

Groton Daily Independent

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Thanksgiving Ads in today's GDI

JK Students featured in today's GDI

1- Groton Chiropractic Ad

1- Recycling Trailer

1- Groton Care & Rehab Supper Ad

2- Historic Church open house is today

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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.

Groton Chiropractic Clinic

Carol McFarland-Kutter, D.C.

1205 N 1st St., Groton 397-8204



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

Groton Care & Rehab

1106 N 2nd St, Groton

Free Will Donation

Groton Area Schedule of Events

November 21-23, 2018

No School - Thanksgiving Break

Monday, November 26, 2018

6:00pm: Wrestling: Boys JH Tournament vs. 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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Historic Church open house is today

Trinity Episcopal Church, Groton's first church and oldest historical monument, will be open to the public Thanksgiving Day from 12 noon to 2 pm. The purpose of this midwinter open house is to celebrate the completion of the church's new roof and to thank those who made it possible, especially all the local supporters who donated a total of \$17,500 to match a grant from the Deadwood Historic Preservation Commission and the City of Deadwood.

No program is planned for the open house because there is no heat in the church, but visitors will be able to view the new ceiling boards and rafters which replaced the old ones that rotted over the years from moisture trapped under two layers of asphalt shingles and the original wood shingles installed when the church was built in 1884.

Visitors are also invited to view the original furnishings in the church, all hand hewn by local pioneers using drawings by the world famous architect, Richard Upjohn, whose book of plans for a church, a chapel, a rectory and a schoolhouse, and all their furnishings, was responsible for 153 Episcopal churches like Trinity in South Dakota in 1890. Trinity is "the lone survivor" of these 153 churches, according to a SD State Historical Society publication. Excerpts from Upjohn's book are displayed in the church.

Betty Breck, grant writer and historian for the Groton Community Historical Society, which was formed in 2016 to take over preservation of the church from the Brown County Historical Society, will be on hand to



answer visitors' questions and share the church's scrapbook with them.

The church is located at the corner of 3rd Street and 3rd Avenue, one block North of the Community Center.

Submitted by Betty Breck for the Groton Community Historical Society

It may be frosty outside . . .



. . . but we hope the comfort of your home is full of warm thoughts!



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Spray Foam

Brian Bahr

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Greetings to all South Dakota DI'ers

By Dean Fenenga, Affiliate Director SDDI

di.soda.ad@gmail.com

It has been a busy month for me with all that is happening in DI, both in South Dakota and globally. I hope you are on the way to a great start in your creative process. I have just returned from Kansas City, getting a tour of the new venue for Global Finals. I am excited with what I can tell you, and am hopeful for the few remaining things I am unable to report on.

Because of all that is going on. I am planning on having a teleconference on November 29th, 7:30 PM CST to get everybody up to date on all that is going on in South Dakota and in Kansas City. Please look for this weekend for a Zoom invitation (I have to trial run it first to see if I can manage it). I have a lot to talk about, not just about new GF information, but for clarifications of what is going on in South Dakota as well in terms of child safety, tournaments, and plans for the future.

This is not an invitation only event. Please forward all of the information to whomever you think will be interested, team managers, potential team managers, school principals, school administrators, teachers, future appraisers, donors with big pocketbooks, parents and team members (I promise not to interfere with their solutions). I will be as open as I can, and hopefully be able to answer many questions in the time given to me. Keep in mind, there are some things I am prohibited to talk about, and only because the deal is not yet finalized. I will let everyone know what I learn as soon as possible.

If all goes well, these Zoom meetings may be a semi-regular thing for the SDDI population. I am all for improving communication and this will be a great first step if successful.

Finally I want to apologize for the state of the website, and admit it is my fault. My technical skills were just enough to be damaging. But, the great news, it will be up and running, with up-to-the-minute information by this Sunday at the latest. I have enlisted professional help and it will be fixed.

Please make every attempt to be on the Thursday meeting. There is plenty of information that will make your life easier in your roll in SDDI. I am in this to make SDDI 2019 a success and want to keep all informed. If you cannot make it, I will either see if a.) I am successful in recording the meeting or b.) may be convinced to repeat the information at a later date.

I am excited about the challenges and new opportunities presented in DI this year. Please use me as a resource for any questions or concerns. Good luck on this upcoming year, the teams never cease to amaze me.

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thankful for all of
our customers!**

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CIVIL WAR SOLDIERS CELEBRATED THANKSGIVING IN THE FIELD

By Tom Emery

As in most wars, the men of the Civil War found it excruciatingly difficult to be away from loved ones at holiday time. Thanksgiving was no exception.

The holiday itself has its roots in the Civil War. The first official proclamation declaring Thanksgiving as a national day of remembrance was issued by Abraham Lincoln in 1863, partly in honor of Northern successes in the war that year. Lincoln designated the last Thursday in November "as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise."

That year, Thanksgiving fell on the day after a crucial Union victory at the battle of Chattanooga. The previous year in late November, armies were on the march during the Fredericksburg and Vicksburg campaigns. Around Thanksgiving 1864, some Union forces were on the cusp of the bloody battle of Franklin, while others were marching to the sea with William T. Sherman.

Due to their harsh surroundings, many Civil War men in the field enjoyed only the most spartan of celebrations. In Kewanee, Illinois, teenage sisters Tirzah and Sarah Vaill received a letter from their older brother, an Illinois infantryman, after Thanksgiving 1861 that described his holiday meal, "hard bread" and salt pork. He added that "during the day I thought of you at home having your nice dinners" and "wishing maybe that you might present a plate to some of us soldiers filled with your own goodies."

From his camp in Virginia that same year, Private Zebina Bickford of the 6th Vermont Infantry made the best of his day. In a letter home, he mused that "you may think we are homesick today but it is not so," mainly because of a care package sent from loved ones back in Vermont. The goodies consisted of



Jernie Weig
Daughter of Jade and Julie Weig
Thankful for my mom and my dad.



Aryanna Lilly
Daughter of Katie Lilly and Derek Pfitzer
Thankful for my mom, I love my sisters, my grandma, my cousins - Weston and Ella.



Ace *With Our Gratitude At Thanksgiving*
Construction
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A Harvest of Thanks



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Bountiful Blessings at Thanksgiving

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"a box of clothing and a few nicknacks consisting of eatables" that made "a very good thanksgiving for us."

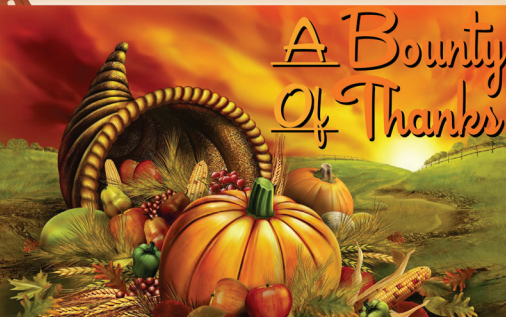
With tongue in cheek, he wrote that "you can't imagine what a lot of fine things we had for supper... a piece of sour bread and salt pork." However, he gleefully noted that "some of mother's cookies and doughnuts that came in our box" made the evening memorable. It would be Bickford's last Thanksgiving, as he died the following April 30.

The following year, Asa Bean, a doctor in the 114th Ohio, enjoyed greater tidings. On Nov. 27, 1862, he wrote that "there has been a surprise party here today for the benefit of soldiers and nurses." The feast included "roast turkey, chicken, pigeon, and oysters stewed" along with "baked chicken, boiled potatoes, turnip, apple butter, and cheese butter." Bean, though, lamented that he "cannot eat much without being sick." He, too, would die months later.

Elsewhere that year, Federal soldiers stationed at Fort Pulaski, Ga. held their own "fete and festival." The day's events included target practice and a rowing match, foot race, and hurdle sack race. Competitions involving a greased pole and a greased pig were also on the agenda, as was a "burlesque dress parade."

In some cases, Thanksgiving was a time of spiritual reflection. On the first official installment of the holiday in 1863, Sewell Van Alstine, a soldier in the 95th Illinois, wrote in his diary that he "went to town" and "heard an excellent discourse by an army chaplain at the Presbyterian Church." He also wrote there was "no drill today," a welcome respite.

In 1864, the Union League Club of New York City pleaded for donations of "cooked poultry and other proper meats" as well as "mince pies, sausages, and fruits" for men in the field. The call brought in some \$57,000 in cash donations, as well as nearly 225,000 pounds of poultry and large quantities of cakes,



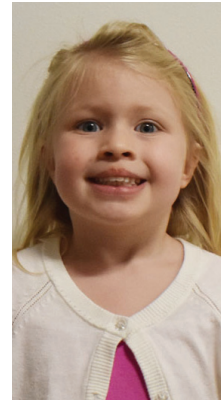
A Bounty of Thanks

Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow. ~Melody Beattie

Hanlon Brothers
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Titan Johnson
Son of TJ and Samantha Johnson
Thankful for mom, dad, Gauge, Santa, and Nene and Papa and my grandma and grandpa.



Emma Woizeschke
Daughter of Scott and Nickie Woizeschke
Thankful for everything in the whole wide world!

Happy Thanksgiving!

JOHNSON AGENCY

Real Estate & Insurance
Jay Johnson, Broker
www.johnsonagencygroton.com

Office: 605/397-2424
Home: 605/397-8565



102 N Main St.
Groton, SD 57445

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gingerbread, pickles, apples, vegetables, and cheese. One appreciative soldier saw the deeper meaning, writing that "it isn't the turkey, but the idea that we care for."

Others received far less. That year, Lewis Crater of the 50th Pennsylvania recorded in his diary that the Sanitary Commission "issued three fine apples to every man." Despite the middling fare, Crater and others likely gave thanks that they had survived to see another Thanksgiving during the four bloodiest years in American history.

Tom Emery is a freelance writer and historical researcher from Carlinville, Ill. He may be reached at 217-710-8392 or ilcivilwar@yahoo.com.

With Our Gratitude At Thanksgiving

As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.

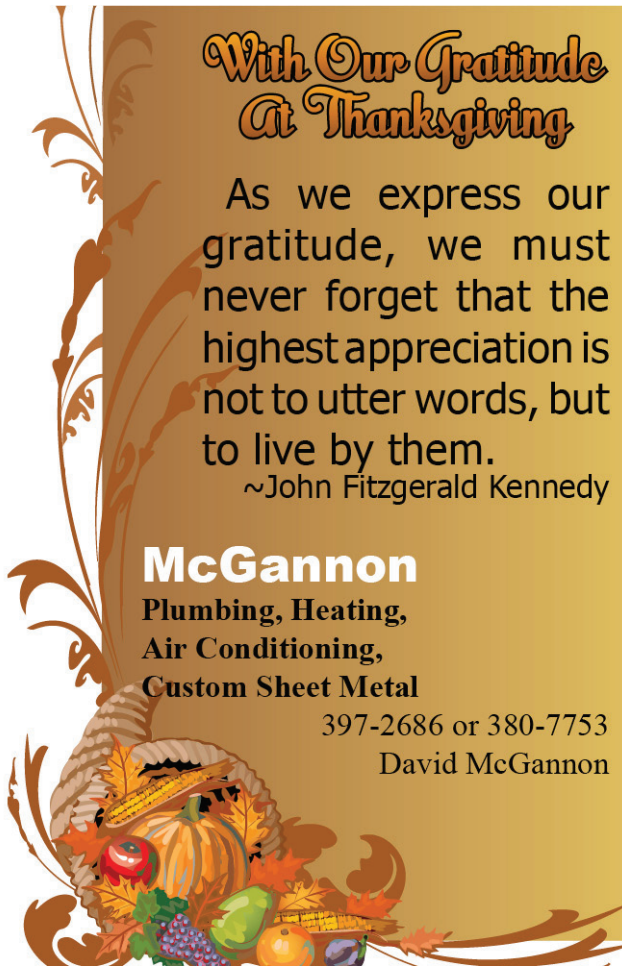
~John Fitzgerald Kennedy

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David McGannon



**Jaxson
Barrera**

Son of Beltran
and Tasha Bar-
rera

Thankful for my
dad.



**Blakely
Stiegelmeier**

Daughter of Jor-
dan and Whitney
Stiegelmeier

Thankful for mom,
dad, my sisters,
grandpa and grand-
ma.

Happy Thanksgiving!

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PRESIDENTIAL TURKEY PARDON AN ANNUAL TRADITION

Custom Began With Lincoln in 1863

By Tom Emery

Each year just before Thanksgiving, the President ceremoniously pardons a turkey, a light-hearted moment in his otherwise grueling schedule. The tradition is traced to Abraham Lincoln, who wrote a pardon at the behest of his youngest son, Tad, in 1863.

Though the origin is debated, many researchers believe that Lincoln was the first to bestow a Presidential pardon on a turkey, thus saving it from the dinner table. The reprieve, though, was actually issued at Christmas.

In late 1863, the Lincolns received a turkey as a gift, and though the bird was intended for Christmas dinner, nine-year-old Tad, an animal lover, had other ideas. He made a pet of the bird, which he named Jack, and taught the bird to follow him around the White House grounds.

On Christmas Eve, the President tried to tell his son that the bird would become the family dinner. Upset, Tad reportedly cried, "I can't help it. He's a good turkey, and I don't want him killed." Lincoln gave in and wrote out a pardon on a card, which he handed to his son to appease him.

"Tad was begging for the turkey's life," said Dr. Wayne Temple, an accomplished Lincoln scholar who recently retired as Deputy Director of the Illinois State Archives in Springfield. "Lincoln was always looking for something to amuse the children, so he pardoned the turkey."



Here's hoping all your prayers are answered during this holiday season. We're counting our blessings and your friendship is at the top of the list!

Happy Thanksgiving!

Lori's Pharmacy

Happy Thanksgiving!



**Shealee
Gilchrist**

Daughter of Grant and Jennifer Gilchrist

Thankful for my mom and dad, my brother and sister, my cousin Reagan.



**Brody
Zimmerman**

Son of Jarrett and Amanda Zimmerman

Thankful for everything! Daddy, mom and my brothers.



**Groton American
Legion Post #39**

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The President's playfulness reflected other episodes with his children. In 1861, he had written a pardon for a soldier doll, also named Jack, that Tad and older brother Willie (who died the next February) had sentenced to death.

In 1997, Bill Clinton referenced Lincoln's story in ceremonies to pardon a sixty-pounder named Wilis. George W. Bush also made reference to Lincoln's pardon in 2001.

"Lincoln is probably the only President with the sense of humor to pardon a turkey," laughed Temple. "Other Presidents have been more serious-minded, but that's how Lincoln could be."

Some of Lincoln's successors have shown less inclination. After President Obama's first turkey pardon in 2009, one commentator found that the chief executive "did not seem all that thrilled with his role" Seven years before, when a female turkey – a thirty-pound gobbler named Katie – was pardoned for the first time, G. W. Bush absentmindedly twice called the bird "he."

While many researchers credit Lincoln as the first President to issue a turkey pardon, others cite Harry S. Truman, who was the first to receive a gift bird from the National Turkey Federation in 1947. However, officials at the Truman Presidential Library in Missouri have found no evidence of any pardons given by Truman to a turkey.

His successor, Dwight D. Eisenhower, ate each of the birds given to him during his eight years in office. Four days before his assassination in 1963, John F. Kennedy offhandedly said of a 55-pound gift turkey, "we'll let this one grow."

The first President on record to deliver a pardon was Ronald Reagan in 1987, allegedly to draw attention from reporters' questions on the Iran-Contra affair. No turkeys were spared the following year, but in 1989, Reagan's successor, George H.W. Bush, instituted the pardon as an annual rite.



In Groton, every day is a day to count our blessings.

Happy Thanksgiving from James Valley Seed



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Kaylee Sippel
Daughter of John and Lisa Sippel

Thankful for my mom and see her in the hallway at school, my stuffed animal, blankie, my kitty and my daddy - I love my daddy!



Taylor Thompson
Daughter of Mark and June Thompson

Thankful for my grandma and doing projects with her. my sissy and watching videos with her. My mommy and cuddling with her. My brother - I tackle him. My dog, I love petting her. I like

my daddy - going with him in the combine.

Greetings At Thanksgiving

Groton Ag Partners
Hail & Crop Insurance



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Two turkeys are normally chosen for the ceremony, one serving as an alternate, to stand in if the first bird cannot fulfill the duties. In 2008, Bush pardoned the backup, Pumpkin, after the top turkey, Pecan, came down sick the night before the ceremony.

In recent years, reprieved turkeys have been sent to various locations in Virginia, including George Washington's estate at Mount Vernon and a place in Fairfax County called Frying Pan Park. From 2005-09, the turkeys were flown first-class to Disneyland to serve as grand marshals of Disney's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

Today, the annual ceremony to pardon the turkey usually lasts a few minutes and provides a prime photo opportunity for the President and members of his family. The White House frequently invites children to join the ceremony, adding to the holiday festivities.

Tom Emery is a freelance writer and historical researcher from Carlinville, Ill. He may be reached at 217-710-8392 or ilcivilwar@yahoo.com.



Tanner Frost
Son of Chris and Samantha Frost
Thankful for my whole family.



Kacie McComsey
Daughter of Jason and Christina McComsey
Thankful for for Santa because he gives me presents and my whole family and my pet.

Happy Thanksgiving!

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Happy Thanksgiving



Thanksgiving Day is a jewel, to set in the hearts of honest men; but be careful that you do not take the day, and leave out the gratitude.

~E.P. Powell

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THINKING ABOUT HEALTH

Both Costs and Coverage Matter When Choosing Insurance

By Trudy Lieberman, Rural Health News Service

It's open enrollment time for medical insurance, and for people having to shop in the individual insurance market; the choices are as confusing as ever.

Television ads splashed over the airwaves as the midterm electioneering came to a close didn't help much. By the end of the campaign it was hard to find any candidate – Democrat or Republican – who didn't want to cover people with preexisting health conditions.

