

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 141 ~ 1 of 63

- 1- Harry Implement Ad
- 1- Recycling Trailer
- 2- Groton Care & Rehab Supper Ad
- 2-BBB's Give.org Advises Donors to Avoid Misconceptions on #GivingTuesday
- 3- Olive Grove Tour of Homes ad
- 3- National Gas Price Average Dropping Toward Lowest of the Year
- 4- Dairy Queen Ad
- 5- Pennington County Resident South Dakota's First Flu Death Of Season
- 5- Service Notice: Ardath May
- 6- September Students of the Month
- 7- Department of Revenue reminds consumers to check for sales tax when making online purchases
- 8- Today in Weather History
- 9- Today's Forecast
- 10- Yesterday's Weather
- 10- National Weather map
- 10- Today's Weather Almanac
- 11- Daily Devotional
- 12- 2018 Groton Community Events
- 13- News from the Associated Press

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

Harry Implement
"Family Owned & Operated Since 1935!"



(605) 395-6421

Ferney

Groton Area Schedule of Events

Tuesday, November 27, 2018

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

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

Thursday, November 29, 2018

TBD: Basketball: Girls 7th/8th Game vs. Langford @ Langford High School

Friday, November 30, 2018

State Oral Interp at Watertown High School

Saturday, December 1, 2018

State Oral Interp at Watertown High School

10:00am: Basketball: Girls 7th/8th Jamboree vs. Langford, Northwestern, Waubay-Summit, Webster MS @ Groton Area High School Arena

10:00am: Wrestling: Boys Varsity Tournament TBA vs. Clark/Willow Lake @ Clark Junior-Senior High School

Sunday, December 2, 2018

(2:00pm- 6:00pm: Open Gym, GHS Arena

Grades JK-8 2pm - 4pm; Grades 6-12 4pm - 6pm)

Monday, December 3, 2018

7:00 pm: City Council Meeting at the Groton Community Center

BBB's Give.org Advises Donors to Avoid Misconceptions on #GivingTuesday

Donors are more apt to give during the holiday season than any other time of the year. As contributors participate in #GivingTuesday on Nov. 27, donors should consider the following public misconceptions that were identified in the recently released Give.org Donor Trust Report produced by BBB's Give.org.

1. Don't assume that charity size and regional scope signal trustworthiness. 67 percent of survey respondents said they trust local charities more than national and 62 percent trust small organizations more than large ones. In BBB's Give.org experience, however, charities of all sizes and scope can demonstrate good and bad accountability practices.

2. Don't assume verifying trust is easy. The Give.org Donor Trust Report shows that younger generations are more likely than older donors to believe that verifying trust is easy and can be accomplished by examining the charity's appeal alone. Verifying charity trustworthiness is more complex. Donors are encouraged to check out charities at Give.org to verify if they meet the 20 BBB Standards for Charity Accountability which address charity governance, finances, results reporting and solicitation practices.

3. Don't rely on stories and passion alone in assessing trust. The survey results also indicate that 46 percent of Generation Z (ages 18 and 19) and 32 percent of Millennials (ages 20-36) tend to attribute trust to those organizations that demonstrate more apparent passion and sincerity in the appeal. In BBB's Give.org view, such indicators are not a reliable means to verify trust and could lead younger donors vulnerable to questionable solicitations.

4. Don't focus excessively on financial ratios. While financial ratios are an important part of a charity's overall picture, excessive focus on low overhead spending can be misguided and potentially harmful to an organization's capacity for service. Consider a more comprehensive view of a charity's activities in order to make a wise giving decision.

This Give.org Donor Trust Report involved an online panel survey of 2,100 adults (18 and above) across the United States.



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

Groton Care & Rehab

1106 N 2nd St, Groton

Free Will Donation

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 141 ~ 3 of 63

National Gas Price Average Dropping Toward Lowest of the Year

November 26, 2018 - On the week, the national gas price average has dropped seven cents to land at \$2.56. As pump prices steadily decline, they are headed toward some of the cheapest gas prices in 2018. The national average was lowest in January at \$2.49 while May brought the most expensive price of \$2.97.

"Trends are indicating that the month of December may bring some of the cheapest gas prices of the year," said Marilyn Buskohl, AAA spokesperson. "U.S. gasoline demand remains low and supply plentiful so motorists can expect to save at the pump as long as the price of crude oil doesn't spike. Here in South Dakota the statewide average stands at \$2.56, down 5 cents from one week ago."

South Dakota Average Gas Prices:

Current Avg. \$2.56
Yesterday Avg. \$2.56
Week Ago Avg. \$2.61
Month Ago Avg. \$2.88
Year Ago Avg. \$2.52

Gas prices have been cheaper in the U.S. as crude oil sells at \$57/bbl and cheaper - the lowest prices of the year.

Quick Stats

The nation's top 10 largest weekly decreases are: Ohio (-14 cents), Kentucky (-11 cents), Mississippi (-11 cents), South Carolina (-10 cents), Michigan (-9 cents), Alabama (-9 cents), Arkansas (-9 cents), Georgia (-9 cents), Illinois (-9 cents) and Texas (-9 cents).

The nation's top 10 least expensive markets are: Missouri (\$2.18), Oklahoma (\$2.21), South Carolina (\$2.23), Texas (\$2.24), Delaware (\$2.24), Louisiana (\$2.26), Mississippi (\$2.27), Alabama (\$2.27), Kentucky (\$2.27) and Ohio (\$2.28).

Central and Great Lakes Region

The majority of the Great Lakes and Central states are carrying gas price averages cheaper than one year ago: Iowa (-20 cents), Indiana (-16 cents), Ohio (-15 cents), Michigan (-14 cents), Nebraska (-14 cents), Illinois (-11 cents), Missouri (-11 cents), Kentucky (-9 cents), Kansas (-7 cents), Wisconsin (-6 cents) and Minnesota (-2 cents). There are only 19 states in the country with less expensive year-over-year prices and 11 of those are in this region.

On the week, gas prices are as much as 14 cents cheaper in Ohio. Today, state gas price averages range from \$2.58 in North Dakota to \$2.18 in Missouri.

Oil market dynamics

At the close of Friday's formal trading session on the NY-MEX, WTI dropped \$4.21 and settled at \$50.42. Oil prices plunged to their lowest point since October 2017 last week as EIA reported that crude inventories continue to build.



Olive Grove's 3rd Annual Christmas Tour of Homes & Holiday Party

Saturday,
Dec. 1, 2018

**Tour of Homes
4-7 p.m.**

Gary & Linda Thurston
Alan Strom and Shelly Lerew
Ron and Dawn Breedlove
Olde Bank 'n Café
J. Simon Photography

Coffee, Apple Cider and
goodies at the clubhouse

**Holiday Party
4 p.m. to Close**

A variety of snacks served
Silent Basket Items - Bidding
closes at 8:30 p.m.
Live Auction begins at 8:30 p.m.

\$15 Tickets Available at
Lori's Pharmacy, Groton
Groton Ford
Hair & Company, Aberdeen

Come on out for a fun evening!

Support your local golf course!

TRY A *New* **HUNGRY UP Deal**

\$4 Hungry-ish Deal
Single
w/Cheese



\$5 Hungry Deal
Double
w/Cheese



\$6 Hangry Deal
Triple
w/Cheese



Includes Fries & Mini Blizzard® TREAT

Royal Blizzard® Treat at an additional charge



Valid only at:
DQ Grill & Chill Restaurant
11 E Hwy 12
Groton, SD 57445-2175

All trademarks owned or licensed by Am. D.Q. Corp. ©2018. ®, TM, and ©2018 O.J. of Am.

Pennington County Resident South Dakota's First Flu Death Of Season

PIERRE, S.D. – A Pennington County resident in the 60-69 age group is South Dakota's first influenza death of the 2018–2019 season, the Department of Health reported today. To protect patient confidentiality, additional information about the deceased is not being released.

"Our sympathy is with the family. Their loss serves as a reminder to us all that influenza can be a very serious illness," said Dr. Joshua Clayton, state epidemiologist for the department. "It is not too late to get vaccinated for this flu season, and if you haven't yet received your annual flu vaccination, the time to do so is now."

Clayton noted that flu activity in South Dakota is currently classified as sporadic. To date, the state has reported 35 lab-confirmed cases of flu and 8 flu-related hospitalizations.

Each year, an average of 33 South Dakotan deaths are reported to the Department of Health following influenza infections. To protect against flu complications, annual flu vaccination is recommended for everyone age 6 months and older. Groups like pregnant women, children younger than 5 years, people over 65 years and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk for flu-related complications, such as pneumonia, hospitalization, and death. Healthcare workers and household contacts of high-risk populations, such as those with young infants, should also be vaccinated.

Influenza is a viral infection spread by respiratory droplets released when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Common signs and symptoms of the flu include fever of 100 degrees or greater, cough, sore throat, headache, fatigue, body or muscle aches, and runny or stuffy nose.

In addition to vaccination, to prevent the spread of the flu:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water or use alcohol-based hand gel;
- Cover your mouth when you cough or sneeze;
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth; and,
- Stay home if you are sick.

Learn more at <http://flu.sd.gov>.

Service Notice: Ardath May

Services for Ardath May, 92, of Aberdeen and formerly of Andover will be 11:00 a.m., Friday, November 30th at Zion Lutheran Church, Andover. Rev. Andrew Wolfgram will officiate. Burial will follow in Andover Cemetery under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

Visitation will be held at the chapel in Groton on Thursday from 5-7 with a prayer service at 7:00 p.m. Ardath passed away November 25, 2018 at Bethesda Home of Aberdeen.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 141 ~ 6 of 63

September Students of the Month

The student council is sponsoring Student of the Month. Each month the faculty select students who show outstanding academic achievement. These students receive certificates and have an end of the year recognition with the principal.

The students of the month for September are sixth grader Gretchen Dinger, seventh grader Dillon Abeln, eighth grader Jacob Lewandowski, freshman Stella Meier, sophomore Isaac Smith, junior Kaycie Hawkins and senior AnneMarie Smith.



Gretchen Dinger, sixth grader, is the daughter of Elizabeth Bahr and Weston Dinger, Groton. Siblings are Jackson, Arianna Dinger, and Nolan, Roman, Raven and Hunter Bahr.

Gretchen is involved in volleyball, soccer and dance. She has placed first in MathCounts and was the first sixth grader to audition for All State Band. She likes art and likes playing the flute in band. Art is her favorite subject and she plans to be a doctor. Her dad is her role model.



Dillon Abeln, seventh grader, is the son of Isaac and Nikki Abeln, Columbia.

Dillon is involved in baseball, basketball, cross country and hunting. His accomplishments include MathCounts and school and he is interested in sports and video games. Tech is his favorite subject and he wants to be an astronaut. His role model is baseball player Aaron Judge.



Jacob Lewandowski, eighth grader, is the son of Grad and Becky Lewandowski, Groton. His sisters are Nicole and Hannah Lewandowski and Sarah Dennert.

Jacob's activities include football, baseball, track, choir and band. His accomplishments include getting Student of the Month, receiving a 1+ at band contest and lettering in track. He is interested in playing football with friends, playing video games, exercising and reading. Civics is his favorite subject. He plans to attend law school at USD and become a criminal lawyer. His dad is his role model.



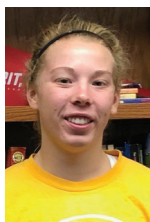
Stella Meier, freshman, is the daughter of Nicholas Meier and Anna and Brett Schwan. Siblings are Lycia, Dyder and Ivan.

Stella is involved in volleyball, cheer, band and show choir. Her accomplishments include being on the Principal's Honor Roll and Middle School All State Band. She is interested in volleyball, cheer, volunteering, reading, listening to music and hanging out with family and friends. Math is her favorite subject and she plans to be a nurse or nurse practitioner. Her mom, Anna, is her role model.



Isaac Smith, sophomore, is the son of Steve and Carol Smith, Groton. Siblings are Sam, Marah, Luke, Erin and AnneMarie.

Isaac is involved in cross country, basketball, soccer, track, robotics and show choir. He qualified for the state cross country meet and he is interested in sports, Netflix and food. Chemistry is his favorite subject and he plans to graduate and then go on to college. Samuel Smith is his role model.



Kaycie Hawkins, junior, is the daughter of Lance and Kristie Hawkins, Groton. Siblings are Katelyn, Kylie and Kelby Hawkins.

Her activities include basketball, track, fast pitch softball, FBLA, FCCLA and United Methodist Youth Group. Her accomplishments include President of FCCLA, vice president of FBLA, being on the honor roll and being selected as Student of the Month. She is interested in being outside, playing sports and hanging out with family and friends. Math is her favorite subject and she plans to attend a four-year college. Her role model is her mom.



AnneMarie Smith, senior, is the daughter of Steve and Carol Smith, Groton. Siblings are Sam Smith, Marah Van Diest, Luke Smith, Eric Smith and Isaac Smith.

AnneMarie is involved in show choir, Chamber choir, Jazz Band, marching band, pep band, all-school play, one-act play, Drama Club and cross country. Her accomplishments include being on the 4.0 honor roll, Principal's Honor Roll, All-State Choir, Honor Choir and National Honor Society. She is interested in playing piano, reading, spending time with friends and family. Choir is her favorite subject and she plans to go into music education. Sarah Honerman is her role model.

Department of Revenue reminds consumers to check for sales tax when making online purchases

Pierre, SD—With the holiday season in full swing, the South Dakota Department of Revenue reminds consumers to make sure their online purchases include state and municipal sales taxes.

As of Nov.1, 2018, South Dakota required remote sellers who meet certain thresholds to obtain licensing and remit applicable taxes. South Dakota's remote seller law applies to businesses without a physical presence in South Dakota that meet one or both of the following criteria in the previous or current calendar year:

- The business's gross revenue from sales into South Dakota exceeded \$100,000.
- The business made sales for delivery into South Dakota in 200 or more separate transactions.

If consumers make a purchase from a remote seller and feel they are not charged the correct amount of sales tax, please contact the Department of Revenue by email at bustax@state.sd.us or toll free at 1-800-829-9188. When contacting the department, provide business specifics such as its website.

If sales tax is not charged, South Dakotans owe use tax. Use tax is also due if the sales tax paid to another state was lower than what would have been paid in South Dakota—in this case the difference in the two amounts is how much use tax is owed.

The Department of Revenue offers an online option for South Dakotans to file and pay use tax with a credit card or ACH debit transaction. This feature requires no account registration and can be accessed by visiting <http://dor.sd.gov> then clicking the online use tax payment button under e-services.

For more information on South Dakota's remote seller law, visit <http://sd.gov/remoteseller>.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 141 ~ 8 of 63

Today in Weather History

November 27, 1960: An ice storm occurred from 40 miles on either side of a line from Pipestone to Brainerd, Minnesota. Power and communication lines were downed, leaving at least 22 communities isolated. Ice coating reported ranged from one half to three fourth of an inch at Lake Benton. Heavy snow fell in eastern North Dakota with blizzard conditions throughout the state. In South Dakota, this storm began as freezing rain on the 27th and remained largely as such in the southeast quarter of the state. The remainder of the experienced blizzard conditions with 5 to 10 inches of snow and winds gusting to 30 to 60 mph. These horrible caused extensive closing of schools and businesses, blocked highways, and disrupted telephone and power services. Slippery highways caused many auto accidents. Some loss of livestock was reported, such as 1,000 turkeys in Gettysburg. Restoration of telephone service alone was estimated to have cost \$210,000 and required up to three days after the storm.

November 27, 1983: A weekend storm that began with light snow on the 26th continued to gather strength, culminating in a blizzard that was accompanied by thunder and lightning during the evening hours on the 27th. The heaviest snowfall occurred from Marshall County SSE to Gregory County in South Dakota, with the heaviest snow falling as thunder snow showers. Snow amounts ranged from 4 to 18 inches. Strong winds up to 50 mph created near zero visibilities and difficult driving conditions as numerous roads drifted shut with up to eight-foot drifts. Numerous accidents ensued, with many people forced to stay overnight in their stranded vehicles. Airlines were forced to cancel all flights as airports were closed into midday on the 28th. Almost all schools and businesses were closed on the 28th and even on the 29th in many areas. Storm total snowfall amounts included 8 inches at Clark; 7 inches at Artichoke Lake, Bryant 1NE, Clear Lake, Victor 4 NNE, and Browns Valley; 6 inches at Wheaton, Wilmot, and Harrold 12 SSW; 5 inches at Kennebec, Sisseton, and Mellette 4W; 4 inches at Watertown, Highmore 1W, Murdo, Redfield, Waubay, Ashton 2S, and Britton; and 3 inches at Aberdeen, Castlewood, Columbia 8N, Onida 4NW, and Pierre.

November 27, 1994: Low pressure developed over eastern Colorado late Saturday the 26th and strengthened over Kansas early on the 27th. By late in the day on the 27th, the low pressure system had developed into the first winter storm for Minnesota. By the early morning hours of the 28th, a swath of snow in excess of 6 inches had blanketed much of southwest through central into northeast Minnesota.

Snowfalls of 6 inches or more occurred south of a line from Gunflint Lake in Cook County to near Ortonville in Big Stone County and along and north of a line from near Blue Earth in Faribault county to Red Wing in Goodhue county. The snow closed the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport for a short time on the 27th, and contributed to hundreds of accidents and at least three fatalities. The greatest snowfall was 14.1 inches in Duluth. In addition, very strong east winds gusted over 50 mph in Duluth causing blizzard conditions. The high winds brought waves in excess of 16 feet crashing against the Lake Superior shoreline in Duluth, covering the Duluth Canal Park Lake Walk with extensive debris. A buildup of ice and snow in combination with strong winds resulted in numerous downed power lines in southeast Minnesota. Widespread heavy snow fell over mostly the eastern half of South Dakota on November 27-28. Peak accumulations were 10 inches at Sioux Falls and 9 inches at Howard and near Canton. Damage resulted mainly from numerous minor traffic accidents. Storm snowfall amounts in this area included 8 inches at Eureka; 7 inches at Victor 4NNE, Leola, Onaka 2N, Roscoe, Faulkton, Columbia 8N, Aberdeen, and Selby; 6 inches at Redfield, Mellette 4W, Bryant 1NE, Blunt, Wheaton, and Raymond 3NE; 5 inches at Pollock, Miller, Milbank 2SSW, Ipswich, Harrold 12SSW, Eagle Butte, Clark, Artichoke Lake, and Onida 4NW; 4 inches at Mobridge, Timber Lake, McIntosh 6SE, Conde, Clear Lake, Pierre, and Ashton 2S; 3 inches at Sisseton, Webster, Waubay, Summit 1W, Presho 7NW, Kennebec, Highmore 1W, Gann Valley 4NW, Castlewood, Browns Valley, Watertown, and Wilmot.

November 27, 1701: Anders Celsius, the astronomer who invented the Celsius, often called the centigrade thermometer scale was born on this date.

