreaking in the '60s and '70s, but may seem dated and too stereotypical when viewed through a 21st-century lens.

"It's interesting. Stan Lee kind of takes the credit and the blame, depending on the character," said Wil-

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liam Foster III, who helped establish the East Coast Black Age of Comics Convention and is an English professor at Naugatuck Valley Community College in Waterbury, Connecticut.

Foster, who started reading Marvel Comics in the 1960s, said one reason they appealed to him was because they started including people of color in the background.

"Stan Lee had the attitude of 'We're in New York City. How can we possibly not have black people in New York City?'" Foster said.

Blacks began taking on the roles of heroes and villains. Foster said some characters may have been seen as "tokenism" but that's sometimes where progress has to start.

In 10 years, the Marvel Cinematic Universe films have netted more than \$17.6 billion in worldwide grosses. The "Black Panther" movie pulled in more than \$200 million in its debut weekend earlier this year.

"I had a lot of white friends growing up," said freelance writer Simmons, who is black. "We watched 'Batman' and we also watched 'The Mod Squad.' My personal belief is that if you put the material out in front of folks and they connect with it, they are going to connect with it."

For many fans and consumers, it's about the product not the skin color or sexual orientation of the character, he added.

Crummell, the comic book artist, said she thinks representation for minorities and women in comic books is improving.

"I think now, they're seeing that everybody reads comics. It's not a specific group now," Crummell said. "It's not just African-American people — it's women, it's Asians, Hispanic characters now. I would credit Stan Lee with kind of breaking the barrier for that."

## CIA considered using 'truth serum' on post-9/11 detainees

By DEB RIECHMANN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Shortly after 9/11, the CIA considered using a drug it thought might work like a truth serum and force terror suspects to give up information about potential attacks.

After months of research, the agency decided that a drug called Versed, a sedative often prescribed to reduce anxiety, was "possibly worth a try." But in the end, the CIA decided not to ask government lawyers to approve its use.

The existence of the drug research program — dubbed "Project Medication" — is disclosed in a once-classified report that was provided to the American Civil Liberties Union under a judge's order and was released by the organization Tuesday.

The 90-page CIA report, which was provided in advance to The Associated Press, is a window into the internal struggle that medical personnel working in the agency's detention and harsh interrogation program faced in reconciling their professional ethics with the chance to save lives by preventing future attacks.

"This document tells an essential part of the story of how it was that the CIA came to torture prisoners against the law and helps prevent it from happening again," said ACLU attorney Dror Ladin.

Between 2002 and 2007, CIA doctors, psychologists, physician assistants and nurses were directly involved in the interrogation program, the report said. They evaluated, monitored and cared for 97 detainees in 10 secret CIA facilities abroad and accompanied detainees on more than 100 flights.

The CIA ultimately decided against asking the Justice Department to approve drug-assisted interrogations, sparing CIA doctors "some significant ethical concerns," the report said. It had taken months for the Justice Department to sign off on brutal interrogation tactics, including sleep deprivation, confinement in small spaces and the simulated drowning technique known as waterboarding. The CIA's counterterrorism team "did not want to raise another issue with the Department of Justice," the report said.

Before settling on Versed, the report said researchers studied records of old Soviet drug experiments as well as the CIA's discredited MK-Ultra program from the 1950s and 1960s that involved human experimentation with LSD and other mind-altering drugs on unwitting individuals as part of a long search for some form of truth serum. These experiments were widely criticized and, even today, some experts doubt an effective substance exists.

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"But decades later, the agency was considering experimenting on humans again to test pseudo-scientific theories of learned helplessness on its prisoners," Ladin said.

Versed is a brand name for the sedative midazolam, used since the late 1970s and today sold commonly as a generic. It causes drowsiness and relieves anxiety and agitation. It also can temporarily impair memory, and often is used for minor surgery or medical procedures such as colonoscopies that require sedation but not full-blown anesthesia. It's in a class of anti-anxiety medications known as benzodiazepines that work by affecting a brain chemical that calms the activity of nerve cells.

"Versed was considered possibly worth a trial if unequivocal legal sanction first were obtained," the report said. "There were at least two legal obstacles: a prohibition against medical experimentation on prisoners and a ban on interrogational use of 'mind-altering drugs' or those which 'profoundly altered the senses.'"

Those questions became moot after the CIA decided against asking the Justice Department to give it a green light. "At the beginning of 2003, the Office of Medical Services' review, informally termed 'Project Medication' was shelved, never to be reactivated," the report said.

