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



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402 N Main St
Aberdeen, SD 57401
605.229.0123
dakoutdoors@midconetwork.com

Groton Area Schedule of Events

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



Sundogs this morning. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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The Snow Cometh

The snow started to pile up Friday afternoon as the snow came with a fury. Roads became very slippery as the white, fluffy stuff came down from the sky. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



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

Groton Care & Rehab
1106 N 2nd St, Groton

Free Will Donation

Groton's Blood Drive Brings in 35 Volunteers

Groton, SD hosted a blood drive with Vitalant, formerly United Blood Services, on November 15 at the Community Center which helped collect a total of 43 units of blood for patients in need.

A total of 35 individuals volunteered to donate blood and 34 individuals were able to donate at the Vitalant blood drive on November 15. A total of nine donors also came forward to donate Power Red Cells (2RBC) which collects two units of red blood cells while returning platelets, plasma and a saline solution back to the donor.

Vitalant expressed their gratitude to Kathy Sundermeyer, who coordinated the drive.

Vitalant strives to keep a 5-day supply of every blood type on the shelf at all times to be able to meet the needs of patients across the region. Donations from O-negative donors, the universal blood type, are especially important this time of year due to increased accidents and trauma cases.

Vitalant is the only blood provider to nearly 70 hospitals across the region. The blood supply is dependent on selfless donations from volunteer donors to ensure the lifesaving needs of the region are met.

About 30 percent of Vitalant's blood supply goes to cancer patients across the region and one in seven people entering the hospital will need blood. Those relying on blood in the region receive that lifesaving blood from Vitalant.

Donors can make a convenient appointment to give blood at www.bloodhero.com or by calling 877-25-VITAL. With each donation, donors receive a free total cholesterol test and earn points in Vitalant's donor rewards program.

Blood donation takes about an hour from check-in to refreshments. Donors can save about 20 minutes by completing their Health History Questionnaire the day they donate on www.vitalant.org



Zach Herron was one of the 35 volunteers who donated blood at the Groton Blood Drive. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Groton High School's Blood Drive Brings in 38 Volunteers

GROTON, SD – FBLA hosted a blood drive with Vitalant, formerly United Blood Services, on November 14 at Groton High School which helped collect a total of 35 units of blood for patients in need.

A total of 38 individuals volunteered to donate blood and 30 individuals were able to donate at the Vitalant blood drive on November 14. A total of six donors also came forward to donate Power Red Cells (2RBC) which collects two units of red blood cells while returning platelets, plasma and a saline solution back to the donor. There were 23 people who volunteered for the first time.

Vitalant expressed their gratitude to Brooke Compton, who coordinated the drive, and FBLA which sponsored the blood drive.

According to the Groton FBLA Facebook page, it was mentioned: "Thank you to everyone that donated and helped work the blood drive! We filled every donation time slot and had one of our best turnouts ever!"

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Groton Area School Honor Roll - First Nine Week

Seniors

4.0 GPA: Taylor Holm, Jillian Barton, AnneMarie Smith, Emily Thompson, Payton Maine, Tylan Glover, Kaitlyn Kassube, Alexis Simon, Cassandra Townsend, Kaitlyn Anderson, Ashley Garduno, Samantha Geffre
3.99-3.50: Kylie Kassube, Megan Crosby, Miranda Hanson, Samantha Menzia, Jennie Doeden, Alexa Hickenbotham, Jeremy Johnson, Brandon Gackle
3.49-3.00: Shyla Larson, Clark Gibbs, Korbin Blackmun, Emily Blocker, Shannon Wiedrick, Wyatt Locke

Juniors

4.0 GPA: Kaycie Hawkins, Kayla Jensen, KaSandra Pappas, Kaylin Kucker, Nicole Marzahn
3.99-3.50: Payton Colestock, Indigo Rogers, Tadyn Glover, Austin Jones, Jaime Ruiz de Medina Maroto, Benjamin Higgins, Caitlynn Barse, Madeline Schuelke
3.49-3.00: Kya Jandel, Noah Poor, Rylee Rosenau, Eliza Wanner

Sophomores

4.0 GPA: Samantha Pappas, Sage Mortenson, Erin Unzen
3.99-3.50: Isaac Smith, Grace Wambach, Jasmine Gengerke, Grace Wiedrick, Alexa Herr, Hailey Monson, Alexis Hanten, Trey Gengerke, Steven Paulson, Tanae Lipp, Dragr Monson, Brooklyn Gilbert, Alyssa Fordham, Paloma Fernandez Gonzalez, Tessa Erdmann, Regan Leicht, Eh Tha You Say
3.49-3.00: Tucker Carda, Paxton Bonn, Chandler Larson, Alex Morris, Kannon Coats, Lucas Simon, Braden Freeman, Tiara DeHoet, Kale Pharis, Gabriella Merkel

Freshmen

4.0 GPA: Allyssa Locke, Stella Meier
3.99-3.50: Travis Townsend, Trista Keith, Seth Johnson, Madeline Fliehs, Madisen Bjerke
3.49-3.00: Pierce Kettering, Kansas Kroll, Jordan Bjerke, Jace Kroll, Hannah Gustafson, Kennedy Anderson, Kaden Kurtz, Landon Kokales, Rease Jandel, Julianna Kosel, Lane Krueger, Kody Lehr, Alexander Dutchuk

Eighth Graders

4.0 GPA: None
3.99-3.50: Caleb Hanten, Jackson Dinger, Aspen Johnson, Jacob Lewandowski, Kaleb Antonsen, Ethan Clark, Isaac Higgins, Cole Bisbee, Carter Barse, Brooke Gengerke, Elliana Weismantel, Tate Larson, Cadance Tullis, Andrew Marzahn
3.49-3.00: Shallyn Foertsch, Cade Larson, Shaylee Peterson, Cole Simon, Jacelynn Gleason, Brenna Carda, Kamryn Fliehs, Gracie Traphagen, Jackson Bahr, Porter Johnson, Ava Kramer, Sierra Ehresmann, Hollie Frost, Ashtyn Bahr

Seventh Graders

4.0 GPA: Claire Heinrich
3.99-3.50: Dillon Abeln, Emily Clark, Ashlyn Sperry, Bradin Althoff, Colby Dunker, Hannah Monson, Holden Sippel, Lane Tietz, Lydia Meier, Kyleigh Englund, Sara Menzia, Emma Schinkel, Abigail Jensen, Anna Fjeldheim, Lexi Osterman
3.49-3.00: Jaycie Lier, Cadence Feist, Anna Bisbee, Camryn Kurtz, Faith Fliehs, Jackson Garstecki, Shea Jandel, Karsyn Jangula, Bryson Wambach, Carly Guthmiller, Veronica Tank

Sixth Graders

4.0 GPA: None
3.99-3.50: Gretchen Dinger, Axel Warrington, Elizabeth Fliehs, Payton Mitchell, Alexis Geffre
3.49-3.00: Jeslyn Kosel, Ashlyn Feser, Blake Pauli, Corbin Weismantel, Blake Dennert

Groton City Council Meeting Agenda
November 19, 2018 – 7:00pm
Groton Community Center

1. Open bids for 2003 White Chevy Silverado
2. Minutes
3. Bills
4. October finance report
5. Baseball and swimming pool report
6. Salary ordinance
7. Card services
8. Group health insurance
9. Public Comments - pursuant to SDCL 1-25-1
(Public Comments will offer the opportunity for anyone not listed on the agenda to speak to the council. Speaking time will be limited to 3 minutes. No action will be taken on questions or items not on the agenda.)
10. Executive session personnel & legal 1-25-2 (1) & (3)
11. Hire temporary police officer
12. Hire skating rink employees
13. Adjournment

Christmas At The Capitol Tree-Lighting Ceremony

PIERRE, S.D. – The 2018 Grand Lighting Ceremony for Christmas at the South Dakota Capitol will take place in the rotunda on Tuesday, Nov. 20, at 7 p.m. CST.

The public is invited to join Gov. Dennis Daugaard, First Lady Linda Daugaard and Pierre Mayor Steve Harding as they welcome guests and light the Capitol trees.

The Capitol Christmas display includes over 90 trees decorated by volunteers from communities, schools, churches, nonprofit organizations and state government offices. This year's theme for Christmas at the Capitol is "Enchanted Christmas."

This year's tree is 25.5-foot Colorado Blue Spruce is being decorated by Special Olympics South Dakota and was donated by Kelsey and Aaron Trimble of Rapid City. After being trimmed, the tree stands at 22 feet in the rotunda.

At the ceremony, music will be provided by the Georgia Morse School sixth grade choir and T.F. Riggs High School Chamber Choir.

Immediately after the ceremony, kids of all ages can pose for pictures with Santa Claus in front of the South Dakota Christmas tree. Parents are reminded to bring their cameras. Refreshments, donated by Lynn's Dakotamart in Pierre, will be served on the first floor of the Capitol.

The holiday display will be open to the public from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. CST daily from Nov. 20 through Dec. 26.

You can follow the Christmas at the Capitol events on Facebook or visit the website at christmasatthe-capitol.sd.gov/.

Wolves fire on all cylinders in 32-point victory over Black Hills

Sioux Falls, S.D. – The Northern State University men’s basketball team opened the East-West Challenge with a bang, defeating Black Hills State 82-50 from the Sanford Pentagon. The Wolves improve to 2-1 on the year.

The Wolves took a roaring 45-26 lead in the first half, and continued to tack things on in the second. They held their largest lead of the game, 32-points, with 9:10 left in regulation. Northern shot efficiently in the win, at a 50.8 percent clip from the floor and 61.1 percent clip from the 3-point line. The Wolves tallied a game high 38 rebounds, 19 assists, and five blocks, while adding three steals. They recorded 37 points off the bench, 34 points in the paint, 23 points off turnovers, 13 second chance points, and six fast break scores.

Ian Smith and Parker Fox led the team with 13 points apiece, shooting a combined 43.5 percent from the floor. Smith tallied a team leading five assists, while adding one rebound and one steal. Fox led the team with eight rebounds, and a career high five blocks. He also recorded two assists.

Justin Decker was the final Wolf in double figures, notching ten points and shooting 51.7 percent from the floor. The senior added four rebounds and went 2-for-2 from the foul line. Andrew Kallman, Mason Stark, and Cole Dahl each tallied eight points, with two made 3-pointers apiece.

Bo Fries and Gabe King rounded out the starting five for the Wolves with seven points each, shooting 60.0 and 75.0 percent from the floor respectively. Fries tallied four rebounds and one assist, while King notched two assists and one steal.

Jordan Belka and Ethan Kranhold each tallied three points off the bench, while Roko Dominovic tallied the final three. Dominovic recorded two assists, alongside Kallman, King, and Fox, and Belka notched three rebounds, alongside King.

Northern will face South Dakota School of Mines today at 3:30 p.m. from the Pentagon, in their final game from the East-West Challenge.

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Gratitude and Tradition

By Governor-elect Kristi Noem



Thanksgiving is always an exciting time. Kitchens bustle in preparation for the big turkey dinner, TVs buzz with sounds of football, and families gather together. It's a time for gratitude and a time for tradition - some of which are sincere and others a bit silly.

For decades, we've made it an American tradition to spare two turkeys from the Thanksgiving table through a presidential pardon.

For generations, South Dakota's turkey producers have raised some of the world's best turkeys, bringing millions of families together around the dinner table. And this year, it is two Huron-area turkeys that have been honored with the presidential pardon, giving us an opportunity to put South Dakota agriculture on display.

These two turkeys are one of about 5 million turkeys raised in South Dakota each year, the production of which causes ripple effects throughout our ag industry. In fact, turkeys consume around 51,000 tons of soybean meal a year, as well as thousands of bushels of corn.

This is the kind of production we need in South Dakota, which is why I plan to create a Blueprint for Agricultural Economic Development as Governor. With an annual economic impact of \$25.6 billion, agriculture is South Dakota's number one industry. In recent years, however, deflated commodity prices and various natural disasters have dealt a serious blow to the state's ag economy.

More diversity in ag could help soften future blows, which is why our blueprint will look both at broadening opportunities for existing farms and ranches and helping identify and recruit our next ag-related growth industries.

Without question, it is exciting to see South Dakota agriculture up on the national stage. I am so grateful for the work our turkey producers, farmers, and ranchers put in to ensure our Thanksgiving tables can be filled. I'm thankful for the families and communities that come together this time of year and for the work of our armed forces to ensure we have the freedom to join in fellowship.

Happy Thanksgiving from my family to yours.

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Thanksgiving; A Special Day to Share with Family and Friends

Back on the farm, we had a big dining room table that sat against one wall most of the year.

On Thanksgiving, Dad pulled that table out into the middle of the room. Mom covered it with the good tablecloth and set the good dishes. She crowded every square inch of the table's surface with turkey and mashed potatoes and pumpkin pie, a real feast for our family to share after we gave thanks for the blessings we had enjoyed during the past year.

I'll never forget how the aroma of fresh-baked pie and roast turkey wafted through the house. Whenever I think of Thanksgiving, I remember the warmth and coziness created by the sight and smells of Mom's cooking. And I remember how happy I was to have that special day to share with my parents, my two sisters, and sometimes other family members.

Oh, sure, like any other kid, I liked the idea that Thanksgiving was a day when I could eat all the turkey I could hold and follow it up with pumpkin pie and whipped cream. But I also knew the sharing of our time was as important as the meal we ate together.

I don't recall when I first saw the Norman Rockwell painting called "Freedom from Want." You remember it, I'm sure. It shows a smiling family gathered around a table set with the good China, silverware and crystal. A gray-haired woman, still in her apron, holds a large, perfectly browned turkey on a tray. An older man in suit and tie stands ready to carve the turkey and pass the slices around. It's one of Rockwell's more famous works, and with a little imagination, minus the suit and tie, it could be a photograph of my family back on the farm. To me, the Rockwell painting says the food is just the excuse to get the family together to count shared blessings.

Rockwell painted that image in 1943, in the depths of World War II. Two years earlier, President Franklin D. Roosevelt had given an address that talked of the Four Freedoms – freedom of speech, freedom to worship, freedom from want and freedom from fear. Rockwell created paintings to represent each of those four freedoms.

Times were tough then. Across the country – across much of the globe – people were sharing the misery and the hard times, making do with what little they had, pulling together. Roosevelt told the American people that the Four Freedoms of which he spoke were "no vision of a distant millennium. It is a definite basis for a kind of world attainable in our own time and generation."

Well, we haven't attained that vision yet. Men and women of good hearts continue to strive toward it, though. Women and men of courage and commitment continue to serve our country in the armed forces and in so many other ways. And here in South Dakota, we continue to see our people joining the military, volunteering after disasters, helping each other in ways too numerous to count. We see our fellow South Dakotans serving in any way they can, because we are a good people who recognize our blessings and who want to share our bounty with those less fortunate.

Linda and I wish all of you a Thanksgiving free from want and rich with the blessings of family and friends.

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Today in Weather History

November 17, 1971: Snow fell off and on from the 16th through the 18th from west central Minnesota to north central Minnesota. A series of weak low-pressure waves moving northeast generally along a Sioux City to Rochester line caused heavy snow of more than 4 inches in a narrow band from Morris to Alexandria; then the snow band widened to 100 miles from Park Rapids northeast into Canada. Milbank, South Dakota received 3 inches of snow, while Wheaton, Minnesota went from no snow on the 15th to reporting eight inches on the morning of the 17th.

November 17, 1986: Three to six inches of snow fell across eastern South Dakota on the 17th and 18th with the heaviest amount reported in Sisseton. Numerous accidents occurred in the southeast part of the state. The slick roads were a factor in the vehicle death of a woman on Interstate 29, near Beresford in Lincoln County. Browns Valley reported four inches of snow, and Milbank received 7 inches.

1927: A tornado (at times to 260 yards wide) cut a seventeen-mile path through Alexandria, Virginia across the District of Columbia from the Navy yard to Benning Rd. & 19th St. NE and Northeast to East Riverdale, Maryland. This storm injured 31 people. The tornado struck the Naval Air Station where a wind gust of 93 mph was recorded.

2013: An unusually powerful storm system spun up five dozen tornadoes from the Great Lakes to the Tennessee Valley. Two EF4 twisters struck Illinois, hitting the communities of Washington and New Minden.

