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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.



Put our experienced team to work for you!

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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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Lane is home, Schaller is sedated

Marshall Lane was able to return home on Thanksgiving Day after spending a night there following an accident near Verdon Wednesday night. According to Facebook reports, Lane is very sore and has many stitches and staples in his head and a few in one knee.

Meanwhile, Hunter Schaller, who was flown to Sioux Falls Wednesday night, is still fighting. Facebook reports indicate he is still sedated and will continue to be for the next 24-48 hours.

Both families are forever thankful for the outpouring of love, support and prayer during this time.

Groton Prairie Mixed

Team Standings: Coyotes 36½ , Foxes 35½ , Cheetahs 32½ , Chipmunks 26½ , Shih Tzus 25, Jack-
elopes 22

Men's High Games: Brad Waage 237, Roger Colestock 222, Doug Jorgensen 202

Women's High Games: Vicki Jorgensen 169, 166, 152, Sandy Hoops 151, Michelle Johnson 151

Men's High Series: Brad Waage 568, Mike Siegler 535, Roger Colestock 528

Women's High Series: Vicki Jorgensen 487, Sue Stanley 418, Sandy Hoops 410



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

Groton Care & Rehab

1106 N 2nd St, Groton

Free Will Donation

Governor-elect Noem Invites “Best and Brightest” to Serve in State Government

New website offers opportunity to submit resumes and stay updated on transition

WATERTOWN, SD - Governor-elect Kristi Noem invited the “best and brightest” to apply for a job within her administration. Interested applicants can learn more and submit resumes on Governor -elect Noem’s [transition website](#), which was launched today as well. There are positions available at all experience levels.

“We need good people in state government who understand this role won’t be about them, but about producing real results for the people of South Dakota,” said Governor-elect Noem. “With the goal of recruiting and retaining the best and brightest to serve, I want to personally invite those who are willing to tackle the big things, who are passionate about our state and ready to innovate, to apply today.”

The transition website will also serve as a user-friendly, online forum where South Dakotans can stay informed about Governor-elect Noem’s path to Pierre and [share feedback](#) on the transition process.

“This website is an invitation for you to join the conversations shaping South Dakota’s future,” Governor-elect Noem continued. “Starting from Day 1, we want to make sure your voice is heard during the decision-making process.”

South Dakota Patient Under Investigation for Acute Flaccid Myelitis

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Department of Health is investigating the first person reported with acute flaccid myelitis (AFM) in the state this year. The individual under investigation is a young adult and experienced a mild respiratory illness with fever prior to developing muscle weakness, for which they were hospitalized.

“AFM is a rare but serious condition, most often diagnosed in children, that affects the nervous system, causing muscles to weaken. Most cases of AFM had a mild respiratory illness or fever consistent with a viral infection before they develop muscle weakness, but no specific cause has been identified,” said Dr. Joshua Clayton, state epidemiologist.

AFM symptoms include sudden muscle weakness in the arms or legs. Other symptoms may include:

- Facial droop/weakness
- Difficulty moving the eyes
- Drooping eyelids
- Difficulty swallowing or slurred speech.

The Department of Health is working with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to investigate and classify patients suspected of having AFM. In addition, the Department continues to remind healthcare providers about AFM and the need to report patients suspected of having AFM.

In 2018, there have been 106 confirmed cases of AFM in 29 states. These 106 confirmed cases are among the 252 total reports that the CDC received of patients under investigation. More than 90% of AFM cases have occurred in children less than 18 years of age.

AFM can develop as a result of a viral infection and individuals can take some basic steps in order to avoid infections and stay healthy:

- Wash your hands frequently to limit your exposure to germs.
- Cover your cough or sneeze.
- Stay home if you are sick.
- Stay up to date on vaccinations.

If parents see potential symptoms of AFM in their child, (for example, if he or she is not using an arm) they should contact their clinician as soon as possible. While there is no specific treatment for AFM, clinicians may recommend certain interventions on a case-by-case basis.

For more information about AFM, visit the Department’s website: <https://doh.sd.gov/news/acuteflaccid-myelitis.aspx>

2018 South Dakota Report Card to be released

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. – At its meeting, the South Dakota Board of Education Standards received a briefing on the release of the 2018 Report Card, which is expected later this month. This is the state's first Report Card under the Every Student Succeeds Act. The federal law requires new data items to be reported and that the information be concise, accessible and easy to read.

"South Dakota's school accountability system under ESSA is designed to present a more well-rounded picture of school performance – understanding that test scores, while important, are just one piece of data," said Interim Secretary of Education Mary Stadick Smith. "There are many other factors that contribute to a school's success, some of which are hard to quantify. The new Report Card is reflective of trying to paint a broader picture and using that data to drive continuous improvement."

Among the new data points is a focus on the progress of students for whom English is not their native language. South Dakota has seen an increase in its English learner population, and this indicator is designed to provide information on how that group of students is progressing in its quest to master the language. Preliminary data indicates that 30 percent of English learners are on track to be English language proficient within five years.

At the high school level, the Report Card now shows the percentage of students who graduate high school and go on to pursue some kind of postsecondary work at a two- or four-year institution. The state-wide rate is 69 percent, with the majority of those students choosing to stay in South Dakota to do that postsecondary work.

In addition, an expanded picture of what is termed "college and career readiness" accounts for students who take dual credit courses, Advanced Placement exams, and two career and technical education courses within a single career cluster and meet certain benchmarks within those areas.

Traditional indicators of school performance continue to be a part of the Report Card. Preliminary data indicates that 55 percent of students met the performance benchmark for English language arts in 2017-18, up from 52.7 percent the previous year. Preliminary data for math shows that 47 percent met the benchmark, up from 46.34 percent.

Preliminary results for the student progress indicator show a similar upward trajectory, with 59 percent meeting the benchmark for growth in English language arts in 2017-18, up from 55.69 percent the previous year. In math, 53 percent met the growth benchmark, up from 52.81 percent.

The state worked with an organization called Be a Learning Hero to develop its new, parent friendly Report Card website.

Beginning later this month, the 2018 Report Card can be accessed by visiting www.doe.sd.gov and clicking on the "2018 Report Card" banner.

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Dakota Resources Joins Forces with South Dakota Gives on November 27

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, Renner, SD--If you have ever wanted to give back to an organization that has touched your life, changed your heart, opened your eyes or created new opportunities, November 27th is your day.

This date has been marked as the South Dakota Day of Giving, and it's bringing hundreds of nonprofits together to raise awareness as well as donations for 501(c)(3) organizations across South Dakota. Dakota Resources, a nonprofit rural economic and community development organization, is one of nearly 300 participating nonprofits taking part in this first-ever Day of Giving.

"The South Dakota Day of Giving is a fun way to focus on philanthropy and what it means to give back," says Joe Bartmann, President of Dakota Resources. "Dakota Resources wanted to support these efforts and give people who believe in what we do a way to show their support. This is a day where small donations will add up, and anyone can make a difference."

Dakota Resources has set a goal of \$2,500 for the SD Day of Giving, which would be used to help the Dakota Resources Community Learning Network create a Communications Toolkit. This toolkit will be available for free to small town leaders once it is created and will provide them with templates, content and ideas about how to effectively inform their community about their work in community and economic development. Our goal with this project is to enrich the lives of small town leaders and empower their rural communities through tools, resources and training events provided by Dakota Resources.

If you are an advocate for rural, have an appreciation for Dakota Resources and want to support a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping our rural communities thrive, consider a gift of any size to Dakota Resources on Tuesday, November 27, our State's first-ever South Dakota Day of Giving. You can easily contribute your tax-deductible donation at www.southdakotagives.org/dakota-resources.

Currently, over 50 rural communities in South Dakota are being empowered by Dakota Resources through their vibrant networks and success stories from places like Faulkton, Wagner, Miller and Hot Springs which are inspiring change across the region.

"Our rural communities are alive with innovation. People are connecting like never before, starting new businesses and launching big ideas in small spaces," says Bartmann. "Dakota Resources is a catalyst. We help rural people and communities help themselves through coaching, capital, networks, resources and tools. The results are so rewarding."

Dakota Resources is located in Renner, South Dakota, and has been a champion for rural communities for twenty-two years. The organization partners with rural communities and community leaders through the Dakota Resources Community Learning Network, Empower! Community Coaching, the Dakota Rising Fellowship, the Capital Investment Fund and events like RuralX. To donate or access more information visit www.dakotaresources.org or email us at info@dakotaresources.org.

END

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G-Force is Tournament Champion at Harrisburg Vex Robotic Tournament

Groton Robotics' G-Force team (Travis Townsend, Tannor McGannon, Dan Feist, Corbin Reich) and their alliance partner from Vermillion had to defeat Groton's G.A.T. Wrenches (Noah Tullis, Thomas Cranford and Adrian Knudson) and their alliance partner from Jefferson in the final match of the day to become tournament champions Saturday, Nov. 17 in Harrisburg.

The Groton teams put in two weeks of hard work to come back after their less than sterling performance at the Mitchell competition Nov. 3. In Harrisburg, three GT Robotics teams finished the qualifying matches in the top third, and two teams made it to the finals.

Two Groton teams decided part way through the qualifying matches that their robots needed to have functions added or other major adjustments. "It was extremely satisfying to see such incredible teamwork Saturday. My Geek Squad kids ripped apart and rebuilt their robot in 15 minutes to be ready for their next match, their four pairs of hands all pitching in," said coach Jim Lane. Then the team (Isaac Smith, Steven Paulson, Lee Iverson, Nick Morris) straightened up, smiled, grabbed their robot and ran to their match. The Gear Heads (Ethan Clark, Jack Dinger, Kamryn Flihs, Axel Warrington) continued to meet their match schedule, but left Jack at the pit to build a ball loading arm they wanted to add to their robot. Returning to the pit, they mounted the new arm, adjusted, programmed and off they went to compete again.

Results from the Harrisburg competition for all five of GT Robotics' teams are shown below, along with results for this year's prior tournaments.

Teams came from Harrisburg, Mitchell, Vermillion, Eureka, Menno, Canton, Jefferson, Box Elder, Sioux

	Tournament	Groton	Mitchell	Harrisburg
	Number of teams in Tourney	11	23	24
9050A	G-Force	2	22	7
9050B	Gear Heads	10	19	6
9050C	G.A.T. Wrenches	11	16	2
9050D	Geek Squad	7	18	15
9050E	Galaxy	5	3	19

How far did GT Robotics team get in elimination rounds (playoffs)?

	Tournament	Groton	Mitchell	Harrisburg
9050A	G-Force	Champion		Champion
9050B	Gear Heads		Quarter	Quarter
9050C	G.A.T. Wrenches	Finals	Semi	Final
9050D	Geek Squad	Semi	Quarter	Quarter

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Harrisburg Champions: G-Force: L-R Tannor McGannon, Travis Townsend, Dan Feist. (Courtesy photo)



G-Force GAT Harrisburg is a shot of match, G-Force facing camera L-R Dan Feist, Travis Townsend, Tannor McGannon. GAT back to camera L-R Adrian Knudson, Thomas Cranford. (Courtesy photo)

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Today in Weather History

November 23, 1996: Heavy snow of 6 to 8 inches fell across most of northern South Dakota, adding to already significant snow depth. Roads became snow-packed, which hampered travel, resulting in the postponement of many activities. Some snowfall amounts included 6 inches at Aberdeen, Isabel, Roscoe, and Mellette; 7 inches at Eagle Butte, Timber Lake, Selby, Faulkton, Leola, Frederick, Webster, and Sisseton; and 8 inches at Britton, Ipswich, Eureka, and McLaughlin.

1912: The Rouse Simmons was a three-masted schooner famous for sinking during a violent storm on Lake Michigan on this day. The ship was bound for Chicago with a cargo of Christmas trees when it foundered off the coast of Two Rivers, Wisconsin, killing all on board.

1909 - Rattlesnake Creek was deluged with 7.17 inches of rain in 24 hours to establish a record for the state of Idaho. (The Weather Channel)

1943 - Northern New Hampshire was in the grips of a record snowstorm which left a total of 55 inches at Berlin, and 56 inches at Randolph. The 56 inch total at Randolph established a 24 hour snowfall record for the state. In Maine, Middle Dam received a record 35 inches of snow in 24 hours. (David Ludlum)

1987 - Rain and gale force winds prevailed along the Northern Pacific coast. Quillayute, WA, received 1.57 inches of rain in 24 hours, including nine tenths of an inch in six hours. Heavy snow fell over northern Oregon and the Cascade Mountains of Washington State. Temperatures began to moderate in the eastern U.S. following a bitterly cold weekend. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Low pressure crossing the Great Basin brought wintry weather to parts of the western U.S. Up to a foot of snow blanketed Yellowstone Park, and winds gusted to 70 mph at Casper WY, and reached 95 mph near Reno NV. Up to seven inches of rain was reported in the Grass Valley and Nevada City area of California. Paradise CA was soaked with 5.37 inches of rain in 24 hours. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Low pressure tracking across the Carolinas brought heavy rain to parts of the Southern Atlantic Coast Region for Thanksgiving Day, and blanketed the Middle Atlantic Coast States and southern New England with heavy snow. The storm produced up to nine inches of snow over Long Island NY, and up to 14 inches over Cape Cod MA, at Yarmouth. Totals of 4.7 inches at New York City and 6.0 inches at Newark NJ were records for Thanksgiving Day, the 8.0 inch total at Providence RI was a record for any given day in November, and the 6.5 inch total at Strasburg CT was a record for the month of November as a whole. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2004 - An outbreak of severe thunderstorms produced reports of 54 tornadoes across portions of Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas and Alabama. In Texas's Hardin county, one person was killed with three injured when a tornado struck during the afternoon (Associated Press).