The devil was in the details, though, and how politicians suggested people should be covered remained mostly a mystery.

In Missouri, for example, Senator-elect Josh Hawley, as the state's attorney general, signed onto a Texas lawsuit that would wipe out coverage for preexisting conditions while at the same time running campaign ads saying that he supported "forcing insurance companies to support all preexisting conditions." How many Missourians picked up on the contradiction?

Besides the muddled campaign messages, big changes in the individual marketplace can easily trip up families searching for a good policy.

The individual mandate – the requirement that nearly everyone have insurance – is gone beginning in 2019. That means there are no penalties for not having health insurance.



Gracie Leim

Daughter of Ty and Tami Nordtvedt

Thankful for my grandma - she's up in heaven; my sister, my mom, my dad, my brother Colton and my grandpa.



Aria Leim

Daughter of Ty and Tami Nordtvedt

Thankful for my grandma who died. I love my grandpa, my mom, my baby brother, my dogs, my sister and daddy.



Kayson Hofer

Son of Mark and Jennifer Hofer

Thankful for mom, dad, my brother, my baby brother and my cats.



Arthur Eichler

Son of Collin and Emily Eichler

Thankful for mom, dad, brothers and my teachers.

Happy Thanksgiving!

L.W. Sales

300 RR Ave, Groton 397-8111

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The Trump administration has also resurrected two kinds of insurance policies that in the old days caused consumers lots of problems: association policies sold by groups that band together to buy insurance and the so-called short-term policies that are in force for only a short time. This year the Trump administration says a short-term policy can last for three years.

The idea behind these two kinds of policies is to make insurance cheaper. In some cases it can be far cheaper than an Affordable Care Act policy sold on your state's shopping exchange.


There are good reasons why these plans are cheaper than policies complying with the Affordable Care Act, which cover more conditions such as mental health treatment and pregnancy care and end restrictions on lifetime coverage.

The ACA-compliant plans' biggest protection of all may be the right to buy a policy no matter what your existing health condition is, and the ACA has opened the door for millions of Americans to buy health coverage for the first time.

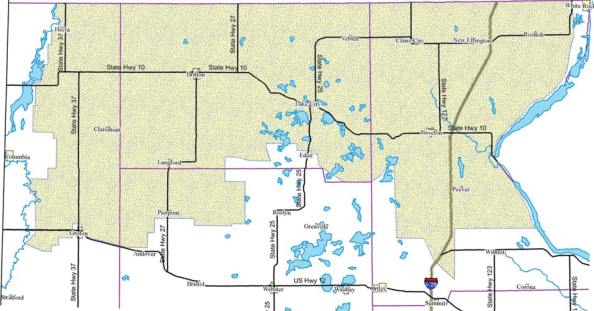
However, that protection so valuable to sick people comes with a trade-off: higher premiums. Since insurers selling in the state exchanges can no longer exclude sick people, they need to compensate for the greater risk people with heart disease or cancer or other major illnesses present by charging higher premiums.

Sellers of association policies can make their offerings very unattractive to sick people by limiting the number of doctors in their networks who treat certain costly diseases like HIV-AIDS, for example. If people with this disease can't find a physician in the network, they'll likely pick another plan.

In comparing policies this year, first consider how much you can pay. Remember the government helps




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South Dakota's
Agriculture!*

Happy Thanksgiving!



**South Dakota
Farmers Union**
UNITED TO GROW FAMILY AGRICULTURE

Doug Sombke, President

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those with incomes below 400 percent of the federal poverty level pay the premiums, if they buy a policy in one of the state exchanges.

Next, closely examine the coverage. Some people may find that a policy that covers two visits to the doctor is fine, but a person with a chronic condition won't. Others may find that the prescription drug or mental health coverage of an ACA policy is what they need.

Start your search by looking carefully at the offerings on your state exchange. It's possible that you'll be able to buy a silver plan that offers more coverage than a bronze policy and costs less this year. You might be asking yourself: Are these "new" offerings better than nothing?

As I've said before, it depends on your tolerance for risk. If you're perfectly healthy and willing to gamble you'll never get sick, then a short-term policy that doesn't offer comprehensive coverage might work. But if you're worried about unexpected illness, buy the best policy in your exchange that you can afford.

What insurance coverage are you buying this year? Write to Trudy at trudy.lieberman@gmail.com.



*Thanksgiving ...
Ain't nothing
But
Good*

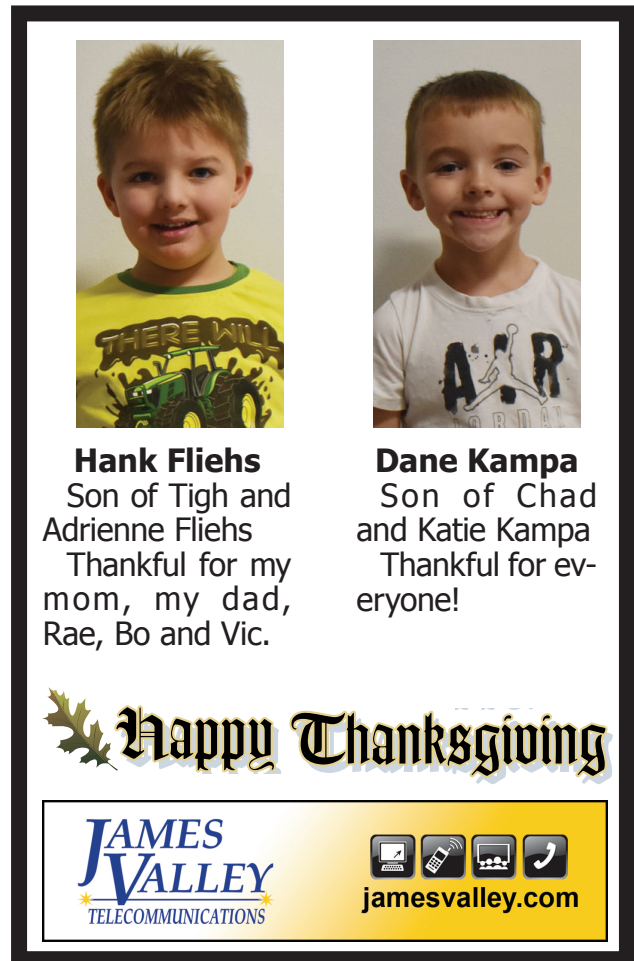
*Happy
Thanksgiving!*

YORK
It's time to get comfortable.

Heating and cooling is what we are all about. Our customers are thankful for the quick service we provide for them and we are thankful to our great clientele. Kevin Nehls and Trent Kahre wish you a Happy Thanksgiving!

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ACP Call Service Professional
Kevin Nehls at **626-6522**




Hank Fliehs
Son of Tigh and
Adrienne Fliehs
Thankful for my
mom, my dad,
Rae, Bo and Vic.

Dane Kampa
Son of Chad
and Katie Kampa
Thankful for ev-
eryone!

Happy Thanksgiving

JAMES VALLEY
TELECOMMUNICATIONS


jamesvalley.com

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Conde National League

Nov. 20 Team Standings: Tigers 29, Pirates 25, Cubs 24, Braves 23, Mets 16, Giants 15.

Men's High Games: Ryan Bethke 244; Lance Frohling 232, 211; Russ Bethke 222.

Men's High Series: Lance Frohling 622, Ryan Bethke 566, Russ Bethke 536.

Women's High Games: Alice Severson 174, Nancy Radke 169, Michelle Johnson 167.

Women's High Series: Nancy Radke 484, Alice Severson 483, Vickie Kramp 412.

Groton Coffee Cup League

Nov. 20 Team Standings: James Valley 28½, Biker Chix 25½, Kens 23, Ten Pins 19.

High Games: Joyce Walter 185, 176; Angie Carlson 152; Sandi Bistadaeu 150.

High Series: Joyce Walter 513, Angie Carlson 412, Sam Bahr 399.

*Have a blessed
Thanksgiving and
remember to give thanks
for the
blessings
you have!*



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and family of seed
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Ryan Hanson

Daughter of Justin and Chelsea Hanson
Thankful for all the people in class, even my teachers and my mommy and my daddy and my cat because she died.



Rowan Hanson

Daughter of Justin and Chelsea Hanson
Thankful for my great-great grandma - she's very special. She passed away and my cat died too. They watch over us and my whole entire family.



We have Christmas greens and wreaths! Join us for a planter party Sunday November 25th from 1-3 pm. Have the feast and then bring your planter to our shop and decorate with fresh Christmas greens.

South Dakota Maintains Highest Ratings with Moody's and S&P

PIERRE, S.D. – Today, Standard & Poor Global announced it has reaffirmed South Dakota's AAA Issuer Credit Rating with a stable outlook.

"This is the highest credit rating a state can obtain," said Gov. Daugaard. "By sticking to conservative budget practices and keeping our reserves at 10 percent of our annual budget, South Dakota continues to benefit from the highest rating possible. We've worked hard to place our state on a firm financial footing, and that stewardship has paid dividends."

In the report, S&P reflects on the state's expanding and diverse economy, strong revenue and economic trends, well-funded pension system, low debt, strong level of reserve funds, and a conservative and balanced budget requirement as key reasons for reaffirming the state's AAA rating. The state general fund budget for fiscal year 2018 ended with a \$16.9 million surplus, from both lower expenditures and higher revenues than budgeted. S&P has reported a stable outlook for the state due to structural budgetary alignment and stable economic metrics.

S&P has awarded the state a AAA rating since 2015.

Last week Moody's Investors Service announced South Dakota will maintain its AAA Issuer Rating with a stable outlook.

"This type of rating demonstrates our state's exceptional credit worthiness to financial markets, and leads to substantial savings in future interest payments," Gov. Daugaard said.

Credit ratings give potential bond purchasers a measurement of state performance and credit worthiness. Upgrades typically allow issued bonds to carry a lower interest rate, providing interest savings to issuers as well as the State of South Dakota and taxpayers.

Accident near Ferney last night

According to Facebook reports, medics and firefighters responded to a two-vehicle crash in Spink County, between Ferney and Verdon near the Brown-Spink county line last evening. A pickup and a semi were involved in the accident.

Marshall Lane and Hunter Schaller were in the pickup involved in the accident.

According to reports, Lane was was awake and talking. Schaller's report is very serious. Keep both families and loved ones in your prayers today.

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Today in Weather History

November 22, 1979: Snow began falling during the morning hours on the 21st and continued until the evening hours on the 22nd. Snowfall totals were in the 6 to 13-inch range with thirteen inches at Sioux Falls being the largest amount reported. Moderate winds of 20 to 35 mph made travel tough. Approximately 50 percent of the corn remained in the fields. The snow did not harm the corn, so most of it was still harvested.

November 22, 1985: Extreme cold temperatures occurred over South Dakota from November 22nd through the 28th, with low temperatures dropping well below zero. Record low temperatures were set in most areas, and Aberdeen set a record low for five of the seven days. Three of those five record lows still stand today: -17 on the 23rd, -18 on the 27th, and -21 on the 28th. The other records set at the time (-16 on both the 24th and 26th), were both broken in November 1996.

November 22, 2003: Heavy snow of 6 to 10 inches fell across Big Stone and Traverse counties in Minnesota, as well as northeastern South Dakota, from the evening of the 22nd to the afternoon of the 23rd. Dumont received 6 inches of snow, with 10 inches reported in Ortonville. Six inches of snow was also reported in Wilmot, White Rock, Estelline, and near Stone Bridge; 7 inches was reported Toronto; 8 inches in Big Stone City; and 9 inches at Clear Lake. Heavy snow of 6 to 9 inches also fell in Corson and Lyman counties in South Dakota. Some other snowfall amounts included 8 inches northwest of Presho, Kennebec, and near Iona; and 9 inches southwest of Keldron.

1992: 45 tornadoes touched down in the Tennessee and Ohio Valleys. Georgia was hard hit with two F4, one F3 and three F2 tornadoes that killed six people and injured 144. Indiana had a total of 15 tornadoes on this day to set a record for an outbreak in November and for the month of November. One, an F4 multiple-vortex type, cut a 22-mile path through extreme southeastern Indiana and northern Kentucky. This tornado debunked the myth that twisters don't cross rivers, as this devastating tornado crossed the Ohio River twice. Indiana had a total of 15 tornadoes on this day to set two state records, the largest November tornado outbreak, and the most tornadoes in November. This tornado outbreak made a significant contribution to what was to become the biggest November ever for the U.S. concerning the number of tornadoes.

2010: A rare November ice storm prompts Fairbanks officials to advised residents to stay off the roads. Ice storm advisories are hoisted across a 950 mile stretch of the state that extends from Anchorage to Nome. The 0.39 inches of rain which fall at Fairbanks rates as that city's greatest November rainfall since November 1936.

2010: A strong cold front sweeping through the Midwest brought severe storms, including tornadoes to northern Illinois and southwest Wisconsin. Caledonia, Illinois was hit hard by an EF2 tornado.

1641 - An observer at Boston, MA, recorded a great tempest of wind and rain from the southeast all night, as fierce as a hurricane, and thereupon followed the highest tide which we have seen since our arrival here . (David Ludlum)

1957 - Extremely destructive Santa Ana winds blew from Oxnard to San Diego and inland parts of southern California. The high winds produced a 28,000 acre brush fire on a 40-mile front west of Crystal Lake. People were ordered off streets in some areas due to flying debris. (21st-22nd) (The Weather Channel)






1987 - Eight cities in the eastern U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date. Elkins, WV, reported a low of 5 degrees above zero. Gale force winds continued along the Northern Atlantic Coast. (The National Weather Summary)



1988 - Wet and windy weather prevailed across the western U.S., with heavy snow in some of the higher elevations. Winds gusted to 62 mph at Vedauwoo WY, and reached 75 mph at Tillamook OR. Shelter Cove CA was drenched with 4.37 inches of rain in 24 hours. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Strong northerly winds produced squalls along the shore of Lake Michigan, with heavy snow in extreme southeastern Wisconsin. Milwaukee WI received nine inches of snow, and in Racine County there were more than one hundred automobile accidents. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Thanksgiving Day	Tonight	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday
				
Dense Fog then Partly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy
High: 43 °F	Low: 28 °F	High: 41 °F	Low: 24 °F	High: 31 °F




 Fog Dissipating/Warmer Temperatures Today 

Highs today mid 30s western MN to mid 60s central SD
Highs Friday in the 40s and lower 50s
Light snow likely central South Dakota Sat/Sat Night

Happy Thanksgiving!



National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD

 weather.gov/Aberdeen  National Weather Service Aberdeen  @NWSAberdeen Updated: 11/22/2018 6:24 AM Central

Published on: 11/22/2018 at 6:31AM

The fog and low clouds will slowly dissipate through the morning and early afternoon. Temperatures will vary widely today ranging from the mid 30s in western Minnesota to the mid 60s in central South Dakota. Friday will remain mild with highs mainly in the 40s and lower 50s.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 31 °F at 10:18 PM

Low Outside Temp: 24 °F at 6:07 AM

High Gust: 20 mph at 9:54 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 66° in 1904

Record Low: -14 in 1895

Average High: 35°F

Average Low: 16°F

Average Precip in Nov.: 0.55

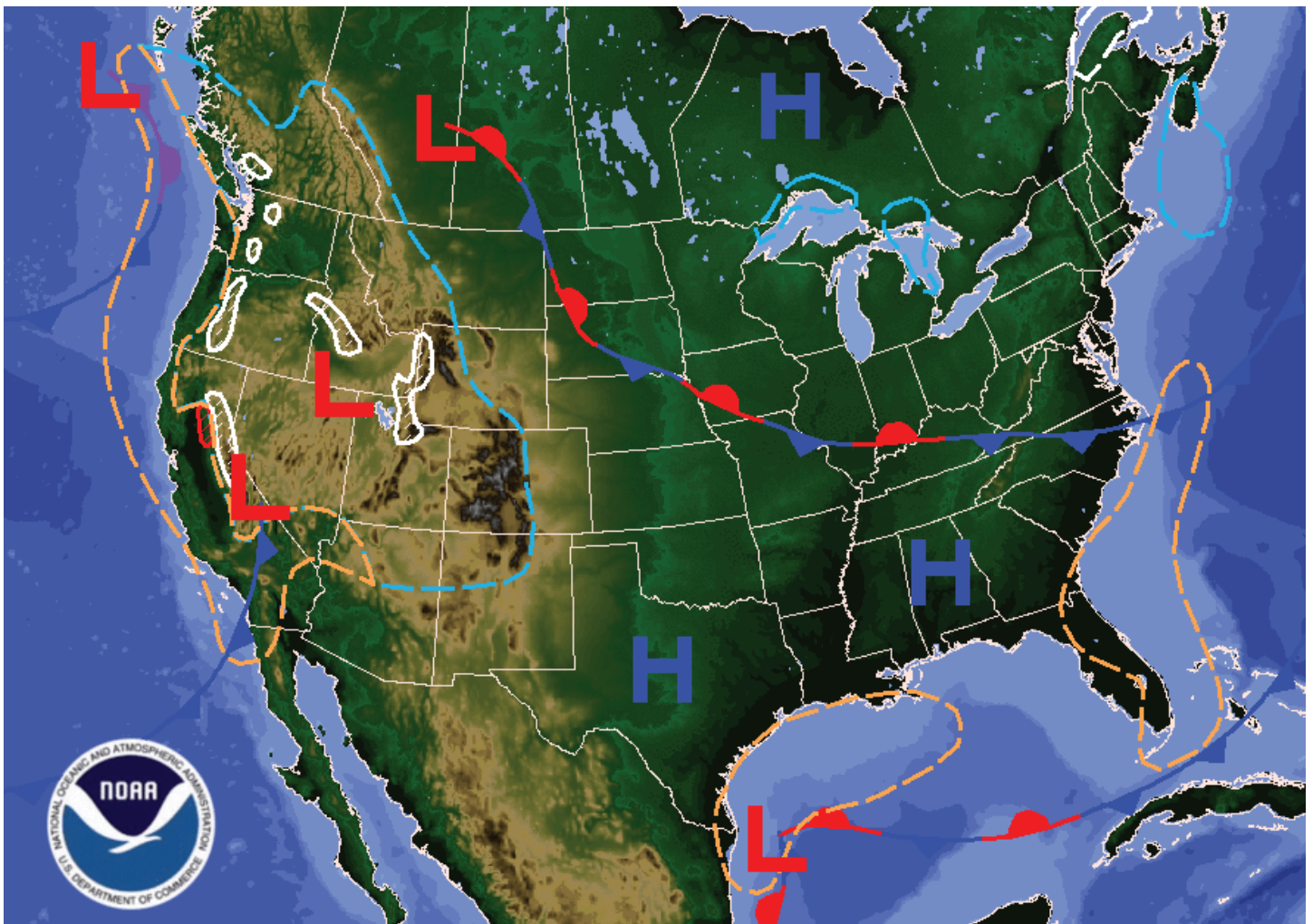
Precip to date in Nov.: 0.76

Average Precip to date: 21.02

Precip Year to Date: 15.81

Sunset Tonight: 4:57 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:43 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Thu, Nov 22, 2018, issued 4:51 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds 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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THE SIGNS OF A GRATEFUL HEART

An attitude of gratitude is always obvious. If we are grateful for what God has done for us and given to us, others will see our appreciation for it in everything we do. David gave us a fourfold formula to follow.