November 27, 1898: A powerful storm, known as the "Portland Gale" impacted the coastal areas of New England on November 26 - 27, 1898. The storm formed when two areas of low pressures merged off the coast of New Jersey and traveled up the east coast. This storm produced hurricane force winds in Nantucket and sank more than 150 boats and ships.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 141 ~ 9 of 63

Today



Increasing
Clouds

High: 22 °F

Tonight



Chance Snow

Low: 18 °F†

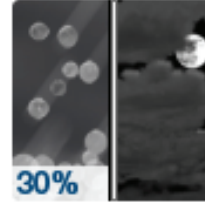
Wednesday



Wintry Mix
Likely

High: 33 °F

Wednesday
Night



Chance Sleet
then Mostly
Cloudy

Low: 27 °F

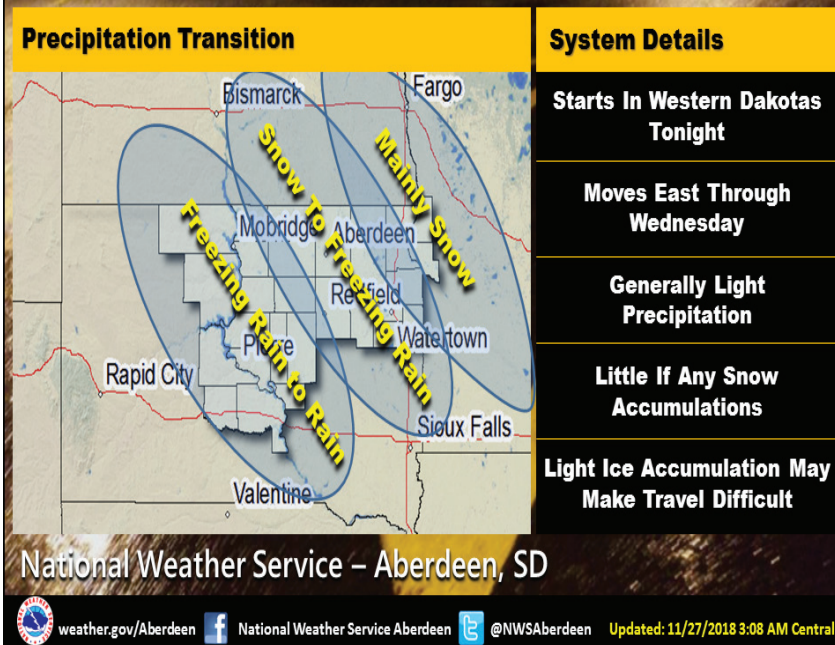
Thursday



Mostly Sunny

High: 38 °F

Weak System Moves Through Wednesday



Published on: 11/27/2018 at 3:18AM

There is a weak system headed towards the region, with generally light precipitation. The issue will be that as warm air displace the cold, it means we will see a transition from snow to sleet/freezing rain and then as we get later into the day, temperatures will be warm enough for just light rain west of the James. Light ice accumulations (just a few hundredths of an inch) are possible, which could make driving difficult.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 141 ~ 10 of 63

Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 16 °F at 4:06 PM

Low Outside Temp: 7 °F at 8:30 AM

High Gust: 17 mph at 8:49 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 70° in 1914

Record Low: -18° in 1985

Average High: 33°F

Average Low: 13°F

Average Precip in Nov.: 0.66

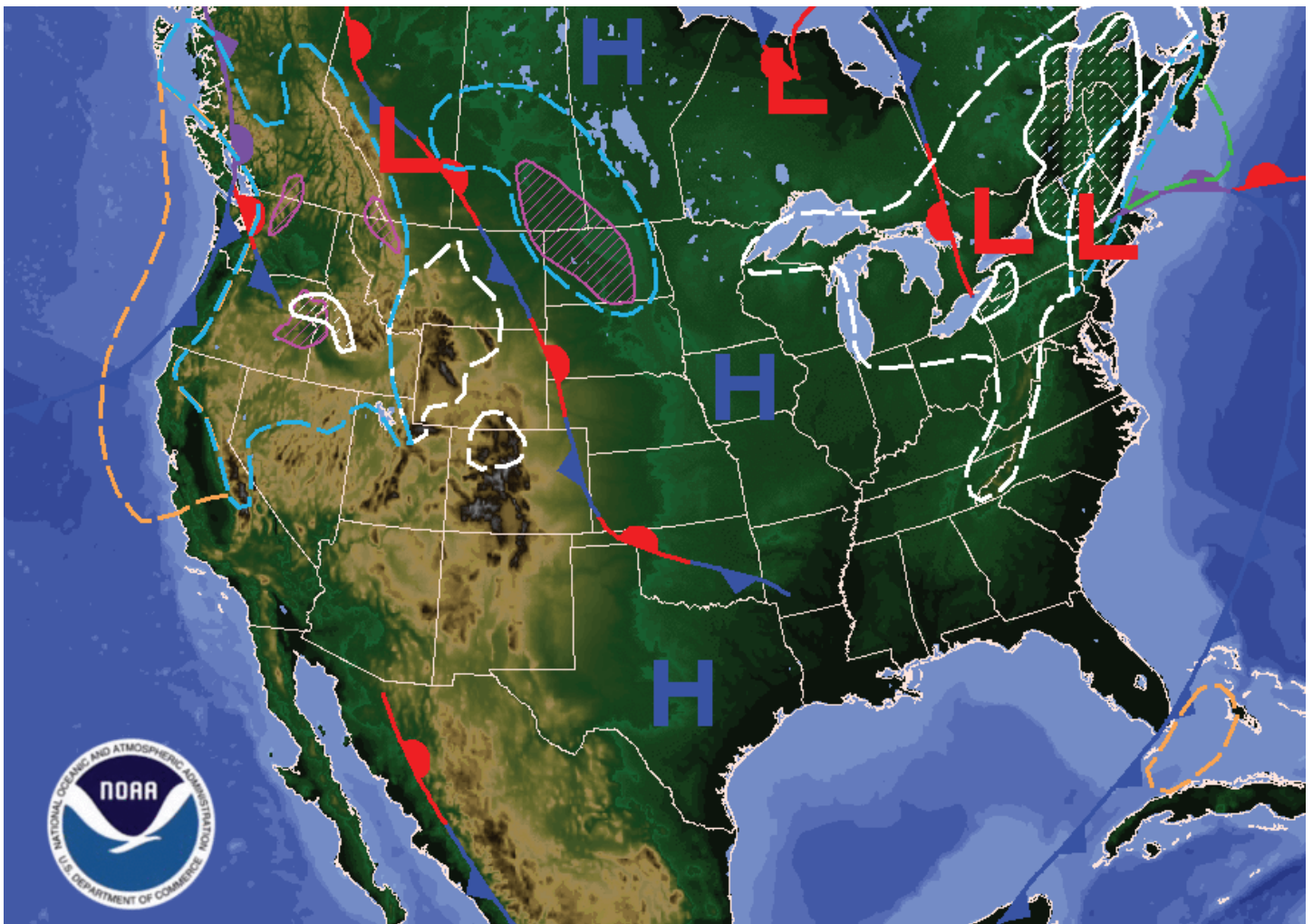
Precip to date in Nov.: 0.76

Average Precip to date: 21.13

Precip Year to Date: 15.81

Sunset Tonight: 4:54 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:50 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Tue, Nov 27, 2018, issued 4:44 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)

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 141 ~ 11 of 63



GODS GRACE

Now and then it is good to take a morning inventory and reflect on the grace of God.

This morning when I opened my eyes, I thanked God for protecting me while I slept. As I turned off the alarm clock, I thanked Him for sounds and my hearing. As I rested for a moment before I got out of bed, I could feel my beating heart which He kept alive while I slept. As I stood up, I thanked Him for my balance, healthy legs and my slippers. As I took a shower, I thanked Him for the warm water, shampoo, soap, a towel and a mat on the floor to keep me from slipping. Then I continued by thanking Him for a mirror, razor, deodorant and on and on until I thanked Him for all of the articles of clothing He provided for me to wear.

And, then I thanked Him for the words of the Psalmist that reminded me of His promise: no good thing will He withhold from those whose walk is blameless.

It was then that I had to pause in deep humility and gratefully thank Him for His love and grace that I do not deserve. It is so easy for me to accept the gifts of God - including my salvation - without realizing that everything I have, or ever had or will have, are gifts from God.

And, as I reflected on that verse the word blameless kept ringing in my ears as though it was my friendly alarm clock. I, of all people, am certainly not blameless. As I meditated on the word blameless for a few minutes and thought about everything I am or have, its not because I am blameless. Its because His life was blameless, and of His unending love, grace, and forgiveness!

Prayer: Thank You, Lord, for loving us, saving us and giving us everything we have. May we be ever grateful! In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 84:11c No good thing will He withhold from those whose walk is blameless.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 141 ~ 12 of 63

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

Keystone XL pipeline builder asks judge to allow some work

By **MATT VOLZ**, Associated Press

HELENA, Mont. (AP) — The company that wants to build the Keystone XL pipeline is asking a judge to change his order blocking the project to allow pre-construction work to continue, such as purchasing materials and finalizing contracts.

Attorneys for the company will argue in a Wednesday telephone conference that U.S. District Judge Brian Morris should clarify or amend his ruling to say the injunction does not apply to activities such as finalizing contracts, purchasing materials, conducting land surveys and discussing federal permits.

TransCanada wants to keep that preliminary work on track so that the Calgary-based company can be prepared to start pipeline construction as early as mid-February.

Blocking the pre-construction work even for several weeks would likely cause the company to miss the entire 2019 construction season and delay its 2021 target for oil to start flowing through the pipeline.

"A one-year delay in construction of the pipeline would result in substantial harm to TransCanada, as well as to United States workers, and to TransCanada's customers relying on the current in-service date of the project," TransCanada Pipelines Limited Senior Vice President Norrie Ramsay said in a written statement to the court.

A year-long delay would cost TransCanada \$949 million in earnings and put off the hiring of about 6,600 workers for construction, Ramsay said.

On Nov. 8, Morris blocked TransCanada's permit to build the pipeline from Alberta's oil sands through a half-dozen U.S. states to the Gulf of Mexico.

The judge had ruled the Trump administration had not fully considered the environmental effects of the pipeline.

TransCanada's attorneys say the company is considering appealing Morris' order. Ramsay also estimates that it could take as long as the first quarter of 2019 for federal agencies to complete the review that Morris ordered.

One group that sued to block the pipeline project, the Northern Plains Resource Council, declined comment on TransCanada's request, spokesman Dustin Ogdin said.

The attorney for another plaintiff, Indigenous Environmental Network, did not respond to a voicemail requesting comment.

South Dakota records 1st flu death of season

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota has recorded its first flu death of the season.

The state Department of Health said Monday the person who died was a Pennington County resident in the 60-to-69 age group. To protect patient confidentiality, no other information was released.

State epidemiologist Dr. Joshua Clayton says the death is a reminder that influenza "can be a very serious illness." Clayton says it's not too late to get a flu shot.

Clayton says flu activity in South Dakota is currently classified as sporadic. So far, the state has reported 35 lab-confirmed cases of flu and eight flu-related hospitalizations.

Each year, an average of 33 South Dakotan deaths are reported to the Health Department following influenza infections. An annual flu vaccination is recommended for everyone age 6 months and older.

Authorities identify 61-year-old Winner man killed in crash

DALLAS, S.D. (AP) — Authorities have identified a Winner man who died in a one-vehicle crash in Gregory County.

The Highway Patrol says 61-year-old Albert Davis lost control of his pickup truck on U.S. Highway 18 the

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 141 ~ 14 of 63

evening of Nov. 18 and the vehicle rolled in the ditch.

Davis was pronounced dead at the scene about a mile west of Dallas, South Dakota. He was alone in the pickup.

Vikings enter tough stretch with fuel from victory over Pack

By DAVE CAMPBELL, AP Pro Football Writer

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The Minnesota Vikings have a lot of work left just to make the playoffs before the championship chase even comes back into the conversation.

The Vikings face daunting back-to-back road games against New England and Seattle, with the every-four-years matchup against five-time Super Bowl champion Tom Brady and the Patriots up this Sunday afternoon and a Monday night meeting with the surging Seahawks in their deafening stadium on deck for Dec. 10.

The load, though, is a lot lighter after beating the rival Green Bay Packers 24-17 on Sunday night.

"Winning's not easy. It takes so much effort. It takes a lot of practice and time and energy," wide receiver Adam Thielen said. "When you win, it feels good."

The complete performance, though not without blemishes, was especially rewarding given the way the Vikings played at Chicago on Nov. 18 in the 25-20 defeat that gave the Bears a firm hold on the NFC North.

"That loss in Chicago hurt, and I know a lot of the guys felt that way," coach Mike Zimmer said Monday. "I know that they were concerned about the future schedule going on, but we had to focus on one game."

The Vikings (6-4-1), who trail in the division race by 1½ games and finish the season with a rematch against the Bears at home on Dec. 30, moved into the first NFC wild-card spot. The problem is there are four teams tied at 6-5, with one of those slots to go to the NFC East winner. With the difficulty of these next two games, the Vikings could very well fall below the cut and have to win their way back in over the last three weeks.

If they can collectively play as well against the Patriots and Seahawks as they did against the depleted Packers, though, they'll give themselves a good chance to stay on a winning streak. The defense will be tested anew by Brady, but Zimmer said the hamstring injury suffered by cornerback Xavier Rhodes was "very, very mild," an encouraging development for the pass coverage.

The offense, of course, was under the most pressure after that dud against the Bears and their fierce defense. Dalvin Cook made more of an impact, scoring his first touchdown of the season on the kind of basic screen pass that has been largely missing from the game plan. Offensive coordinator John DeFilippo sent more running plays to the perimeter, where there was more space to operate. The blockers up front had one of their best games of the year in protecting Kirk Cousins, who came through with three touchdown passes without a turnover.

"When you hold the football in your hands, you hold the livelihoods of a lot of people in that building and their families," Cousins said. "It has to matter to us. One coach told me many times, 'Ball security is job security, yours and mine.'"

Cousins showed more willingness to run with the ball, too, on the handful of occasions the pocket collapsed and nobody was open. Zimmer encouraged him to do so in a wide-ranging conversation last week, after Cousins threw two interceptions against the Bears in a performance that was his worst with the Vikings.

"I just want to play well for these guys, not just for coach Zimmer, but for our staff. They work so hard. They deserve a lot of respect and recognition, and then certainly our locker room. I just feel so good about our team, and I said that to them in pregame. I like us. I like our guys," Cousins said after the game Sunday night. "Unfortunately, just being a great group of guys doesn't mean you get wins handed to you, but we had to go out and earn tonight."

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

Former South Dakota education cooperative director sentenced

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — The sentencing of a former South Dakota educational cooperative official who pleaded guilty to falsifying evidence caps a high-profile case prosecutors dubbed “Gear Up.”

The Daily Republic reports former Mid-Central Educational Cooperative Director Dan Guericke received a suspended imposition of sentence Monday.

Guericke must pay a \$1,000 fine and other costs, but his sentence will be suspended and the suspended imposition will be sealed. Guericke’s attorney didn’t immediately return a message.

Attorney General Marty Jackley says he told the court Guericke accepted responsibility for his actions. Guericke had pleaded guilty to one felony count of falsifying evidence; other charges were dropped in a plea deal.

Prosecutors accused Guericke and consultant Stacy Phelps of backdating contracts. A jury cleared Phelps. They were charged after a financial investigation launched because Mid-Central employee Scott Westerhuis killed his family and himself in 2015.

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

Kristi Noem names 3 to governor’s office leadership team

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Gov.-elect Kristi Noem has named a chief of staff and filled key leadership roles for finance and communications in her upcoming administration.

Noem announced Monday that her deputy campaign manager, Herb Jones, will be chief of staff. Jones has experience in several governors’ administrations and previously served as chief of staff to then-Rep. John Thune.

Noem also named her former U.S. House communications director, Joshua Shields, as chief of communications and current Bureau of Finance and Management Commissioner Liza Clark to be chief of finance.

Noem says they will have an “immediate impact” as the administration starts moving on its agenda to grow the economy, maintain low taxes and improve government transparency.

Noem and Lt. Gov.-elect Larry Rhoden will be sworn into office in January.

Farm bankruptcies on the rise in Upper Midwest

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The number of farms filing for bankruptcy is increasing across the Upper Midwest, following low prices for corn, soybeans, milk and beef, according to a new analysis from the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis.

The analysis found that 84 farms filed for bankruptcy in Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and Montana in the 12 months that ended in June. That’s more than double the number over the same period in 2013 and 2014.

“Current price levels and the trajectory of the current trends suggest that this trend has not yet seen a peak,” said Ron Wirtz, an analyst at the Minneapolis Fed.

The increase in Chapter 12 filings reflect low prices for corn, soybeans, milk and beef, The Star Tribune reported. The situation has gotten worse for farmers since June because of the retaliatory tariffs that have closed the Chinese market for soybeans and held back exports of milk and beef. Chapter 12 bankruptcy allows for repayment of debt over three years.

“Dairy farmers are having the most problems right now,” said Mark Miedtke, the president of Citizens State Bank in Hayfield. “Grain farmers have had low prices for the past three years but high yields have helped them through. We’re just waiting for a turnaround. We’re waiting for the tariff problem to go away.”

Miedtke said the underlying problem began before the trade issues, with farmers being too efficient for their financial good and demand not keeping pace with the production.

“The picture could start changing this spring,” Miedtke said. “We do what we can to try to work with farmers.”

___ Information from: Star Tribune, <http://www.startribune.com>

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 141 ~ 16 of 63

Excerpts from recent South Dakota editorials

By The Associated Press

American News, Aberdeen, Nov. 24

How will Thune use his new Washington influence?

For a small state, South Dakota has a history of producing some big-time politicians.

John Thune is the latest.

The Republican U.S. senator from Murdo has been promoted to majority whip, the second-highest rank in the Senate Republican leadership. Since 2012, Thune had been serving in the No. 3 leadership post as chairman of the Senate Republican Conference.

All excellent achievements for a small-state senator who was first elected in 2005. Thune, who is in his third term, served in the U.S. House from 1997 to 2003.

What does Thune's new role entail in the GOP-controlled Senate?

Whips are responsible for rounding up party members for votes. Thune also would stand in for the majority leader (Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky.) in his absence. McConnell, by the way, was first elected to the Senate in 1984.

Thune will help create, steer and reroute the Republican road map that will help drive our nation.

Being second in command of the U.S. Senate is a big deal. So was the fact that Thune was unopposed for the job. It shows the confidence and respect Thune's colleagues have in and for him.

We are a small state, but we have some big-time influence on big decisions ahead.

Thune has talked about the importance of working together with Democrats to get things done. That is easier said than done in highly partisan Washington, D.C. Thune has reliably fallen in line with his Republican cohorts on most every major issue. As whip, he will be expected to "carry the water" for tried-and-true party principles.

Of course, his seat of influence can help South Dakotans. Despite some misgivings about candidate Donald Trump, Thune has been a solid supporter of President Donald Trump. That could work to the advantage of our region; Trump would benefit from more contact with agriculture and ethanol-producing states, for instance.

Thune has risen higher in D.C. politics than any South Dakotan has in 13 years.

Aberdeen's own Tom Daschle was a long-time national star in the Democratic Party, and his term as Senate majority leader is still the highest Senate rank of any South Dakotan.

Daschle represented South Dakota in the U.S. House from 1979 to 1987 and in the U.S. Senate from 1987 to 2005, when he was unseated by Thune.

Now it is Thune's turn, having earned a seat at the table of national leaders who heavily influence policy.

How will he use his new seat of power in Washington, D.C.?

As majority whip, it would be easy for Sen. Thune to be further entrenched in party politics.

We hope that Thune — and all elected officials — put country before "R" or "D," and make good decisions for all Americans, not just their strongest supporters.

Now, more than ever, the world will be watching South Dakota's senior senator.

Madison Daily Leader, Madison, Nov. 21

Citizens should stay engaged for 5G

Madison is on the front edge of a new technology movement, and we're excited about the possibilities. Cellular connectivity is about to make a generational change from technology known as 4G to 5G. Technology experts say, however, this jump isn't just a little faster, but a lot faster with higher capacity.

We first heard about the technology when U.S. Sen. John Thune, chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee, hosted a field hearing at Dakota State University in October 2017. Since then, DSU has discussed using the technology on campus, then helping it expand to Madison and the rest of South Dakota.

The city of Madison signed an agreement last month allowing Verizon Wireless to set up small-cell antenna poles in the city rights of way.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 141 ~ 17 of 63

There are many other cities working to do the same thing, so Madison won't be the absolute first, but we'll be in the first wave.

At Monday's city commission meeting, local residents are wondering what equipment will be seen in the city. Unlike current cellular antennas, which are on Lakeview Tower, Madison's water tower and some radio towers, the new generation antennas will be lower and greater in number.

The commissioners spent some time explaining the circumstances and equipment. It was a good dialogue that needs to continue.

While many citizens won't be interested, others should be eager to understand and take advantage of the technology. And we should be concerned about the aesthetics of how our city looks and possible alternatives that would maintain the attractiveness of Madison.

Our point is that we should keep this dialogue going. City commissioners should continue to listen and work toward building this great technology, while listening to citizens' concerns and adapting plans along the way.

Rapid City Journal, Nov. 25

Require social media firms to disclose

No amount of assurances can repair the trust damaged by a friend's betrayal. Our feelings about Facebook have come a long way since 2015, when we marveled at this latest Horatio Alger story, which used cat videos and doe-eyed selfies to link a fourth of all mankind in a multibillion-dollar extravaganza. Since then, data breaches, political manipulation and indifference over consequences have exposed a disturbing dark side to the social media company.

In April, Sen. John Thune led a hearing into Facebook's role in sharing the data of 87 million users with the analytics firm Cambridge Analytica. Thune warned Facebook then it needed to do better at protecting free speech, protecting user data and ensuring our data gets used responsibly. Failing that, he warned, "new laws may be necessary to secure Americans' privacy."

We were skeptical of government regulation then, and we remain so, but we also grow increasingly skeptical Facebook will adequately address these legitimate concerns. A recent New York Times expose — relying on interviews from 50 insiders — inspires little confidence the social media behemoth will improve itself.

The company has responded to scandals involving Russian meddling, data sharing and fostering hate speech by resorting to aggressive campaign tactics: attacking others to distract, plus denying, delaying and minimizing the harm.

The company was slow to recognize how extensively Russian interests had exploited its platform to meddle in American democracy, it dragged its feet on investigating the issue, and it was even slower to admit its failings publicly.

Facebook also refused responsibility amid concerns in Myanmar, India, Germany and elsewhere that the company had become an instrument of government propaganda and ethnic cleansing. Facebook claimed to be merely a platform, like a telephone company, but a telephone company does not take notes on conversations, search for key words and analyze the information to help others influence opinion.

It would be naïve of us to think Facebook allows the use of its impressive and useful platform without benefit. It uses our data to sell advertising. If you don't like it, don't use it.

The problem has been Facebook's secrecy around how it uses our data, how it secures it, and how it prevents the malicious use of this tremendous source of power. Facebook may not be too big to fail, but it is powerful enough to imperil democracy.

We must, however, resist knee-jerk regulation, which risks imposing a solution more dangerous than the problem. A ministry of propaganda, whereby the powerful determine proper usage of data, would be the greatest threat.

Regulation should not focus on ensuring Facebook does the right thing. It should instead focus on making sure the public has some knowledge of how its data gets used. The government makes similar requirements of financial institutions and insurance companies. For years now, we have had the right to know

our credit scores. We also know our means of recourse when money or data gets mishandled.

Social media companies should be subject to these same requirements. We should aim to balance the right of a company to profit from the use of proprietary information with that of the public good. More knowledge would answer the question of what else is going on inside these social media behemoths. Scrutiny would enable us to look for deeper patterns.

Social media will continue evolving, displacing markets and industries, and changing the world in ways unforeseen. We should not abdicate responsibility for ensuring these companies do not exploit us in their pursuit of profits.

Disclosure by itself is not a fix. As in every democracy, the public must remain engaged. We must become more discerning and evolve better instincts to avoid sophisticated manipulation.

These past few years have seen the rise of fact checkers and other means of monitoring falsehoods. These help.

The need of social media companies to maintain our trust remains the strongest deterrent against misdeeds. A check of the stock market shows why. Since July 20, the value of a Facebook share has declined 37 percent. We have the power. What we need is information.

We encourage Sen. Thune to pursue a carefully crafted requirement for disclosure of information by all social media companies.

Fatal garage fire investigated in Rapid City

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Authorities are investigating a fatal fire in Rapid City.

The fire in a detached garage was reported about 1:30 a.m. Monday. The Rapid City Journal reports police officers found an injured person at the scene, who taken to the hospital.

Once firefighters extinguished the fire, a body was found in the garage. The person was pronounced dead at the scene.

Rapid City police and fire and the Pennington County Sheriff's Office are investigating.

5 decorated veterans selected for South Dakota pheasant hunt

By TIM 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.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 141 ~ 19 of 63

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 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

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 141 ~ 20 of 63

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.