1869 - Southwest winds of hurricane force swept the Berkshire and Green Mountains of New England causing extensive forest and structural damage. (David Ludlum)

1927 - A tornado cut a seventeen mile path across Alexandria and southeastern Washington, DC, injuring 31 persons. The tornado struck the Naval Air Station where a wind gust of 93 mph was recorded. A waterspout was seen over the Potomac River ninety minutes later. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1953 - The temperature at Minneapolis, MN, reached 71 degrees, their warmest reading of record for so late in the autumn. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - A storm in the Rockies produced 21 inches of snow at the Monarch ski resort in Colorado, with 14 inches reported at Steamboat Springs CO. Early morning thunderstorms in the southeastern U.S. drenched Mary Esther FL with 4.43 inches of rain. Gale force winds over the Great Lakes Region gusted to 49 mph at Johnstown PA. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Another in a series of storms brought heavy snow to the mountains of the western U.S. Totals ranged up to 17 inches at Bob Scott Summit in Nevada. Winds around Reno NV gusted to 80 mph. The Alta and Sundance ski resorts in Utah received 14 inches of snow. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Freezing temperatures overspread the southeastern U.S. in the wake of the severe weather outbreak of the previous two days. Eight cities reported record low temperatures for the date, including Gilbert AR with a reading of 8 degrees. A fast moving storm blanketed the Great Lakes Region and Upper Ohio Valley with snow during the night. Totals ranged up to 12 inches at Pellston MI and Little Valley NY. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Today



Sunny

High: 16 °F

Tonight



Clear

Low: 3 °F

Sunday



Increasing
Clouds

High: 32 °F

Sunday
Night



Mostly Cloudy

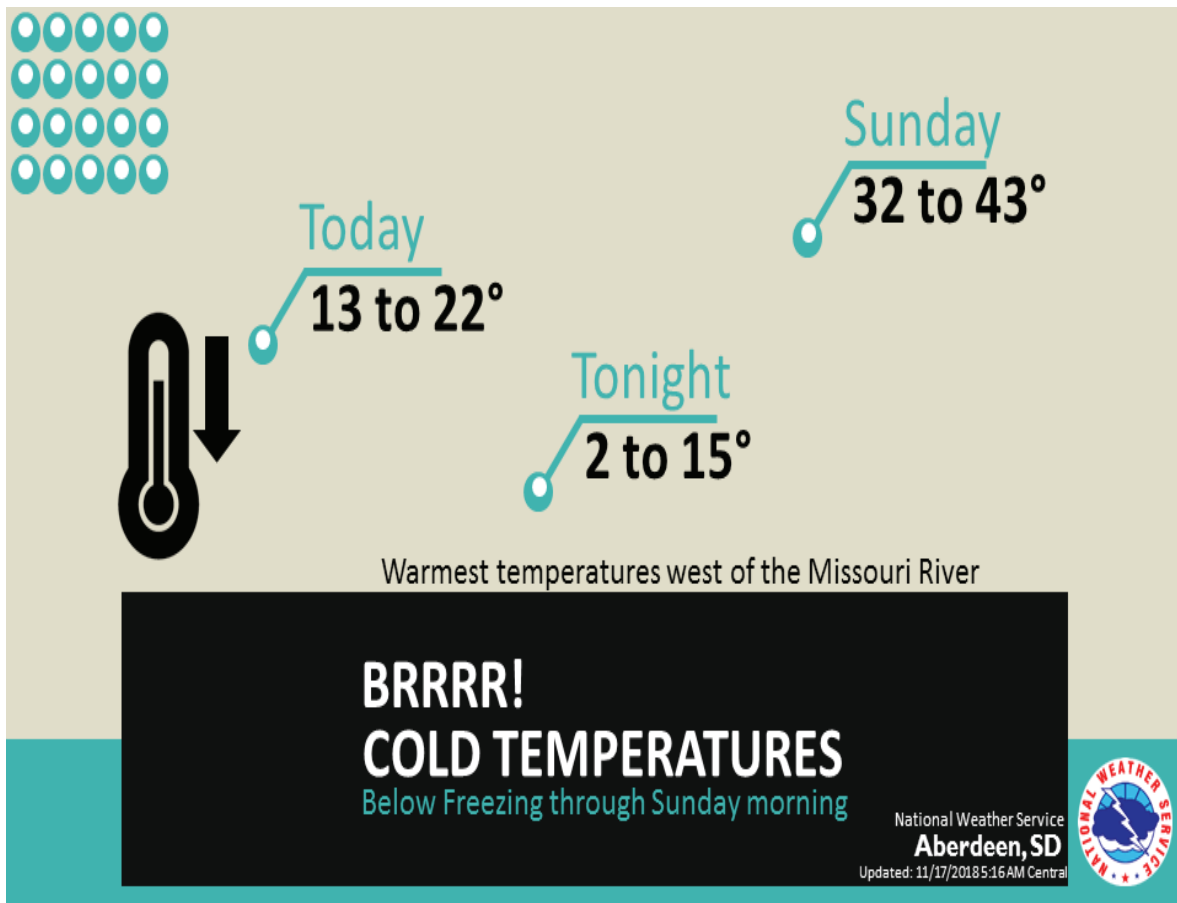
Low: 15 °F

Monday



Mostly Cloudy

High: 22 °F



Published on: 11/17/2018 at 5:19AM

Temperatures will remain below freezing through Sunday morning thanks to cold high pressure sinking in from Canada!

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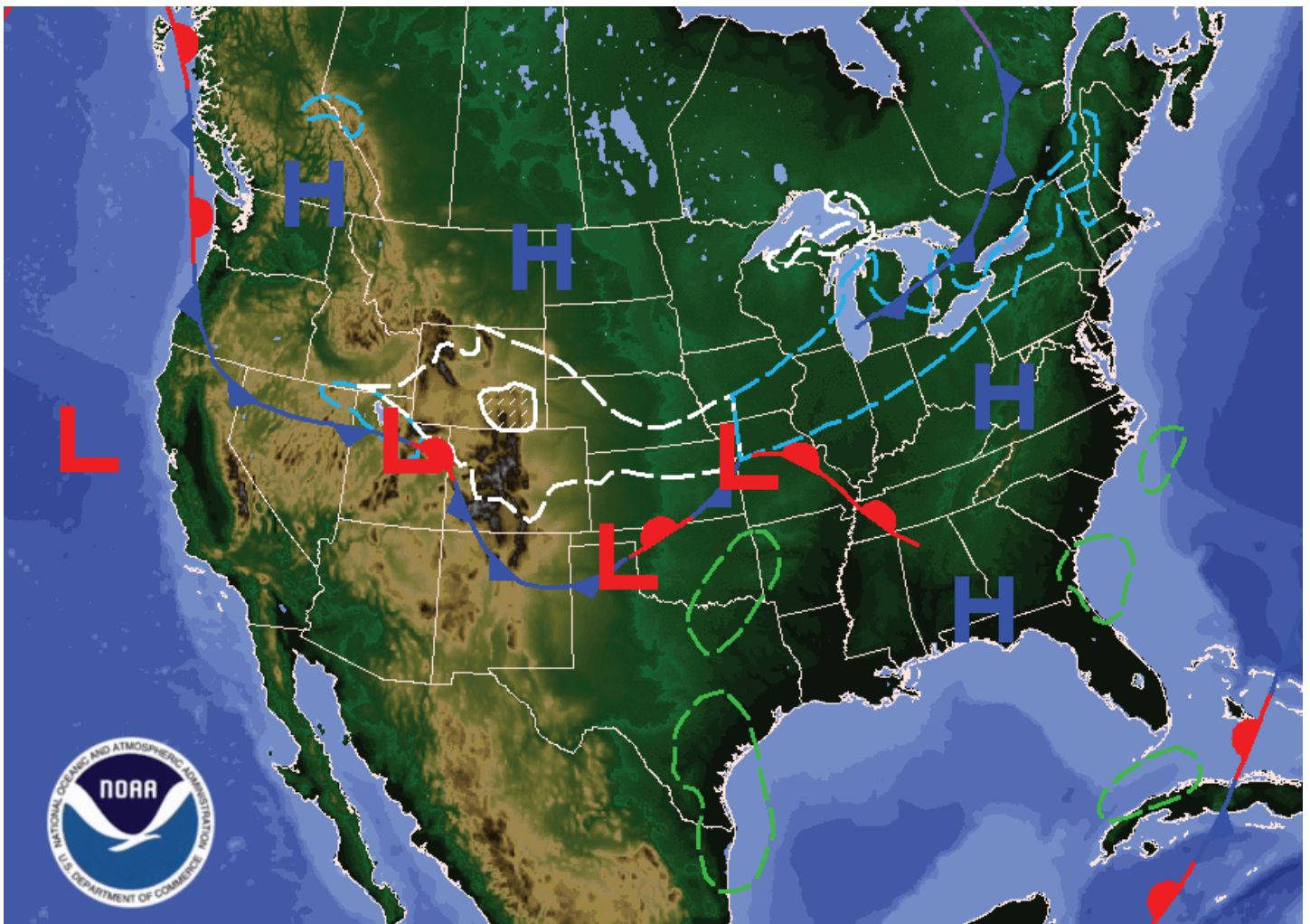
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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 28 °F at Midnight
Low Outside Temp: 18 °F at 7:30 PM
High Gust: 20 mph at 6:36 PM
Precip: 0.00 4 inches snow

Today's Info

Record High: 72° in 1953
Record Low: -8 in 1959
Average High: 39°F
Average Low: 18°F
Average Precip in Nov.: 0.43
Precip to date in Nov.: 0.76
Average Precip to date: 20.90
Precip Year to Date: 15.81
Sunset Tonight: 5:02 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:37 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sat, Nov 17, 2018, issued 4:02 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Snell 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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AWARE OF GODS PRESENCE

When days are good and times are trouble-free, we often forget that God is present in our lives and protecting us from possible tragedies. This seems to be a very real fact of history - for individuals and nations.

The children of Israel believed in God. They were aware of His goodness and grace, presence and power and had experienced them on many occasions. But, they often left Him out of their plans - as we often do. Then, when times became difficult, or when situations became uncontrollable, or beyond their - or our - ability to manage, they called on God to deliver them - like we do.

As they became absorbed in the physical, they would forget the spiritual - like we do. They would major on temporal and ignore the eternal - as we do. God was not at the center of their lives or uppermost in their thoughts. How like us!

So, the Psalmist reminded them that They soon forgot what He had done - as we do!

The word forgot is an interesting word. It signifies something that has been mislaid. In other words, they put God aside. That left a space in their hearts that had to be filled. They needed a god. So, what did they do? They made a calf, and instead of the God who called them His children, they worshiped an idol made of metal.

We were created to worship and have fellowship with the living God. If we forget that and put Him aside, we will create another god and put that god in place of the living God who loved us and gave Himself for us.

Prayer: Help us, Lord, to worship You continually and never forget the good things You do for us constantly. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 106:13-15 Yet how quickly they forgot what he had done! They wouldnt wait for his counsel! In the wilderness their desires ran wild, testing Gods patience in that dry wasteland. So he gave them what they asked for, but he sent a plague along with it.

2018 Groton SD Community Events

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

News from the Associated Press

Sioux Falls district works to improve school attendance

By SHELLY CONLON, Argus Leader

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Principal Ryan DeGraff made a point to be at the front doors of Terry Redlin Elementary when school started on a recent Wednesday.

As four or five preschoolers with puffy jackets and colored beanies waddled their way into the building, he welcomed them in.

"Are you ready for school today? Yup, we're going to school today," he said.

Even in preschool, children need to know how important it is for them to be on time and attend an entire day of learning, he said.

Once they reach kindergarten, that's where attendance rates at Terry Redlin have been 'historically poor,' and habits for missing school start to form, DeGraff said.

"It's all about starting that conversation with families," DeGraff said. "At an elementary level, it's not necessarily the students who need to get to school on time. It's understanding and letting parents know the importance of school, that if you're not here at school, you're not learning."

About three years ago, officials across the Sioux Falls School District made a concerted effort to start addressing attendance issues at various schools, the Argus Leader reported.

On average, 8 in 10 students in the city attend school most of the time. But the number of chronically absent kids is above the state average, and at least 1 in 10 kids regularly miss class.

Changing that trend is a slow process, but the needle is moving in the right direction.

The secret is a focus on one-on-one relationships with students, regular incentives and constant communication with parents by meeting them where they're at.

Terry Redlin has seen the largest attendance improvement of all the Title 1 schools — schools that receive federal funds to help student from low-income families — in the district, and the third-largest attendance improvement out of all elementary campuses in the last two school years, district data shows.

"When a parent calls and says, 'Gosh, we're going to be at an appointment,' it's about when should be a good time to have that appointment," DeGraff said. "Or it's 'I have any appointment today,' and telling them, 'Yes, you can bring them back after the appointment. It doesn't need to be a full day out.' Those different conversations we didn't always have, we're asking those questions now."

The challenge of getting kids to school is complicated by Sioux Falls' high mobility rate.

Between 15 and 20 percent of students bounce from school to school each year or leave the district all together, adding an extra challenge to the district's goal of keeping kids in class for as many consecutive days as possible.

The schools with the highest mobility rates have the lowest attendance, and Title 1 schools like Terry Redlin see the worst of it, said Doug Morrison, director of research, innovation and accountability.

The school serves more than 400 students, all of whom are economically disadvantaged, according to the most recent state data available.

Terry Redlin's mobility rate has hovered around 20 percent, meaning 1 in 5 students moves at some point during the school year, per district data. It's the fifth-highest average mobility rate for elementary schools in Sioux Falls.

"When you have 25,000 students, it's hard to move the needle at a macro level," Morrison said. "But there are some bright spots. We kind of consciously decided attendance is important because it's the highest correlation between academic achievement if you can get kids into school."

That's where community partnerships, incentives and recognition play a key role in bringing about small successes that move the needle, DeGraff said. Compared to the previous two years, Terry Redlin had more than 1,230 days of additional attendance, school data shows.

The campus has what's called a "Strive for five" campaign, encouraging students to attend all five days

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of school each week. If students do attend all five days, their names are entered for a chance to win a \$50 Walmart gift card the end of the week.

"That's a game changer for many families, it's a game changer for my family as well," DeGraff said. "We couldn't do that without the partnerships of community members."

From there, the incentives increase. Sometimes, the recognition is as big as getting your name in for a chance to win a free bicycle, a tablet or more for good attendance. Other times, it's being recognized publicly in front of your peers to encourage positive reinforcement with other students, DeGraff said.

And earlier this year, Mayor Paul TenHaken even promised a pizza party at his office for every Terry Redlin student who achieved perfect attendance.

What makes DeGraff smile most isn't the reaction these incentives bring to his students, it's the number of days they improve from year to year, he said.

"We have students who missed 30 days the year before, and they've only missed 12 days the next year," he said. "While they're still missing a lot, that's 18 school days they now had compared to this previous year. It's those extra gains, those little bit of gains we see from those students who need that extra win."

Beyond incentives though, giving parents regular updates and focusing on individual student needs has also helped at Terry Redlin and other campuses, school officials said.

"The biggest thing we've focused on is in the area of relationships and the connectedness to school," Whittier Assistant Principal Mike Moore said.

And that often means meeting parents and students where they are, Moore said.

This is the district's first full year to use KinVolved, a communication tool founded by teachers to track data and engage families through real-time, translated, text messaging.

The district rolled out the program at five or six schools last year, including Whittier Middle School. Whittier also showed the most improvement from this year to last year, but the school's average mobility rate was the second highest for Sioux Falls middle schools, excluding the Middle School Immersion Center.

Whittier also hosts attendance meetings, whether attendance is good or bad, to focus on the individual needs of students, and has students meet with mentors on a regular basis, Moore said.

"A lot of times what we see is maybe parents haven't had positive experiences in school, so (attendance) isn't high on their radar," Moore said. "We're really trying to focus on our relationships with families."

KinVolved allows school officials to give parents regular updates on their child's attendance. Sometimes, it's a message to parents praising their child's attendance, while other times, it's a message asking how the school can help find a solution to an ongoing attendance issue, Moore said.

If the school can focus on the relationship with the family, then the relationship with the student being in class and engaged in learning often improves, Moore said.

"What we've found as time has gone on is we work with a number of families where that's kind of their mode of communication," Moore said. "They don't use phones as speaking devices, so we'll have parents who may be out of minutes to talk but they're able to text."

That's allowed Whittier staff to engage with another portion of the school's population they may have struggled to reach previously, Moore said.

"The last couple of years we've really made a concentrated effort as a building, as a group of educators," Moore said. "And that's where we've been able to move the needle the largest, through building those relationships."

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

Project trains young adults with disabilities for local jobs

By TANYA MANUS, Rapid City Journal

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — More confidence, less fear, real-world job skills. Project SEARCH shows young adults with cognitive or physical disabilities how much they can offer local employers.

Project SEARCH equips students such as Justin "JB" Bryant and Michael Hauge to successfully transi-

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tion from high school to the workforce. This fall, Bryant is training at the Regional Health IT Help Desk. Hauge is learning office skills and how to be a healthier worker in Regional Health's Employee Health and Well-Being department.

By the time they complete Project SEARCH, students ideally have enough training to be employed for at least 16 hours a week, though some students ultimately work full time. Along the way, they gain new social skills and overcome fears about unfamiliar situations and interacting with new people, the Rapid City Journal reported.

"It's amazing the growth we see in our students," said Heather Hoyer, Project SEARCH program coordinator. "Our goal is that students will be able to live and contribute to society just like everybody else. It's phenomenal. They see themselves being successful."

Project SEARCH is an international program that was introduced four years ago in Rapid City. It provides intensive job training to young adults ages 18 to 21 through the collaborative efforts of community partners including Regional Health, Rapid City Area Schools, the South Dakota Department of Human Services Vocational Rehabilitation Program and Black Hills Special Services Cooperative.

Project SEARCH is funded by a grant through Vocational Rehabilitation, Hoyer said. The program might expand next year to include students from school districts in other Black Hills communities.

Regional Health is the business partner that provides on-the-job training. RCAS identifies students who would benefit from Project SEARCH. Vocational Rehabilitation pays the students a stipend while they're in Project SEARCH, so the training is much like a paid internship, according to Kaitlyn Schieffer, organizational-development analyst with Regional Health. She serves as the business liaison for Project SEARCH.

To qualify, students must have an Individualized Education Plan, must be ready for high-school completion, and need to be able to communicate effectively with others in a socially appropriate manner, Schieffer said. Because Project SEARCH is intensive, only a few students are accepted each year. Bryant and Hauge are two of five this year; two more students may be added later, Schieffer said.

"We follow the school-district calendar. That helps make a really good transition from going to school to going to work," Schieffer said. "We try and do three rotations (internships). Each is 10 to 12 weeks. ... It's an opportunity for them to get three different kinds of skill building within a year."

The rotations cater to students' abilities and interests, Schieffer said. Students can train in Information Technology, food and nutrition, environmental services, plant operations and other areas.

"It's figuring out how to tap into interests and skills the student already has and how to develop them. If we don't have a rotation that works, we try to create a new one for them. It's always growing and developing," Schieffer said.

Every day, students have one-on-one mentoring and skills coaching.

"In the afternoon, we all go to class and talk about how our day went, and if something happens we can talk about it and help fix it," Hauge said. "Overall, Project SEARCH has taught me many things that you need to know on the job and in life. It also made me realize how fun a job can be."

"The idea is by the third rotation, students should feel comfortable without needing a whole lot of skills coaching, but support is always there," Schieffer said.

Graduates from the 2017-2018 Project Search have a 70 percent employment rate; graduates from 2016-2017 year have a 100 percent employment rate, Schieffer said.

Hoyer said she's seen Project SEARCH transform lives.

"I've watched a young man who lived with his mother ... go from that to complete independence with a full-time job. He just got married and had a child," Hoyer said. "As a special-education professional, this is one of the most impactful programs I have ever seen. It impacts students, their families and their community. We are putting students into places they have never been. Inclusion is such a powerful thing."

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SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Mega Millions

33-36-63-68-69, Mega Ball: 16, Megaplier: 3

(thirty-three, thirty-six, sixty-three, sixty-eight, sixty-nine; Mega Ball: sixteen; Megaplier: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$122 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$124 million

Florida Gulf Coast rallies to beat S. Dakota State 84-78

FORT MYERS, Fla. (AP) — Haanif Cheatham scored 23 points, Christian Carlyle added 16 with five assists and Florida Gulf Coast rallied late to beat South Dakota State 84-78 on Friday night.

Carlyle's 3-point play tied it at 72 with 2:29 to play and sparked a 9-0 run in which Shadrac Casimir scored the go-ahead layup on a fast break and FGIU took a 78-72 lead with 45 seconds to play. The Jackrabbits closed to 79-78 on David Jenkins' free throw, but Dinerio Mercurius got a steal and two free throws and added a layup with five seconds left to seal it.