The CIA had no comment on the report's release, but government lawyers emphasized in a court filing in the case early last year that the report, expressly marked "draft," was just one agency officer's impressions of the detention and interrogation program. The document is not the CIA's or the Office of Medical Service's "final official history, or assessment, of the program," the lawyers wrote.

The ACLU spent more than two years in court trying to get the report released. In September 2017, a federal judge in New York ordered the CIA to release it. Government lawyers tried three more times to keep information contained in the report under wraps, but the ACLU received the bulk of the report in August. The government is still fighting to keep portions secret. They are to file briefs in a federal appeals court in New York on Wednesday, arguing that the judge ordered too much released.

While the CIA's harsh interrogation program ended in 2007, the ACLU believes it's important to continue seeking the release of documents about it, especially since President Donald Trump declared during his campaign that he would approve interrogating terror suspects with waterboarding, which is now banned by U.S. law, and a "hell of a lot worse."

CIA Director Gina Haspel, who was involved in supervising a secret CIA detention site in Thailand where detainees were waterboarded, told the Senate during her confirmation hearing that she does "not support use of enhanced interrogation techniques for any purpose."

The report cites many instances where medical personnel expressed concern or protected the health of the detainees. Those who were thrown up against walls — a practice called "walling" — had their necks protected from whiplash by rolled towels around their necks, the report said. When one detainee, who had been wounded during capture, was confined to a box, care was taken not to force his legs into a position that "would compromise wound healing." Physician assistants overruled using duct tape over the mouths of detainees during flights because air sickness could lead to vomiting and possible aspiration.

"That doesn't mean that the doctors were sadistic or anything like that," Ladin said. "But it means they were complicit because this pseudo-scientific torture could not have happened without the doctors' participation."

At the same time, the medical office's report said waterboarding was not "intrinsically painful." It said there was "physical discomfort from the occasional associated retching," but that two detainees who endured the most extensive waterboarding sessions complained only "of the pain of the restraining straps."

That contrasts with the Senate's 2014 report on the CIA's interrogation program, which stated that a prisoner known as Abu Zubaydah, a suspected al-Qaida operative who was waterboarded more than 80 times, "cried, begged, pleaded, vomited, and required medical resuscitation after being waterboarded."

Some CIA medical personnel called waterboarding "little more than an amateurish experiment" and others worried that the practice would trigger spasms of the vocal cords, which could, at least temporarily, make it hard to speak or breathe.

At the same time, other medical personnel contended waterboarding actually "provided periodic relief" to a prisoner because it was a break from being forced to stand for long periods of time. The agency

medical personnel also said the harsh interrogation program was “reassuringly free of enduring physical or psychological effects.”

Dr. Sondra Crosby, who has treated victims of torture, including two who were held at CIA secret sites, disagreed.

“The enduring pain and suffering experienced by the survivors of the CIA program is immense, and includes severe, complex post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, physical ailments, and psychosocial dysfunction,” said Crosby, of Boston University’s School of Medicine and Public Health. “At least one detainee was tortured to death. Their physical and psychological scars will last a lifetime.”

AP Medical Writer Luran Neergaard in Washington contributed to this report.

## Gene-edited food is coming, but will shoppers buy?

By LAURAN NEERGAARD, AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The next generation of biotech food is headed for the grocery aisles, and first up may be salad dressings or granola bars made with soybean oil genetically tweaked to be good for your heart.

By early next year, the first foods from plants or animals that had their DNA “edited” are expected to begin selling. It’s a different technology than today’s controversial “genetically modified” foods, more like faster breeding that promises to boost nutrition, spur crop growth, and make farm animals hardier and fruits and vegetables last longer.

The U.S. National Academy of Sciences has declared gene editing one of the breakthroughs needed to improve food production so the world can feed billions more people amid a changing climate. Yet governments are wrestling with how to regulate this powerful new tool. And after years of confusion and rancor, will shoppers accept gene-edited foods or view them as GMOs in disguise?

“If the consumer sees the benefit, I think they’ll embrace the products and worry less about the technology,” said Dan Voytas, a University of Minnesota professor and chief science officer for Calyxt Inc., which edited soybeans to make the oil heart-healthy.

