

Groton Daily Independent

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

Removal, Grinding, Chipping, Trimming
605-725-WOOD
Mason Dinger: 605-216-6098
Trevor Zeck: 605-216-8910



DAKOTA TREE COMPANY

Groton Area Schedule of Events

Monday, November 19, 2018

5:00pm- 7:00pm: Family Night at GHS Gymnasium
7:00pm: City Council Meeting at Groton Community Center

Tuesday, November 20, 2018

4:00pm: Basketball: Girls 7th/8th Game vs. Aberdeen Roncalli @ Groton Area High School (7th Grade 4pm 8th Grade 5pm)

November 21-23, 2018

No School - Thanksgiving Break

Monday, November 26, 2018

6:00pm: Wrestling: Boys JH Tournament v s .
Faulkton Area @ Faulkton High School

Tuesday, November 27, 2018

3:30pm: Debate at Groton Area High School (Sippel Novice)

6:00pm: Basketball: Girls 7th/8th Game vs. Clark/Willow Lake @ Clark Junior-Senior High School (7th grade 6pm 8th grade 7pm)

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Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

On a surprisingly mild mid-November night, the Minnesota Vikings were defeated by the Chicago Bears 25-20. The final score makes it seem like the game was close, but, the Bears out-played the Vikings in every facet of the game. Chicago (7-3) now have a firm lead in the NFC North, with Minnesota (5-4-1) in second place. Head coach Mike Zimmer is now 2-3 in games after the bye-week.

The Vikings offense was not prepared for Chicago's ferocious defense. Khalil Mack and Akiem Hicks terrorized the Vikings offensive line, and Kirk Cousins was under duress every time he dropped back to pass. Cousins completed 30 of 46 passes for 262 yards, two touchdowns and two interceptions - although most of those yards and one of those touchdowns came late in the game when the Vikings were in desperation mode.

The Vikings passing game was bad, but the running game was worse. The Vikings only ran the ball 14 times for 22 yards - a measly 1.6 yards per carry. Dalvin Cook was finally healthy, but the Vikings failed to find a way to get him in space, where his athleticism could make a difference. Cook also fumbled in this game, further highlighting how horribly the Vikings run game was on Sunday.

The Vikings defense was nowhere close to the dominant unit we know they can be, but they weren't the reason the Vikings lost the game. The defense held Bears' quarterback Mitch Trubisky to 165 yards and one touchdown while picking him off twice. Trubisky made big plays when he needed to, however, and that includes him running the ball 10 times for 43 yards. As a team, the Bears gashed the Vikings' defense on the ground, carrying the ball 39 times for 148 yards. The Vikings did have seven tackles for a loss and six pass break ups, but they were unable to put pressure on Trubisky, finishing the game with only one sack and two quarterback hits.

The player of the game on offense was Stefon Diggs. With the rest of the offense falling apart around him, Diggs was the only player who truly gave 100% on every play. He caught 13 passes for 126 yards and a touchdown, but the most impressive part was his hustle. Every time Diggs touched the ball, he was fighting for extra yards by juking defenders out of their shoes or powering through tackles.

The player of the game was Anthony Harris, who was starting at safety because Andrew Sendejo is still nursing an injury. Harris had half of the Vikings' six pass breakups, and he was also responsible for the Vikings' two interceptions. Harris has played well as he fills in for Sendejo, and he has proven he deserves some playing time even after he goes back to second-string.

Looking ahead, the Vikings will once again be playing on Sunday Night Football, when they return home and take on the Green Bay Packers. The game will start at 7:20pm (CT) and will air on NBC. The winner of the game will have second place in the NFC North, and the loser is going to have a hard time making a comeback if they plan to make the playoffs. As of right now, ESPN is giving the Vikings a 56% chance to win the game. Hopefully the Vikings have a bounce back week, as this game could determine the rest of the season. Skoll!

If you have any questions, reach out to me on Twitter (@JordanWrightNFL)



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

Groton Care & Rehab
1106 N 2nd St, Groton

Free Will Donation

Protect your Family from Future Scourges

Vaccines protect people from illness with minimal risk.

Smallpox has been around for many millennia. For thousands of years, the virus caused a deadly illness that killed more than 35 percent of adults and 80 percent of children who contracted the disease. That is until the smallpox vaccine was discovered in 1796. Noting that milk maids rarely got smallpox, British rural physician Edward Jenner found that deliberate infection with the milder cowpox disease provided substantial immunity to smallpox. After decades of improvement to the vaccine and a campaign lead by the World Health Organization, global deaths from smallpox were reduced from two million per year in 1967 to zero in 1977. Human smallpox infections were virtually eliminated from this world because of vaccinations.



By Richard P. Holm M.D.

Another example of clever manipulation of the immune system is the story of a pneumonia vaccine. In a 2003 study, researchers noted there had been a huge drop in hospitalizations of the elderly for pneumonia, with 12,000 fewer yearly deaths—especially in those older than 85. This is the result of routine childhood pneumonia vaccination. Although we now encourage two different pneumonia vaccines for those older than 65, the authors of the study claim that it was the routine vaccination of children that was responsible for the reduction of pneumonia in the elderly. Thus, herd immunity profoundly protects immune deficient adults by reducing their exposure to sick kids.

There have been dangerous and untrue rumors that vaccinations in children are responsible for autism. Despite the natural human wish to find something to blame for this condition, autism appears in similar rates in children who are given and not given vaccinations. Don't get me wrong, some vaccines carry risks, but it all depends on the specific type of vaccine and what disease it is treating. Most vaccines are incredibly safe.

Take for example the vaccine for Dengue fever, where the risk of side effects is significant. With Dengue vaccine, ten children are saved for every one child who is harmed. Compare that with the measles, mumps, rubella (MMR) vaccine series given in the U.S. which has mild temporary side effects including fussiness, mild fever, injection-site soreness, affecting one child in four. There is temporary mild joint pain, rash, mild glandular swelling, and loss of appetite affecting one in 50, and high fever and platelet problems affecting one in 25,000. Much better than Dengue vaccine. The benefits of the MMR vaccine far outweigh the risks. That is why we routinely give people the MMR vaccine and only give people the Dengue vaccine if they have a high chance of exposure.

Vaccination, a clever manipulation of our immune system, protects us from the scourges of the future. Watch On Call with the Prairie Doc® most Thursdays at 7 p.m. central on SDPTV and follow the Prairie Doc® on Facebook and YouTube for free and easy access to the entire Prairie Doc® library.

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Today in Weather History

November 19, 1981: A storm system moved from southeast Nebraska through Iowa on the 18th and spread rain and sleet as well as a few thunderstorms into southern Minnesota. Rain and sleet began changing over to snow during the afternoon on the 18th and continued through the 19th. The most substantial snowfall was in the Minneapolis area. The 10.4 inches of snow reported from the National Weather Service office in the Twin Cities was the heaviest snowfall recorded at the office since March 22nd, to the 23rd, 1965 when 13.6 inches fell. The storm knocked out power and phones to many in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. Damage was also done to the Humber H. Humphrey Metrodome, where the weight of the heavy snow caused the newly inflated, fabric dome collapsed and ripped.

November 19, 1996: Widespread freezing rain spread a layer of ice across a large area before changing over to snow during November 19-20. Snowfall amounts were 1 to 3 inches in central South Dakota, 3 to 7 inches across north central South Dakota, 5 to 6 inches in west central Minnesota, and 4 to 12 inches across northeast South Dakota. Travel was difficult, and several schools were closed or delayed. Mail delivery was also slowed or postponed for a day or two. Several, mainly minor accidents, resulting in several minor injuries, occurred as a result of the ice and snow covered roads. Two Milbank buses slid into ditches. Strong north winds led to near-blizzard conditions across northeast South Dakota on the 20th. Some snowfall totals included; 12.0 inches in Clear Lake and near Milbank; 10.1 inches near Mellette; 9.0 inches in Browns Valley; 8.3 inches near Big Stone City; 8.0 inches in Faulkton; and 7.0 inches in Britton and Conde.

1921: The Columbia Gorge ice storm finally came to an end. In Oregon, 54 inches of snow, sleet and glaze blocked the Columbia River Highway at The Dalles. Apart from traffic on the river itself, all transportation between Walla Walla WA and Portland, OR came to a halt. Nine trains were stopped as railroads were blocked for several days.

1930: A rare, estimated F4 tornado struck the town of Bethany, Oklahoma. Between 9:30 am and 9:58 am CST, it moved north-northeast from 3 miles west of the Oklahoma City limits, and hit the eastern part of Bethany. About 110 homes and 700 other buildings, or about a fourth of the town, were damaged or destroyed. Near the end of the damage path, 3.5 miles northeast of Wiley Post Airfield, the tornado hit the Camel Creek School. Buildings blew apart just as the students were falling to the floor and looking for shelter, and five students and a teacher were killed. A total of 23 people were killed and another 150 injured, with 77 being seriously injured. Damage estimates were listed at \$500,000.

1957 - Nineteen inches of snow covered the ground at Cresco, IA, a record November snow depth for the state. (The Weather Channel)

1981 - An unusually early snowstorm struck the Twin Cities of Minnesota, with as much as a foot of snow reported. The weight of the heavy snow caused the newly inflated fabric dome of the Hubert Humphrey Metrodome in downtown Minneapolis to collapse and rip. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - A sharp cold front pushed across the Great Lakes Region and the Mississippi Valley. Northwest winds gusting to 50 mph in Iowa caused some property damage around Ottumwa, and wind chill readings reached 16 degrees below zero at Hibbing MN. Showers and thunderstorms over Florida produced 5.80 inches of rain in six hours at Cocoa Beach. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Strong thunderstorms developed during the mid morning hours and produced severe weather across eastern Texas and the Lower Mississippi Valley into the wee hours of the night. Thunderstorms spawned twenty-one tornadoes, including thirteen in Mississippi. One tornado killed two persons and injured eleven others at Nettleton MS, and another tornado injured eight persons at Tuscaloosa AL. Thunderstorms produced baseball size hail in east Texas and northern Louisiana, and Summit MS was deluged with six inches of rain in four hours. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Gale force winds continued to produce squalls in the Lower Great Lakes Region early in the day. Snowfall totals in western New York State reached 24 inches in southern Lewis County, with 21 inches reported at Highmarket. Unseasonably warm weather prevailed across the Northern and Central Plains Region. Eight cities reported record high temperatures for the date, including Denver CO with a reading of 79 degrees. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

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Today



Partly Sunny

High: 17 °F

Tonight



Mostly Cloudy

Low: 7 °F

Tuesday



Mostly Sunny

High: 40 °F

Tuesday
Night



Partly Cloudy

Low: 19 °F

Wednesday



Mostly Sunny

High: 34 °F



National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD
Updated: 11/19/2018 6:15 AM Central

Mostly Dry Forecast Ahead

Today 16 to 32°
Tuesday 36 to 53°
Wednesday 30 to 55°
Thanksgiving 45 to 58°

warmest temperatures
west of the Missouri River

Published on: 11/19/2018 at 6:17AM

Lingering light snow will be possible through the morning hours, before dry weather takes hold and remains through much of the week. Today will be the coldest day, with temperatures rising into the 40s and 50s for Thanksgiving!