I will thank You, Lord, with all my heart. The thanksgiving he describes is total and consumes all of his being - his entire self. The word he used for the heart would include his consciousness of Gods presence, his memories of Gods goodness, and his awareness of Gods grace. He worshiped God with excitement, enthusiasm, and expectation.

I will tell all of the marvelous things You have done. Marvelous comes from a word that means extraordinary, not to be surpassed by anyone, and wonderful! He is so overwhelmed by Gods blessings on his life that he wants everyone to hear about it.

I will be filled with joy! Joy is the natural state of the one who trusts in the Lord. Knowing that all things work together for our good should cause His joy to radiate from our heads into our hearts and out through our hands. Everything we do should be done with a smile on our face and gladness in our eyes.

I will sing praises to Your Name, O Most High. Notice that there is only one letter different between the word sin and sing - the letter g - that stands for God. When we give up sin for the Savior, God gives us a new song to sing. It is a song about the Savior who loves us, gave Himself for us, is present in us and works through us.

Prayer: Lord, we rejoice in the goodness and grace of our salvation. May we always have a grateful, thankful heart. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 9:2 I will be filled with joy because of you. I will sing praises to Your Name, O Most High.

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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

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News from the Associated Press

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Dakota Cash
06-07-17-20-26
(six, seven, seventeen, twenty, twenty-six)
Estimated jackpot: \$86,000

Lotto America
03-24-25-33-39, Star Ball: 5, ASB: 3
(three, twenty-four, twenty-five, thirty-three, thirty-nine; Star Ball: five; ASB: three)
Estimated jackpot: \$11.68 million

Mega Millions
Estimated jackpot: \$155 million

Powerball
07-14-23-38-55, Powerball: 18, Power Play: 2
(seven, fourteen, twenty-three, thirty-eight, fifty-five; Powerball: eighteen; Power Play: two)
Estimated jackpot: \$139 million

Bridge collapse injures 3 workers in southeast South Dakota

HURLEY, S.D. (AP) — A bridge collapse has injured three construction workers in southeastern South Dakota.

Turner County Sheriff Steven Luke says the workers were pouring concrete into rebar on top of the bridge southwest of Hurley when a support bar collapsed around noon Wednesday.

Luke says the workers' injuries are not believed to be life-threatening.

The bridge fell about 10 feet (3 meters).

No vehicles were involved. Luke says the road had been closed for construction since the summer.

The Argus Leader reports the bridge that collapsed goes over Turkey Ridge Creek.

Program connects Rapid City area veterans with service dogs

By ARIELLE ZIONTS, Rapid City Journal

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — After Chuck Brookens and his dog, Finn, walked on to a dock at Canyon Lake Park on a recent Friday, he bent down to comfort the nervous puppy, who is afraid of heights.

"Good boy," Brookens said as he gave Finn a treat for sitting down.

While in this instance Brookens was the one caring for Finn, it's Finn who is being trained as a professional service dog so he can comfort and help his owner, who has post-traumatic stress disorder after serving in the Iraq War.

Brookens, a 35-year-old Rapid City resident, bought Finn after Tom Vallette of the Veterans Service Office at Pennington County told him about the office's new initiative that connects veterans with service dogs, the Rapid City Journal reported.

He said Vallette called him a "prime candidate" for the program and linked him with two local organizations that assist veterans in finding, affording and training service dogs.

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RescueX2, raises money for veterans who need help paying for a dog, and Super Dogs for Super Heroes helps veterans find and train a service dog ideal for their needs and lifestyle, Vallette said.

"I'm able to pair them up with these guys and help alleviate if you will, part of their PTSD. A lot of research has shown that service animals are relaxing for people," said Vallette, who served in Afghanistan.

"Just him being a companion of mine helps me stay out of my own head ... keeps me from just sitting there, dwelling on stuff in the past because I've got to focus on him and his needs," Brookens said of Finn, a five-month-old miniature Australian shepherd.

Brookens said when Finn realizes that he's feeling anxious, he lays down at his feet to calm him down. Finn also nudges Brookens to alert him to shadows, people and animals during walks or in crowds.

Wayne Swier, a 32-year-old veteran who served in Afghanistan, also got a service dog after Vallette encouraged him to do so.

Raz, a three-year-old boxer-pit bull mix that Swier adopted from a friend, helps Swier with his PTSD by keeping him calm and alert in crowds. In the future, he'll also learn to wake Swier up during nightmares.

Swier, who wears an above-the-knee prosthetic after he lost part of his leg to a bomb in Afghanistan and uses a wheelchair to get around his home in Johnson Siding, is also training Raz to help him with physical tasks such as picking up dropped items and pushing his wheelchair toward him if he falls while walking.

"It's peace of mind for me and it's peace of mind for (my wife) to actually have a dog there that's going to be willing to help out," Swier said, adding that Raz follows him everywhere around the house.

Swier and Brookens bring their pets for service dog training with Becky Flanagan of Super Dogs for Super Heroes, and Swier also trains through online programs. Both said they feel comfortable working with Flanagan since she is a veteran herself.

Swier said he hopes other veterans seeing people like him take advantage of the new service dog program will encourage them not to be afraid to ask for help.

"For this current generation of veterans, a lot of them are like me, they get out, they want to be reclusive, they don't want to talk about their problems, they kind of suffer in silence and they don't want to ask for help but they need help. And I think a service dog is definitely something that more often than not, a lot of them could use," he said.

"I think (this program) will open door for more veterans being OK with, 'OK I've admitted that I need the help with this, maybe I should also go to counseling too,'" Swier said.

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

Daum, SDSU claim 5th place at Gulf Coast Showcase

ESTERO, Fla. (AP) — David Jenkins scored a career-high 32 points, South Dakota State's all-time scoring leader Mike Daum added 11 points and the Jackrabbits beat Colorado State 78-65 on Wednesday for fifth place at the Gulf Coast Showcase.

Jenkins was 13 of 23 from the floor with seven rebounds and three assists. Daum hit 4 of 8 shots in just 26 minutes, and his 3-pointer with 2:32 remaining put him into double-figures for the 103rd career time. Daum, who became the program's scoring leader last game, moved into a tie for 93rd on the NCAA career scoring list with 2,399 points.

SDSU closed the first half on a 19-4 run, including 14 unanswered points, and led 48-32 at the break. It was a double-digit margin throughout the second half.

Freshman Ryan Krueger, who entered with only three career points, made his first four 3-point attempts and scored 16 points for SDSU (5-2). The Jackrabbits made 11 of 22 from distance and shot 47 percent from the field.

Anthony Masinton-Bonner led Colorado State (4-2) with 20 points. J.D. Paige added 15 points, Kris Martin had 11 points and seven rebounds, and Nico Carvacho grabbed 11 boards.

Federal report: Indian Country criminal prosecutions plateau

By MARY HUDETZ, Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — The U.S. Justice Department's track record for prosecuting Indian Country crimes has not significantly changed in recent years, even amid programs and attempts to boost both public safety and prosecutions on tribal lands, according to federal figures released Wednesday.

In an annual report prepared for Congress, the department's statistics showed U.S. attorneys' offices declined to prosecute 37 percent of Indian Country cases they deemed resolved in 2017, usually citing insufficient evidence. The percentage of cases dropped by prosecutors or sent to other courts was up three points from 2016.

The report on prosecution rates marks the first since a government watchdog report from the Office of Inspector General last year issued a critical analysis of U.S. attorneys' prosecution of Indian Country cases. It cited data that must be collected under a 2010 law for the annual reports on investigations and prosecutions.

The report also comes amid heightened concerns in Congress and tribal communities over crimes against Native American women, who are disproportionately victimized by sexual assault and domestic assault.

More than half of Native American women have encountered sexual and domestic violence at some point during their lives, according to a National Institute of Justice survey published in 2016.

"This report only confirms that Native victims continue to fall through the cracks of our justice system," U.S. Sen. Tom Udall, a New Mexico Democrat, said in an email. "We badly need to commit greater resources to combatting violence in Indian Country and ensuring that those who victimize Native women and families are brought to justice."

In the Justice Department report, a quarter of cases U.S. attorneys declined to prosecute stemmed from reported sexual assaults. A third resulted from other reported assaults, a category that includes domestic violence cases.

Udall, who is the vice chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, said limited data collection and lack of clear protocols for authorities' handling of cases have, in part, hampered investigations, prosecutions and strategic crime-fighting in Native American communities.

Trent Shores, who is Choctaw and the U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Oklahoma, echoed Udall's calls for more funding, saying resources were needed across the board to support more investigators, tribal courts and forensic work in crime laboratories — which would help with prosecutions.

More than 70 percent of unprosecuted cases were dropped because of a lack of evidence.

While frustrated with the persistent statistics showing Native Americans victimized at alarming rates, Shores said he also believed the report shows some promising findings.

He said that some of the cases categorized as being declined by federal prosecutors received the designation because they were sent to tribal courts — which actually represents recognition of tribes' sovereignty and ability to handle cases at a local level.

About 13 percent of the declined cases were referred to different jurisdictions, according to the report.

"I am seeing continued improvement in the department's ability to better capture the data — to prosecute crimes," he added.

Shores, who was appointed to his post last year by President Donald Trump, chairs a Justice Department committee on Native American issues and contributed to the prosecutions report.

He said he and others are committed to carrying out a range of initiatives meant to improve policing and prosecutions in tribal communities. They include an Obama-era program that has been expanded under the Trump administration and calls for numerous U.S. attorneys to staff their offices with special prosecutors who must focus on Indian Country cases. The prosecutors also can handle cases in both tribal and federal courts.

"It certainly is not for a lack of effort, for a lack of want or will," Shores said of the stagnant crime and prosecution statistics.

Rapid City man killed in crash near Pickstown identified

PICKSTOWN, S.D. (AP) — The Highway Patrol has identified a Rapid City man who died in a single-vehicle crash in Charles Mix County.

Authorities say 37-year-old David Williams Jr. lost control of the pickup truck he was driving on state Highway 46 late on Nov. 14, and the vehicle rolled east of Pickstown.

Williams was pronounced dead at the scene. Two passengers suffered life-threatening injuries and were taken to a Wagner hospital.

Authorities ID woman killed in Minnehaha County crash

HUMBOLDT, S.D. (AP) — Authorities have identified a Fort Pierre woman who died in a weekend crash in Minnehaha County that also seriously injured four teenage passengers.

The Highway Patrol says 38-year-old Jennifer Davis lost control of the sport utility vehicle she was driving on an icy Interstate 90 near Humboldt on Saturday morning. The SUV collided with a bridge guardrail and rolled several times.

Davis died at the scene. A 14-year-old boy suffered life-threatening injuries. The other three passengers suffered serious but non-life-threatening injuries. All were taken to a Sioux Falls hospital.

Woman imprisoned for crash that killed man, 5-year-old son

SIBLEY, Iowa (AP) — A woman has been imprisoned for the crash deaths of a man and his 5-year-old son in northwest Iowa.

Osceola County court records say 50-year-old Ann Vanderpool, of Milford, was sentenced last week to 20 years in prison and ordered to pay more than \$314,000 in restitution. She'd pleaded guilty to two counts of vehicular homicide-reckless driving.

Authorities say the accident occurred June 10, 2017, on Iowa Highway 9 near Sibley, when Vanderpool's vehicle crossed the center line and struck the car. The car driver, 48-year-old Travis Mier, of Spirit Lake, was pronounced dead at Osceola Community Hospital. His son, Elliot, was pronounced dead later at a Sioux Falls, South Dakota, hospital.

Vanderpool also was hospitalized.

Pine Ridge woman sentenced for firing shot in patrol car

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A Pine Ridge woman accused of firing a rifle after federal police officers arrested her for allegedly stealing a vehicle has been sentenced to 10 years in prison.

Authorities say 55-year-old Connie Wilson slipped out of handcuffs in the back seat of a patrol car in Pine Ridge on Aug. 29, 2017, got ahold of a rifle in the vehicle's cargo unit, loaded it and fired a shot through the floor of the vehicle as an officer pushed down the barrel of the gun. No one was hurt.

The Rapid City Journal reports that Wilson pleaded guilty in federal court on Tuesday to assaulting a federal officer and a weapons count. Two other assault charges were dropped as part of a plea agreement.

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

Rapid City man pleads guilty to robbing Spearfish restaurant

DEADWOOD, S.D. (AP) — A Rapid City man has pleaded guilty to robbing a Spearfish restaurant at gunpoint.

Authorities say 19-year-old Daniel Beck Jr. robbed the Pizza Ranch restaurant of about \$420 on July 30. A juvenile also was charged in the case.

Beck pleaded not guilty in August. The Black Hills Pioneer reports that he recently changed his plea to guilty on a robbery charge. Prosecutors dismissed a grand theft charge related to a stolen vehicle recovered during the investigation.

Beck faces up to 25 years in prison when he's sentenced Jan. 10.

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

Dolce&Gabbana goods pulled in China over alleged insults

By KEN MORITSUGU, Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — Dolce&Gabbana goods disappeared Thursday from Chinese e-commerce sites as the fallout grew over remarks insulting to China that were apparently made by two of its Instagram accounts. The company has blamed hackers.

Searches for Dolce&Gabbana turned up no items on major online retailers such as Alibaba's Tmall and JD.com. Both companies didn't respond to requests for comment.

A duty-free shop at the Haikou Meilan airport on China's Hainan island posted a photo of empty shelves on its social media account, saying that it had pulled all Dolce&Gabbana products. It wrote in another post that "Even if our power is small, we have to show our stance. We are proud of being Chinese."

The moves by retailers came one day after several screenshots were circulated online showing co-founder Stefano Gabbana referring to China with crude terms and emoji as he defended promotional videos that had sparked controversy earlier.

The comments were made in a private message exchange with another Instagram user. Separately, the Dolce&Gabbana account used offensive language in another exchange.

The Italian luxury fashion house apologized and said both accounts had been hacked. "We have nothing but respect for China and the people of China," it wrote.

The apology was too late to save a major extravaganza in Shanghai that Dolce&Gabbana had billed as one of its biggest shows ever outside of Italy.

Major Chinese celebrities threatened to boycott the event, which had been scheduled for Wednesday night, and the company finally called it off. Actress Zhang Ziyi, who starred in "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon," said that the Italian brand had "disgraced itself."

An analyst said the bad publicity will have a lasting effect.

"It's the kiss of death for Dolce&Gabbana," said Shaun Rein, founder and managing director of China Market Research Group in Shanghai. "I expect them to have a real tough time over the next six to 12 months."

The three promotional videos that led to the Instagram fiasco showed a Chinese woman using chopsticks to eat pizza and other Italian food. Many in China called them racist and full of outdated stereotypes. The videos were previously deleted from the company's account on Weibo, a Chinese version of Twitter.

Rein said it's a big mistake when westerners come up with creative content but don't understand how the campaigns will be received by Chinese consumers.

He noted a trend of rising nationalism in China. "So if you, as a western brand, do anything that looks like you are mocking or making fun of Chinese culture, that's a big no-no," he said.

The ruling Communist Party's People's Daily newspaper wrote on Weibo late Wednesday: "China has always been friendly to foreign businesses. But it doesn't mean there's no bottom line. There is a deal only when there is respect."

Associated Press researcher Shanshan Wang contributed to this report.

Trump spars with chief justice over their views of judges

By MARK SHERMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump and Chief Justice John Roberts clashed in an extraordinary public dispute over the independence of America's judiciary, with Roberts bluntly rebuking the president for denouncing a judge who rejected his migrant asylum policy as an "Obama judge."

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There's no such thing, Roberts declared Wednesday in a strongly worded statement contradicting Trump and defending judicial independence. Never silent for long, Trump defended his own comment, tweeting defiantly, "Sorry Justice Roberts."

The pre-Thanksgiving dustup was the first time that Roberts, the Republican-appointed leader of the federal judiciary, has offered even a hint of criticism of Trump, who has several times blasted federal judges who have ruled against him.

Before now, it has been highly unusual for a president to single out judges for personal criticism. And a chief justice's challenge to a president's comments is downright unprecedented in modern times.