Researchers are pursuing more ambitious changes: Wheat with triple the usual fiber, or that’s low in gluten. Mushrooms that don’t brown, and better-producing tomatoes. Drought-tolerant corn, and rice that no longer absorbs soil pollution as it grows. Dairy cows that don’t need to undergo painful de-horning, and pigs immune to a dangerous virus that can sweep through herds.

Scientists even hope gene editing eventually could save species from being wiped out by devastating diseases like citrus greening, a so far unstoppable infection that’s destroying Florida’s famed oranges.

First they must find genes that could make a new generation of trees immune.

“If we can go in and edit the gene, change the DNA sequence ever so slightly by one or two letters, potentially we’d have a way to defeat this disease,” said Fred Gmitter, a geneticist at the University of Florida Citrus Research and Education Center, as he examined diseased trees in a grove near Fort Meade.

GENETICALLY MODIFIED OR EDITED, WHAT’S THE DIFFERENCE?

Farmers have long genetically manipulated crops and animals by selectively breeding to get offspring with certain traits. It’s time-consuming and can bring trade-offs. Modern tomatoes, for example, are larger than their pea-sized wild ancestor, but the generations of cross-breeding made them more fragile and altered their nutrients.

GMOs, or genetically modified organisms, are plants or animals that were mixed with another species’ DNA to introduce a specific trait they’re “transgenic.” Best known are corn and soybeans mixed with bacterial genes for built-in resistance to pests or weed killers.

Despite international scientific consensus that GMOs are safe to eat, some people remain wary and there is concern they could spur herbicide-resistant weeds.

Now gene-editing tools, with names like CRISPR and TALENs, promise to alter foods more precisely, and cheaply without necessarily adding foreign DNA. Instead, they act like molecular scissors to alter the

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letters of an organism's own genetic alphabet.

The technology can insert new DNA, but most products in development so far switch off a gene, according to University of Missouri professor Nicholas Kalaitzandonakes.

Those new Calyxt soybeans? Voytas' team inactivated two genes so the beans produce oil with no heart-damaging trans fat and that shares the famed health profile of olive oil without its distinct taste.

The hornless calves? Most dairy Holsteins grow horns that are removed for the safety of farmers and other cows. Recombinetics Inc. swapped part of the gene that makes dairy cows grow horns with the DNA instructions from naturally hornless Angus beef cattle.

"Precision breeding," is how animal geneticist Alison Van Eenennaam of the University of California, Davis, explains it. "This isn't going to replace traditional breeding," but make it easier to add one more trait.

## RULES AREN'T CLEAR

The Agriculture Department says extra rules aren't needed for "plants that could otherwise have been developed through traditional breeding," clearing the way for development of about two dozen gene-edited crops so far.

In contrast, the Food and Drug Administration in 2017 proposed tighter, drug-like restrictions on gene-edited animals. It promises guidance sometime next year on exactly how it will proceed.

Because of trade, international regulations are "the most important factor in whether genome editing technologies are commercialized," USDA's Paul Spencer told a meeting of agriculture economists.

Europe's highest court ruled last summer that existing European curbs on the sale of transgenic GMOs should apply to gene-edited foods, too.

But at the World Trade Organization this month, the U.S. joined 12 nations including Australia, Canada, Argentina and Brazil in urging other countries to adopt internationally consistent, science-based rules for gene-edited agriculture.

## ARE THESE FOODS SAFE?

The biggest concern is what are called off-target edits, unintended changes to DNA that could affect a crop's nutritional value or an animal's health, said Jennifer Kuzma of the Genetic Engineering and Society Center at North Carolina State University.

Scientists are looking for any signs of problems. Take the hornless calves munching in a UC-Davis field. One is female and once it begins producing milk, Van Eenennaam will test how similar that milk's fat and protein composition is to milk from unaltered cows.

"We're kind of being overly cautious," she said, noting that if eating beef from naturally hornless Angus cattle is fine, milk from edited Holsteins should be, too.

But to Kuzma, companies will have to be up-front about how these new foods were made and the evidence that they're healthy. She wants regulators to decide case-by-case which changes are no big deal, and which might need more scrutiny.

"Most gene edited plants and animals are probably going to be just fine to eat. But you're only going to do yourself a disservice in the long run if you hide behind the terminology," Kuzma said.

## AVOIDING A BACKLASH

Uncertainty about regulatory and consumer reaction is creating some strange bedfellows. An industry-backed group of food makers and farmers asked university researchers and consumer advocates to help craft guidelines for "responsible use" of gene editing in the food supply.