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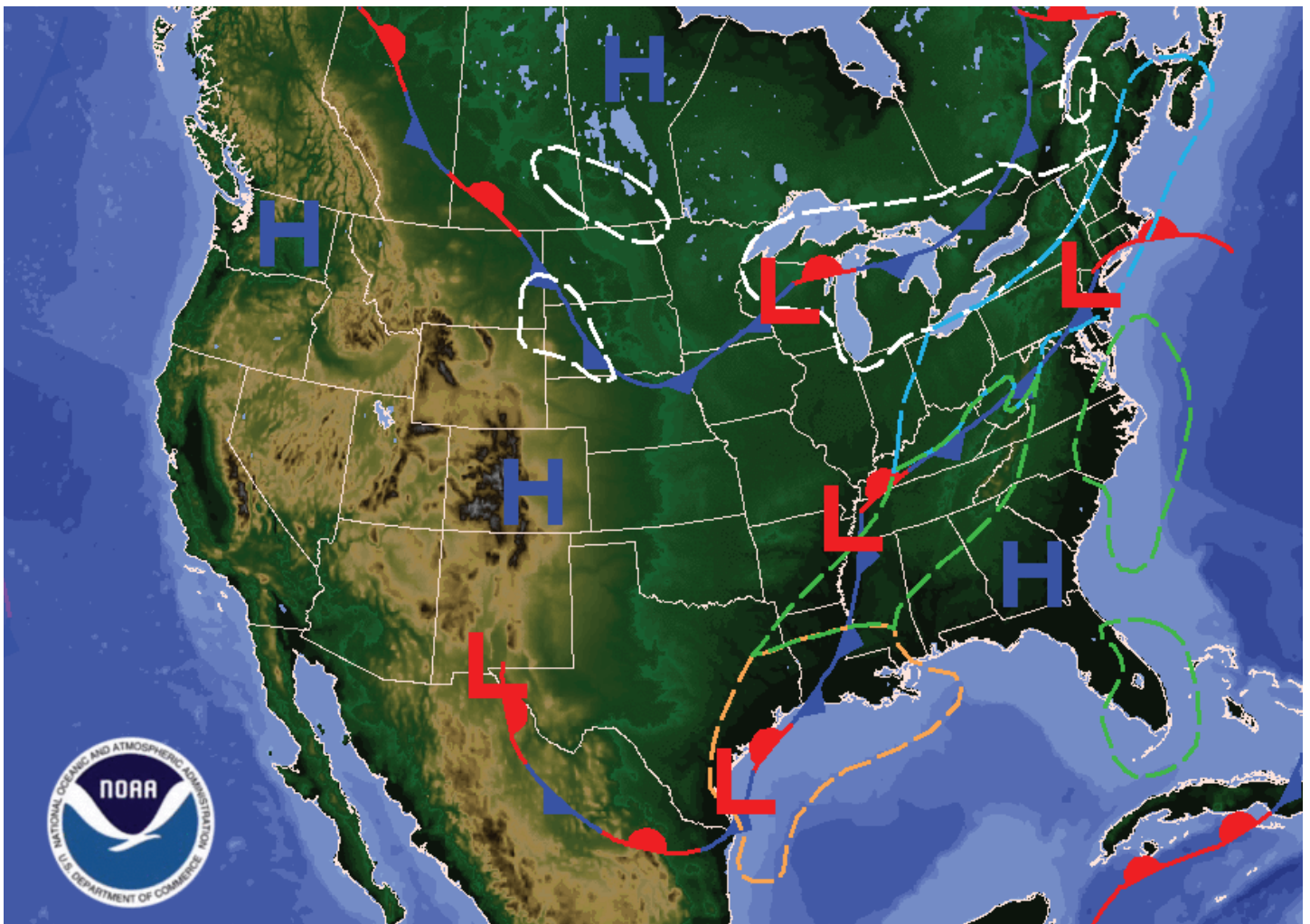
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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 30 °F at 3:53 PM
Low Outside Temp: 2 °F at 12:34 AM
High Gust: 21 mph at 9:28 AM
Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 75° in 1908
Record Low: -11 in 1914
Average High: 37°F
Average Low: 17°F
Average Precip in Nov.: 0.48
Precip to date in Nov.: 0.76
Average Precip to date: 20.95
Precip Year to Date: 15.81
Sunset Tonight: 5:00 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:39 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Mon, Nov 19, 2018, issued 4:52 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

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

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OUR GOD IS A GOOD GOD!

Mary Jo spent part of her spring vacation with her Grandmother. When she returned home, her mother asked, Were you a good girl?

Mom, I was so good that I could hardly stand it, she replied. Its a wonder I had any fun I was so good.

The word good is difficult to measure. There is no good-er or good-est. Why? Because the word good is only applicable to God. And we must never forget that it is not possible for God to improve on anything He does or do anything any good-er.

On one occasion when Jesus was starting on a trip, a man came running up to Him and asked, Good Teacher, what must I do to get into heaven?

Why do you call me good? Jesus asked. Only God is truly good!

His reply did not disclaim that He, too, was good. On the contrary! He claimed and proclaimed His goodness when He confessed that He was God!

Unfortunately, the young man regarded Jesus as a human teacher only. For him to attach the word good to a mere human being was a bad thing. So, it was necessary for him to understand that only God is good and that no one other than God is, in fact, good. Jesus is good because He is God.

Whenever we think of ourselves, we must always remember who we are, how we think, and that we are human. When we think of God, however, we must shout with the Psalmist, Give thanks to God for He is good!

Prayer: Thank you, Father, that You are good and in that goodness, we see Your love, grace, and salvation. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 107:1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good! His faithful love endures forever.

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2018 Groton SD Community Events

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

Tijuana protesters chant 'Out!' at migrants camped in city

By YESICA FISCH and AMY GUTHRIE, Associated Press

TIJUANA, Mexico (AP) — Hundreds of Tijuana residents congregated around a monument in an affluent section of the city south of California on Sunday to protest the thousands of Central American migrants who have arrived via caravan in hopes of a new life in the U.S.

Tensions have built as nearly 3,000 migrants from the caravan poured into Tijuana in recent days after more than a month on the road, and with many more months ahead of them while they seek asylum. The federal government estimates the number of migrants could soon swell to 10,000.

U.S. border inspectors are processing only about 100 asylum claims a day at Tijuana's main crossing to San Diego. 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.

On Sunday, displeased Tijuana residents waved Mexican flags, sang the Mexican national anthem and chanted "Out! Out!" in front of a statue of the Aztec ruler Cuauhtemoc, 1 mile (1.6 kilometers) from the U.S. border. They accused the migrants of being messy, ungrateful and a danger to Tijuana. They also complained about how the caravan forced its way into Mexico, calling it an "invasion." And they voiced worries that their taxes might be spent to care for the group.

"We don't want them in Tijuana," protesters shouted.

Juana Rodriguez, a housewife, said the government needs to conduct background checks on the migrants to make sure they don't have criminal records.

A woman who gave her name as Paloma lambasted the migrants, who she said came to Mexico in search of handouts. "Let their government take care of them," she told video reporters covering the protest.

A block away, fewer than a dozen Tijuana residents stood with signs of support for the migrants. Keyla Zamarron, a 38-year-old teacher, said the protesters don't represent her way of thinking as she held a sign saying: Childhood has no borders.

Most of the migrants who have reached Tijuana via caravan in recent days set out more than a month ago from Honduras, a country of 9 million people. Dozens of migrants in the caravan who have been interviewed by Associated Press reporters have said they left their country after death threats.

But the journey has been hard, and many have turned around.

Alden Rivera, the Honduran ambassador in Mexico, told the AP on Saturday that 1,800 Hondurans have returned to their country since the caravan first set out on Oct. 13, and that he hopes more will make that decision. "We want them to return to Honduras," said Rivera.

Honduras has a murder rate of 43 per 100,000 residents, similar to U.S. cities like New Orleans and Detroit. In addition to violence, migrants in the caravan have mentioned poor economic prospects as a motivator for their departures. Per capita income hovers around \$120 a month in Honduras, where the World Bank says two out of three people live in poverty.

The migrants' expected long stay in Tijuana has raised concerns about the ability of the border city of more than 1.6 million people to handle the influx.

While many in Tijuana are sympathetic to the migrants' plight and trying to assist, some locals have shouted insults, hurled rocks and even thrown punches at them. The cold reception contrasts sharply with the warmth that accompanied the migrants in southern Mexico, where residents of small towns greeted them with hot food, campsites and even live music.

Tijuana Mayor Juan Manuel Gastelum has called the migrants' arrival an "avalanche" that the city is ill-prepared to handle, calculating that they will be in Tijuana for at least six months as they wait to file asylum claims. Gastelum has appealed to the federal government for more assistance to cope with the influx.

Mexico's Interior Ministry said Saturday that the federal government was flying in food and blankets for the migrants in Tijuana.

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Tijuana officials converted a municipal gymnasium and recreational complex into a shelter to keep migrants out of public spaces. The city's privately run shelters have a maximum capacity of 700. The municipal complex can hold up to 3,000.

At the municipal shelter, Josue Caseres, 24, expressed dismay at the protests against the caravan. "We are fleeing violence," said the entertainer from Santa Barbara, Honduras. "How can they think we are going to come here to be violent?"

Some from the caravan have diverted to other border cities, such as Mexicali, a few hours to the east of Tijuana.

Elsewhere on Sunday, a group of 200 migrants headed north from El Salvador, determined to also find safety in numbers to reach the U.S. Edwin Alexander Gomez, 20, told AP in San Salvador that he wants to work construction in New York, where he hears the wages are better and the city is safer.

U.S. President Donald Trump, who sought to make the caravan a campaign issue in the midterm elections, used Twitter on Sunday to voice support for the mayor of Tijuana and try to discourage the migrants from seeking entry to the U.S.

Trump wrote that like Tijuana, "the U.S. is ill-prepared for this invasion, and will not stand for it. They are causing crime and big problems in Mexico. Go home!"

He followed that tweet by writing: "Catch and Release is an obsolete term. It is now Catch and Detain. Illegal Immigrants trying to come into the U.S.A., often proudly flying the flag of their nation as they ask for U.S. Asylum, will be detained or turned away."

Guthrie reported from Mexico City. Associated Press writer Julie Watson contributed to this story from Tijuana and Marcos Aleman contributed from San Salvador.

NDSU, SDSU get byes in 1st round of FCS playoffs

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — Defending NCAA Football Championship Subdivision title holder North Dakota State is the top seed for this year's playoffs.

The unbeaten Bison will get a bye in the first round and will host a second-round game on Dec. 1 against either Incarnate Word or Montana State.

NDSU is 28-2 overall in the FCS playoffs, with six national championships in eight previous appearances.

South Dakota State also gets a bye in the first round. The fifth-seeded Jackrabbits will host either Duquesne or Towson State on Dec. 1 in the second round.

Woman sentenced for drunken chase with babies in vehicle

LAKE ANDES, S.D. (AP) — A Ravinia woman has been sentenced to a month in jail for leading police on a drunken chase with three babies in her vehicle.

Authorities say 29-year-old Kateri Archambeau was legally drunk when she led Yankton Sioux and Charles Mix County officers on a chase in June. Officers found three infants inside her van, not properly secured in car seats.

The Daily Republic reports that Archambeau pleaded guilty to drunken driving and prosecutors dropped other charges including child abuse.

She'll have her driver's license revoked for one month and will serve three years of probation. She also must pay \$203 in fines and fees.

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

Former Aberdeen residents develop new migraine medication

By VICTORIA LUSK, Aberdeen American News

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — When Ryan Darling and Kirk Johnson were growing up in Aberdeen, science was their thing.

But they wouldn't know each other until they met as scientists at the global pharmaceutical company Eli Lilly in Indianapolis.

Johnson, 57, graduated from Central High School in 1980.

Darling, 44, graduated from Roncalli High School in 1992.

Together they have made significant contributions to the development of a new medication approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration. The drug, Emgality, is a once-per-month injection designed to prevent migraines, Aberdeen American News reported.

"For both of us, this is a really big deal and probably the height of our careers," Johnson said.

The two started working on the drug in 2003. As with so many undertakings in their field, there were a lot of failures in the first five or six years, Darling said.

When developing pharmaceuticals, failure is more the norm than the exception, Johnson said, equating it to gambling in Las Vegas.

"Many of our colleagues will go through their careers without ever having a drug that goes to market," he said.

Eli Lilly has 4,000 employees worldwide and at least 1,000 at the headquarters. That's why Darling and Johnson worked for the company for some time before learning they were from the same hometown.