"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>

Last US Senate race of midterms up for vote in Mississippi

By EMILY WAGSTER PETTUS, Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — Mississippi voters are deciding the last U.S. Senate race of the midterms, choosing between a white Republican Senate appointee backed by President Donald Trump and a black Democrat who was agriculture secretary when Bill Clinton was in the White House.

History will be made either way: Republican Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith, 59, would be the first woman ever elected to Congress from Mississippi, and Democrat Mike Espy, 64, would be the state's first African-American U.S. senator since Reconstruction.

Mississippi's past of racist violence became a dominant theme after a video showed Hyde-Smith praising a supporter in early November by saying, "If he invited me to a public hanging, I'd be on the front row." She said it was "an exaggerated expression of regard." More than a week after the video's release, she said she apologized to "anyone that was offended by my comments," but also said the remark was used as a "weapon" against her.

Hyde-Smith was seen in another video talking about making voting difficult for "liberal folks," and a photo circulated of her wearing a replica Confederate military hat during a 2014 visit to Beauvoir, a beachside museum in Biloxi, Mississippi, that was the last home of Confederate president Jefferson Davis.

Critics said Hyde-Smith's comments and Confederate regalia showed callous indifference in a state with a 38 percent black population, and some corporate donors, including Walmart, requested refunds on their campaign contributions to her.

Mississippi — which still has the Confederate battle emblem on its state flag — has a history of racially motivated lynchings. The NAACP website says that between 1882 and 1968, there were 4,743 lynchings in the United States, and that nearly 73 percent of the victims were black. It says Mississippi had 581 lynching during that time, the highest number of any state.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 141 ~ 21 of 63

Hyde-Smith was in her second term as Mississippi's elected agriculture commissioner when Republican Gov. Phil Bryant chose her to temporarily succeed longtime Republican Sen. Thad Cochran, who retired in April amid health concerns. Tuesday's winner will serve the last two years of Cochran's six-year term.

Hyde-Smith has campaigned as an unwavering supporter of Trump, who campaigned with her Monday, praising her at a rally in the northeastern Mississippi city of Tupelo for voting to confirm Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court.

"She stood up to the Democrat smear machine," Trump said.

With the Mississippi election undecided, Republicans hold 52 of the 100 Senate seats.

Mississippi last elected a Democrat to the U.S. Senate in 1982, but Espy was trying for the same kind of longshot win that fellow Democrat Doug Jones had nearly a year ago in neighboring Alabama, another conservative Deep South state where Republicans hold most statewide offices.

Espy campaigned as someone who would be able to bridge the partisan divide in Washington. He was endorsed by former Vice President Joe Biden, and three Democrats who are potential 2020 presidential candidates — former Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick and Sens. Kamala Harris of California and Cory Booker of New Jersey — traveled to Mississippi to campaign for him.

"I ask you tonight, Mississippi. It's the third decade of the 21st century. Why are we still fighting about the color line?" Espy said during a speech Monday night at a predominantly African-American church.

"This is a campaign that goes to the color line and it reached across the color line, across the chasm of racial division, across the chasm of racial acrimony," Espy said.

If white voters outnumber black voters 2-to-1 on Tuesday, Espy would have to win 30 percent or more of white votes, a tough task in a state with possibly the most racially polarized electorate in the country. But if black voters rise to 40 percent of the electorate and Espy wins 9 out of 10, he needs less than a quarter of white votes to squeak out a victory.

"If Espy wins that race, it represents a huge breakthrough for America," said the Rev. Jesse Jackson, a longtime civil rights activist and former Democratic presidential candidate. "If he loses, it's a brief statement about Mississippi being unrepentant."

Meanwhile, federal and state authorities are investigating seven nooses that were found hanging from trees outside the Mississippi Capitol on Monday, along with handwritten signs that referred to the Senate runoff and the state's history of lynching.

Hyde-Smith campaign hammered Espy for his \$750,000 lobbying contract in 2011 with the Cocoa and Coffee Board of the Ivory Coast. She noted that the country's ex-president, Laurent Gbagbo, is being tried in the International Criminal Court for crimes against humanity.

"I don't know how many Mississippians can really relate to an income that can command a \$750,000 check from one person for a lobbying job," Hyde-Smith, who is a cattle rancher, said during a Nov. 20 debate.

Espy, who is an attorney, said: "I found out later that this guy, the president, was a really bad guy. I resigned the contract."

Federal registration papers show Espy terminated the contract two weeks before its scheduled end.

Espy resigned the Cabinet post in 1994 amid a special counsel investigation that accused him of improperly accepting gifts. He was tried and acquitted on 30 corruption charges, but the Mississippi Republican Party ran an ad this year that called Espy "too corrupt for the Clintons" and "too liberal for Mississippi."

Espy said he refused to accept offers of plea deals.

"I put my reputation on the line, went through a trial, went through 70 witnesses against me, went through the special prosecutor who spent \$26 million against me and I was found not guilty. Because I was not guilty," Espy told The Associated Press in October. "In fact, I was so not guilty, I was innocent."

Associated Press writer Jeff Amy contributed to this report.

For AP's complete coverage of the U.S. midterm elections: <http://apne.ws/APPolitics> . Follow Emily Wagster Pettus on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/EWagsterPettus> .

10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

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

1. MUELLER ACCUSES MANAFORT OF BREAKING PLEA AGREEMENT BY LYING

The extraordinary allegation could expose Trump's former campaign chairman to a lengthier prison sentence — and potentially more criminal charges.

2. MISSISSIPPI VOTERS TO CAST HISTORIC BALLOTS

In a race in which the state's racist history became a dominant theme, Republican Cindy Hyde-Smith would be the first woman elected to Congress from Mississippi, and Democrat Mike Espy would be the state's first black U.S. senator since Reconstruction.

3. WHAT MIGRANTS ARE WEIGHING

Thousands of Central American migrants in Tijuana are exploring their options amid diminishing hope of making successful asylum bids in the U.S. or of crossing the border illegally.

4. KREMLIN: CONFLICT IN EAST UKRAINE COULD ESCALATE

Moscow warns that the martial law that will go into effect in parts of Ukraine might trigger renewed hostilities in the separatist-held east.

5. SAUDI PRINCE LOOKS TO REBUILD IMAGE ABROAD

Mohammed bin Salman's first international trip since writer Jamal Khashoggi's killing will offer indications of the repercussions he faces.

6. 'I DON'T BELIEVE IT'

Trump rejects a central conclusion of a dire report on the economic costs of climate change, but economists say the government's projections are accurate.

7. DESPITE STRONG ECONOMY, GM SLASHES JOBS

The automaker's major restructuring is aimed at generating cash to spend on innovation such as electric and autonomous vehicles.

8. 'TOUCHDOWN CONFIRMED!'

The InSight spacecraft landing at Mars was NASA's eighth since the 1976 Viking probes and the first in six years.

9. HOLLYWOOD'S AWARDS SEASON KICKS OFF

And Chloe Zhao's elegiac, lyrical Western "The Rider" takes best feature film at the 28th annual Gotham Awards.

10. TEXANS SET FRANCHISE RECORD

Deshaun Watson throws for 210 yards and two touchdowns and runs for a third score as Houston wins its eighth straight, 34-17 over Tennessee.

After Khashoggi, Saudi prince looks to rebuild image abroad

By AYA BATRAWY, Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's first trip abroad since the killing of Saudi writer Jamal Khashoggi will offer an early indication of the repercussions he faces from the gruesome slaying.

The prince is visiting close allies in the Middle East before attending the Group of 20 summit in Argentina on Nov. 30, where he will come face to face with President Donald Trump, who has defended U.S. ties with the kingdom, as well as European leaders and Turkey's president, who has kept pressure mounting on Riyadh since Khashoggi was killed and dismembered in the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul on Oct. 2.

"It's really going to be about can you travel to the rest of Western capitals for the foreseeable future and expect to sort of shake people's hands, and I'm not sure that that's the case," said H.A. Hellyer, a scholar at the Royal United Services Institute and Atlantic Council.

The trip, aimed at rebuilding his image and reinforcing ties with allies, promises to offer a contrast to the prince's lengthy tour across the United States in April, where he met Michael Bloomberg, Rupert Murdoch,

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 141 ~ 23 of 63

Disney chief Bob Iger, Google co-founder Sergey Brin, Apple's Tim Cook and former President George H. Bush, among many others.

"There's no way he could do that sort of trip right now," Hellyer said. The crown prince's plan to attend the G-20 summit in Buenos Aires "tells me that he feels that he's ridden out the storm, or that in order for him to ride out the storm this is exactly what he needs to do."

After denying any knowledge of Khashoggi's death for weeks, Saudi authorities eventually settled on the explanation that he was killed in an operation aimed at forcibly bringing the writer back to the kingdom. Saudi prosecutors say the plan was masterminded by two former advisers to the crown prince and are now seeking the death penalty for five people allegedly involved in the killing.

That seems to have settled the matter for Trump, who issued an extraordinary statement last week saying the U.S. would not take further action after sanctioning 17 individuals linked to the killing. Trump has brushed aside assessments by U.S. intelligence and other experts that the crown prince must have been involved in the high-level operation, and said he would maintain close relations with Saudi Arabia in part because of its oil wealth and its multi-billion-dollar purchases of U.S. arms.

Trump's contention that "maybe he did, maybe he didn't" order the killing appears to have helped pave the way for the crown prince's return to international forums.

But even if Trump shakes his hand at the G-20 summit, the crown prince could still remain persona non grata within Washington's beltway, where members of Congress from both parties have demanded stronger action, as well as Wall Street and Silicon Valley.

He could also get an icy reception from other leaders at the G-20. In Europe there have been calls to end arms sales to Saudi Arabia, and Canada could still be smarting from a diplomatic row sparked by Saudi anger at its criticism over human rights in the kingdom. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who is expected to attend the summit, was instrumental to the global backlash the prince now faces.

Despite the international outrage, the crown prince's decision to travel to Argentina signals that he still has the strong support of his 82-year-old father, King Salman, and faces no major threat at home.

Already, there are protesters in Tunisia rallying to denounce the crown prince's arrival there Tuesday evening and an effort by a lawyer's group to seek a court order blocking his visit.

In Argentina, a judge is examining a Human Rights Watch submission related to the crown prince's involvement as defense minister in alleged violations of international law committed in Yemen by the Saudi-led coalition at war there, and his possible complicity in the murder of Khashoggi.

On his first stop on the tour, in the United Arab Emirates, the crown prince was embraced on the tarmac by Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed, a close ally who has reportedly served as a mentor to the 33-year-old royal. The crown prince attended the Formula One Grand Prix in Abu Dhabi, where he was filmed in a VIP box chatting with the former King of Spain Juan Carlos and Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov.

In possible a sign of changes underway, Prince Mohammed embarked on his foreign tour with figures who may take on greater prominence as he redraws his circle of advisers. Those include Minister of State Mohammad Al Shaikh, Chief of General Intelligence Khalid al-Humaidan and royal court adviser Prince Turki bin Mohammed bin Fahd, among others.

The two close advisers implicated in the Khashoggi killing — Saud al-Qahtani, a royal court adviser who was a friend of the crown prince, and Ahmed al-Assiri, a general whom the crown prince had promoted to a top intelligence post — were fired last month. The crown prince himself oversees all major levers of power in the kingdom, including the military and security forces.

Saudi analyst Mohammed Alyahya said that over the past two years many state institutions in the kingdom were marginalized in favor of a quicker, ad hoc decision-making process led by people with newfound power.

"There's a real understanding, I think, in the kingdom, that there needs to be serious structural change to ensure that something like this can never happen again," Alyahya said. "I think we're going to see definitely some return to institutionalism, some return to a consensus-based decision-making process and commitment to defined procedures."

Still, it remains to be seen whether a wider circle of advisers will be consulted, whether they will challenge the crown prince and whether he will listen to them.

"I'm unaware that he employs anybody deliberately who will tell him 'that's a really bad idea,'" said Simon Henderson, a scholar at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy who has written extensively about the crown prince.

"He is not getting that challenging advice, nor is he seeking it from within his inner circle and from outsiders. He may listen, but he doesn't absorb," Henderson said.

Follow Aya Batrawy on twitter at <https://twitter.com/ayaelb>

Mueller accuses Manafort of breaking plea agreement by lying

By CHAD DAY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The special counsel in the Russia investigation is accusing former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort of violating his plea agreement by repeatedly lying to federal investigators, an extraordinary allegation that could expose him to a lengthier prison sentence — and potentially more criminal charges.

The torpedoing of Manafort's plea deal, disclosed in a court filing Monday, also results in special counsel Robert Mueller's team losing a cooperating witness from the top of Donald Trump's presidential campaign who was present for several key episodes under investigation. That includes a Trump Tower meeting involving Donald Trump Jr. and a Russian lawyer he was told had derogatory information on Democrat Hillary Clinton.

The move signals a return to the acrimonious relationship Manafort has had with the special counsel's office since his indictment last year. Before his plea agreement, Manafort aggressively challenged the special counsel's legitimacy in court, went through a bitter trial and landed himself in jail after prosecutors discovered he had attempted to tamper with witnesses in his case.

In the latest filing, Mueller's team said Manafort "committed federal crimes" by lying about "a variety of subject matters" even after he agreed to truthfully cooperate with the investigation. Prosecutors said they will detail the "nature of the defendant's crimes and lies" in writing at a later date to the judge.

Through his attorneys, Manafort denied lying, saying he "believes he provided truthful information" during a series of sessions with Mueller's investigators. He also disagreed that he breached his plea agreement. Still, both sides now agree they can't resolve the conflict, and U.S. District Judge Amy Berman Jackson should set a date to sentence him.

Manafort, who remains jailed, had been meeting with the special counsel's office since he pleaded guilty in September to conspiracy against the United States and conspiracy to obstruct justice. He cut that deal to head off a second trial after being convicted last summer of eight felony counts related to millions of dollars he hid from the IRS in offshore accounts.

Both cases stemmed from his Ukrainian political work and undisclosed lobbying work he admitted to carrying out in the U.S. in violation of federal law.

As part of his plea agreement, Manafort pledged to "cooperate fully, truthfully, completely, and forthrightly" with the government "in any and all matters" prosecutors deemed necessary. That included his work on the Trump campaign as well as his Ukrainian political work, which remains under investigation by the U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York.

Prosecutors there are looking into the conduct of longtime Democratic lobbyist Tony Podesta, former Obama White House counsel Greg Craig and former Republican congressman and lobbyist Vin Weber to determine whether they violated federal law by failing to register as foreign agents with the Justice Department. None of the men has been charged with any crimes.

As part of his plea deal, Manafort also forfeited many of his rights as well as his ability to withdraw the plea if he broke any of the terms. In return, prosecutors agreed to not bring additional charges against him and to ask a judge for a reduction of his sentence if he provided "substantial assistance."

But with prosecutors saying he breached the agreement, Manafort now faces serious repercussions such as the possibility of prosecution on additional charges including the 10 felony counts prosecutors dropped when he made the deal.

Manafort already faces up to five years in prison on the two charges in his plea agreement. In his separate Virginia case, Manafort's potential sentencing under federal guidelines has not yet been calculated, but prosecutors have previously said he could face as much as 10 years in prison on those charges.

He is scheduled to be sentenced in that case in February. His co-defendant, Rick Gates, who spent a longer time on the campaign and worked on the Trump inaugural committee, has not had a sentencing date set yet. He continues to cooperate with Mueller.

Follow Chad Day on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ChadSDay>

Read the court filing: <http://apne.ws/YN2AwkK>

Caravan migrants explore options after Tijuana border clash

By CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN, Associated Press

TIJUANA, Mexico (AP) — Many among the more than 5,000 Central American migrants in Tijuana were urgently exploring their options amid a growing feeling that they had little hope of making successful asylum bids in the United States or of crossing the border illegally.

Most were dispirited on Monday, a day after U.S. agents fired tear gas into Mexico to turn back some migrants who had breached the border. They saw the clash and official response as hurting their chances of reaching the U.S.

There was a steady line outside a shelter at a tent housing the International Organization for Migration, where officials were offering assistance for those who wanted to return to their home countries.

Officials also reported more interest from migrants wanting to start the process staying in Mexico. A job fair matching migrants with openings in Baja California saw a growing number of inquiries.

"What happened yesterday harms all of us," Oscar Leonel Mina, a 22-year-old father from San Salvador, El Salvador, said about Sunday's border clash.

Mina and his wife and their toddler daughter avoided the march and were glad they did after hearing others recount what unfolded, he said as he sat in the doorway of his family's tent at Tijuana sports complex using a toothbrush to clean the fine dust that coats everything off his sneakers.

At the tent next door, 23-year-old Brandon Castillo of Santa Rosa, Guatemala chimed in that "they say it was the whole caravan, but it wasn't the whole caravan."

The events made Mina rethink his family's plan of making it to the U.S. He says he's heard people talk of Rosarito, a beach town popular with U.S. tourists about a 40-minute drive south of Tijuana.

There "you can earn money and live well" if you're willing to work, he said. He set a goal of trying to move his family out of the shelter in another week.

Mexican security forces stepped up their presence at the complex where thousands from the migrant caravan have been sheltered, apparently seeking to avoid a repeat of Sunday's ugly scene.

Tijuana public safety secretary Marco Antonio Sotomayor Amezcua said in a news conference that Mexican police would be prudent in their use of force, but "we have to guard at all cost that the border posts are not closed again."

Sotomayor said he hopes migrants who had thought of entering the U.S. illegally learned from Sunday's events that that won't be possible.

Migrants hoping to apply for asylum in the United States must put their names on a waiting list that already had some 3,000 people on it before the caravan arrived in Tijuana. With U.S. officials processing fewer than 100 claims a day, the wait time for the recent arrivals stands to take months.

That has instilled a sense of desperation among many after their grueling trek from Central America. Sunday's incident began after hundreds marched to the border to try to call attention to their plight. Some

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 141 ~ 26 of 63

attempted to get through fencing and wire separating the countries, prompting volleys of stinging gas.

Cindy Martinez of San Vicente, El Salvador, said she had been about to cross the concertina wire to the U.S. side when the tear gas was launched. She estimated about 20 people had already passed in front of her, and parents begged agents not to unleash the gas because there were young children present.

"I see it as impossible for them to want to give us asylum," she said. "Because of the words that President Donald Trump has said, I think this is impossible."

Martinez, 28, said she was now considering getting work in Tijuana.

Mexico's National Migration Institute reported that 98 migrants were being deported after trying to breach the U.S. border. The country's Interior Department said about 500 people attempted to rush the border, while U.S. authorities put the number at 1,000.

Baja California state Gov. Francisco Vega said almost 9,000 migrants were in his state — mostly in Tijuana, with a smaller number in Mexicali — and called it "an issue of national security." Vega issued a public appeal to Mexico's federal government to take over responsibility for sheltering the migrants and deport any who break the law.

Alex Castillo carried a red bedroll slung over his shoulder as he walked away from the Tijuana shelter on Monday, saying he would head to the industrial city of Monterrey to look for work and try to cross into the United States next year.

The 35-year-old electrician from Tegucigalpa, Honduras, said he wasn't at the border clash. He heard about it from others and decided to leave "to avoiding getting beaten."

Kremlin warns of flare-up of hostilities in eastern Ukraine

By NATALIYA VASILYEVA, Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — The Kremlin has warned that the martial law that will go into effect in parts of Ukraine on Wednesday might trigger renewed hostilities in the separatist-held east.

The Ukrainian parliament on Monday adopted a motion by the president to impose martial law for 30 days, something that Ukraine avoided doing even when Russia annexed its Crimean peninsula or sent in clandestine troops and weapons to the war-torn east.

The vote followed Sunday's standoff near Crimea in which Russian border guards rammed into and opened fire on three Ukrainian navy vessels as they were trying to make their way from the Black Sea toward a Ukrainian port. The Russians seized the ships and their crews, who are expected to face a court later on Tuesday.

Russia and Ukraine traded blame for the confrontation that raised the specter of a full-blown conflict between the neighbors. Ukraine said its vessels were heading to the Sea of Azov in line with international maritime rules, while Russia charged that they had failed to obtain permission to pass through the narrow Kerch Strait that is spanned by a bridge that Russia completed this year.

Dmitry Peskov, spokesman for Russian President Vladimir Putin, warned on Tuesday that the martial law introduced in 10 Ukrainian regions "has the potential" of triggering a flare-up in hostilities in the country's east.

Russia-backed separatists in Ukraine's industrial heartland that borders Russia have been fighting Ukrainian troops since 2014, but the hostilities have largely subsided since a truce was signed in 2015.

Putin and German Chancellor Angela Merkel spoke on the phone in the early hours on Tuesday, and the Russian president expressed a "serious concern" about what the martial law in Ukraine might entail.

Meanwhile, German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said Tuesday that Berlin has "called on Russia and Ukraine to show the greatest possible restraint" and suggested that Germany, France, Russia and Ukraine could work together to resolve the tensions.

Asked about other offers of mediation that were made previously, Peskov said Russia has no need for it because it views the standoff in the Black Sea as a simple case of a violation of its border.

Kirsten Grieshaber and Geir Moulson in Berlin contributed to this report.

GM cuts jobs in response to present costs, future innovation

By TOM KRISHER, AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — Even though unemployment is low, the economy is growing and U.S. auto sales are near historic highs, General Motors is cutting thousands of jobs in a major restructuring aimed at generating cash to spend on innovation.

It's the new reality for automakers that are faced with the present cost of designing gas-powered cars and trucks that appeal to buyers now while at the same time preparing for a future world of electric and autonomous vehicles.

GM announced Monday that it will cut as many as 14,000 workers in North America and put five plants up for possible closure as it abandons many of its car models and restructures to focus more on autonomous and electric vehicles.

CEO Mary Barra said as cars and trucks become more complex, GM will need more computer coders but fewer engineers who work on internal combustion engines.

"The vehicle has become much more software-oriented" with millions of lines of code, she said. "We still need many technical resources in the company."

The reductions could amount to as much as 8 percent of GM's global workforce of 180,000 employees.