It seemed a fight that Trump would relish but one that Roberts has taken pains to avoid. But with Roberts' court feeling the heat over the president's appointment of Justice Brett Kavanaugh, Roberts and several of his colleagues have gone out of their way to rebut perceptions of the court as a political institution divided between five conservative Republicans and four liberal Democrats.

Trump's appointments to the Supreme Court and lower federal courts have themselves spurred charges that the courts are becoming more politicized. As the justice widely seen as closest to the court's middle, Roberts could determine the outcome of high-profile cases that split the court.

The new drama began with remarks Trump made Tuesday in which he went after a judge who ruled against his migrant asylum order. The president claimed, not for the first time, that the federal appeals court based in San Francisco was biased against him.

Roberts had refused to comment on Trump's earlier attacks on judges, including the chief justice himself. But on Wednesday, after a query by The Associated Press, he spoke up for the independence of the federal judiciary and rejected the notion that judges are loyal to the presidents who appoint them.

"We do not have Obama judges or Trump judges, Bush judges or Clinton judges. What we have is an extraordinary group of dedicated judges doing their level best to do equal right to those appearing before them," Roberts said.

On the day before Thanksgiving, he concluded, "The independent judiciary is something we should all be thankful for."

Trump hit back from his resort home in Florida, questioning the independence of federal judges appointed by his predecessor and confirmed by the U.S. Senate. He especially criticized judges on California's 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

"Sorry Chief Justice John Roberts, but you do indeed have 'Obama judges,' and they have a much different point of view than the people who are charged with the safety of our country," the president tweeted.

If the 9th Circuit judges are independent, he said, "why are so many opposing view (on Border and Safety) cases filed there, and why are a vast number of those cases overturned. ... these rulings are making our country unsafe! Very dangerous and unwise!"

Trump has never been reticent about criticizing the judiciary. Last year, the president scorned the "so-called judge" who made the first federal ruling against his travel ban. During the presidential campaign, he criticized Roberts himself for the chief justice's decisive vote in 2012 to preserve President Barack Obama's health care overhaul.

Trump also referred to an Indiana-born judge of Mexican descent, who was presiding over a fraud lawsuit against Trump University, as a Mexican who would be unable to rule fairly because of Trump's proposal to build a wall along the U.S.-Mexican border.

The president's remarks on Tuesday came when a reporter asked for his reaction to a ruling by U.S. District Judge Jon Tigar in San Francisco that put the administration's asylum policy on hold. Under that new policy, Trump declared no one could apply for asylum except at an official border entry point. That tends to back migrants up for weeks if not months. A number of migrants remain in Tijuana after traveling in a caravan to reach the U.S.

Trump complained that his opponents file lawsuits in courts that are part of California's liberal-leaning 9th Circuit. It's not unusual for those challenging a president's policies to sue in courts they consider likely to back their claims. Conservative groups tended to bring challenges to Obama-era policies in Texas, part of the conservative-leaning 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans.

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"Every case that gets filed in the 9th Circuit, we get beaten. And then we end up having to go to the Supreme Court, like the travel ban, and we won," Trump said.

The president went on to say about the asylum ruling: "This was an Obama judge. And I'll tell you what, it's not going to happen like this anymore."

The initial travel ban ruling in 2017 was issued by U.S. District Judge James Robart, an appointee of President George W. Bush in Washington state. Roberts, too, was appointed by Bush.

It was unclear what Trump meant when he said things would change. The 9th Circuit is by far the largest of the federal appellate courts, covering Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon and Washington. Some Republicans in 9th Circuit states have proposed splitting the circuit in two, but legislation has not advanced.

The court has long had a majority of judges appointed by Democratic presidents, with the current breakdown at 16-7. But Trump has the opportunity to narrow that edge significantly because there are six vacancies, and he already has nominated candidates for five of them.

Those who lost everything in fire find a way to give thanks

By KATHLEEN RONAYNE, Associated Press

CHICO, Calif. (AP) — Hannah Crenshaw hosts a Thanksgiving dinner each year, cooking turkey, stuffing and mashed potatoes — her favorite — for up to 15 guests at her home in Magalia.

That's not an option this year. Her house burned down in the Nov. 8 wildfire that tore through the town of Paradise and surrounding communities, including Magalia, destroying more than 13,000 homes.

Instead, the 26-year-old will be spending Thanksgiving with her husband's family in nearby Durham. She's trying to see the best in a heartbreaking situation.

"It doesn't really feel like Thanksgiving," she said. "But Thanksgiving's my favorite holiday. I guess I have a lot to be thankful for this year with everything going on."

The Camp Fire has killed at least 83 people, with the number rising daily, and has displaced tens of thousands of others. Hundreds are unaccounted for.

It won't be a normal Thanksgiving for any of those families, but businesses and hundreds of volunteers have stepped up to ensure turkey, potatoes and pie are available as a small slice of comfort for anyone who wants a plate.

Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit World Central Kitchen is cooking 15,000 Thanksgiving meals, teaming up with Chico-based Sierra Nevada Brewing Co., the local university and the town of Paradise to serve them Thursday. Volunteers prepared food and set up massive tables Wednesday.

"It will be a respite from the frantic activity of trying to put our lives back together and our town back together," Paradise Mayor Jody Jones said.

Scores of volunteers also are opening their houses to strangers, to provide a more intimate Thanksgiving.

Rachael Anderson is hosting a displaced mom and daughter at her home in Redding, about an hour and a half from Paradise. Anderson knows what it's like to live in a community devastated by flames — a massive wildfire swept through Redding last summer.

She didn't lose her home, and she now wants to share it with others in need. She'll be joined by Athenia Dunham and her 15-year-old daughter, Natalie.

"They've lost their home, their traditions, whatever it is that they do. I just want to give them a little piece of home," Anderson said. "That's what Thanksgiving's about; it's not just about your blood family — it's about giving thanks and helping each other."

Joann Barr will be at one of the community dinners hosted by the brewery and World Central Kitchen, held on the campus of the California State University, Chico. Normally she'd cook at home — deviled eggs are her Thanksgiving specialty. She did not lose her house but has been under evacuation orders for days.

"It's sad, but there's plenty of things to be thankful for," she said outside a disaster assistance center at the Chico mall. "I'm thankful for the shelter I was able to go to, now the motel that I'm in — everything I have, basically."

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Some people didn't even realize Thanksgiving had arrived amid the chaotic and emotionally draining rush of the past two weeks.

"Is that today?" Amy Sheppard asked Wednesday, rushing to pack her belongings in a black trash bag as rain fell over a Walmart parking lot where she and many others had camped for days.

Sheppard would normally spend Thanksgiving with three dozen family members and friends at a home in Magalia. That home — a family friend's — and her own both burned down. This year, she's likely to spend the holiday in a hotel room with her sister and 1-year-old niece.

Sheppard began to cry as she explained her son was staying with other family after the fire and that they would likely spend the holiday apart.

People like Faun and Danny O'Neel hope they can provide some relief, even for a few hours, for those who have lost everything. The couple who live in the Sacramento-area city of Folsom are hosting three families Thursday.

Faun O'Neel's parents and grandparents lost their homes in a Calaveras County fire several years ago, so she said opening her home to others was a "no-brainer."

Thanksgiving at a stranger's house may not be what her guests originally expected. But she hopes it can provide some calm in a trying time.

"A few hours of normalcy," O'Neel said. "Where they can laugh and enjoy other peoples' company without thinking about what they just lived through and what is in front of them."

GOP exploring reasons for gender disparity in new Congress

By ALAN FRAM, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — For congressional Republicans, this month's elections ushered in the year of the woman — literally.

West Virginia's Carol Miller will be the only Republican woman entering the 435-member House as a newcomer in January. She'll join what may be the chamber's smallest group of female GOP lawmakers since the early 1990s — as few as 13 of at least 199 Republicans. Democrats will have at least 89.

Numbers like those have Republicans searching for answers to the glaring gender disparity in their ranks — and fast. The concern is that Democrats' lopsided edge among female voters could carry over to 2020, when President Donald Trump will be seeking a second term and House and Senate control will be in play. If the current trend continues, Republicans risk being branded the party of men.

"You will see a very significant recruiting effort occur" for female candidates, said David Winston, a pollster who advises GOP congressional leaders. "It's a natural conclusion. An environment has got to be created where that can be a success."

Evidence of the GOP gender gap was just as clear in the 100-member Senate, where Tennessee Rep. Marsha Blackburn will be the only Republican freshman. If Mississippi Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith wins a runoff later this month there will be record-setting seven GOP women in the Republican-run Senate. But even that record is less than half the class of 17 Democratic women, which includes two freshmen.

The search for answers leads to some familiar places. President Donald Trump's fraught history with women, combined with the #MeToo movement against sexual harassment, helped motivate Democratic women to seek office but did not appear to have the same effect with GOP women, politicians and analysts say. More broadly, the president's brash style doesn't sit well many female voters or potential candidates.

"Women don't like the tweets," said Sarah Chamberlain, president of the Republican Main Street Partnership, a moderate GOP group. "I don't know how to tone down the rhetoric. If I could have a fantasy, one wish, that would be my one wish."

Women backed Democratic candidates over Republicans on Election Day by a telling 57 percent to 41 percent, according to AP VoteCast, a wide-ranging survey of the electorate conducted by The Associated Press. Women broke by similar margins in the crucial suburbs, where Democratic victories in swing districts helped power the gains they needed to win House control. Men supported Republicans over Democrats, 51 percent to 46 percent.

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Strategists note the issue isn't just about current personalities; it's about party infrastructure.

"We as a party have to make recruiting women candidates who can win a high priority," said Andrea Bozek, spokeswoman for Winning for Women, a fledging GOP group that tries bolstering female Republican candidates. She added, "Unless people in leadership really make it a priority, I don't think it will happen."

A record number of women ran for the House as major-party candidates this year. But Democrats outnumbered Republicans by nearly 3 to 1, according to AP data, and Democratic women were more likely to win their primaries.

Of those contenders who ran in November, 183 were Democrats, the most ever, according to the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University. Fifty-two were Republicans, a near-record but a fraction of female Democrats running.

That partisan imbalance was aggravated by Democrats' superior campaign infrastructure for helping female candidates.

Winning for Women, created in early 2017, says it spent more than \$1 million helping female candidates for the recent election. That and other GOP groups assisting female candidates couldn't match Democrats' 33-year-old Emily's List, a well-financed organization that poured tens of millions into primaries and general elections and provided recruiting, training and other services to female candidates.

"Democrats have been doing a much better job of getting women elected," said Debbie Walsh, director of the Center for American Women and Politics.

Asked to explain her success against other female candidates' defeats, West Virginia's Miller sent an email lauding Trump and other Republicans and GOP women's groups and saying "liberal special interests" had spent heavily to defeat Republican women. Officials at the White House and the GOP did not provide answers to requests for comment.

Republicans have displayed a sensitivity this year to their overwhelmingly male numbers. That includes hiring a female prosecutor to question Kavanaugh's chief accuser, Christine Blasey Ford, when she testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee and its all-male Republicans.

Within days of the elections, Republicans vaulted women into congressional leadership positions.

Rep. Liz Cheney, R-Wyo., daughter of former Vice President Dick Cheney, will be No. 3 House GOP leader next year, that chamber's highest-ranking Republican woman ever. Sen. Joni Ernst, R-Iowa, will be vice chairwoman of the Senate GOP conference, a lower-tier post, making her the first Republican woman in a Senate leadership job in eight years.

Cheney said Republicans must better communicate that their policies on national security, the economy and health care are best for men and women. She called it "fundamentally offensive and paternalistic" to think women's votes are driven by their gender.

Asked on CBS' "Face the Nation" last week whether Trump's rhetoric alienated women, Ernst said, "We could do a better job of communicating clearly that we support women."

Associated Press writers Hannah Fingerhut and Laurie Kellman contributed to this report.

'Explorer at heart': American missionary killed in India

By GENE JOHNSON, PHUONG LE and GILLIAN FLACCUS, Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — John Allen Chau spent summers alone in a California cabin as a wilderness emergency responder, led backpacking expeditions in the Northwest's Cascade Mountains, almost lost his leg to a rattlesnake bite, and coached soccer for poor children in Iraq and South Africa.

But kayaking to a remote Indian island, home to a tribe known for attacking outsiders with bows and arrows, proved an adventure too far for the avid outdoorsman and Christian missionary. Police said Wednesday that he had been killed, and authorities were working with anthropologists to try to recover his body from North Sentinel, in the Andaman Islands.

"Words cannot express the sadness we have experienced about this report," his family said in a state-

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ment posted on his Instagram account. "He loved God, life, helping those in need, and had nothing but love for the Sentinelese people."

Visits to the island are heavily restricted, which Chau knew, authorities said. Police arrested seven fishermen accused of helping him reach it, and Chau's family pleaded for their release, saying he acted "on his own free will."

Chau, 26, was from southwestern Washington state, where he attended Vancouver Christian High School. He went on to graduate from Oral Roberts University, a Christian college in Oklahoma, in 2014, with a degree in health and exercise science. While there, he worked with the university's missions and outreach department.

"I have never known a more courageous, selfless, compassionate man and friend," said Bobby Parks, the department's former director. "John lived and gave his life to share the love of Jesus with everyone."

Chau also worked with Parks' nonprofit, More Than a Game, a soccer program for disadvantaged children, including refugees. Chau traveled to the Kurdistan region of northern Iraq in 2014 to work with Syrian and Iraqi refugee youth, Parks said, and he worked with Burmese refugee children in Tulsa, Oklahoma, for several years.

On Father's Day last year, Chau noted on Instagram that his father came to the U.S. as a refugee during China's Cultural Revolution. He also documented his extensive travels, posting photos of climbing the peaks of the Cascade Range, scuba diving on previous trips to the Andaman Islands and fishing in Southern California.

One of Chau's friends, Casey Prince, 39, of Cape Town, South Africa, met the adventurer five years ago, when Chau traveled with members of the Oral Roberts soccer team to volunteer at a soccer development and social leadership program that Prince founded, Ubuntu Football Academy.

Since then, Chau had been back to visit Prince and his family or tutor and coach boys in the program about four times. Most recently, he was there from mid-September to mid-October, Prince said.

Prince described Chau as easy to like, kind, joyful and driven by twin passions: a love of the outdoors and fervent Christianity.

"He was an explorer at heart," Prince said. "He loved creation and being out in it, I think having probably found and connected with God that way, and deeply so."

Prince declined to discuss what Chau had told him about his plans for traveling in India or the islands, saying he wanted to focus on Chau's legacy. But he said Chau accepted the dangers that came with his adventures.

"If he was taking a risk, he was very aware of it," Prince said.

In a Q&A for the wilderness adventure website the Outbound Collective, Chau said he first fell in love with the outdoors as a child, when he read books like "Robinson Crusoe" and "The Sign of the Beaver," a tale of a white boy who befriends a Native American boy after being abandoned in a cabin in 18th century Maine.

The latter book "inspired my brother and I to paint our faces with wild blackberry juice and tramp through our backyard with bows and spears we created from sticks," Chau said. "Since then, the outdoors have been my home."

Alex Burgdorfer, who lives in Eugene, Oregon, said he met Chau last year when the two went through a recertification course for wilderness first responders. The two hit it off because of their mutual interest in travel and hiking and had recently been trying to get together for a hiking trip in the Northwest.

"He was an inspiration for me," he said. "His energy was pure. He gave you his full attention and his full thoughts."

During the wilderness first-aid course, Burgdorfer recalled, Chau gave a short talk about treating snake bites in the wilderness, telling the group of his experience getting bitten by a rattlesnake and almost losing his leg.

It happened during one of the three seasons Chau lived alone in a cabin at Whiskeytown National Recreation Area in California, where he would be dispatched to wilderness emergencies. Burgdorfer said Chau had been standing near a river when he was bitten on the left ankle. Chau's Instagram feed displays his grotesquely swollen leg and says he spent several days in a hospital.

Chau had worked for the past two years leading backpacking trips to Mount Adams in southwest Washington state for incoming students at Reed College in Portland, Oregon, boss Will Symms said.

"He was always a great person to hang out and talk to," Symms said. "He loved traveling and showing people the wonder of the things all around."

Flaccus reported from Portland, Oregon.

Long, tortured road to Trump's answers for special counsel

By ERIC TUCKER, CHAD DAY and JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The date had been picked, the location too, and the plan was penciled in: President Donald Trump would be whisked from the White House to Camp David on a quiet winter Saturday to answer questions from special counsel Robert Mueller's team.

But as the Jan. 27, 2018, date neared and Mueller provided the topics he wanted to discuss, Trump's lawyers balked. Attorney John Dowd then fired off a searing letter disputing Mueller's authority to question the president. The interview was off.

Nearly a year later, Trump has still not spoken directly to Mueller's team — and may never. Through private letters, tense meetings and considerable public posturing, the president's lawyers have engaged in a tangled, tortured back-and-forth with the special counsel to prevent the president from sitting down for a face-to-face with enormous political and legal consequences.

The prolonged negotiation speaks to the high stakes for Trump, Mueller's investigation of his campaign and the presidency. Any questioning of a president in a criminal investigation tests the limit of executive authority. Putting this president on the record also tests his ability to stick to the facts and risks a constitutional showdown.

The process took a significant step forward this week when Trump's lawyers handed over the president's written answers to some of Mueller's questions. The arrangement was a hard-fought compromise. Trump answered only questions about Russian interference in the 2016 election and not questions about whether he has tried to obstruct the broader investigation into potential coordination between Russia and his presidential campaign. It's unclear whether Mueller intends to push for more — either in writing or in person.

Special counsel spokesman Peter Carr declined comment.

Even those written answers were months in the making.

In the months following Mueller's May 2017 appointment, the White House pledged its cooperation, believing it the fastest way to end the investigation. The administration produced thousands of documents sought by the special counsel and made close Trump aides — including his legal counsel, chief of staff and press secretary — available for questioning. White House lawyer Ty Cobb predicted the investigation could conclude by the end of that year.