"Someone said, 'Aren't you from South Dakota? You know Ryan is from there as well,'" Johnson said.

Their individual roles would bring them together on the project.

Johnson has focused on migraines for more than 25 years, particularly the biology behind what kind of medicine could help.

"It used to be that we'd work on a certain target, drug class or mechanism of action. In one case, we had a drug and we were looking for what we could use it on. That's when migraine came up for me, and then I developed an expertise," Johnson said.

Darling works across many therapeutic areas, from diabetes to cancer and more. His job is to work on the design of the molecule itself, he said. That ensures the drug has the properties needed so that the medicine is safe, effective and can be manufactured on a large scale.

Their work is highly confidential. So much so that their families often don't know what they are working on. All Johnson's family knew was that he worked on drugs for migraines.

"A press release came out that said the compound was successful in a clinical trial for migraine. The day that my son texted me from college and said, 'Dad, I just saw this release. Is that one of your drugs?' and I could say yes, that was a highlight," Johnson said.

"Personally, it's a really big deal. We all know or have friends and family members that have migraines," he said.

Johnson got both his bachelor's and master's degrees at University of South Dakota.

Darling got his bachelor's degree at Northern State University. He earned his master's degree from the University of Michigan and his doctorate at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

Helping people has always been the goal, even early in their education and careers.

"I was drawn to math, science and medicine because that is what I enjoyed in school. Success in what we do can literally mean millions of people will benefit from our work," Darling said.

But it was his adviser at Northern, Lenore Koczon, who suggested graduate school.

"Without that I wouldn't be where I'm at now," Darling said.

The research, a general love of science and the experimentation — ultimately working on solving problems that others haven't been able to — were key to getting into the field, he said.

For Johnson, science was his first love, followed closely by an interest in medicine.

"And I came to the realization that you can help people without being a physician," he said.

Seeing the effect on people's health and lives is the ultimate motivator.

"So much of what you do ultimately fails. That can be demoralizing after a while. So we need to celebrate the successes when they occur," Darling said.

The work is never really done, though.

"The challenge is that even though (Emgality) made it to market, it doesn't work in every person," Johnson said. "So there's still more work to do."

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

New Underwood school hunting program teaches gun safety

By CHRISTOPHER VONDRACEK, Rapid City Journal

NEW UNDERWOOD, S.D. (AP) — It's football playoff day at New Underwood.

High schoolers are wearing purple and white football jerseys and cheerleader outfits in a computer lab, but down the hallway in Stacy Finkbeiner's sixth-grade physical education classroom, it's all business as a student in back sets down his blaze orange cap and takes out a pencil as the hunting exam is passed back to him.

"I don't turn 12 for three days," said one student. "Does that mean I have to take the test again?"

Chad Tussing, director of the Outdoor Campus West, school board member at New Underwood School District, and parent of one of the sixth-graders in Finkbeiner's classroom, responded, "Yours will have something special written on it, but you'll be good to go when you turn 12."

He fist pumps in the air. Eagerness to join moms and dads, older siblings and grandparents in the pheasant fields of South Dakota is common for students here.

Less common is a school-sponsored hunting program, but this fall in New Underwood, a quiet, farming and ranch town on the grassy rangeland east of Rapid City, sixth- through eighth-graders in the physical education classroom have all taken — and passed — the new hunting curriculum, sponsored by the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish & Parks.

Children between the ages of 12 and 16 who wish to hunt need to pass the HuntSAFE program, which includes instruction on properly walking rows, crossing fences and handling a rifle, the Rapid City Journal reported. The New Underwood School District, responding in part to the decline of hunting nationally, decided to pass on to students the heritage of hunting. The recent written exam culminated a two-week curriculum.

"I've liked not going to music for two weeks," Kale Crowser, 12, said with a smile. He said his father has taken him hunting, but learning gun safety is a "good life skill."

"Everyone took it pretty seriously, too," Crowser said.

Around Finkbeiner's classroom — he also serves as the middle school math teacher and coach for both track and the high school girls' basketball team at this school district with 237 students K-12 — children diligently took the test. Questions ask about the danger of a .22 bullet at various distances and when should loading of the firearm happen prior to hunting (one seemingly obvious diversion answer is "when you get into your car").

In the field settings, the students don't use live guns but non-firing guns specially made by the manufacturer. They feel like rifles, open and close like them, but have no bullets. On one day, the students even used Nerf guns in a field.

"We had parental permission slips and during parent-teacher conferences everyone was very positive," said Finkbeiner. "We're a very rural, farm community. Even if kids don't want to hunt, there's a chance they'll someday encounter guns. We just want them to have knowledge about how to stay safe."

One sixth-grader, Jessica Caspers, wears a jacket won from a barrel-racing competition in Rapid City. She said her dad has taken her hunting, but she felt more prepared after the two-week course.

"You hold the gun like this," she said, grabbing the invisible gun close to her chest, "when you fall down and you're supposed to move very slowly."

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Hunting in South Dakota is big business. South Dakota GF&P estimates \$680 million is generated annually from hunting alone. But national trends, said Tussing, suggest as baby boomers age fewer hunters are stepping in to fill their shoes. A 2017 study from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service showed a decline of 2 million hunters between 2011 and 2016.

"That can mean less funding for wildlife management and to the agencies," Tussing said. "So, we've tried to expand out to other groups."

New Underwood School District is the third school in the state along with districts in Lyman County and Winner to embed hunter safety into the curriculum. Just recently, sixth-graders at Douglas School District in Box Elder began taking hunter-safety classes.

Previously, when Tussing held HuntSAFE trainings in New Underwood — a town of 660 — approximately six or seven students signed up. But this year between the sixth-, seventh-, and eighth-graders, there are 52 new young people in town with safety permits.

"There are a lot of guns around," Crowser said. "So you might as well learn how to use them."

Finkbeiner, a 30-year teacher who hunts pheasants and deer, said he sees his physical education classroom as a space for learning lifelong activities. "We could take them kayaking or fishing next. It's silly not to take advantage of the opportunities we have living out here."

As the students handed in their exams and waited quietly while others finished, a student in a Captain America T-shirt — Gage Garrett, 11 — grabbed a copy of a glossy magazine called "Hunter's Handbook" and sat back down at his desk to read. On the cover is embossed "Ensuing the Future of Our Hunting Heritage" with a father and son in blaze orange standing in tall grass, pointing into the distance.

"Kids used to do this growing up," Superintendent George Seiler said. "But they don't as much anymore. So, we just wanted this collaborative effort to teach gun safety. You may never hunt, but it's a good idea to be familiar with this component, as it's kind of a way of life here."

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

Air Force edges South Dakota in Bahamas 65-62

BIMINI, Bahamas (AP) — Lavelle Scottie scored 15 points, Ryan Swan added 14 and A.J. Walker hit a big 3-pointer down the stretch to lead Air Force to a 65-62 victory in the Bimini Jam on Sunday.

Walker had just six points in the game but his first 3-pointer gave Air Force its largest lead of 14 points at 46-32 with 13:50 remaining and his second trey came with 1:48 to go for a 63-59 lead. Triston Simpson sank a 3 with 1:12 remaining to cut the deficit to 63-62, but the Coyotes missed their final two shots while the Falcons added two free throws.

The Falcons (2-2) shot 60 percent and outrebounded the Coyotes 35-20, led by eight from Swan.

Trey Burch-Manning scored 22 points on 9-of-13 shooting to lead South Dakota (2-2), which shot only 37.5 percent, including 19 percent in the first half when they trailed 34-23. Simpson added 15 points and Brandon Armstrong 13.

1 killed, 4 seriously hurt in SUV crash near Humboldt

HUMBOLDT, S.D. (AP) — A woman is dead and four teenagers seriously injured after an SUV crashed in southeastern South Dakota over the weekend.

The Department of Public Safety says the Chevy Trailblazer was going east on Interstate 90 Saturday morning when the driver lost control on an icy bridge near Humboldt. The vehicle collided with a guardrail and rolled.

Authorities say four of the five people inside were thrown from the SUV. A 15-year-old girl was the only one not ejected. No one was wearing seat belts.

The 38-year-old woman who was driving died at the scene. A 14-year-old boy suffered life-threatening injuries. The other three passenger suffered serious but non-life-threatening injuries. All were taken to a

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Sioux Falls hospital.

Names of the victims were not released. The Highway Patrol is investigating.

Coyote takes small dog in Sioux Falls

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls Animal Control is advising residents to keep an eye on their pets after a coyote took a small dog this weekend.

Police say the coyote took the dog around 6:15 a.m. Saturday on North Galaxy Lane in northwestern Sioux Falls. Animal Control has been monitoring the situation and has implemented several measures to scare and trap the coyote.

Authorities say Sioux Falls residents should keep small pets on a 6-foot leash and monitor their pets while they are outside. Anyone who sees a coyote should use hazing techniques to scare them off, such as yelling and waving your arms, making loud noises or throwing rocks or sticks.

Airbnb brings \$568K in tax revenue to South Dakota last year

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Airbnb rentals generated more than half a million dollars in tax revenue in South Dakota during the first year of the state's tax deal with the company.

Airbnb announced the vacation rental website remitted \$568,000 in tax revenue through the first year of the agreement, which went into effect Sept. 1, 2017, the Argus Leader reported .

The deal was a coup for South Dakota, which was still in the middle of a U.S. Supreme Court case over whether online sellers had to pay in-state sales tax. The state later won its case. But last year, Airbnb broke from other online sellers and struck a deal with state officials, saying it was willing to pay local taxes.

The agreement allows Airbnb to collect and remit the state sales tax, municipal sales tax, municipal gross receipts tax and tourism tax on all eligible bookings.

South Dakota is among more than 400 jurisdictions around the world where Airbnb collects and remits taxes, according to the company.

"We're pleased to partner with the state of South Dakota on a tax partnership that ensures communities throughout the state receive the full economic benefits of home sharing," said Laura Spanjian, Airbnb's public policy director for South Dakota.

The company also said South Dakota hosts welcomed roughly 41,000 guests in 2017, which was a 141 percent increase over the year before. A typical host in the state earns about \$5,700 a year and nearly a quarter of hosts are 60 years old or older, the company said.

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

Yemeni rebels say they will halt rocket fire at Saudi Arabia

By AHMED AL-HAJ and BRIAN ROHAN, Associated Press

SANAA, Yemen (AP) — A senior leader of Yemen's Shiite rebels said Monday that the group will halt rocket fire into Saudi Arabia for the sake of peace efforts, answering a key Saudi demand in the first public sign of hope for the latest push to stop the bloodshed and civilian suffering in the Arab world's poorest country.

The announcement, however, looked less than airtight, as the rebel defense ministry also said it had fired a ballistic missile into Saudi Arabia overnight in response to an attempted border incursion in Hajjah province, adding in its statement that while it supported halting missile launches it also reserved the right to respond to attacks.

For the past three years, a U.S.-backed, Saudi-led coalition has been waging war against the rebels, known as Houthis, to restore Yemen's internationally recognized government to power. The rebels say they had been excluded from that government and took power to rectify historic grievances against central authority.

The rebel leader, Mohammed Ali al-Houthi, said in a statement to journalists that the Iran-backed rebels ordered the cessation of rocket and drone attacks on the Saudis and forces loyal to coalition member the United Arab Emirates at the request of U.N. special envoy Martin Griffiths.

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"We are ready to freeze and stop military operations on all fronts in order to achieve peace," al-Houthi said, mentioning the rockets specifically as part of a longer statement in which he blamed the United States for being the main driver for what he called "the aggression" against Yemen. The overnight missile strike, according to Houthi media channel al-Masirah, was also in response to a Saudi airstrike in the area.

Yemen's civil war began in the wake of its Arab Spring uprising, when the Houthis swept down from their northern stronghold and took the capital, Sanaa, in 2014, with the help of troops loyal to Yemen's former strongman, Ali Abdullah Saleh. The government fled the following year, and Saudi Arabia, citing fears that its nemesis Iran was using the Shiite leanings of the revolt to make inroads on the Arabian Peninsula, began launching airstrikes against the rebels.