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Today



Patchy Fog then Cloudy

High: 40 °F

Tonight



Mostly Cloudy

Low: 25 °F

Saturday



Mostly Cloudy

High: 31 °F

Saturday Night



Mostly Cloudy

Low: 15 °F

Sunday



Partly Sunny

High: 23 °F

Friday

Northeast SD

HI: 38 to 45°
LO: 25 to 30°

Central SD

HI: 45 to 55°
LO: 25 to 30°

Saturday

Northeast SD

HI: 28 to 34°
LO: 12 to 16°

Central SD

HI: 34 to 40°
LO: 16 to 20°

Traveling South Saturday?

Light snow accumulation is possible across central South Dakota Saturday evening/night, but the bulk of the system will impact NE, IA, KS and MO

Winter Storm Watch

Updated: 11/23/2018 6:53 AM Central

Published on: 11/23/2018 at 7:02AM

A low pressure system could bring a light snow/rain mix across central South Dakota on Saturday, and then all snow Saturday night. While only minor snowfall accumulations are possible across portions of central South Dakota, heavier snow is more likely further south into bordering states. Travel with caution in any amount of snow!

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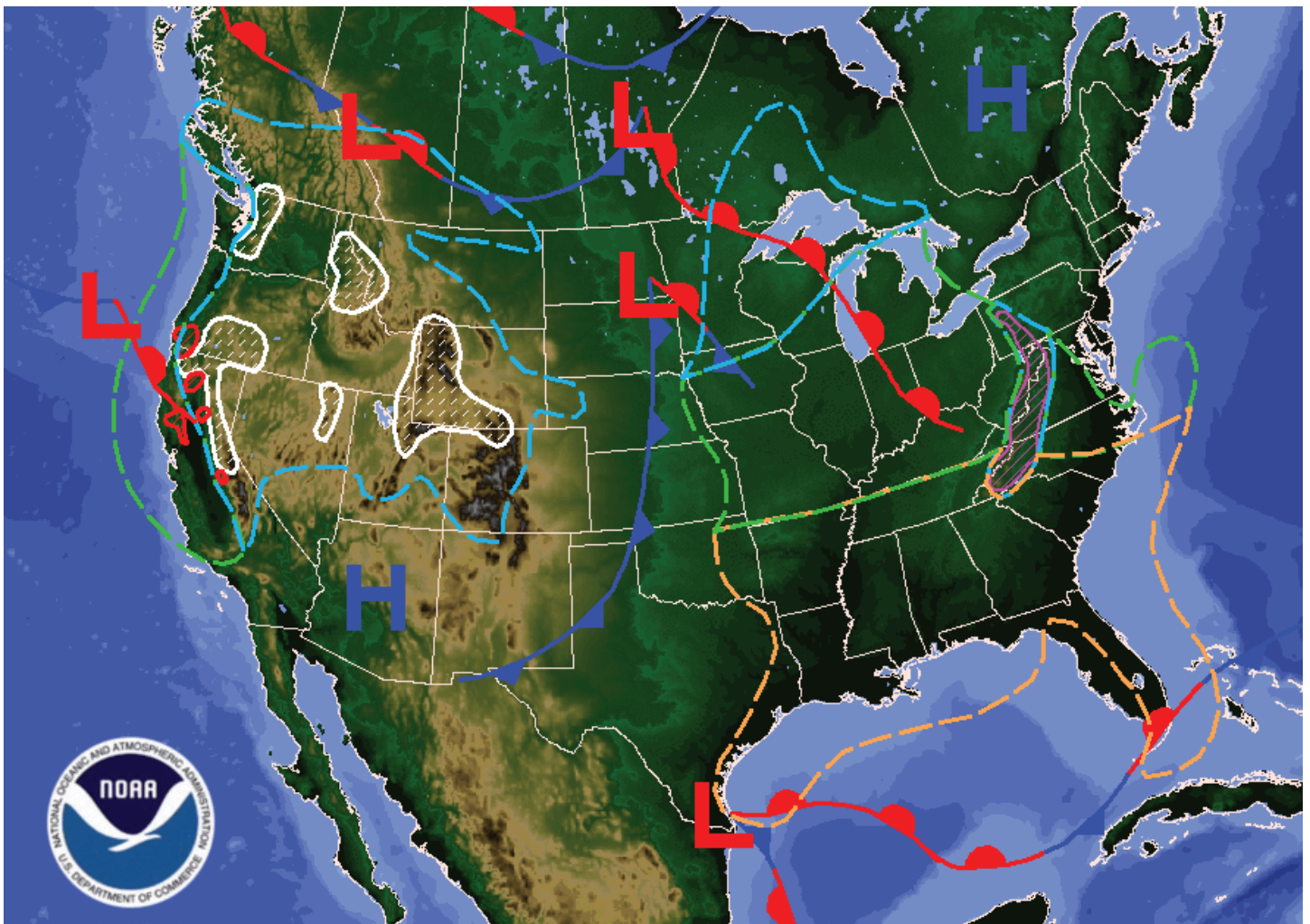
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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 39 °F at 2:52 PM
Low Outside Temp: 28 °F at 10:28 PM
High Gust: 15 mph at 8:51 AM
Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 59° in 2017
Record Low: -17 in 1985
Average High: 35°F
Average Low: 15°F
Average Precip in Nov.: 0.57
Precip to date in Nov.: 0.76
Average Precip to date: 21.04
Precip Year to Date: 15.81
Sunset Tonight: 4:57 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:45 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Fri, Nov 23, 2018, issued 5:00 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain
Rain and T'Storms
Rain and Snow
Snow

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

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HE SATISFIES

God did not create any need He could not satisfy! He did not create food that would simply taste good. He created food that would taste good and satisfy our hunger food that would nourish and sustain us, comforts us and brings us enjoyment. Every hunger or need that we have - whether spiritual, emotional, physical or social - can be fulfilled out of the abundance of His creation. That includes this life and the life to come. He is a needs-meeting God.

Listen to the Psalmist: For He satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things. If we are thirsty, we must drink the water that He provides to quench our thirst through His Son. If we are hungry, we must eat the Bread of Life which is His Son. Unless we ask the Lord to become our Savior, we will live lives that are empty, unsatisfied and unfulfilled. Only when we are willing to allow Him to fill the needs He has placed deep within us with His Son will we become complete.

There is a story of a little boy returning home from the store with a jar of honey. After struggling for quite some time to open it, he finally succeeded. He stuck his finger into the jar to taste its contents. An older man watching him from a distance approached him.

Is it sweet? he asked. Yes, Sir, came the reply. How sweet? asked the man. Well, Sir, I cant describe it. Its so sweet it more than satisfies my need for candy. But Ill tell you what. You stick your finger in the jar and taste it for yourself, and then youll know.

Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! He alone can satisfy our every need.

Prayer: Lord, fill the emptiness in our lives with Your presence as You become our Redeemer, Savior and Lord. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 107:9 For He satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things.

2018 Groton SD Community Events

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

News from the Associated Press

Man faces federal arson charge in death of missing woman

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — A Nebraska man is facing an arson charge in the death of a South Dakota woman whose body was found in her car on the Santee Sioux Reservation in Nebraska.

The Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan reports 47-year-old Joseph James of Norfolk, Nebraska, is accused in federal court with trying to set fire to a vehicle owned by the 59-year-old Hunhoff on or around Nov. 5 on the reservation.

Hunhoff was last seen leaving her mother's house in southeastern South Dakota Nov. 4. Her body was found three days later. Her death was ruled a homicide. No one has yet been charged with killing her.

James made his initial court appearance Wednesday and requested a public defender. He's due back in court for a preliminary hearing and detention hearing Dec. 5.

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

Former Redfield students sentenced in Wagner bus vandalism

REDFIELD, S.D. (AP) — Two of three former Redfield High School students charged in a case of vandalism to a school bus owned by the Wagner school district have pleaded guilty and been sentenced.

The Wagner football team's bus was vandalized with paint and eggs during a game in September between the two schools in Redfield. The incident prompted Redfield school officials to issue an apology, saying the school's homecoming week was "tarnished."

The American News reports that 19-year-old Jordan Zerfoss of Watertown and 18-year-old Hannah Komraus of Zell recently pleaded guilty to misdemeanor charges in the case and were sentenced to community service and court fees.

Nineteen-year-old Johnathan Shottenkirk of Redfield also faces a misdemeanor charge. He hasn't yet entered a plea but is due in court Dec. 17.

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

Sorghum, sunflower, corn harvests progress in South Dakota

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's soybean crop is in the bin, and the harvest of other late-season crops is progressing.

The federal Agriculture Department in its weekly crop report says 86 percent of sorghum, 82 percent of corn and 63 percent of sunflowers are harvested. All remain behind the average pace.

Subsoil moisture is rated 75 percent adequate to surplus, and topsoil moisture is 90 percent in those categories.

Pasture and range conditions in the state are rated 50 percent in good to excellent condition.

3 people injured when deck collapses at Sioux Falls home

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Police say at least three people were injured when an upper level deck collapsed at a Sioux Falls home.

Authorities say a half-dozen people were on the deck when the incident happened about 12:10 p.m. Thursday. Three adults were taken to local hospitals with back and hip injuries that were not listed as life threatening. An infant was transported to the hospital as a precaution.

No further details were available.

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2 from NDSU, 1 from SDSU receive top Missouri Valley honors

ST. LOUIS (AP) — North Dakota State quarterback Easton Stick was named offensive player of the year and Bison linebacker Jabril Cox was named defensive player of the year in the Missouri Valley Football Conference.

This is the seventh time in conference history that one team has claimed both the offensive and defensive players of the year, and the first time since 2010 when Western Illinois quarterback Matt Barr and linebacker Kyle Glazier were selected.

Stick is the second NDSU player to earn the league's top offensive honor along with quarterback Brock Jensen. Cox is the third NDSU player to be selected on defense behind Marcus Williams and Kyle Emanuel.

South Dakota State running back Pierre Strong Jr. was voted freshman of the year.

The awards are voted on by media covering the league.

Man accused in South Dakota of sending threatening texts

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A California man is accused in South Dakota of sending texts to a woman threatening to hurt her and kill her family.

Twenty-two-year-old Zackary Mitchell, of Sacramento, is charged in federal court with interstate communications of threat to injure. He faces a maximum penalty of five years in prison. He has pleaded not guilty. Authorities say the texts were sent between Dec. 23, 2017, and Jan. 14, 2018.

A trial date has not been set. Mitchell has been ordered to be held in jail until the case is resolved.

Mitchell's public defender could not be immediately reached for comment.

5 decorated veterans selected for South Dakota pheasant hunt

By TOM POTTS, Black Hills Pioneer

GETTYSBURG, S.D. (AP) — Five decorated veterans, all Purple Heart recipients, had their names drawn out of a hat for a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to come to South Dakota on an all-expense paid five-day pheasant hunt.

Agapito Vega from Houston, Texas, Daniel Essig, from Deer River, Minnesota, Gary "Doc" Evins, San Antonio, Texas, Rex Wilson, Fallbrook, California, and Doug Thompson, from Karlstad, Minnesota, were selected to participate in the 2018 Veterans of Foreign War (VFW) Post 8530 Winston Toomey Decorated Veterans pheasant hunt in Gettysburg, the Black Hills Pioneer reported.

Thompson was 19 when he was drafted to serve in the Army, one year out of high school. He served in Vietnam from March 1968 to October 1969 and was wounded in an ambush on Feb. 11, 1969 in the Chu Pa Mountain Region, Central Highlands in Vietnam. Thompson served in the infantry and now lives in Karlstad, Minn., and is a member of the River Falls VFW Post 2793.

"My hunting experience in Gettysburg was great, I loved the camaraderie with all of the other vets, and I am really grateful for the experience. I will never forget it," he said.

Thompson hunted pheasants once in Minnesota and hunts deer and water fowl.

Vega served in Troop A, Fourth Cavalry, 1st Infantry Division from 1964-66 as an armor crewman in South Vietnam after training at Fort Riley, Kan. Vega then was stationed at Pho Loi, South Vietnam, and later served from 1966-67 at Amberg, Germany. Vega was wounded in an attack when he was hit by shrapnel in his right shoulder.

Vega applied for this year's hunt because he likes to meet and talk to other veterans.

"This is an awesome memory that I won't forget. It is my first experience at pheasant hunting and it was a blast and I would like to do it again," said Vega.

Vega is now retired and serves in the VFW Honor Guard in Houston, which provides military rights for veterans funerals, up to 10 per day. Vega is a member of Houston, Texas VFW Post 581.

Essig served in the U.S. Army from 1977-81 at Fort Bragg, N.C., and Camp Hovey, South Korea. Essig has held numerous military positions including: Airborne, Infantry, and Cavalry Scout at all enlisted leadership

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levels at Arizona Army National Guard (1985-92), Minnesota Army National Guard (1992-2015), deployed to Bosnia-Herzegovina (2003-04), deployed to Iraq (2005-07), and deployed to Kuwait and conducted missions in Iraq (2011-12). He received his Purple Heart as a result of wounds received as a result of an IED explosion in Iraq in August 2006.

"This was my first experience at pheasant hunting, but I do hunt deer, ruffed grouse, ducks, and geese," he said.

Essig enlisted when he was 17 and entered active duty at 18, later leaving active duty when he was 22. Essig enlisted in the Army National Guard at 26 and retired from the Army National Guard at 56.

"Since I retired, my plans are to spend more time with my family, enjoying the grandkids, and cruising on my new Harley Davidson motorcycle," Essig said.

He is a life member of the Deer River, Minn., VFW Post 2720.

Evins served in the U.S. Navy from July 1965 to May 1968 and was in the United States Marine Corp as a combat hospital corpsman (medic) in Vietnam. He received two Purple Hearts, one on July 7, 1967, and the second on Aug. 27, 1967.

"Both times we walked into ambushes, and I was wounded the first time from a grenade and a gun shot in the right hip the second time," Evins said. Evins's father was a Marine at Pearl Harbor when Japan bombed it, so it was expected of him to join the USMC. Immediately after graduation from high school, he went to enlist in the Marine Corp at 18.