"Clearly this coalition is in existence because of some of the battle scars from the GMO debates, there's no question about that," said Greg Jaffe of the food-safety watchdog Center for Science in the Public Interest, who agreed to join the Center for Food Integrity's guidelines group. "There's clearly going to be questions raised about this technology."

## SUSTAINABILITY OR HYPE?

Gene-editing can't do everything, cautioned Calyxt's Voytas. There are limitations to how much foods could be changed. Sure, scientists made wheat containing less gluten, but it's unlikely to ever be totally gluten-free for people who can't digest that protein, for example — or to make, say, allergy-free peanuts.

Nor is it clear how easily companies will be able to edit different kinds of food, key to their profit. Despite her concerns about adequate regulation, Kuzma expects about 20 gene-edited crops to hit the U.S. market over five years — and she notes that scientists also are exploring changes to crops like cassava that important in the poorest countries.

"We think it's going to really revolutionize the industry," she said.

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## In factory after factory, Kim tries to grow N. Korea economy

By ERIC TALMADGE, Associated Press

WONSAN, North Korea (AP) — For North Korean factory managers, a visit by leader Kim Jong Un is the highest of honors and quite possibly the most stressful event imaginable.

The chief engineer at the Songdowon General Foodstuffs Factory had looked forward to the visit for nearly a decade. His factory churns out tons of cookies, crackers, candies and bakery goods, plus dozens of varieties of soft drinks sold around the country. In its showroom, Kwon Yong Chol proudly showed off one of his best-sellers, a nutrient soup made with spirulina, a blue-green microalgae "superfood."

"Ever since construction began everyone here had wanted the leader to visit, and this year he did. His visit was the biggest thing that could happen to us," Kwon, smiling broadly, said of Kim Jong Un's visit in July. "He ate our instant noodles. He said they were delicious."

Not all managers have been so fortunate.

There's a lot on the line for North Korea these days. And Kim means business.

Though the international spotlight has been on his denuclearization talks with Washington, the North Korean leader has a lot riding domestically on his promises to boost the country's economy and standard of living. His announcement in April that North Korea had sufficiently developed its nuclear weapons and would now focus on building its economy marked a sharp turn in official policy, setting the stage for his rapid-fire meetings with the leaders of China, South Korea and the United States.

It also set in motion an ambitious campaign of "on-the-spot guidance" trips to rally party officials, factory managers and military troops.

After the announcement of the "new strategic line" and his first round of summits, including his meeting in June with President Donald Trump, Kim embarked on nearly 20 inspection tours around the country in July and another 10 in August, all but one of them to non-military locations. The military inspection rounds are instead being handled by the country's premier, Pak Pong Ju, who has gone on 18 inspection tours from July, mostly to military facilities.

On-the-spot guidance tours are a tradition Kim inherited from his father and grandfather, the late "eternal General-Secretary" Kim Jong Il and "eternal President" Kim Il Sung.

They date to the late 1940s, when Kim Il Sung began gradually institutionalizing the visits to demonstrate his hands-on leadership and, as invariably portrayed by the North's media, his deep care and concern for the well-being of the people.

Factories, farms and important industrial facilities are the usual destinations. But Kim Jong Un's focus on them this year marks a break from excursions in 2017 to nuclear weapons facilities and missile sites.

Reflecting the gravity of his current mission, Kim has shown little patience for cadres who come up short.

On his July tour in the northern part of the country he lambasted officials at a factory that produces backpacks for students, saying their attitude was "very wrong" and "has no revolutionary spirit." He then dressed down officials at a power plant that has been under construction for 17 years, criticized people in charge of a hotel project for taking too long to finish plastering its walls and slammed the authorities responsible for building a recreational campsite.

"Looking round the bathroom of the camp, he pointed out its very bad condition, saying bathtubs for

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hot spring therapy are dirty, gloomy and unsanitary for their poor management," said an official report of the visit.

Most inspection tours, however, go like Kim's two-hour visit to the Songdowon processed foods factory. With a gaggle of cameramen in tow — the tours are always top news in North Korea's media — the site's senior manager generally serves as the guide. Members of Kim's entourage frantically take notes as he suggests tweaks of this or that and offers praise or encouragement.

Many factories put up red and gold plaques to commemorate the event. Some have special wall displays made afterward that show the exact path the leader took in little LED lights that can be turned on at the press of a button.