Riyadh formed a coalition of Sunni Arab states, including the UAE, Kuwait, Egypt and Sudan, and launched ground assaults on several fronts but failed to take the capital. After some major setbacks, it began outsourcing the ground fighting to local troops, including a group trained by the UAE in the south.

The latest Saudi-led offensive, which began in the summer, has been focused on capturing the key rebel-held port city of Hodeida, through which almost all of Yemen's food and desperately needed humanitarian aid flows.

Griffiths, the U.N. envoy, announced on Friday that both sides had agreed to attend talks in Sweden "soon" aimed at ending the conflict. His announcement followed an informal de-escalation last week around Hodeida, although fighting has continued on the ground in other areas. The internationally backed government led by President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi said in a separate statement Monday that it would attend, but also insisted the Houthis do so as well "unconditionally."

Saudi Arabia's King Salman, in his annual policy speech, said his country supports a political solution to end the war. But he envisions something in line with a U.N. resolution that calls on the rebels to withdraw from all major cities they have taken, a demand they have yet to cede and have so far been able to resist militarily on the ground.

It was not immediately to what extent the Houthi move on stopping missile fire into the kingdom would halt the overall violence. While the guns have gone silent inside central Hodeida, fighting continues in its outskirts and elsewhere, including the provinces of Marib, Dhale, Bayda, and the Houthis' northern strongholds of Hajjah and Saada.

Truces rarely hold entirely in Yemen's disorderly civil war, where fighting is on several fronts, and peace talks attempts abroad have repeatedly broken down.

An estimated 10,000 people have been killed in the war so far, and two-thirds of Yemen's 27 million-strong population relies on aid. More than 8 million are at risk of starvation in what has become the world's worst humanitarian disaster.

The renewal of the coalition's push on Hodeida began almost immediately after the United States called for a cease-fire within a 30-day period terminating at the end of the month. In an apparent rush to try to seize the city before then, coalition artillery, helicopter gunships and airstrikes pounded the rebels, killing dozens of fighters and civilians on both sides.

The coalition troops, backed by the airstrikes, advanced into the city's outskirts but the offensive stalled under fierce, dug-in Houthi resistance some 5 kilometers (3 miles) short of the vital port facilities, the city's main prize.

International outcry over the murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi at Saudi Arabia's consulate in Istanbul on Oct. 2 has also upped international political pressure on Riyadh and cast more attention on a war in Yemen often overlooked in the West. That, combined with the U.S.'s withdrawal of refueling support for Saudi-led airstrikes and calls for cease-fire could be a main driver for sudden Saudi and UAE peace efforts.

Rohan reported from Cairo.

Trump says 'no reason' for him to hear Khashoggi death tape

By DEB RIECHMANN and JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump said there is no reason for him to listen to a recording of the "very violent, very vicious" killing of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi, which has put him in a diplomatic bind: how to admonish Riyadh for the slaying yet maintain strong ties with a close ally.

Trump, in an interview that aired Sunday, made clear that the audio recording, supplied by the Turkish government, would not affect his response to the Oct. 2 killing of Khashoggi, a columnist for The Washington Post who had been critical of the Saudi royal family.

"It's a suffering tape, it's a terrible tape. I've been fully briefed on it, there's no reason for me to hear it," Trump said in the interview with "Fox News Sunday." "I know everything that went on in the tape without having to hear it."

On Saturday, Trump said his administration will "be having a very full report over the next two days, probably Monday or Tuesday." He said the report will include "who did it." It was unclear if the report would be made public.

American intelligence agencies have concluded that the crown prince ordered the killing in the Saudi Consulate in Turkey, according to a U.S. official familiar with the assessment. The official was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on the condition of anonymity. Others familiar with the case caution that while it's likely the crown prince was involved in the death, there continue to be questions about what role he played.

Trump noted to "Fox News Sunday" that the crown prince has repeatedly denied being involved in the killing inside the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul.

"Will anybody really know?" Trump asked. "At the same time, we do have an ally, and I want to stick with an ally that in many ways has been very good."

A Republican member of the Senate intelligence committee said that so far, there is no "smoking gun" linking the crown prince to the killing. Sen. Roy Blunt of Missouri, who has received a confidential intelligence briefing on the matter, told ABC that "it's hard to imagine" that the crown prince didn't know about the killing, but he said, "I don't know that we absolutely know that yet."

He said that Congress will await the Trump administration's report in the next two days and that the U.S. will need to be clear about the ramifications of sanctions, given Saudi Arabia's strategic role in the Middle East.

For his part, Sen. Lindsey Graham, a Trump ally, said the crown prince has been a "wrecking ball" in the relationship between the U.S. and Saudi Arabia.

"I hate to say that because I had a lot of hope for him being the reformer that Saudi Arabia needs, but that ship has sailed as far as Lindsey Graham's concerned," the South Carolina Republican told NBC's "Meet the Press."

"I have no intention of working with him ever again," said Graham, who is in line to be the next chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Intelligence officials have been providing information to Trump for weeks about the death, and he was briefed again by phone Saturday by CIA Director Gina Haspel and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo as he flew to California. White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders provided no details of his call but said the president has confidence in the CIA.

"The United States government is determined to hold all those responsible for the killing of Jamal Khashoggi accountable," the State Department said in a statement. "Recent reports indicating that the U.S. government has made a final conclusion are inaccurate. There remain numerous unanswered questions with respect to the murder of Mr. Khashoggi."

The statement added: "The U.S. government has taken decisive measures against the individuals responsible, including visa and sanctions actions. We will continue to explore additional measures to hold those accountable who planned, led and were connected to the murder. And, we will do that while maintaining the important strategic relationship between the United States and Saudi Arabia."

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Before his call on Air Force One, Trump told reporters that when it came to the crown prince, "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." That echoed remarks by national security adviser John Bolton, who said earlier this week that people who have listened to an audio recording of the killing do not think it implicates the crown prince.

Germany's foreign minister on Monday said Berlin had banned 18 Saudi nationals from entering Europe's border-free Schengen zone because they are believed to be connected to Khashoggi's killing. Heiko Maas told reporters in Brussels on Monday that Germany issued the ban for the 26-nation zone in close coordination with France, which is part of the Schengen area, and Britain, which is not. He said the 18 Saudis are "allegedly connected to this crime" but gave no further information and didn't release their names.

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.

But members of Congress are pushing Trump for a tougher response to the killing. The 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.

Turkish and Saudi authorities say Khashoggi, a Saudi who lived in the United States, was killed inside the consulate by a team from the kingdom after he went there to get marriage documents.

10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

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

1. MISSING TOLL DROPS IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Authorities say the list of names of those unaccounted for after a deadly wildfire drops to around 1,000, about 300 fewer than its most recent posting.

2. 'VERY VIOLENT, VERY VICIOUS'

Trump says there is no reason for him to listen to a recording of the killing of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi, which has put him in a diplomatic bind with ally Riyadh as U.S. intelligence agencies conclude that the crown prince ordered the killing.

3. NEIGHBORS WAGE SHADOW CAMPAIGNS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE FOR 2020

As many as five New Englanders are considering running for the Democratic presidential nomination, a contingent led by two senators — Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren.

4. DEMOCRATS' HOPES DASHED IN FLORIDA

Election results after a bruising recount show Republicans coming out on top for governor and even picking up a Senate seat.

5. YEMENI REBELS WILL HALT ROCKET FIRE AT SAUDI ARABIA

A senior leader of the Houthis rebels says the group will cease rocket and drone attacks for the sake of U.N.-backed peace efforts.

6. ISRAEL AVOIDS EARLY ELECTIONS AS COALITION KEPT INTACT

The education minister says his party would give Netanyahu another chance to address the security challenges facing the country, mostly recently from Gaza.

7. HOW TRUMP FEELS ABOUT KEY AIDES

The president wouldn't commit to keeping chief of staff John Kelly for the remainder of his term and says he's thinking about changing "three or four or five positions" in his Cabinet.

8. WHO'S OUT AT NISSAN

The Japanese automaker says an internal investigation found that its chairman, Carlos Ghosn, under-reported his income for "many years" and will be let go.

9. WHAT IS SPOOKING SOME INVESTORS

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The recent turbulence in the U.S. stock markets is rattling some older workers and retirees, a group hit hard during the most recent financial crisis.

10. BEARS WIN NFC NORTH SHOWDOWN

Khalil Mack and Eddie Jackson make key defensive plays and Chicago tightens its grip on the division with a 25-20 victory over Minnesota.

Will Kelly stay or won't he? Trump praises, criticizes aide

By JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump isn't committing to a previous pledge to keep chief of staff John Kelly for the remainder of his term, part of widespread speculation about staffing changes that could soon sweep through his administration.

Trump, in a wide-ranging interview that aired on "Fox News Sunday," praised Kelly's work ethic and much of what he brings to the position but added, "There are certain things that I don't like that he does."

"There are a couple of things where it's just not his strength. It's not his fault. It's not his strength," said Trump, who added that Kelly himself might want to depart.

Asked whether he would keep Kelly in his post through 2020, the president offered only that "it could happen." Trump had earlier pledged publicly that Kelly would remain through his first term in office, though many in the West Wing were skeptical.

Trump said he was happy with his Cabinet but was thinking about changing "three or four or five positions." One of them is Homeland Security chief Kirstjen Nielsen, whose departure is now considered inevitable. Trump said in the interview that he could keep her on, but he made clear that he wished she would be tougher in implementing his hard-line immigration policies and enforcing border security.

The list of potential replacements for Nielsen includes a career lawman, two military officers and former acting U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement head. But her eventual replacement will find there's no getting around the immigration laws and court challenges that have thwarted the president's agenda at every turn — even if there's better personal chemistry.

Trump also discussed the removal of Mira Ricardel, a deputy national security adviser who is being moved to another position in the administration after clashes with the East Wing culminated in an extraordinary statement from first lady Melania Trump that called for her removal. The president said Ricardel was "not too diplomatic, but she's talented" and downplayed the idea that his wife was calling the shots in the White House.

"(The first lady's team) wanted to go a little bit public because that's the way they felt and I thought it was fine," Trump said.

He also dismissed a series of reports that he had been fuming in the week after the Democrats captured the House, claiming instead that the mood of the West Wing was "very light."

The president also addressed a series of other topics:

— He said he "would not get involved" if his choice for acting attorney general, Matt Whitaker, decided to curtail special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into 2016 election interference and possible ties between the Trump campaign and Russia. Whitaker was previously a fierce critic of the probe, and Democrats have called for him to recuse himself from overseeing it. Trump said that "It's going to be up to him" and that "I really believe he's going to do what's right."

— He downplayed a federal judge's decision to restore CNN reporter Jim Acosta's White House press pass but derided an alleged lack of "decorum" among reporters who cover the administration. Trump also reiterated that the White House was going to write up rules of conduct for reporters at news conferences, adding, "If he misbehaves, we'll throw him out or we'll stop the news conference."

— He also defended his incendiary attacks on the press, which include labeling reporters the "enemy of the people," a phrase more closely associated with authoritarian regimes. Trump suggested that his interviewer, Chris Wallace, was no "angel," and bristled when the host from Fox News, which generally gives him favorable coverage, said that the media was in "solidarity." Trump declared, "I am calling fake

news, fake reporting, is what's tearing this country apart because people know, people like things that are happening and they're not hearing about it."

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In smoldering wildfire ruins, life goes on for a hardy few

By JOHN LOCHER and BRIAN MELLEY, Associated Press

PARADISE, Calif. (AP) — Brad Weldon lost his home to fire when he was a kid, so when a deadly wildland blaze came roaring toward his ranch house in the pines where he lives with his 89-year-old blind mother, he wasn't going to let disaster strike twice.