"They informed me that all medical support for the USMC comes from the Navy, so I enlisted in the Navy and after training I was assigned to serve the remainder of my time with the Marines," Evins added. He served as a combat hospital corpsman with a couple Marine Corps units, but after being wounded the second time, he was returned to the States and spent 11 months in a military hospital. After almost a year recovering from being wounded, he was medically retired in May 1968.

"I was 19 years old when I went to Vietnam and retired at age 20," said Evins.

He was wounded both times while rendering medical support to fellow Marines in his unit.

Evins always wanted to be a doctor, but after spending so much time in the hospital, his desire to stay in the medical field was lost, so he went to engineering school. He worked for Siemens Engineering, a German company, in the automation division. A memorable project he worked on was being responsible for the motors on the Panama Canal, and he retired from Siemens seven years ago.

"It was an award-winning day and an experience I will never forget," Evins said after shooting several pheasants.

Evins is a member of the San Antonio, Texas VFW Post 8541 and Purple Heart Chapter in San Antonio. He had never been to South Dakota and never hunted pheasant but enjoyed visiting and plans to return soon.

Wilson was drafted at 20 into the Army in November 1967 and trained in Fort Ord, Calif., starting in January 1968, and he then completed Basic and Advance Infantry Training (AIT).

"I was a squad leader in basic and acting drill sergeant in AIT, went to leadership preparation course, was in 11-B-10 Infantry, went to Germany, and was in 11-B-20 mechanized infantry," Wilson said. "I was supposed to be there for 18 months but was called to Vietnam."

Wilson fought for his country and was wounded Aug. 12, 1969, and was proud to have received the Purple Heart award.

"Another unit was being over run, and our unit just came back from a mission, and I jumped on a tank at Quentin to help the unit and was blown off by mortar or artillery," Wilson added. "I still have a bunch of shrapnel in my lower back."

Wilson read about the pheasant hunt in a VFW article and thought it sounded like a wonderful thing to spend time with fellow veterans, and he has family and friends in South Dakota, so he applied. Wilson had never hunted pheasant but used to hunt deer and elk in California and Colorado.

"I just want to thank everyone for the lifetime experience of being chosen with these other vets for the wonderful event that the Gettysburg, S.D., VFW hosts," Wilson said.

Wilson lives in Fallbrook Calif., and plans to join the VFW Post 1924.

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"Fantastic, awesome, I have never met so many nice people and it is an honor to be here . and I haven't had this much fun in a very long time," Wilson said. "I think it is wonderful you do this for the vets, and it really means something special to me."

"This pheasant hunt has had many positive impacts for the community," Darwin Tolzin, Department of South Dakota VFW quartermaster, said. "It is a yearlong effort, from having fundraisers, arrangement of locations to hunt, housing, and food for morning, noon, and evening is never-ending."

The motto of the VFW is, "No one does more for Veterans." The Gettysburg VFW Winston Toomey Post 8530 members are responsible for the hunt and have full control of the event with only assistance from others.

Post 8530 got the opportunity to host the pheasant hunt when another area chapter approached them a few years ago asking if they were willing to take it over.

"We saw it as an opportunity to give our fellow veterans an opportunity to do something they may never get to experience, plus a chance to come to our area, meet our members and our community, which is one of the most patriotic communities in the country," said Butch Anderson, VFW member and this year's event coordinator.

The Gettysburg VFW received 44 applications for the 2018 hunt. Due to the large number of applicants for five hunting spots, all names were put into a hat, and five were drawn out, plus two alternates.

"Let your fellow service members know about this hunt, talk about it at your VFW meetings, and of course, financial aid is always appreciated," Anderson added.

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

Northern Crops Institute adds program manager to staff

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — An agriculture support center located at North Dakota State University has added a program manager.

Northern Crops Institute officials say Jena Bjertness (JEHN'-uh BYURT'-nuhs) will help develop educational programs to promote northern grown crops to global grain buyers and food processors.

Bjertness, who is originally from Vermillion, Minnesota, has a degree in animal science.

The Northern Crops Institute is funded by the states of North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota, as well as commodity groups in those states and Montana. It helps promote domestic and international markets for regional crops.

Impeach the president? House Democrats saying not so fast

By LISA MASCARO and MARY CLARE JALONICK, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Whatever happened to trying to impeach President Donald Trump?

As House Democrats begin laying out the vision for their new majority, that item is noticeably missing from the to-do list and firmly on the margins.

The agenda for now includes spending on public works projects, lowering health care costs and increasing oversight of the administration.

It's the balance that Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi is trying to strike in the new Congress between those on her party's left flank who are eager to confront the president, and her instinct to prioritize the kitchen-table promises that Democrats made to voters who elected them to office.

"We shouldn't impeach the president for political reasons and we shouldn't not impeach the president for political reasons," Pelosi recently told The Associated Press.

The California lawmaker, who hopes to lead Democrats as House speaker come January, calls impeachment a "divisive activity" that needs to be approached with bipartisanship. "If the case is there, then that should be self-evident to Democrats and Republicans," she said.

Those pressing for impeachment acknowledge they don't expect action on Day One of the new majority, but they do want to see Democrats start laying the groundwork for proceedings.

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"We're for impeachment. We're not for get-sworn-in-on-Jan.-1-and-start-taking-votes," said Kevin Mack, the lead strategist for billionaire Tom Steyer's Need to Impeach campaign. "Our argument is the Constitution outlines a process to remove a lawless president."

In a new ad, Steyer says Democrats "just need the will" to act. He says he's calling on Americans to join the 6 million who have already signed on to his group to "give Congress the courage to act."

"The American people are tired of being told to wait," Mack said. "Our argument to Congress is you are a co-equal branch of government. It's time to do what is morally correct."

Twice over the past two years since Trump was elected, Democrats have tried to force votes on impeachment proceedings, winning a high-water mark of more than 60 supporters, far from the 218 needed.

Republicans are counting on, and possibly even hoping for, impeachment fervor to overtake Democrats, leading them astray from campaign promises or dealmaking with Trump.

"We know the Democrats have a plan: They want to disrupt, they want to try to impeach," said GOP Rep. Kevin McCarthy of California after winning the GOP's internal election to serve as minority leader in the new Congress. He warned that Democrats were laying the groundwork to impeach Trump.

Pelosi has made it clear the new majority will not engage in what she calls a "scattershot" approach to investigating the administration.

Instead, the incoming Democratic leaders of House committees will conduct oversight of the president's business and White House dealings. Democrats are also trying to ensure special counsel Robert Mueller completes his investigation of Russian interference in the 2016 election. They may try to add legislation to protect that probe to the must-pass spending bill in December to help fund the government. They want Mueller's findings made public.

"You have to be very reluctant to do an impeachment," Rep. Jerry Nadler, D-N.Y., the incoming chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, said recently on ABC. Nadler, who served on the committee during President Bill Clinton's impeachment, cited "the trauma of an impeachment process."

Democratic leaders also know that moving quickly on impeachment would not sit well with their newly elected members, who helped the party win a House majority in the recent midterms. Many come from swing districts where impeachment could prove unpopular.

"I didn't work 18 months listening to people in my district to get involved in a political back and forth for the next 18 months," said Rep.-elect Elissa Slotkin of Michigan. "People want to talk about health care. It's not a coincidence that most of us who won in tough districts, we won because we talked about issues, not because we talked about internal Washington stuff."

For now, outside liberal groups are largely standing by Pelosi's approach, putting their emphasis on pushing Democrats to chart a bold agenda on the domestic pocketbook concerns that won over voters.

Pelosi has some experience with impeachment, serving as a newer lawmaker when Republicans led impeachment proceedings against Clinton. When she became House speaker in 2007 she resisted pressure from her liberal flank to launch impeachment proceedings against President George W. Bush over the Iraq War.

Pelosi believes that if Democrats had tried to impeach Bush when she was speaker, voters may never have elected Barack Obama as president in 2008.

Politically, Democrats may be right. In 1974, Americans only came to agree that President Richard Nixon should be removed from office on the eve of his resignation, according to Pew research. Voters responded to Clinton's impeachment by electing more Democrats to the House.

"If we had gone down that path, I doubt we would have won the White House," she said. "People have to see we're working there for them."

Follow Lisa Mascaro on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/lisamascaro> and Mary Clare Jalonick at <https://twitter.com/mcjalonick> and AP Politics at https://twitter.com/AP_Politics

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1 person dead, 2 others hurt after Alabama mall shooting

HOOVER, Ala. (AP) — A man was shot and killed by police after a fight at an Alabama mall ahead of Black Friday shopping resulted in gunfire that injured a teenager and a 12-year-old girl.

The shooting occurred late Thursday at the Riverchase Galleria in Hoover, a Birmingham suburb, a police statement said.

Lexi Joiner told Al.com she was shopping with her mother when the gunfire started. Joiner said she heard six or seven shots and was ordered, along with some other shoppers, into a supply closet for cover.

"It was terrifying," Joiner said.

The police statement said two Hoover officers in the mall confronted a 21-year-old man from Hueytown with a gun and one of the officers shot and killed him. His name has not been released.

An 18-year-old man from Birmingham was taken to UAB Hospital for treatment of serious injuries. His name has not been released.

A 12-year-old girl was struck by gunfire and was taken to Children's Hospital of Alabama in Birmingham. She was reported in stable condition.

Capt. Greg Rector said at a news conference that investigators do not know what sparked the original confrontation between the men.

The officer who shot the gunman has been placed on administrative leave while the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office investigates the shooting. The officer's name has not been released. The officers were not hurt.

The mall reopened at 6 a.m. Friday, a Riverchase Galleria mall security officer said.

Brexit deal almost done, but Spain holds out over Gibraltar

By JILL LAWLESS, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — European Union diplomats were meeting Friday to finalize the draft divorce agreement between Britain and the bloc, amid a warning from Spain that it will oppose the deal if it isn't guaranteed a say over the future of Gibraltar.

Leaders of EU nations are due to meet Sunday to sign off on the deal, which lays out the terms of Britain's departure in March and sets up a framework for future relations. But Spain remains unsatisfied.

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez tweeted that Britain and Spain "remain far away" on the issue and "if there are no changes, we will veto Brexit."

Spain wants the future of the tiny territory at the tip of the Iberian Peninsula — ceded to Britain in 1713 but still claimed by Spain — to be a bilateral issue between Madrid and London.

Last year's EU guidelines on the Brexit negotiations effectively gave Spain veto powers over future relations between the bloc and the British overseas territory, but Spanish officials are concerned that a key clause in the agreement referring to U.K.-EU negotiations on their future relationship makes no mention of Gibraltar.

Spanish government spokeswoman Isabel Celaa said Friday that Spain requires an "absolute guarantee" that any future agreement between the EU and the U.K. in matters regarding Gibraltar "will require the prior agreement of Spain."

Spain doesn't have a veto on the withdrawal agreement, which doesn't have to be approved unanimously. But it could hold up a future free-trade deal between Britain and the EU, which would require the approval of all 27 EU nations.

A Spanish government official said the dispute over Gibraltar could be resolved by modifying a single clause in the divorce agreement — though both Britain and the EU have said the agreement won't be amended.

Spain's junior minister for the EU, Luis Marco Aguiriano, said Friday that officials could tweak Article 184 to make it clear that future relations between the EU and Gibraltar "will be negotiated with the U.K. with Spain's prior consent."

He said in an interview with Spain's Onda Cero radio station that officials in Brussels were working on options to accommodate Spain's concerns, and estimated there was a 60-percent chance of success.

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Chief Minister of Gibraltar Fabian Picardo criticized Spain's insistence on a written guarantee, saying "Gibraltar has demonstrated that we actually want a direct engagement with Spain on issues."

"Spain is the physical and geographical gateway to Europe for Gibraltar," Picardo told the BBC. "We recognize that and there is absolutely no need for us to be vetoed into being brought to the table."

Chancellor Angela Merkel's spokesman said Germany believed outstanding questions would be cleared up in time for Sunday's summit to go ahead.

"We assume that open questions can be cleared up by Sunday," spokesman Steffen Seibert said. "That is being worked on intensively, so the chancellor is preparing for the trip to Brussels."

If EU leaders rubber-stamp the deal, it needs to be approved by the European and British Parliaments — a tough task for British Prime Minister Theresa May, whose Conservatives lack a majority in the House of Commons.

May was answering calls on a radio phone-in show Friday in a bid to win public support for the divorce deal, which has been slammed by pro-Brexit and pro-EU politicians alike.

Brexiters think the agreement will leave the U.K. tied too closely to EU rules, while pro-Europeans say it will erect new barriers between Britain and the bloc — its neighbor and biggest trading partner.

May declined to say when asked by a caller whether she would resign if the deal was rejected by Parliament.

"This isn't about me," she said. "I'm not thinking about me. I'm thinking about getting a deal through that delivers for this country."

She warned that rejecting the deal would lead to "more uncertainty and more division" and could result in Britain crashing out of the bloc without agreement — an outcome feared by many businesses.

"If this deal doesn't go through what happens is, we end up back at square one," May said.

I don't think (the EU) are going to come to us and say, 'We'll give you a better deal,'" she added.

Barry Hatton in Lisbon and Geir Moulson in Berlin contributed to this story.

See the AP's Brexit coverage at: <https://www.apnews.com/Brexit>

Separatists attack Chinese Consulate in Pakistan, killing 4

By ADIL JAWAD, Associated Press

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP) — Armed separatists stormed the Chinese Consulate in Pakistan's southern port city of Karachi on Friday, triggering an intense hour-long shootout during which two Pakistani civilians, two police officers and all three assailants were killed, Pakistani officials said.

The killed Pakistani civilians were a father and a son who had come to the consulate to pick up their visas to China, police said.

The brazen assault, claimed by a militant group from the southwestern province of Baluchistan, reflected the separatists' attempt to strike at the heart of Pakistan's close ties with major ally China, which has invested heavily into road and transportation projects in the country, including in Baluchistan.