The restructuring also reflects changing North American auto markets as manufacturers continue to shift away from cars toward SUVs and trucks. In October, almost 65 percent of new vehicles sold in the U.S. were trucks or SUVs. That figure was about 50 percent cars just five years ago.

GM is shedding cars largely because it doesn't make money on them, Citi analyst Itay Michaeli wrote in a note to investors.

"We estimate sedans operate at a significant loss, hence the need for classic restructuring," he wrote.

The reduction includes about 8,000 white-collar employees, or 15 percent of GM's North American white-collar workforce. Some will take buyouts while others will be laid off.

At the factories, around 3,300 blue-collar workers could lose jobs in the U.S. and another 2,600 in Canada, but some U.S. workers could transfer to truck or SUV factories that are increasing production. The cuts mark GM's first major downsizing since shedding thousands of jobs in the Great Recession.

The company also said it will stop operating two additional factories outside North America by the end of next year.

The move to make GM get leaner before the next downturn likely will be followed by Ford Motor Co., which also has struggled to keep one foot in the present and another in an ambiguous future of new mobility. Ford has been slower to react, but says it will lay off an unspecified number of white-collar workers as it exits much of the car market in favor of trucks and SUVs, some of them powered by batteries.

The GM layoffs come amid the backdrop of a trade wars between the U.S., China and Europe that likely will lead to higher prices for imported vehicles and those exported from the U.S. Barra said the company faces challenges from tariffs but she did not directly link the layoffs to them.

GM doesn't foresee an economic downturn and is making the cuts "to get in front of it while the company is strong and while the economy is strong," Barra told reporters.

Factories that could be closed include assembly plants in Detroit and Oshawa, Ontario, and Lordstown, Ohio, as well as transmission plants in Warren, Michigan, and near Baltimore.

The announcement worried GM workers who could lose their jobs.

"I don't know how I'm going to feed my family," Matt Smith, a worker at the Ontario factory, said Monday outside the plant's south gate, where workers blocked trucks from entering or leaving. "It's hard. It's horrible." Smith's wife also works at the plant. The couple has an 11-month-old at home.

Workers at the Ontario plant walked off the job Monday but were expected to return Tuesday.

After the morning announcement, Barra headed for Washington to speak with White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow in what was described as a previously scheduled meeting.

President Donald Trump, who has made bringing back auto jobs a big part of his appeal to Ohio and other Great Lakes states that are crucial to his re-election, said his administration and lawmakers are

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 141 ~ 28 of 63

exerting "a lot of pressure" on GM.

Trump said he was being tough on Barra, telling the company that the U.S. has done a lot for GM and that if its cars aren't selling, the company needs to produce ones that will.

At a rally near GM's Lordstown, Ohio, plant last summer, Trump told people not to sell their homes because the jobs are "all coming back."

Most of the factories to be affected by GM's restructuring build cars that will not be sold in the U.S. after next year. They could close or they could get different vehicles to build. Their futures will be part of contract talks with the United Auto Workers union next year.

The Detroit-based union has already condemned GM's actions and threatened to fight them "through every legal, contractual and collective bargaining avenue open to our membership."

Bobbi Marsh, who has worked assembling the Chevrolet Cruze compact car at the Ohio plant since 2008, said she can't understand why the factory might close given the strong economy.

"I can't believe our president would allow this to happen," she said Monday. Democratic Sen. Sherrod Brown said the move will be disastrous for the region around Youngstown, Ohio, east of Cleveland, where GM is one of the area's few remaining industrial anchors.

"GM received record tax breaks as a result of the GOP's tax bill last year, and has eliminated jobs instead of using that tax windfall to invest in American workers," he said in a statement.

GM, the nation's largest automaker, will stop producing cars and transmissions at the plants through 2019. In all, six car models were scrapped, leaving the company with nine remaining car models for its four brands, Buick, Cadillac, Chevrolet and GMC.

Among the cars that won't be made after next year is the Chevrolet Volt rechargeable gas-electric hybrid. When introduced a decade ago, the Volt was meant to be a bridge to fully electric cars, the company said. It has a small battery that can take it about 50 miles, then it switches to a small gasoline engine.

But since it was introduced, battery technology has improved dramatically, GM said. Now the full-electric Chevrolet Bolt can go up to 238 miles on a single charge.

The United Auto Workers promised to fight any plant closures and criticized GM for cutting U.S. jobs while building full-size pickups in Mexico. It also recently announced that a new Chevrolet Blazer SUV will be built there. Also, GM imports the Buick Envision midsize SUV from China.

Associated Press writers Rob Gillies in Toronto, John Seewer in Toledo, Ohio, and Zeke Miller in Washington contributed to this report.

Mars touchdown: NASA spacecraft survives supersonic plunge

By **MARCIA DUNN, AP Aerospace Writer**

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Minutes after touching down on Mars, NASA's InSight spacecraft sent back a "nice and dirty" snapshot of its new digs. Yet the dust-speckled image looked like a work of art to scientists.

The photo revealed a mostly smooth and sandy terrain around the spacecraft with only one sizable rock visible.

"I'm very, very happy that it looks like we have an incredibly safe and boring landing location," project manager Tom Hoffman said after Monday's touchdown. "That's exactly what we were going for."

A better image came hours later and more are expected in the days ahead, after the dust covers come off the lander's cameras.

The spacecraft arrived at Mars after a perilous, supersonic plunge through its red skies that took just six minutes.

"Touchdown confirmed!" a flight controller called out just before 3 p.m. EST, setting off jubilation among scientists at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, who had waited in white-knuckle suspense for word to reach across 100 million miles (160 million kilometers) of space.

It was NASA's eighth successful landing at Mars since the 1976 Viking probes, and the first in six years.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 141 ~ 29 of 63

NASA's Curiosity rover, which arrived in 2012, is still on the move on Mars.

Because of the distance between Earth and Mars, it took eight minutes for confirmation to arrive, relayed by a pair of tiny satellites that had been trailing InSight throughout the six-month, 300-million-mile (482-million-kilometer) journey.

"Flawless," declared JPL's chief engineer, Rob Manning. "Sometimes things work out in your favor."

InSight, a \$1 billion international project, includes a German mechanical mole that will burrow down 16 feet (5 meters) to measure Mars' internal heat. The lander also has a French seismometer for measuring quakes, if they exist on our smaller, geologically calmer neighbor. Another experiment will calculate Mars' wobble to reveal the makeup of the planet's core.

Late Monday, NASA reported the spacecraft's vital solar arrays were open and recharging its batteries.

Over the next few "sols" — or Martian days of 24 hours, 39½ minutes — flight controllers will assess the health of InSight's all-important robot arm and its science instruments. It will take months to set up and fine-tune the instruments, and lead scientist Bruce Banerdt said he doesn't expect to start getting a stream of solid data until late next spring.

Banerdt called InSight's first snapshot of the surface the first bit of science, albeit "nice and dirty." He said the image would be cleaned and the black specks would disappear. That photo came from a camera low on the lander. Late Monday, NASA released a clean photo taken by a higher camera that showed part of the lander and the landscape.

The 800-pound (360-kilogram) InSight is stationary and will operate from the same spot for the next two years, the duration of a Martian year.

"In the coming months and years even, history books will be rewritten about the interior of Mars," said JPL's director, Michael Watkins.

NASA went with its old, straightforward approach this time, using a parachute and braking engines to get InSight's speed from 12,300 mph (19,800 kph) when it pierced the Martian atmosphere, about 77 miles (114 kilometers) up, to 5 mph (8kph) at touchdown. The danger was that the spacecraft could burn up in the atmosphere or bounce off it.

Many Mars-bound spacecraft launched by the U.S., Russia and other countries have been lost or destroyed over the years, with a success rate of just 40 percent, not counting InSight.

The three-legged InSight settled on the western side of Elysium Planitia, the plain that NASA was aiming for.

Museums, planetariums and libraries across the U.S. held viewing parties to watch the events unfold at JPL. NASA TV coverage was also shown on the giant screen in New York's Times Square, where crowds huddled under umbrellas in the rain.

"What an amazing day for our country," said Jim Bridenstine, presiding over his first Mars landing as NASA's boss.

Mars' well-preserved interior provides a snapshot of what Earth may have looked like following its formation 4.5 billion years ago, according to Banerdt. While Earth is active seismically, Mars "decided to rest on its laurels" after it formed, he said.

By examining and mapping the interior of Mars, scientists hope to learn why the rocky planets in our solar system turned out so different and why Earth became a haven for life.

Still, there are no life detectors aboard InSight. NASA's next mission, the Mars 2020 rover, will prowl for rocks that might contain evidence of ancient life. The question of whether life ever existed in Mars' wet, watery past is what keeps driving NASA back to the fourth rock from the sun.

After InSight landed, the two experimental satellites zoomed past Mars, their main job done. One took one last photo of the red planet that the satellites' chief engineer, Andy Klesh, titled "farewell to InSight ... farewell to Mars."

For AP's complete coverage of the Mars landing: <https://apnews.com/MarsLanding>

The Associated Press Health and Science Department receives support from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

Global trade is at stake as Trump and Xi come face to face

By PAUL WISEMAN, AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — To hear President Donald Trump tell it, he was made for a moment like this: A high-stakes face-off. A ticking clock. A cagey adversary.

The man who calls himself a supreme dealmaker will have the opportunity this week to put himself to the test. The question is whether he can defuse a trade war with China that is shaking financial markets and threatening the global economy — and perhaps achieve something approximating a breakthrough.

Trump is to meet with his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, during the Group of 20 summit in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on Friday and Saturday. Unless the two leaders can achieve a truce of sorts, their conflicts will likely escalate: On Jan. 1, the tariffs Trump has imposed on many Chinese goods are set to rise from 10 percent to 25 percent, and Beijing would likely retaliate.

Most analysts say they doubt Trump and Xi will reach any overarching deal that would settle the dispute for good. The optimistic view is that the two sides may agree to a cease-fire that would buy time for more substantive talks and postpone the scheduled escalation in U.S. import taxes.

Yet no one really knows. Each side seems prepared to wait out the other in a conflict that could persist indefinitely.

In advance of the meeting, Trump has sounded his usual note of boastful confidence. Speaking to reporters on Thanksgiving Day, he said:

"I'm very prepared. You know, it's not like, 'Oh, gee, I'm going to sit down and study.' I know every stat. I know it better than anybody knows it. And my gut has always been right."

Most trade analysts are skeptical that any significant agreement is likely this week.

"Expectations should be very low," said Wendy Cutler, vice president of the Asia Society Institute and a former U.S. trade official who negotiated with China. "We need to be very clear-eyed. It's going to be a very difficult negotiation. The issues at hand don't lend themselves to quick solutions."

The trade war erupted last fall after Trump imposed import taxes on \$250 billion of Chinese goods, and Beijing retaliated with tariffs on U.S. exports. The justification for the U.S. move, according to Trump, is that Beijing has long deployed predatory tactics in its drive to supplant America's technological dominance. The administration alleges — and many trade experts agree — that Beijing hacks into U.S. companies' networks to steal trade secrets and forces American and other foreign companies to hand over sensitive technology as the price of access to China's market.

Beijing disputes those allegations and asserts that Trump's sanctions are merely an effort to hinder an ambitious rival.

Besides the scheduled escalation in U.S. tariffs on \$200 billion in Chinese goods — an additional \$50 billion in Chinese imports already face the higher tax — another threat looms: Trump has threatened to tax \$267 billion more in Chinese imports. At that point, just about everything Beijing ships to the United States would face a higher import tax.

Growing concerns that the trade war will increasingly hurt corporate earnings and the U.S. economy are a key reason why U.S. stock prices have been sinking. As of Friday's close, the Standard & Poor's 500 index has shed roughly 10 of its value since setting a record high Sept. 20.

Joining other forecasters, economists at the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development last week downgraded their outlook for global economic growth next year to 3.5 percent from a previous 3.7 percent. In doing so, they cited the trade conflict as well as political uncertainty.

Some big U.S. companies, in reporting quarterly earnings in October, warned that they were absorbing higher costs from Trump's increased tariffs, which have been imposed not only on Chinese goods but also on imported steel and other goods from other countries.

"We need some certainty," said Craig Allen, president of the U.S.-China Business Council and a former American diplomat. "The U.S. and China cannot go into a trade war and not affect global markets ... We need to resolve our differences."

Yet as Trump and Xi prepare to meet, the backdrop is hardly encouraging. Acrimony between the two

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 141 ~ 31 of 63

sides disrupted this month's Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Papua New Guinea. The 21 APEC countries, torn by differences between Beijing and Washington, failed to agree on a declaration on world trade for the first time in nearly three decades. Vice President Mike Pence and Xi sniped at each other in speeches.

Then last week, U.S. Trade Rep. Robert Lighthizer issued a report charging China's efforts to steal U.S. trade secrets have "increased in frequency and sophistication" this year despite American sanctions.

"China fundamentally has not altered its acts, policies, and practices related to technology transfer, intellectual property, and innovation, and indeed appears to have taken further unreasonable actions in recent months," the report concluded.

The tenor of the report suggested that the United States would take a hard line into this week's talks. In the meantime, "the amount of uncertainty is unprecedented and very disquieting to the markets," said Allen of the U.S.-China Business Council.

Trump himself sought Monday to increase the pressure on China. In an interview with The Wall Street Journal, Trump said it was "highly unlikely" that he would agree to Beijing's request to suspend the tariff hikes that are set to take effect Jan. 1. And he repeated his threat to target an additional \$267 billion in Chinese imports with tariffs of 10 percent or 25 percent.

Clouding the outlook are mixed messages from the Trump administration. The White House appears divided between hawks like Trump's trade adviser, Peter Navarro, and free traders like the top White House economic adviser, Larry Kudlow. On Nov. 9, Navarro delivered a combative speech suggesting that Trump didn't care what Wall Street thought of his confrontational China policy.

Four days later, Kudlow went on CNBC and dismissed Navarro's remarks as "way off base."

"They were not authorized by anybody," Kudlow said. "I actually think he did the president a great disservice."

Regardless of which approach Trump takes to Buenos Aires, Trump and Xi don't have to resolve their differences this week. A cease-fire that suspends any further escalation of the U.S. tariffs wouldn't be unprecedented. The administration and the European Union, for instance, reached a truce last summer that suspended threatened U.S. tariffs on European auto imports.

"My personal guess — and I'm sticking my neck out here — is that there will be some kind of cease-fire agreed to," said Matthew Goodman, a senior adviser on Asian economics at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

Goodman noted that Trump appears concerned about tumbling stock prices, and Xi is contending with a decelerating Chinese economy. A truce would bring at least a temporary calm.

"No one is expecting they will come out with a solid agreement," said Quincy Krosby, chief market strategist at Prudential Financial. "What the market wants — what the market needs — is a sense that they are negotiating and that the negotiations will continue."

AP Business Writer Alex Veiga in Los Angeles contributed to this report.

Follow Paul Wiseman on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/PaulWisemanAP>

Texans beat Titans 34-17 for team-record 8th straight win

By KRISTIE RIEKEN, AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON (AP) — The Houston Texans wanted to honor their late owner and founder Robert "Bob" McNair, who died last week at age 81.

They knew the perfect way to do that Monday night was to keep their winning streak going.

Deshaun Watson threw two touchdown passes and ran for another score as the Texans set a franchise record with their eighth straight victory, 34-17 over the Tennessee Titans.

"The one thing Mr. McNair wanted was a winner," J.J. Watt said. "All he wanted was a winner. He wanted to win every week. He wanted a team that could win and bring a championship to this city. So to be able

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 141 ~ 32 of 63

to win eight straight and to be able to win tonight for him was good, and we're going to try to keep doing that for him."

Demaryius Thomas scored his first two touchdowns with Houston and Lamar Miller ran for 162 yards, including a 97-yard TD.

The Texans (8-3) also saluted McNair by wearing decals in the shape of a football with white block letters bearing his initials of "RCM." With that tribute on the back of their helmets, they became the first team in NFL history to win eight games in a row after starting 0-3. They lead the AFC South by two games over Indianapolis.

"We need to try and keep getting better," coach Bill O'Brien said. "We need to take the mantra that we're going to improve every day."

The Texans trailed by 10 early before reeling off 27 straight points.

Houston receiver DeAndre Hopkins said there was no panic after the team fell behind in the first quarter.

"We've been down 0-3 as a record, so being down 10-0 on the board is nothing to this team," he said.

Tennessee (5-6) finally scored again on a 48-yard reception by Corey Davis late in the third quarter, but the second TD by Thomas — this one for 10 yards — made it 34-17 with just more than eight minutes left.

Marcus Mariota, who missed the second half of last week's game with a stinger, was 22 of 23 for 303 yards and two touchdowns. He completed his first 19 passes before an incomplection with just more than a minute remaining.

Miller's 97-yard breakaway in the second quarter made it 21-10. It was the longest run in franchise history and the longest in the NFL since his dash of the same length for a touchdown on Dec. 28, 2014, with the Dolphins. He's the only player in league history with two career rushing touchdowns of 95 yards or longer.

The Titans went ahead 3-0 on their first possession, and Jonnu Smith had a career-long 61-yard catch-and-run touchdown that extended their lead less than halfway through the first quarter.

Houston got going after that, cutting the lead to 10-7 when Thomas grabbed his first touchdown since being traded from Denver on Oct. 30, a 12-yard grab with about six minutes left in the quarter.

Watson put the Texans on top when he scrambled 15 yards for a score on the first play of the second quarter.

The Titans went for it on fourth-and-inches from the 3 later in the second, but tight end Luke Stocker was stopped for no gain.

"If you look at their goal-line defense and having a lot of good knowledge of what they do on the goal line, that's one play that had worked," Tennessee coach Mike Vrabel said. "It didn't work tonight and that's not the reason that we lost. That's a bad play."

Miller's long TD, which helped Houston set a franchise record with 281 yards rushing, came on the next play. He took the handoff in the end zone and darted through a crowd of Titans before shedding one tackle and simply outrunning the rest of the defense.

"My whole mindset is just, don't get caught," Miller said. "Because ... when we played the Dolphins, I got caught, so all the guys were giving me a hard time. So that was the only thing on my mind."

The Texans kicked a field goal as time expired in the second quarter to take a 24-10 lead into halftime.

MCNAIR REMEMBERED

The Texans honored McNair in a pregame ceremony, which included a video tribute to him while the Texas A&M Singing Cadets sang "Amazing Grace." While the video was played, one side of the video board displayed the words: "Faith, Family, Philanthropy, Football."

Painted on both 25-yard lines was a football with his initials that looked just like the decals on the players' helmets.

Television cameras panned to several fans with signs honoring the late owner. One read: "McNair Never Forgotten."

WATSON'S WORK

Watson has thrown 39 touchdown passes in his first 18 career games, which is third in NFL history behind Hall of Famers Kurt Warner (44) and Dan Marino (40). His 70 yards rushing on Monday were a

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 141 ~ 33 of 63

career best and he tied Matt Schaub's franchise record by throwing a TD pass in his 16th straight game.

INJURIES

Titans cornerback Malcolm Butler left in the second quarter to be evaluated for a concussion and did not return. ... Houston WR Keke Coutee didn't return after injuring his hamstring in the third quarter.

UP NEXT

Titans: Host the New York Jets on Sunday.

Texans: Host the Cleveland Browns on Sunday.

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

AP sources: UNC has agreement to bring back Brown as coach

By AARON BEARD, AP Sports Writer

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Mack Brown turned around North Carolina's football program once before, and the Tar Heels believe he could do it again.

The school has reached an agreement in principle with Brown on a deal for him to return to Chapel Hill as its next football coach, a person involved in the negotiations told The Associated Press late Monday night. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the school hasn't publicly commented on its coaching search. The final step comes Tuesday morning when the agreement goes before the university board of trustees for approval, the person said.

Earlier in the day two people with knowledge of the situation told the AP the school was negotiating with Brown. One of the people said the deal was being finalized.

North Carolina moved quickly to replace Larry Fedora, who was fired on Sunday after seven seasons.

The 67-year-old Brown coached the Tar Heels from 1988-97 before spending 16 seasons at Texas. His last two teams at North Carolina finished ranked in the top 10 nationally.

He later led the Longhorns to the national championship for 2005. He left Texas in 2013 and has been working in broadcasting.

Inside Carolina first reported news on Brown returning to North Carolina.

The Tar Heels are in the midst of a deep two-year downturn. Fedora matched a program record with 11 wins and won an Atlantic Coast Conference division championship in 2015, but the Tar Heels have lost 21 of 27 games — including 16 of 18 in the ACC — since November 2016.

Recruiting has also slid along with fan attendance at Kenan Stadium.

So the school is looking for a jolt from someone who offers a connection to one of the most successful sustained runs in program history, which followed an extensive rebuilding effort.

Brown started 1-10 in each of his first two seasons, but steadily built up the program through strong recruiting, particularly with instate prospects. The Tar Heels won 10 games in 1993, then went 10-2 and finished No. 10 in the AP poll in 1996.

His 1997 team finished 11-1 — the only loss coming to Florida State at the peak of the Seminoles' romp through that decade — and No. 6 in the final AP poll.

But by that point, Brown was gone. He left after the regular-season finale against Duke to take over at Texas and missed a 42-3 win against Virginia Tech in the Gator Bowl.

Once at Texas, Brown coached a Heisman Trophy winner in Ricky Williams, then another Heisman finalist — Vince Young — led the Longhorns to a 13-0 season in 2005 that ended with a win against USC in a Rose Bowl classic for the national title.

Texas played for another championship in the 2009 season behind quarterback Colt McCoy, but lost to Alabama to finish 13-1. Brown's final four teams went a combined 30-21 before his exit in 2013.

While Brown would inherit a UNC program in desperate need of a turnaround, there is at least one bit of good news for him: the school has been finishing construction on a new indoor football practice facility with adjoining outdoor fields — a complex that was supposed to open this season but hit delays — as part of a \$115 million athletics facility project.

AP Sports Writer Jim Vertuno in Austin, Texas, and AP College Football Writer Ralph D. Russo in New York contributed to this report.