But it soon became clear that Mueller would want to interview Trump, given his involvement in several events under scrutiny. The president had fired FBI Director James Comey, harangued his attorney general over his recusal from the Russia investigation and dictated a misleading statement about a Trump Tower meeting involving his son and a Kremlin-connected lawyer.

But Trump lawyers Dowd and Jay Sekulow moved cautiously.

The last time a president is known to have been interviewed in a criminal investigation was nearly 15 years ago, and a commander-in-chief has not been subpoenaed before a grand jury since 1998, when President Bill Clinton was summoned in the Whitewater case. Trump's lawyers were mindful such an interview would be a minefield for a president who often misstates the facts. They set out to avoid it however possible, even if it could lead to resisting a subpoena and bringing on a court fight over presidential power.

But first they tried to head off a request. Trump's lawyers staked out a bold constitutional argument, declaring they considered his actions as president outside a prosecutor's bounds. Mueller had no right to question the president on any of his decisions made at the White House, they argued, saying any outside scrutiny of those choices would curb a president's executive powers.

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At the same time, they worked to undermine Mueller's case should he choose to challenge that argument. They furnished a trove of White House documents about key moments in the investigation in hopes of undercutting any claim that he could only get the information he needed by questioning Trump, according to people familiar with the strategy.

Trump had other plans.

As his lawyers plotted to dig in against any interview, he pushed for one, believing it would exonerate him. In January, he burst into a reporters' briefing with chief of staff John Kelly and insisted he was eager to speak to Mueller. He might do so in weeks, he said, "subject to my lawyers and all of that."

"I would love to do that — I'd like to do it as soon as possible," Trump said.

What he didn't mention was that his attorneys had already discussed, and scuttled, the planned interview with Mueller. That process had even progressed to discussing logistics with Kelly, who advised of ways White House officials could get people in and out of the building without the press knowing.

But the interest cooled after Mueller team prosecutor James Quarles dictated over the phone 16 topics Mueller wanted to cover, including Trump's interactions with Comey, his knowledge of national security adviser Michael Flynn's interview with the FBI and his involvement in the Trump Tower statement. Dowd responded that the answers could all be found in documents and witness statements provided to Mueller. He then canceled the interview and days later drafted a feisty letter contesting the interview's appropriateness and offering extensive explanations on the incidents in question.

The investigation has been "a considerable burden for the president and his office, has endangered the safety and security of our country, and has interfered with the president's ability to both govern domestically and conduct foreign affairs," Dowd wrote.

In the following months, Trump told some of his closest confidants that he still wanted to interview with Mueller, according to four White House officials and Republicans close to the White House who asked for anonymity because they were not permitted to publicly discuss private conversations. The president repeatedly insisted he had done nothing wrong and believed he could convince Mueller of that.

He told one confidant last spring he was frustrated his lawyers didn't believe he should do it and snapped that he didn't understand what was taking so long, according to one Republican in contact with the White House.

Tensions were on display at a March meeting where Dowd and Sekulow met with Mueller to discuss the need for an interview. Mueller said he needed to know if Trump had a "corrupt intent" when he fired Comey, such as by intending to stymie the investigation, according to a person familiar with the encounter. Dowd responded that the question was ridiculous and the answer was obviously no. Investigators at the same meeting raised the prospect of a subpoena if Trump didn't cooperate, Dowd has said.

Later that month, Mueller's team produced its most detailed list of questions yet — dozens, in different categories from Trump's time as a candidate, through the transition period and into his presidency.

Trump's own views soon began to shift. He had his first misgivings in mid-April after FBI raids on his personal lawyer Michael Cohen, thinking they were a sign that he could "not trust" Mueller, according to one of the Republicans close to Trump who spoke with the AP.

As Rudy Giuliani joined Trump's legal team in April, the White House settled into a new strategy: Drag out the interview drama for months, and use that time to ratchet up attacks on Mueller's credibility and complaints about the cost and time of the probe, according to the officials and advisers familiar with the strategy.

Giuliani led the charge. His scattershot arguments sometimes frustrated others in the White House, as he frequently moved the goalposts as to what would be required to have an interview. But the effect was to ensure the process would drag out longer.

Trump, meanwhile, continued complaining about the investigation even as his lawyers quietly negotiated acceptable interview terms.

A key breakthrough occurred earlier this fall when Mueller's team said it would accept written answers on Russian election interference and collusion. The concession ensured that Mueller would get at least some on-the-record response from Trump. Prosecutors tabled questions about obstruction, reserving the

right to return to that area later.

Giuliani seemed to foreclose future dialogue Tuesday, saying, "It is time to bring this inquiry to a conclusion."

Whether Mueller agrees is a different story.

Republicans divided over Trump's posture toward Saudi Arabia

By DEB RIECHMANN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's embrace of Saudi Arabia has exposed a foreign policy rift in the Republican Party, as some of his GOP colleagues warn that not punishing the kingdom for its role in killing a U.S.-based columnist will have dangerous consequences.

Many Republicans — even Sens. Lindsey Graham and Rand Paul, who share their views on the matter with the president — have denounced Trump's decision not to levy harsher penalties on Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman over the death and dismemberment of Jamal Khashoggi inside the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul.

Sen. Bob Corker, the Republican chairman of the influential Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said Wednesday he was "astounded" by Trump's statement and likened it to a press release for Saudi Arabia.

"It is a delicate situation when we have a long-term ally that we've had for decades, but we have a crown prince that I believe ordered the killing of a journalist," Corker told Chattanooga TV station WTVC in his home state of Tennessee. "We don't have a smoking gun. Everything points to the fact that he knew about it and directed it."

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo defended Trump's decision, saying the U.S. has already placed sanctions on 17 Saudi officials suspected of involvement in the Oct. 2 killing of The Washington Post columnist, who had been critical of the royal family.

"We've sanctioned 17 people — some of them very senior in the Saudi government," Pompeo said Wednesday in a radio interview with KCMO in Kansas City, Missouri. "We are going to make sure that America always stands for human rights."

Graham, R-S.C., isn't convinced. "When we lose our moral voice, we lose our strongest asset," he said.

Members of both parties have accused Trump of ignoring U.S. intelligence that concluded, according to one U.S. official, that it was likely the crown prince ordered the killing. Several lawmakers have indicated that the U.S. has no "smoking gun" that proves he was responsible, but they have called on the CIA and other top intelligence agencies to publicly share what they told the president about the slaying.

In his statement Tuesday, Trump argued that punishing Saudi Arabia by "foolishly canceling" Saudi arms deals worth billions of dollars to the U.S. would only benefit Russia and China. Critics, including high-ranking officials in other countries, accused Trump of ignoring human rights and giving Saudi Arabia a pass for economic reasons.

It's "America First," Trump said.

That unleashed a tweet Wednesday from Democratic Rep. Tulsi Gabbard of Hawaii who wrote: "Being Saudi Arabia's bitch is not 'America First.'"

Trump also said the U.S. needs Saudi Arabia's help to counter Iran in the region, fight extremism and keep oil prices steady. The U.S., Russia and the Saudis have boosted oil production in anticipation of sharply lower exports from Iran due to U.S. sanctions reinstated after Trump exited the Iran nuclear deal.

Trump publicly thanked Saudi Arabia on Wednesday for plunging oil prices. However, OPEC, the cartel of oil-producing countries, could announce production cuts at its Dec. 6 meeting in Vienna, nudging prices upward.

"Thank you to Saudi Arabia, but let's go lower!" he wrote from his Mar-a-Lago club in Palm Beach, Florida, where he's spending Thanksgiving.

Criticism of the president will likely resume after the holiday when lawmakers return to Capitol Hill early next week.

"Congressional Republicans will have to do a gut check," Jon Alterman, director of the Middle East Pro-

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gram at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said Wednesday. "The Republican Party has believed for more than 50 years that morality was one of the reasons why the United States won the Cold War. And the president walked away from that."

Some lawmakers are already fighting back. Twenty-two members of the Senate — 11 Republicans and 11 Democrats — have triggered investigations into Khashoggi's death and specifically whether the crown prince was responsible. The investigations were requested under provisions of the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act.

The act requires the president to report back to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee within 120 days — in this case by Feb. 7 — on whether the crown prince was responsible for an extrajudicial killing, torture or other gross violation of internationally recognized human rights against an individual exercising freedom of expression and the administration's decision on whether sanctions are warranted.

Moreover, three Democrats and three Republicans, who say sanctions, which include a ban on travel to the U.S., imposed so far are insufficient, have introduced the Saudi Arabia Accountability and Yemen Act of 2018. Among other things, the bill calls for suspending weapon sales to Saudi Arabia and imposing mandatory sanctions on all those responsible for Khashoggi's death and those blocking humanitarian access to Yemen.

Democrats going against the president is expected, but Republican outrage will be more difficult for Trump to shrug off.

Before leaving for the holiday, Paul, R-Ky., lamented to The Associated Press that Trump didn't accept the counsel he received from both him and Graham — two Republicans often at odds on foreign policy.

Graham has said the crown prince is "irrational" and "unhinged" and warns there will be strong, bipartisan support in Congress for harsher sanctions against Saudi Arabia and members of the royal family.

Paul typically eschews U.S. intervention abroad, but views Khashoggi's death as one in a long line of malign activities by Saudi Arabia topped by its war in neighboring Yemen where civilians are being killed by Saudi airstrikes.

"He's been hearing from both myself and from Lindsey Graham — two different sides of the foreign policy spectrum — and yet we get this," Paul said about Trump's statement in support of Saudi Arabia. "We really have to reconsider what we're doing."

Associated Press writers Matthew Lee, Maria Danilova and Lisa Mascaro contributed to this report.

Northern California rain hampers life for wildfire survivors

By KATHLEEN RONAYNE, Associated Press

CHICO, Calif. (AP) — Amy Sheppard packs her belongings into a plastic garbage bag as rain drips around her, readying to move on from a field by a Walmart where thousands of evacuees had taken refuge from a deadly Northern California wildfire.

Sheppard, 38, her sister and niece, who is 1, are looking to move into a dry hotel after camping in the field for four days. They lost their home in Magalia and the jewelry-maker tears up as she thinks about what's next.

"This rain is making it so hard," she said.

Rain falling Wednesday in some areas of Northern California could help crews fighting a deadly wildfire. But it could also raise the risk of flash floods, complicate efforts to recover remains and make life even more difficult for people like Sheppard who have nowhere to go.

Heavier rain is expected later in the day in the Paradise burn area, which is about 140 miles (225 kilometers) north of San Francisco, where the Camp Fire has killed at least 83 people, including two victims who were found Wednesday in burned homes. The blaze also destroyed more than 13,000 homes.

"The rain is really a double-edged sword for this fire," said Rick Carhart, a spokesman with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. He said searchers have "been able to sift through this really fine ash and when rain gets onto that really fine ash, it turns it into sort of a muddy muck and makes it

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a lot more difficult.”

Farther south, residents of communities charred by a Los Angeles-area fire stacked sandbags as they prepared for possible downpours that threaten to unleash runoff from hillsides left barren by flames.

Residents were mindful of a disaster that struck less than a year ago when a downpour on a fresh burn scar sent home-smashing debris flows through Montecito, killing 21 people and leaving two missing.

The 151-square-mile (391-square-kilometer) Woolsey Fire in the Los Angeles area was almost entirely contained after three people were killed and more than 1,600 structures destroyed.

In Northern California, the wildfire that started two weeks ago has torched an area in Butte County about the size of Chicago — nearly 240 square miles (622 square kilometers) — and was 85 percent contained.

A spokesman for the Governor’s Office of Emergency Services says state officials will start removing hazardous waste from the burn area “beginning next week.”

“This will take several months,” Eric Lamoureux said. “That ash is still toxic.”

Former California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger made a surprise visit to weary firefighters on Wednesday, providing encouragement and helping serve breakfast.

“I wanted to let you know how much I appreciate all the work that you do,” he told firefighters during a brief speech.

The 71-year-old actor also slammed President Donald Trump for blaming the wildfire on poor forest management. He told firefighters, “you are tough to not only fight the fires, but you are tough to listen to all this crap.”

Officials said 563 people were still unaccounted for. A spokeswoman for ANDE, the company doing rapid DNA tests on remains, said Wednesday the family members of missing people who live outside the state can give a DNA swab at their local sheriff’s office to be sent to California.

The National Weather Service issued a flash flood watch for Paradise and nearby communities and for those areas charred by wildfires earlier this year in Lake, Shasta, Trinity and Mendocino counties.

Butte County officials said all students will be able to return to school on Dec. 3.

“We’re on it,” said Deputy Superintendent Butte County Office of Education Mary Sakuma.

Associated Press journalists Haven Daley in Chico, Olga R. Rodriguez in San Francisco, and Christopher Weber and John Antczak in Los Angeles contributed to this report.

China’s model village of ethnic unity shows cracks in facade

By EMILY WANG, Associated Press

HOTAN UNITY NEW VILLAGE, China (AP) — In this corner of China’s far west, rows of identical white concrete houses with red metal roofs rise abruptly above the sand dunes of the harsh Taklamakan Desert. A Chinese flag flutters above the settlement, and a billboard at the entrance says, “Welcome to the Hotan Unity New Village.”

This is a Communist Party showcase for its efforts to tame the Xinjiang region, the heartland of China’s often restive Uighur Muslim minority and an unforgiving terrain. The free or low-cost houses are assigned alternately to Uighurs and Han Chinese, who work side-by-side in greenhouses and send their children to school together. It is the future the party envisions for Xinjiang after a massive security crackdown that has sent by some estimates more than a million Muslims to internment camps, and many of their children to orphanages.

But a closer look at what the party calls “ethnic unity” reveals what isn’t there: mosques for Muslim worshippers, or traditional Uighur brick homes, often adorned with pointed arches and carved decorations. In their place are colorful murals of what authorities consider to be scenes of unity, such as a Uighur man and his family holding a Chinese flag.

In the village’s new public square, Uighur children banter with Han Chinese children in fluent Mandarin, the language of the Han majority, rather than in their native tongue. Young Uighur women wear Western clothing without the headscarves that are part of traditional Muslim dress.

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While these are voluntary settlements with economic benefits, experts and Uighur activists believe they are part of an aggressive government campaign to erode the identities of the Central Asian groups who called the region home long before waves of Han migrants arrived in recent decades.

"'Ethnic unity' is a euphemism for taming, breaking the Uighur people," says Joanne Smith Finley, an expert in Uighur identity at Newcastle University in the U.K. "This is putting flowery bright wallpaper over a damp wall, a rotting wall."

Construction of the village began in 2014 with a planned investment of 1.7 billion yuan (\$247 million). The goal was to build 5,000 homes and 10,000 greenhouses, according to local reports, to turn a large swath of desert into farmland and create a shared prosperity among Uighurs and Han Chinese.

Around the same time, the Communist Party came forth with a new strategy focused on ethnic mingling. Subsequently, at least one county offered financial incentives for Uighur-Han intermarriages, while others have launched programs encouraging Uighur families to move into Han Chinese residential areas.

China is building several such mixed settlements in Xinjiang. A similar village is under construction as a tourist attraction near Kuqa, around 600 kilometers (372 miles) from Hotan. A concrete yurt known as the "solidarity farmhouse" already has been completed, and a giant sculpture of a pomegranate is prominently placed at the center of the village to symbolize unity.

In Hotan, there are signs that the government's experiment is making inroads. Uighur farmers toil alongside Han Chinese to farm crops in what was once barren desert land, and both groups live in modern houses equipped with gas, electricity and water. A billboard displays a picture of President Xi Jinping and a group of Uighur elders joining hands and, according to the caption, "linking hearts."

Yet there are also signs of enduring mistrust. As elsewhere in Xinjiang, high walls around homes are topped with barbed wire, and police officers stand guard from behind fences at the entrance of the village. Adults don't mix socially — at night, a group of Han Chinese dance in the square while the Uighur residents chat among themselves on the sidelines.

A Uighur farmer who moved to the village last September says authorities provided him with free housing and utilities, two greenhouses, a small orchard with grapevines and a barn with sheep, chickens, and pigeons. But the crackdown on Muslims in Xinjiang has made it risky for ordinary Muslims to discuss their religious practices, and when speaking to reporters in front of government observers, he insists he was never a Muslim. Another Uighur farmer in his early seventies, Muzitohtahon, says he is no longer a Muslim.

Uighur and Han villagers do seem united by at least one factor — their desire to escape poverty. Rural areas in Xinjiang, including Hotan, rank among the poorest in China, with many families lacking even the most basic utilities and food. The financial incentives are also a key draw for Han Chinese from other impoverished regions of China.

Last May, 58-year-old Xiao Erying, who is Han Chinese, moved to this village from her hometown in the southern province of Hunan, over 4,000 kilometers away. "It is better than our hometown," she says, as she rakes sheep, chicken and cow manure inside her greenhouse.

For 60,000 yuan (\$8,700), her family bought a two-bedroom home with a small orchard and two greenhouses. The two grandchildren she lives with are given free tuition, school lunches, and even a free set of clothes. Xiao admits she doesn't speak Uighur and cannot communicate with her Uighur neighbors, but she says the layout encourages interaction.

In a greenhouse a few dozen meters away, Uighur Abudu Mijiti has just begun planting chili with his wife. He moved to the village three years ago to make a more stable living. Two of his three children go to the local school and are fluent in Chinese, he says, as a government minder looks on.

"For us, it's good, it helps learning our national language," he says. "And because our next-door neighbor is Chinese, as we go in and out, it helps improve ethnic unity."

On the surface, the picture presented at the Hotan Unity New Village reflects the government's vision of an "idealized place," says David O'Brien, an expert at the University of Nottingham.