All the Chinese diplomats and staff at the consulate were safe and were not harmed during the attack or the shootout, senior police official Ameer Ahmad Sheikh said. They were evacuated from the area shortly after and taken to a safe place.

Following the attack, China asked Pakistan to beef up security at the mission. In Beijing, Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said that China would not waver in its latest big project in Pakistan — the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor — and expressed confidence that Pakistan could ensure security.

Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi spoke to his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi by phone and assured him that a "thorough investigation will be carried out to apprehend the perpetrators their financiers, planners and facilitators" linked to the attack on consulate, according to a foreign ministry statement.

It quoted Yi as saying that the attack was an attempt to impact Pakistan China relations and to harm

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the CPEC.

Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan also condemned the attack, describing it as part of a conspiracy against Pakistan and China's economic and strategic cooperation. Khan lauded the Karachi police and the paramilitary rangers, saying they showed exceptional courage in defending the consulate and that the "nation salutes the martyrs."

He also ordered an investigation and vowed that such incidents would never be able to undermine relations with China, which are "mightier than the Himalayas and deeper than the Arabian Sea."

The attackers stormed the consulate shortly after 9 a.m., during business hours. They first opened fire at consulate guards and hurled grenades, then managed to breach the main gate and enter the building, said Mohammad Ashfaq, a local police chief.

Pakistani security forces quickly surrounded the area. Local TV stations broadcast images showing smoke rising from the building, which also serves as the residence of Chinese diplomats and other staff.

Multiple blasts were heard soon afterward but Sheikh could not say what they were. The shootout lasted for about an hour.

"Because of a quick response of the guards and police, the terrorists could not" reach the diplomats, Sheikh said after the fighting ended. "We have completed the operation."

He added that one of the attackers was wearing a suicide vest and that authorities would try and identify the assailants through fingerprints. Dr Seemi Jamali, a spokeswoman at the Jinnah Hospital, said a consulate guard was also wounded in the attack and was being treated at the hospital.

Geng, the Chinese spokesman, said the attackers didn't manage to get into the consulate itself, and that the exchange of fire took place outside the building. The discrepancy with the Pakistani officials' reports could not be immediately reconciled.

Elsewhere in Pakistan on Friday, a powerful bomb at an open-air food market in the Orakzai region of the Khyber Pukhtunkhwa province, which borders Afghanistan, killed 35 people and wounded dozens of others, said police official Tahir Ali.

Most of the victims in the attack in the town of Klaya were minority Shiite Muslims. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the bombing. Orakzai has been the scene of several militant attacks in recent years, mostly by Pakistani Sunni militants, who revile Shiites as apostates.

In its claim of responsibility for the Karachi attack, the Baluch Liberation Army said it was fighting "Chinese occupation" and released photos of the three attackers.

This was the second attack this year by Baluch separatists in Pakistan. Karachi, the capital of Sindh province, which borders Baluchistan, has a presence of several militant groups, including Baluch separatists.

In August, a suicide bomber rammed into a bus ferrying Chinese workers to the Saindak mining project in southwestern Baluchistan, wounding five workers. The project is controlled by the Chinese state-owned Metallurgical Corporation of China. And in May, gunmen opened fire on two Chinese nationals in Karachi, killing one and wounding the other.

Friday's attack was an uptick in the level of violence perpetrated by the Baluch separatist, said Amir Rana, executive director of the independent Pakistan Institute for Peace Studies.

So far this year, the Baluch Liberation Army has claimed responsibility for 12 attacks against security personnel guarding projects linked to the so-called Chinese Pakistan Economic Corridor as well as to the infrastructure.

In a letter dated Aug. 15, the group released a letter warning China against the "exploitation of Baluchistan's mineral wealth and occupation of Baluch territory." The letter was addressed to China's ambassador to Pakistan.

But, Rana said, both China and Pakistan have calculated the security risks, which include the threats from the Baluch separatist.

"I don't see that this will have any impact on the Chinese projects in Pakistan. These threats were already on Pakistan and China's threat radar," he said.

The attack will compel China to step-up security around its people in Pakistan and increase cooperation with the local authorities, said Zhao Gancheng of the Shanghai Institute of Foreign Studies. But he said

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that would not sway China's government and Chinese firms from expanding their footprint abroad, even while they take additional precautions.

"As more and more Chinese people go abroad, and more and more Chinese investment goes overseas, the security situation of the destination countries has become a very important element for consideration," Zhao told The Associated Press.

China is a longtime ally and has invested heavily in transport projects in Pakistan. The two countries have strengthened ties in recent years and China is currently building a network of roads and power plants under a project known as the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, or CPEC.

The Baluchistan separatists have for years fought a low level insurgency in Pakistan, demanding a greater share of the province's wealth and natural resources

In a rare statement about attacks in Pakistan, neighboring India condemned the assault on the Chinese Consulate, saying that "there can be no justification whatsoever for any act of terrorism."

New Delhi also said "perpetrators of this heinous attack should be brought to justice expeditiously."

Pakistan has long accused India of supporting Baluch separatists. The two countries have a history of bitter relations and have fought two of their three wars over the disputed region of Kashmir since gaining independence from Britain in 1947.

Associated Press writers Munir Ahmed and Kathy Gannon in Islamabad, Riaz Khan in Peshawar, Pakistan; Christopher Bodeen in Beijing and Ashok Sharma in New Delhi contributed to this report.

Trump's Thanksgiving menu includes turkey and grievances

By JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — President Donald Trump used a Thanksgiving Day call to troops deployed overseas to pat himself on the back and air grievances about the courts, trade and migrants heading to the U.S.-Mexico border.

Trump's call, made Thursday from his opulent private Mar-a-Lago club, struck an unusually political tone as he spoke with members of all five branches of the military to wish them happy holidays.

"It's a disgrace," Trump said of judges who have blocked his attempts to overhaul U.S. immigration law, as he linked his efforts to secure the border with military missions overseas.

Trump later threatened to close the U.S. border with Mexico for an undisclosed period of time if his administration determines Mexico has lost "control" on its side.

The call was a uniquely Trump blend of boasting, peppered questions and off-the-cuff observations as his comments veered from venting about slights to praising troops — "You really are our heroes," he said — as club waiters worked to set Thanksgiving dinner tables on the outdoor terrace behind him. And it was yet another show of how Trump has dramatically transformed the presidency, erasing the traditional divisions between domestic policy and military matters and efforts to keep the troops clear of politics.

"You probably see over the news what's happening on our southern border," Trump told one Air Force brigadier general stationed at Bagram Airfield in Afghanistan, adding: "I don't have to even ask you. I know what you want to do, you want to make sure that you know who we're letting in."

Later, Trump asked a U.S. Coast Guard commander about trade, which he noted was "a very big subject" for him personally.

"We've been taken advantage of for many, many years by bad trade deals," Trump told the commander, who sheepishly replied that, "We don't see any issues in terms of trade right now."

And throughout, Trump was sure to congratulate himself, telling the officers that the country is doing exceptionally well on his watch.

"I hope that you'll take solace in knowing that all of the American families you hold so close to your heart are all doing well," he said. "The nation's doing well economically, better than anybody in the world." He later told reporters "nobody's done more for the military than me."

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Indeed, asked what he was thankful for this Thanksgiving, Trump cited his "great family," as well as himself. "I made a tremendous difference in this country," he said.

But Trump continued to warn about the situation on the southern border as he took questions from reporters, pointing to the caravans of Central American migrants that have been making their way toward the U.S. and warning that, "If we find that it gets to a level where we lose control or people are going to start getting hurt, we're going to close entry into the country for a period of time until we get it under control."

He said he had the authority to do so by executive order and claimed he'd already used it earlier this week. "Two days ago, we closed the border. We actually just closed it, said nobody's coming in because it was just out of control."

By no means did he seal the border with Mexico. Officials did shut down one port of entry, San Ysidro, in California, for several hours early Monday morning to bolster security because of concerns about a potential influx of migrant caravan members. They closed northbound lanes into the U.S. and reopened most of them before the morning rush.

Trump's border threat came days after a federal judge put the administration's attempts to overhaul asylum rules on hold. Courts have also blocked several versions of the president's travel ban as well as his attempt to end a program that allows young immigrants brought to the country illegally as children to live and work in the country.

Trump probably could close the entire southern border by order, at least temporarily, invoking national security powers. But doing so could cause extraordinary damage to bilateral relations as well as to cross-border commerce between the U.S. and Mexico, its third largest trading partner. It would not necessarily stop migrants from coming either; Trump would have to contend with the same asylum laws already vexing his efforts to harden the border.

Among other subjects the president touched on in his question-and-answer session with the press:

—Trump disputed reports the CIA has concluded that Saudi Arabia's crown prince was responsible for journalist Jamal Khashoggi's killing. "The CIA points it both ways," said Trump. "Maybe he did, maybe he didn't."

—Asked who should be held responsible for killing, Trump responded that, "Maybe the world should be held accountable 'cause the world is a vicious place."

—Trump said he'd be interviewing candidates for potential openings in his administration — but wouldn't say for what positions.

"I'm very happy with my Cabinet and the people working for me and for us. ... They're absolute stars." But, he said, "there's always a lot of change. I'll probably be changing a couple."

—Trump would not discount the possibility of a partial government shutdown over lawmakers' refusal to allocate billions of dollars for his promised border wall. "Could there be a shutdown? There certainly could, and it will be about border security, of which the wall is a part," Trump said

—Trump said he'd spoken with his daughter Ivanka following news she'd sent hundreds of emails from a private address while serving as a senior White House adviser. Trump said she was "very innocent" and that situation was very different from the one he's said his 2016 rival Hillary Clinton should be in jail for.

—He defended his acting attorney general, Matthew Whitaker, calling him "a highly respected person" whom the press had treated nastily.

—He complained about the military's use of new electromagnetic catapult technology instead of steam in the new Navy aircraft carriers, telling a Navy officer that, "unfortunately, you have to be Albert Einstein to really work it properly." The officer rebuffed him. "You sort of have to be Albert Einstein to run the nuclear power plants that we have here as well. But we're doing that very well," he said, advising the president to "go electromagnetic."

Trump later traveled to a nearby Coast Guard station, where he delivered a lunch of plastic-wrapped sandwiches, fruit and chips before spending some time at one of his golf courses.

He and his family capped the day with several hundred dues-paying members and their guests at a Thanksgiving feast in Mar-a-Lago's opulent ballroom that included the usual fixings, along with chilled seafood, Chilean sea bass and braised short ribs.

Associated Press writer Colleen Long in Washington contributed to this report.

Follow Colvin on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/colvinj>

American on deadly trip to Indian island: 'God sheltered me'

By ASHOK SHARMA, Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — The young American, paddling his kayak toward a remote Indian island whose people have resisted the outside world for thousands of years, believed God was helping him dodge the authorities.

"God sheltered me and camouflaged me against the coast guard and the navy," John Allen Chau wrote before he was killed last week on North Sentinel Island. Indian ships monitor the waters around the island, trying to ensure outsiders do not go near the Sentinelese, who have repeatedly made clear they want to be left alone.

When a young boy tried to hit him with an arrow on his first day on the island, Chau swam back to the fishing boat he'd arranged to wait for him off shore. The arrow, he wrote, hit a Bible he was carrying.

"Why did a little kid have to shoot me today?" he wrote in his notes, which he left with the fishermen before swimming back the next morning. "His high-pitched voice still lingers in my head."

Police say Chau knew that the Sentinelese resisted all contact by outsiders, firing arrows and spears at passing helicopters and killing fishermen who drift onto their shore. His notes, which were reported Thursday in Indian newspapers and confirmed by police, make clear he knew he might be killed.

"I DON'T WANT TO DIE," wrote Chau, who appeared to want to bring Christianity to the islanders. "Would it be wiser to leave and let someone else to continue. No I don't think so."

Indian authorities have been trying to figure out a way to recover Chau's body after he was killed last week by islanders who apparently shot him with arrows and then buried his body on the beach.

Even officials don't travel to North Sentinel, where people live as their ancestors did thousands of years ago. The only contacts, occasional "gift-giving" visits in which bananas and coconuts were passed by small teams of officials and scholars who remained in the surf, were years ago.

Police are consulting anthropologists, tribal welfare experts and scholars to figure out a way to recover the body, Dependera Pathak, director-general of police on India's Andaman and Nicobar Islands, where North Sentinel is located, said Thursday.

Chau paid fishermen last week to take him near North Sentinel, using the kayak to paddle to shore and bringing gifts including a football and fish.

Scholars know almost nothing about the island, from how many people live there to what language they speak. The Andamans once had other similar groups, long-ago migrants from Africa and Southeast Asia who settled in the island chain, but their numbers have dwindled dramatically over the past century as a result of disease, intermarriage and migration.

Chau estimated there were about 250 inhabitants on the island, with at least 10 people living in each hut. "The tribe's language has a lot of high pitched sounds like ba, pa la and as," he wrote.

It's not clear what happened to Chau when he swam back to the island the next morning. But on the morning of the following day, the fishermen watched from the boat as tribesmen dragged Chau's body along the beach and buried his remains.

Seven people have been arrested for helping Chau, including five fishermen, a friend of Chau's and a local tourist guide, police say.

In an Instagram post, his family said it was mourning him as a "beloved son, brother, uncle and best friend to us." The family also said it forgave his killers.

Authorities say Chau arrived in the area on Oct. 16 and stayed on another island while he prepared to travel to North Sentinel. It was not his first time in the region: he had visited the Andaman islands in 2015 and 2016.

With help from the friend, Chau paid fishermen \$325 to take him there, Pathak said.

After the fishermen realized Chau had been killed, they left for Port Blair, the capital of the island chain, where they broke the news to Chau's friend, who notified his family, Pathak said.

Police surveyed the island by air Tuesday, and a team of police and forest department officials used a coast guard boat to travel there Wednesday. It was not clear if they have returned since then.

Chau, whose friends described him as a fervent Christian, attended Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Before that he had lived in southwestern Washington state and went to Vancouver Christian High School.

Associated Press writer Tim Sullivan contributed to this report.