Troy Baxter Jr. scored 16 points and Mercurius added 14 for the Eagles (2-2), who trailed 37-30 at halftime in a game that saw 17 lead changes.

Jenkins scored 29 points, Mike Daum added 18 and Skyler Flatten had 13 for the Jackrabbits (3-1), who were outscored 48-32 in the paint.

Tubby Smith gets first win, High Point beats S. Dakota 60-56

BIMINI, Bahamas (AP) — Jahaad Proctor scored 18 points and coach Tubby Smith won his first game at High Point with a 60-56 victory over South Dakota in the first round of the inaugural Bimini Jam tournament on Friday night.

The game was tied 54-54 with 2:13 remaining. South Dakota missed a pair of free throws, and Proctor hit a 3-pointer and the Panthers led 57-56 with 44 seconds to go. Tim Cameron later drove to the basket to stretch High Point's lead to 59-56 with 20 seconds left and the Panthers held on for the win.

High Point (1-2) will play UMBC and South Dakota (2-1) faces Air Force in Saturday's semifinals.

Proctor was 6 of 10 from the field. Tim Cameron added 14 points for the Panthers.

Trey Burch-Manning scored 20 points and Triston Simpson had 11 to lead South Dakota.

A three-time National Coach of the Year, Smith returned to his alma mater after coaching the last two seasons at Memphis.

AP Exclusive: State, county officials differ on voting needs

By MATT VOLZ, Associated Press

HELENA, Mont. (AP) — Montana's midterm elections saw a record number of absentee ballots overwhelm voting machines, found election officials in a dozen counties hand-counting votes and underscored the need to replace hundreds of aging voting machines for the disabled.

But money for equipment is scarce and state law restricts when absentee ballots can be counted, meaning the circumstances that resulted in votes still being counted days after the Nov. 6 election aren't likely to change anytime soon, according to Associated Press interviews with election officials across the state.

"Elections cost money and if people want accurate returns, accurate results, then you've got to pay for them," said Dayna Causby, Missoula County's election administrator. "If you want quicker returns, you've got to fund us."

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Some help is coming from the U.S. government, which this year distributed \$380 million in grants to states to improve their election systems and security. Montana's share was \$3 million, and Secretary of State Corey Stapleton this week released the plans that he submitted in September to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission on how to spend it.

The bulk of the money, \$2 million, will go toward a new voter registration system to replace the one that was installed in 2005 to comply with the Help America Vote Act requirement that all states have a registration system. Another \$150,000 will go toward information technology security and \$100,000 will pay for the salary of Stapleton's election supervisor, Stuart Fuller.

The rest, \$750,000, will go to counties for voting equipment.

That amount isn't likely to go very far. The price of one voting machine for the disabled, which every polling place is required to have and several county officials identified as their most pressing need, starts at \$3,500. There were 343 polling locations across the state for this year's election, meaning it would cost at least \$1.2 million to replace the aging, bulky machines now being used throughout Montana.

"They're horrible," said Wheatland County election administrator Mary Miller. "I can heft those around, but for the older election judges, it's asking too much."

At the other end of the price spectrum are the speedy central-count tabulating machines that can cost up to \$120,000 apiece. Missoula County used three of those machines in this election just to count absentee ballots, which topped 50,000 this year, Causby said.

"I think that with that kind of (absentee) return rate, we either need to buy one more if not two," she said.

One of the county's machines broke down on election night, slowing a count already made difficult by a state law that forbids counties from tabulating absentee ballots until Election Day. Equipment upgrades aside, election results would come a lot more quickly if state legislators changed the law to allow officials to begin the count earlier, elections officials said.

A record 370,000 people cast absentee ballots in Montana this year. The effect wasn't just felt in large counties like Missoula, but also among the 12 smaller counties in central and eastern Montana that still count their ballots by hand.

Election officials from three of those counties said the hand-counting system has worked fine for them, but one, Vera Pederson of Sweetgrass County, said she may consider upgrading to voting machines.

"We're getting higher and higher turnouts, so it's probably something that's on the horizon," she said.

The process of distributing the \$750,000 to counties hasn't begun yet, due to miscommunication between federal and state election officials about the federal grant. Stapleton's elections director, Dana Corson, told state lawmakers this week that he was awaiting approval from the U.S. Election Assistance Commission.

EAC spokeswoman Brenda Soder told AP that the state has been free to spend the grant money since April.

Corson said the voting equipment upgrades and the new voter registration system are "co-equal priorities." The current voter registration system is at the end of its life and could become a security problem in the future, he said.

"We've been thoughtful and inclusive on how to spend the money," Corson said

Secretary of state officials did not respond to a request for a total cost estimate of a new voter registration system. Montana's current system cost about \$10 million to install and upgrade between 2004 and 2014.

Among Montana's neighboring states, Idaho also is spending some of its federal grant money — \$1 million of the \$3.2 million it was awarded — to offset the cost of a new \$4 million voter registration system. But other neighbors are spending the bulk of their money on voting equipment: Wyoming allocated \$2.8 million of its \$3 million toward equipment, North Dakota allocated all of its \$3 million and South Dakota \$2.5 million of its \$3 million.

Casey Hayes, the election supervisor for Gallatin County who worked in the Secretary of State's elections division until this summer, said he believes the federal money can go further if it's used for voting equipment than for an overhaul of the registration system.

"Two million dollars isn't going to get you very far when creating a new database," Hayes said. "You can

use that money in a meaningful way by improving the voting systems in the state, replacing the legacy systems.”

Whooping cough cases on the rise in South Dakota

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota health officials say the number of reported cases of whooping cough is on the rise this year.

Ninety cases of whooping cough, or pertussis, have been reported since the beginning of the year, the highest number of cases since 2014 when the state had 109.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says whooping cough can be deadly to infants, but is easily preventable. Pertussis is highly contagious and is spread through the air by the cough of an infected person. Early symptoms are similar to a common cold, but within two weeks the cough becomes more severe.

Infants under 6 months and the elderly are most at risk.

North Dakota regulators seek to fine TigerSwan up to \$2M

By **BLAKE NICHOLSON**, Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — North Dakota regulators are seeking up to \$2 million in fines from a North Carolina company that handled security for the developer of the heavily protested Dakota Access oil pipeline.

The figure is in an Oct. 30 complaint that the Private Investigative and Security Board filed against TigerSwan through the administrative process. The board is also appealing to the North Dakota Supreme Court its recent loss in a civil case it brought against the company in which it sought an unspecified amount in fines.

The board sued TigerSwan in June 2017, alleging that the company illegally operated in North Dakota without a state license in 2016 and 2017, when thousands of people who fear environmental harm from the pipeline flocked to the state to protest the project that is now moving North Dakota oil to Illinois.

TigerSwan maintained that it provided consulting services to Texas-based pipeline developer Energy Transfer Partners that don't require a North Dakota license and that any investigative work occurred in North Carolina, outside of the board's jurisdiction.

A state district judge this year dismissed the board's civil complaint, refusing to ban TigerSwan from the state and concluding that any decision on whether the company should be fined should be made administratively. That led to the appeal.

Board attorney Monte Rogneby alleges in the administrative complaint that TigerSwan had as many as a dozen people in North Dakota during the protest period, working on a range of tasks including consulting, fence engineering, report writing and information technology.

TigerSwan attorney Lynn Boughey said activities such as consulting and putting information in a report don't constitute investigative or security work under state law. He also called the fine amount the board is seeking "outrageous."

"They're trying to reimburse themselves for their foolish decision to come after the wrong people," he said.

The civil case has cost the board tens of thousands of dollars and forced it to dip into financial reserves and delay payment of some legal bills, according to records The Associated Press obtained last month through an open records request. TigerSwan also is suing the board for at least \$135,000 in attorney fees.

Rogneby and Board Executive Director John Shorey III have said the board is not struggling financially and that it continues to pursue the civil case because it has a duty to protect the public from unlicensed operators and wants the state Supreme Court to clarify the board's ability to seek relief in lower courts.

"That's an important issue for the board to get resolved," Rogneby said. "It protects not only this case but future cases."

TigerSwan is asking the state Supreme Court to dismiss the appeal.

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Sioux Falls man given 12 years in prison on meth charges

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Sioux Falls man has been sentenced to about 12 years in prison for distributing methamphetamine in South Dakota.

Thirty-one-year-old Brandon McGuire was indicted by a federal grand jury last April. He pleaded guilty to distribution charges in August. Authorities say McGuire and at least one other person distributed 500 grams or more of meth and that he was aware the illegal substance would be sold to drug customers.

McGuire has been sentenced to 147 months in federal prison followed by 5 years of supervised release.

Pickup rollover in Harding County kills 21-year-old man

BUFFALO, S.D. (AP) — A one-vehicle crash in Harding County killed a 21-year-old man.

The Highway Patrol says the man was driving a pickup truck that rolled in the ditch off U.S. Highway 85 about 11:15 p.m. Wednesday. The crash happened about 8 miles south of Buffalo.

The man was pronounced dead at a Spearfish hospital. His name was not immediately released.

At least 3 recounts requested in state legislative races

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota legislative candidates have requested recounts in at least three contests decided in last week's election.

KELO-TV reports the closest fight is for a Sioux Falls state Senate seat. Democratic candidate Kasey Olivier is asking county auditors in Minnehaha and Lincoln counties to take another look in her race against Republican Senate Majority Leader Blake Curd.

Unofficial results show Olivier down by 27 votes.

Minnehaha County Auditor Bob Litz says the county will have two other legislative recounts. Republican Rep. Michael Clark, of Hartford, has requested one after his third-place finish against Republican Deb Peters and Democrat Michael Saba, who led Clark by 68 votes.

Democratic Rep. Dan Ahlers, of Dell Rapids, has also requested a recount after his finish behind Jon Hansen and Rep. Tom Pischke, both Republicans. Ahlers trailed Pischke by 101 votes.

Information from: KELO-TV, <http://www.keloland.com>

City of Yankton sets record for annual precipitation

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — It's been a wet year in Yankton — wetter than any other, in fact.

The Daily Press & Dakotan reports that the city has set a record for annual precipitation, with six months still to go in the year.

Yankton has received 39.71 inches of precipitation so far in 2018. The previous record was 39.2 inches in 2010.

City records date to at least 1880.

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

Commissioners block Sioux Falls casino project

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls planning commissioners have blocked a plan for another storefront casino on a street that already has a number of gaming options.

The commissioners have rejected a conditional use permit that was needed for the casino to serve alcohol, causing businessman Johnny Phung to back out of the project. Phung wanted to open his casino along Minnesota Avenue where Power Keeno, Crown Casino Center and Jokerz are located.

The Argus Leader says the owners of Releve Studios, that would have shared their building with the casino, objected to its location. The dance studio's operators say their clients include young children, so

a casino could negatively impact their business.

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

2 hearings scheduled on new state-tribe gambling compact

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — Public hearings are planned in Sisseton and Watertown on Nov. 20 to discuss proposed amendments to the state's gambling compact with the Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux Oyate.

State Commission on Gaming Executive Secretary Larry Eliason says the new 10-year compact wouldn't increase the number of machines allowed at Dakota Sioux Casino in Watertown, nor would it allow for additional locations.

He says the primary change would be use of a new formula to calculate payments to Roberts and Codington counties.

The American News reports that the current formula is based on the number of machines in the casino. The new agreement would set up a fee schedule with certain payments each year.

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

2 sex trafficking suspects in Mitchell area plead not guilty

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Two men accused of sex trafficking in the Mitchell area have pleaded not guilty in federal court.

The Argus Leader reports that 57-year-old Timothy Bingham and 35-year-old Walter Jandreau are accused of trafficking a juvenile girl through the use of force.

They were indicted earlier this month. Sex trafficking carries a minimum sentence of 15 years in prison and a maximum sentence of life.

Jandreau also is charged with sexual exploitation of a child in the production of child pornography.

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

Midterm elections reveal effects of gerrymandered districts

By DAVID A. LIEB, Associated Press

With an election looming, courts earlier this year declared congressional districts in two states to be unconstitutional partisan gerrymanders. One map was redrawn. The other was not.

The sharply contrasting outcomes that resulted on Election Day in Pennsylvania and North Carolina illustrate the importance of how political lines are drawn — and the stakes for the nation because that process helps determine which party controls Congress.

Pennsylvania flipped from a solid Republican congressional delegation to one evenly split under a map redrawn by court order, contributing to the Democratic takeover of the U.S. House. Despite an almost even split in the popular vote, North Carolina's congressional delegation remained overwhelmingly Republican under a map drawn by the GOP.

"We did everything we could," Democrat Kathy Manning said. "But we just could not overcome the gerrymandering, and that's the way the district was designed to run."

Manning held more than 400 campaign events, contacted tens of thousands of voters and had outspent the Republican incumbent in North Carolina's 13th District — but still lost by 6 percentage points in a district Republicans drew to favor their candidates.

Partisan gerrymandering has been carried out by both Democrats and Republicans throughout U.S. history. But an Associated Press statistical analysis based on 2016 election data found that more states had Republican-tilted districts than Democratic ones. Some of the largest GOP congressional advantages were in North Carolina and Pennsylvania, where Republicans fully controlled redistricting after the 2010 Census.

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One of the Democrats' biggest edges was in Maryland, where they were in charge of the last redistricting. A follow-up AP analysis using preliminary 2018 election data shows the Republican statistical edge was cut in half under Pennsylvania's new court-ordered congressional map but grew even larger in North Carolina.

Though an increasing number of states have adopted independent commissions, many states still rely on lawmakers and governors to draw legislative and congressional districts. Republicans controlled that process in far more states than Democrats because of their electoral success nationwide in 2010. Those maps were in place for the Nov. 6 elections, except in places where courts ordered them redrawn, and will be again in 2020.

The results have national implications: Democrats potentially could have won even more seats in the U.S. House and state legislatures had it not been for Republican gerrymandering.

North Carolina is a prime example of gerrymandering's consequences.

Republicans and Democrats in this month's elections split the total votes cast for major party candidates in the state's 13 congressional districts about evenly, with Republicans getting 51 percent (a figure that is slightly inflated because one GOP incumbent ran unopposed). Yet Republicans won 10 of those races, about three-quarters of the total seats.

That equates to a pro-Republican tilt of nearly 26 percent under an "efficiency gap" analysis that provides a statistical way of measuring the partisan advantages that can stem from gerrymandering. That figure was up from about 20 percent in 2016.

By comparison, Democrats in Pennsylvania received 54 percent of this year's total two-party vote for congressional candidates, including one race where a Democratic incumbent ran unopposed. Democrats and Republicans each won 9 seats under a map drawn by the Democratic-tilted state Supreme Court with the assistance of an outside expert.

That marked a significant shift from the 13-5 Republican majority in the state's congressional delegation during the three previous general elections under a map that had been enacted in 2011 by the Republican-led Legislature and governor.

Pennsylvania's pro-Republican "efficiency gap" fell from 16 percent in the AP's 2016 analysis to 7 percent under this year's court-drawn map — a level that some political scientists attribute to the high concentrations of Democrats in urban areas that make it more difficult for them to win elsewhere.

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court redrew districts after it ruled that partisan gerrymandering in the old map infringed on a state right to "free and equal" elections. One of the Democrats who sued was Bill Marx, a high school civics teacher in Pittsburgh who said he feared that legislative gerrymandering was building apathy and cynicism in the next generation of voters.

Marx said he believes the new district boundaries resulted in "a more fair congressional representation of the will of the people in Pennsylvania."

But Pennsylvania Republican Party spokesman Jason Gottesman said the new map "put Democrats at an unfair advantage in this election." Republicans contend the court overstepped its powers by adopting new districts, a duty that belongs to the Legislature.

"The Pennsylvania Supreme Court robbed us of at least three to four congressional seats that we might not have lost if the redistricting would not have happened the way that it did," Gottesman said.

While Republicans are fuming in Pennsylvania, Democrats remain frustrated in North Carolina. There, the GOP-drawn congressional boundaries pack Democratic voters into three highly concentrated districts. Republicans are spread more evenly across the other 10 districts.

Republicans "have gerrymandered the heck out of lots of different places," said Democratic voter Melinda Wilkinson, a retired music teacher from Raleigh. She added: "It seems very unfair."

Republican state Rep. David Lewis, who helped shepherd the congressional map through North Carolina's GOP-led General Assembly, acknowledged politics played a role in the districts but said there is no evidence that Democratic voters were prevented from "fully participating and exercising their right to choose the candidates of their choice."

In August, federal judges ruled that North Carolina's congressional districts violate protections for Demo-

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cratic voters but determined there wasn't enough time to redraw them before the Nov. 6 elections. The U.S. Supreme Court is considering whether to hear an appeal in that case.

For state legislative districts, the AP's analysis has found some of the largest partisan advantages in Michigan and Wisconsin. Democrats won 52 percent of the total major party vote for the Michigan House this year and flipped several Republican-held districts, yet Republicans still won 53 percent of the seats.

Republicans controlled Michigan's last redistricting by holding the governor's office and both legislative chambers. They won't control the next redistricting: A Democrat won the governor's race, but voters made that irrelevant by approving a constitutional amendment shifting redistricting to an independent commission.

In Wisconsin, a federal judicial panel invalidated the state Assembly districts as an unconstitutional partisan gerrymander in 2016. But the U.S. Supreme Court overturned that in June and sent the case back to the lower court to establish whether there was harm to particular voters. A new trial is set for April.

Preliminary results from the 2018 elections show Wisconsin Democrats received 54 percent of the total votes cast for major party Assembly candidates — a figure inflated by the fact that Democrats ran unopposed in 30 districts compared to just eight for Republicans.

Yet Republicans won 63 of the 99 Assembly seats, just one less than their pre-election majority. That marks an increase in the pro-Republican "efficiency gap" from about 10 percent in 2016 to almost 15 percent this year. Democrats also won or are leading in elections for all of Wisconsin's statewide offices, showing voter support for their candidates in races that are not affected by gerrymandering.

Republican Assembly Speaker Robin Vos called it a "faulty premise" to say that Republicans' legislative majority is due to gerrymandering.

"We are the ones who have been given a mandate to govern," Vos said.

But Assembly Minority Leader Gordon Hintz said "Wisconsin's gerrymandered maps worked exactly as Republicans intended." He said non-competitive districts have made it increasingly difficult for Democrats to recruit candidates and raise money.

Wisconsin Progress, an organization that recruits and trains liberal candidates, said 30 of the 31 Democratic candidates it backed in Republican-held Assembly districts ended up losing in the Nov. 6 elections.