At Kwon's factory, which has 300 employees and is located on the outskirts of the eastern coastal city of Wonsan, Kim advised managers to improve operations on an "automated, unmanned and germ-free basis, holding aloft the banner of self-reliance."

Before the obligatory group photo session, the North's official news agency reported, Kim voiced "his expectation and conviction" the factory would produce more quality foods "and thus more fully demonstrate the honor of being a factory loved by the people."

But Kim also had a broader point to make.

He told the factory management that they must be prepared to work in a more competitive environment, to modernize and cut the fat. These are special times and they, and basically all managers throughout the country, need to step up their game.

"The Respected Marshal Kim Jong Un pays much more attention to the quality of a product," Kwon said. "When he came to this factory he gave instructions to maintain a high level of hygiene because food is closely associated with the health of the people, and to keep the highest level of quality of products that people like. He said we must produce products that are world class, and produce a lot of foods that people like."

Kwon said the pressure isn't just coming from above.

"The people demand more quality," he said. "When people look at the product, they must feel like they want to have it. So we are designing things in line with that. We have to satisfy the demands of the people."

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

## Bloomberg likely to decide on 2020 bid by early next year

By STEVE PEOPLES, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Having spent a fortune to help elect Democrats this fall, former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg declared lifetime allegiance to the Democratic Party and outlined an aggressive timeline for deciding whether to run for president.

"I think January, February would be about as late as you can do it and as early as you can gather enough information," Bloomberg told The Associated Press in an interview Tuesday.

The 76-year-old billionaire said his decision would have little to do with other Democratic presidential prospects. He conceded that "it's much too early to tell" whether he has a legitimate chance of winning the Democratic presidential nomination in 2020 and, with it, the chance to take on another New York billionaire, President Donald Trump.

"Thanksgiving, Christmas and then maybe a few weeks into January — that's when you really gotta sit down, talk to your advisers and say, 'Look, do I have a chance?' I think I know why I would want to run. I think I know what I think this country should do and what I would do. But I just don't know whether it's possible," Bloomberg told the AP.

He added, "If people don't seem to be warming to you, there's plenty of other ways that I can make a difference in life and say thank you to this country for what it's given my kids and me."

Should he run, Bloomberg would bring virtually limitless resources and a pragmatic governing approach

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to what is expected to be a massive 2020 Democratic field. Hardly a far-left liberal, he is described by his team as socially progressive and business-minded. He has spent tens of millions of dollars to promote liberal priorities on climate change, gun control and immigration.

It's unclear, however, whether there's room for Bloomberg in today's Democratic Party.

Tom Perez, chairman of the Democratic National Committee, offered a lukewarm assessment this week when asked about Bloomberg's \$110 million investment in his party's 2018 midterm efforts.

"I applaud everybody who was involved," Perez said in an interview. "Very appreciative of Mayor Bloomberg. Equally appreciative of those grassroots activists who were knocking on doors every weekend, texting people, investing 50 bucks in the Democratic Party."

Still, Bloomberg endeared himself to many Democratic leaders in recent months after deciding to invest more than \$110 million in the 2018 midterms — largely focused on House races. Long an active political donor to candidates in both parties, Bloomberg gave almost exclusively to Democrats this year for the first time.

The decision, he explained, was born out of his concern that Republicans who controlled the House and Senate weren't providing an adequate check on the Trump presidency. Yet this political season marked a permanent shift in his political identity, he said.

"I will be a Democrat for the rest of my life," Bloomberg said.

Initially registered as a Democrat, the Massachusetts native filed paperwork to change his voter registration to Republican in 2000 before his first run for New York City mayor, according to a spokesman. In June 2007, he unenrolled from the GOP, having no formal party affiliation until he registered again as a Democrat this October.

Months before that, Bloomberg directed his political team to work hand in hand with leading Democratic allies to shape the first nationwide election of Trump's presidency. His top aides even shared office space at times in the campaign's final days with the super PAC aligned with top House Democrat Nancy Pelosi.

Ultimately, Bloomberg's preferred candidates won all but three of two dozen targeted House races, focused overwhelmingly in America's suburbs.

Once it became clear Democrats seized the House majority, he said he delivered a stern message to Pelosi.

"I've said to Nancy Pelosi: 'We don't expect you to do the same thing to the Republicans that the Republicans were doing to you. We want to have people working across the aisle for the benefit of America rather than for the benefit of their party,'" Bloomberg said.

That's a message Pelosi herself has articulated in recent weeks. Bloomberg reinforced it again in person on Tuesday as Pelosi met with his board of directors in private.