Weldon and his mother's caregiver, armed only with a garden hose and buckets, successfully fought the flames for 24 hours. At times, they had to lie down in the dirt to "avoid burning up" as 60 mph (97 kph) winds drove flames through the forest.

Having saved his home in Paradise, Weldon's not leaving what he now calls the "hell zone."

"If they take me out of here, it will be at gunpoint," Weldon said. "My mom says they'll have to beat her ass, too. She ain't going without a fight."

Weldon is among a small group of fire survivors who have defied orders to leave and decided to stick it out in the blackened and smoldering landscape. Flames leveled the town of Paradise, which is about 140 miles (225 kilometers) north of San Francisco, and much of the surrounding area, killing at least 77 people and destroying more than 10,500 homes.

Butte County Sheriff Kory Honea said he didn't know how many people were living in the evacuation zones. Deputies who encounter someone in the area will confirm they live there, but won't necessarily take other action.

"We're not dragging them out," he said. "If some guy stayed at his house, I'm not going to arrest him if he's not creating some kind of problem. I'm trying to treat people with respect and compassion."

Honea said he was hesitant to spread that message because it might encourage people to ignore evacuation orders, which can create problems even if they survive the initial danger. He said deputies have encountered people who stayed behind and ran out of food.

It's an audacious endeavor to stay behind in the smoky ruins with all the challenges that remain: There's no power, no public water supply and there's nowhere nearby to get supplies. Residents who leave to get groceries, drinking water or fuel for generators, aren't allowed to return.

The fire continues to burn and the sheriff has said there's no timeline for when people will be allowed back in the area because the scope of the destruction is unprecedented.

Patrick Knuthson, who managed to save his large metal workshop that has a small apartment inside, said he's not planning to leave and has plenty of food and fuel to provide electricity to his living space and to pump water from his well.

Knuthson has appointed himself as a guardian in his neck of the woods on the outskirts of Paradise where only two of 22 houses remained standing on his road. He has spray painted a sign saying "Looters will be shot!!"

"I got my neighborhood locked down," Knuthson said. "We're all armed. We'll ask questions later."

Weldon also feared looters would break into his "hicktorian" style house — a one-story ranch with ornate Victorian details inside.

"It's a ghost town, buddy," he said. "It's pitch black. If you hear something, you better be on your toes because somebody's outside your house."

Knuthson said he knows about 40 people still living in the hills and added that he'd welcome anyone who wants to park a trailer on his large plot of land.

For a while, his cousins, Phillip and Krystin Harvey, who lost their mobile home, had been staying with their three teenage daughters in a camper, trying to hang on to a piece of the life they had known. At night, the victims of the so-called Camp Fire stood by the glow of a campfire to stay warm.

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When someone offered to bring supplies, 16-year-old Arissa Harvey only wanted textbooks so she wouldn't fall behind.

Eventually the family gave up and moved to Oroville to stay with friends to have some stability and security, Knuthson said.

"They had to get out of the smoke," Knuthson said. "To have some kind of life."

Some stayed because they had nowhere else to go.

Troy Miller, who had tried to evacuate from his Concow home but was turned back by flames, was camping in a truck next to the metal frame that remained of his home. His horse and three dogs survived, but he has no money or insurance to rebuild.

Some passing firefighters gave Miller some drinking water, but he was hoping someone would get through the roadblocks and bring him a flashlight and some tarps for rain in the forecast.

"I'm alive and I'm still up here. There are plenty of other people worse off than I am," he said. "I've got a lot of faith in God. I think things will be OK."

Weldon said he was also staying put because he didn't think there was anywhere safe he could take his ailing mother — especially now that norovirus has broken out in some shelters.

He's confident they can keep going for months with an ample pantry, gas he's siphoning from work vehicles to power his generator and a 3,000 gallon (11,356 liter) swimming pool he's carefully rationing for bathing and water for the toilet.

"Flush it as little as possible," he said. "Every gallon you put down there, you can't get back."

There's also the stealthy "good old mountain boy underground" that has replenished drinking water and perishable food.

"Just out of amazement it shows up every once in a while," Weldon said.

Melley reported from Los Angeles. AP journalist Sudhin Thanawala in Chico contributed to this report.

Rain could hinder search for victims of California wildfire

By SUDHIN THANAWALA, Associated Press

PARADISE, Calif. (AP) — The search for remains of victims of the devastating Northern California wildfire has taken on new urgency as rain in the forecast could complicate those efforts while also bringing relief to firefighters on the front lines.

Up to 400 people fanned out Sunday to search the ash and rubble where homes once stood before flames roared through the Sierra foothills town of Paradise and surrounding communities, killing at least 77 people in the deadliest U.S. wildfire in a century.

Wearing white coveralls, hard hats and masks, teams of volunteers and search and rescue crews poked through the smoky debris for fragments of bone before rains can wash them away or turn loose, dry ash into a thick paste. The so-called Camp Fire has destroyed more than 10,500 homes.

A team of 10 volunteers, accompanied by a cadaver dog, went from house to house in the charred landscape. They scrutinized the rubble in five-minute sweeps, using sticks to move aside debris and focused on vehicles, bathtubs and what was left of mattresses.

When no remains were found, they spray-painted a large, orange "0" near the house and moved on.

Robert Panak, a volunteer on a team from Napa County, said he tried to picture the house before it burned and think where people might have hidden. His morning search was fruitless, but he wasn't deterred.

"I just think about the positives, bringing relief to the families, closure," Panak said.

Sheriff Kory Honea said it was within the "realm of possibility" that officials would never know the exact death toll from the blaze. He also questioned whether the search for remains could be completed by midweek when rain is forecast.

"As much as I wish that we could get through all of this before the rains come, I don't know if that's possible," Honea said.

About 1,000 names remain on a list of people unaccounted for more than a week after the fire began

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in Butte County about 140 miles (225 kilometers) north of San Francisco, authorities said.

Authorities don't believe all those on the list are missing and the roster dropped by 300 on Sunday as more people were located or got in touch to say they weren't missing.

On Sunday afternoon, more than 50 people gathered at a memorial for the victims at First Christian Church in Chico, where a banner on the altar read, "We will rise from the ashes."

People hugged and shed tears as Pastor Jesse Kearns recited a prayer for first firefighters, rescuers and search teams: "We ask for continued strength as they are growing weary right now."

Paul Stavish, who retired three months ago from a Silicon Valley computer job and moved to Paradise, placed a battery-powered votive candle on the altar as a woman played piano and sang "Amazing Grace."

Stavish, his wife and three dogs managed to escape the fire, but the house is gone. He said he was thinking of the dead and also mourning the warm, tight-knit community.

"This is not just a few houses getting burned," he said. "The whole town is gone."

Hundreds of search and recovery personnel are involved in the effort, going to homes where they received tips that someone might have died.

But they are also doing a more comprehensive, "door-to-door" and "car-to-car" search of areas, said Joe Moses, a commander with the Monterey County Sheriff's Office, who is helping oversee the search and rescue effort.

The search area is huge, Moses said, with many structures that need to be checked.

The fire also burned many places to the ground, creating a landscape unique to many search-and-rescue personnel, he said.

"Here we're looking for very small parts and pieces, and so we have to be very diligent and systematic in how we do your searches," he said Friday.

The death count only grew by one Sunday and firefighters managed to expand containment to 65 percent of the 234 square mile (606 sq. kilometers) burn zone.

Rain was forecast for midweek in the Paradise area. The National Weather Service said the area could get 20 mph (32 kph) sustained winds and 40 mph (64 kph) gusts, which could make it hard for crews to keep making progress against the blaze.

Associated Press journalists Christopher Weber and Brian Melley in Los Angeles contributed.

Turbulent stock market spooks some older workers, retirees

By **ANDREW SOERGEL**, For The Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — The recent turbulence in the U.S. stock markets is spooking some older workers and retirees, a group that was hit particularly hard during the most recent financial crisis.

There's no indication, though, that the recent volatility has brought about large-scale overhauls in retirement planning.

"There's a lot of fear that if you have another event like 2008 and you retire the year before or the year after, you're screwed. I'm not taking that risk," says Mark Patterson, a recently retired patent attorney from Nashville, Tennessee. "There's a huge fear of folks my age that they're going to run out of money and they're going to need to rely on the government for help."

By the time the market bottomed out during the financial crisis in 2009, an estimated \$2.7 trillion had been wiped out of Americans' retirement accounts, according to the Urban Institute. Older Americans, in particular, have had a tough time recovering their losses. The Pew Research Center estimates the net worth of the median Baby Boomer household in 2016 was still nearly 18 percent shy of where it sat in 2007.

In the two years since Donald Trump's election, 62 percent of Americans — and 76 percent of those 65 and over — don't believe their financial situation has improved despite the run-up in the stock markets, according to a recent Bankrate survey. Nearly 1 in 5 respondents said their finances have actually gotten worse.

Paul Kelash, vice president of consumer insights at Allianz Life Insurance Co., says the market fluctua-

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tions throughout 2018 look less like the prelude to a retirement savings crisis and more like a return to normalcy after a remarkably steady market run.

As such, he hasn't seen much evidence of Americans drastically altering their retirement plans. "We get the feeling that folks are getting more comfortable with volatility," he says.

Patterson, the recently retired patent attorney, gradually began stepping away from his law practice in 2016 — a decision he says was motivated in part by the stress of his job, his relatively stable finances and a "re-evaluation of priorities" after losing his wife of 35 years in 2013.

Now, 68, Patterson says he still has some "discretionary spending" money invested in stocks and riskier assets. But he says he was reluctant to put too much money into a stock market that soared throughout 2017, a decision he says was driven in part by memories of the 2008 financial crisis.

"I can retire in 2018 and not be sweating bullets because I put together a budget and I protected it," Patterson says. "The thing that the crash in 2008 taught me is that, even though my portfolio was well set up, that was a black swan type of event. Even if you had a balanced portfolio, everything went down."

Indeed, memories of the recession continue to take a financial and psychological toll on many of those who were affected.

"There is no evidence that retirement wealth has improved in the last few years," says Teresa Ghilarducci, a labor economist, professor and director of the Retirement Equity Lab at The New School. For workers 50 to 65, there are indications wealth has actually fallen, she said.

Ghilarducci notes that workers and their employers stopped or cut back on 401(k) and retirement account contributions immediately after the financial crisis. Many also opted to "deleverage" and pay down debt as the recovery got underway, she says, which tied up money that otherwise would have been saved or invested.

"They had other things to do with their money, even if they didn't lose their job," she says. "Saving is sort of a luxury good. It's what you can do when you can pay for everything else."

And with a limited number of working years ahead of them — and, in some cases, their peak earning years largely behind them — many older Americans haven't managed to replenish their depleted retirement and savings accounts.

Mark Hamrick, the Washington bureau chief and senior economic analyst at Bankrate, notes that the Federal Reserve's ongoing efforts to boost interest rates benefit savers with money in the bank but also make it more difficult for those with debt to pay back what they owe. The "rising economic tide" has been a boon for many, he says, "but it doesn't lift all boats."

He believes there's a tendency to "overgeneralize" Americans' retirement situations and their day-to-day reactions to the economy.

"There can be a little bit of a disconnect between the improvement in the economic data and the actual experience of many Americans," he says.

EDITOR'S NOTE — Andrew Soergel is studying aging and workforce issues as part of a 10-month fellowship at The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research, which joins NORC's independent research and AP journalism. The fellowship is funded by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation.

Neighbors wage shadow campaigns in New Hampshire for 2020

By STEVE PEOPLES, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Even before they announce their White House intentions, New Hampshire's ambitious neighbors are in the midst of a shadow campaign to shape the nation's first presidential primary election of the 2020 season.

Democrats on the ground expect a rush of presidential announcements soon after New Year's. That could include as many as five high-profile candidates from neighboring states, a historically large contingent of New Englanders led by Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren and Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders. Both have quietly begun courting potential staff, top activists and elected officials.