"No matter what happens, no matter who's in the White House or what the national trends are or how much money you have, you just can't beat gerrymandered seats," said Eric Couto, executive director of Wisconsin Progress. "That's the whole point of gerrymandering."

Associated Press reporters Gary Robertson in Raleigh, North Carolina, and Scott Bauer and Todd Richmond in Madison, Wisconsin, contributed to this report.

Follow David A. Lieb at: <http://twitter.com/DavidALieb>

Pelosi claims she has votes, but race for speaker goes on

By LISA MASCARO and KEVIN FREKING, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrats won the majority. Now they just need a speaker of the House.

The standoff over Nancy Pelosi's bid to regain the gavel intensified as Democrats left Washington for the Thanksgiving break in what has turned out to be an unsettling finish to an otherwise triumphant week that saw them welcome a historic class of newcomers to Capitol Hill and prepare to take control from Republicans.

Pelosi, speaker from 2007 to 2011 and the first woman to hold that job, was certain she will hold it again. Her foes were equally confident they have the votes to stop her ascension. And now President Donald Trump is getting into the fray, offering Saturday to provide Republican votes for Pelosi's candidacy even though the GOP has long used the California Democrat as an election target.

For now, it's a band of disgruntled Democrats, led mostly by men, in the forefront of the opposition. With a test vote looming in late November, and at least one potential Pelosi challenger stepping forward, Democrats are facing the uncomfortable prospect of the internal squabble that the speaker's vote Jan. 3

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could drag on for weeks.

"I think chaos is good if it's productive. I think chaos is bad if it is too disruptive and it divides us too much," said Rep. Pramila Jayapal, D-Wash., a co-chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, whose leaders were upbeat after meeting with Pelosi this past week.

"We don't have a lot of time," Jayapal said. "We need to put forward the vision of who we are as a party and what we're fighting for and so that needs to happen very, very quickly."

Pelosi was expected to work the phones from California after meeting privately Friday with newly elected Democrats who could be crucial to her bid.

Those incoming lawmakers indicated they were having good meetings with the leader, though few said the talks had changed their minds.

Rep.-elect Abigail Spanberger of Virginia said she had a "wonderful conversation" about her district's priorities, but "will not be voting" for Pelosi.

"It isn't about her, it's about wanting new leadership," said Spanberger, a former CIA operative who defeated tea party Republican Rep. Dave Brat in suburban Richmond. "There isn't anything she could say, because the decision isn't about her."

Rep.-elect Jeff Van Drew of New Jersey said he had a "pleasant" meeting, but remains a "no" on Pelosi. He is among 17 Democrats who have signed on to a letter opposing her. Van Drew said they discussed his districts and which committees he'd like to serve on. "I don't feel under pressure," he said.

Pelosi also met for 45 minutes with Rep. Marcia Fudge, D-Ohio, a potential rival for the speakership who said the two had "a very open and frank discussion," including about "the feeling in the caucus of people who are feeling left out and left behind."

Fudge said she would probably decide after Thanksgiving break whether she will run.

"To her credit, she wanted to know what my concerns were," Fudge said. "What she asked me was, basically, how we could get to a point where I'm supportive."

One question for some Democrats is what, exactly, Pelosi means when she says she intends to be a transitional leader, a bridge to a new generation. She has led the party for 15 years.

"We talked about some succession planning," Fudge said. "I think it is something our caucus is interested in knowing."

If it were up to most of the Democratic Party, Pelosi easily would win. They see her as a skilled and tested leader prepared to confront Trump and deliver on priorities.

Pelosi, 78, first became speaker after Democrats took control of the House in midterm elections during former President George W. Bush's second term. With President Barack Obama, she was pivotal in passage of the Affordable Care Act in 2010.

She appears to be winning the outside game in her bid, amassing endorsements from a who's who of the nation's Democrats. Inside the Capitol she has support from influential lawmakers such as Rep. John Lewis of Georgia, and backing from some of the incoming House members.

The internal debate is spilling out nationally, especially on social media, where Democratic activists are publicly criticizing Democratic Reps. Seth Moulton of Massachusetts and Tim Ryan of Ohio and others leading the campaign to oust Pelosi.

It's not lost on supporters that a group made up of mostly men is leading the effort. On the list of 17 names who've signed onto a letter against her, just three are women.

With a narrow Democratic majority, now at 231 seats in the 435-member House, Pelosi does not have much cushion to secure the 218 votes needed, assuming all Republicans vote against her, as expected. Some House races remain undecided and the Democratic majority could grow slightly.

There is a chance the math could shift in Pelosi's favor if lawmakers are absent or simply vote "present," meaning she would need fewer than 218 votes for an absolute majority.

Trump, trying to insert himself into the race, tweeted on Saturday that he could get Pelosi "as many votes as she wants" to become speaker. "She deserves this victory, she has earned it - but there are those in her party who are trying to take it away. She will win!"

Trump included the twitter link for Rep. Tom Reed, a New York Republican who has said he could be open to backing Pelosi if she committed to changes that would shift some power from the House leadership.

Trump's latest postelection praise of Pelosi raises questions about his sincerity, given the Republicans' election playbook of trying to tie Democrats in competitive congressional districts to Pelosi every chance they can. GOP lawmakers considering endorsing Pelosi would open themselves up to a potential primary challenges in 2020 for daring to support someone their base has reviled.

Associated Press writers Alan Fram, Matthew Daly and Mary Clare Jalonick contributed to this report.

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Recount adds to Florida's reputation for bungling elections

By TAMARA LUSH, Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — Mark Toepfer came to this spit of sand on the Tampa Bay shore to soak up the sun, drink a beer and maybe do a little fishing — not to talk about elections.

But talk he did when asked for his thoughts on whether Florida, as a judge recently put it, is “the laughingstock of the world” when it comes to voting.

“We’re the only state that has problems year after year,” the shirtless 58-year-old said, shaking his head. “Why is it like this? Is it the people in charge? Are our machines not like other states’ machines? Fraud? Incompetence? It’s hard to say.”

With races for U.S. Senate and governor still undecided, the state’s latest recount only adds to its reputation for bungling elections. To much of the world, vote-counting confusion is as authentically Florida as jam-packed theme parks, alligators on golf courses and the ubiquity of Pitbull (the Miami rapper, not the dog).

Florida’s history of election woes dates back to 2000, when it took more than five weeks for the state to declare George W. Bush the victor over Vice President Al Gore by 537 votes, thus giving Bush the presidency. Back then, punch-card ballots were punch lines. Photos of election workers using magnifying glasses to search for hanging chads and pregnant chads symbolized the painstaking process.

There are no chads this year, but there are plenty of cracks about flashbacks to the Bush-Gore contest. And, just as in 2000, the Republican candidates in the contested races have declared themselves winners and asked for the recount to stop.

Add to this a litany of other voting problems: Palm Beach County’s machines went on the fritz during the recount due to age and overwork. The electricity went out in Hillsborough County during a machine recount and resulted in an 846-vote deficit. Broward County missed the state deadline to turn in recount results by two minutes.

Those glitches led U.S. District Judge Mark Walker to ask why state officials have repeatedly failed to anticipate problems in elections.

“We have been the laughingstock of the world, election after election, and we chose not to fix this,” he said. Walker is presiding over one of several election-related lawsuits that have been filed since Nov. 6.

On Friday, election workers in all 67 counties began recounting by hand about 93,000 ballots that were not recorded by voting machines.

The entire spectacle drew late-night TV jokes. Ally Hoard, Broward county native and writer on “Late Night With Seth Myers,” was merciless in a video clip.

“How will Florida handle this recount? Not great,” she said. “Florida is a mess. The people are confused and the system is corrupt.”

But some others, like 74-year-old Dunedin resident Mary Sanders, said the “laughingstock” comment, and all the jokes, are unwarranted.

“I don’t think that now that I live here,” the New Jersey transplant said. “I guess I’m becoming more pro-Florida.”

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Sanders, a volunteer with the League of Women Voters, spent Thursday in a windowless room at the Pinellas County election supervisor's office with dozens of other observers, watching officials scrutinize ballots. She said the world doesn't see the normal side of Florida during times such as this.

"Here in Pinellas County at least, it's been a very well-run election," she said. Indeed, the recount there has been run like clockwork, with election officials giving tours of the ballot warehouse and handing reporters detailed agendas of daily activity.

Paul George, a Miami historian, isn't so certain about Florida's reputation, or as charitable as Sanders.

"We're a joke," he said.

George thinks part of the problem is that, to some degree, people come to Florida to start over. The traditions and habits they had elsewhere aren't the same in the Sunshine State.

"It's different here," he said. "If you're back home in, say, Ohio, you know the people at the precinct."

And the state has many new citizens, he said, along with confusing ballot designs. Or perhaps, he mused, election drama is something intrinsic to Florida.

"Are you aware of what happened in 1876?" he asks, with mirth in his voice.

That's when the U.S. had a hotly contested presidential election. The winner wasn't certain until March 2, 1877. Democrat Samuel Tilden won the popular vote, and Republican Rutherford B. Hayes won the Electoral College. Allegations of fraud abounded.

Votes from three states were disputed. Which state had problems?

"MORE TROUBLE IN FLORIDA," read an Associated Press headline from Jan. 6, 1877.

Trump expects CIA briefing Saturday on Khashoggi killing

By DEB RIECHMANN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump awaited a briefing Saturday from the CIA on the death of journalist Jamal Khashoggi after a U.S. official said American intelligence agencies had concluded that Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman ordered the killing. The Saudi government has denied that claim.

"We haven't been briefed yet. The CIA is going to be speaking to me today," Trump told reporters before leaving the White House for a visit to California. "As of this moment we were told that he did not play a role. We're going to have to find out what they have to say."

Trump said he will be talking with "the CIA later and lots of others" while he was on Air Force One, and would also speak with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. In his remarks outside the White House, the president spoke of Saudi Arabia as "a truly spectacular ally in terms of jobs and economic development."

"I have to take a lot of things into consideration" when deciding what measures to take against the kingdom.

The intelligence agencies' conclusion will bolster efforts in Congress to further punish the close U.S. ally for the killing. The Trump administration this past week penalized 17 Saudi officials for their alleged role in the killing, but American lawmakers have called on the administration to curtail arms sales to Saudi Arabia or take other harsher punitive measures.

The U.S. official familiar with the intelligence agencies' conclusion was not authorized to discuss it publicly and spoke only condition of anonymity Friday. The conclusion was first reported by The Washington Post.

Saudi Arabia's top diplomat has said the crown prince had "absolutely" nothing to do with the killing.

Vice President Mike Pence told reporters traveling with him at a summit of Pacific Rim nations in Papua New Guinea that he could not comment on "classified information." He said Saturday "the murder of Jamal Khashoggi was an atrocity. It was also an affront to a free and independent press, and the United States is determined to hold all of those accountable who are responsible for that murder."

The United States will "follow the facts," Pence said, while trying to find a way of preserving a "strong and historic partnership" with Saudi Arabia.

Khashoggi, a Saudi who lived in the United States, was a columnist for the Post and often criticized the royal family. He was killed Oct. 2 at the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul. Turkish and Saudi authorities say he was killed inside the consulate by a team from the kingdom after he went there to get marriage documents.

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This past week, U.S. intelligence officials briefed members of the Senate and House intelligence committees, and the Treasury Department announced economic sanctions on 17 Saudi officials suspected of being responsible for or complicit in the killing.

Among those targeted for sanctions were Mohammed al-Otaibi, the diplomat in charge of the consulate, and Maher Mutreb, who was part of the crown prince's entourage on trips abroad.

The sanctions freeze any assets the 17 may have in the U.S. and prohibit any Americans from doing business with them.

Also this past week, the top prosecutor in Saudi Arabia announced he will seek the death penalty against five men suspected in the killing. The prosecutor's announcement sought to quiet the global outcry over Khashoggi's death and distance the killers and their operation from the kingdom's leadership, primarily the crown prince.

Trump has called the killing a botched operation that was carried out very poorly and has said "the cover-up was one of the worst cover-ups in the history of cover-ups."

But he has resisted calls to cut off arms sales to the kingdom and has been reluctant to antagonize the Saudi rulers. Trump considers the Saudis vital allies in his Mideast agenda.

The Post, citing unnamed sources, also reported that U.S. intelligence agencies reviewed a phone call that the prince's brother, Khalid bin Salman, had with Khashoggi. The newspaper said the prince's brother, who is the current Saudi ambassador to the United States, told Khashoggi he would be safe in going to the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul to retrieve the documents he needed to get married.

The newspaper said it was not known whether the ambassador knew Khashoggi would be killed. But it said he made the call at the direction of the crown prince, and the call was intercepted by U.S. intelligence.

Fatimah Baeshen, a spokeswoman for the Saudi Embassy in Washington, said that claim was false.

She said in a statement issued to The Associated Press that the ambassador met Khashoggi in person once in late September 2017. After that, they communicated via text messages, she said. The last text message the ambassador sent to Khashoggi was on Oct. 26, 2017, she said.

Baeshen said the ambassador did not discuss with Khashoggi "anything related to going to Turkey."

"Ambassador Prince Khalid bin Salman has never had any phone conversations with him," she said.

"You are welcome to check the phone records and cell phone content to corroborate this — in which case, you would have to request it from Turkish authorities," Baeshen said, adding that Saudi prosecutors have checked the phone records numerous times to no avail.

The ambassador himself tweeted: "The last contact I had with Mr. Khashoggi was via text on Oct. 26, 2017. I never talked to him by phone and certainly never suggested he go to Turkey for any reason. I ask the U.S. government to release any information regarding this claim."

Trump says written responses go to Mueller team next week

By JONATHAN LEMIRE and CATHERINE LUCEY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump says he "very easily" answered written questions from special counsel Robert Mueller, though he speculated that the questions had been "tricked up" to try to catch him in a lie.

"They're all done," Trump told reporters at the White House early Saturday before leaving for California, adding that his responses will soon be submitted to Mueller's team. "We do that next week," he said, in what signals a new phase of the inquiry.

In a swipe the day before at the investigation into 2016 election interference and possible ties between Moscow and the Trump campaign, the president said that "you have to always be careful when you answer questions with people that probably have bad intentions."

Mueller has signaled a willingness to accept written answers on matters related to collusion with Russia. Trump lawyer Rudy Giuliani has said repeatedly the president would not answer Mueller's questions on possible obstruction of justice.

During months of back-and-forth negotiations with the special counsel office, Trump's lawyers have

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repeatedly counseled the president against sitting down for an in-person interview.

Mueller's year-and-a-half-long investigation has produced guilty pleas and convictions from several top Trump aides even as the special counsel and the White House have engaged in lengthy negotiations about how — or if — the president would testify.

Though he spent hours with his attorneys, Trump on Friday insisted: "My lawyers don't write answers, I write answers."

The president's remarks were fresh evidence of his return to the ominous rhythms of the Russia probe after spending heady weeks enjoying adulation-soaked campaign rallies before the midterm elections.

Despite Trump's insistence that he's "very happy" with how things are going, his frustrations with the probe have been evident everywhere from his Twitter feed this past week to his private grouching that the special counsel may target his family. There's also the criticism he's getting over his choice for acting attorney general, as well as late-arriving election results that have largely been tipping toward House Democrats.

"The inner workings of the Mueller investigation are a total mess," Trump tweeted Thursday. The investigators don't care "how many lives they can ruin," he wrote.

A day later, he tried to put a rosier shine on the situation, telling reporters: "I'm sure it will be just fine."

The president continued to maintain his innocence while launching new broadsides.

After a relative lull in the run-up to the midterms, the Russia probe has returned to the forefront of Washington conversation. There has been widespread media coverage of two Trump allies — Roger Stone and Jerome Corsi — who say they expect to be charged.

The president has expressed concerns behind closed doors that Mueller is closing in on his inner circle, including potentially his eldest son.

For months, Trump has told confidants he fears that Donald Trump Jr., perhaps inadvertently, broke the law by being untruthful with investigators in the aftermath of a June 2016 Trump Tower meeting with a Kremlin-connected lawyer, according to one Republican close to the White House.

Trump has also complained about efforts in the Senate by his longtime foe, Arizona Sen. Jeff Flake, to introduce legislation to protect the special counsel, according to the officials and Republicans.

Additionally, Trump has told confidants in recent days that he is deeply frustrated by widespread criticism of his choice of Matthew Whitaker for acting attorney general, according to four officials and Republicans close to the White House who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss private conversations. Whitaker has been a vocal opponent of the special counsel probe.

One argument against Whitaker was that he has not been confirmed by Senate. Trump contends that the criticism is unfair because Mueller also was not confirmed for his post. The special counsel position does not require confirmation, and the former FBI director was confirmed for that previous job.

The president also took note of news coverage of his former personal attorney, Michael Cohen, arriving in Washington this past week, potentially to meet with Mueller's investigators. Cohen has pleaded guilty to a series of crimes and has said under oath that Trump ordered him to make hush-money payments to cover up an affair. He has undertaken an unlikely public relations tour as he looks to make a deal to reduce his prison sentence.

The renewed focus on the looming threat from Mueller comes as Trump settles back into the day-to-day routines of governing after the whirlwind campaign in which he spent weeks in front of adoring rally crowds while whipping up his base with harsh rhetoric about migrants moving through Mexico.

He faced criticism from both sides of the aisle for his weekend trip to Paris, during which he scuttled a visit to a World War I ceremony due to bad weather and further strained ties with traditional Western allies.

On other topics:

— Despite his insistence that Americans no longer have to fear North Korea's nuclear program, news of Pyongyang's persistent weapons program made headlines this week.

— And the White House is hurriedly stepping up efforts to prepare for a series of investigations certain to be launched by Democrats once they take control of the House in January.

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Even as Trump mused in the West Wing about making staffing changes, he pushed back against media coverage of his recent setbacks.

"The White House is running very smoothly and the results for our Nation are obviously very good," Trump tweeted. "We are the envy of the world. But anytime I even think about making changes, the FAKE NEWS MEDIA goes crazy, always seeking to make us look as bad as possible! Very dishonest!"

Associated Press writer Eric Tucker contributed reporting.

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Space station supplies launched, 2nd shipment in 2 days

By **MARCIA DUNN, AP Aerospace Writer**

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — A load of space station supplies rocketed into orbit from Virginia on Saturday, the second shipment in two days.

And another commercial delivery should be on its way in a couple weeks.

"What an outstanding launch," said NASA's deputy space station program manager, Joel Montalbano.