Finding safe Haven: Suicide prompts swimmer's family journey

By EDDIE PELLIS, AP National Writer

CARTHAGE, Mo. (AP) — Miracle No. 1: Haven Shepherd wasn't killed.

Her dad, destitute, desperate and unable to support a child, brought a pair of bombs to their small hut in Vietnam. He strapped one to himself and the other to Haven's mom and placed Haven, then 14 months old, in between.

The parents died instantly.

Haven was catapulted out the door. Her legs were mangled beyond repair, but she survived.

Her adopted parents, Rob and Shelly Shepherd, have pictures of Haven sitting on her maternal grandmother's lap a few days after the explosions, on a metal bed against a wall in a hospital that looks more like an Army barracks. The baby is wearing a gold tank top, holding a twig from a fruit tree. Her legs are meticulously wrapped at the ends of the stumps that remained after doctors removed everything below both knees.

Months later, when the Shepherds brought Haven to a hospital in Kansas City, the surgeons were amazed. Often, children whose legs are amputated at a very young age encounter problems that require revisions through the years — surgeries that can be every bit as daunting and debilitating as the original amputations.

Not for Haven.

"They said the amputation was, like, perfect," Shelly Shepherd said.

It's one of the many reasons Haven, now 15, developed into an elite swimmer and now has her sights set on the Paralympics in 2020.

Miracle No. 2: Forgiveness.

Maybe it's adolescent naiveté. Perhaps it's due to wisdom beyond her years. Most likely it's a bit of both. But Haven harbors no resentment toward the birth parents who tried to blow her up.

She was too young to remember any of it — not her birth mother who raised her in the early months, not the explosion that propelled her 30 feet out the door, not the grieving grandparents who had her potty trained before she was 2 and took care of her until the Shepherds came.

"This is the dilemma about me," Haven says. "I don't feel anything toward them because, in the end, they gave me the best life I could imagine."

That life begins in a desolate, thatched-roof hut in a remote village in Quang Nam Province in Vietnam.

Her birth family was, by accounts from local newspapers at the time, the poorest in the village.

According to the story told to Rob and Shelly when they arrived to bring Haven back to the United States, her parents weren't married to each other.

Divorce in Vietnam was taboo, not considered an option. And because Haven's birth parents were each married to other people and had very little to live on, they felt stuck.

And while the Shepherds reached out to help Haven recover from the unthinkable, the unwanted baby from Vietnam helped heal her adopted family, too.

Two years before Haven was born, Rob and his brother Terry were towing a dunk tank from a company picnic at a rural flour mill in Pierce City, Missouri. As they exited, the truck got tangled on a decorative

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archway that guided visitors to the party, lurching backward as the tank fell forward.

It landed on Terry's neck, killing him instantly.

Four years earlier, Rob's dad died of a heart attack.

The sudden, unexpected deaths of two of his closest relatives — who were also partners in the family's longtime hardwood-flooring business — shut off a light within Rob. The couple sometimes doubted it could be rekindled.

"He was suffering in silence," Shelly Shepherd said. "It's what made it so cool about seeing him on the trip to Vietnam. I could see him beginning to come back alive."

Before the trip, the Shepherds had reached another turning point.

Though they had six children, Shelly started following stories about orphans in faraway lands who lived in abject poverty. She began feeling an urge to adopt.

"It became the last thing I would go to bed thinking about, the first thing I thought about when I woke up," she said. "We had to go through marriage counseling. I was like, 'I want to let this go, but I can't.'"

Rob eventually, though reluctantly, came around to the idea of adopting a child. But the trip to Vietnam was not for that.

The Shepherds made the journey to accompany Pam and Randy Cope, who sought permission to find a home for Haven in the United States after the story of the baby girl who survived her parents' suicide made big news in Vietnam.

The Copes ran a foundation to help care for street kids in the country — established following the death of their own 15-year-old son, Jansen — and used their connections to open a path to place Haven with another family.

It was going to be a difficult trip to one of the remotest corners of the country — a journey filled with red tape, government officials and, of course, the emotional handover of the girl from her still-grieving grandparents, who did not have the resources to care for her. The Copes asked the Shepherds if they wanted to come along.

Rob and Shelly remember the trip vividly — from the long motorcycle ride through the jungle on roads that turned into paths; to the swarms of kids who scurried out of their ramshackle huts when Rob pulled out the bag of lollipops; to the rice that Haven's grandmother spilled onto the porch then quickly scooped up upon their arrival.

They remember the way Haven pressed herself against Rob, at first, sensing he was the one she'd need to win over right away.

They remember sensing, as they held the young girl and bonded with her, a gratefulness that could only be felt, not spoken.

They remember feeling that something was changing.

"We just kept saying, 'Her adopted parents should be here,'" Shelly said.

One night in Saigon, as they waited at the hospital for Haven to get the shots and medical papers needed for the trip back to America, Haven wore Shelly's sunglasses and bounced on her knee.

Shelly swung her up high and Haven let out a huge belly laugh.

"I felt something inside of me," Shelly said. "It was like, 'Oh ... she's my child.'"

Shelly didn't sleep a wink on the 38-hour journey from Saigon to the airport in Tulsa, where she and Pam Cope handed off Haven to her adopting parents for the ride to her new home in southwest Missouri.

It was devastating for Shelly.

She had fallen in love with this young girl — nurtured her during the precious moments after her grandparents gave her away, been wooed by the infectious smile and the way she'd charmed Rob and brought him back to life.

"The whole experience had that feeling of, 'What just happened?'" Rob said. "When we got off the motorcycles, and the grandma handed Haven to Shelly, and she was the very first person who touched her, I knew it. I was in trouble."

Miracle No. 3: A second chance.

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Though the placement family had the best of intentions, it was not a perfect fit. The most pressing issue was that they already had their hands full with a 2-year-old girl at home.

Shelly returned back to her busy life and gave up the idea of adoption. Though they had not considered bringing a child into their house with disabilities, the two weeks in Vietnam changed that. In Shelly's mind, she had found her baby but was forced to hand her off. No other child could replace that.

It was Pam Cope's duty to make occasional visits to ensure everything was going well at the adopting home. When Shelly asked her friend how things were going, she noticed Cope's hesitation.

After several more weeks, the call came. It was Shelly's birthday.

"She said, 'I think we need to talk,'" Shelly said.

The Shepherds named her Haven — a name Shelly had long liked, and one that took on a whole new meaning after she and Rob received the toddler in their home.

Next summer, Shelly will bring Haven back to Vietnam to meet the grandparents who gave her away 14 years ago.

Haven isn't keen on the trip. Her mother feels it's necessary.

"She says she doesn't need that, but I tell her, 'It's not about you,'" Shelly says. "It's about the fact that they gave us our child and, for you, you don't remember the pain in your grandmother's face. I hold that as a responsibility."

"I understand all this," Haven says. "But really, I'm a country girl. I know where I came from."

With its population of 14,000, Carthage, Missouri is the kind of small town where everyone knows everyone.

Given the long line of basketball and volleyball players, runners and softball stars who came up in the Shepherd household, it was more or less a given that, legs or no, Haven would be an athlete of some sort.

She picked swimming, a sport her parents might have predicted shortly after they met her and placed her in the swimming pool, where they got the first glimpse of a smile that would change their lives.

Haven swims 4,000 to 6,000 yards a day in preparation for a possible trip to Tokyo, for the Paralympics in 2020.

It's a pressure-packed journey that, at times, can feel overwhelming.

Sometimes, Haven worries about letting down a legion of fans that grows as her story becomes better-known and she and her mom broaden their footprint in the motivational speaking circles where they are in growing demand. Their key message: "It's cool to be different."

Sometimes, Haven worries about letting down her family, well aware of the reputation for excellence the Shepherds have carved out in Carthage.

Sometimes, Haven worries about being left behind and not being able to have fun with her friends in Tokyo.

And at times, she is brought back to the humbling reality of how fortunate she is — and how swimming is only one part of her story.

These days, when Shelly Shepherd tells that story, it elicits gasps — sometimes an involuntary "Oh my God" — from the people who hear it.

As her mom gets ready to deliver the gut punch — often to strangers who stop to chat with the friendly mom-and-daughter pair at Walmart, on the street, in the airport — Haven, standing to the side, will sometimes stealthily mouth the words: "Wait for it. Wait for it."

Once the shock subsides, a beaming Haven assures whoever is listening that she's doing just fine.

"I don't think I could've lived anywhere else or been raised any differently than how I was," she said. "I'm a small-town girl from Missouri. When it comes to getting adopted, I got the long end of the stick."

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Saints win 10th straight, eliminate Falcons in NFC South

By **BRETT MARTEL, AP Sports Writer**

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Drew Brees made Atlanta pay for losing track of his inexperienced receivers, and New Orleans' defense halted several promising Falcons drives with forced fumbles they could not afford.

Tommy Lee Lewis and Austin Carr each caught his second career touchdown pass, rookie tight end Dan Arnold and rookie receiver Keith Kirkwood each grabbed their first, and the Saints won their 10th straight game with a 31-17 victory Thursday night that eliminated Atlanta from contention in the NFC South.

All four players entered the NFL as undrafted free agents within the past three years.

"I love that stat," Brees said. "That's one of my favorite ones."

They also had combined for zero touchdowns this season before Carr caught the first of his career last Sunday.

"It says a lot about taking advantage of the opportunity," Brees said. "It's fun to watch them grow and gain confidence. We're building chemistry, which typically takes time, right? But they've been thrust into this role."

Meanwhile, the Falcons (4-7) lost three fumbles inside the Saints 20 — tough for any team to overcome against streaking New Orleans (10-1) this season.

Atlanta quarterback Matt Ryan was stripped by safety Marcus Williams on a third-and-2 from the Saints 3 and Williams recovered to end Atlanta's opening drive. Julio Jones was stripped by linebacker Alex Anzalone after a catch on the New Orleans 17, and safety Vonn Bell recovered in the final minute of the second quarter to preserve a 17-3 lead going into halftime.

New Orleans' defense, which had a season-high six sacks, continued to come up with big plays in the second half. Anzalone broke up a fourth-down pass in the third quarter and linebacker A.J. Klein intercepted a pass tipped by defensive tackle Tyeler Davison in the fourth.

"I do love the way that we played today," said defensive end Cameron Jordan, who had two sacks. "I do love the four turnovers. I do love the sacks. I do love the pressures. I do love the quarterback hits. For all terms and purposes, we had our Thanksgiving."

Klein's interception gave the Saints possession on the Atlanta 22, setting up Kirkwood's diving 4-yard TD catch.

With about four minutes left, cornerback Marshon Lattimore stripped Calvin Ridley on the Saints 1 after a 29-yard completion that looked as though it would end in a touchdown. Defensive back Eli Apple recovered that one.

"When you have one turnover (in the red zone), it feels like a lot," Falcons coach Dan Quinn said. "We had three down there and that was the real story of the game."

KEY STATS

Ryan was under pressure all night from a Saints defense that was bolstered by the return of first-round draft choice Marcus Davenport from a toe injury that sidelined him for three games. Marcus Williams, P.J. Williams, Sheldon Rankins and Demario Davis each had a sack.

Ryan finished 35 of 47 for 377 yards, two touchdowns and one interception. But little came easy. His first TD pass, to Ridley, came on fourth down from the 2 late in the third quarter.

Atlanta rushed for just 26 yards. New Orleans finished with 150, led by Alvin Kamara's 89 and Mark Ingram's 52.

Statistically, Brees did not have one of his more impressive games, completing 15 of 22 passes for 171 yards with his second interception of the season. The pick was snagged by Damontae Kazee, his NFL-leading sixth this year.

NEW TARGETS

Brees' ability to play to the strengths of unheralded receivers allowed the Saints to cash in on scoring opportunities. A week earlier, he found rookie Tre'Quan Smith 10 times for 157 yards and a TD, but Smith was ruled out against Atlanta with a foot injury. Another receiver, Ted Ginn Jr., has been out with a knee injury since Week 5.

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Lewis, a third-year pro, was in his first game back after nine weeks on injured reserve and had not caught a pass all season before getting wide open for his 28-yard grab that made it 7-0. Carr is a second-year pro who played in only one game without a catch as a rookie. He, too, was wide open after Falcons defenders bit on a fake to Ingram. Kirkwood made his NFL debut three games ago, when Arnold had his first career catch.

"Obviously, Drew is someone who is very confident in the preparation, confident in players around him. There's a lot that goes into that," Saints coach Sean Payton said. "I'm excited for those guys that got opportunities."

DIRE STRAITS

The Falcons' dimming playoff hopes hang on catching up in the wild-card race, and they trail Minnesota (5-4-1) by two games for the last spot.

"It's rough right now for us. You don't want guys to quit," Jones said. "This is the time you get to see what guys are really like."

INJURIES

Falcons linebacker Kemal Ishmael was helped off the field in the third quarter after a punt.

UP NEXT

Falcons host Baltimore Dec. 2.

Saints visit Dallas on Thursday night.

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

Samsung apologizes over sicknesses, deaths of some workers

By KIM TONG-HYUNG, Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Samsung Electronics apologized Friday for illnesses and deaths of some of its workers, saying it failed to create a safe working environment at its computer chip and display factories.

The announcement by the South Korean technology giant came weeks after the company and a group representing ailing Samsung workers agreed to accept compensation terms suggested by a mediator and end a highly-publicized standoff that went on for more than a decade. The company's apology was part of the settlement.

Kinam Kim, president of Samsung's device solutions division, said the company failed to "sufficiently manage health threats" at its semiconductor and liquid crystal display manufacturing lines. As detailed in Associated Press reporting over the past decade, dozens of employees who worked there have experienced grave illnesses such as leukemia and brain tumors.

"We offer our sincere apology to our workers who have suffered with illnesses and their families," Kim said during a news conference in Seoul, which was also attended by activists and relatives of the workers.

But while cutting a deal and loosely admitting to lapses in safety standards, Samsung has yet to fully acknowledge its workplace environment as the direct cause of the illnesses.