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At the same time, outsiders like New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker are fighting for a foothold in the state, which will hold tremendous power in the selection of the next Democratic presidential nominee.

He has not publicly declared his intention to run, but Booker already has the backing of former President Barack Obama's New Hampshire co-chairman Jim Demers, who raised concerns about the home-turf advantage for several prospective Democratic contenders already jockeying for position from neighboring states.

"I do think that it is an obstacle for other candidates," Demers said. "History is on the side of the neighbors."

Leading New Hampshire Democrats have already raised the possibility of dual winners emerging in the all-important expectations game over the coming year — one for the New Englanders and another for the many outsiders in what is expected to be a massive group of Democrats running for the chance to deny President Donald Trump a second term.

Historically, no state has played a more important role in culling the presidential field than New Hampshire, which traditionally holds the nation's first primary contest following the Iowa caucuses. Typically, a candidate must win — or, just as important, exceed expectations — to earn the necessary political support and fundraising to sustain the grueling state-by-state primary trek ahead.

"This may break into two primaries: the fight between the next-door neighbors and the others," said Terry Shumaker, a prominent backer of Bill and Hillary Clinton's New Hampshire campaigns.

History suggests that geography matters.

Virtually every time a New Englander has run in a New Hampshire Democratic primary dating back to John F. Kennedy in 1960, a New Englander has won. All but two have gone on to win the party's presidential nomination.

The primary winners include Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis; Massachusetts Sen. Paul Tsongas, who beat Bill Clinton in 1992; Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry; and Sanders, who defeated Hillary Clinton in New Hampshire's 2016 contest. Only Tsongas and Sanders failed to win the party nomination.

Kerry, who served as secretary of state in the Obama administration, has not ruled out a 2020 run. Former Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick and Massachusetts congressman Seth Moulton are more actively considering bids.

Aides to all five prospects, speaking on condition of anonymity to share internal discussions, conceded that presidential runs were possible, if not likely.

Sanders, 77, is considering a 2020 bid, a senior aide said. He is expected to make a final decision before Christmas, though an announcement is not expected until after New Year's.

Sanders' team has been in regular contact with former staff and its broad base of supporters in New Hampshire and elsewhere, in addition to reaching out to some former Clinton backers. Should he run, the team sees Sanders with the biggest head start in New Hampshire of any candidate.

Warren did not visit New Hampshire ahead of the midterms, but she quietly dispatched staff to help Democrats there while hosting at least one private fundraiser for the New Hampshire Democratic Party in Boston. She made close to 150 calls to top Democratic candidates in recent days, both midterm winners and losers, including several in New Hampshire.

Like other 2020 prospects in the Senate, Warren, 69, is unlikely to make any announcements before Congress passes a new spending bill to avoid a government shutdown in early December. And while she hasn't made any formal staffing moves yet, former chief of staff Dan Geldon and former Massachusetts state director Roger Lau, who is well-versed in New Hampshire, are expected to be part of her presidential team should she run.

Patrick, who served as Massachusetts' governor from 2007 to 2015, has few formal political connections to New Hampshire, but he enjoys greater name recognition than most because New Hampshire's most populous regions share the Boston television market.

Former Obama aides including Valerie Jarrett and David Axelrod have encouraged a Patrick 2020 bid from afar. The 62-year-old African-American former governor ramped up political travel in the final weeks

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of the midterm elections, making appearances in South Carolina, Florida and Mississippi.

Two former Patrick aides have independently launched the "Reason to Believe" political action committee and begun courting prospective staff in early voting states.

Two-term Massachusetts Rep. Seth Moulton, whose district borders New Hampshire, is also seriously contemplating a run. While he may lack the renown of some of his rivals, the 40-year-old former Marine captain has shown little deference to his political elders, emerging as a leading critic of top House Democrat Nancy Pelosi.

Closing out the list, Kerry has repeatedly refused to rule out a second bid when asked publicly. He is wrapping up a national book tour, but there is no sign he is taking steps to lay the groundwork for a serious run.

New Hampshire Democratic Party Chairman Ray Buckley issued a warning, as New Hampshire officials often do, for any candidate who may be thinking about skipping New Hampshire and focusing on other early-voting states. Top Democrats in the state have noticed, for example, that California Sen. Kamala Harris has been active in Iowa and South Carolina, but has largely ignored New Hampshire so far.

"People have tried that before and it's never worked," Buckley said.

Liz Purdy, who led Clinton's New Hampshire efforts, offered a simple solution for non-New Englanders concerned about their competitors' geographic advantage.

"One thing that New Hampshire rewards is that hard work of meeting people, listening to them, answering questions, and anyone can do that," she said. "As long as they're willing to put in the work, anyone can win here."

In year of Democratic hopes, GOP comes out on top in Florida

By GARY FINEOUT, Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — This was the year Florida's Democrats spoke ambitiously of ending their 20-year journey in political exile in this battleground state. Instead, election results after a tense and bruising recount showed Republicans coming out on top for governor and even picking up a U.S. Senate seat.

After a recount dragged on for nearly two weeks, top Democratic candidates in the state came agonizingly close but fell short of their avowed goal.

Democratic candidate for governor Andrew Gillum conceded Saturday, followed by three-term incumbent U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson a day later. More than 8 million voters weighed in — a far higher turnout than in past midterm elections — but the result was the same for Democrats.

When official returns were posted Sunday, Republican Gov. Rick Scott led Nelson in the Senate race by slightly more than 10,000 votes. Republican Ron DeSantis edged Gillum, Florida's first African-American nominee for governor, by more than 32,000 votes. State officials will certify the official results Tuesday.

The close of nearly two weeks of high political drama in the presidential swing state likely spelled the end of the political career of the 76-year-old Nelson. First elected to Congress 40 years ago, Nelson had been a Democratic survivor in an era when Republicans swept to power in Florida in the '90s. He was first elected to the U.S. Senate in 2000 and seeking a fourth term.

"It has been a rewarding journey as well as a very humbling experience," Nelson said in a videotaped statement. "I was not victorious in this race but I still wish to strongly re-affirm the cause for which we fought: A public office is a public trust."

The political journey, however, appears to still be unfolding for Gillum, who ran on a liberal platform that included expanding Medicaid and raising taxes to spend more on education — both potential hard sells in the GOP-controlled Legislature.

In his concession video, Gillum told supporters to "stay tuned" about his next move.

"Although nobody wanted to be governor more than me that this was not just about an election cycle," said the 39-year-old Tallahassee mayor. "This was about creating the type of change in this state that really allows for the voices of everyday people to show up again in our government, in our state, and in our communities. We know that this fight continues."

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Now, ahead of the 2020 presidential election, it will be Republicans again in firm control in Florida. A Scott victory means Florida will now have two Republican senates while padding the chamber's Republican majority.

Nelson, a Florida native with a distinct twang, fought a hard and acrimonious race against Scott, a multimillionaire businessman and relative newcomer who jumped into politics eight years ago and was urged to run this time by President Donald Trump.

And it was the third time Scott barely edged a Democratic opponent.

"Now the campaign truly is behind us, and that's where we need to leave it," Scott said in a statement after official results were posted. "We must do what Americans have always done: come together for the good of our state and our country. My focus will not be on looking backward, but on doing exactly what I ran on: making Washington work."

Trump congratulated Scott on Twitter: "From day one Rick Scott never wavered. He was a great Governor and will be even a greater Senator in representing the People of Florida. Congratulations to Rick on having waged such a courageous and successful campaign!"

While Scott and Nelson disagreed on such key issues as gun control, health care and the environment, their campaign focused primarily on attacking each other's character and competence.

Scott bashed his rival as ineffective and out-of-touch in TV ads paid for by more than \$60 million of the Republican's own money.

Nelson branded Scott as a Trump follower who used the governor's office to pad his wealth.

Nelson and his allies also ran ads that questioned Scott's ethics, pointing to his ouster years ago as chief executive of health care giant Columbia/HCA amid a federal fraud investigation. Scott was never charged with any wrongdoing, though the health care conglomerate paid a then-record \$1.7 billion fine for Medicare fraud.

Nelson was seen as a moderate who rarely made waves or earned much national exposure as he largely devoted himself to Florida-specific issues. One of his more notable moments came when he flew on Space Shuttle Columbia while serving in Congress.

His only other election loss came in 1990 in a Democratic primary for governor — to the eventual winner Lawton Chiles.

U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio, a Republican, said he would miss working with Nelson.

"I knew Bill Nelson not just as a Democratic senator, but also as a man of genuine faith, integrity and character," Rubio said. "A man who served our country with a dignity that is increasingly rare in our modern politics."

After it became clear the Senate race would head to a legally required recount, Nelson and Democrats filed several lawsuits that challenged everything from Scott's authority over the state's election division to deadlines for mail-in ballots.

Republicans also raised questions about how some South Florida election officials were counting the ballots.

The South Florida Sun-Sentinel reported late Sunday that one of those officials, Broward County Supervisor of Elections Brenda Snipes, had presented a resignation letter to step down in January. The report cited an attorney who works as counsel to the Broward elections office, Burnadette Norris-Weeks. Snipes couldn't immediately be reached for comment.

Searchers in California wildfire step up efforts; 77 dead

By SUDHIN THANAWALA, Associated Press

CHICO, Calif. (AP) — Volunteers in white coveralls, hard hats and masks poked through ash and debris Sunday, searching for the remains of victims of the devastating Northern California wildfire before rains forecast this week complicate their efforts.

While the predicted downpours could help tamp down blazes that have killed 77 people so far, they also could wash away telltale fragments of bone, or turn loose, dry ash into a thick paste that would frustrate

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the search.

A team of 10 volunteers went from burned house to burned house Sunday in the devastated town of Paradise, accompanied by a cadaver dog with a bell on its collar that jingled in the grim landscape.

The members of the team scrutinized the rubble in five-minute sweeps, using sticks to move aside debris and focused on vehicles, bathtubs and what was left of mattresses. When no remains were found, they spray-painted a large, orange "0" near the house.

Up to 400 people were involved in the overall search and recovery effort. Robert Panak, a volunteer on a different team from Napa County, spent the morning searching homes, but didn't find any remains.

Asked whether the job was tough, the 50-year-old volunteer said, "I just think about the positives, bringing relief to the families, closure."

He said his approach was to try to picture the house before it burned and think where people might have hidden.

Nearly 1,300 names are on a list of people unaccounted for more than a week after the fire began in Butte County, authorities said late Saturday. They stressed that the long roster does not mean they believe all those on the list are missing.

Sheriff Kory Honea pleaded with evacuees to review the list of those reported as unreachable by family and friends and to call the department if those people are known to be safe.

Deputies have located hundreds of people to date, but the overall number keeps growing because they are adding more names, including those from the chaotic early hours of the disaster, Honea said.

"As much as I wish that we could get through all of this before the rains come, I don't know if that's possible," he said.

Honea said it was within the "realm of possibility" that officials would never know the exact death toll from the blaze.

On Sunday afternoon, more than 50 people gathered at a memorial for the victims at First Christian Church in Chico, where a banner on the altar read, "We will rise from the ashes."

People hugged and shed tears as Pastor Jesse Kearns recited a prayer for first responders: "We ask for continued strength as they are growing weary right now."

Hundreds of search and recovery personnel are involved in the effort, going to homes when they receive tips that someone might have died there.

But they are also doing a more comprehensive, "door-to-door" and "car-to-car" search of areas, said Joe Moses, a commander with the Monterey County Sheriff's Office, who is helping oversee the search and rescue effort.

The search area is huge, Moses said, with many structures that need to be checked.

The fire also burned many places to the ground, creating a landscape unique to many search-and-rescue personnel, he said.

"Here we're looking for very small parts and pieces, and so we have to be very diligent and systematic in how we do your searches," he said Friday.

The remains of five more people were found Saturday, including four in Paradise and one in nearby Concow, bringing the number of dead to 77.