Northrop Grumman launched its Antares rocket from Wallops Island before dawn, delighting chilly early-bird observers along the Atlantic coast. The Russian Space Agency launched its own supplies to the International Space Station on Friday, just 15 hours earlier.

The U.S. delivery will arrive at the orbiting lab Monday, a day after the Russian shipment. Among the 7,400 pounds (3,350 kilograms) of goods inside the Cygnus capsule: ice cream and fresh fruit for the three space station residents, and a 3D printer that recycles old plastic into new parts.

Thanksgiving turkey dinners — rehydratable, of course — are already aboard the 250-mile-high outpost. The space station is currently home to an American, a German and a Russian.

There's another big event coming up, up there: The space station marks its 20th year in orbit on Tuesday. The first section launched on Nov. 20, 1998, from Kazakhstan.

"As we celebrate 20 years of the International Space Station," Montalbano noted, "one of the coolest things is the cooperation we have across the globe." Then there's the U.S. commercial effort to keep the space station stocked and, beginning next year, to resume crew launches from Cape Canaveral. "To me, it's been a huge success," he said.

This Cygnus, or Swan, is named the S.S. John Young to honor the legendary astronaut who walked on the moon and commanded the first space shuttle flight. He died in January.

It is the first commercial cargo ship to bear Northrop Grumman's name. Northrop Grumman acquired Orbital ATK in June. SpaceX is NASA's other commercial shipper for the space station; its Dragon capsule is set to lift off in early December.

Experiments arriving via the Cygnus will observe how cement solidifies in weightlessness, among other things. There's also medical, spacesuit and other equipment to replace items that never made it to orbit last month because of a Russian rocket failure; the two men who were riding the rocket survived their emergency landing. Three other astronauts are set to launch from Kazakhstan on Dec. 3.

Florida high school massacre panel considers recommendations

By **TERRY SPENCER, Associated Press**

SUNRISE, Fla. (AP) — The state commission investigating the Florida high school massacre began discussions Friday on what recommendations it will make regarding student safety, mental health and steps to prevent future school shootings.

The Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Commission didn't pass any specific recommendations Friday at its latest gathering to consider the Feb. 14 attack that killed 14 students and three staff members at the school in Parkland. But it decided it will focus its initial batch of recommendations on less controversial areas such as school hardening before addressing difficult issues like mental health.

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The 14-member panel must file its initial report to outgoing Gov. Rick Scott, his successor and the Legislature by Jan. 1.

State Sen. Lauren Book, a member of the commission, said she expects all legislators will read the report and take it seriously, given the magnitude of the tragedy.

"We all within the Legislature come from different backgrounds and different knowledge bases," Book said. "Giving some information is good, getting too much into the weeds is dangerous."

Stoneman Douglas social studies teacher Ernie Rospierski, who herded students down a stairwell and used his body to barricade the door behind them after being grazed by two bullets, told commissioners to be "very careful" about putting more safety requirements on teachers because they are already overworked. But, he said, the panel needs to begin writing "the playbook" for preventing future tragedies.

"Until that is finished, we are going to see this again and again," Rospierski said.

The commissioners decided not to go through their items publicly Friday. They said they would review possible recommendations accumulated by their staff individually, submit suggestions and concerns and then debate them publicly at their meeting next month.

Meanwhile, the attorney for the sheriff's deputy who was on the campus during the massacre started a charity website to raise money for the man's legal defense. Joseph DiRuzzo III started a GoFundMe page for now-retired Broward County sheriff's Deputy Scot Peterson in hopes of raising \$150,000 "to defend him against any spurious claims of criminal liability." As of Friday afternoon, \$40 had been raised before the drive appeared shut down.

DiRuzzo noted the GoFundMe page in a lawsuit filed this week to block Scott Peterson from being forced to testify before the commission. Many commissioners have called Peterson "a coward" for not charging into the building with his handgun and confronting the shooter, who was armed with a semi-automatic rifle.

Security video shows Peterson arrived outside the three-story building where the killings happened shortly after the shooting began, about the same time the gunman finished slaying 11 people on the first floor. Peterson drew his handgun, but retreated to cover next to the neighboring building. The video shows Peterson never left that spot for 50 minutes, even after other deputies and police officers arrived on campus and went inside.

Panel members have said they believe Peterson's inaction allowed suspect Nikolas Cruz to climb to the third floor, where five students and one teacher were killed. They believe if Peterson, 55, had confronted Cruz and engaged him in a shootout he could have killed him or given others more time to reach safety.

DiRuzzo said in his lawsuit that as the first deputy on scene, Peterson was the incident commander charged with coordinating law enforcement's response until relieved by a superior. DiRuzzo said Peterson was never relieved and fulfilled that duty by directing officers into the building and ordering the closing of the school and surrounding streets.

Pinellas County Sheriff Bob Gualtieri, the panel's chairman, said Friday that DiRuzzo's lawsuit is "a work of fiction."

"Peterson did not do his job. Peterson is a failure, and he should be embarrassed and held accountable for what he did not do," Gualtieri said.

Also Friday, the commission learned that eight of the state's 67 countywide school districts haven't filed safety assessments mandated after the massacre.

State Education Commissioner Pam Stewart, a commission member, said Friday there's little she can do to districts that don't file the assessments, which were due Oct. 31. She said one county's report was delayed because of Hurricane Michael and others are completed but awaiting approval of their district school boards.

Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd, a commission member, said the new state law should require the suspension of a district's superintendent and board chair if the deadline is broken.

The panel has been meeting periodically since April and includes law enforcement, education and mental health officials, a legislator and the fathers of two dead students.

Cruz, a 20-year-old former Stoneman Douglas student, is charged with the slayings. He has pleaded not guilty, but his attorneys have said he would plead guilty in exchange for a life sentence. Prosecutors are

seeking the death penalty.

Lawyer for WikiLeaks' Assange says he would fight charges

By ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange will not willingly travel to the United States to face charges filed under seal against him, one of his lawyers said, foreshadowing a possible fight over extradition for a central figure in the U.S. special counsel's Russia-Trump investigation.

Assange, who has taken cover in the Ecuadorian Embassy in London, where he has been granted asylum, has speculated publicly for years that the Justice Department had brought secret criminal charges against him for revealing highly sensitive government information on his website.

That hypothesis appeared closer to reality after prosecutors, in an errant court filing in an unrelated case, inadvertently revealed the existence of sealed charges. The filing, discovered Thursday night, said the charges and arrest warrant "would need to remain sealed until Assange is arrested in connection with the charges in the criminal complaint and can therefore no longer evade or avoid arrest and extradition in this matter."

A person familiar with the matter, speaking on condition of anonymity because the case had not been made public, confirmed that charges had been filed under seal. The exact charges Assange faces and when they might be unsealed remained uncertain Friday.

Any charges against him could help illuminate whether Russia coordinated with the Trump campaign to sway the 2016 presidential election. They also would suggest that, after years of internal Justice Department wrangling, prosecutors have decided to take a more aggressive tack against WikiLeaks.

A criminal case also holds the potential to expose the practices of a radical transparency activist who has been under U.S. government scrutiny for years and at the center of some of the most explosive disclosures of stolen information in the last decade.

Those include thousands of military and State Department cables from Army Pvt. Bradley (now Chelsea) Manning, secret CIA hacking tools, and most recently and notoriously, Democratic emails that were published in the weeks before the 2016 presidential election and that U.S. intelligence officials say had been hacked by Russia.

Federal special counsel Robert Mueller, who has already charged 12 Russian military intelligence officers with hacking, has been investigating whether any Trump associates had advance knowledge of the stolen emails.

Assange could be an important link for Mueller as he looks to establish exactly how WikiLeaks came to receive the emails, and why its release of the communications — on the same day a highly damaging video of Trump from a decade earlier surfaced publicly — appeared timed to boost his campaign.

Assange, 47, has resided in the Ecuadorian Embassy under a grant of asylum for more than six years to avoid being extradited to Sweden, where he was accused of sex crimes, or to the United States, whose government he has repeatedly humbled with mass disclosures of classified information.

The Australian was once a welcome guest at the embassy, which takes up part of the ground floor of a stucco-fronted apartment in London's posh Knightsbridge neighborhood. But his relationship with his hosts has soured over the years amid reports of espionage, erratic behavior and diplomatic unease.

Barry Pollack, a Washington lawyer for Assange, said he expected Ecuador to "comply with its obligations" to preserve asylum for him, though he acknowledged a concern that the county could revoke his asylum, expel him from the embassy and extradite him to the U.S.

"The burden should not shift to Mr. Assange to have to defend against criminal charges when what he has been accused of doing is what journalists do every day," Pollack said. "They publish truthful information because the public has a right to know and consider that information and understand what its government and institutions are doing."

The charges came to light in an unrelated court filing from a federal prosecutor in Virginia, who was attempting to keep sealed a separate case involving a man accused of coercing a minor for sex.

The three-page filing contained two references to Assange, including one sentence that said "due to the sophistication of the defendant and the publicity surrounding the case, no other procedure is likely to keep confidential the fact that Assange has been charged."

It was not immediately clear why Assange's name was included in the document. Joshua Stueve, a spokesman for the Justice Department's Eastern District of Virginia said, "The court filing was made in error. That was not the intended name for this filing."

The filing was discovered by Seamus Hughes, a terrorism expert at the Program on Extremism at George Washington University, who posted it on Twitter hours after The Wall Street Journal reported that the Justice Department was preparing to prosecute Assange.

The case at issue concerns a defendant named Seitu Sulayman Kokayi, a 29-year-old teacher who has since been indicted in Virginia on charges of enticing a 15-year-old girl to commit sex acts and to produce child pornography. There doesn't appear to be any connection between Assange and Kokayi.

The since-unsealed document, a motion filed in late August asking to keep Kokayi's case secret, mentions Assange in two boilerplate sections, suggesting a copy-and-paste error or that his name was inadvertently left in a template used for the common filings.

The filing suggests prosecutors have reason to believe they will be able to arrest and extradite Assange.

Ecuadorian officials say they have cut off his high-speed internet access and will restore it only if he agrees to stop interfering in the affairs of Ecuador's partners, such as the U.S. and Spain. He is allowed to use the embassy's WiFi, though it is unclear if he is doing so. Officials have also imposed a series of other restrictions on Assange's activities and visitors, and ordered him to clean after his cat.

Carlos Poveda, Assange's lawyer in Ecuador, said he suspects Ecuador has been maneuvering to kick Assange out of the embassy through the stricter new living requirements it recently imposed.

He said possible U.S. charges, however, are proof his client remains under threat, and he called on Ecuador's government to uphold Assange's asylum protections. He said Ecuador would be responsible if anything happened to Assange.

With shrinking options — an Ecuadorian lawsuit seeking to reverse the restrictions was recently turned down — WikiLeaks announced in September that former spokesman Kristinn Hrafnsson, an Icelandic journalist who has long served as one of Assange's lieutenants, would take over as editor-in-chief.

In a brief interview in Reykjavik, Iceland, Hrafnsson called the U.S. news "a very black day for journalism."

Associated Press writer Raphael Satter in Paris, Chad Day in Washington and Egill Bjarnason in Iceland contributed to this report.

Link to court filing: <http://apne.ws/Me9YxB9>

Trump to visit California fire scene as death toll rises

By **SUDHIN THANAWALA, Associated Press**

PARADISE, Calif. (AP) — President Donald Trump heads to Northern California on Saturday to see first-hand the grief and devastation from the deadliest U.S. wildfire in a century, as confusion continued over how many people remain unaccounted for.

Authorities confirmed a new death toll of 71 and say they are trying to locate 1,011 people even as they stressed that not all are believed missing.

California's outgoing and incoming governors, both Democrats and vocal critics of Trump, planned to join the president Saturday. Gov. Jerry Brown and Gov.-elect Gavin Newsom welcomed Trump's visit, declaring it's time "to pull together for the people of California."

The blaze that started Nov. 8 all but razed the town of Paradise, population 27,000, and heavily damaged the outlying communities of Magalia and Concow. It destroyed more than 9,800 homes and at its height displaced 52,000 people.

Details of Trump's itinerary had not been released late Friday.

This patch of California, a former Gold Rush region in the Sierra Nevada foothills, is to some extent Trump

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country, with Trump beating Hillary Clinton in Butte County by 4 percentage points in 2016.

But Trump has stirred resentment among survivors over comments he made two days after the disaster on Twitter, then reiterated on the eve of his visit.

In an interview taped Friday and scheduled for broadcast on "Fox News Sunday," Trump said he was surprised to see images of firefighters removing dried brush near a fire, adding, "This should have been all raked out."

Asked if he thought climate change contributed to the fires, he said: "Maybe it contributes a little bit. The big problem we have is management."

Those comments echoed his initial reaction to the fires Nov. 10 when he blamed the wildfires on poor forest management and threatened then to withhold federal payments. Trump subsequently approved a federal disaster declaration.

"If you insult people, then you go visit them, how do you think you're going to be accepted? You're not going to have a parade," Maggie Crowder of Magalia said this week outside an informal shelter at a Walmart store in Chico.

But Stacy Lazzarino, who voted for Trump, said it would be good for the president to see the devastation up close: "I think by maybe seeing it he's going to be like 'Oh, my goodness,' and it might start opening people's eyes."

Firefighters returning to a command center in the neighboring city of Chico after a 24-hour shift Friday were reluctant to weigh in on Trump's visit, but some shared their thoughts.

Nick Shawkey, a CalFire captain from rural Northern California, said Trump's visit was the mark of a good leader. But to imply the state was to blame for mismanaging the forests was based on a misunderstanding because much of the forest land in California is controlled by the U.S. Forest Service, he said.

"The thing he's tweeting about is his property," Shawkey said.

Paul Briones, a firefighter from Bakersfield, predicted Trump's visit would be a huge boost to the community, showing "that this on a national level is a priority."

More than 5,500 fire personnel were battling the blaze that covered 228 square miles (590 square kilometers) and was 50 percent contained officials said.

Firefighters were racing against time with a red flag warning issued for Saturday night into Sunday, including winds up to 50 mph and low humidity. Rain was forecast for mid-week, which could help firefighters but also complicate the challenging search for remains.

"It's a disheartening situation," Butte County Sheriff Kory Honea told a news conference Friday. "As much as I wish we could get through this before the rains come, I don't know if that's possible."

The number of people unaccounted for grew to more than 1,000 on Friday. But Honea acknowledged the list was "dynamic" and could easily contain duplicate names and unreliable spellings of names.

The roster probably includes some who fled the blaze and do not realize they've been reported missing, he said.

"We are still receiving calls. We're still reviewing emails," Honea said. "This is a massive undertaking. We have hundreds and hundreds of people working on this."

Families searching for loved ones have scoured shelters and social media and say they understand the chaos of the situation, But the wait for information is agonizing.

For one family, good news arrived by telephone.

Monica Whipple said Friday she was boarding a plane back to North Carolina from Northern California when she got a call two days ago that her mother, Donna Price, had been found alive. Price had been presumed missing but was tracked down at a shelter.

"It was so crazy, I started crying in front of everybody," Whipple said. "She's doing OK."

For too many others, the wait to learn a loved one's fate has ended with bad news.

Sol Bechtold searched for his 75-year-old mother, Caddy, posting flyers of her on bulletin boards and searching for her in shelters.

On Thursday, Bechtold went to the Butte County Sheriff to provide DNA samples. As he was driving back

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to his home in Pleasanton, California, he got a call from an officer with the coroner's unit of the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office and was told his mother's remains were found in her home in the community of Magalia. The home had burned down to its concrete foundation.

"It's hard to realize your mother is gone," Bechtold said.

Family members remembered her personality, her wonderful heart and great smile, he said. She raised four children.

"It's been a pretty emotional 24 hours. Lots of tears," he said.

Associated Press writers Kathleen Ronayne in Chico and Jocelyn Gecker, Janie Har and Olga Rodriguez in San Francisco contributed to this report.

Migrants won't see armed US soldiers on border

By JULIE WATSON, Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — As thousands of migrants in a caravan of Central American asylum-seekers converge on the doorstep of the United States, what they won't find are armed American soldiers standing guard.

Instead they will see cranes installing towering panels of metal bars and troops wrapping concertina wire around barriers while military helicopters fly overhead, carrying border patrol agents to and from locations along the U.S.-Mexico border.

That's because U.S. military troops are prohibited from carrying out law enforcement duties.

What's more, the bulk of the troops are in Texas — hundreds of miles away from the caravan that started arriving this week in Tijuana on Mexico's border with California after walking and hitching rides for the past month.

Still, for many migrants the barriers and barbed wire were an imposing show of force.

Angel Ulloa stood on Tijuana's beach where a wall of metal bars more than 20 feet high cut across the sand and plunged into the Pacific. He watched as crews on the U.S. side placed coils of barbed wire on top.

A border patrol agent wearing camouflage and armed with an assault rifle — part of a tactical unit deployed when there is a heightened threat — walked in the sand below where the men worked. A small border patrol boat hovered offshore.

"It's too much security to confront humble people who just want to work," said Ulloa, a 23-year-old electrician from Choloma, Honduras, who joined the caravan to try to make his first trip to the U.S.

Now, he and his two friends were rethinking their plans. They tried to apply for a job at a Wal-Mart in Tijuana but were told they need a Mexican work permit. So they were considering seeking asylum in Mexico but were unsure of giving up their dream of earning dollars.

"We're still checking things out," he said.

On Friday, people walking through one of the world's busiest border crossings into Mexico passed by a pair of Marines on a 20-foot lift installing razor wire above a turnstile.

Nearby Army Sgt. Eric Zeigler stood guard with another soldier. Both were military police officers assigned to protecting the Marines as they work.

The 24-year-old soldier from Pittsburgh spent nine months in Afghanistan. "It's very different over there, obviously. It's a lot more dangerous," Zeigler said.

He said he was surprised when got his deployment orders sending him to the U.S.-Mexico border.

"But I'm happy to go where I'm needed" he added as a man walked by carrying shopping bags headed to Tijuana.

The U.S. military has deployed 5,800 active-duty troops to the U.S.-Mexico border.

So far, more are not expected, despite President Donald Trump's initial assessment that 10,000 to 15,000 were needed to secure the border against what he has called an "invasion" of migrants. Most in the caravan of several thousand are families, including hundreds of children.

Another 2,100 National Guard troops are have also been deployed since April as part of a separate mission. Like the military troops, they are not allowed to detain illegal crossers. Instead, they have been

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monitoring cameras and helping to erect barriers.

Of the 5,800 soldiers and Marines, more than 2,800 are in Texas, while about 1,500 are in Arizona and another 1,300 are in California. All U.S. military branches, except the Coast Guard, are barred from performing law enforcement duties.