"Every single part of it is the official narrative," O'Brien says. "The narrative is, water will flow to the desert. The narrative is, if you come here great opportunity awaits you. The narrative that people will be secular, they will learn Mandarin."

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Yet the settlement remains only partly inhabited. The city says there are 534 households in the compound, but most of the houses are empty. A drive through reveals rows of empty greenhouses and house after house with a sign that says "sealed off" patched onto padlocked or chained gates.

Under the sweltering desert sun, one Han Chinese farmer tending to her plot of Chinese chives complains that water is scarce and her previous batch of chives had to be thrown out. Even when the crops work out, the chives sell for less than one yuan (14 cents) per kilogram.

"Not even enough for food," she grumbles. "You cannot feed yourself just working on greenhouses."

In the absence of government minders, the woman goes on.

"Ordinary people are not able to eat meat. The officials can, but not the ordinary people," says the woman, who declines to give her name out of fear of retaliation.

As dusk approaches and temperatures fall, residents slowly make their way out onto the streets to enjoy the evening breeze. On the Uighur side of the street, a young Uighur woman rests on an electric bike after a day's work, looking at her cell phone.

Asked what she thinks of unity, she looks up.

"Unity?" she asks. Silently and slowly, she shakes her head, and returns to her phone.

This story has been corrected to show Xinjiang is a region not a province.

4 in New Jersey mansion fire killed by 'homicidal violence'

By WAYNE PARRY, Associated Press

COLTS NECK, N.J. (AP) — A family of four whose remains were found at the burned-down ruins of their New Jersey mansion was slain before the home was set ablaze, authorities said Wednesday, hours after the mansion owner's brother was arrested on suspicion of arson at his own house.

Prosecutors sought to reassure the public that a random killer was not on the loose in the affluent community of Colts Neck, which is also home to some celebrities.

"We believe that this family in some form or fashion was targeted," Monmouth County Prosecutor Christopher Gramiccioni said.

Paul Caneiro, 51, was charged with setting fire to his home Tuesday in Ocean Township. Less than eight hours later, the fire that destroyed his brother's home was reported about 80 miles (129 kilometers) away in Colts Neck, authorities said.

Gramiccioni said he could neither confirm nor deny that Paul Caniero was a suspect in the slayings.

At the mansion, Keith Caniero, 50, was found shot to death on the lawn. Inside, authorities found the remains of his 45-year-old wife, Jennifer Caniero, and their children, 11-year-old son Jesse and 8-year-old daughter Sophia.

The bodies of the mother and children were badly burned. Medical examiners had not determined causes of death for them as of Wednesday afternoon.

It was not immediately known if Paul Caniero had retained an attorney. He was charged with aggravated arson and was scheduled to make a first appearance in court next Wednesday.

Paul Caneiro was accused of using gasoline to set his home on fire while his wife and two daughters were inside. No one was hurt in that blaze, which was reported at 5 a.m. Tuesday, about 7 ½ hours before the Colts Neck fire was reported.

Keith and Paul Caneiro were partners at a technology firm in Asbury Park called Square One.

All four members of Keith Caniero's family were "victims of homicidal violence," the prosecutor said, adding that there was no indication of suicide.

The community held a vigil for the family Wednesday night. Colts Neck Mayor J.P. Bartolomeo said the Caneiros were well known in town and often seen at local shops or school sporting events.

Colts Neck, about 50 miles (80 kilometers) south of New York City, is home to a number of celebrities, including Bruce Springsteen. Former "Daily Show" host Jon Stewart and his wife operate an animal sanctuary there. Queen Latifah sold her mansion there in 2015. Current and former members of the band Bon

Jovi have also called it home.

Follow Wayne Parry at <http://twitter.com/WayneParryAC>

Facing criticism, Trump says he'll visit troops in war zone

By ZEKE MILLER and JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump frequently credits himself with accomplishing more for the military and veterans than any other president in recent memory. But he has yet to embark on what has long been a traditional presidential pilgrimage important to the military: a visit to troops deployed in a war zone.

As he departed Tuesday for Florida to spend the Thanksgiving holiday at his private club in Palm Beach, Trump said he'd soon correct the oversight.

"I'm going to a war zone," he said in response to a reporter's question about his support for the troops. He did not say when he would be making the trip or where he would be going. An official said a White House team recently returned from beginning to plan for a visit.

The White House said Wednesday night that Trump would be participating in "a Thanksgiving teleconference with members of the military" Thursday morning.

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said Wednesday that visiting a war zone is a decision for the president, while adding that there have been times in the past when he has advised against visits to "certain locations" to avoid security risks to the president and the troops.

"There's places that I've been very straightforward I don't want him to go at certain times," Mattis said. He declined to elaborate.

The omission is one of a long list of norm-breaking moves that underscore the president's increasingly fraught relationship with the military, which has celebrated Trump's investments in defense spending but cringed at what some see as efforts to politicize their service.

Just this week, Trump leveled criticism against the storied commander of the 2011 mission that killed al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden, retired Adm. William McRaven. "Wouldn't it have been nice if we got Osama bin Laden a lot sooner than that, wouldn't it have been nice," Trump said.

The latest controversy followed a pattern of concerns raised by former senior military officers about Trump's grasp of the military's role, and it comes as White House aides and defense officials have raised alarm about what they view as the president's disinterest in briefings about troop deployments overseas.

Shortly after taking office, Trump appeared to try to deflect responsibility for the death of a service member, William "Ryan" Owens, in a failed operation in Yemen, saying planning for the mission began under his predecessor and was backed by senior military commanders.

"They explained what they wanted to do, the generals, who are very respected," he told "Fox & Friends" at the time. "And they lost Ryan."

Trump won the White House on a platform of ending U.S. military commitments abroad, but he's been bedeviled by many of the same challenges as his predecessors. More American troops are now deployed in conflict zones than when he took office.

Aides have suggested that Trump is wary of traveling to conflict zones where he doesn't fully support the mission. Trump begrudgingly backed a surge of troops in Afghanistan last year and boosted U.S. deployments in Iraq, Syria and Africa to counter the Islamic State and other extremist groups.

Trump said last week in a "Fox News Sunday" interview that he was "very much opposed to the war in Iraq. I think it was a tremendous mistake, should have never happened." Trump, in fact, offered lukewarm support for the invasion at the time but began offering public doubts about the mission after the conflict began in March 2003.

At home, some assert that Trump's decision to send thousands of active-duty troops to the U.S.-Mexico border shortly before the Nov. 6 midterm elections was a political stunt.

Trump also drew criticism for his decision not to visit Arlington National Cemetery to mark Veterans Day,

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following his trip to Europe. He said later he "should have" visited the cemetery but was too busy with official business. His public schedule that day listed no events.

In the "Fox News Sunday" interview, Trump was asked why he hadn't visited the troops serving in Iraq and Afghanistan in the two years he's served as commander in chief.

"Well, I think you will see that happen," he said. "There are things that are being planned."

He also touted his support for the men and women in uniform.

"I don't think anybody's been more with the military than I have, as a president," Trump said. "In terms of funding, in terms of all of the things I've been able to get them, including the vets, I don't think anybody's done more than me."

Trump received five draft deferments during the Vietnam War, four for education and one for a diagnosis of bone spurs — though he later told The New York Times he could not remember which foot was affected by the malady or how long it lasted.

Trump told The Associated Press in a recent interview that he doesn't think visiting troops in a war zone is "overly necessary."

"I've been very busy with everything that's taking place here," he added.

Associated Press National Security Writer Robert Burns contributed to this report.

It's a Twitter war: Doctors clash with NRA over gun deaths

By LISA MARIE PANE, Associated Press

The photos from doctors came quickly and in succession: blood-stained operating rooms, blood-covered scrubs and shoes, bullets piercing body parts and organs.

The pictures on Twitter were an emotional response to a smackdown by the powerful gun industry lobby, which took issue with the American College of Physicians' call late last month for tighter gun control laws. The recommendations included bans on "assault weapons," large capacity magazines and 3D-printed firearms.

"Someone should tell self-important anti-gun doctors to stay in their lane. Half of the articles in Annals of Internal Medicine are pushing for gun control. Most upsetting, however, the medical community seems to have consulted NO ONE but themselves," the National Rifle Association tweeted.

Physicians across the United States seized on the phrasing, taking to Twitter with 22,000 comments and the hashtags #thisismylane and #thisisourlane, posting photos of their encounters with gun violence and offering their own personal stories of treating such wounds.

The debate gained new urgency this week with the shooting death of an emergency room doctor outside the hospital where she worked, as physicians argue shootings are a public health crisis that they must play a key role in trying to stem. Dr. Tamara O'Neal was killed Monday outside a hospital in Chicago in what police say was a dispute with her ex-fiance. The shooter and two other people — a responding police officer and a resident in the hospital's pharmacy — also died.

"It just shows that not only is this in our lane, but this happens to us," said Dr. Joseph Sakran, a trauma surgeon at Johns Hopkins Medicine in Baltimore who as a 17-year-old was shot in the throat by a stray bullet fired during a dispute at a high school football game.

Sakran created a Twitter account @ThisIsOurLane which in just two weeks has attracted nearly 15,000 followers. They include Dr. Peter Masiakos, a pediatric trauma surgeon in Boston, who wrote "The Quiet Room" just hours after the mass shooting at a church in Sutherland Springs, Texas, about breaking the news that a loved one has died.

"We need to start talking about this as a public health issue. Politics aside, we have a problem that no other country has, and we shouldn't," Masiakos said.

About 35,000 people each year are killed by guns in the United States, and about two-thirds are suicides. That's about 670 people per week and among the largest number of civilian gun deaths in the world.

The world's highest rate of gun deaths is in El Salvador with a rate of 72.5 per 100,00; the rate in the

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U.S. is 3.1 per 100,000. Among all European countries, the rate never breaks 1 gun death per 100,000, according to Small Arms Survey, a Switzerland-based research organization that examines firearms and violence.

"These are not just statistics. These are people, mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters that are being killed," Sakran said. "The worst part of my job is having to go out and talk to these families and to tell them that their loved one is never coming home."

It's not the first time that medical professionals have taken on powerful industries: auto companies over seat belts, Big Tobacco over cigarettes and toys that posed choking hazards. It's also not the first time that the gun lobby has pushed back against the medical community or researchers it considers to be biased. In the 1990s, Congress barred the Centers for Disease Control from conducting research that advocated or pushed for gun control; while it didn't ban research from being conducted, it did have a chilling effect.

More recently, the NRA backed legislation in Florida — eventually overturned in court — that would have barred doctors from asking patients about guns in the home.

Dr. Stephanie Bonne, a trauma surgeon in New Jersey, was in the hospital when she saw the dispute playing out on Twitter.

"I was reading this, and I was like 'Stay in my lane', are you kidding me? Gun violence is something I deal with every day. We're mopping it up in the hospital every day," she said. "My second sort of reaction is maybe people ought to see what this lane is really all about."

Bonne works at a Level I trauma center — the top-level hospital for treating the most serious cases. Her hospital sees about 600 gunshot wounds each year, and she described the toll that unfolds: medically, psychologically and financially.

"It's always tragic and it's always preventable," Bonne said.

Dr. Judy Melinek, a forensic pathologist in the San Francisco Bay area, examines the dead. She took to Twitter to push back at the gun lobby, posting: "Do you have any idea how many bullets I pull out of corpses weekly? This isn't just my lane. It's my (expletive) highway."

"The chutzpah, the gall is what really got to me," Melinek told The Associated Press. "The NRA seems to think they've cornered the market on expertise when it comes to guns. And that's not correct."

She's conducted about 300 autopsies involving gunshot wounds, about half of those suicides. She's seen the damage from bullets and believes more and better research would help prevent gun violence.

Would GPS tracking on firearms or high-tech trigger locks make firearms safer, for example?

Dr. Arthur Przebinda, director of the gun rights advocacy group Doctors for Responsible Gun Ownership, said the pushback from physicians is largely driven by more liberal forces within medical academia and based on ignorance about firearms.

He described it as old, tired debate that shows a knee-jerk bias against firearms. Rather than stripping away constitutional rights, physicians should focus on finding ways to study the underlying causes of violence, he noted.

"These virtue-signaling physicians would be in their lane if they pursued better surgical techniques, better postoperative treatments. They are in the wrong profession if they want to cure society's ills," Przebinda said. "If that was their life's calling, they should have pursued a career path in psychology, criminology or the clergy."

This story has been amended to correct the first name of Dr. Judy Melinek.

Romaine calm: Lettuce warning looms over Thanksgiving dinner

By **CANDICE CHOI**, AP Food & Health Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Avoid all romaine lettuce, but don't worry about your turkey.

With two food poisoning outbreaks making headlines before Thanksgiving, the messages about what's safe to eat can be hard to keep straight. Here's what you should know before you sit down for dinner.

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WHAT LETTUCE OUTBREAK?

On Tuesday, U.S. health officials issued an unusually broad warning against all types of romaine lettuce amid an E. coli outbreak. They asked restaurants and grocers to stop selling it, people to stop eating it and everyone to throw it all out.

Thirty-two illnesses in 11 states have been linked to romaine. Canada also was affected, with 18 illnesses in Ontario and Quebec. No deaths have been reported.

WASN'T THERE ALREADY A ROMAINE OUTBREAK THIS YEAR?

Yes. The strain of E. coli in the current outbreak differs from the one linked to romaine earlier this year that sickened about 200 people and killed five. But it appears similar to the strain identified in a 2017 outbreak that happened around the same time of year.

That outbreak was linked to "leafy greens," but a specific supplier or vegetable was never identified in the U.S.

This time, officials were able to issue an alert earlier and specifically warn against romaine because of information collected through interviews with people who got sick, said Laura Gieraltowski, of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

ARE VEGETABLES CAUSING MORE FOOD POISONING?

Improved detection may be driving up the number of outbreaks tied to produce. But the way food is produced is another consideration.

Timothy Lytton, a professor of law at Georgia State University, noted that large cattle feeding lots could be a contributing factor.

WHAT DO COWS HAVE TO DO WITH E. COLI GETTING INTO LETTUCE?

Huge numbers of cows produce large quantities of animal waste. And bacteria from cattle feces can migrate into the water used to irrigate produce fields, Lytton said.

In fact, tainted irrigation water was identified as a likely source of this year's previous E. coli outbreak linked to romaine from the Yuma, Arizona, region.

WHAT'S BEING DONE?

After the Yuma outbreak, growers in California and Arizona increased the buffer zones between animal lots and produce fields, from 400 feet to 1,200 feet. Teresa Lopez, an administrator with the Arizona Leafy Green Marketing Agreement, also noted that growers in the state started treating water that runs near animal lots. The treatment, which kills pathogens, is used on water that is going to be used on produce.

IS MORE REGULATION COMING?

The Food and Drug Administration has new rules to step up the safety of produce, but the implementation is staggered and began just recently. The agency has said inspections won't start until next year.

Sarah Sorscher of the Center for Science in the Public Interest noted the importance of measures such as testing irrigation water. But a water-testing requirement has been contested and postponed, given the limited availability of tests that can specifically detect the harmful types of E. coli. Ultimately, that rule may not be implemented, Sorscher said.

WHY CAN'T I JUST WASH MY ROMAINE?

Washing doesn't kill germs like the heat from cooking does. That's why health officials are warning against all romaine.

According to a 2013 U.S. government report, leafy greens such as lettuce and spinach are the biggest source of food poisoning.

"Any product that we don't have a cooking step is a bigger issue," said Martin Wiedmann, a professor of food safety at Cornell.

THEN WHEN CAN I HAVE SALAD AGAIN?

It's not clear when it will be OK to eat romaine again. Public health officials would want to be able to identify the source of the contamination or see the reported illnesses stop. Romaine has a shelf life of 21 days.

Romaine sold in the U.S. comes from different regions at different times of year. So while the romaine lettuce linked to the E. coli outbreak earlier this year was from Arizona, romaine lettuce on shelves now

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is mostly from California, regulators said.

Harvesting just recently began shifting back to southern California and Arizona, though most of that product has not started shipping, according to Lopez of the Arizona Leafy Green Marketing Agreement. She said suppliers were asked to withdraw products until health officials are confident the pipeline is clear of contaminated romaine.

WHAT ABOUT TURKEY?

Besides the romaine outbreak, there's a long-running widespread salmonella outbreak linked to raw turkey in the U.S.

Raw meat and poultry is allowed to have salmonella because it's assumed that people will cook it. That's why regulators aren't telling people to avoid it, they're just reminding people to properly handle and cook their holiday birds.

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Fair weather, falling gas prices help Thanksgiving travelers

By The Associated Press

Mild weather and falling gasoline prices are helping Thanksgiving travelers get where they're going while saving a few bucks.

Airports around the country were busy Wednesday, leading to about 2,700 delayed flights by early evening on the East Coast. Only about 100 flights were canceled, however, with nearly half of those in San Francisco, according to tracking service FlightAware.

"It has been a good day so far. The weather has been very cooperative," said American Airlines spokesman Ross Feinstein. "It's busy, but this Sunday and Monday will be busier travel days for us."

The military again opened some of its airspace to airline flights during the holiday-travel period — last Saturday through Wednesday, and again the upcoming Saturday through Monday. The practice began about a decade ago. A spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration said 39,000 flights took advantage of the extra airspace last year.

Holiday revelers traveling by car were able to take advantage of a big decline in gasoline prices caused by lower oil prices. The nationwide average pump price on Wednesday was \$2.60 a gallon, down 25 cents from a month ago.

GasBuddy, a price-comparison site, said prices were under \$2 a gallon in nine states, with several others hovering just above that mark.

"We will see the national average go lower because there are still drops in the pipeline," said GasBuddy analyst Patrick DeHaan. He estimated that U.S. motorists are spending \$100 million less each day on gasoline than they were a month ago.