Among them was Lolene Rios, 56, whose son, Jed, tearfully told KXTV in Sacramento that his mother had an "endless amount of love" for him.

President Donald Trump toured the area Saturday, joined by California's outgoing and incoming governors, both Democrats who have traded sharp barbs with the Republican administration. Trump also visited Southern California, where firefighters were making progress on a wildfire that tore through communities west of Los Angeles from Thousand Oaks to Malibu, killing three people.

"We've never seen anything like this in California; we've never seen anything like this yet. It's like total devastation," Trump said as he stood amid the ruins of Paradise and pledged the full support of the federal government.

Soon after the fire began, Trump blamed state officials for poor forest management and threatened to cut off federal funding.

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"He's got our back," outgoing Gov. Jerry Brown said Sunday on CBS' "Face the Nation."

"There have been some back and forth between California leaders and the president," Brown said. "But in the face of tragedy, people tend to rise above some of their lesser propensities. So I think we're on a good path."

He also suggested California's severe wildfires will make believers of even the most ardent climate change skeptics "in less than five years," and that those living near forests might need to build underground shelters to protect them from fires.

Rain was forecast for midweek in the Paradise area. The National Weather Service said the area could get 20 mph (32 kph) sustained winds and 40 mph (64 kph) gusts, which could make it hard for crews to keep making progress against the blaze.

Northern California's Camp Fire has destroyed about 10,500 homes and torched 233 square miles (603 square kilometers). It was 65 percent contained.

Honea expressed hope that Trump's visit would help with recovery, saying the tour by the Republican president and California's Democratic leaders "signals a spirit of cooperation here that ultimately benefit this community and get us on a path toward recovery."

Associated Press journalists Terence Chea and Jonathan Lemire in Paradise, Christopher Weber in Los Angeles and Janie Har and Daisy P. Nguyen in San Francisco contributed.

As Florida recount ends, Sen. Nelson concedes race to Scott

By GARY FINEOUT, Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — Sen. Bill Nelson, a Florida political icon who first arrived on Capitol Hill in the decades when Democrats dominated this presidential battleground state, conceded his bitterly close re-election bid to Republican Rick Scott on Sunday after a bruising recount left Nelson thousands of votes short of the outgoing governor.

Nelson gave up his quest after days of tense and often acrimonious recounting wrapped up at midday Sunday, when Florida's counties had to turn in their official results. Florida will not officially certify the final results until Tuesday, but the totals showed Nelson trailing Scott by more than 10,000 votes.

"It has been a rewarding journey as well as a very humbling experience," Nelson said in a videotaped statement. "I was not victorious in this race but I still wish to strongly re-affirm the cause for which we fought: A public office is a public trust."

The close of nearly two weeks of high political drama in the presidential swing state likely spelled the end of the political career of the 76-year-old Nelson. First elected to the U.S. House 40 years ago, Nelson had been a Democratic survivor in an era when Republicans swept to power in Florida in the '90s. He was first elected to the U.S. Senate in 2000 and was making his fourth bid at Senate re-election.

A Florida native with a distinct twang, Nelson fought a hard race against Scott, a multimillionaire businessman and relative newcomer to the state who had been urged to run by President Donald Trump. A Scott victory will help Republicans boost their Senate majority.

This marked the third time Scott, who did not jump into politics until eight years ago, has barely edged a Democratic rival.

"Now the campaign truly is behind us, and that's where we need to leave it," Scott said in a statement after official results were posted. "We must do what Americans have always done: come together for the good of our state and our country. My focus will not be on looking backward, but on doing exactly what I ran on: making Washington work."

Trump congratulated Scott on Twitter: "From day one Rick Scott never wavered. He was a great Governor and will be even a greater Senator in representing the People of Florida."

Nelson was seen as a moderate, rarely making waves or gaining much national exposure as he focused on Florida-specific issues. One of his more notable moments came when he flew on Space Shuttle Columbia while serving in Congress.

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Florida's other senator, Republican Marco Rubio, said he would miss working with Nelson.

"I knew Bill Nelson not just as a Democratic senator, but also as a man of genuine faith, integrity and character," Rubio said in a statement. "A man who served our country with a dignity that is increasingly rare in our modern politics."

This marked only the second electoral defeat of Nelson's long political career. He lost a Democratic primary for governor to eventual winner Lawton Chiles in 1990.

After it became clear the Senate race would head to a legally required recount, Nelson and Democrats filed several lawsuits that challenged everything from Scott's authority over the state's election division to deadlines for mail-in ballots. Amid the recount, Scott suggested that some county election officials were allowing fraud to occur.

Republicans raised questions about how some South Florida election officials were counting the ballots. The South Florida Sun-Sentinel reported late Sunday that one of those officials, Broward County Supervisor of Elections Brenda Snipes, had presented a resignation letter to step down in January. The report cited an attorney who works as counsel to the Broward elections office, Burnadette Norris-Weeks, but Snipes couldn't immediately be reached for comment.

State officials had ordered a manual recount after a legally required machine recount showed that Scott led Nelson by about 12,600 votes. More than 8 million voters cast ballots in the race.

Scott ran a harsh campaign against Nelson, calling the incumbent ineffective and out of touch.

While the two disagreed on such key issues as gun control, health care and the environment, they focused primarily on character and competence. Scott repeatedly bashed Nelson in TV ads paid for by more than \$60 million of his own wealth.

Meanwhile, Nelson branded Scott as a Trump follower who had used the governor's office to pad his wealth.

Nelson and his allies also ran ads that questioned Scott's ethics, pointing to his ouster years ago as chief executive of health care giant Columbia/HCA amid a federal fraud investigation. Although Scott was never charged with any wrongdoing, the health care conglomerate paid a then-record \$1.7 billion fine for Medicare fraud.

While the Senate contest was one of the marquee races of the U.S. midterm elections, it was shadowed by the governor's race: a bitterly close competition between Republican Ron DeSantis and Democrat Andrew Gillum that became a proxy battle between Trump and his Democratic opponents. Gillum, Florida's first African-American nominee for governor, conceded to DeSantis on Saturday after lagging in a legally required machine recount.

Another House win caps Democratic rout in California

By **MICHAEL R. BLOOD**, Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Democrat Gil Cisneros captured a Republican-held U.S. House seat in Southern California, capping a Democratic rout in which the party picked up six congressional seats in the state.

In what had been the last undecided House contest in California, Cisneros beat Republican Young Kim for the state's 39th District seat.

The Cisneros victory Saturday cements a stunning political realignment that will leave a vast stretch of the Los Angeles metropolitan area under Democratic control in the House.

With Kim's defeat, four Republican-held House districts all or partly in Orange County, once a nationally known GOP stronghold, will have shifted in one election to the Democratic column. The change means that the county — Richard Nixon's birthplace and site of his presidential library — will only have Democrats representing its residents in Washington next year.

The Orange County Democratic Party said it's the first time since 1940 that all seven House seats in the county, home to 3.2 million people, are in Democratic control. Three seats all or partly in the northwestern end of the county are held by Democrats who were easily re-elected.

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Democrats also recently picked up the last Republican-held House seat anchored in Los Angeles County, when Democrat Katie Hill ousted Republican Rep. Steve Knight.

Republicans also lost a seat in the agricultural Central Valley.

With other gains, Democrats will hold a 45-8 edge in California U.S. House seats next year.

The 39th District was one of seven targeted by Democrats in California after Hillary Clinton carried them in the 2016 presidential election.

Cisneros, 47, a \$266 million lottery jackpot winner, had been locked in a close race with Kim in a district that has grown increasingly diverse. It's about equally divided between Republicans, Democrats and independents, as it is with Asians, Hispanics and whites.

"In one of the most diverse districts in the country I learned that for all of our differences, we all care about the same things," said Cisneros, who will be the first Hispanic to represent the district.

"Most of all, we want to live in a world brought together by hope, not divided by hate," he said in a statement.

Kim, 55, a former state legislator, worked for years for retiring Republican Rep. Ed Royce, who is vacating the seat and had endorsed her.

In a state where President Donald Trump is unpopular, Kim sought to create distance with the White House on trade and health care. Her immigrant background — and gender — made her stand out in a political party whose leaders in Washington are mostly older white men.

"I'm a different kind of candidate," she had said.

It wasn't enough. Democratic ads depicted her as a Trump underling, eager to carry out his agenda.

Cisneros, a first-time candidate, described his interest in Congress as an extension of his time in the military, saying it was about public service. He runs a charitable foundation with his wife.

On health care, he talked about his mother who went without insurance for 16 years. "That should just not happen in this country," he had said.

While the election delivered mixed results around the U.S., it affirmed California's reputation as a Democratic fortress.

Democrats are on track to hold every statewide office — again. The party holds a supermajority in both chambers of the Legislature and has a 3.7-million advantage in voter registration.

There wasn't even a Republican on the ballot for U.S. Senate.

Macron, Merkel seek common approaches to Trump, euro

By DAVID McHUGH, Associated Press

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) — French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Angela Merkel consulted Sunday on migration, fixing the euro currency, Europe's defense, taxing digital companies and other issues as the two leaders looked to preserve their influence abroad while their authority flags at home.

Macron, who came to Berlin to take part in Germany's national remembrance day for the victims of war and dictatorship, urged European government to seize more responsibility for their own fate, especially regarding defense.

Macron said that the French-German alliance "is invested with this obligation not to allow the world to slide into chaos, and to accompany it on the road of peace."

He said that Europe can't play its role "if it doesn't take more responsibility for its defense and security and is content to play a secondary role on the international scene." Macron looked ahead to the European Parliament elections in May, which will give populist and anti-EU parties another chance to test their appeal with voters.

"We must do a great deal by May next year to achieve a more united, more sovereign and more efficient Europe, which we so urgently need," he said.

The two biggest countries in Europe can be a powerful force, but their leaders at the moment are hampered by falling domestic support. Macron has seen his poll ratings sag at home, where more than a quarter-million people protested Saturday over proposed gas tax hikes. Merkel has been a lame duck

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since saying she wouldn't seek another term.

Merkel has offered support for Macron's proposal for a European army someday. Both leaders have said Europe needs to depend less on others — such as the U.S. — for its defense.

U.S. President Donald Trump has unsettled NATO allies by demanding member countries either pay more for defense or "protect themselves," as he put it in a recent tweet.

However, ceremonial appearances and warm words offered ahead of a December summit on the euro can't hide the persistent friction between the French and German approaches to the European Union's economic issues.

Germany and France have apparently struck a deal on a common budget for the EU countries that use the shared euro currency, something Macron pushed for. German Finance Minister Olaf Scholz told the dpa news agency the proposal was to be presented to European finance ministers Monday.

The size of the budget — mentioned by French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire as 20 to 25 billion euros — is far short of Macron's idea. The amount is only 0.2 percent of the eurozone economy, less than the several percentage points of gross domestic product originally mentioned by Macron.

The compromise underscores German reluctance to sign off on anything seen as transferring taxpayer money from richer countries like Germany to more fiscally shaky ones such as Italy or Greece.

The European summit in December is to take up limited proposals to strengthen the euro currency, such as upgrading the eurozone's bailout fund and a long-term road map for introducing EU-level deposit insurance.

The two sides can't agree on a tax on digital companies such as Amazon and Google. The French and the European Commission have proposed imposing such a tax, but Scholz said the issue should be left with the 36-member Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Trump pondering Kelly's status, 3-5 Cabinet changes

By JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump isn't committing to a previous pledge to keep chief of staff John Kelly for the remainder of his term, part of widespread speculation about staffing changes that could soon sweep through his administration.

Trump, in a wide-ranging interview that aired on "Fox News Sunday," praised Kelly's work ethic and much of what he brings to the position but added, "There are certain things that I don't like that he does."

"There are a couple of things where it's just not his strength. It's not his fault. It's not his strength," said Trump, who added that Kelly himself might want to depart.

Asked whether he would keep Kelly in his post through 2020, the president offered only that "it could happen." Trump had earlier pledged publicly that Kelly would remain through his first term in office, though many in the West Wing were skeptical.