That means there will be no visible show of armed troops, said Army Maj. Scott McCullough, adding that the mission is to provide support to Customs and Border Protection.

"Soldiers putting up wire on the border and barriers at the ports of entry will be the most visible," he said.

Marines and soldiers share the same duties in California and Arizona. These include erecting tents, setting up showers and arranging meals for troops working on the border, and assigning military police to protect them.

There are no tents or camps being set up to house migrants, McCullough said. Medics are on hand to treat troops and border patrol agents — not migrants — for cuts, bruises and any other problems.

Combat engineers — whose duties on the battlefield include setting up tactical obstacles to prevent the enemy from moving freely — are using their expertise to string wire on border walls and erect temporary fencing, McCullough said.

Construction engineers have been assigned to weld together barriers and move shipping containers to act as walls.

In Laredo, Texas, about 100 soldiers have been installing three layers of razor wire along the Rio Grande, working on the banks during the day and on the bridges at night to minimize the disruption to cross-border traffic.

The current mission is scheduled to end Dec. 15 for now. It's unclear how much it will cost and military leaders have refused to provide an estimate.

Critics have questioned the wisdom of using the military on the border where there is no discernible security threat. Since the Nov. 6 elections, Trump has said little about the matter and no border threat has materialized.

Some border communities fear the barricades will scare off Mexican shoppers. The city council in Nogales, Arizona, slashed a proposed bonus for all employees in half over concerns about how the military's presence would affect its sales tax revenue after the military closed off two lanes at its border crossing.

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis defended the deployment during a visit to the Texas border this week, asserting that in some ways it provides good training for war.

Suyapa Reyes, 35, said she was puzzled as to why she would be seen as a threat. Reyes, her mother, 12-year-old daughter and 16-year-old son left Honduras with the caravan on Oct. 13, fleeing violence and poverty in her hometown of Olanchito de Oro.

She does not want to return after coming such a long way but if she cannot get asylum and the border looks too dangerous to cross, she said she'll have no other choice.

"I'm not going to risk my life or safety nor that of my children," she said.

Associated Press writer Astrid Galvan in Phoenix contributed to this report.

This story corrects the spelling of Army Sgt. Eric Zeigler's last name. It is Zeigler, not Ziegler.

US official: US intel says prince ordered Khashoggi killing

By DEB RIECHMANN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. intelligence officials have concluded that Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman ordered the killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi, a U.S. official said Friday. The Saudi government has denied the claim.

The conclusion will bolster efforts in Congress to further punish the close U.S. ally for the killing. The Trump administration this week sanctioned 17 Saudi officials for their alleged role in the killing, but lawmakers have called on the administration to curtail arms sales to Saudi Arabia or take other harsher punitive

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measures.

The U.S. official familiar with the intelligence agencies' conclusion was unauthorized to speak publicly about it and spoke on condition of anonymity. It was first reported by The Washington Post.

Saudi Arabia's top diplomat has said the crown prince had "absolutely" nothing to do with the killing. Khashoggi, a Saudi who lived in the United States, was a columnist for the Post and often criticized the royal family. He was killed Oct. 2 at the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul. Turkish and Saudi authorities say he was killed inside the consulate by a team from the kingdom after he went there to get marriage documents.

This week, U.S. intelligence officials briefed members of the Senate and House intelligence committees and the Treasury Department announced economic sanctions on 17 Saudi officials suspected of being responsible for or complicit in the killing.

Among those targeted for sanctions were Mohammed al-Otaibi, the diplomat in charge of the consulate, and Maher Mutreb, who was part of the crown prince's entourage on trips abroad.

The sanctions freeze any assets the 17 may have in the U.S. and prohibit any Americans from doing business with them.

Also this week, the top prosecutor in Saudi Arabia announced he will seek the death penalty against five men suspected in the killing. The prosecutor's announcement sought to quiet the global outcry over Khashoggi's death and distance the killers and their operation from the kingdom's leadership, primarily the crown prince.

President Donald Trump has called the killing a botched operation that was carried out very poorly and has said "the cover-up was one of the worst cover-ups in the history of cover-ups."

But he has resisted calls to cut off arms sales to the kingdom and has been reluctant to antagonize the Saudi rulers. Trump considers the Saudis vital allies in his Mideast agenda.

The Post, citing unnamed sources, also reported that U.S. intelligence agencies reviewed a phone call that the prince's brother, Khalid bin Salman, had with Khashoggi. The newspaper said the prince's brother, who is the current Saudi ambassador to the United States, told Khashoggi he would be safe in going to the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul to retrieve the documents he needed to get married.

The newspaper said it was not known whether the ambassador knew Khashoggi would be killed. But it said he made the call at the direction the crown prince, and the call was intercepted by U.S. intelligence.

Fatimah Baeshen, a spokesperson for the Saudi embassy in Washington, said that claim was false.

She said in a statement issued to The Associated Press that the ambassador met Khashoggi in person once in late September 2017. After that, they communicated via text messages, she said. The last text message the ambassador sent to Khashoggi was on Oct. 26, 2017, she said.

Baeshen said the ambassador did not discuss with Khashoggi "anything related to going to Turkey."

"Ambassador Prince Khalid bin Salman has never had any phone conversations with him," she said.

"You are welcome to check the phone records and cell phone content to corroborate this — in which case, you would have to request it from Turkish authorities," Baeshen said, adding that Saudi prosecutors have checked the phone records numerous times to no avail.

The ambassador himself tweeted: "The last contact I had with Mr. Khashoggi was via text on Oct. 26, 2017. I never talked to him by phone and certainly never suggested he go to Turkey for any reason. I ask the U.S. government to release any information regarding this claim."

Dem struggle over Pelosi bid, with no end game in sight

By LISA MASCARO and KEVIN FREKING, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrats won the majority. Now they just need a speaker of the House.

The standoff over Nancy Pelosi's bid to regain the gavel intensified Friday as Democrats left Washington for the Thanksgiving holiday, an unsettling finish to an otherwise triumphant week that saw them welcome a historic class of newcomers to Capitol Hill and prepare to take control.

Pelosi was certain that she will be speaker once more, reviving her role as the first woman to wield the gavel. But her foes were equally confident they have the votes to stop her.

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For now, it's a band of disgruntled Democrats, led mostly by men, standing against the sweep of nationally-known Pelosi allies. With a test vote looming in late November, and at least one potential Pelosi challenger stepping forward, Democrats faced the grim prospect of the internal squabble over the Jan. 3 speaker's vote dragging on for weeks, with no clear end game in sight.

"I think chaos is good if it's productive. I think chaos is bad if it is too disruptive and it divides us too much," said Rep. Pramila Jayapal, D-Wash., a co-chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, whose leaders were upbeat after meeting with Pelosi this week.

"We don't have a lot of time," Jayapal said. "We need to put forward the vision of who we are as a party and what we're fighting for and so that needs to happen very, very quickly."

Pelosi was expected to work the phones from California after meeting privately Friday with newly-elected Democrats who could be crucial to her bid for House speaker.

The freshmen entering and exiting Pelosi's stately office off the House floor indicated they were having good meetings with the leader, though few said the talks had changed their minds to vote to support her as speaker.

Incoming Rep.-elect Abigail Spanberger of Virginia said she had a "wonderful conversation" about her district's priorities, but "will not be voting for leader Pelosi."

"It isn't about her, it's about wanting new leadership," said Spanberger, a former CIA operative who defeated tea party Republican Rep. Dave Brat in suburban Richmond. "There isn't anything she could say, because the decision isn't about her."

Another newly-elected Democrat, Rep. Jeff Van Drew of New Jersey, said he had a "pleasant" meeting, but remains a no on Pelosi as speaker. He is among 17 Democrats who have signed on to a letter opposing her. Van Drew said they discussed his districts and which committees he'd like to serve on. "I don't feel under pressure," he said.

In a key session, Pelosi also met for 45 minutes with Rep. Marcia Fudge, D-Ohio, a potential rival for the speakership who said the two had "a very open and frank discussion," including about "the feeling in the caucus of people who are feeling left out and left behind."

Fudge said she would probably decide after Thanksgiving break if she will run.

"To her credit, she wanted to know what my concerns were," Fudge said. "What she asked me was, basically, how we could get to a point where I'm supportive."

One question for some Democrats is what, exactly, Pelosi means when she says she intends to be a transitional leader, a bridge to a new generation. She has led the party for 15 years.

"We talked about some succession planning," Fudge said. "I think it is something our caucus is interested in knowing."

If it was up to most of the Democratic Party, Pelosi would win the speakership in a walk. They see her as a skilled and tested leader prepared to confront President Donald Trump and deliver on priorities.

Pelosi, 78, made history when she became the first female speaker of the House in 2007. She assumed the post after Democrats took control of the House in midterm elections during former President George W. Bush's second term. With President Barack Obama, she was pivotal in passage of the Affordable Care Act in 2010.

She appears to be winning the outside game in her bid, amassing endorsements from a who's who of the nation's Democrats. Inside the Capitol she has support from influential lawmakers like Rep. John Lewis of Georgia, and backing from some of the newly-elected freshmen.

On Friday, the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence joined the list, as did Gabby Giffords, the former Arizona congresswoman who was gravely wounded during a mass shooting in her district, and who once voted against Pelosi for speaker.

"There is no one else who we would trust more," said Kris Brown, co-president of the Brady Campaign.

The internal debate is spilling out nationally, especially on social media, where Democratic activists are publicly criticizing Rep. Seth Moulton, D-Mass., Rep. Tim Ryan, D-Ohio and others leading the campaign to oust Pelosi.

A coalition of liberal groups sounded the alarm against an overthrow being orchestrated by mostly centrist

Democrats who want to prevent the San Franciscan from being the face of the party.

MoveOn.org noted her work passing the health care law and said "Dems must reject attempts to defeat her and move caucus to the right."

It's not lost on supporters that a group made up of mostly men is leading the effort to oust her. On the list of 17 names who've signed onto a letter against her, just three are women.

"We shouldn't let a small group of white, moderate men sabotage her. We support Nancy Pelosi for Speaker of the House," tweeted Indivisible, the group that formed after the 2016 election in opposition to Trump's agenda and has activists nationwide.

Pelosi has fended off challenges before, but this one poses perhaps the biggest threat yet.

With a narrow Democratic majority, now at 231 seats, she does not have much cushion to secure the 218 votes needed on the floor if all Republicans vote against her, as expected. Some House races remain undecided and the Democratic majority could grow slightly.

There is a chance the math could shift in Pelosi's favor if lawmakers are absent or simply vote "present," meaning she would need fewer than 218 votes for an absolute majority.

Associated Press writers Alan Fram, Matthew Daly and Mary Clare Jalonick contributed to this report.

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Trump says he 'very easily' answered Mueller questions

By JONATHAN LEMIRE and CATHERINE LUCEY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump said Friday he had "very easily" answered written questions from special counsel Robert Mueller, though he speculated that the questions had been "tricked up" to try to catch him in a lie. He said he hadn't submitted his answers to investigators yet.

"You have to always be careful when you answer questions with people that probably have bad intentions," Trump told reporters in his latest swipe at the probe into 2016 election interference and possible ties between Moscow and the president's campaign.

The president did not say when he would turn over the answers to Mueller, but his attorney, Rudy Giuliani, indicated it could happen next week. The special counsel has signaled a willingness to accept written answers on matters related to collusion with Russia. But Giuliani has said repeatedly the president would not answer Mueller's questions on possible obstruction of justice.

During months of back-and-forth negotiations with the special counsel office, Trump's lawyers have repeatedly counseled the president against sitting down for an in-person interview.

Trump's written response, though not yet delivered, signals a new phase in the Mueller probe, the year-and-a-half-long investigation that has produced guilty pleas and convictions from several top Trump aides even as the special counsel and the White House have engaged in lengthy negotiations about how — or if — the president would testify.

Though he spent hours with his attorneys, Trump insisted: "My lawyers don't write answers, I write answers."

The president's remarks were fresh evidence of his return to the ominous rhythms of the Russia probe after spending heady weeks enjoying adulation-soaked campaign rallies before the midterm elections.

Despite Trump's insistence Friday that he's "very happy" with how things are going, his frustrations with the ongoing probe have been evident everywhere from his overheated Twitter feed this week to his private grouching that the special counsel may target his family. Adding to his grim outlook has been the barrage of criticism he's getting over his choice for acting attorney general and late-arriving election results that have largely been tipping toward House Democrats.

"The inner workings of the Mueller investigation are a total mess," Trump tweeted Thursday as part of a series of morning posts. The investigators don't care "how many lives they can ruin," he wrote.

A day later, he tried to put a rosier shine on the situation, telling reporters: "I'm sure it will be just fine."

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The president continued to maintain his innocence while launching new broadsides at the probe. He denied being "agitated" despite his outbursts the day before.

After a relative lull in the run-up to the midterms, the Russia probe has returned to the forefront of Washington conversation and cable news chyrons. There has been widespread media coverage of two Trump allies — Roger Stone and Jerome Corsi — who say they expect to be charged.

The president has expressed concerns behind closed doors that Mueller is closing in on his inner circle, including potentially his eldest son.

For months, Trump has told confidants he fears that Donald Trump Jr., perhaps inadvertently, broke the law by being untruthful with investigators in the aftermath of a June 2016 Trump Tower meeting with a Kremlin-connected lawyer, according to one Republican close to the White House.

Trump has also complained about efforts in the Senate by his longtime foe, Arizona Sen. Jeff Flake, to introduce legislation to protect the special counsel, according to the officials and Republicans.

Additionally, Trump has told confidants in recent days that he is deeply frustrated by widespread criticism of his choice of Matthew Whitaker for acting attorney general, according to four officials and Republicans close to the White House who spoke on condition of anonymity. Whitaker has been a vocal opponent of the special counsel probe.

One argument against Whitaker was that he has not been confirmed by Senate. Trump, in turn, contended that the criticism was unfair since Mueller also was not confirmed for his post. The special counsel position does not require confirmation, and the former FBI director was confirmed for that previous job.

The president also took note of news coverage of his former personal attorney, Michael Cohen, arriving in Washington this week, potentially to meet with Mueller's investigators. Cohen has pleaded guilty to a series of crimes and has said under oath that Trump ordered him to make hush-money payments to cover up an affair. He has undertaken an unlikely public relations tour as he looks to make a deal to reduce his prison sentence.

The renewed focus on the looming threat from Mueller comes as Trump settles back into the day-to-day routines of governing after the whirlwind campaign in which he spent weeks in front of adoring rally crowds while whipping up his base with harsh rhetoric about migrants moving through Mexico.

He faced criticism from both sides of the aisle for his weekend trip to Paris, during which he scuttled a visit to a World War I ceremony due to bad weather and further strained ties with traditional Western allies.

On other topics:

— Despite his insistence that Americans no longer have to fear North Korea's nuclear program, news of Pyongyang's persistent weapons program made headlines this week.

— And the White House is hurriedly stepping up efforts to prepare for a series of investigations certain to be launched by Democrats once they take control of the House in January.

Even as Trump mused in the West Wing about making staffing changes, he pushed back against media coverage of his recent setbacks.

"The White House is running very smoothly and the results for our Nation are obviously very good," Trump tweeted. "We are the envy of the world. But anytime I even think about making changes, the FAKE NEWS MEDIA goes crazy, always seeking to make us look as bad as possible! Very dishonest!"

Associated Press writer Eric Tucker contributed reporting.

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Fire deaths rise to 71 ahead of Trump's California visit

By KATHLEEN RONAYNE and SUDHIN THANAWALA, Associated Press

CHICO, Calif. (AP) — With the confirmed death toll at 71 and the list of unaccounted for people more than 1,000, authorities in Northern California on Friday searched for those who perished and those who survived the fiercest of wildfires ahead of a planned visit by President Donald Trump.

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The president on Saturday is expected to get a look at the grief and damage caused by the deadliest U.S. wildfire in a century, and he could face resentment from locals for blaming the inferno on poor forest management in California.

In an interview taped Friday and scheduled for broadcast on "Fox News Sunday," Trump said he was surprised to see images of firefighters removing dried brush near a fire, adding, "This should have been all raked out."

Deputies found eight more bodies Friday, bringing the death toll to 71.

The number of people unaccounted for grew from 631 on Thursday night to more than 1,000 on Friday, but Sheriff Kory Honea said the list was dynamic and could easily contain duplicate names and unreliable spellings of names.

He said the roster probably includes some who fled the blaze and do not realize they've been reported missing.

"We are still receiving calls, we're still reviewing emails," Honea said Friday.

Some on the list have been confirmed as dead by family and friends on social media. Others have been located and are safe, but authorities haven't gotten around to marking them as found.

Tamara Conry said she should never have been on the list.

"My husband and I are not missing and never were!" Conry wrote Thursday night on Facebook. "We have no family looking for us. ... I called and left a message to take our names off."

Authorities compiled the list by going back to listen to all the dispatch calls they received since the fire started, to make sure they didn't miss anyone.

In last year's catastrophic wildfires in California wine country, Sonoma County authorities at one point listed more than 2,000 people as missing. But they slowly whittled down the number. In the end, 44 people died in several counties.

The wildfire this time all but razed the town of Paradise, population 27,000, and heavily damaged the outlying communities of Magalia and Concow on Nov. 8, destroying 9,700 houses and 144 apartment buildings, authorities said.

Firefighters were gaining ground against the blaze, which blackened 222 square miles (575 square kilometers). It was 45 percent contained and posed no immediate threat to populated areas. Crews managed to stop it from spreading toward Oroville, population 19,000.

This patch of California, a former Gold Rush region in the Sierra Nevada foothills, is to some extent Trump country, with Trump beating Hillary Clinton in Butte County by 4 percentage points in 2016.

But some survivors resent that Trump took to Twitter two days after the disaster to blame the wildfires on poor forest mismanagement. He threatened to withhold federal payments from California.

"If you insult people, then you go visit them, how do you think you're going to be accepted? You're not going to have a parade," Maggie Crowder of Magalia said Thursday outside an informal shelter at a Walmart parking lot in Chico.

But Stacy Lazzarino, who voted for Trump, said it would be good for the president to see the devastation up close: "I think by maybe seeing it he's going to be like 'Oh, my goodness,' and it might start opening people's eyes."

In his Fox News interview on the eve of his visit, the president repeated his criticism. Asked if he thought climate change contributed to the fires, he said, "Maybe it contributes a little bit. The big problem we have is management."

Nick Shawkey, a captain with the state fire agency, said the president's tweet blaming poor forest management was based on a "misunderstanding." The federal government manages 46 percent of land in California.