More AP college football: <https://apnews.com/Collegefootball> and http://www.twitter.com/AP_Top25

Follow Aaron Beard on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/aaronbeardap>

Trump rallies Hyde-Smith voters as Espy pushes turnout

By JILL COLVIN and JEFF AMY, Associated Press

BILOXI, Miss. (AP) — President Donald Trump rallied voters Monday for Republican Senate appointee Cindy Hyde-Smith who has found herself in a closer-than-expected runoff contest after comments she made about attending a public hanging drew condemnation.

As Trump praised Hyde-Smith at two high-profile rallies in different parts of the state, her opponent, Democrat Mike Espy spoke at a predominantly African-American church and described his campaign as an effort to reach across the “chasm of racial division.”

The runoff election Tuesday will decide who serves the final two years of a term begun by Republican Sen. Thad Cochran, who resigned in April amid health concerns.

The historic contest features Hyde-Smith, who would be the first woman elected to Congress from Mississippi, against Espy, who’s vying to become the state’s first black senator since Reconstruction.

It’s a contest that has been buffeted by racial tensions after Hyde-Smith’s public hanging comments. And the tensions continued right up until Election Day with the discovery of seven nooses and six handwritten signs on Capitol grounds Monday morning.

It was not immediately known who put them there. The signs referred to the state’s history of lynchings and the Senate race. One sign said Mississippi needs a senator “who respects the lives of lynch victims.”

At rallies in Tupelo and then in Biloxi, Trump praised Hyde-Smith and called on voters to send her back to Washington. She was appointed by Gov. Phil Bryant to fill the senate seat after Cochran retired.

“She votes for us and she votes for ‘Make America Great Again,’” Trump said in Tupelo, where he was accompanied by Hyde-Smith.

Trump called her “a truly incredible leader and tireless champion” for Mississippi.

“She stood up to the Democrat smear machine,” Trump said, praising her for voting to confirm Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court.

Hyde-Smith, who has made the Trump rallies a highlight of her runoff campaign, told the crowd in Tupelo: “I worked very, very hard for you. I have stood up for you and you know I will continue to stand up for the conservative values of Mississippi.”

But race has become a dominant issue as Hyde-Smith faces Espy, a former congressman and U.S. agriculture secretary.

Hyde-Smith has drawn fire for a photo showing her wearing a replica hat of a Confederate soldier, and a video showing her praising a supporter by saying, “If he invited me to a public hanging, I’d be on the front row.”

Mississippi has a history of racially motivated lynchings and violence against people who sought voting rights for black citizens. About 38 percent of the state’s residents are black. Espy is trying to boost their turnout and pick up support from white voters who are uneasy with Trump or the racially tinged stories about Hyde-Smith.

Espy spoke for nearly 30 minutes Monday to a crowd of about 200 people gathered at church in Jackson. He called on his supporters to go out to vote on Tuesday “like it’s a holiday.”

“We’ve got a job to do. We need to come out tomorrow in such numbers, such strength, marching to the polls like it’s a holiday,” he said.

“This is a campaign that goes to the color line and it reached across the color line, across the chasm of

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 141 ~ 35 of 63

racial division, across the chasm of racial acrimony," Espy said, saying blacks and whites share common concerns in the issues he's centered his campaign on, such as health insurance, student debt and jobs.

It's the last U.S. Senate race to be decided in 2018 and will determine whether Republicans pad their slim majority.

"If we win tomorrow, we'll be at 53-47 which is substantially more than we had," Trump said. He said of Espy, "Oh, he's far left, he's out there. How does he fit in in Mississippi?" And he told the crowd, "don't take any chances" by not voting.

Hyde-Smith's support of Trump is unmistakable. She used both her opening and closing statements of the only debate of the runoff campaign to promote Monday's presidential rallies, citing the online address to get tickets. Even on trade and tariffs, where Trump's decisions could hurt Mississippi farmers, Hyde-Smith praised the president.

After the event in Tupelo, best known as the birthplace of Elvis Presley, Hyde-Smith and Trump flew to the Gulf Coast for a larger rally in Biloxi where thousands of Trump supporters were waiting.

"Cindy Hyde-Smith will support President Trump's agenda, and President Trump's agenda includes a better America for all of us, every state, including Mississippi," said Virginia Olander from Bay St. Louis.

About 100 anti-Trump protesters were also there, chanting "Impeach 45" as they held signs with red strikes through Hyde-Smith's name.

Espy has emphasized that he's a moderate seeking the votes of everyone and willing to work across party lines. He noted during a campaign stop earlier Monday that he had crossed the "party chasm" to endorse the re-election of Republican Gov. Haley Barbour in Mississippi in 2007.

Democrats also have used some star power.

Former Vice President Joe Biden endorsed Espy, and three Democrats who could run for president in 2020 — Sens. Kamala Harris of California and Cory Booker of New Jersey and former Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick — have been to Mississippi to campaign for the former congressman who served as agriculture secretary in 1993 and 1994 under Democratic President Bill Clinton.

For Espy, turnout is key. He must close the gap in a state where Trump received 58 percent in 2016. Mississippi hasn't elected a Democrat to the U.S. Senate since 1982.

Hyde-Smith has apologized to "anyone that was offended" by the hanging comment, saying she meant no ill will. She and her campaign have refused to discuss the Confederate hat.

Trump defended Hyde-Smith Monday. He said the comment was "a little flip" but said she apologized and that he'd "heard that loud and clear." He said he knows "where her heart is and her heart is good."

Walmart asked Hyde-Smith to return a \$2,000 campaign contribution because of the hanging remark.

Amy reported from Jackson, Mississippi; AP video journalist Stacey Plaisance reported from Biloxi, Mississippi.

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

Trump sticks with old playbook in return to campaign trail

By JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

TUPELO, Miss. (AP) — President Donald Trump brought back the playbook he used during the leadup to the midterm elections, warning of the dangers of illegal immigration and painting Democrats as radical "socialists," as he returned to the campaign trail Monday to try to keep a Mississippi Senate seat in GOP hands.

A day after U.S. border agents deployed tear gas on a group of migrants after some tried to charge the U.S.-Mexico border, Trump returned to the campaign scare talk that had largely disappeared following the Nov. 6 midterms. Trump had made the approaching Central American caravan a central issue of the 2018 elections.

The president has stressed his desire for bipartisanship in the days since the midterms, when Democrats

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 141 ~ 36 of 63

took control of the House. But on Monday, he painted Democrats as radical and dangerous as he stumped for Republican Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith, who is facing Democrat Mike Espy in a Tuesday runoff election that could pad the GOP's current 52-47 advantage in the Senate.

At his first rally of the day in Tupelo, Trump told the crowd that the runoff would "decide whether we build on our extraordinary achievements or whether we empower the radical Democrats to obstruct our progress."

He claimed Espy would "vote in total lockstep" with Sen. Chuck Schumer, Rep. Nancy Pelosi and "the legendary Maxine Waters," drawing resounding boos — even though Trump has said that Pelosi deserves to become the next House speaker and that he could even find Republican members to vote for her.

Later, at a Christmas-themed rally in Biloxi, where Trump emerged on the stage from a chimney, he said that Democrats want to impose an "extreme job-killing agenda" and that a vote for Espy would be a vote for a "Democrat agenda of socialism and open borders."

"Democrats will also destroy your health care by inviting caravan after caravan after caravan" of immigrants into the country illegally, he claimed, warning they would wreak havoc and bankrupt the Treasury Department.

The comments underscore the president's willingness to cycle between insults and flattery depending on his purpose. And they foreshadow the messaging dissonance that could mark the next two years of his presidency as he faces a divided Congress — a Republican-majority Senate and a Democrat-controlled House — after two years of across-the-board Republican power.

Trump was in Mississippi for the pair of rallies and a roundtable discussion on prison and sentencing reform in an eleventh-hour effort to keep the seat in GOP hands. Hyde-Smith's runoff election against Espy, a former congressman and U.S. agriculture secretary, has been far closer than expected thanks to a series of racial controversies, including a photo that emerged of Hyde-Smith wearing a replica hat of a Confederate soldier, and a video in which she said she'd be "on the front row" if invited to a public hanging.

Trump said repeatedly Monday that Hyde-Smith had apologized for her comments and that he believed she was sincere.

On immigration, Trump defended the U.S. response to the border clash on Sunday, when U.S. agents fired tear gas at migrants, some of whom had attempted to climb through fencing and wire separating the countries.

Trump told the crowd in Tupelo that "we don't want those people in Mississippi" and that immigrants are "not coming through anymore" illegally.

He said the message his administration was sending was clear: "Turn back now, go back home. We will not let you in."

Trump had likened the approaching caravans to an "invasion" in the days leading up to the Nov. 6 midterm elections, but critics accused him of exaggerating the threat in order to motivate his base to turn out and vote. Trump all but dropped his references to the migrants in the days after the election, adding credence to their claims. Trump had also threatened to challenge the constitutionally protected right to birthright citizenship and deployed thousands of troops to the border in his pre-election flurry of immigration action.

If victorious, Espy would become Mississippi's first black senator since Reconstruction and the first Mississippi Democrat elected to the Senate since 1982. Trump won 58 percent of the state's vote in 2016, and Hyde-Smith has tied herself closely to his presidency.

"I am honored to have President Trump's endorsement," she said as the two appeared at a chilly outdoor rally at the airport in the northeastern city of Tupelo, best known as the birthplace of Elvis Presley.

Trump gave a shout-out to the "king of rock 'n' roll" after taking the stage and said that, when he was young, "other than the blond hair, they said I looked like Elvis."

Tuesday's winner will finish the final two years of the term begun by Republican Sen. Thad Cochran, who resigned in April because of health problems.

Trump predicted a big day on Tuesday for Hyde-Smith and the Republican Party. He complained that the media has focused too much on the GOP losses in the House and not enough on the party's performance in the Senate.

"We've done great, and now we're going to do a little bit better by adding an extra vote," Trump said.

Associated Press writer Deb Riechmann contributed to this report from Washington.

Trump strongly defends use of tear gas on caravan migrants

By COLLEEN LONG and ELLIOT SPAGAT, Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — President Donald Trump is strongly defending the U.S. use of tear gas at the Mexican border to repel a crowd of migrants that included angry rock-throwers but also barefoot, crying children.

Critics denounced the border agents' action as overkill, but Trump kept to a hard line.

"They were being rushed by some very tough people and they used tear gas," Trump said Monday of the previous day's encounter. "Here's the bottom line: Nobody is coming into our country unless they come in legally."

At a roundtable in Mississippi later Monday, Trump seemed to acknowledge that children were affected, asking, "Why is a parent running up into an area where they know the tear gas is forming and it's going to be formed and they were running up with a child?"

He said it was "a very minor form of the tear gas itself" that he assured was "very safe."

Without offering evidence, he also claimed that some of the women are not really parents but are instead "grabbers" who steal children so they have a better chance of being granted asylum in the U.S.

The showdown at the San Diego-Tijuana border crossing has thrown into sharp relief two competing narratives about the caravan of migrants hoping to apply for asylum but stuck on the Mexican side. Trump portrays them as a threat to U.S. national security, intent on exploiting America's asylum law, but others insist he is exaggerating to stoke fears and achieve his political goals.

The sheer size of the caravan makes it unusual.

"I think it's so unprecedented that everyone is hanging their own fears and political agendas on the caravan," said Andrew Selee, president of the Migration Policy Institute, a nonpartisan think tank that studies immigration. "You can call it scary, you can call it hopeful, you can call it a sign of human misery. You can hang whatever angle you want to on it."

Trump rails against migrant caravans as dangerous groups of mostly single men. That view featured heavily in his speeches during the midterm election campaign when several were hundreds of miles away, traveling on foot. Officials have said some 500 members are criminals, but haven't backed that up with details on why they think so. On Monday, Trump tweeted the caravan at the border included "stone cold criminals."

Mario Figueroa — Tijuana's social services department director who is overseeing operations at the sports complex where most of the migrants in the caravan are staying — said as of Friday that of the 4,938 staying there, 933 were women, 889 were children and 3,105 were men, which includes fathers traveling with families along with single men.

The U.S. military said Monday that about 300 troops who had been deployed in south Texas and Arizona as part of a border security mission have been moved to California for similar work. The military's role is limited largely to erecting barriers along the border and providing transportation and logistical support to Customs and Border Protection.

Democratic lawmakers and immigrant rights groups blasted the border agents' Sunday tactics.

"These children are barefoot. In diapers. Choking on tear gas," California Governor-elect Gavin Newsom tweeted. "Women and children who left their lives behind — seeking peace and asylum — were met with violence and fear. That's not my America."

U.S. Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Kevin McAleenan said the administration's concerns about the caravan "were borne out and on fully display" Sunday.

McAleenan said hundreds — perhaps more than 1,000 — people attempted to rush vehicle lanes at the San Ysidro crossing. Mexican authorities estimated the crowd at 500. The chaos followed what began as a peaceful march to appeal for the U.S. to speed processing of asylum claims.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 141 ~ 38 of 63

After being stopped by Mexican authorities, the migrants split into groups. On the west side of the crossing, some tried to get through razor-wire fencing in a concrete levee that separates the two countries. On the east side, some pulled back a panel of fencing made of Army surplus steel landing mats to create an opening of about 4 feet, through which a group of more than 30 people crossed, according to a U.S. official who was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity. Others made it over a steel fence farther east.

McAleenan said four agents were struck with rocks but were not injured because they were wearing protective gear.

Border Protection agents launched pepper spray balls in addition to tear gas in what officials said were on-the-spot decisions made by agents. U.S. troops deployed to the border on Trump's orders were not involved in the operation.

"The agents on scene, in their professional judgment, made the decision to address those assaults using less lethal devices," McAleenan told reporters.

The scene was reminiscent of the 1980s and early 1990s when large groups of migrants rushed vehicle lanes at San Ysidro and overwhelmed Border Patrol agents in nearby streets and fields.

U.S. authorities made 69 arrests on Sunday. Mexican authorities said 39 people were arrested in Mexico.

The incident left many migrants feeling they had lost whatever possibility they might have had for making asylum cases.

Isauro Mejia, 46, of Cortes, Honduras, looked for a cup of coffee Monday morning after spending Sunday caught up in the clash.

"The way things went yesterday ... I think there is no chance," he said.

Mexico's Interior Ministry said in a statement it would immediately deport those people arrested on its side and would reinforce security.

Border Patrol agents have discretion on how to deploy less-than-lethal force. It must be both "objectively reasonable and necessary in order to carry out law enforcement duties" — and used when other techniques are not sufficient to control disorderly or violent subjects.

Last week Trump gave Defense Secretary Jim Mattis explicit authority to use military troops to protect Customs and Border Protection agents on the border, with lethal force if necessary. Mattis also was empowered to temporarily detain illegal migrants in the event of violence against the border patrol. Mattis told reporters this did not change the military's mission in any way, and that he would use the new authorities only in response to a request by Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen. He said there had been no such request yet.

With the caravan as a backdrop, Trump has used national security powers to circumvent longstanding immigration law to deny asylum to anyone caught crossing the border illegally. However, a court has put those regulations on hold after civil liberties groups sued. On Thanksgiving Day, the president warned of "bedlam, chaos, injury and death" if the courts block his efforts to harden immigration rules.

But it's also possible that Sunday's clash was borne of increasing desperation caused by the hardening of the policies, said Rachel Schmidtke, program associate for migration at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars Mexico Institute.

"This situation is now escalating to the point of a self-fulfilling prophesy," she said. "The more you squeeze the more it artificially creates something that didn't exist, but now is starting to become a crisis."

Long reported from Washington. Associated Press writers Robert Burns in Washington; Julie Watson in San Diego; Jill Colvin in Biloxi, Miss.; and Christopher Sherman in Tijuana, Mexico contributed to this report.

'Flawless': NASA craft lands on Mars after perilous journey

By **MARCIA DUNN, AP Aerospace Writer**

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — A NASA spacecraft designed to drill down into Mars' interior landed on the planet Monday after a perilous, supersonic plunge through its red skies, setting off jubilation among

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 141 ~ 39 of 63

scientists who had waited in white-knuckle suspense for confirmation to arrive across 100 million miles of space.

Flight controllers at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, leaped out of their chairs, screaming, dancing and hugging, upon learning that InSight had arrived on Mars, the graveyard for a multitude of previous missions.

"Touchdown confirmed!" a flight controller called out just before 3 p.m. EST, instantly dispelling the anxiety that had gripped the control room as the spacecraft made its six-minute descent.

Because of the distance between Earth and Mars, it took eight minutes for confirmation to arrive, relayed by a pair of tiny satellites that had been trailing InSight throughout the six-month, 300-million-mile (482-million-kilometer) journey.

The two satellites not only transmitted the good news in almost real time, they also sent back InSight's first snapshot of Mars just 4½ minutes after landing.

The picture was speckled with dirt because the dust cover was still on the lander's camera, but the terrain around the spacecraft looked smooth and sandy with just one sizable rock visible — pretty much what scientists had hoped for. Better photos are expected in the days ahead, after the dust covers come off.

It was NASA's — indeed, humanity's — eighth successful landing at Mars since the 1976 Viking probes, and the first in six years. NASA's Curiosity rover, which arrived in 2012, is still on the move on Mars.

"Flawless," declared JPL's chief engineer, Rob Manning. "This is what we really hoped and imagined in our mind's eye," he added. "Sometimes things work out in your favor."

NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine, presiding over his first Mars landing as the space agency's boss, said: "What an amazing day for our country."

InSight, a \$1 billion international project, includes a German mechanical mole that will burrow down 16 feet (5 meters) to measure Mars' internal heat. The lander also has a French seismometer for measuring quakes, if they exist on our smaller, geologically calmer neighbor. Another experiment will calculate Mars' wobble to reveal the makeup of the planet's core.

"In the coming months and years even, history books will be rewritten about the interior of Mars," said JPL's director, Michael Watkins.

Seven hours after touchdown, NASA reported that InSight's vital solar panels were open and recharging its batteries.

Over the next few "sols" — or Martian days of 24 hours, 39½ minutes — flight controllers will also assess the health of InSight's all-important robot arm and its science instruments.

Many Mars-bound spacecraft launched by the U.S., Russia and other countries have been lost or destroyed over the years, with a success rate of just 40 percent, not counting InSight.

NASA went with its old, straightforward approach this time, using a parachute and braking engines to get InSight's speed from 12,300 mph (19,800 kph) when it pierced the Martian atmosphere, about 77 miles (114 kilometers) up, to 5 mph (8kph) at touchdown. The danger was that the spacecraft could burn up in the atmosphere or bounce off it.

The three-legged InSight settled on the western side of Elysium Planitia, the plain that NASA was aiming for. Project manager Tom Hoffman said the spacecraft landed close to the bull's-eye, but NASA did not have yet have the final calculations.

He said that it was hard to tell from the first photo whether there were any slopes nearby, but that it appeared he got the flat, smooth "parking lot" he was hoping for.

Museums, planetariums and libraries across the U.S. held viewing parties to watch the events unfold at JPL. NASA TV coverage was also shown on the giant screen in New York's Times Square, where crowds huddled under umbrellas in the rain.

The 800-pound (360-kilogram) InSight is stationary and will operate from the same spot for the next two years, the duration of a Martian year. It will take months to set up and fine-tune the instruments, and lead scientist Bruce Banerdt said he doesn't expect to start getting a stream of solid data until late next spring.

"It's going to be awesome. I can't wait to start seeing marsquakes," Hoffman said.

Mars' well-preserved interior provides a snapshot of what Earth may have looked like following its formation 4.5 billion years ago, according to Banerdt. While Earth is active seismically, Mars "decided to rest on its laurels" after it formed, he said.

By examining and mapping the interior of Mars, scientists hope to learn why the rocky planets in our solar system turned out so different and why Earth became a haven for life.

Still, there are no life detectors aboard InSight. NASA's next mission, the Mars 2020 rover, will prowl for rocks that might contain evidence of ancient life.

The question of whether life ever existed in Mars' wet, watery past is what keeps driving NASA back to the fourth rock from the sun.

This story has been corrected to show that confirmation came before 3 p.m., not after.

For AP's complete coverage of the Mars landing: <https://apnews.com/MarsLanding>

The Associated Press Health and Science Department receives support from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

Mueller: Ex-Trump campaign chair lied, broke plea agreement

By CHAD DAY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The special counsel in the Russia investigation is accusing former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort of violating his plea agreement by repeatedly lying to federal investigators, an extraordinary allegation that could expose him to a lengthier prison sentence — and potentially more criminal charges.

The torpedoing of Manafort's plea deal, disclosed in a court filing Monday, also results in special counsel Robert Mueller's team losing a cooperating witness from the top of Donald Trump's presidential campaign who was present for several key episodes under investigation. That includes a Trump Tower meeting involving Donald Trump Jr. and a Russian lawyer he was told had derogatory information on Democrat Hillary Clinton.

The move signals a return to the acrimonious relationship Manafort has had with the special counsel's office since his indictment last year. Before his plea agreement, Manafort aggressively challenged the special counsel's legitimacy in court, went through a bitter trial and landed himself in jail after prosecutors discovered he had attempted to tamper with witnesses in his case.

In the latest filing, Mueller's team said Manafort "committed federal crimes" by lying about "a variety of subject matters" even after he agreed to truthfully cooperate with the investigation. Prosecutors said they will detail the "nature of the defendant's crimes and lies" in writing at a later date to the judge.

Through his attorneys, Manafort denied lying, saying he "believes he provided truthful information" during a series of sessions with Mueller's investigators. He also disagreed that he breached his plea agreement. Still, both sides now agree they can't resolve the conflict, and U.S. District Judge Amy Berman Jackson should set a date to sentence him.

Manafort, who remains jailed, had been meeting with the special counsel's office since he pleaded guilty in September to conspiracy against the United States and conspiracy to obstruct justice. He cut that deal to head off a second trial after being convicted last summer of eight felony counts related to millions of dollars he hid from the IRS in offshore accounts.