The standoff began in 2007 when taxi driver Hwang Sang-gi refused to accept a settlement after his 23-year-old daughter died of leukemia after working at a Samsung factory. Hwang's efforts to clarify the cause of Yu-mi's death and hold Samsung responsible for problems related to working conditions galvanized a broader movement to hold businesses and the government accountable for safety lapses in the chip and display industries, which use huge amounts of chemicals.

"No apology would be enough when considering the deception and humiliation we experienced (from Samsung) over the past 11 years, the pain of suffering from occupational diseases, the pain of losing loved ones," Hwang said at the news conference. "But I take today's apology as a promise from Samsung Electronics," to improve the safety of its workplaces, he said.

According to the settlement, Samsung will compensate for various illnesses of employees who have worked at its chip and LCD factories since 1984, including as much as 150 million won (\$132,000) for leukemia. The compensation also covers miscarriages and congenital illnesses of the workers' children such

as child cancer.

Since 2008, dozens of workers have sought occupational safety compensation from the government. Few won compensation, mostly after years of court battles. Half the remaining claims were rejected and half remain under review.

Families of the victims often have depleted their savings and sold their homes to pay hospital bills. Some workers end up incapacitated and unable to work.

AP FACT CHECK: Trump's judicial comments appear misinformed

By CALVIN WOODWARD and MARK SHERMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Betraying no trust in an independent judiciary, President Donald Trump is using a federal appeals court in San Francisco as a punching bag for his frustrations about not getting his way on border security. He's spreading misinformation in the process and appearing to misunderstand how appeals work.

Trump drew an unusual rebuke from the nation's chief justice, John Roberts, earlier in the week after the president assailed the judge who rejected his migrant asylum policy as an "Obama judge." Roberts rejected the insinuation that judges are beholden to the presidents who nominate them.

On Thursday, Trump was still venting on Twitter.

TRUMP: "Justice Roberts can say what he wants, but the 9th Circuit is a complete & total disaster. It is out of control, has a horrible reputation, is overturned more than any Circuit in the Country, 79%, & is used to get an almost guaranteed result."

THE FACTS: Trump is wrong in suggesting that rulings by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals are reversed by the Supreme Court more frequently than those of any other federal appeals court. And his description in an earlier tweet of the "shocking" number of overturned cases in the 9th Circuit belies the nature of the appeals system.

When the Supreme Court hears a case, it is more likely to overturn it than not. It does so about two-thirds of the time.

In the last term, the Supreme Court overturned 100 percent of the decisions of the 1st Circuit in Boston, the 3rd Circuit in Philadelphia and the 6th Circuit in Cincinnati. For the 9th Circuit, 86 percent were overturned.

Over the past five years, the Supreme Court overturned a greater percentage of rulings from the 3rd Circuit (92.3 percent), the 6th Circuit (85.1 percent) and the Atlanta-based 11th Circuit (81.8 percent) than from the 9th (77.4 percent), according to The Associated Press' analysis of statistics from the legal website Scotusblog.

The 9th is by far the largest of the 13 federal courts of appeals, covering Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon and Washington. That means that in raw numbers, more cases are heard and reversed from the 9th year in and year out. But that does not make it the most frequently overturned.

On Monday, U.S. District Judge Jon Tigar, who'd been nominated by Democratic President Barack Obama, temporarily barred the Trump administration from refusing asylum to immigrants who cross the southern border illegally. Any appeal is likely to go to the 9th Circuit.

TRUMP: "It would be great if the 9th Circuit was indeed an "independent judiciary," but if it is why ... are so are so many opposing view (on Border and Safety) cases filed there, and why are a vast number of those cases overturned. Please study the numbers, they are shocking." — tweets Wednesday.

THE FACTS: It's not unusual for those challenging a president's policies to sue in courts they consider likely to back their claims, and it's true that the 9th Circuit is a liberal-leaning court. 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.

But "judge shopping," as Trump put it when railing against court decisions on immigration last year, is

not that straightforward.

At the time, Trump was upset about a federal district judge who blocked his order to penalize cities that don't cooperate with U.S. immigration officials. It was the third time in two months that a federal judge had knocked down a Trump order dealing with immigration.

But the two local governments that sued to block Trump's order, San Francisco and Santa Clara County, are in California and therefore routinely file in the court in their neighborhood. And they don't get to choose a judge; that's assigned through a system that resembles a lottery.

The 9th Circuit has 16 judges appointed by Democratic presidents, seven by Republicans and six vacancies. Trump has nominated candidates for five of the openings.

He is likely to tilt the ideological balance of that court, as well as others.

But he can't count on them being "Trump judges."

It was Roberts, a nominee of Republican George W. Bush, who was the decisive Supreme Court vote preserving Obama's health care overhaul.

And it was U.S. District Judge Timothy Kelly who granted a temporary restraining order restoring access to the White House for CNN reporter Jim Acosta after the White House had pulled his credential. Kelly was put on the bench by Trump.

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Fire evacuees do their best on a sad Thanksgiving

By KATHLEEN RONAYNE, Associated Press

CHICO, Calif. (AP) — Patty Rough lost her Paradise home and most of her belongings in the Camp Fire, and she had no place to cook a family meal on Thanksgiving.

But she and her husband are safe, and she was still able to spend the holiday with her children over plates of turkey, cranberry sauce and pie at a feast for thousands of people put on by volunteers.

She's sad about everything she lost but realizes that others have far less.

"Today we're grateful; I don't know about happy," she said, tearing up as she sat next to her son and across from her daughter. "'Happy' Thanksgiving is kind of a weird thing at the moment."

Rough is among the thousands of people whose homes burned down when the deadly wildfire ripped through Paradise and surrounding communities. At least 84 people died, and more than 13,000 homes were destroyed.

The blaze was 95 percent contained Thursday, two weeks after it began. Rain that fell Wednesday night and started against Thursday afternoon aided the firefight but complicated the search for human remains in the debris left by the blaze.

Wet, windy, cold conditions were making it hard for workers to see and move.

It wasn't a normal Thanksgiving for any of the evacuees or workers.

Matt Berger, a member of a FEMA Urban Search and Rescue team from Orange County, said he and his colleagues are trying not to "get too wrapped up in the fact that we're not at home for the holidays."

"It's just another work day for us — trying to bring some closure to some of the families that are missing their loved ones," he said, standing in the cold outside a Paradise store that didn't burn down.

Volunteers tried to bring a dose of normalcy to the difficult time. The Washington-based nonprofit World Central Kitchen cooked 15,000 meals, teaming up with Chico-based Sierra Nevada Brewing Co., the local university and the town of Paradise to serve them.

Celebrity chefs Jose Andres, who started World Central Kitchen, and Guy Fieri cooked and stopped for selfies with fans while reflecting on the tragedy that brought them there.

"This is going to be a year we're never going to forget," Andres said.

Eduardo Garcia was happy for a warm meal and a place to spend the day. He sat alone at a long table but said he enjoyed the sense of company the gathering in an auditorium at California State University,

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Chico provided. Years ago, Garcia helped build the auditorium, plastering the outside walls.

He lost the Paradise home where he lived, and his immediate family is in Hawaii. For now, he's living with a friend in Chico.

"I don't have anywhere else to go," he said. "Even though I'm not with my family, you can feel good around other people who are in the same situation."

Outside the Paradise area, scores of people opened their houses to strangers to provide a more intimate Thanksgiving.

Rachael Anderson hosted 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 for the day with 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."

Faun and Danny O'Neel were hosting three families at their home in the Sacramento-area city of Folsom.

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

Thanksgiving at a stranger's house may not be what her guests initially expected, but O'Neel hopes it can provide some calm in a trying time.

"A few hours of normalcy," she 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."

Trump's rails against court, migrants in call to troops

By JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — President Donald Trump used a Thanksgiving Day call to troops deployed overseas to pat himself on the back and air grievances about the courts, trade and migrants heading to the U.S.-Mexico border.

Trump's call, made from his opulent private Mar-a-Lago club, struck an unusually political tone as he spoke with members of all five branches of the military to wish them happy holidays.

"It's a disgrace," Trump said of judges who have blocked his attempts to overhaul U.S. immigration law, as he linked his efforts to secure the border with military missions overseas.

Trump later threatened to close the U.S. border with Mexico for an undisclosed period of time if his administration determines Mexico has lost "control" on its side.

The call was a uniquely Trump blend of boasting, peppered questions and off-the-cuff observations as his comments veered from venting about slights to praising troops — "You really are our heroes," he said — as club waiters worked to set Thanksgiving dinner tables on the outdoor terrace behind him. And it was yet another show of how Trump has dramatically transformed the presidency, erasing the traditional divisions between domestic policy and military matters and efforts to keep the troops clear of politics.

"You probably see over the news what's happening on our southern border," Trump told one Air Force brigadier general stationed at Bagram Airfield in Afghanistan, adding: "I don't have to even ask you. I know what you want to do, you want to make sure that you know who we're letting in."

Later, Trump asked a U.S. Coast Guard commander about trade, which he noted was "a very big subject" for him personally.

"We've been taken advantage of for many, many years by bad trade deals," Trump told the commander, who sheepishly replied that, "We don't see any issues in terms of trade right now."

And throughout, Trump was sure to congratulate himself, telling the officers that the country is doing exceptionally well on his watch.

"I hope that you'll take solace in knowing that all of the American families you hold so close to your heart

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are all doing well," he said. "The nation's doing well economically, better than anybody in the world." He later told reporters "nobody's done more for the military than me."

Indeed, asked what he was thankful for this Thanksgiving, Trump cited his "great family," as well as himself.

"I made a tremendous difference in this country," he said.

But Trump continued to warn about the situation on the southern border as he took questions from reporters, pointing to the caravans of Central American migrants that have been making their way toward the U.S. and warning that, "If we find that it gets to a level where we lose control or people are going to start getting hurt, we're going to close entry into the country for a period of time until we get it under control."

He said he had the authority to do so by executive order and claimed he'd already used it earlier this week. "Two days ago, we closed the border. We actually just closed it, said nobody's coming in because it was just out of control."

By no means did he seal the border with Mexico. Officials did shut down one port of entry, San Ysidro, in California, for several hours early Monday morning to bolster security because of concerns about a potential influx of migrant caravan members. They closed northbound lanes into the U.S. and reopened most of them before the morning rush.

Trump's border threat came days after a federal judge put the administration's attempts to overhaul asylum rules on hold. Courts have also blocked several versions of the president's travel ban as well as his attempt to end a program that allows young immigrants brought to the country illegally as children to live and work in the country.

Trump probably could close the entire southern border by order, at least temporarily, invoking national security powers. But doing so could cause extraordinary damage to bilateral relations as well as to cross-border commerce between the U.S. and Mexico, its third largest trading partner. It would not necessarily stop migrants from coming either; Trump would have to contend with the same asylum laws already vexing his efforts to harden the border.

Among other subjects the president touched on in his question-and-answer session with the press:

—Trump disputed reports the CIA has concluded that Saudi Arabia's crown prince was responsible for journalist Jamal Khashoggi's killing. "The CIA points it both ways," said Trump. "Maybe he did, maybe he didn't."

—Asked who should be held responsible for killing, Trump responded that, "Maybe the world should be held accountable 'cause the world is a vicious place."

—Trump said he'd be interviewing candidates for potential openings in his administration — but wouldn't say for what positions.

"I'm very happy with my Cabinet and the people working for me and for us. ... They're absolute stars." But, he said, "there's always a lot of change. I'll probably be changing a couple."

—Trump would not discount the possibility of a partial government shutdown over lawmakers' refusal to allocate billions of dollars for his promised border wall. "Could there be a shutdown? There certainly could, and it will be about border security, of which the wall is a part," Trump said

—Trump said he'd spoken with his daughter Ivanka following news she'd sent hundreds of emails from a private address while serving as a senior White House adviser. Trump said she was "very innocent" and that situation was very different from the one he's said his 2016 rival Hillary Clinton should be in jail for.

—He defended his acting attorney general, Matthew Whitaker, calling him "a highly respected person" whom the press had treated nastily.

—He complained about the military's use of new electromagnetic catapult technology instead of steam in the new Navy aircraft carriers, telling a Navy officer that, "unfortunately, you have to be Albert Einstein to really work it properly." The officer rebuffed him. "You sort of have to be Albert Einstein to run the nuclear power plants that we have here as well. But we're doing that very well," he said, advising the president to "go electromagnetic."

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Trump later traveled to a nearby Coast Guard station, where he delivered a lunch of plastic-wrapped sandwiches, fruit and chips before spending some time at one of his golf courses.

He and his family capped the day with several hundred dues-paying members and their guests at a Thanksgiving feast in Mar-a-Lago's opulent ballroom that included the usual fixings, along with chilled seafood, Chilean sea bass and braised short ribs.

Associated Press writer Colleen Long in Washington contributed to this report.

Follow Colvin on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/colvinj>

IAEA calls on North Korea to re-admit nuclear inspectors

VIENNA (AP) — The head of the U.N.'s atomic watchdog on Thursday called on North Korea to allow inspectors back into the country to monitor its nuclear program.

Speaking at a board meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Director General Yukiya Amano noted that Pyongyang had in September talked about denuclearization measures including the "permanent dismantlement of the nuclear facilities in Yongbyon" — a reactor where it produces plutonium.

Amano said there has been activity observed at Yongbyon, but "without access the agency cannot confirm the nature and purpose of these activities."

At a news conference later Thursday, he said he couldn't elaborate on when exactly the activity was observed.

IAEA inspectors were expelled from North Korea in 2009 but Amano said the agency continues to prepare for their possible re-admittance.

"The agency continues to enhance its readiness to play an essential role in verifying (North Korea's) nuclear program if a political agreement is reached among countries concerned," he said. "I again call upon (North Korea) to comply fully with its obligations under relevant resolutions of the U.N. Security Council and of the IAEA board, to cooperate promptly with the agency and to resolve all outstanding issues."