"The thing he's tweeting about is his property," Shawkey said.

California's outgoing and incoming governors said they would join Trump on Saturday.

Democrats Gov. Jerry Brown and governor-elect Gavin Newsom said they welcomed the president's visit and "now is a time to pull together for the people of California." Brown and Newsom have been vocal

critics of Trump.

There were also worries the presidential visit would be disruptive.

"It's already a zoo here and I don't care who the president is. He needs to wait because the traffic's already horrendous," said Charlotte Harkness, whose home in Paradise burned down. "He could just tweet something nice — three words: 'I am sorry,' and that's fine."

More than 450 searchers continued looking for human remains in the ashes.

Around 52,000 people have been driven out and have gone to shelters, motels and the homes of friends and relatives. With winter coming on, many are seeking answers on what assistance will be provided.

At the Chico Mall where the Federal Emergency Management Agency and others set up an assistance center, 68-year-old Richard Wilson sought information about lodging. His wife is nearly bedridden from lupus and fibromyalgia.

"We're having to stay at a Marriott, which is like \$100 a night, and we're running out of money," Wilson said as he stood outside in rubber sandals and no socks — the only footwear he had when he fled the flames that destroyed his home.

In Southern California, meanwhile, more residents were being allowed back in their homes near Los Angeles after a blaze torched an area the size of Denver and destroyed more than 600 homes and other structures. The blaze was 69 percent contained, authorities said.

At least three deaths were reported.

Schools across a large swath of the state were closed because of smoke, and San Francisco's world-famous open-air cable cars were pulled off the streets.

Associated Press reporters Janie Har and Olga Rodriguez in San Francisco contributed to this report.

This story has been corrected to show that Crowder spoke by Walmart and that Wilson spoke at an assistance center.

Number of missing hard to peg in deadly California wildfire

By JANIE HAR, Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — More than 1,000 people are unaccounted for after a deadly Northern California wildfire, but authorities warned Friday that the roster is fluid and contains "raw data," including the names of people who are safe.

Some of the people on the ever-evolving list compiled by the Butte County sheriff's office have been confirmed dead by family and friends on social media. Others have been found safe, but authorities have not yet marked them as such.

And some, like Tamara Conry, say they never should have been on the list.

"My husband and I are not missing and never were!" Conry wrote Thursday night on a Facebook page dedicated to finding people from the fire zone in and around the incinerated town of Paradise. "We have no family looking for us ... I called and left a message to take our names off."

The confusion stems from the difficulty authorities face putting together a tally of the missing as they pore through hundreds of reports filed by people who could not reach loved ones in the aftermath of a blaze that spread with astonishing speed last week. It became the deadliest U.S. wildfire in a century.

Butte County Sheriff Kory Honea initially said 110 people were missing, then revised the number to more than 220. He put it at 130 on Wednesday but released a list the same night with 300 names.

He dramatically raised the number to 631 late Thursday and then to 1,011 on Friday.

He said staff continues to collect information by email and phone calls and are updating the list. They're also going through a surge of calls that came in during the disaster's frantic early hours.

"It's difficult. Because we have a significant event, an unprecedented event where a massive amount of people were displaced from their homes, all over Northern California," Honea said Friday.

Jan Walcott of Oakland has been tweeting since the day after the fire started Nov. 8 that she was look-

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ing for her 78-year-old sister, Joyce Acheson, who lives in Paradise and has disabilities.

When the list of missing emerged, her sister's name was on it, along with someone with a similar spelling, Joyce Atchison — prompting speculation they might be the same person. But that's not the case.

"There were two people with similar names, and it caused confusion," Walcott said.

Her sister has still not been located. She said she is staying in touch with the sheriff's office and checking social media for updates.

The wildfire has killed at least 71 people, with the number climbing daily.

Sheriff's office spokeswoman Miranda Bowersox said Friday that the list of people who are unaccounted for is not a real-time reflection of who is missing. She said the office is distributing the names widely in the hope anyone on it might call in and say they're OK.

"They might not be in the area anymore. There might be friends and family here who don't know they left, that they went to another area," she said.

Conry, whose Paradise house escaped largely unscathed, said she left a voicemail with the sheriff's office Thursday night and called again Friday morning and talked to a person.

"She was excited to hear that we were OK," said Conry, who is 55 and not 72 as the list reported.

Conry said friends and family knew she and her husband were all right because they had her cellphone numbers and she was posting on social media. She realizes that might not be the case for others.

"Nobody calls our home line except for telemarketers," she said.

In last year's wine country wildfires, Sonoma County authorities at one point listed more than 2,000 people as missing but slowly whittled down the number. In the end, 44 people died in that series of fires in several California counties.

Associated Press writer Jocelyn Gecker in San Francisco contributed to this report.

This story has been corrected to show Butte County Sheriff Kory Honea's name was misspelled.

Abrams ends Georgia governor bid, says she'll file lawsuit

By BILL BARROW and KATE BRUMBACK, Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Democrat Stacey Abrams ended 10 days of post-election drama in Georgia's closely watched and even more closely contested race for governor Friday, acknowledging Republican Brian Kemp as the victor while defiantly refusing to concede to the man she blamed for "gross mismanagement" of a bitterly fought election.

The speech Abrams delivered at her campaign headquarters Friday evening marked the close of the 44-year-old attorney and former lawmaker's unsuccessful attempt to make history as America's first black woman governor. Since Election Day her campaign fought on, insisting efforts to suppress turnout had left thousands of ballots uncounted that otherwise could erode Kemp's lead and force a runoff election.

Kemp, the 55-year-old businessman who oversaw the election as Georgia's secretary of state, will keep the governor's office in GOP hands as the state's third Republican governor since Reconstruction. He responded to Abrams ending her campaign by calling for unity and praising his opponent's "passion, hard work, and commitment to public service."

The kind words came just days after Kemp's campaign spokesman derided Abrams' efforts to have contested ballots counted as a "disgrace to democracy."

Abrams made no such retreat from her criticisms of Kemp, saying she refused "to say nice things and accept my fate." Instead, she announced plans to file a federal lawsuit to challenge the way Georgia's elections are run. She accused Kemp of using the secretary of state's office to aggressively purge the rolls of inactive voters, enforce an "exact match" policy for checking voters' identities that left thousands of registrations in limbo and other measures to tilt the outcome in his favor.

"Let's be clear: This is not a speech of concession," Abrams said. "Because concession means to acknowledge an action is right, true or proper. As a woman of conscience and faith, I cannot concede that."

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The race grabbed the attention of the nation, with Barack Obama and Oprah Winfrey campaigning for Abrams in the final days and President Donald Trump holding a rally for Kemp.

Unofficial returns showed Kemp ahead by roughly 60,000 votes out of nearly 4 million cast on Nov. 6. Kemp declared himself governor-elect the next day and stepped down as Georgia's secretary of state, though thousands of absentee and provisional ballots remained uncounted.

Abrams, meanwhile, sent volunteers across the state in search of voters whose ballots were rejected. She filed suit in federal court to force county elections boards to count absentee ballots with incorrect birthdates. Her campaign even planned for possible litigation to challenge the election's certified outcome.

Abrams didn't take that route. She said she had concluded "the law currently allows no further viable remedy." Instead, she said she would fight to restore integrity to Georgia's election system in a new initiative called Fair Fight Georgia.

"In the coming days, we will be filing a major federal lawsuit against the state of Georgia for the gross mismanagement of this election and to protect future elections from unconstitutional actions," Abrams said, though she gave no details.

Kemp tried to move past the contentious campaign even if his opponent wasn't willing.

"The election is over and hardworking Georgians are ready to move forward," he said. "We can no longer dwell on the divisive politics of the past but must focus on Georgia's bright and promising future."

Kemp had been secretary of state since 2010. He was backed by and had embraced Trump as he tried to maintain GOP dominance in a state that hasn't elected a Democrat to the governor's mansion since 1998.

Trump praised the Democrat in lauding Kemp's victory, tweeting: "Congratulations to Brian Kemp on becoming the new Governor of Georgia. Stacey Abrams fought brilliantly and hard -- she will have a terrific political future! Brian was unrelenting and will become a great Governor for the truly Wonderful People of Georgia!"

Kemp stormed to the GOP nomination with ads featuring everything from the candidate cranking a chain saw and jokingly pointing a gun toward a teen male suitor of his daughter, to Kemp's offer to "round up criminal illegals" himself in his pickup truck. He's promised a tax cut and teacher pay raises and pledged to continue Georgia's refusal to expand Medicaid insurance under President Barack Obama's 2010 health care overhaul.

Abrams' campaign sparked huge energy across the state and she became a national Democratic star. Election turnout among both sides' energized bases nearly equaled that of the 2016 presidential vote.

Aides close to Abrams said that since the election she had been wrestling with competing priorities: She wanted to advance her assertions that Georgia's elections process — which Kemp managed as secretary of state — makes it too hard for some citizens to vote. But she also recognized that a protracted legal fight would harm that cause and potentially her political future.

Kemp's victory is an important marker for Republicans ahead of the 2020 presidential election. Kemp's narrow margin already suggests that Georgia, a state Trump won by 5 percentage points in 2016, could be a genuine battleground in two years. Trump bet big on Kemp, endorsing him ahead of Kemp's Republican primary runoff and campaigning for him the weekend prior to the Nov. 6 election. Now, Trump will be able to return with an incumbent governor as he seeks a second term.

Abrams' political future is less certain. She made believers of old-guard Democrats in Georgia who didn't think a black woman could compete in a general election, and she emerged as the party's clear leader. But the party also has plenty of other ambitious politicians who will want to take advantage of the path that Abrams' has charted. The next big shot for Democrats is a 2020 Senate race, with Republican Sen. David Perdue making his first re-election attempt.

Follow Barrow on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/BillBarrowAP> and Brumback at <https://twitter.com/kate-brumback>.

Tijuana mayor: Caravan influx to last at least 6 months

By ELLIOT SPAGAT, Associated Press

TIJUANA, Mexico (AP) — With about 3,000 Central American migrants having reached the Mexican border across from California and thousands more anticipated, the mayor of Tijuana said Friday that the city was preparing for an influx that will last at least six months and may have no end in sight.

Juan Manuel Gastelum said there were 2,750 migrants from the caravan in Tijuana and that estimates by Mexico's federal government indicate the number could approach 10,000.

"No city in the world is prepared to receive this — if I'm allowed — this avalanche," he said during a news conference at City Hall. "It is a tsunami. There is concern among all citizens of Tijuana."

U.S. border inspectors are processing only about 100 asylum claims a day at Tijuana's main crossing to San Diego, creating long waits. Asylum seekers register their names in a tattered notebook managed by migrants themselves that had more than 3,000 names even before the caravan arrived.

Along the nearly 3,000 miles (nearly 5,000 kilometers) from the caravan's origin in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, to this city on the Pacific Ocean, the migrants have stopped in most places for only a single night, with some exceptions.

That overwhelmed small towns in southern Mexico in particular — but only briefly. The migrants' expected long stay in Tijuana has raised concerns about the ability of the teeming border city of more than 1.6 million to handle the influx.

Pleading for financial support from the Mexican government, Gastelum sternly warned migrants against criminal behavior, though authorities reported only seven arrests so far — five for drug consumption and two for disorderly conduct.

"Supposedly they are fleeing catastrophe, mistreatment in their countries of origin. How is it possible that they arrive here and, if they want, create disorder?" the mayor said. "It's not right."

His language linking the latest arrivals to crime underscores how the caravan is already testing Tijuana's proud history as a melting pot for immigrants, a tradition that Gastelum also highlighted.

A municipal gymnasium and recreational complex that has been converted to a shelter was expected to register up to 1,000 people Thursday night but ended up housing more than 2,000, including more than 400 children.

Tijuana officials said they opened the shelter as part of an effort to keep migrants out of public spaces. The city's privately run shelters are meant to have a capacity of 700.

At the municipal shelter, long lines formed for showers and meals of tuna casserole or noodle soup with coffee. Outdoor canopies covered rows of mattresses and blankets.

A woman singing Mexican "ranchera" music on a loudspeaker drew a small crowd, while men congregated in circles to play cards. Eighteen new portable toilets on a grass field made bathroom lines disappear.

U.S. President Donald Trump, who sought to make the caravan a campaign issue in last week's elections, took to Twitter on Friday to aim some new criticism at the migrants.

"Isn't it ironic that large Caravans of people are marching to our border wanting U.S.A. asylum because they are fearful of being in their country — yet they are proudly waving ... their country's flag. Can this be possible? Yes, because it is all a BIG CON, and the American taxpayer is paying for it," he said in a pair of tweets.

Migrant Ronald Calderon, who picked coffee beans back in Honduras, said he would seek asylum in the U.S. if he felt there was a 90 percent chance of success. But he figures the odds are long and doesn't want to risk being deported, so he hopes to find work and settle in Tijuana.

"I see that Donald Trump talks about us as criminals and killers, and I don't think an opportunity may present itself," said Calderon, 23.

Andrea Ramirez, 42, said that her siblings were killed by gangs in Honduras and that she registered her name Friday to seek asylum in the U.S.

"The only thing we want is not to go back to Honduras," Ramirez said.

Also Friday, another caravan set out from Mexico City heading toward the border.

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Gastelum, the mayor, wondered why the migrants chose Tijuana instead of other Mexican cities on the U.S. border, vaguely suggesting a sinister plot without elaborating.

"There is an intention to do things badly. There is an intention to prejudice Tijuana, and we cannot allow that," he said.

His comments marked a contrast to a more welcoming tone from other officials. Francisco Rueda, the top deputy to Baja California Gov. Francisco Vega de la Madrid, said Thursday that the state had 7,000 jobs available for any migrants who obtain legal status in Mexico.

Gustavo Magallanes, director of Baja California's migrant attention agency, said Friday that the state is doing the best it can at a difficult time and that, nearing the end of the year, agencies at all levels of government lack funds.

The governor had also asked federal officials to speak to their U.S. counterparts about possibly accelerating asylum processing, he said.

Magallanes said the governor had not ordered that more migrants be prevented from arriving in Tijuana, but said state officials were telling people in the caravan they might get processed faster in the city of Mexicali because the list in Tijuana is so long.

Magallanes said it was "likely" the migrants could be waiting in Tijuana for four to six months. The state government plans to push them to regularize their immigration status in Mexico so they can be offered work.

He said he could not speak for Tijuana's mayor but believed his comments had been misinterpreted.

"We are looking for the best way for these Central American migrants ... to be able to be in the best situation in this state," Magallanes said.

Associated Press writer Christopher Sherman in Mexico City contributed to this report.

William Goldman, Oscar winner for 'Butch Cassidy,' has died

By JAKE COYLE, AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — William Goldman, the screenwriter and Hollywood wise man who won Academy Awards for "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid" and "All the President's Men" and summed up the mystery of making a box office hit by declaring "Nobody knows anything," has died. He was 87.

Goldman's daughter, Jenny, said her father died early Friday in New York due to complications from colon cancer and pneumonia. "So much of what's he's written can express who he was and what he was about," she said, adding that the last few weeks, while Goldman was ailing, revealed just how many people considered him family.

Goldman, who also converted his novels "Marathon Man," "Magic" and "The Princess Bride" into screenplays, clearly knew more than most about what the audience wanted, despite his famous and oft-repeated proclamation. He penned a litany of box-office hits, was an in-demand script doctor and carved some of the most indelible phrases in cinema history into the American consciousness.

Goldman made political history by coining the phrase "follow the money" in his script for "All the President's Men," adapted from the book by Washington Post reporters Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein on the Watergate political scandal. The film starred Robert Redford as Woodward and Dustin Hoffman as Bernstein. Standing in the shadows, Hal Holbrook was the mystery man code-named Deep Throat who helped the reporters pursue the evidence. His advice, "Follow the money," became so widely quoted that few people realized it was never said during the actual scandal.

A confirmed New Yorker, Goldman declined to work in Hollywood. Instead, he would fly to Los Angeles for two-day conferences with directors and producers, then return home to fashion a script, which he did with amazing speed. In his 1985 book, "Adventures in the Screen Trade," he expressed disdain for an industry that elaborately produced and tested a movie, only to see it dismissed by the public during its first weekend in theaters.

"Nobody knows anything," he wrote.

In the book, Goldman also summed up to the screenwriter's low stature in Hollywood. "In terms of

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authority, screenwriters rank somewhere between the man who guards the studio gate and the man who runs the studio (this week)," wrote Goldman.

But for a generation of screenwriters, including Aaron Sorkin, Goldman was a mentor.

"He was the dean of American screenwriters and generations of filmmakers will continue to walk in the footprints he laid," Sorkin said in a statement. "He wrote so many unforgettable movies, so many thunderous novels and works of non-fiction, and while I'll always wish he'd written one more, I'll always be grateful for what he's left us."

Goldman launched his writing career after receiving a master's degree in English from Columbia University in 1956. Weary of academia, he declined the chance to earn a Ph.D., choosing instead to write the novel "The Temple of Gold" in 10 days. Knopf agreed to publish it.

"If the book had not been taken," he told an interviewer, "I would have gone into advertising ... or something."

Instead, he wrote other novels, including "Soldier in the Rain," which became a movie starring Steve McQueen. Goldman also co-authored a play and a musical with his older brother, James, but both failed on Broadway. (James Goldman would later write the historical play "The Lion in Winter," which he converted to film, winning the 1968 Oscar for best adapted screenplay.)

William Goldman had come to screenwriting by accident after actor Cliff Robertson read one of his books, "No Way to Treat a Lady," and thought it was a film treatment. After he hired the young writer to fashion a script from a short story, Goldman rushed out to buy a book on screen writing. Robertson rejected the script but found Goldman a job working on a screenplay for a British thriller. After that he adapted the Ross Macdonald novel "The Moving Target" into the 1966 detective film, "Harper," starring Paul Newman.

He broke through in 1969 with the blockbuster "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid," starring Newman and Redford. Based on the exploits of the real-life "Hole in the Wall" gang of bank robbers, the movie began a long association with Redford, who also appeared in "The Hot Rock," "The Great Waldo Pepper" and "Indecent Proposal." Goldman's script set a then-record \$400,000 (or about \$2.9 million today).

Though the sum made Goldman a target in an industry that had long devalued screenwriters, the price proved worth it. "Butch Cassidy" was the year's biggest box office hit, grossing \$102 million (or close to \$700 million today).

"All the President's Men" (1976) further enhanced Goldman's reputation as a master screenwriter, though he initially had a low opinion of the project ("Politics were anathema at the box office, the material was talky, there was no action," he later wrote) and was even regretful afterward because of the production's headaches, including the use of multiple writers.