AAA is forecasting the busiest Thanksgiving travel period since 2005. Most people who will travel at least 50 miles from home are going by car, according to the auto club. AAA spokesman Robert Sinclair credited a strong economy and rising consumer confidence, "and when we have a little time built into our schedules, we take advantage of it."

Much of the country was blessed with mild weather, but that was expected to change in some areas. Rain was moving in along the West Coast, contributing to delays in places including San Francisco, where the FAA said arriving flights were running nearly two hours late on average.

In the Northeast, frigid temperatures were forecast for Thanksgiving Day, although the holiday itself is traditionally a light travel day.

Aside from the weather, American Airlines airport kiosks were knocked offline briefly on Wednesday morning. The airline said no flights were delayed because of the problem, which appeared to be fixed by midday.

The day before Thanksgiving was a more difficult travel day in the past. Many Americans who travel

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over the holiday now start earlier and return later, spreading crowds over several days.

The busiest day ever for Transportation Security Administration airport screeners was the Sunday after Thanksgiving in 2004, but seven of the top 10 days occurred during summer, including five days this past June.

Investors seek stability as they bail out of tech stocks

By STAN CHOE and MARLEY JAY, AP Business Writers

NEW YORK (AP) — Goodbye iPhones and Facebook feed. Hello power plants and bleach.

Since stocks began tumbling two months ago, investors haven't abandoned the market. At least, not all of it. In recent weeks, as they've pulled money out of funds that invest in go-go technology companies, they've also been buying utilities, companies that make everyday necessities for consumers and other stocks that tend to have smaller swings in price than the rest of the market.

It's part of a big shift in investor behavior as fears about rising interest rates, a global trade war and slowing economic growth around the world have roiled markets. The S&P 500 plunged a combined 3.4 percent Monday and Tuesday, with technology stocks again suffering particularly sharp losses, and the index has lost 9.6 percent since setting its record on Sept. 20.

Technology stocks' fall marks a big turnaround from earlier this year, and from much of the bull market that began nearly a decade ago. After leading the market higher on the backs of their strong profit growth, Facebook and other big-name tech companies have recently stumbled on concerns that increased government regulation will dent their profits, on top of all the other concerns dragging on the rest of the market.

Apple has slumped particularly hard on fears that its newest crop of iPhones isn't as popular as expected after phone-part suppliers gave discouraging forecasts. Apple has plunged 19.7 percent since the S&P 500 set its record two months ago, nearly double the loss of the index. Amazon, the third-most valuable U.S. company after Apple and Microsoft, has fallen 21.3 percent over the same time, during which it gave a forecast for revenue growth this holiday season that fell short of Wall Street's high expectations.

After their years of eye-popping returns, those stocks had become some of the most popular to own among hedge funds, mutual funds and other investors. But just as they bought the stocks together on the way up, investors are now heading for the exits en masse as well.

"There's no doubt that tech companies are widely owned, people have made a lot of money on them and we're finally seeing for the first time where the rotation is having some legs," said Nate Thooft, senior portfolio manager at Manulife Asset Management. "They're selling the winners and redeploying the money somewhere else."

For now, at least, that somewhere else has been areas of the stock market seen as holding steadier during economic downturns. Last week, for example, investors plowed \$1.47 billion into exchange-traded funds that focus on utility stocks. The thinking is that utilities' customers will continue to turn on their lights and buy power regardless of how many tariffs get placed on Chinese goods.

Utility stocks have not only held up better than the rest of the market in recent weeks, they've been among the few areas to thrive. Shares of Duke Energy and Xcel Energy have both climbed more than 7 percent since the S&P 500 began its downturn after Sept. 20.

Besides utilities, investors have also been putting money into real-estate stocks and companies that make everyday items for consumers, such as Church & Dwight. The maker of Arm & Hammer baking soda and Oxiclean stain fighters has climbed nearly 10 percent over the last two months. Clorox, which last month reported stronger profit than analysts expected, is up 5.1 percent.

All these companies are common fodder for "low-volatility" ETFs that have surged in popularity in recent weeks as investors seek out stocks that have historically had smaller price swings than the rest of the market. Last week, \$1.3 billion went into "low-volatility" ETFs.

At the same time, nearly \$500 million left technology stock ETFs. It's a huge about-face in interest. As recently as two months ago, these ETFs had attracted \$8 billion in net investment for 2018. But subsequent waves of selling mean they're now down to \$525.9 million in net investment for the year, according

to Jefferies.

"These things had outperformed the S&P by a mile over the last three years," said Mark Hackett, chief of investment research at Nationwide Investment Management. But that's changed now. "On good days they're not the leaders, and on bad days they're the laggards."

Tragedy survivors reflect on Thanksgiving after year of loss

By TAMARA LUSH, Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — Mass shootings, hurricanes, fires — for many people across the nation, 2018 was a year of loss unlike any other. As the quintessentially American holiday of Thanksgiving approaches, some will abandon traditions or choose not to mark the holiday at all. Others will celebrate new friendships forged in the wake of tragedy.

Here's how some of the survivors will spend Thanksgiving:

PARKLAND, FLORIDA: "A HARD WEEK"

Fred Guttenberg will start his Thanksgiving morning at a cemetery.

His 14-year-old daughter, Jaime, was one of 17 people killed in the Valentine's Day massacre at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.

"This Thanksgiving is about loss," said Guttenberg who will visit Jaime's grave with his wife, his son and their two dogs. "It's my first Thanksgiving without my daughter, and we're not going to leave her out of it."

After that, the family has no plans to celebrate or eat a turkey dinner. None of their past traditions seems appropriate. Jaime loved the holidays, her dad said. She looked forward to decorating the house and helping her mom with the cooking.

"This is going to be a hard week," Guttenberg said in a phone interview. He's been a vocal advocate for stricter gun laws and started Orange Ribbons For Jaime, an organization that raises money for gun reform and for causes that were important to his daughter, including animal welfare and dance scholarships.

The grieving father made national headlines when he was one of the first parents to speak out after the shooting at a candlelight vigil. During his gut-wrenching recap of his last moments with Jaime, he worried whether he had remembered to say "I love you" as she rushed out the door for school.

"I sent her to school yesterday. She was supposed to be safe. My job is to protect my children," he told the crowd.

Now, nine months later, Guttenberg says his family is facing a season of firsts without Jaime, whom he described as the energy in the room. He had a request for families who have not lost any loved ones to gun violence.

"Remember those who maybe aren't there this holiday and be part of the change that needs to happen in this country so it doesn't happen to them next."

PITTSBURGH: "WE MUST NOT FORGET"

Rabbi Jeffrey Myers had just begun Shabbat service at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh when the shooting began. Now, less than three weeks after the deadliest attack on Jews in the United States, he plans to celebrate Thanksgiving and encouraged others to do so too.

"People are looking forward to Thanksgiving because there is a lot to be thankful for," he said.

The day of the attack, Oct. 27, "will remain a constant wound," Myers said of the shooting that killed 11 people. But in his weekly blog post to his congregants, he wrote: "For me, just being able to sit in the same room with my family is immensely rewarding, something I was not certain I would ever have the opportunity to do again. That is why something so simple is so powerful and meaningful for me."

However, that is not enough, Myers said. He urged people to be aware of the less fortunate, those in the community who need food and shelter. And he suggested "one simple, yet meaningful gesture" that would make an impact. He asked people to count the number of friends and relatives gathered around their tables at Thanksgiving and donate that sum to charities that feed the hungry. People could also give more, or less.

"It is called tzedakah for an excellent reason: The root word, tzedek, means 'righteousness.' It is the

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right thing to do, and you know that. The needs of others did not disappear on Oct. 27. They remained, and we must not forget them.”

CALIFORNIA: FACEBOOK ANGELS

Athenia Dunham and daughter Natalie will spend Thanksgiving at the home of a woman they met less than two weeks ago, surrounded by new friends. Athenia call them “angels.”

The Dunhams barely escaped their home in Paradise, California, on Nov. 8 as a deadly wildfire swept through. They were awoken by their pitbull, Luna, and flames were already burning the home next door. They made it out and to a hotel in nearby Redding, paying for the room with money from a homeowner’s insurance payout.

On a normal Thanksgiving, Athenia said, she would be cooking for a few friends and preparing to “pig out and veg.” But this year the holidays are the last thing on her mind.

“To be honest, I really don’t even know what day it is — it feels like this just happened yesterday,” she said Tuesday.

But an army of super volunteers who connected via Facebook have come together to help give the two women as normal a Thanksgiving as possible.

Beyond providing a meal, the volunteers have provided the mother and daughter with clothing, gift cards and a laptop computer so Natalie can keep up with her education. One volunteer even did their laundry.

“They’re our angels — and angels have been with us since we left our driveway,” Athenia said.

MEXICO BEACH, FLORIDA: THANKFUL TO BE ALIVE

The Rev. Eddie LaFountain of the First Baptist Church in Mexico Beach, Florida, plans to welcome 300 people to the parking lot of his storm-damaged church for Thanksgiving dinner.

He’s held worship services in the lot since Hurricane Michael destroyed most of the community on Oct. 10. Since that Category 4 storm, the church has become one of the town’s hubs for supplies, necessities and love.

Thanksgiving Day is no different, LaFountain said.

“We just felt like we wanted to open it up to everybody that’s here. Because some don’t have ovens, some are here volunteering. Anybody’s invited,” he said. “Just to be thankful that God’s given us life.”

LaFountain’s other job as a landscaper dried up since the hurricane, as did his wife’s job cleaning condos. But he feels blessed that his apartment was unscathed, his children are safe and that he has firsthand evidence of the good in people every day.

Just a few days ago, volunteers put a new roof on the church. Inside, the donations of shoes, groceries, clothing and other items are free for the taking.

“We can barely walk through the church sometimes,” he said.

Volunteers from Wild Olive, a Panama City restaurant, are cooking the Thanksgiving meal for the hundreds expected to stop by.

“We’re going to pray with them and love on them,” LaFountain said. “If you ever want to experience God, he’s here.”

Associated Press writers Kelli Kennedy in Fort Lauderdale, Florida; Ramesh Santanam in Pittsburgh; and Kathleen Ronayne in Sacramento, California, contributed to this report.

Mattis says he has extra authority to use military on border

By ROBERT BURNS, AP Military Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said on Wednesday the White House has given him explicit authority to use military troops to protect Customs and Border Protection personnel, with lethal force if necessary, at the southwest border.

This could, under certain circumstances, mean directing troops to temporarily detain migrants in the event of disorder or violence against border patrol agents. “This is minutes -- not even hours” of potential detention, Mattis said, suggesting that he was not planning to use the military to operate migrant deten-

tion camps.

"We'll keep you posted on any new missions and any new numbers of troops as those decisions are made," he said.

The mission thus far for the approximately 5,800 active-duty troops in the border area has been mainly to lay barbed wire and other barriers along the border and to transport border patrol personnel. Mattis has stressed the need to keep the military away from civilian law enforcement roles such as arrests, which are forbidden under the Posse Comitatus Act. The law prohibits the federal government from using the armed forces in a domestic police role, except in cases and under circumstances specifically authorized by the Constitution or Congress.

The basis for the expanded legal authorities for Mattis is a belief by the Trump administration that the caravans of Central American migrants, whose numbers include many families with children, moving toward the U.S. border pose a potential security threat to the border patrol.

On Tuesday, Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen visited a San Diego Pacific Coast beach to see up close newly installed razor wire wrapped around a towering border wall that cuts across the sand. She said there were as many as 500 criminals and gang member in the groups heading northward, though she refused to answer questions about how they were identified or what crimes they had committed.

Mattis emphasized that he would use his expanded authorities only in response to a specific, detailed request from Nielsen, and that none has yet been made.

"I now have the authority to do more. Now we'll see what she asks me for," he said.

Mattis was adamant that the military will remain within its legal limits.

"We are not doing law enforcement," he told reporters at the Pentagon. "We do not have arrest authority." He noted that National Guard troops under state control are also involved at the border, and he said the governors of those states could give them arrest authority. He said there are about 2,100 National Guard troops involved.

Mattis said that as of Wednesday there were 5,764 active-duty troops performing support missions along the border in Texas, Arizona and California. The number changes frequently. Just a day earlier, the Pentagon said in a report to Congress that there about 5,900 troop involved; at other times the Pentagon has put the number at 5,800.

Mattis said the instruction he received Tuesday was signed by President Donald Trump's chief of staff, John Kelly. Asked by a reporter what legal authority Kelly has to issue such an instruction to the Pentagon chief, Mattis replied, "He has the authority to do what the president tells him to do."

It its report to Congress on Tuesday the Pentagon estimated the cost of the mission at \$72 million through Dec. 15, when the mission is scheduled to end. It said the National Guard's work, which began in April, has so far cost \$138 million. Mattis said he was certain the \$72 million figure would go up, but he did not forecast any other total.

Interpol's flaws exposed in US-Russia fight over presidency

By AYA BATRAWY and ANGELA CHARLTON, Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The U.S. won, Russia lost and Interpol narrowly escaped disaster — that's the upshot of an unusually high-drama vote for the international police agency's president, dominated by fears that Russia wants to turn Interpol into a tool to hunt down its enemies.

While rights groups and Kremlin critics celebrated the surprise victory of South Korean candidate Kim Jong Yang over his Russian rival, the vote exposed flaws within Interpol that won't vanish overnight. Now the pressure is on Kim and Interpol's day-to-day boss, Secretary-General Juergen Stock, to fix them.

The White House came out publicly against the candidacy of Kim's Russian rival, Alexander Prokopchuk. After the election, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo called Kim "the right man to lead one of the world's most critical law enforcement bodies in its mission to preserve the rule of law and make the world a safer place."

For Interpol, the vote staved off possible collapse, after rumblings from some member countries about

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quitting the agency.

The vote shows that members “thought really hard about whether they want to back away from this institution or make sure it’s run properly and operate fairly,” said Jago Russell, chief of Fair Trials International, which has championed and monitored Interpol’s reform efforts.

Authoritarian governments have long sought to leverage Interpol’s reach — and notably its system of “red notices” that flag suspects for arrest wherever they go — for political ends. While it has tried to clean up this system, it remains vulnerable to pressure from powerful member states: Its last president vanished in China in a possible political purge, while Interpol quietly looked on.

Stock, the secretary general, acknowledged that “systems can be improved” but stressed that Interpol’s information-sharing systems have led to the arrest of 10,000 serious criminals so far this year. “It is fundamental to Interpol’s existence that we are neutral and that we are independent,” he insisted.

That was a central argument for the U.S. and governments in Europe and elsewhere who lobbied against Russian security service veteran Prokopchuk. The Western powers warned that a Russian victory would have led to further abuses of Interpol by the Kremlin, seeking to go after political opponents and fugitive dissidents.

Russia accused its critics of overly politicizing the vote and campaigning to discredit Prokopchuk, calling him a respected professional. Russian officials were subdued in their response to the vote, and it got only modest attention in the state-dominated media.

South Korea’s government called Kim’s election a “national triumph” that could elevate the country’s international standing. Kim secured at least two-thirds of votes cast at Interpol’s general assembly in Dubai, though the agency does not release how member states voted.

The new president is unlikely to make immediate change, though. Kim had already been the acting president, and Interpol’s president has more of an oversight role than a hands-on position. Meanwhile, Prokopchuk will remain an Interpol vice president.

But watchdog groups say there’s no time to lose.

“Interpol has for too long traded on its James Bond image, the global good guys fighting crime,” said Russell of Fair Trials International. “That reputation needs to be underpinned with meaningful rules to prevent abuse. ... I hope that this vote further focuses the mind on the need to do that.”

Kim will serve until 2020, completing the four-year mandate of his predecessor, Meng Hongwei, who was detained in China as part of a wide anti-corruption sweep there.

Based in the French city of Lyon, the 95-year-old policing body is best known for its “red notices” that identify suspects pursued by other countries, effectively putting them on a global “most-wanted” list.

Critics say countries like Russia, Turkey, Egypt, Iran and China have used the system to try to round up political opponents, journalists or activists. Interpol’s rules prohibit the use of police notices for political reasons, and the agency has toughened rules to enforce that.

However, countries can issue requests — known as “diffusions” — that flag a person wanted for arrest, before Interpol reviews the notice, leading to what critics say is a major loophole in the system.

“We accept the fact that systems can be improved and recognize that a very small number of noncompliant red notices can seriously affect the lives of innocent citizens,” Stock said.

Bill Browder, who runs an investment fund that had once operated in Moscow, says Russia used the diffusion system against him, which led to his brief arrest in Spain earlier this year.

Lawyers who have championed Interpol reform also welcomed the vote, as did Amnesty International’s Denis Krivosheev, who said, “If Russian law enforcement agencies engage in abusive practices, then the country pays with its reputation, and this is a stark reminder of it. To Russia it matters a lot, and this is obviously quite embarrassing.”

Charlton reported from Paris. Associated Press writers Nataliya Vasilyeva in Moscow and Danica Kirka in London contributed.

Razor wire is most visible result of \$210M deployment

By **SUSAN MONTOYA BRYAN, Associated Press**

The towering metal fence that divides the United States and Mexico at the edge of the Pacific Ocean has an imposing new feature: row upon row of razor wire.

The wire that's typically used in battlefields and on prison barriers is the most visible result of the \$210 million military deployment along the U.S.-Mexico border, creating an imposing sight for the crowd of Central American migrants gathering in Tijuana.

Soldiers and contractors have been installing different versions of the sharp wire barriers all along the border — on the fence, at ports of entry and on the banks of the Rio Grande in Texas to name a few.

"This is what it really looks like - no climbers anymore under our administration," President Donald Trump tweeted along with a photo of the fortified section in Southern California.

Military officials say they have more than 150 miles (240 kilometers) of wire available to string up at strategic locations. Here are some questions and answers about the wire:

WHAT IS THE WIRE?