"I said, sitting next to her, without mincing words, I said, 'You know, we expect you to do a good job,'" Bloomberg said. "That's why we supported the Democrats."

Democratic officials poised to play leading roles in the next presidential election took notice of Bloomberg's investment.

Guy Cecil, chairman of the Democratic super PAC Priorities USA, described Bloomberg's midterm effort as "incredibly helpful." It's unclear, however, whether Democratic voters who might favor younger, more liberal candidates in 2020 will see him any differently.

"Democrats appreciate how much he has invested and how much his team has been engaged in the cycle, but ultimately it's going to be about what Bloomberg's vision is for the future," Cecil said.

Bloomberg acknowledged he has already formulated his justification for a presidential bid, but he declined to share it when asked. Still, he offered a message to any critics who might not think he belongs in today's Democratic Party.

"I don't think anybody has done more on the environment, on gun safety, on immigration, go right down the list," Bloomberg said. "I was the one who stood up for gay marriage long before it became popular. I was the one at the national convention who said Trump was a con man. If you find anybody that's done more on these issues than I have, and the people that I've been lucky enough to work with, please give me a call. I'd like to hire 'em."



## Asian shares lower after Wall Street falls over oil concerns

By YURI KAGEYAMA, AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Asian shares were mostly lower Wednesday, after the steepest drop in oil prices in more than three years put investors in a selling mood on Wall Street.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 inched down 0.1 percent to 21,779.22 in early trading, while Australia's S&P/ASX 200 lost 1.3 percent to 5,759.90. South Korea's Kospi edged down 0.4 percent at 2,062.34. Hong Kong's Hang Seng fell 0.4 percent to 25,684.65, while the Shanghai Composite was down 0.4 percent at 2,644.64. Shares were also lower in Taiwan.

WALL STREET: The S&P 500 index fell 4.04 points, or 0.1 percent, to 2,722.18. The Dow Jones Industrial Average lost 100.69 points, or 0.4 percent, to 25,286.49, half of which was attributable to a drop in Boeing. The Nasdaq composite was little changed at 7,200.87. The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies gave up 3.99 points, or 0.3 percent, to 1,514.80.

TRADE WORRIES: Fears about global growth continue amid trade tensions between the U.S. and China. Traders drew encouragement from a report out of China saying that country's top economic adviser might visit Washington ahead of a planned meeting between Chinese President Xi Jinping and U.S. President Donald Trump at this month's Group of 20 gathering in Argentina. The U.S. and China have raised tariffs on billions of dollars of each other's goods.

THE QUOTE: "It's going to be a bumpy ride for markets," says Stephen Innes of Oanda in Singapore, referring to global developments over Brexit and dropping oil prices, adding, "all of which suggests significant risk beckons."

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude oil dipped 40 cents to \$55.29. It plunged 7.1 percent to \$55.69 a barrel Tuesday. Brent crude, used to price international oils, dropped 30 percent to \$65.17 a barrel. Oil has now fallen for 12 straight days, driven by worries over rising oil production around the world and weakening demand from developing countries, with expectations for increased supply from the U.S. and OPEC.

CURRENCIES: The dollar slipped to 113.88 yen from 114.01 yen late Tuesday in Asia. The euro strengthened to \$1.1299 from \$1.1252.

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## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, Nov. 14, the 318th day of 2018. There are 47 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 14, 1970, a chartered Southern Airways DC-9 crashed while trying to land in West Virginia, killing all 75 people on board, including the Marshall University football team and its coaching staff.

On this date:

In 1862, during the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln gave the go-ahead for Maj. Gen. Ambrose Burnside's plan to capture the Confederate capital of Richmond; the resulting Battle of Fredericksburg proved a disaster for the Union.

In 1889, inspired by the Jules Verne novel "Around the World in Eighty Days," New York World reporter Nellie Bly (Elizabeth Cochrane) set out to make the trip in less time than the fictional Phileas Fogg. (She completed the journey in 72 days.)

In 1910, Eugene B. Ely became the first aviator to take off from a ship as his Curtiss pusher rolled off a sloping platform on the deck of the scout cruiser USS Birmingham off Hampton Roads, Virginia.

In 1925, the first group exhibition of surrealist paintings opened at the Galerie Pierre in Paris.

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In 1940, during World War II, German planes destroyed most of the English town of Coventry.