Both cases stemmed from his Ukrainian political work and undisclosed lobbying work he admitted to carrying out in the U.S. in violation of federal law.

As part of his plea agreement, Manafort pledged to "cooperate fully, truthfully, completely, and forthrightly" with the government "in any and all matters" prosecutors deemed necessary. That included his work on the Trump campaign as well as his Ukrainian political work, which remains under investigation by the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York.

Prosecutors there are looking into the conduct of longtime Democratic lobbyist Tony Podesta, former Obama White House counsel Greg Craig and former Republican congressman and lobbyist Vin Weber to determine whether they violated federal law by failing to register as foreign agents with the Justice Department. None of the men has been charged with any crimes.

As part of his plea deal, Manafort also forfeited many of his rights as well as his ability to withdraw the plea if he broke any of the terms. In return, prosecutors agreed to not bring additional charges against him and to ask a judge for a reduction of his sentence if he provided "substantial assistance."

But with prosecutors saying he breached the agreement, Manafort now faces serious repercussions such as the possibility of prosecution on additional charges including the 10 felony counts prosecutors dropped when he made the deal.

Manafort already faces up to five years in prison on the two charges in his plea agreement. In his separate Virginia case, Manafort's potential sentencing under federal guidelines has not yet been calculated, but prosecutors have previously said he could face as much as 10 years in prison on those charges.

He is scheduled to be sentenced in that case in February. His co-defendant Rick Gates, who spent a longer time on the campaign and worked on the Trump inaugural committee, has not had a sentencing date set yet. He continues to cooperate with Mueller.

Follow Chad Day on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ChadSDay>

Read the court filing: <http://apne.ws/YN2AwkK>

Associate of Trump confidant Stone says he'll reject plea

By CHAD DAY and ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — An associate of Trump confidant Roger Stone said Monday that he is rejecting a plea offer in the special counsel's Russia investigation.

In an email to The Associated Press, Jerome Corsi, a conservative author who has pushed conspiracy theories, said he planned to reject a potential plea deal with prosecutors.

He did not elaborate, but in earlier interviews with other news organizations, he said he had been offered a chance to plead guilty to a single count of lying to investigators. He said he planned to reject that offer because it would force him to admit to willfully lying, which he insisted he did not do.

"They can put me in prison the rest of my life," Corsi told CNN. "I am not going to sign a lie."

Mueller's team has questioned Corsi, a former Washington bureau chief of InfoWars, as prosecutors scrutinize Stone's possible connections to WikiLeaks.

American intelligence agencies have said Russia was the source of the hacked material released by the anti-secrecy website WikiLeaks in the closing weeks of the 2016 presidential election. Those emails included messages from John Podesta, the chairman of Democrat Hillary Clinton's campaign.

Mueller is trying to determine whether Stone and other associates of President Donald Trump had advance knowledge of WikiLeaks' plans.

ABC News reported that Corsi had provided copies of a draft plea agreement in which he would have admitted to lying about an email about an associate's "request to get in touch with an organization that he understood to be in possession of stolen emails and other documents pertaining to the 2016 U.S. presidential election."

Corsi's lawyer, David Gray, declined to comment, as did Peter Carr, a spokesman for special counsel Robert Mueller.

Corsi told the AP last week that he was in plea negotiations with Mueller's office and had earlier said on his YouTube show that he expected to be indicted for making false statements.

Corsi has said he cooperated with the probe for about two months after he received a subpoena in August. As part of that cooperation, he turned over two computers and a cell phone and provided the FBI access to his email accounts and tweets.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 141 ~ 42 of 63

Stone has denied being a conduit for WikiLeaks and has not been charged. He has said he did not have advance knowledge of the source, content or exact timing of the WikiLeaks release.

In an email Monday, Stone said Corsi was being "harassed by the Special Counsel, not for lying, but for refusing to lie."

He added, "As Dr. Corsi has said I have no knowledge of any contact or Communication with Julian Assange or Wikileaks by Dr. Corsi."

Associated Press writer Jill Colvin in Washington contributed to this report.

Slick roads, blowing snow delay air, road travel in Midwest

By NOREEN NASIR, Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — A wintry storm brought blizzard-like conditions to parts of the Midwest early Monday, grounding hundreds of flights and causing scores of accidents and at least one death on slick roads crowded with people returning to work after the Thanksgiving weekend.

The Chicago area was slammed with up to a foot (30 centimeters) of wet snow, and whiteout conditions stalled commuter traffic on the roads. The National Weather Service said 7.5 inches (19 centimeters) of snow fell at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport and 4.9 inches (12.5 centimeters) fell at Midway International Airport.

The Chicago Department of Aviation says more than 1,200 flights were canceled at O'Hare between midnight and 3 p.m. Monday, after 700 flights at the airport were canceled Sunday. At Midway International Airport, where 123 flights were canceled on Sunday, another 71 flights had been canceled as of midnight.

One Chicago native trying to fly to Orlando, Florida, chided himself for not heeding the forecast, but maintained his sense of humor.

"I knew it was right around the corner, and behold I stayed that one extra day and paid the price. So I was able to spend the evening here at beautiful O'Hare and had plenty of company," said Mark McCoy, referring to all the other travelers stranded at the travel hub.

"It's all part of the Thanksgiving travel experience," McCoy said.

One couple was faced with an unexpectedly long layover in Chicago after spending two weeks with their son in Thailand. Bob Kernez, 61, said he and his wife were contemplating getting a hotel room in the city but were unsure if they wanted to leave the airport.

"We're not really dressed for the weather now," said Kernez, of Duluth, Minnesota.

The storm also dumped wet snow on parts of Michigan's Lower Peninsula, creating treacherous driving conditions. Police responded to dozens of crashes Monday morning in the Lansing area and in nearby Ionia County, officials encouraged people to stay off "treacherous" roads after a 48-year-old woman died when she lost control of her car on icy M-66 on Monday morning.

The Illinois State Police, which responded to many spin-outs and collisions — but no reports of serious injuries — had a similar message to stay off the roads unless necessary, particularly since falling temperatures were expected to make the roads even more slippery.

Farther south, Gov. Jeff Colyer declared a state of emergency in Kansas on Sunday after 2 to 14 inches (5 to 36 centimeters) of snow fell in parts of the state. The state Department of Transportation reported several road closures Monday, mostly in the extreme northeast, but said a stretch of Interstate 70 that had been closed on Sunday was reopened.

The National Weather Service said that 3 to 9 inches fell across northern Missouri on Sunday. The Missouri State Highway Patrol reported multiple fender-benders but by midmorning on Monday the Department of Transportation said all roads were opened. Flights were mostly on time Monday at Kansas City International Airport, one day after the storm caused widespread delays.

Roads in much of Nebraska and the southern half of Iowa remained covered in snow and ice early Monday, even after the storm had passed those states. Several state and U.S. highways were impassable in Nebraska, but traffic was moving on Interstate 29 in the southwestern corner of Iowa and Interstate 80

in the eastern of the state, despite a blanket of snow.

Roads were slick in northern Indiana early Monday after about 2 inches (5 centimeters) of snow fell, and more was forecast through the afternoon.

Parts of southeastern Wisconsin, just north of Chicago, suffered a glancing blow from the storm, with about 9 inches (23 centimeters) of blowing and drifting snow.

This story has been corrected to show the number of flights canceled at O'Hare and Midway had been recorded since midnight, not in the previous 24 hours.

Associated Press video journalist Teresa Crawford contributed to this story.

Border clash leaves caravan migrants dejected, worried

By CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN, Associated Press

TIJUANA, Mexico (AP) — A chaotic border clash with choking tear gas fired by U.S. agents left Central American migrants sullen and dejected, with some opting Monday to leave and others worrying the incident may have spoiled their chances at asylum.

Mexican security forces stepped up their presence at a Tijuana sports complex where thousands from the migrant caravan have been sheltered, apparently seeking to avoid a repeat of Sunday's ugly scene. Police blocked the migrants from walking toward the border in the morning, though later on they allowed them to move about freely.

Isauro Mejia, 46, from Cortes, Honduras, went looking for a cup of coffee to shake the morning chill following another night sleeping outside after being caught up in the clashes. Before, he had hoped to be able to press an asylum claim, but now he wasn't so sure.

"The way things went yesterday ... I think there is no chance," Mejia said. "With the difficulty that has presented itself because of yesterday's incidents ... that's further away."

Migrants hoping to apply for asylum in the United States must put their names on a waiting list that already had some 3,000 people on it before the caravan arrived in Tijuana. With U.S. officials processing fewer than 100 claims a day, the wait time for the recent arrivals stands to take months.

That has instilled a sense of desperation among many after their grueling trek from Central America. Sunday's incident began after hundreds marched to the border to try to call attention to their plight. Some attempted to get through fencing and wire separating the countries, prompting volleys of stinging gas.

Cindy Martinez of San Vicente, El Salvador, said she had been about to cross the concertina wire to the U.S. side when the tear gas was launched. She estimated about 20 people had already passed in front of her, and parents begged agents not to unleash the gas because there were young children present.

"I see it as impossible for them to want to give us asylum," she said. "Because of the words that President Donald Trump has said, I think this is impossible."

Martinez, 28, said she was now considering getting work in Tijuana.

Mexico's National Migration Institute reported that 98 migrants were being deported after trying to breach the U.S. border. The country's Interior Department said about 500 people attempted to rush the border, while U.S. authorities put the number at 1,000.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Kevin McAleenan said 69 migrants who tried to cross illegally were arrested on the California side. He said the Border Patrol's use-of-force policy allows agents to use tear gas and other non-lethal methods, but the incident would be reviewed.

"As the events unfolded, quick, decisive and effective action prevented an extremely dangerous situation," McAleenan said.

Mexico's Foreign Relations Department said it had presented a diplomatic note to the U.S. Embassy asking for an "exhaustive investigation" of the use of nonlethal force.

Migrant Yanira Elizabeth Rodriguez Martinez said she, her daughter and her sister had stayed away from Sunday's demonstration because they feared it could turn dangerous. Sitting in their makeshift camp at

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 141 ~ 44 of 63

a sports complex Monday, the 38-year-old asked what the process would be if she decided to return to El Salvador.

"Because of (the actions of a few), we all pay," said Romario Aldair Veron Arevalo, a 20-year-old friend sitting with her. He said he still hoped to cross to the United States and work, but conceded it could be more difficult now.

In a rare criticism, Mexico's National Human Rights Commission admonished migrants that they "should respect Mexican laws and not engage in actions that affect the communities they pass through."

"It is important to note that the fact the Mexican government protects their rights does not imply a free pass to break the law," it said.

Commission official Edgar Corzo Sosa said after visiting the shelter Monday that the space intended for 3,500 is now crowded with more than 5,000 people.

He said officials were receiving more requests from migrants wanting to return to their countries, but did not have a number. He said a beefed-up police presence was for the migrants' safety.

"There is nothing to prevent them from leaving" the shelter Corzo said. "They are free to come and go."

The clash also led U.S. authorities to shut down the nation's busiest border crossing at San Ysidro, California, for several hours Sunday.

"Mexico should move the flag waving Migrants, many of whom are stone cold criminals, back to their countries," Trump tweeted Monday. "Do it by plane, do it by bus, do it anyway you want, but they are NOT coming into the U.S.A. We will close the Border permanently if need be. Congress, fund the WALL!"

Trump has repeatedly suggested without evidence that the migrant caravans are full of hardened criminals, but they appear to be mostly poor people with few belongings fleeing poverty and gang violence.

U.S. and Mexican officials have been wrangling over migration and how to deal with asylum-seekers at the border as Tijuana, a border city of 1.6 million residents, struggles to accommodate the crush of migrants.

Mexican President-elect Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, who takes office Saturday, declined Monday to comment on the border incident.

Asked about Trump's warning that the U.S. could close the border "permanently" — which would disrupt billions of dollars in trade — Marcelo Ebrard, who is to be Lopez Obrador's foreign relations secretary, said, "Let's hope we can keep that from happening."

On Monday, Trump said Vice President Mike Pence and daughter Ivanka Trump plan to attend Mexico's presidential inauguration.

The White House has said Trump has developed a "strong relationship" with Lopez Obrador and looks forward to working with him.

Tijuana public safety secretary Marco Antonio Sotomayor Amezcua said in a news conference that Mexican police would be prudent in their use of force, but "we have to guard at all cost that the border posts are not closed again."

Sotomayor said he hopes migrants who had thought of entering the U.S. illegally learned from Sunday's events that that won't be possible. He added that the mayor is working to secure another space for the migrants with the sports complex overflowing.

Baja California state Gov. Francisco Vega said almost 9,000 migrants were in his state — mostly in Tijuana, with a smaller number in Mexicali — and called it "an issue of national security." Vega issued a public appeal to Mexico's federal government to take over responsibility for sheltering the migrants and deport any who break the law.

Alex Castillo carried a red bedroll slung over his shoulder as he walked away from the Tijuana shelter Monday, saying he would head to the industrial city of Monterrey to look for work and try to cross into the United States next year.

The 35-year-old electrician from Tegucigalpa, Honduras, said he wasn't at the border clash. He heard about it from others and decided to leave "to avoiding getting beaten."

"If they're launching tear gas," Castillo said, "it's better to head somewhere else."

Associated Press writers Mark Stevenson in Mexico City and Colleen Long in Washington contributed to this report.

7 nooses found by Mississippi Capitol before Senate runoff

By EMILY WAGSTER PETTUS, Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — State and federal investigators are trying to find out who hung seven nooses in trees outside the Mississippi Capitol early Monday, a day before a U.S. Senate runoff that has focused attention on the state's history of racist violence.

The Mississippi Department of Public Safety says the nooses were accompanied by handwritten signs referring to Tuesday's election as well as to lynchings — most of them in the state's turbulent past, but also one recent case that remains under investigation, of a black man whose body was found hanging in central Mississippi. The department posted photos of the signs on social media and sought information about them from the public.

One sign referred to the Tuesday runoff between appointed Republican Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith, who is white, and Democrat Mike Espy, who is black. The sign also read: "We need someone who respects the lives of lynch victims."

Another sign read: "We're hanging nooses to remind people that times haven't changed."

Hyde-Smith has drawn fire for a photo showing her wearing a replica hat of a Confederate soldier, and a video showing her praising a supporter by saying, "If he invited me to a public hanging, I'd be on the front row." She said the hanging remark was an "exaggerated expression of regard" for the supporter, but the remarks drew sharp criticism in a state with a 38 percent black population. She apologized "to anyone that was offended."

Espy is trying to become the first African-American U.S. senator from Mississippi since Reconstruction.

At a midday event, before the content of the signs was disclosed, Espy said he knew nothing about the nooses or signs. He said it would be "unfair" to make any connection between the items and Hyde-Smith.

Hyde-Smith campaign spokeswoman Melissa Scallan later condemned the nooses by saying: "Obviously, this behavior is offensive and has no place in a civilized society."

Chuck McIntosh, a spokesman for the Mississippi Department of Finance and Administration, which oversees the Capitol, said the nooses and signs were found starting shortly before 8 a.m. Monday outside the Capitol in downtown Jackson.

The matter is under investigation by the Mississippi Department of Public Safety, Mississippi Capitol Police and the U.S. attorney's office.

"With our law enforcement partners, we are actively looking into these acts of hate and intimidation," U.S. Attorney Mike Hurst said in a statement. "Let me be perfectly clear — there is absolutely no place in our state for these unacceptable symbols or tactics to intimidate others. If we find evidence beyond a reasonable doubt that a federal crime has occurred, these criminals will be swiftly prosecuted."

Republican Lt. Gov. Tate Reeves, who has an office in the Capitol, called the nooses and signs "reprehensible."

Mississippi has a history of racially motivated lynchings. The NAACP website says that between 1882 and 1968, there were 4,743 lynchings in the United States, and that nearly 73 percent of the victims were black. It says Mississippi had 581 lynchings during that time, the highest number of any state.

Civil rights activists were also beaten and killed in Mississippi as they pushed for African-Americans' voting rights, particularly from the end of World War II until the 1960s.

Associated Press writer Jeff Amy contributed to this report.

Scientists warn new Brazil president may smother rainforest

By CHRISTINA LARSON AND MAURICIO SAVARESE, Associated Press

SAO PAULO (AP) — Scientists warn that Brazil's president-elect could push the Amazon rainforest past its tipping point — with severe consequences for global climate and rainfall.

Jair Bolsonaro, who takes office Jan. 1, claims a mandate to convert land for cattle pastures and soybean farms, calling Brazil's rainforest protections an economic obstacle.

Brazilians on Oct. 28 elected Bolsonaro, a far-right candidate who channeled outrage at the corruption scandals of the former government and support from agribusiness groups.

Next week global leaders will meet in Poland for an international climate conference to discuss how to curb climate change, and questions about Brazil's role in shaping the future of the Amazon rainforest after Bolsonaro's election loom large. New Brazilian government data show the rate of deforestation — a major factor in global warming — has already increased over the past year.

Brazil contains about 60 percent of the Amazon rainforest, and scientists are worried.

It's nearly impossible to overstate the importance of the Amazon rainforest to the planet's living systems, said Carlos Nobre, a climate scientist at the University of Sao Paulo.

Each tree stores carbon absorbed from the atmosphere. The Amazon takes in as much as 2 billion tons of carbon dioxide a year and releases 20 percent of the planet's oxygen, earning it the nickname "the lungs of the planet."

It's also a global weather-maker.

Stretching 10 times the size of Texas, the Amazon is the world's largest rainforest. Billions of trees suck up water through deep roots and bring it up to their leaves, which release water vapor that forms a thick mist over the rainforest canopy.

This mist ascends into clouds and eventually becomes rainfall — a cycle that shapes seasons in South America and far beyond.

By one estimate, the Amazon creates 30 to 50 percent of its own rainfall.

Now the integrity of all of three functions — as a carbon sink, the Earth's lungs, and a rainmaker — hangs in the balance.

On the campaign trail, Bolsonaro promised to loosen protections for areas of the Brazilian Amazon designated as indigenous lands and nature reserves, calling them impediments to economic growth. "All these reserves cause problems to development," he told supporters.

He has also repeatedly talked about gutting the power of the environmental ministry to enforce existing green laws.

"If Bolsonaro keeps his campaign promises, deforestation of the Amazon will probably increase quickly — and the effects will be felt everywhere on the planet," said Paulo Artaxo, a professor of environmental physics at the University of Sao Paulo.

Bolsonaro's transition team did not respond to an interview request from the Associated Press.

Brazil was once seen as a global environmental success story. Between 2004 and 2014, stricter enforcement of laws to safeguard the rainforest — aided by regular satellite monitoring and protections for lands designated reserves for indigenous peoples — sharply curbed the rate of deforestation, which peaked in the early 2000s at about 9,650 square miles a year (25,000 square kilometers).

After a political crisis engulfed Brazil, leading to the 2016 impeachment of president Dilma Rousseff, enforcement faltered. Ranchers and farmers began to convert more rainforest to pastureland and cropland. Between 2014 and 2017, annual deforestation doubled to about 3,090 square miles (8,000 square kilometers). Most often, the trees and underbrush cut down are simply burned, directly releasing carbon dioxide, said Artaxo.

"In the Brazilian Amazon, far and away the largest source of deforestation is industrial agriculture and cattle ranching," said Emilio Bruna, an ecologist at the University of Florida in Gainesville.

Now observers are parsing Bolsonaro's campaign statements and positions as a congressman to anticipate what's next for the Amazon.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 141 ~ 47 of 63

Bolsonaro — who some call “tropical Trump” because of some similarities to U.S. President Donald Trump — is a former army captain with a knack for channeling outrage and generating headlines. As a federal congressman for 27 years, he led legislative campaigns to unravel land protections for indigenous people and to promote agribusiness. He also made derogatory comments about minorities, women, and LGBT people.

Much of his support comes from business and farming interests.

“These farmers are not invaders, they are producers,” said congressman and senator-elect Luiz Carlos Heinze, a farmer and close ally of Bolsonaro. He blamed past “leftist administrations” for promoting indigenous rights at the expense of farmers and ranchers.

“Brazil will be the biggest farming nation on Earth during Bolsonaro’s years,” said Heinze.

Indigenous-rights advocates are worried about the new direction signaled. “Bolsonaro has repeatedly said that indigenous territories in the Amazon should be opened up for mining and agribusiness, which goes completely in the opposite direction of our Constitution,” said Adriana Ramos, public policy coordinator at Social Environmental Institute in Brasilia, a non-governmental group.

In a Nov. 1 postelection interview with Catholic TV, Bolsonaro said, “We intend to protect the environment, but without creating difficulties for our progress.”

Bolsonaro has repeatedly said that Brazil should withdraw from the Paris Climate Accord, a treaty his predecessor signed in 2016 committing to reduce carbon emissions 37 percent over 2005 levels by 2030. After the election, he has publicly wavered.

Meanwhile he has named a climate-change denier, Ernesto Araujo, to become the next foreign minister.

Nelson Ananias Filho, sustainability coordinator at Brazil’s National Agriculture and Cattle Raising Confederation, which backed Bolsonaro’s campaign, said, “Brazil’s agribusiness will adapt to whatever circumstances come.”

Whether or not Brazil formally remains in the Paris Climate Accord, the only way for the country to make its emission targets is to completely stop deforestation by 2030 and to reduce agricultural emissions, said Nobre, the climate scientist. “If Bolsonaro keeps moving in the current direction, that’s basically impossible.”

There’s another danger lurking in deforestation.

Aside from the oceans, tropical forests are the most important regions on the planet for putting water vapor in the air, which eventually becomes rainfall. “It’s why we have rain in the American Midwest and other inland areas — it’s not just the Amazon, but it’s the largest tropical rainforest,” said Bill Laurance, a tropical ecologist at James Cook University in Cairns, Australia.

Carlos Nobre and Thomas Lovejoy, an environmental scientist at George Mason University, have estimated that the “tipping point for the Amazon system” is 20 to 25 percent deforestation.

Without enough trees to sustain the rainfall, the longer and more pronounced dry season could turn more than half the rainforest into a tropical savannah, they wrote in February in the journal *Science Advances*.