It is called concertina wire, named after the musical instrument and its expanding and contracting bellows. It resembles barbed wire that's commonly used to corral cattle, but it comes in flat coils that can quickly expand like its namesake, making it easier to store, transport and install.

It has been the wire of choice for militaries around the world since World War I.

Made in factories today using galvanized steel, concertina wire consists of sharp flat blades. It's used to secure businesses, prisons and other government installations.

Critics have blasted Trump's military deployment at the border as an expensive political stunt — and question why active duty troops are needed for tasks that contractors could perform.

According to figures reported to Congress on Tuesday, the Pentagon estimates the cost of the military's mission on the U.S.-Mexico border will be about \$210 million under current plans. That includes money for active-duty troops and National Guard troops.

What's not clear is how much has been spent on materials like razor wire.

A ton of razor wire can go for several hundred dollars while a single roll can be bought online for as little as \$30.

WHERE IS IT BEING INSTALLED?

An initial 22 miles (35 kilometers) of concertina wire was shipped to the border when the first troops began to deploy to California, Arizona and Texas a month ago. Military officials said at the time they had more than 150 miles (240 kilometers) of wire available.

It's clear it won't be strung along every mile as it would take 13 times that amount to span the U.S.-Mexico border. The border stretches about 1,950 miles (3,138 kilometers) from the Pacific Ocean to South Texas where the Rio Grande dumps into the Gulf of Mexico.

It's up to U.S. Customs and Border Protection to tell the military where to put the wire. U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis has said the short-term objective has been to get enough wire and other barriers in place as requested by border officials.

A Defense Department spokesman, Army Col. Robert Manning, told reporters earlier this week that more than 4 miles (6.8 kilometers) of wire obstacles had been installed by soldiers in Arizona and California.

The focus has been in the San Diego area, where it can be seen by migrants waiting on the south side of the border. It also has been put up at the Otay Mesa port of entry in California and at less populated spots near crossings in Nogales and Douglas, Arizona, and in Laredo, Hidalgo and Brownsville, Texas.

HOW IS IT INSTALLED?

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

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Forklifts, tractors and other heavy equipment are used to move the coils to where the wire needs to be installed.

Wearing heavy gloves, crews space out the coils as if they were stretching a toy Slinky and the concertina is then affixed to the tops of walls or fences using bits of wire. In some spots, metal stakes are driven into the ground and used to support the wire.

DOES IT WORK?

U.S. Customs and Border Protection released video last week showing a man cutting through wire that border agents had placed just hours before on a fence near Yuma, Arizona.

Arizona Border Patrol agents for several months have been overwhelmed by the arrival of large numbers of Central American migrants traveling as families. During a 48-hour period last week, agents in the Yuma area apprehended more than 650 people who crossed illegally.

Customs and Border Protection officials have argued that additional barriers and the deployment of National Guard and military troops have helped to free up agents.

Mars landing comes down to final 6 minutes of 6-month trip

By **MARCIA DUNN, AP Aerospace Writer**

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — It all comes down to the final six minutes of a six-month journey to Mars. NASA's InSight spacecraft will enter the Martian atmosphere at supersonic speed, then hit the brakes to get to a soft, safe landing on the alien red plains.

After micromanaging every step of the way, flight controllers will be powerless over what happens at the end of the road Monday, nearly 100 million miles (160 million kilometers) away. The communication lag between Mars and Earth is eight minutes.

"By the time we hear anything, the whole thing is already done," said project manager Tom Hoffman of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. "Either it happened or it hasn't happened."

Any small last-minute adjustments must be completed 1 ½ hours before touchdown, said Rob Grover, lead engineer for the landing team.

"All of our efforts to make sure we're successful all happen in the years before," he explained.

A brief rundown of InSight's do-or-die entry, descent and landing:

SIX MINUTES BEFORE TOUCHDOWN

InSight will come in like a 12,300-mph (19,800-kph) arrow, piercing the top of the Martian atmosphere about 77 miles (114 kilometers) above the surface. Engineers are shooting for a 12-degree angle of attack, almost parallel to the ground. Too steep, the spacecraft could burn up. Too shallow, it could bounce back into space. Atmospheric friction slows the spacecraft, but builds up heat. Its heat shield is made to withstand the 2,700 degrees Fahrenheit (1,500 degrees Celsius). Once InSight is down to seven miles (11 kilometers), its parachute opens at a breakneck 860 mph (1,400 kph).

THREE MINUTES

Shortly after the white nylon chute opens with a yank, InSight ditches its heat shield and unfolds its three legs. After two minutes of descending under the parachute, the spacecraft, still supersonic, starts using radar to determine speed and altitude, from about 1 ½ miles (2 ½ kilometers) up. Less than a minute remains until touchdown. With its speed now down to 134 mph (215 kph), the lander dumps its back shell and parachute. It is less than a mile (one kilometer) above the ground.

FORTY-FIVE SECONDS

Almost immediately, InSight's 12 descent engines start firing to further slow the lander and keep it away from the severed back shell, still falling under the parachute. The lander turns itself so its solar panels will extend east and west at touchdown, and its robotic arm faces south. InSight's speed is now 17 mph (27 kph), at an altitude of 164 feet (50 meters)

FIFTEEN SECONDS

Now in so-called constant velocity mode, InSight is aiming for a 5 mph (8 kph) touchdown in a plain near

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the equator called Elysium Planitia. There it will dig deep for heat measurements and scope out mars-quakes over a full Martian year, or two Earth years. NASA picked this spot because it should be relatively flat and free of big rocks that could hamper science operations. Parking near the equator provides optimal sunlight for solar energy. "It's a very safe place to land," Grover said at a press conference Wednesday.

TOUCHDOWN!

It will be around 2 p.m., Mars time, when InSight lands. That's 3 p.m. on the U.S. East Coast and noon for the JPL flight controllers in Pasadena, California. NASA estimates temperatures could be in the teens or even single digits Fahrenheit (well below zero Celsius). Overnight lows could reach minus 140 degrees Fahrenheit (minus 96 degrees Celsius.) It's wintertime on Mars. "Probably don't need an umbrella, but you may need a coat and definitely recommend a spacesuit, too, if you're there at the landing site," Grover joked to reporters while describing the bone-dry Martian plain.

HELLO? HELLO?

Since departing Earth in May, InSight has been shadowed by WALL-E and EVE, the first CubeSats to venture into deep space. The briefcase-size satellites named after the characters in the 2008 animated movie will pass within a few thousand miles (kilometers) of Mars, as InSight lands. NASA hopes one or both relay InSight's radio signals. If the experiment succeeds, flight controllers may be able to follow InSight's descent and landing, although with a lag of more than eight minutes at best. Otherwise, news will trickle in from NASA's Mars orbiters.

SAY CHEESE:

InSight's first job, just several minutes after landing, is to take a picture. Ground controllers want to see what they're up against. Big rocks or a hillside could interfere with the stationary lander's geology experiments. Once the red dust settles about 16 minutes after touchdown, the lander will spread its solar panels and settle in for its first long winter's nap at Mars.

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Retailers aim to pick up business from defunct, dying rivals

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO, AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Toys R Us and Bon-Ton may be gone but they haven't been forgotten.

Companies like Target and online mattress company Casper are creating playbooks to pick up market share that those and other defunct or dying retailers left behind.

Casper, for instance, is teaming up with department stores like Nordstrom to introduce pop-up mattress shops in areas where Mattress Firm, which filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in October, had locations. And Kohl's has been mapping out where retailers like Bon-Ton and Sears shuttered stores so it can target those customers with specific ads.

Kohl's is also adding more beauty products, which had been an area of expertise for Bon-Ton, the York, Pennsylvania-based department store chain that closed the last of its stores in August. Kohl's believes one-third of its store base is benefiting from department store closings, up from one quarter a year ago.

Target CEO Brian Cornell estimated up to \$100 billion in market share that's now up for grabs — about double what he foresaw just a year ago. In response, the company is accelerating its store remodels in areas where bankrupt retailers once had stores. Target has devoted extra space at 500 of its stores for bigger toys like electric cars, playhouses and musical instruments as well as adding nearly 200 more products. About half of those locations are about five miles from former Toys R Us stores.

"We regularly look at retailers on the Moody's credit watch list," Cornell told reporters last month. "We think about strategies market by market."

In 2018, there have been roughly 30 retailers that have filed for bankruptcy, including household names like Sears Holdings Corp., Mattress Firm, and David's Bridal. That compares with 41 last year — the highest since 2011, according to S&P Global Market Intelligence, a research firm. Both Toys R Us and Bon-Ton

liquidated this past summer just months after trying to reorganize in bankruptcy court.

In 2008, 440 retailers filed for bankruptcy, the highest number since S&P started tracking the data.

The rampant closures don't tell the entire story. In fact, according to research firm IHL Group, 2018 will see a net growth of more than 3,800 stores, with 12,664 stores opening this year and 8,828 shuttering. And the closings represent a concentration of retailers. This year, 16 retailers represent 66 percent of the closings, compared with 48 percent last year.

The National Retail Federation expects holiday retail sales to increase as much as 4.8 percent over 2017. The sales growth marks a slowdown from last year's 5.3 percent but remains healthy.

Retailers should be cautious about targeting shoppers from defunct retailers, says Craig Johnson, president of Customer Growth Partners, a retail consultancy.

"The trick is capitalizing on the opportunity without going overboard," he said. For retailers like Bon-Ton and Sears, "people who were still shopping there were older and spending less."

Sears has long ceded territory in plenty of areas like toys and clothing. Its last bastion: appliances and home improvement, both areas that home improvement retailer Lowe's is targeting.

Lowe's CEO Marvin Ellison told AP he estimates about \$2.5 billion to \$3 billion up for grabs in appliances; for home improvement, that figure is anywhere from \$600 million to a billion dollars. Lowe's has been expanding its appliances, and started stocking up on Craftsman tools, which Ellison thinks has attracted Sears shoppers.

Still, even as retailers scramble to fill the hole, in many cases that won't be enough. Take Toys R Us, which had a constant supply of hot products throughout the year, not just for the holidays.

"No one is going to be able to fill the Toys R Us void," said Isaac Larian, CEO of MGA Entertainment, the maker of the highly popular LOL toys. His overall global business has tripled, but at Little Tikes, known for its large size toys like cook kitchen sets and toy cars, business is down 11 percent, leaving its factory in Hudson, Ohio, often idle.

"I'm looking at everything possible to find other ways to fill that factory," he added.

Follow Anne D'Innocenzio: <http://twitter.com/ADInnocenzio>

A holiday miracle? Stores try to cut down on long lines

By JOSEPH PISANI and ANNE D'INNOCENZIO, AP Retail Writers

NEW YORK (AP) — Retailers will once again offer big deals and early hours to lure shoppers into their stores for the start of the holiday season. But they'll also try to get shoppers out of their stores faster by minimizing the thing they hate most: long lines.

Walmart, Target and other large retailers are sending workers throughout their stores to check customers out with mobile devices. And at Macy's, shoppers can scan and pay for items on their own smartphones.

Retailers hope the changes will make in-store shopping less of a hassle. Long lines can irritate shoppers, who may leave the store empty handed and spend their money elsewhere, or go online.

Asian stocks fall on fears of softening US economic growth

By ANNABELLE LIANG, Associated Press

SINGAPORE (AP) — Asian markets were mostly lower on Thursday as a mixed bag of data from the United States that could point to softening growth rattled investors.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 was less than 0.1 percent lower at 21,504.00 and South Korea's Kospi dropped 0.2 percent to 2,071.94 in narrow trading. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index slipped under 0.1 percent to 25,962.07. The Shanghai Composite fell 0.1 percent to 2,648.42. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 bucked the regional trend, adding 0.6 percent to 5,674.90. Shares rose in Taiwan and Indonesia but were flat in Singapore.

WALL STREET: Major indexes bounced back from two days of steep losses as retailers, technology and

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internet companies posted strong gains. The S&P 500 index added 0.3 percent to 2,649.93 and the Nasdaq composite rose 0.9 percent to 6,972.25. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was almost flat at 24,464.69. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks jumped 1.3 percent to 1,488.28. U.S. markets will be closed for Thanksgiving on Thursday and will be open for a half-day on Friday.

U.S. DATA: Sales of existing homes in the U.S. rose in October, breaking a six-month losing streak, the National Association of Realtors announced Wednesday. Sales jumped 1.4 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 5.22 million in October from 5.15 million a month earlier. Still, the new numbers were still down 5.1 percent from a year ago. Durable goods orders also fell 4.4 percent last month from September, the largest amount in 15 months, with commercial and military aircraft leading the decline. This could point at adverse effects of a trade dispute between the U.S. and China, who have imposed additional tariffs on hundreds of billions of each other's goods.

ANALYST'S TAKE: "Basically the same issues - higher U.S. rates, trade, tech correction and fears of its morphing into weaker global growth - are continuing to keep investors on edge," Shane Oliver, Head of Investment Strategy and Chief Economist at AMP Capital, said in an interview.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude lost 23 cents to \$54.40. The contract gained \$1.20 to close at \$54.63 in New York. Brent crude, the international standard, gave up 27 cents to \$63.21. It finished 95 cents higher at \$63.48 in London.

CURRENCIES: The dollar eased to 112.98 yen from 113.07 yen late Wednesday. The euro strengthened to \$1.1398 from \$1.1383.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Thursday, Nov. 22, the 326th day of 2018. There are 39 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 22, 1963, John F. Kennedy, the 35th president of the United States, was assassinated while riding in a motorcade in Dallas; Texas Gov. John B. Connally, in the same car as Kennedy, was seriously wounded; a suspect, Lee Harvey Oswald, was arrested; Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson was sworn in as president.

On this date:

In 1906, the "S-O-S" distress signal was adopted at the International Radio Telegraphic Convention in Berlin.

In 1914, the First Battle of Ypres (EE'-pruh) during World War I ended with an Allied victory against Germany.

In 1935, a flying boat, the China Clipper, took off from Alameda, California, carrying more than 100,000 pieces of mail on the first trans-Pacific airmail flight.

In 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Chinese leader Chiang Kai-shek (chang ky-shehk) met in Cairo to discuss measures for defeating Japan. Lyricist Lorenz Hart died in New York at age 48.

In 1954, the Humane Society of the United States was incorporated as the National Humane Society.

In 1955, comic Shemp Howard of "Three Stooges" fame died in Hollywood at age 60.

In 1965, the musical "Man of La Mancha" opened on Broadway.

In 1967, the U.N. Security Council approved Resolution 242, which called for Israel to withdraw from territories it had captured the previous June, and implicitly called on adversaries to recognize Israel's right to exist.

In 1975, Juan Carlos was proclaimed King of Spain.

In 1977, regular passenger service between New York and Europe on the supersonic Concorde began on a trial basis.

In 1990, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, having failed to win re-election of the Conservative

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Party leadership on the first ballot, announced she would resign.

In 1995, acting swiftly to boost the Balkan peace accord, the U-N Security Council suspended economic sanctions against Serbia and eased the arms embargo against the states of the former Yugoslavia.

Ten years ago: In the weekly Democratic radio address, President-elect Barack Obama promoted an economic plan he said would provide 2.5 million jobs, although his spokesman later clarified that the plan would "save and create" that many jobs. President George W. Bush snared fresh international support on the economy and North Korea at a Pacific Rim economic summit in Peru.

Five years ago: On the 50th anniversary of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, the city of Dallas paused to honor the fallen leader.

One year ago: A former confidant of ousted leader Robert Mugabe, Emmerson Mnangagwa, returned to Zimbabwe to become the next president a day after Mugabe resigned; he promised a "new, unfolding democracy." North Korea said the U.S. decision to list the country as a state sponsor of terrorism was a "serious provocation" that justified its development of nuclear weapons. Former sports doctor Larry Nassar, accused of molesting at least 125 girls and young women while working for USA Gymnastics and Michigan State University, pleaded guilty to multiple charges of sexual assault. Ratko Mladic, the Bosnian Serb general whose forces carried out the worst massacre in Europe since World War II, was convicted of genocide and other crimes by the United Nations' Yugoslav war crimes tribunal and sentenced to life behind bars.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Michael Callan is 83. Actor Allen Garfield is 79. Animator and movie director Terry Gilliam is 78. Actor Tom Conti is 77. Singer Jesse Colin Young is 77. Astronaut Guion Bluford is 76. International Tennis Hall of Famer Billie Jean King is 75. Rock musician-actor Steve Van Zandt (a.k.a. Little Steven) is 68. Rock musician Tina Weymouth (The Heads; Talking Heads; The Tom Tom Club) is 68. Retired MLB All-Star Greg Luzinski is 68. Actress Lin Tucci is 67. Rock musician Lawrence Gowan is 62. Actor Richard Kind is 62. Actress Jamie Lee Curtis is 60. Alt-country singer Jason Ringenberg (Jason & the Scorchers) is 60. Actress Mariel Hemingway is 57. Actor Winsor Harmon is 55. Actor-turned-producer Brian Robbins is 55. Actor Stephen Geoffreys is 54. Rock musician Charlie Colin is 52. Actor Nicholas Rowe is 52. Actor Michael K. Williams is 52. Actor Mark Ruffalo is 51. International Tennis Hall of Famer Boris Becker is 51. Actress Sidse (SIH'-sa) Babett Knudsen is 50. Country musician Chris Fryar (Zac Brown Band) is 48. Actor Josh Cooke is 39. Actor-singer Tyler Hilton is 35. Actress Scarlett Johansson is 34. Actor Jamie Campbell Bower is 30. Singer Candice Glover (TV: "American Idol") is 29. Actor Alden Ehrenreich is 29. Actor Dacre Montgomery is 24. Actress Mackenzie Lintz is 22.

Thought for Today: "Nothing great will ever be achieved without great men, and men are great only if they are determined to be so." — Charles de Gaulle (born this date in 1890, died 1970).