In 1965, the U.S. Army's first major military operation of the Vietnam War began with the start of the five-day Battle of Ia Drang. (The fighting between American troops and North Vietnamese forces ended on Nov. 18 with both sides claiming victory.)

In 1969, Apollo 12 blasted off for the moon.

In 1972, the Dow Jones Industrial Average closed above the 1,000 level for the first time, ending the day at 1,003.16.

In 1973, Britain's Princess Anne married Captain Mark Phillips in Westminster Abbey. (They divorced in 1992, and Anne remarried.)

In 1986, the Securities and Exchange Commission imposed a \$100 million penalty on inside-trader Ivan F. Boesky and barred him from working again in the securities industry.

In 1996, Cardinal Joseph Bernardin (BURN'-uh-deen), the senior Roman Catholic prelate in the United States and leader of Chicago's 2.3 million Catholics, died at his home at age 68. Singer Michael Jackson married his plastic surgeon's nurse, Debbie Rowe, in a ceremony in Sydney, Australia. (Rowe filed for divorce in 1999.)

In 1997, a jury in Fairfax, Virginia, decided that Pakistani national Aimal Khan Kasi (eye-MAHL' kahn KAH'-see) should get the death penalty for gunning down two CIA employees outside agency headquarters. (Five years later on this date, Aimal Khan Kasi was executed.)

Ten years ago: A lunar probe from India made a planned crash-landing onto the surface of the moon. Space shuttle Endeavour and a crew of seven blasted into the night sky, bound for the international space station. Dr. Adrian Kantrowitz, the cardiac surgeon who performed the first U.S. heart transplant in 1967, died in Ann Arbor, Mich. at age 90.

Five years ago: Reversing course, President Barack Obama said millions of Americans should be allowed to renew individual coverage plans ticketed for cancellation under the health care law. During a confirmation hearing before the Senate Banking Committee, Janet Yellen made clear she would be prepared to stand by the Federal Reserve's low-interest policies, if she were to be confirmed as Fed chair. Former Boston crime boss James "Whitey" Bulger was led off to prison to begin serving a life sentence at 84 for his murderous reign in the 1970s and '80s. (Bulger was killed Oct. 30, 2018, hours after arriving at a federal prison in West Virginia.) Pittsburgh Pirates center fielder Andrew McCutchen and Detroit Tigers slugger Miguel Cabrera won baseball's Most Valuable Player awards.

One year ago: Three UCLA basketball players who'd been detained in China on suspicion of shoplifting returned home; they were then indefinitely suspended from the team. Papa John's Pizza apologized for comments made by CEO John Schnatter (SHNAH'-tur), who had blamed sluggish pizza sales on NFL players kneeling during the national anthem. House Speaker Paul Ryan said the House would require anti-harassment and anti-discrimination training for all members and their staffs; the announcement came hours after two female lawmakers spoke about sexual misconduct involving sitting members of Congress.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Kathleen Hughes is 90. Former NASA astronaut Fred Haise is 85. Jazz musician Ellis Marsalis is 84. Composer Wendy Carlos is 79. Writer P.J. O'Rourke is 71. Britain's Prince Charles is 70. Rock singer-musician James Young (Styx) is 69. Singer Stephen Bishop is 67. Blues musician Anson Funderburgh is 64. Pianist Yanni is 64. Former U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice is 64. Former presidential adviser Valerie Jarrett is 62. Actress Laura San Giacomo (JEE'-ah-koh-moh) is 57. Actor D.B. Sweeney is 57. Rapper Reverend Run (Run-DMC) is 54. Actor Patrick Warburton is 54. Rock musician Nic Dalton is 54. Country singer Rockie Lynne is 54. Pop singer Jeanette Jurado (Expose) is 53. Retired MLB All-Star pitcher Curt Schilling is 52. Rock musician Brian Yale is 50. Rock singer Butch Walker is 49. Actor Josh Duhamel (du-MEHL') is 46. Rock musician Travis Barker is 43. Contemporary Christian musician Robby Shaffer is 43. Actor Brian Dietzen is 41. Rapper Shyheim is 41. Rock musician Tobin Esperance (Papa Roach) is 39. Actress Olga Kurylenko is 39. Actress-comedian Vanessa Bayer is 37. Actor Russell Tovey is 37. Actor Cory Michael Smith is 32. Actor Graham Patrick Martin is 27.

Thought for Today: "Adventure is not outside man; it is within." — George Eliot, English author (1819-1880).