If the rainfall cycle collapses, winter droughts in parts of Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay, and Argentina could devastate agriculture, they wrote. The impacts may even be felt as far away as the American Midwest, said Laurance.

Bolsonaro’s rhetoric about potentially dismantling the environmental ministry and rolling back indigenous rights worries Nobre who says, “I am a scientist, but I am also a Brazilian citizen, and a citizen of the planet.”

AP Science writer Christina Larson reported from Washington, D.C.

The Associated Press Health & Science Department receives support from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute’s Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

GM to lay off up to 14K workers, close as many as 5 plants

By TOM KRISHER, AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — General Motors will cut up to 14,000 workers in North America and put five plants up for possible closure as it abandons many of its car models and restructures to focus more on autonomous and electric vehicles, the automaker announced Monday.

The reductions could amount to as much as 8 percent of GM's global workforce of 180,000 employees. The restructuring reflects changing North American auto markets as manufacturers continue to shift away from cars toward SUVs and trucks. In October, almost 65 percent of new vehicles sold in the U.S. were trucks or SUVs. That figure was about 50 percent cars just five years ago.

GM is shedding cars largely because it doesn't make money on them, Citi analyst Itay Michaeli wrote in a note to investors.

"We estimate sedans operate at a significant loss, hence the need for classic restructuring," he wrote.

Hours after the announcement, President Donald Trump said his administration and lawmakers were exerting "a lot of pressure" on GM. He said he told the company that the U.S. has done a lot for GM and that if its cars aren't selling, the company needs to produce ones that will.

Trump, who has made bringing back auto jobs a big part of his appeal to Ohio and other Great Lakes states that are crucial to his re-election, also said he was being tough on General Motors CEO Mary Barra.

At a rally near GM's Lordstown, Ohio, plant last summer, Trump told people not to sell their homes because the jobs are "all coming back."

The layoffs come amid the backdrop of a trade war between the U.S., China and Europe that likely will lead to higher prices for imported vehicles and those exported from the U.S. Barra said the company faces challenges from tariffs but she did not directly link the layoffs to them.

The planned reduction includes about 8,000 white-collar employees, or 15 percent of GM's North American white-collar workforce. Some will take buyouts while others will be laid off.

At the factories, around 3,300 blue-collar workers could lose jobs in the U.S. and another 2,600 in Canada, but some U.S. workers could transfer to truck or SUV factories that are increasing production. The cuts mark GM's first major downsizing since shedding thousands of jobs in the Great Recession.

The company also said it will stop operating two additional factories outside North America by the end of next year, in addition to a previously announced plant closure in Gunsan, South Korea.

General Motors Co.'s pre-emptive strike to get leaner before the next downturn likely will be followed by Ford Motor Co., which has said it is restructuring and will lay off an unspecified number of white-collar workers. Toyota Motor Corp. also has discussed cutting costs, even though it's building a new assembly plant in Alabama.

GM isn't the first to abandon much of the car market. Fiat Chrysler Automobiles got out of small and midsize cars two years ago, while Ford announced plans to shed all cars but the Mustang sports car in the U.S. in the coming years.

Barra told reporters that GM doesn't foresee an economic downturn and is making the cuts "to get in front of it while the company is strong and while the economy is strong."

Factories that could be closed include assembly plants in Detroit and Oshawa, Ontario, and Lordstown, Ohio, as well as transmission plants in Warren, Michigan, and near Baltimore.

The announcement worried GM workers who could lose their jobs.

"I don't know how I'm going to feed my family," Matt Smith, a worker at the Ontario factory, said Monday outside the plant's south gate, where workers blocked trucks from entering or leaving. "It's hard. It's horrible." Smith's wife also works at the plant. The couple has an 11-month-old at home.

Workers at the Ontario plant walked off the job Monday but were expected to return Tuesday.

After the morning announcement, Barra was to head for Washington to speak with White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow in what was described as a previously scheduled meeting, according to a White House official who spoke on condition of anonymity because the official was not authorized to discuss the meeting publicly.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 141 ~ 49 of 63

Most of the factories to be affected by GM's restructuring build cars that will not be sold in the U.S. after next year. They could close or they could get different vehicles to build. Their futures will be part of contract talks with the United Auto Workers union next year.

The Detroit-based union has already condemned GM's actions and threatened to fight them "through every legal, contractual and collective bargaining avenue open to our membership."

Bobbi Marsh, who has worked assembling the Chevrolet Cruze compact car at the Ohio plant since 2008, said she can't understand why the factory might close given the strong economy.

"I can't believe our president would allow this to happen," she said Monday.

She now faces an uncertain future, not knowing whether the plant will close for good or if there's a chance it could find another use.

"Everything is up in the air," she said. "I don't want to give up hope for this facility and these people. I spend more time around them than my own family. It would be like breaking up a family."

Democratic Sen. Sherrod Brown said the move will be disastrous for the region around Youngstown, Ohio, east of Cleveland, where GM is one of the area's few remaining industrial anchors.

"GM received record tax breaks as a result of the GOP's tax bill last year, and has eliminated jobs instead of using that tax windfall to invest in American workers," he said in a statement.

Many of those who will lose jobs are now working on conventional cars with internal combustion engines. Barra said the industry is changing rapidly and moving toward electric propulsion, autonomous vehicles and ride-sharing, and GM must adjust.

She said GM is still hiring people with expertise in software and electric and autonomous vehicles.

GM will stop producing cars and transmissions at the plants through 2019. In all, six car models were scrapped, leaving the company with nine remaining car models.

The automaker said it was ending Chevrolet Volt production because the vehicle was meant to be a bridge to fully electric cars when it was introduced about a decade ago. The Volt has a small battery that can take it about 50 miles, then it switches to a small gasoline engine.

Since it was introduced, battery technology has improved dramatically. Now the full-electric Chevrolet Bolt can go up to 238 miles on a single charge.

GM builds full-size Chevrolet and GMC pickups in Mexico, and it recently announced that a new Chevrolet Blazer SUV will be built there. Also, GM imports the Buick Envision midsize SUV from China.

Associated Press writers Rob Gillies in Toronto, John Seewer in Toledo, Ohio, and Zeke Miller in Washington contributed to this report.

Spinal-cord stimulators help some patients, injure others

By MITCH WEISS and HOLBROOK MOHR, Associated Press

COLUMBIA, South Carolina (AP) — Desperate for relief after years of agony, Jim Taft listened intently as his pain management doctor described a medical device that could change his life.

It wouldn't fix the nerve damage in his mangled right arm, Taft and his wife recalled the doctor saying, but a spinal-cord stimulator would cloak his pain, making him "good as new."

Taft's stimulator failed soon after it was surgically implanted. After an operation to repair it, he said, the device shocked him so many times that he couldn't sleep and even fell down a flight of stairs. Today, the 45-year-old Taft is virtually paralyzed, a prisoner in his own bed, barely able to get to the bathroom by himself.

"I thought I would have a wonderful life," Taft said. "But look at me."

For years, medical device companies and doctors have touted spinal-cord stimulators as a panacea for millions of patients suffering from a wide range of pain disorders, making them one of the fastest-growing products in the \$400 billion medical device industry. Companies and doctors aggressively push them as a safe antidote to the deadly opioid crisis in the U.S. and as a treatment for an aging population in need of chronic pain relief.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 141 ~ 50 of 63

But the stimulators — devices that use electrical currents to block pain signals before they reach the brain — are more dangerous than many patients know, an Associated Press investigation found. They account for the third-highest number of medical device injury reports to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, with more than 80,000 incidents flagged since 2008.

Patients report that they have been shocked or burned or have suffered spinal-cord nerve damage ranging from muscle weakness to paraplegia, FDA data shows. Among the 4,000 types of devices tracked by the FDA, only metal hip replacements and insulin pumps have logged more injury reports.

The FDA data contains more than 500 reports of people with spinal-cord stimulators who died, but details are scant, making it difficult to determine if the deaths were related to the stimulator or implant surgery.

Medical device manufacturers insist spinal-cord stimulators are safe — some 60,000 are implanted annually — and doctors who specialize in these surgeries say they have helped reduce pain for many of their patients.

Most of these devices have been approved by the FDA with little clinical testing, however, and the agency's data shows that spinal-cord stimulators have a disproportionately higher number of injuries compared to hip implants, which are far more plentiful.

The AP reported on spinal stimulators as part of a nearly yearlong joint investigation of the global medical devices industry that included NBC, the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists and more than 50 other media partners around the world. Reporters collected and analyzed millions of medical records, recall notices and other product safety warnings, in addition to interviewing doctors, patients, researchers and company whistleblowers.

The media partners found that, across all types of medical devices, more than 1.7 million injuries and nearly 83,000 deaths were reported to the FDA over the last decade.

The investigation also found that the FDA — considered by other countries to be the gold standard in medical device oversight — puts people at risk by pushing devices through an abbreviated approval process, then responds slowly when it comes to forcing companies to correct sometimes life-threatening products.

Devices are rarely pulled from the market, even when major problems emerge. And the FDA does not disclose how many devices are implanted in the U.S. each year — critical information that could be used to calculate success and failure rates.

The FDA acknowledges its data has limitations, including mistakes, omissions and under-reporting that can make it difficult to determine whether a device directly caused an injury or death. But it rejects any suggestion of failed oversight.

"There are over 190,000 different devices on the U.S. market. We approve or clear about a dozen new or modified devices every single business day," Dr. Jeffrey Shuren, the FDA's medical device director said at an industry conference in May. "The few devices that get attention at any time in the press is fewer than the devices we may put on the market in a single business day. That to me doesn't say that the system is failing. It's remarkable that the system is working as it does."

In response to reporters' questions, the FDA said last week that it was taking new action to create "a more robust medical device safety net for patients through better data." "Unfortunately, the FDA cannot always know the full extent of the benefits and risks of a device before it reaches the market," the agency said. In the last 50 years, the medical device industry has revolutionized treatment for some of the deadliest scourges of modern medicine, introducing devices to treat or diagnose heart disease, cancer and diabetes.

Pete Corby, who injured his back working as a movie stuntman, said a spinal-cord stimulator helped him deal with his constant pain and stop using the opioids he'd become dependent on.

"This is the greatest thing that saved my life, literally saved my life," said Corby, estimating that up to three-quarters of his original pain was alleviated by the stimulator.

Medical device companies have "invested countless resources — both capital and human — in developing leading-edge compliance programs," said Janet Trunzo, head of technology and regulatory affairs for AdvaMed, the industry's main trade association.

At the same time, medical device makers also have spent billions to try to influence regulators, hospitals

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 141 ~ 51 of 63

and doctors.

In the U.S., where drug and device manufacturers are required to disclose payments to physicians, the 10 largest medical device companies paid nearly \$600 million to doctors or their hospitals last year to cover consulting fees, research and travel and entertainment expenses, according to an AP and ICIJ analysis of data from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. This figure doesn't include payments from device manufacturers like Johnson & Johnson and Allergan, which also sell other products.

On top of that, lobbying records show that the top four spinal-cord stimulator manufacturers have spent more than \$22 million combined since 2017 to try to influence legislation benefiting their overall business, which includes other devices.

Some companies have been fined for bribing physicians, illegally promoting products for unapproved uses and paying for studies that proclaim the safety and effectiveness of their products, according to the joint investigation.

In a 2016 case, Olympus Corp. of the Americas, the largest U.S. distributor of endoscopes and related medical equipment, agreed to pay \$623.2 million "to resolve criminal charges and civil claims relating to a scheme to pay kickbacks to doctors and hospitals," according to the U.S. Justice Department. Olympus said that it "agreed to make various improvements to its compliance program."

In a case the previous year involving spinal-cord stimulators, Medtronic Inc. agreed to pay \$2.8 million to settle Justice Department claims that the company had harmed patients and defrauded federal health care programs by providing physicians "powerful" financial inducements that turned them into "salesmen" for costly procedures. Medtronic denied wrongdoing. "As a matter of policy, Medtronic does not comment on specific litigation," the company said in a statement. "We do stand behind the safety and efficacy of our Spinal Cord Stimulators and the strong benefits this technology provides to patients, many of whom have tried all other therapy options to no benefit."

Some doctors enthusiastically promote spinal-cord stimulators without disclosing to patients they've received money from medical device manufacturers. Some experts say doctors are not legally required to disclose such payments, but they have an ethical obligation to do so. Sometimes the money goes to the doctors' hospitals, and not directly to them.

As for Taft, he said he just wanted to get better, but he has lost hope.

"This is my death sentence," Taft said, stretched out beneath his bed's wooden headboard on which he's carved the words "death row."

"I'll die here," he said.

A generation ago, tens of thousands of women were injured by the Dalkon Shield, an intrauterine device that caused life-threatening infections. Consumer advocates demanded testing and pre-market approval of medical devices to prevent deaths and injuries associated with defective products.

So in 1976, Congress passed the Medical Device Amendments, a law meant to assure Americans that devices recommended by their doctors would do good and not harm.

"Until today, the American consumer could not be sure that a medical device used by his physician, his hospital or himself was as safe and effective as it could or should be," President Gerald Ford said when he signed the bill into law.

Charged with carrying out the law, the FDA created three classes of medical devices. High-risk products like spinal-cord stimulators are designated to be held to the most rigorous clinical testing standards. But the vast majority of devices go through a less stringent review process that provides an easy path to market for devices deemed "substantially equivalent" to products already approved for use.

As designed by Congress, that process should have been phased out. Instead, it became the standard path to market for thousands of devices, including hip replacements implanted in tens of thousands of patients that would later be recalled because metal shavings from the devices made some people sick.

The AP found that the FDA has allowed some spinal-cord stimulators to reach the market without new clinical studies, approving them largely based on results from studies of earlier spinal stimulators.

Spinal stimulators are complex devices that send electrical currents through wires placed along the spine,

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 141 ~ 52 of 63

using a battery implanted under the skin. An external remote controls the device.

The four biggest makers of spinal-cord stimulators are Boston Scientific Corp., based in Marlborough, Massachusetts; Medtronic, with headquarters in Ireland and the U.S.; Nevro, in Redwood City, California; and Illinois-based Abbott, which entered the market after its \$23.6 billion purchase of St Jude Medical Inc.

St. Jude's application to go to market with its first spinal stimulator contained no original patient data and was based on clinical results from other studies, while Boston Scientific's application for its Precision spinal-cord stimulator was based largely on older data, though it did include a small, original study of 26 patients who were tracked for as little as two weeks.

Once approved, medical device companies can use countless supplementary requests to alter their products, even when the changes are substantial.

For example, there have been only six new spinal-cord stimulator devices approved since 1984, with 835 supplemental changes to those devices given the go-ahead through the middle of this year, the AP found. Medtronic alone has been granted 394 supplemental changes to its stimulator since 1984, covering everything from altering the sterilization process to updating the design.

"It's kind of the story of FDA's regulation of devices, where they're just putting stuff on the market," said Diana Zuckerman, president of the National Center for Health Research, who has studied medical devices for nearly 30 years.

Medical device manufacturers have cited multiple industry-funded studies showing the effectiveness of spinal-cord stimulation in the treatment of chronic pain. Experts say treatment is considered successful if pain is reduced by at least half, but not every patient experiences that much pain reduction.

A 2016 study looking at different stimulation systems found "significant evidence" that they were "a safe, clinical and cost-effective treatment for many chronic pain conditions."

But Zuckerman noted that the more extensive studies came after the devices were being widely used on people.

"These patients are guinea pigs," she said.

FDA said in a statement that it approves, clears or grants marketing authorization to an average of 12 devices per business day and its decisions are "based on valid scientific evidence" that the devices are safe and effective.

Dr. Walter J. Koroshetz, director at the neurological disorders and stroke division at the National Institutes of Health, said trials for medical devices like spinal-cord stimulators are generally small and industry-sponsored, with a "substantial" placebo effect.

"I don't know of anyone who is happy with spinal-cord technology as it stands," Koroshetz said. "I think everybody thinks it can be better."

Every time Jim Taft walked into his pain management doctor's office, he would glance at the brochures touting spinal-cord stimulators — the ones with pictures of people swimming, biking and fishing.

Inside the exam room, Taft said, his doctor told him the device had been successful for his other patients and would improve his quality of life.

On lifetime worker's compensation after his right arm was crushed as he was hauling materials for an architectural engineering company, Taft had been seeing the doctor for five years before he decided to get a stimulator in 2014. What finally swayed him, he said, was the doctor's plan to wean him off painkillers.

"I felt backed into a corner," said, Taft, who lives in West Columbia, South Carolina.

Taft said his pain management doctor praised the technology, saying stimulators had improved the quality of life for his patients. But four years later, Taft is unable to walk more than a few steps.

Taft is one of 40 patients interviewed by the AP who said they had problems with spinal-cord stimulators. The AP found them through online forums for people with medical devices. Twenty-eight of them said their spinal-cord stimulators not only failed to alleviate pain but left them worse off than before their surgeries.

Zuckerman, who has worked at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and as a senior policy adviser to then-first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, said no doctor wants to think they're harming patients.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 141 ~ 53 of 63

"But there's a tremendous financial incentive to downplay, ignore or forget bad patient experiences and just focus on how happy patients are," she said.

More than half the patients interviewed by the AP said they felt pressured to get stimulators because they feared their doctors would cut off their pain medications — the only thing helping them.

Stimulators are considered a treatment of "last resort" by insurance companies, as well as Medicare and Medicaid. That means doctors must follow a protocol before insurance will pay for the device and implantation.

Physicians must show that conservative treatments failed to help, and patients also undergo psychological assessments to evaluate the likelihood of success. They then typically undergo a trial period lasting three days to a week with thin electrodes inserted under the skin. If patients say they got relief from the external transmitter sending electrical pulses to the contacts near their spines, they have surgery to implant a permanent stimulator.

Taft said his three-day trial helped reduce his pain so, a few days before his surgery, he began preparing for a new life. He ordered lumber to refurbish a patio and deck for his wife, Renee, as thanks for her years of support.

In April 2014, Boston Scientific's Precision stimulator was implanted in Taft by Jason Highsmith, a Charleston, South Carolina, neurosurgeon who has received \$181,000 from the company over the past five years in the form of consulting fees and payments for travel and entertainment. A Boston Scientific sales representative was in the operating room — a common practice, the AP found.

Highsmith would not comment on the payments. Other doctors have defended the practice, saying they do important work that helps the companies — and ultimately patients — and deserve to be compensated for their time.

From the time Taft was cut open and the device placed inside his body, he had nothing but problems, according to hundreds of pages of medical records reviewed by the AP. The device began randomly shocking him, and the battery burned his skin.

Taft and his wife complained repeatedly, but said his doctors and a Boston Scientific representative told them that spinal-cord stimulators don't cause the kind of problems he had.

That runs counter to Boston Scientific's own literature, which acknowledges that spinal stimulators and the procedures to implant them carry risks, such as the leads moving, overstimulation, paralysis and infections.

That also is not reflected in the AP's analysis of FDA injury reports, which found shocking and burning had been reported for all major models of spinal-cord stimulators. For Boston Scientific devices, infection was the most common complaint over the past decade, mentioned in more than 4,000 injury reports.

In response to questions, the company called infection "unfortunately a risk in any surgical procedure" that the company works hard to avoid. It added that the FDA's data "shouldn't be interpreted as a causal sign of a challenge with our device. In fact, many examples of reportable infections include those that were caused by the surgical procedure or post-operative care."

"In our internal quality assessments, over 95 percent of the injury reports were temporary or reversible in nature," the company added.

Taft said had he known the devices hurt so many people, he would have reconsidered getting one. A Boston Scientific sales representative tried reprogramming the device, he said, but nothing worked.

"I told them that it feels like the lead is moving up and down my spine," Taft said. "They said, 'It can't move.'" But in July 2014, X-rays revealed the lead indeed had moved — two inches on one side.

Highsmith told the AP the electrode broke from "vigorous activity," though Taft said that would not have been possible due to his condition. Taft said he was in such bad shape after his surgery that he was never able to redo the patio and deck for his wife or do anything else vigorous.

That October, Highsmith said, he operated on Taft to install a new lead, tested the battery and reinserted it.

Still, Taft's medical records show that he continued to report numbness, tingling and pain. During a January 2015 appointment, a physician assistant wrote that the device "seemed to make his pain worse."

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 141 ~ 54 of 63

The stimulator was surgically removed in August 2015. The following June, Taft got a second opinion from a clinic that specializes in spinal injuries, which said he had "significant axial and low back pain due to implantation and explantation" of the stimulator.

Highsmith said other doctors have documented severe arthritis in Taft and that, while he has not examined Taft in more than three years, it's "likely his current condition is the result of disease progression and other factors."

He did not answer questions about whether he informed Taft of the risks associated with stimulators.

The doctor said the overwhelming majority of his spinal-cord stimulator patients gain significant pain relief. "Unfortunately, in spite of the major medical breakthroughs with devices like these, some patients still suffer from intractable pain," he said.

Renee Taft, a paralegal, reached out to Boston Scientific in 2017, but said the company refused to help because her husband's stimulator had been removed and blamed Taft for his problems, also saying he had engaged in "rigorous physical activity" after surgery.

In the letter from the company's legal department, Boston Scientific also noted that federal law shielded manufacturers from personal liability claims involving medical devices approved by the FDA.

In response to questions from the AP, Boston Scientific again blamed Taft's "activity level" but didn't elaborate. The company also said other factors could contribute to his problems such as "hyperalgesia, a phenomenon associated with long-term opioid use which results in patients becoming increasingly sensitive to some stimuli."

Brenda Simpson-Davis of Milton, Florida, said Boston Scientific also disregarded her complaints after her husband suffered a life-threatening infection following implant surgery.

George Davis, 57, had three Medtronic spinal-cord implants between 2003 and 2007 after a car accident mangled his back. They temporarily reduced some of his pain, but he said the non-rechargeable batteries that were supposed to last for years never did and he tired of multiple surgical removals.