Trump said he was happy with his Cabinet but was thinking about changing "three or four or five positions." One of them is Homeland Security chief Kirstjen Nielsen, whose departure is now considered inevitable. Trump said in the interview that he could keep her on, but he made clear that he wished she would be tougher in implementing his hard-line immigration policies and enforcing border security.

The list of potential replacements for Nielsen includes a career lawman, two military officers and former acting U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement head. But her eventual replacement will find there's no getting around the immigration laws and court challenges that have thwarted the president's hard-line agenda at every turn — even if there's better personal chemistry.

Trump also discussed the removal of Mira Ricardel, a deputy national security adviser who is being moved to another position in the administration after clashes with the East Wing culminated in an extraordinary statement from first lady Melania Trump that called for her removal. The president said Ricardel was "not too diplomatic, but she's talented" and downplayed the idea that his wife was calling the shots in the White House.

"(The first lady's team) wanted to go a little bit public because that's the way they felt and I thought it

was fine," Trump said.

He also dismissed a series of reports that he had been fuming in the week after the Democrats captured the House, claiming instead that the mood of the West Wing was "very light."

The president also addressed a series of other topics:

— He said he "would not get involved" if his choice for acting attorney general, Matt Whitaker, decided to curtail special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into 2016 election interference and possible ties between the Trump campaign and Russia. Whitaker was previously a fierce critic of the probe, and Democrats have called for him to recuse himself from overseeing it. Trump said that "It's going to be up to him" and that "I really believe he's going to do what's right."

— He downplayed a federal judge's decision to restore CNN reporter Jim Acosta's White House press pass but derided an alleged lack of "decorum" among reporters who cover the administration. Trump also reiterated that the White House was going to write up rules of conduct for reporters at news conferences, adding, "If he misbehaves, we'll throw him out or we'll stop the news conference."

— He also defended his incendiary attacks on the press, which include labeling reporters the "enemy of the people," a phrase more closely associated with authoritarian regimes. Trump suggested that his interviewer, Chris Wallace, was no "angel," and bristled when the host from Fox News, which generally gives him favorable coverage, said that the media was in "solidarity." Trump declared, "I am calling fake news, fake reporting, is what's tearing this country apart because people know, people like things that are happening and they're not hearing about it."

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Reid machine keeps humming in Nevada, even in his retirement

By MICHELLE L. PRICE and NICHOLAS RICCARDI, Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Harry Reid may no longer lead Senate Democrats in Washington, but the political machine he built in Nevada has Republicans on the run.

Democrats romped up and down the state in the Nov. 6 midterm elections, ousting Republican Sen. Dean Heller, winning races for governor and lieutenant governor, and expanding their state legislative majorities.

The shellacking was 15 years in the making, the culmination of a long-term plan to shift a battleground into the Democratic column. Democrats elsewhere will work to replicate Nevada for years to come. Republicans were humbled.

"These things can change, but right now Nevada is a blue state," said Mark Hutchison, the state's outgoing Republican lieutenant governor. "There's no doubt that the Democratic Party has done a very good job in Nevada of getting out the vote and creating an infrastructure that is formidable."

The political mastermind behind the Democrats' ascendancy is 78-year-old Harry Reid, the soft-spoken former Senate majority leader who served for decades in Washington before his retirement last year. Despite being treated for pancreatic cancer, Reid has remained active in Nevada politics.

Reid started building the state party for the 2004 election, when Nevada was in a tug of war between its Western libertarian roots and the Democratic leanings of recent transplants. The party had no permanent staff in nonelection years; now it has double digits.

Senate Republicans had sent him a warning shot that November by ousting his predecessor as Democratic leader, Sen. Tom Daschle of South Dakota. That led Reid to step up efforts to protect his home flank. He helped make Nevada's caucuses one of the first-in-the-nation presidential contests and a destination for political spending by national aspirants.

"It didn't really matter that his name wasn't on the ballot, he was all in every day," said Rebecca Lambe, a longtime Reid aide and Democratic strategist.

Reid used the national cash flowing in to build a strong state Democratic Party and bolster a network of pro-immigrant and environmental organizations. They worked with Las Vegas' potent unions to power a Democratic turnout machine.

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"This is what Democrats need to be doing everywhere. This is the long game," said Rebecca Katz, a Democratic strategist and former Reid staffer.

Not everything Reid built may be easily exportable.

Nevada has only about 3 million residents, so it's easy for left-leaning groups to coordinate and have an impact. Most voters are concentrated in Clark County, which includes Las Vegas. It's a state full of demographic groups that lean Democratic, with 29 percent of its population Latino and only 49 percent white.

Las Vegas' economy generates lots of working-class, service jobs that can't be outsourced, making it easier for unions to organize. Most significantly, it's given birth to the Culinary Union, a 57,000-member political force representing casino workers that helps pad Democratic margins with its voter turnout programs.

But Nevada Democrats do face obstacles.

They can only win statewide if they turn out Las Vegas' transient and diverse workforce. This was one of Reid's epiphanies in 2004, Lambe said. "There was a recognition that the electorate didn't reflect the population of the state."

One solution was nonstop voter registration to keep catching new arrivals and adding them to the voter rolls. Doing that, and then turning those hard-to-reach voters out, takes money.

Reid is a prolific fundraiser who has been able to keep money flowing to the state. But there is a grim example for Democrats of what can happen when that spigot runs dry.

In 2014, Reid turned his attention to trying to save Democratic control of the Senate in races outside Nevada. There was no competitive race for governor or Senate to draw Nevada voters' interest. Door-knocking and voter registration in Las Vegas dwindled. Republicans swept all statewide races, even winning a congressional seat in the heart of Democratic Las Vegas that was called the "Culinary District" because the union had such sway there.

This year, Reid helped pick candidates and staff for important races and raised money. It's hard to quantify how the machine is funded because money flows through many different organizations. One measure is that Heller had \$35 million spent against him by outside groups, as opposed to \$20 million for Democratic opponent, Rep. Jacky Rosen.

"The 'Reid Machine' is synonymous with money," said Jeremy Hughes, a Republican strategist who advised Heller's campaign. "It totally is a resources issue. People believe the Republican Party is the party of large special interests when it is in fact the Democrat Party that had 30 outside special interest groups on the ground. Republicans did not have that."

Nevada Democrats worry that national donors may be overly secure that the state has gone Democratic and they may be less inclined to invest there in 2020, when there is no Senate race on the ballot.

"The question is, are Democrats going to be able to raise the money when we don't have a top-of-the-ticket governor and a top-of-the-ticket Senate race," said Andres Ramirez, a Democratic strategist in Las Vegas and a former Reid staffer.

Reid's hand-picked successor in the Senate, former state Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto, is supposed to take his place as chief organizer and fundraiser for the state's Democrats. Last week, she was named head of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee and will oversee the party's 2020 Senate races. It's a job that will connect her with many big national donors. But Cortez Masto cannot match Reid's Senate tenure and connections.

Reid didn't attend the Democrats' election night celebration at Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas, but he texted and called former aides to keep up. "He was very happy," Lambe said, "and proud."

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Monday, Nov. 19, the 323rd day of 2018. There are 42 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 19, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln dedicated a national cemetery at the site of the Civil War

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battlefield of Gettysburg in Pennsylvania.

On this date:

In 1831, the 20th president of the United States, James Garfield, was born in Orange Township, Ohio.

In 1919, the Senate rejected the Treaty of Versailles (vehr-SY') by a vote of 55 in favor, 39 against, short of the two-thirds majority needed for ratification.

In 1942, during World War II, Russian forces launched their winter offensive against the Germans along the Don front.

In 1959, Ford Motor Co. announced it was halting production of the unpopular Edsel.

In 1969, Apollo 12 astronauts Charles Conrad and Alan Bean made the second manned landing on the moon.

In 1977, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat became the first Arab leader to visit Israel.

In 1985, President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev met for the first time as they began their summit in Geneva.

In 1990, the pop duo Milli Vanilli were stripped of their Grammy Award because other singers had lent their voices to the "Girl You Know It's True" album.

In 1995, Polish President Lech Walesa (vah-WEN'-sah) was defeated in his bid for re-election.

In 1997, Iowa seamstress Bobbi McCaughey (mihk-KOY') gave birth to the world's first set of surviving septuplets, four boys and three girls.

In 2004, in one of the worst brawls in U.S. sports history, Ron Artest and Stephen Jackson of the Indiana Pacers charged into the stands and fought with Detroit Pistons fans, forcing officials to end the Pacers' 97-82 win with 45.9 seconds left.

In 2007, Amazon.com released its first Kindle e-book reader.

Ten years ago: Al-Qaida's No. 2, Ayman al-Zawahri (AY'-muhn ahl-ZWAH'-ree), slurred Barack Obama as a black American who does the bidding of whites in a new Web message intended to dent the president-elect's popularity among Arabs and Muslims. The Dow Jones industrial average closed under 8,000 at 7,997.28 — the lowest close since March 2003. Drama and dance critic Clive Barnes died in New York at age 81.

Five years ago: Suicide bombers struck the Iranian Embassy in Beirut, killing 23 people, including a diplomat, and injuring more than 140 others. Virginia state Sen. Creigh (kree) Deeds was attacked and stabbed multiple times by his mentally ill adult son, Gus Deeds, who then took his own life. Diane Disney Miller, 79, daughter of Walt Disney and one of his inspirations for building the Disneyland theme park, died in Napa, California. The Disney animated feature "Frozen" had its Hollywood premiere.

One year ago: Charles Manson, the hippie cult leader behind the gruesome murders of actress Sharon Tate and six others in Los Angeles in 1969, died in a California hospital at the age of 83 after nearly a half-century in prison. In an announcement that would trigger impeachment proceedings, Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe defied calls to quit and said he would preside over a ruling party congress in December. State media and a monitoring group in Syria reported that pro-government forces had defeated the Islamic State group in its last major stronghold in the country. Longtime country music star Mel Tillis died in Florida at the age of 85. Actress and singer Della Reese died at 86 in her Los Angeles area home.

Today's Birthdays: Talk show host Larry King is 85. Former General Electric chief executive Jack Welch is 83. Talk show host Dick Cavett is 82. Broadcasting and sports mogul Ted Turner is 80. Former Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, is 79. Former Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy G. Thompson is 77. Fashion designer Calvin Klein is 76. Sportscaster Ahmad Rashad is 69. Actor Robert Beltran is 65. Actress Kathleen Quinlan is 64. Actress Glynnis O'Connor is 63. Broadcast journalist Ann Curry is 62. Former NASA astronaut Eileen Collins is 62. Actress Allison Janney is 59. Rock musician Matt Sorum (Guns N' Roses, Velvet Revolver) is 58. Actress Meg Ryan is 57. Actress-director Jodie Foster is 56. Actress Terry Farrell is 55. TV chef Rocco DiSpirito is 52. Actor Jason Scott Lee is 52. Olympic gold medal runner Gail Devers is 52. Actress Erika Alexander is 49. Rock musician Travis McNabb is 49. Singer Tony Rich is 47. Actress Sandrine Holt is 46. Country singer Jason Albert (Heartland) is 45. Country singer Billy Currington is 45. Dancer-choreographer Savion Glover is 45. Country musician Chad Jeffers is 43. Rhythm-and-blues singer Tamika

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Scott (Xscape) is 43. Rhythm-and-blues singer Lil' Mo is 41. Olympic gold medal gymnast Kerri Strug is 41. Actor Reid Scott is 41. Movie director Barry Jenkins (Film: "Moonlight") is 39. Actress Katherine Kelly is 39. Neo-soul musician Browan Lollar is 36. Actor Adam Driver is 35. Country singer Cam is 34. Actress Samantha Futerman is 31. Rapper Tyga is 29.

Thought for Today: "The misfortunes hardest to bear are these which never came." — Christopher Morley, American author and journalist (1890-1957).