"We had a long earlier history and I'm sorry to hear of his passing," Redford said in a statement.

Other notable Goldman films included "The Stepford Wives," "A Bridge Too Far" and "Misery." The latter, adapted from a Stephen King suspense novel, won the 1990 Oscar for Kathy Bates as lead actress.

In 1961 Goldman married Ilene Jones, a photographer, and they had two daughters, Jenny and Susanna. The couple divorced in 1991. Goldman passed away Friday in the Manhattan home of his partner, Susan Burden.

Born in Chicago on Aug. 12, 1931, Goldman grew up in the suburb of Highland Park. He graduated from Oberlin College in 1952 and served two years in the Army.

Goldman wrote more than 20 novels, some of them under pen names. "The Princess Bride," published in 1973, was presented as Goldman's abridgment of an older version by "S. Morgenstern." The scheme, he said, was liberating.

"I never had a writing experience like it. I went back and wrote the chapter about Bill Goldman being at the Beverly Hills Hotel and it all just came out. I never felt as strongly connected emotionally to any writing of mine in my life," Goldman once said. "It was totally new and satisfying and it came as such a contrast to the world I had been doing in the films that I wanted to be a novelist again."

The film, directed by Rob Reiner, grew into a cult classic, adding more phrases of Goldman's to the lexicon: "As you wish," "Inconceivable!" and "Hello. My name is Inigo Montoya. You killed my father. Prepare to die!"

Reiner on Friday said he had seen Goldman just days earlier. He called "The Princess Bride" his favorite book. "I was honored he allowed me to make it into a movie," Reiner said on Twitter.

Despite all his success as a screenwriter, Goldman always considered himself a novelist. He didn't rate his scripts as great artistic achievements.

"A screenplay is a piece of carpentry," he once said. "And except in the case of Ingmar Bergman, it's not an art, it's a craft."

The late AP Entertainment Writer Bob Thomas contributed to this report.

CNN's Acosta back at White House after judge's ruling

By JESSICA GRESKO and MICHAEL BALSAMO, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal judge ordered the Trump administration on Friday to immediately return the White House press credentials of CNN reporter Jim Acosta, though a lawsuit over the credentials' revocation is continuing.

U.S. District Court Judge Timothy Kelly, an appointee of President Donald Trump, announced his decision at a hearing Friday morning. The judge said Acosta's credentials must be reactivated to allow him access to the White House complex for press briefings and other events.

Acosta, CNN's chief White House correspondent, was back in the afternoon. The White House said it would be developing new rules for orderly press conferences.

The White House revoked Acosta's credentials last week after he and Trump tangled verbally during a press conference following the midterm elections. CNN sued and asked the judge to issue a temporary restraining order forcing the White House to give back Acosta's credentials. The judge agreed.

CNN alleged that Acosta's First and Fifth Amendment rights were violated when the White House revoked his "hard pass."

While the judge didn't rule on the underlying case, he ordered Acosta's pass returned for now in part because he said CNN was likely to prevail on its Fifth Amendment claim — that Acosta hadn't received sufficient notice or explanation before his credentials were revoked or been given sufficient opportunity to respond before they were.

The judge said the government could not say who initially decided to revoke Acosta's hard pass and how that decision was reached.

"In response to the court, we will temporarily reinstate the reporter's hard pass," White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said in a statement. "We will also further develop rules and processes to ensure fair and orderly press conferences in the future."

Speaking to reporters after the decision, Trump said, "If they don't listen to the rules and regulations, we will end up back in court and we will win."

He later added: "We want total freedom of the press. It's very important to me, more important to me than anybody would believe. But you have to act with respect when you're in the White House, and when I see the way some of my people get treated at press conferences, it's terrible. So we're setting up a certain standard, which is what the court is requesting."

The White House had spelled out its reasons for revoking Acosta's credentials in a tweet from Sanders and in a statement after CNN filed its lawsuit. But the judge said those "belated efforts were hardly sufficient to satisfy due process."

But the judge also emphasized the "very limited nature" of his ruling Friday. He noted he had not determined that the First Amendment was violated.

The judge told attorneys to file additional court papers in the case by Monday.

On Friday afternoon, more than 50 members of the White House press corps greeted Acosta as he strode through the northwest gate of the presidential compound. He said he was grateful for the judge's ruling, that it was a test and the media passed the test.

"This is just any other day at the White House for me and I would like to get back to work," he said.

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Trump has made his dislike of CNN clear since before he took office and continuing into his presidency. He has described the network as "fake news" both on Twitter and in public comments.

At last week's press conference, Trump was taking questions from reporters and called on Acosta, who asked about Trump's statements about a caravan of migrants making its way to the U.S.-Mexico border. After a terse exchange, Trump told Acosta, "That's enough," several times while calling on another reporter.

Acosta attempted to ask another question about special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia investigation and initially declined to give up a handheld microphone to a White House intern. Trump responded to Acosta by saying he wasn't concerned about the investigation, calling it a "hoax," and then criticized Acosta, calling him a "rude, terrible person."

Hours later, the White House pulled Acosta's credentials.

The White House's explanations for why it seized Acosta's credentials have shifted over the past week.

Sanders initially explained the decision by accusing Acosta of making improper physical contact with the intern seeking to grab the microphone.

But that rationale disappeared after witnesses backed Acosta's account that he was just trying to keep the microphone and Sanders distributed a doctored video that made it appear Acosta was more aggressive than he actually was.

On Tuesday, Sanders accused Acosta in a written statement of being unprofessional by trying to dominate the questioning at the news conference.

Health care, energy companies power US stock market higher

By ALEX VEIGA, AP Business Writer

Wall Street capped a day of volatile trading with a late-afternoon buying spree that sent U.S. stock indexes to a mostly higher finish Friday.

Despite the 11th-hour rally, the benchmark S&P 500 index ended with its second weekly loss in four weeks.

Gains in health care and energy companies powered the market higher.

The market got a brief boost after President Donald Trump expressed optimism that the U.S. and China will reach a deal to resolve their costly trade dispute. The remarks came as representatives of both countries have resumed talks.

Large retailers and media and communications companies were the laggards.

"The market and market participants are more unsettled now than they have been in years," said Tom Martin, senior portfolio manager with Globalt Investments. "We're that much further on in the cycle and you have these tariffs and trade wars that are really still in the very early stages."

The S&P 500 index rose 6.07 points, or 0.2 percent, to 2,736.27. The Dow Jones Industrial Average gained 123.95 points, or 0.5 percent, to 25,413.22. The Nasdaq composite slid 11.16 points, or 0.2 percent, to 7,247.87. The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies picked up 3.41 points, or 0.2 percent, to \$1,527.53.

The S&P 500, which finished higher for the second straight day, ended the week with a loss of 1.6 percent.

Like much of this week, the market spent much of Friday veering between bouts of listless trading and modest swings.

"Investors are really trying to figure out how they want to be positioned based on the incoming information," Martin said. "It's not surprising to me that at this time of year, given what we've seen, that we're getting the intraday moves we're getting."

One of the day's market swings came as traders reacted to Trump's remarks on trade.

At the White House, speaking about the lingering trade dispute, the president said he hoped the U.S. could make a deal with China.

"I think a deal will be made," Trump said. "We'll find out very soon."

Stocks snapped higher after the remarks were reported, with the Dow briefly jumping as much as 220 points, before pulling back to about where they were beforehand.

Soybean futures spiked after Trump's comments. Soybean prices have fallen sharply since this Spring as

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the trade dispute with China led to a steep drop in China's purchases of U.S. soybeans. Soybean futures jumped from \$8.83 to \$8.92 a bushel following the comments. They had traded as high as \$10.78 a bushel in early March.

The Trump administration has imposed a 10 percent tariff on \$200 billion of Chinese goods over complaints Beijing steals or pressures foreign companies to hand over technology as the price of market access. That tariff is set to rise to 25 percent in January. Another \$50 billion of Chinese goods already is subject to 25 percent duties. Beijing has responded with penalty duties on \$110 billion of American goods.

Washington and Beijing resumed talks over their spiraling trade dispute this week ahead of a meeting between President Xi Jinping and Trump, China's Commerce Ministry said Thursday.

Health care stocks were among the biggest gainers Friday. Universal Health Services gained 3.9 percent to \$133.

Troubled California power provider PG&E surged 37.5 percent to \$24.40 after the president of the utility's state regulator said it was essential for a power company to have the financial strength to operate safely. The remark late Thursday by California Public Utilities Commission President Michael Picker appeared to reassure investors concerned the company may face a torrent of costs related to the devastating wildfire in Northern California. There's been speculation that PG&E's equipment may have set off the blaze, which started Nov. 8 and has killed at least 56 people.

Chipmaker Nvidia led a sell-off in technology stocks. The company plunged 18.8 percent to \$164.43 after saying it had a large number of unsold chips because of a big drop in mining of cryptocurrencies.

Retailers also weighed on the market. Nordstrom cratered 13.7 percent to \$50.93 after the department store issued weak guidance for the full year. That disappointing outlook overshadowed the company's third-quarter results, which topped Wall Street's estimates.

Williams-Sonoma tumbled 11.2 percent to \$53.76 after the cookware seller said products were delayed because of shipping congestion out of China ahead of U.S. tariffs.

The price of U.S. crude oil finished flat after a two-day winning streak. Benchmark U.S. crude oil was unchanged at \$56.46 a barrel in New York. Brent crude, used to price international oils, gained 0.2 percent to \$66.76 a barrel in London. Despite the latest uptick, U.S. crude oil is still down about 13 percent for the month.

The pickup in oil prices helped lift energy stocks. Helmerich & Payne rose 4.2 percent to \$62.59.

In other energy trading, heating oil held steady to \$2.07 a gallon and wholesale gasoline jumped 1.3 percent to \$1.58 a gallon.

Natural gas, which spiked earlier this week amid forecasts calling for a cold snap across much of the Northeast and South, continued to climb Friday, adding 5.8 percent to \$4.27 per 1,000 cubic feet. It is now up around 32 percent this month.

Bond prices rose. The 10-year Treasury fell to 3.07 percent from 3.11 percent late Thursday.

The dollar fell to 112.83 yen from 113.58 yen on Thursday. The euro strengthened to \$1.1412 from \$1.1348. The pound rose to \$1.2831 from \$1.2791.

The price of gold rose 0.7 percent to \$1,223 an ounce. Silver gained 0.8 percent to \$14.38 an ounce. Copper climbed 1.9 percent to \$2.80 a pound.

Major European stock indexes closed lower as trade tensions and political risks surrounding Britain's exit from the European Union kept investors cautious. Germany's DAX lost 0.1 percent and France's CAC slid 0.2 percent. Britain's FTSE 100 gave up 0.3 percent.

In Asia, Japan's Nikkei 225 index lost 0.6 percent while the Hang Seng in Hong Kong added 0.3 percent. South Korea's Kospi rose 0.2 percent.

VW wants to storm car market with cheaper electric model

By DAVID McHUGH, AP Business Writer

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) — Volkswagen intends to invest 44 billion euros (\$50 billion) in the electric and autonomous car technologies expected to reshape the industry — and said it would make battery-powered vehicles more accessible to mass-market auto buyers by selling its new I.D. compact for about what a Golf diesel costs.

The investment plans for the next five years aim to make Volkswagen “a worldwide supplier of sustainable mobility,” Chairman Hans Dieter Poetsch said Friday. He added that the company is in talks with Ford about possible cooperation in making light commercial vehicles.

Established automakers as well as several U.S. startups are rolling out electric models to compete with Tesla, currently the market leader. Auto companies need electrics to meet new environmental standards in many countries.

In Europe, manufacturers need to sell more battery-powered cars to meet tougher EU limits on carbon dioxide emissions that come into force 2021 and aim to fight global warming. Automakers like Volkswagen, Daimler and BMW risk penalties of thousands of euros per vehicle if they can’t meet requirements for lower average emissions.

Authorities in China, where Volkswagen gets much of its profit, have also mandated a bigger share of electrics and hybrids.

Yet right now, such vehicles remain a niche market due to higher price and lack of places to charge. Battery-only vehicles were only 0.6 percent of the market in the European Union last year. They are running from 1 to 2 percent of U.S. new-vehicle sales so far this year.

Major new models unveiled in recent weeks from Daimler’s Mercedes-Benz and Volkswagen’s Audi brand have been expensive SUVs; Audi’s e-tron starts at a German price of 80,000 euros. The starting price for Tesla’s Model X is around \$80,700 while the Model S starts around \$74,500.

VW’s upcoming I.D. compact could take mass-market buyers from Tesla’s Model 3, a mass-market car with a base price of \$35,000 before tax credits. In reality, though, you can’t order one yet for less than \$46,000.

Poetsch said the I.D. compact would be about the cost of a Golf diesel today, which is priced at 23,875 euros in Germany, according to Volkswagen’s website, and goes up as options are added. The next model up the scale starts at 30,625 euros.

General Motors, Nissan and Mitsubishi already are selling mass-market electric vehicles, but they’re still more costly than cars with gasoline engines, and they haven’t sold in great numbers.

Higher cost is one reason consumers are not yet buying purely electric vehicles in large numbers. The lack of charging points is another, leaving many owners of electric vehicles to use them mainly in cities or for shorter trips. Volkswagen and other automakers are working together on building a freeway network of fast-charging stations to enable longer trips with battery powered cars.

Chinese automakers as well as U.S. startup companies also are getting into the electric car market. Rivian, a Detroit-area company, plans to unveil a high-end electric pickup and SUV later this month, to go on sale in late 2020. Lucid Motors, a Newark, California, startup whose leadership includes six former Tesla executives, plans to deliver its first cars in 2020 as well.

The shift to electric cars is a big one for a company the size of Volkswagen, which has over 600,000 employees and makes about 10 million vehicles a year.

It is converting three of its German plants from internal combustion to battery car production as it pivots away from diesel vehicles in the wake of its emissions scandal. It says it will increase the number of electric models from six now to more than 50 by 2025.

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Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Saturday, Nov. 17, the 321st day of 2018. There are 44 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 17, 1973, President Richard Nixon told Associated Press managing editors in Orlando, Florida: "People have got to know whether or not their president is a crook. Well, I'm not a crook."

On this date:

In 1558, Elizabeth I acceded to the English throne upon the death of her half-sister, Queen Mary, beginning a 44-year reign.

In 1800, Congress held its first session in the partially completed U.S. Capitol building.

In 1869, the Suez Canal opened in Egypt.

In 1889, the Union Pacific Railroad Co. began direct, daily railroad service between Chicago and Portland, Oregon, as well as Chicago and San Francisco.

In 1917, French sculptor Auguste Rodin (roh-DAN') died in Meudon at age 77.

In 1947, President Harry S. Truman, in an address to a special session of Congress, called for emergency aid to Austria, Italy and France. (The aid was approved the following month.)

In 1979, Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini ordered the release of 13 black and/or female American hostages being held at the U.S. Embassy in Tehran.

In 1987, a federal jury in Denver convicted two white supremacists of civil rights violations in the 1984 slaying of radio talk show host Alan Berg. (Both men later died in prison.)

In 1997, 62 people, most of them foreign tourists, were killed when militants opened fire at the Temple of Hatshepsut (haht-shehp-SOOT') in Luxor, Egypt; the attackers were killed by police.

In 2001, the Taliban confirmed the death of Osama bin Laden's military chief Mohammed Atef in an airstrike three days earlier.

In 2003, Arnold Schwarzenegger was sworn in as the 38th governor of California.

In 2006, former "Seinfeld" star Michael Richards unleashed a barrage of racial epithets during a stand-up routine at the Laugh Factory in West Hollywood.

Ten years ago: In their first meeting since the election, Barack Obama and former rival John McCain met at the president-elect's transition headquarters in Chicago, where they pledged to work together on ways to change Washington's "bad habits." St. Louis Cardinals slugger Albert Pujols won his second NL MVP award.

Five years ago: Intense thunderstorms and tornadoes swept across the Midwest, causing extensive damage in several central Illinois communities, killing more than half a dozen people. A Tatarstan Airlines Boeing 737 crashed 450 miles east of Moscow, killing all 50 people on board. Doris Lessing, 94, an independent and often irascible author who won the Nobel Prize in 2007, died in London.

One year ago: Sen. Al Franken apologized to the woman who had accused him of forcibly kissing her and groping her during a 2006 USO tour; the Minnesota Democrat said he remembered the encounter differently. The Rev. Jesse Jackson disclosed that he had been receiving outpatient care for two years for Parkinson's disease. Argentina's Navy said it had lost contact with a submarine carrying 44 crew members off the country's southern coast; an explosion occurred near the time and place where the sub went missing. (Argentina eventually gave up hope of finding survivors; the search for the sub was unsuccessful.)

Today's Birthdays: Sen. James Inhofe, R-Okla., is 84. Rock musician Gerry McGee (The Ventures) is 81. Singer Gordon Lightfoot is 80. Singer-songwriter Bob Gaudio is 77. Movie director Martin Scorsese (skor-SEH'-see) is 76. Actress Lauren Hutton is 75. Actor-director Danny DeVito is 74. "Saturday Night Live" producer Lorne Michaels is 74. Baseball Hall of Famer Tom Seaver is 74. Movie director Roland Joffe is 73. Former Democratic National Chairman Howard Dean is 70. Former House Speaker John Boehner (BAY'-nur) is 69. Actor Stephen Root is 67. Rock musician Jim Babjak (The Smithereens) is 61. Actress Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio is 60. Actor William Moses is 59. Entertainer RuPaul is 58. Actor Dylan Walsh is 55. Former

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National Security Adviser Susan Rice is 54. Actress Sophie Marceau is 52. Actress-model Daisy Fuentes is 52. Blues singer/musician Tab Benoit (behn-WAH') is 51. Rhythm-and-blues singer Ronnie DeVoe (New Edition; Bell Biv DeVoe) is 51. Rock musician Ben Wilson (Blues Traveler) is 51. Actor David Ramsey is 47. Actor Leonard Roberts is 46. Actress Leslie Bibb is 45. Actor Brandon Call is 42. Country singer Aaron Lines is 41. Actress Rachel McAdams is 40. Rock musician Isaac Hanson (Hanson) is 38. Actor Justin Cooper is 30. Musician Reid Perry (The Band Perry) is 30. Actress Raquel Castro is 24.

Thought for Today: "Since others have to tolerate my weaknesses, it is only fair that I should tolerate theirs." — William Allen White, American journalist (1868-1944).