On the other hand, Amano told board members that Iran continues to abide by the deal reached in 2015 with major world powers that aimed at preventing Tehran from building atomic weapons in exchange for economic incentives.

He reiterated the agency's findings in a report distributed to member states earlier this month that "Iran is implementing its nuclear-related commitments under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action."

The issue has grown more complicated since the U.S. withdrew unilaterally in May from the deal and then re-imposed sanctions. Iran's economy has been struggling ever since and its currency has plummeted in value.

The other signatories to the deal — Germany, Britain, France, Russia and China — are continuing to try to make it work.

Amano stressed that "it is essential that Iran continues to fully implement" its commitments.

In its full report, the IAEA said its inspectors continue to have access to all sites in Iran that it needs to visit and that inspectors confirmed Iran has kept within limits of heavy water and low-enriched uranium stockpiles.

"The agency continues to verify the non-diversion of nuclear material declared by Iran under its safeguards agreement," Amano said. "Evaluations regarding the absence of undeclared nuclear material and activities in Iran continue."

Despite wind, balloons fly at Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade

By **STEPHEN R. GROVES** and **MICHAEL R. SISAK**, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Frigid weather and blustery winds didn't chill the enthusiasm at the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, where spectators bundled up in blankets and sleeping bags and the giant character balloons flew lower than usual.

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SpongeBob, Charlie Brown, the Grinch and other big balloons were cleared for takeoff just before Thursday's parade, although some floated at noticeably lower-than-usual heights above the people holding their tethers, like the outstretched hand of the "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" balloon that appeared to hit some of his handlers on their wool cap-covered heads.

The 21 degrees (minus 6 Celsius) at the start made it one of the coldest Thanksgivings in the city in decades, and the temperature warmed only a few degrees as the parade rolled along.

Officials had been ready to order the 16 helium-filled balloons to a lower altitude or removed entirely if sustained winds exceeded 23 mph (37 kph) and gusts exceeded 34 mph (54 kph). There have been mishaps and injuries in the past when gusts blew them off course.

Bystanders refused to let the cold put a damper on watching the parade, breaking out blankets and sleeping bags to watch the balloons, bands and floats go by.

Tony Stout had camped out with his extended family since 2 a.m. to make sure they got a good view of his son, who was in the parade with the Ohio State University marching band.

"Ohhh, I'm freezing and numb, but excited," said Stout, who had traveled from Columbus, Ohio.

Dylan Mahoney, who has come to the parade every year for the past dozen years, said he stayed warm by layering, including several pairs of socks.

"It's one of the coldest," he said, but "we've watched in the rain before."

He said he loves the tradition of attending the parade, driving from Leonia, New Jersey, in the early hours to see the bands and balloons and racing for a good spot.

Entertainers including Diana Ross, John Legend, Martina McBride and the Muppets from "Sesame Street" performed in the frigid cold.

Macy's later apologized for "technical difficulties" after viewers ripped into singer Rita Ora for what they saw as awkward lip-syncing.

The British artist appeared out of sync with the vocals that viewers heard during parts of her televised performance of "Let You Love Me," and the episode sparked a flurry of online commentary.

Macy's apologized via Twitter, saying "several recording artists experienced technical difficulties that negatively impacted their performance" and were beyond the performers' control.

Ora tweeted thanks to Macy's for "the honesty."

In another moment that got attention, a performance from the Broadway musical "The Prom" included a kiss between two female cast members. The producers told Entertainment Weekly it was the parade's "first LGBTQ kiss."

Representatives for Macy's and broadcaster NBCUniversal didn't respond to inquiries.

Thursday was one of New York City's coldest Thanksgivings, with National Weather Service data showing the temperature peaked at 27 degrees (minus 2 Celsius). The coldest on record was in 1871, when the warmest it got was 22 degrees (minus 5 Celsius).

The Macy's parade didn't start until 1924.

Police Commissioner James O'Neill said thousands of officers were stationed along the parade route. They included counterterrorism teams with long guns, plainclothes officers mixed in with the crowd and a new squad of K-9 teams that can sniff out explosives from a few hundred feet away.

The parade runs 46 blocks from the west side of Central Park to Macy's flagship store in midtown Manhattan.

The event features about 8,000 marchers, including high school bands from across the country, and two dozen floats, culminating with the arrival of Santa Claus.

Nissan board fires Ghosn as chairman following arrest

By YURI KAGEYAMA, AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Nissan Motor Co. fired Carlos Ghosn as chairman Thursday, curtailing the powerful executive's nearly two-decade reign at the Japanese automaker after his arrest for alleged financial improprieties.

In an hourslong meeting, the company's board of directors voted unanimously to dismiss Ghosn as

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chairman and as a representative director, Nissan said in a statement. It said its own internal investigation, prompted by a whistleblower, found serious misconduct including under-reporting of his income and misuse of company assets.

It was a stunning downfall for one of the biggest figures in the auto industry. Ghosn had helped drive turnarounds at both France's Renault SA and at Nissan and then managed an alliance between them that sold 10.6 million cars last year, besting its rivals.

Renault is still reeling from Ghosn's Monday arrest, and its share price has yet to recover. Its acting chief, Deputy CEO Thierry Bollere, spoke publicly Thursday night for the first time since Ghosn was sidelined, and sought to soothe markets, car buyers and his employees by promising continuity.

In a video released by Renault, Bollere said the carmaker still plans to release several new models next year. Acknowledging the "particular situation" the company is in, he pledged his "full commitment" to Renault's 180,000 workers and its partners and customers. Renault's board decided not to fire Ghosn, instead installing temporary leadership.

The French government, which owns 15 percent of Renault, is also worried. French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire said Thursday that France has yet to receive information from Japan about what Ghosn is accused of and insisted on "respect for the presumption of innocence."

Speaking to The Associated Press, Le Maire said "this turbulence shouldn't weaken" the Renault-Nissan alliance or its hundreds of thousands of jobs.

Nissan said in a statement filed to the Tokyo Stock Exchange that its investigation uncovered misuse of company investment funds and expense money for personal gain.

The Wall Street Journal, citing an anonymous source close to Nissan's investigation, reported that Ghosn used company funds to buy personal residences and enrich his sister.

Another Nissan executive, Greg Kelly, was arrested in Japan on suspicion of collaborating in the wrongdoing and also will be dismissed as a representative director, Nissan said. Their replacements will be decided later, it said.

Ghosn, 64, is suspected of under-reporting \$44.6 million in income from 2011 to 2015, according to Tokyo prosecutors.

Nissan's board consists of nine members, including Ghosn and Greg Kelly. The seven other board members voted at the meeting, including two members from Nissan and two from Renault.

Ghosn and Kelly will remain on Nissan's board for now as that decision will be up to shareholders. No date has been set yet for a shareholders meeting.

Ghosn is also chairman at Mitsubishi Motors Corp., a smaller Japanese automaker that's partnering with the Renault-Nissan alliance and plans to hold a board meeting next week.

He has been held since his arrest Monday at a Tokyo detention center, under the same Spartan conditions as other detainees, Tokyo deputy prosecutor Shin Kukimoto told reporters Thursday. He gave few details about the case.

Under Japanese law, suspects can be held for 20 days per possible charge without an official indictment. Additional charges can be tagged on, resulting in longer detentions. Neither has been charged so far.

The maximum penalty upon conviction for violating finance and exchange laws is 10 years in prison, a 10 million yen (\$89,000) fine, or both.

A French citizen born in Brazil, Ghosn became something of a corporate superstar in Japan as he led Nissan's revival from near bankruptcy after Renault sent him to help in 1999.

Ghosn served as Nissan's chief executive from 2001 until last year. He became chief executive of Renault in 2005, leading the two automakers simultaneously. In 2016, he also became chairman of Mitsubishi Motors Corp. after Nissan took it into the alliance.

Kelly, 62, joined Nissan, maker of the Leaf electric car and Infiniti luxury models, in the U.S. in 1988. He became a board member in 2012. His background is in human resources and alliance management.

Analysts say the future of Nissan's alliance with Renault may be at stake, though Nissan's statement Thursday said the company's leadership was determined to minimize the impact from Ghosn's case on the

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partnership. Renault owns 43 percent of Nissan, and Nissan owns 15 percent of Renault.

The economy ministers of Japan and France met in Paris on Thursday to discuss the issue and released a statement saying both sides are committed to supporting the alliance.

Nissan said its board will study setting up a third-party committee to beef up governance in management and compensation at Nissan.

Janet Lewis, managing director and head of industrial research, Asia, at Macquarie Capital Securities in Tokyo, said in an interview that an adjustment was needed to give Nissan more say in the alliance with Renault.

The partnership remains crucial for both companies, she said, since apart from financial ties the companies share technology and parts. The automakers need to be more like roommates than a married couple, she said.

"So they have to find a way to share their house and share all of their expertise because it's very necessary in terms of new automotive technology, new platform development," Lewis said. "They need to figure out how they can continue this and still live happily together in the same house."

Associated Press writer Mari Yamaguchi in Tokyo and Angela Charlton in Paris contributed to this report.

Yuri Kageyama is on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/yurikageyama>

On Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/yurikageyama/?hl=en>

In Mexico's border city, Haitians hailed as success story

By **JULIE WATSON, Associated Press**

TIJUANA, Mexico (AP) — A few blocks from a shelter housing members of a Central American migrant caravan sits the first Haitian restaurant to open in Tijuana, a bustling eatery that has come to symbolize an immigrant success story in this Mexican border city where Haitians are now a part of the fabric, landing jobs, studying and marrying locals.

Tijuana welcomed thousands of Haitians to pursue a scaled-down American dream south of the border after the U.S. closed its doors on them more than two years ago. But it has not shown the same tolerance so far toward the Central Americans, who have met official complaints and anti-caravan protests even though most of the people in this city are migrants or the offspring of migrants.

That's raising questions about how the newest group will integrate if it doesn't don't get into the U.S. or return home.

Tijuana Mayor Juan Manuel Gastelum has made a point of saying the city is not happy with the caravan migrants who began arriving last week, and he compared the Central American group unfavorably with the roughly 3,000 Haitians who ended up staying after their bid to reach the U.S. failed.

"The Haitians arrived with their papers, with a clear vision," Gastelum said in an interview posted on the city's Facebook page. They came "in an orderly way, they never asked us for food or shelter," renting apartments and making their own food. He said the Haitians found jobs and "inserted themselves in the city's economy" and had not been involved in any disturbances.

By contrast, Gastelum said, the caravan of Central Americans "had arrived all of sudden, with a lot of people — not all ... but a lot — were aggressive and cocky."

Victor Clark-Alfaro, a professor of Latin American studies at San Diego State University who lives in Tijuana, attributes the backlash to the way the caravan arrived — suddenly with thousands pouring in. Others point to social media and the hostile rhetoric of U.S. President Donald Trump, who said it harbored criminals and gang members and was planning an "invasion."

Many also say the actions of a few are tarnishing the image of the roughly 4,000 migrants who are camped in Tijuana. In the past week, city officials have arrested three dozen caravan members for drug possession, public intoxication, disturbing the peace and resisting police, and said they would be deported to their home countries.

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It's also only been months since an earlier caravan of Central Americans arrived, and some of them are still in the city waiting to get asylum in the U.S. That has added to fears here that it could be the start of a never-ending deluge.

U.S. border inspectors are processing only about 100 asylum claims a day at Tijuana's main crossing to San Diego, and there was already a waiting list of 3,000 when the new migrants arrived, so most will have to wait months to even be considered for asylum.

Tijuana has a long history as a kind of Ellis Island for U.S.-bound migrants. It receives up to 80,000 a year from across Mexico, Latin America and more recently as far away as India and Africa. The city has large pockets of Chinese and Korean immigrants.

Central Americans have been coming to the city since the civil wars of the 80s in El Salvador, Nicaragua and Guatemala.

Many in the newly arrived caravan, however, are destitute people who left their homelands at the spur of the moment and have been utterly dependent on handouts along their journey.

Many of the Haitians, meanwhile, arrived with at least some resources after working in Brazil, though despite what the mayor said, they also stayed at shelters after taking an accidental route to Tijuana from their impoverished Caribbean homeland. The last group of Haitians moved out of the Padre Chava shelter in April.

Brazil and its neighbors took in the Haitians after that country's 2010 earthquake. As construction jobs for the 2016 Summer Olympics ended and Brazil's economy slumped, they crossed 10 countries by plane, boat, bus and on foot to San Diego, where U.S. authorities initially let them in on humanitarian grounds.

Then President Barack Obama shifted course in 2016 and started deporting Haitian arrivals. Many decided to stay in Mexico after the government gave them temporary transit permits and have since applied for Mexican residency. The majority in the Central American caravan so far have refused Mexico's repeated offers of residency or asylum and vowed to cross the border.

Many of the Haitians also have college degrees and have been recruited to work for factories that export to the U.S. Some can be found waiting tables and worshipping at congregations that have even added services in Creole.

They opened beauty parlors, shops and restaurants, like Kriskapab Baborijinal, a bright blue-and-red cafe that is busy serving Mexicans and Haitians daily dishes of coconut rice, mashed plantains and goat stew.

In the window is a sign for the Association of the Defense of Haitian Migrants. Philocles Julda, 44, is one of 11 Haitian immigrants who started the group a year ago to give the community a place to help itself with everything from Spanish lessons to paying medical bills.

Julda said he too wanted to get to the U.S. when he first arrived to Tijuana and still wishes he was earning dollars, but said he has been able to make a life here. He works at a factory.

"I feel for the migrants who are arriving from other countries just like we did," he said. "But you do adapt."

And work is plentiful in Tijuana, whose economy has been growing and whose factories have thousands of openings.

"We have been looking for workers for quite a while," said Alejandrina Yanez, who works in human resources at a factory that makes warehouse storage racks for Costco, Home Depot and other international companies.

Yanez went to the Padre Chava shelter Wednesday to see if any migrants were interested in jobs that pay about \$100 a week.

Omin Velasquez, 26, of Tocoa, Honduras, was intrigued. Velasquez came with the caravan but decided not to continue on to the U.S. after seeing the border wall topped with newly-installed rows of razor wire.

He said it took him some days to decide, but he now feels that there are enough opportunities in Tijuana and support from locals that it's not worth the risk of crossing into the U.S. He has started his paperwork to get a Mexican visa to stay.

"There is so much work here," he said. "I no longer feel the need to go to the U.S."

UK's May faces more criticism for post-Brexit ties text

By GREGORY KATZ and LORNE COOK, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — British Prime Minister Theresa May faced wide-ranging criticism from skeptical lawmakers Thursday as she sought to portray a draft agreement on a post-Brexit relationship with the European Union as a “good deal for our country.”

Addressing the House of Commons after the publication of a 26-page draft political declaration with the EU on post-Brexit relations, May said the agreement will ensure a “smooth and orderly” British departure from the European Union. Britain officially leaves the 28-nation EU — the first country to ever do so — on March 29.

“The draft text that we have agreed with the (European) Commission is a good deal for our country and for our partners in the EU,” May said.

May is due to travel to Brussels on Saturday for further Brexit meetings, including with Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, a day before a summit of the EU’s 27 other leaders at which both the political declaration on post-Brexit relations as well as the divorce agreement, which alone has legal status, are expected to be formally signed off.

The withdrawal agreement needs to be sealed soon to leave enough time for the European Parliament and the U.K. Parliament to endorse it.

May told lawmakers that the outlines for the future help protect jobs, end the jurisdiction of the European Court of Justice in the U.K., give British fishermen more control and avoid the return of a hard border between EU member Ireland and Northern Ireland, which is part of the United Kingdom.

She also said the agreement paves the way for a free trade agreement with the bloc as well as allowing Britain to forge new trade deals around the world.

But her rosy predictions met with resistance on many fronts in Parliament, which is expected to vote on the Brexit plan next month.

At the moment, it looks precarious for the prime minister given the number of lawmakers who have expressed discontent with the proposals, notably the 585-page legal treaty that deals with the terms of Britain’s departure, including what the country owes the EU.

Jeremy Corbyn, leader of Britain’s main opposition Labour Party, poured scorn on the agreement on future relations, describing it a “26 pages of waffle” that represented a failure of the Conservative Party and May during two years of negotiations.

Corbyn said the agreement “represents the worst of all worlds” and that Britain will have “no say” over EU rules that will continue to apply in Britain.

“This is the blindfold Brexit we all feared,” he said. “A leap into the dark.”

May is likely to need some Labour lawmakers to back her plan if she has realistic hopes of winning approval, given that her Conservative Party does not enjoy a majority in the House of Commons.

May also faced criticism from hard-line Conservative Party Brexiteers, notably Boris Johnson and Jacob Rees-Mogg, and from others who pressed May to back a second referendum on the whole Brexit proposition.

If May fails to get a majority in Parliament, it’s unclear what would then happen. Some lawmakers argue that the country would end up crashing out of the EU on Brexit day with no deal, a scenario that could see tariffs slapped on exports and restrictions imposed on workers. Others hope Parliament could back a second referendum in the hope the public would call the whole thing off.

The political declaration was agreed upon at a technical level by negotiators and endorsed Thursday by the European Commission, the EU’s executive arm, which is overseeing Brexit negotiations.

“This declaration establishes the parameters of an ambitious, broad, deep and flexible partnership across trade and economic cooperation, law enforcement and criminal justice, foreign policy, security and defense and wider areas of cooperation,” according to the document.

It also talks about the close ties that have been cemented after 45 years of Britain’s membership of the EU and notes that the “parties envisage having a trading relationship on goods that is as close as possible, with a view to facilitating the ease of legitimate trade.”

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In a speech in Berlin, German Chancellor Angela Merkel underlined that "Britain should remain a partner, remain a friend" but she underscored the difficulties that may arise in any attempt to keep services seamless.

"We have to say honestly that, in the services sector, we don't have a great deal of experience with international free trade agreements," she said.

"But we want to see that as a future relationship."

One stumbling block relates to Gibraltar, the tiny territory at the tip of the Iberian Peninsula that was ceded to Britain in 1713 but is still claimed by Spain.

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said earlier this week that his government "cannot accept" Gibraltar's future being determined by negotiations at the EU level.

May said Thursday that she has spoken with Sanchez and that she is "confident" there will be a resolution on Sunday "that delivers for the whole U.K. family, including Gibraltar."

Cook reported from Brussels. Danica Kirka in London and Geir Moulson in Berlin contributed to this report.

See the AP's Brexit coverage at: <https://www.apnews.com/Brexit>

Trump demands judicial 'common sense,' shrugs off Roberts

By MARK SHERMAN and JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Incensed by a ruling against his migrant asylum policy, President Donald Trump on Thursday demanded "some common sense" from America's judges and directed his ire at a liberal-leaning appeals court. He professed respect for Chief Justice John Roberts, with whom he is engaged in a startling public dispute over the independence of the judiciary, yet shrugged off the Republican appointee as someone who "can say what he wants."

Trump, still seething over Monday's decision by a President Barack Obama-nominated judge, began his Thanksgiving Day by asserting on Twitter that courts should defer to his administration and law enforcement on border security because judges "know nothing about it and are making our Country unsafe."

The president, spending the holiday in Florida, later told reporters that law enforcers and military service members he has sent to the U.S.-Mexico border "can't believe the decisions that are being made by these judges."

Trump has gone after federal judges before who have ruled against him, but the current dustup is the first time that Roberts, the leader of the federal judiciary, has offered even a hint of criticism of the president.

Roberts issued a strongly worded statement Wednesday defending judicial independence and contradicting Trump's claim that judges are partisans allied with the party of the president who nominated them.

It is highly unusual for a president to single out judges for personal criticism, and a chief justice's challenge to a president's comments is unprecedented in modern times.

In challenging a co-equal branch of government, Trump complains that his opponents file lawsuits in courts that are part of the liberal-leaning 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. That's where an appeal of the recent asylum ruling would normally go.

It's not unusual for those challenging a president's policies to sue in courts they consider likely to back their claims.

"Everybody files in the 9th Circuit," he said with exaggeration. "I think we're going to have stop that somehow. The judges are going to have to get together or Congress is going to have to get together and stop it because they're taking advantage of our country." Trump did not elaborate.

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.

"I like him and I respect him," Trump said about Roberts, "but i think we have to use some common sense. The 9th Circuit, everybody knows that it's totally out of control."

Trump began the holiday by tweeting that Roberts "can say what he wants, but the 9th Circuit is a

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complete & total disaster.”

He even raised the topic during his call to service members, saying the 9th Circuit “has become a big thorn in our side. ... It’s a terrible thing when judges take over your protective services, when they tell you how to protect the border. It’s a disgrace.”

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. Roberts, as the justice widely seen as closest to the court’s middle, could determine the outcome of high-profile cases that split the court.

The new drama began with remarks Trump made Tuesday when he went after Jon S. Tigar, the San Francisco-based judge who had ruled against Trump’s asylum order. The president claimed, not for the first time, that the 9th Circuit 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,” Roberts said. “What we have is an extraordinary group of dedicated judges doing their level best to do equal right to those appearing before them.”

He concluded: “The independent judiciary is something we should all be thankful for.”

Trump responded by questioning the independence of federal judges appointed by his predecessor and confirmed by the Senate. He especially criticized judges on the 9th Circuit.

“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.

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 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.-Mexico border.

The president’s remarks on Tuesday came when a reporter asked for his reaction to a ruling by Tigar 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.

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

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.

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.

Colvin reported from Palm Beach, Florida.

19-year-old Yorkshire Terrier retires from 'The Nutcracker'

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — After more than 125 performances in "The Nutcracker" in Rhode Island, a 19-year-old Yorkshire terrier named Archie is leaving the stage.

Festival Ballet Providence announced this week that its beloved "Nutcracker" dog is retiring.

The ballet says Archie achieved stardom in his annual romp across the Providence Performing Arts Center stage and is ready for the next chapter.

Misha Djuric (JUHR'-itch), the ballet's artistic director and Archie's owner, says Archie is "settling down to a life of luxury and long naps on pillows."

The ballet is holding auditions for the next "Nutcracker" dog. Auditions will take place at the Festival Ballet Providence studios on Hope Street in Providence on Dec. 2.

The ballet says it's looking for a pup with an elegant prance, regal coat of fur and charming smile.

Will he go? Trump dangles he might attend 2019 press dinner

By JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

WEST PALM BEACH, Florida (AP) — President Donald Trump said he may attend next year's White House Correspondents' Association dinner now that organizers have scrapped the usual format featuring a comedian. But he may not be thrilled with the replacement.

The correspondents' association announced this week that Pulitzer Prize-winning author Ron Chernow — biographer of presidents and statesmen including George Washington and Alexander Hamilton — will serve as the 2019 dinner's featured speaker. But Chernow, like many of his fellow historians, strongly opposed Trump's candidacy in 2016 and labeled him a "demagogue."

That didn't stop Trump from declaring victory Tuesday night after he arrived in Florida for a Thanksgiving-week break.

"So-called comedian Michelle Wolf bombed so badly last year," he tweeted. "This year, for the first time in decades, they will have an author instead of a comedian."

"Good first step in comeback of a dying evening and tradition!" he wrote, adding: "Maybe I will go?"

Presidents have traditionally attended the dinner. But Trump, who has an especially contentious relationship with the press, has skipped it the last two years.

Wolf's sharply anti-Trump performance in 2018 was criticized by some as too pointed in its shots at White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders and other White House staff.

Chernow, for his part, in 2016 joined with other historians in expressing alarm at Trump's campaign rhetoric.

"Like many other historians, I have been deeply disturbed by the Trump campaign — more deeply disturbed than by any other presidential campaign in our history," he said in a video statement, expressing alarm that Americans might "forget who we are as a people and succumb to historical amnesia."

"We've all been horrified by the many shocking statements this man has made, but no less frightening have been the omissions," he went on to say, citing the then-candidate's reluctance to say words like injustice and tolerance or express emotions like kindness, compassion and empathy.

Chernow said in a statement released by the association that he'd been asked "to make the case for the First Amendment" in his speech and was "happy to oblige."

"Freedom of the press is always a timely subject, and this seems like the perfect moment to go back to basics," he said, adding that, "While I have never been mistaken for a stand-up comedian, I promise that my history lesson won't be dry."

Chernow declined comment further when asked if his speech would include criticism of Trump.

Associated Press National Writer Hillel Italie in New York contributed to this report.

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Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Friday, Nov. 23, the 327th day of 2018. There are 38 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On November 23rd, 1963, President Lyndon B. Johnson proclaimed Nov. 25 a day of national mourning following the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

On this date:

In 1765, Frederick County, Maryland, became the first colonial American entity to repudiate the British Stamp Act.

In 1804, the 14th president of the United States, Franklin Pierce (puhrs), was born in Hillsboro, New Hampshire.

In 1889, the first jukebox made its debut in San Francisco, at the Palais Royale Saloon. (The coin-operated device consisted of four listening tubes attached to an Edison phonograph.)

In 1903, Enrico Caruso made his American debut at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York, appearing in "Rigoletto."

In 1936, Life, the photojournalism magazine created by Henry R. Luce (loos), was first published.

In 1959, the musical "Fiorello!," starring Tom Bosley as legendary New York Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia, opened on Broadway.

In 1971, the People's Republic of China was seated in the U.N. Security Council.

In 1980, some 2,600 people were killed by a series of earthquakes that devastated southern Italy.

In 1996, a commandeered Ethiopian Airlines Boeing 767 crashed into the water off the Comoros Islands, killing 125 of the 175 people on board, including all three hijackers.

In 2000, in a setback for Al Gore, the Florida Supreme Court refused to order Miami-Dade County officials to resume hand-counting its election-day ballots. Meanwhile, Gore's lawyers argued in a brief filed with the U.S. Supreme Court that the high court should stay out of the Florida election controversy.

In 2004, Dan Rather announced he would step down as principal anchorman of "The C-B-S Evening News" in March 2005.

In 2006, former KGB spy Alexander Litvinenko (leet-vee-NYEN'-koh) died in London from radiation poisoning after making a deathbed statement blaming Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Ten years ago: The government unveiled a bold plan to rescue Citigroup, injecting a fresh \$20 billion into the troubled firm as well as guaranteeing hundreds of billions of dollars in risky assets. Spain clinched an improbable, come-from-behind Davis Cup victory over Argentina.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama said a nuclear deal reached with Iran during talks in Geneva was an "important first step" toward addressing the world's concerns over the Islamic republic's disputed nuclear program.

One year ago: The holiday shopping season kicked off with some major retailers opening on Thanksgiving afternoon or evening, hoping for a lift from a better economy.

Today's Birthdays: Former Labor Secretary William E. Brock is 88. Actor Franco Nero is 77. Screenwriter Joe Eszterhas is 74. Actor-comedy writer Bruce Vilanch is 71. Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., is 68. Singer Bruce Hornsby is 64. Former Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La., is 63. Actor Maxwell Caulfield is 59. Actor John Henton is 58. TV personality Robin Roberts ("Good Morning America") is 58. Rock singer-musician Ken Block (Sister Hazel) is 52. Rock musician Charlie Grover is 52. Actress Salli Richardson-Whitfield is 51. Actor Oded Fehr (OH'-dehd fayr) is 48. Rapper-actor Kurupt (Tha Dogg Pound) is 46. Actor Page Kennedy is 42. Actress Kelly Brook is 39. Actor Lucas Grabeel (GRAY'-beel) is 34. TV personality Nicole "Snooki" Polizzi is 31. Actress-singer Miley Cyrus is 26. Actor Austin Majors is 23. Actress Olivia Keville (TV: "Splitting Up Together") is 16.

Thought for Today: "Music expresses that which cannot be said and which cannot remain silent." — Victor Hugo, French author (1802-1885).