In 2015, his pain management doctor urged him to try Boston Scientific's Precision Spectra, which he called the best on the market. Unlike Davis's old models, it had a rechargeable battery.

Within weeks of his surgery, Davis said, he started feeling pain shooting down his back and legs and a burning sensation at the implant site. After his skin started turning black, the doctor performed emergency surgery to remove the device.

Months later, Davis reluctantly agreed when his doctor urged him to try another Boston Scientific model but found that device even worse.

Over the next year, he spent more than 100 days in and out of hospitals battling a life-threatening infection. Today, Davis says he has trouble getting out of bed.

Boston Scientific said it never received the stimulators that were implanted in Taft and Davis so could not "conclusively identify" the causes of their problems. "Numerous factors can contribute to a patient's ongoing symptoms, from increased physical activity to the onset of pain in other areas," the company said.

Simpson-Davis said she spoke with attorneys around the country, who warned her about the high bar set for a lawsuit. Finally, she found a Texas lawyer who said he will consider taking the case if she can find another two dozen potential plaintiffs.

"To me, it's not about the money, It's about the people. It's about them knowing what they're getting themselves into," she said.

For years, Valerie McJunkin had been seeking relief from a rare neurological disorder that made her legs and feet feel like they were on fire. So when a medical device company sales representative and her West Virginia pain management doctor recommended what sounded to her like a "miracle device," she was all in.

They said a new kind of stimulator — one that targeted a bundle of sensory nerve cells in the lower back — was better than a spinal-cord device. She just needed to undergo a weeklong trial.

When McJunkin showed up at the pain clinic this January for the trial, the Abbott sales representative was there, along with her doctor and his staff. They explained every detail. This device wasn't for everyone, but she was the perfect candidate, she recalled them saying.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 141 ~ 55 of 63

Over the next week, they called or texted her nearly every day to see if the stimulator was easing her torment. And since the trial did seem to help, she went ahead with the implant.

Within days, though, the device began randomly shocking her — a sharp pain that felt like a lightning bolt.

When McJunkin called her doctor and the Abbott representative, she said they suggested that she was at fault because “stimulators don’t do that.” It wasn’t until she received a certified letter from Abbott in March that she learned it wasn’t all in her head: The company said her device was being recalled due to a glitch that could cause patients some “discomfort.”

Since 2005, there have been 50 recalls involving spinal stimulators, averaging about four per year in the last five years. Roughly half the recalls involved stimulators made by Medtronic, the world’s largest device manufacturer, though none warned of a risk of serious injury or death.

In early September, McJunkin invited an AP reporter to accompany her when she met with her doctor and the company sales representative to request the device be removed.

The Abbott salesman and her doctor both suggested she get another stimulator, saying she had run out of options, especially since her doctor couldn’t write prescriptions for opioids because of a government crackdown. If she didn’t get another stimulator, he said, she faced a lifetime of pain. He did not suggest other options, such as steroid shots or continued physical therapy.

“I’m not trying to force your mind,” the doctor said. “But for me, would I want to live my life like this?... If I get that new battery and it totally helps, that changes my life 180 degrees, right? But if I don’t I already know what’s going to happen to me: I’ll be suffering for the rest of my life.”

On the drive home to Martinsburg, West Virginia, McJunkin gripped the steering wheel of her car, her tattoo reading “persevere” visible on her forearm.

“You trust your doctor. You think he’s going to do the right thing,” she said. She paused, fighting back tears. “I just wanted to live without pain. But now that hope is gone.”

In late October, her doctor removed the device.

The experience of nearly all the 40 patients interviewed by the AP mirrored McJunkin’s: Their pain was reduced during the trial but returned once their stimulators were implanted.

Experts say the answer may be a placebo effect created when expectations are built up during the trial that only the stimulator can offer relief from pain, exacerbated by patients not wanting to disappoint family members, who often have been serving as their caregivers.

“If patients know this is a last resort, a last hope, of course they will respond well,” said Dr. Michael Gofeld, a Toronto-based anesthesiologist and pain management specialist who has studied and implanted spinal-cord stimulators in both the U.S. and Canada.

By the time the trial ends, the patient is “flying high, the endorphin levels are high,” Gofeld said.

Manufacturer representatives are heavily involved during the entire process. Along with often being in the operating room during surgery in case the physician has questions, they meet with patients to program the devices in the weeks following surgery.

Most of the patients interviewed by the AP said the adjustments to their devices were performed by sales representatives, often with no doctor or nurse present. That includes one patient who was billed for programming as if the doctor was in the room, though he was not.

“People who are selling the device should not be in charge of maintenance,” Gofeld said. “It’s totally unethical.”

In a 2015 Texas case, a former Medtronic sales representative filed suit contending she was fired after complaining that the company trained employees to program neurostimulators without physicians present. She also claimed that a Medtronic supervisor snatched surgical gloves away from her when she refused to bandage a patient during a procedure, pushed her aside and then cleaned and dressed the patient’s wound. Medtronic denied the allegations, and the case was settled on undisclosed terms.

In the Justice Department case involving Medtronic, a salesman who said he earned as much as \$600,000 a year selling spinal-cord stimulators claimed sales representatives encouraged physicians to perform unnecessary procedures that drove up the costs for Medicare and other federal health programs.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 141 ~ 56 of 63

"While there have been a few instances where individuals or affiliates did not comply with Medtronic's policies, we acted to remedy the situation in each case once discovered and to correct any misconduct," the company said.

Gofeld said he believes stimulators do work, but that many of the problems usually arise when doctors don't choose appropriate candidates. And he thinks the stimulators are used too often in the U.S.

Nevro, one of the four big manufacturers, has cited estimates that there are as many as 4,400 facilities in the U.S. where spinal-stimulation devices are implanted by a variety of physicians, including neurosurgeons, psychiatrists and pain specialists.

It's a lucrative business. Analysts say stimulators and the surgery to implant them costs between \$32,000 and \$50,000, with the device itself constituting \$20,000 to \$25,000 of that amount. If surgery is performed in a hospital, the patient usually stays overnight, and the hospital charges a facility fee for obtaining the device. Costs are typically covered by insurance.

The AP found that doctors can make more money if they perform the surgery at physician-owned outpatient surgery centers, since the doctor buys the device, marks it up and adds on the facility fee.

In Canada, where Gofeld now works, he said the surgeries are done only by those who specialize in the procedures. He said spinal-cord stimulators should be used when pain starts and not after failed back surgeries.

"By then," he said, "it's too late."

While manufacturers and top FDA officials tout stimulators as a weapon in the battle against opioids, neurosurgeons like Steven Falowski are the front-line evangelists.

"Chronic pain is one of the largest health-care burdens we have in the U.S. It's more than heart disease, cancer and diabetes combined," Falowski said in an interview.

He referred AP to Corby, as one of his surgical patients who was helped by a spinal-cord stimulator.

Corby got the device more than two years ago and says that, after some initial adjustments, he hasn't had any further problems. He says he wouldn't trade the stimulator for opioids.

"I was actually buying them on the street ... a little like a druggie because I couldn't get them anymore" from his pain doctor, Corby said.

Falowski said opioids are good for acute pain, but were never meant to treat long-term chronic pain. For him, that's where spinal-cord stimulators come in.

If they're used early enough for pain, they can prevent people from going on opium-based pain killers, said Falowski, who speaks at neuromodulation conferences and teaches other doctors how to implant stimulators.

Since 2013, device manufacturers have paid Falowski — or St. Luke's University Health Network in Fountain Hill, Pennsylvania, where he works — nearly \$863,000, including \$611,000 from St. Jude or its new parent company, Abbott, according to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services database. The payments range from consulting fees to travel and entertainment expenses.

Falowski said he has conducted research and done other work for manufacturers, adding, "The contracts with industry are with my hospital and not with me."

St. Luke's told the AP that it keeps the majority of the payments from device makers, but that Falowski "may receive a portion of these payments through his annual compensation."

Another of Falowski's patients was Lisa Snyder of Kempton, Pennsylvania, who was searching for relief from a painful nerve disorder. By the time she came to Falowski, she had cycled through three spinal-cord stimulators, which were removed for reasons ranging from infection to rejection.

"Not everybody could do it, but he was confident he could," she said.

After her fourth implant this March, "I complained about this battery right away. I knew it was positioned funny. It burned," Snyder said.

AP's analysis showed Abbott products were more likely than other major models to include reports of a hot or burning sensation near the site of the battery, with about 5,600 injury reports since 2008 referring to the words "heat" or "burn."

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 141 ~ 57 of 63

Abbott said that many of the "adverse events" reports in the FDA's data stemmed from a device that was voluntarily recalled in 2011. The company added that feeling a temperature increase at the implant site "is often a reality for rechargeable spinal-cord stimulation systems," which is why the company is now concentrating on devices that do not need to be recharged.

Snyder said she felt like Falowski's nurse and physician assistant downplayed the problems and that the reprogramming of her device was conducted by the Abbott sales representative, with no medical staff present. On at least one occasion, she was charged as if the medical staff was there, when she said they weren't, according to insurance bills reviewed by the AP.

Despite insisting nothing was wrong with the unit, Snyder said, Falowski called her one day out of the blue. "He said 'Under no circumstances are you to turn it on.' I asked him why and he wouldn't say," Snyder recalled.

Falowski then scheduled immediate surgery to remove the stimulator, she said.

Falowski called Snyder a difficult patient and said she was receiving "100 percent pain relief" when she had the stimulator removed, adding that she "remained very appreciative of her care." He added that programming is "performed under the direction of a physician."

"The physician is not present during the entire programming session, but provides oversight and direction....The only time programming sessions are billed is when the physician is actively seeing the patient during a visit which was the case with this patient," he said.

Snyder disputed the doctor's characterization of her and became angry after being told Falowski and his hospital received money from manufacturers.

"They need to be a little bit upfront," she said.

Falowski said doctors do important work for medical device companies, and he has been involved in device development, education, clinical trials and research.

"You're trying to help patients and you realize as a physician by yourself you're not going to generate \$200 million to make the next best implant for a patient and it's going to take a company to do that," he said. "So I think the important part in that relationship is transparency and disclosures."

Experts interviewed by the AP said doctors are not legally required to tell their patients about financial relationships with medical device manufacturers, but that it would be the right thing to do.

"The patient should be fully informed before consenting to a procedure," said Genevieve P. Kanter, an assistant professor at the University of Pennsylvania who specializes in internal medicine, medical ethics and health policy.

All Snyder ever wanted was to feel better. Today, she often is immobilized by pain.

Before the latest stimulator, she could walk, stand and cook meals. Now, she finds it hard to get out of bed and rarely leaves her house. She says the device has ruined her life.

"My fear is I'll be like this forever," she said.

Washington D.C.-based Associated Press reporters Meghan Hoyer and Matthew Perrone contributed to this report, as did Denver-based video journalist P. Solomon Banda.

Contact AP's investigative team at Investigative@ap.org

Breast implants reveal problems in tracking device safety

By MEGHAN HOYER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — To all the world, it looked like breast implants were safe. From 2008 to 2015, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration publicly reported 200 or so complaints annually — a tiny fraction of the hundreds of thousands of implant surgeries performed each year.

Then last fall, something strange happened: Thousands of problems with breast implants flooded the FDA's system. More than 4,000 injury reports filed in the last half of 2017. Another 8,000 in the first six months of 2018.

Suddenly, women like Jamee Cook had evidence suggesting their suffering might be linked to their breast

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 141 ~ 58 of 63

implants. An emergency room paramedic, Cook had quit her job because of a vague but persistent array of health problems that stretched over a decade, including exhaustion, migraines, trouble focusing and an autoimmune disorder diagnosis.

Why had it taken so long for complaints like hers to see the light of day?

Makers of breast implants were required to track patients and their health. But for more than a decade, manufacturers with high numbers of recurring problems — in the case of implants, ruptures that required surgery to remove — were allowed to report issues in bulk, with one report standing in for thousands of individual cases and no way for the public to discern the true volume of incidents.

That agreement stood even as the FDA began closely monitoring a rare type of cancer and acknowledged in 2011 that it might be linked to breast implants.

"It looked like these devices had become safer, but they hadn't," Cook told The Associated Press. "The data was hidden. It's a deceptive practice."

Once Cook's textured saline implants were removed, she said the majority of her symptoms disappeared. Her experiences prompted her to become a patient safety advocate, lobbying lawmakers and organizing groups of women online who have concerns about breast implants.

Public health advocates who've watched the debate over breast implant safety rage for nearly three decades say summary reporting is yet another way that information about the devices has been elusive for patients.

"They were told those devices were safe — the FDA would go back and say 'We only have this many reports,'" said Madris Tomes, a former FDA staffer who founded a company to analyze medical device reports. "But data was coming in another way that wasn't public. It leaves the patients demoralized — they don't understand how many other people are suffering."

The data came to light after the FDA instructed manufacturers in mid-2017 to go back and file individual reports in each case of patient injury, in response to a lawyer's discovery that reports from his clients weren't represented in the agency's data. Patient advocates took up the issue, complaining about a lack of transparency and voicing concerns about a host of autoimmune problems they believed stemmed from their implants.

But even as the FDA was dealing with the problems of how breast implant manufacturers had used summary reporting, the agency was moving to expand device makers' flexibility in how they report problems, saying it was trying to reduce the industry's paperwork requirements.

This August, the agency began allowing roughly 90 percent of all medical devices — including all breast implants and more than 160 types of other high-risk implanted devices like artificial hips and replacement heart valves — to report malfunctions in a quarterly tally, instead of individually. They will not be able to report cases involving deaths or injuries that way, however.

The FDA rejected claims that expanding summary reporting could harm public health by making problems with devices less transparent, saying the plan "will also yield benefits . such as helping FDA process malfunction reports more efficiently and helping both FDA and the public more readily identify malfunction trends."

FDA officials also said that the agency has closely monitored the breast implant industry in the past decade and issued updates about potential risks.

Two of the largest breast implant manufacturers, Mentor and Allergan, said they stood behind the safety of their products, citing years of studies that have led to inconclusive evidence that autoimmune problems are linked to breast implants.

"Our medical devices undergo extensive laboratory testing before they are submitted to government health experts for a science-based review," Mentor spokeswoman Mindy Tinsley said. "Many of our devices undergo careful reviews by not just one, but multiple regulatory bodies around the world."

Still, it can be hard for breast implant patients and advocates to track problems that do arise.

Insurance claims make no mention of the specific device or model implanted in a patient, and patients' electronic health records aren't required to record that either. In addition, products sold overseas can be renamed or carry a different model number, making international recalls or tracking across borders nearly

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 141 ~ 59 of 63

impossible.

Meanwhile, the FDA's main database on medical device problems, which requires manufacturers to report patient deaths and serious injuries to the government within 30 days, relies on hand-typed entries from a variety of people — from patients to device manufacturers — to help track troubled products. That can lead to underreporting, along with missing and flawed data.

Tomes said accurate, complete and publicly accessible data is crucial to identifying problems quickly and making sure devices are safe. The FDA numbers, she said, offer the lowest possible count of reports about problems with breast implants.

"You can assume that the numbers are probably much, much higher," she said.

A Duke University report funded by the FDA in 2016 found that even though the agency collected data on device malfunctions for more than two decades, "reliably and efficiently tracking the medical device safety and effectiveness outcomes of most interest to patients remains a generally unfulfilled promise" that "significantly affects the public health."

Insurers, auto buyers and regulators all use a car's VIN number to track a vehicle's history, down to the line it was manufactured on at a specific factory, and the FDA's own pharmaceutical drug oversight works similarly. But medical devices didn't have a similar unique identifier until 2015, and many of the least-risky devices won't put an ID into use until 2020. On top of that, experts say it could be years before their use is required in patient records, on insurance claims and in the FDA's own data.

What are the most common makes and models of breast implants reported as having caused injury? The FDA's answer is still quite often "Unknown."

The FDA requires manufacturers and medical facilities to file a report when any kind of medical device causes serious injury, death or malfunctions.

The resulting database — called MAUDE, for Manufacturer and User Facility Device Experience — is available online to the public, so consumers can search for a device type, manufacturer, the details of an incident and the date on which it occurred. That is, if the forms are filled out properly.

But categories often are left blank, with no indication of the model or who submitted the report. And device names and manufacturers also are often misspelled, making it nearly impossible for users to find all the reports of problems with a specific device or company. For example, the data contains roughly 2,000 variations of the name Medtronic plc, one of the world's largest medical device manufacturers.

Overall, the MAUDE data contains reports of more than 1.7 million injuries and nearly 83,000 deaths over the past 10 years for all types of medical devices, according to an analysis of FDA data by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists, which collaborated with the AP on a global investigation of medical device safety.

But in looking at problems with the MAUDE data, the investigation found an additional 2,100 cases in the past five years where people died but their deaths were misclassified as "malfunctions" or "injuries." Of those, 220 deaths could be directly linked to medical device failure; the other reports did not include enough information to determine conclusively if the device played a role.

Beyond the misclassified data, FDA inspections at 17 hospitals in 2015 and 2016 found that only a fraction of "adverse events" were even being reported anyway. The review — which included major facilities in Los Angeles, New York, Boston and Chicago — found more than half failed to report deaths of patients with medical devices, as required by the agency's rules. Jeffrey Shuren, the head of the FDA's device division, said at the time that underreporting problems from hospitals was widespread. The agency enhanced compliance training for hospital employees nationwide as a result.

Part of the problem, advocates say, is that the FDA's guidelines for reporting problem devices is vague — the agency states that reports are required from manufacturers within 30 days of an event when evidence "reasonably suggests" that a device was involved, allowing companies to make their own judgments.

S. Lori Brown, now a retired FDA senior researcher, used MAUDE for years in her studies of breast implants, ruptures and possible links to rare forms of cancer and a host of autoimmune disorders.

"It's a difficult database to use, because there's no good way to confirm what's reported, and there's

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 141 ~ 60 of 63

no denominator — you don't know how many people have received breast implants," Brown said. "The MAUDE database was just not very helpful in finding out how frequently things happened or how severe the impact was."

Where it was helpful, she said, was in gathering patient stories and seeing general trends. In the 1990s, even as manufacturers claimed breast implants were durable enough to be run over by a car without breaking, MAUDE showed silicone implants leaking gel into thousands of women's bodies.

"As a signal, it was a burning bush, for sure," Brown said. "Because there were so many reports of ruptured implants from every manufacturer."

After the FDA removed silicone breast implants from the market in 1992, the public attention around ruptures and leaks resulted in a huge spike in the number reports about problems. During the 1990s, silicone implants represented the third-highest number of adverse events reports in MAUDE. At the time, the data show patients also complained about other symptoms, with hundreds of reports about chronic fatigue, headaches, autoimmune problems and fibromyalgia.

In 2006, silicone implants returned to the market, under the requirement that companies track patients for at least a decade. Although more than half the women dropped out of the studies within the first two years, researchers at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston released a study this September using the data the companies did collect and found that certain rare health problems — including immune system and connective tissue disorders — might be more common with silicone gel implants. The FDA, which mandated the original data collection, later criticized the study, citing "inconsistencies in the data."

Last year, the FDA did confirm a link between breast implants, particularly textured saline or silicone models, and anaplastic large cell lymphoma — a rare cancer documented in only a few hundred cases.

On its website, the FDA also noted more common problems with implants, such as ruptures, which can send silicone gel throughout the body. And the agency warned that implants "are not lifetime devices," but will likely need to be removed or replaced at some point.

The return of silicone implants, which advocates say feel more natural, has fueled a surge in surgeries. The American Society of Plastic Surgeons reported 400,000 procedures took place in 2017, up nearly 40 percent since 2000.

More than three-quarters of the implant surgeries were for cosmetic, not reconstructive, reasons. And there were about 20 percent fewer removals compared to 2000, the data show.

The increase in implants worries Diana Zuckerman, a medical researcher who was a congressional staffer during the earliest contentious House hearings on breast implant safety. She said poorly performed studies, research funded directly by manufacturers and the lack of data have left most women in the dark about the risks involved.

"Somehow, it's the most studied device and we have almost no useful information about it," said Zuckerman, the president of the National Center for Health Research, a nonprofit think tank that performs its own research, assesses the quality of others' research and works with patients.

Zuckerman's center reviewed more than 20 studies it says has been used by the industry to claim there is no evidence breast implants cause connective tissue problems and other long-term illnesses. She said almost all the studies were too small to detect rare diseases and conditions, only one required that participants have a medical exam and most didn't focus on patients who had implants long enough for problems to develop.

In September, Cook and 19 other breast implant patients-turned-health-advocates visited Washington to lobby the FDA for more stringent regulation, testing and reporting on breast implants. Among their requests — that all types of textured implants, which are more closely associated with lymphoma, be banned from the market, and that manufacturers be required to disclose the chemicals in silicone implants' shell and gel filling, which the makers claim is a trade secret.

The FDA has scheduled an advisory committee hearing for early 2019 on breast implant safety to address some of the U.S. group's concerns and determine whether additional actions are needed to protect public health. The agency did not rule out the possibility of including a "black box warning," the notification it

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 141 ~ 61 of 63

puts on its most dangerous devices to draw attention to serious risks.

However, the FDA said in a statement: "The agency continues to believe that the weight of the currently available scientific evidence does not conclusively demonstrate an association between breast implants and connective tissue diseases."

Cook, who leads several breast implant groups on Facebook from her home near Dallas, said she chose to get her implants, but did so with almost no information on the potential dangers.

"If you had sat down with me and said 'this is the list of chemicals you're about to put in your body and you could get lymphoma,' no way in hell I would have done it," she said.

Her implants, a textured saline model made by Poly Implant Prothese of France, were used in the U.S. for four years before the FDA implemented more stringent standards for breast implant approval in 2000. Under the new rules, the FDA denied the company's application to sell implants in the U.S. after officials toured the company's French plant and cited 11 major deficiencies in quality control and manufacturing practices.

Poly Implant went bankrupt in 2010 after doctors in France noted abnormally high rupture rates of the implants, which were found to be filled with industrial-grade gel. The company's president was found guilty of aggravated fraud, and French authorities advised tens of thousands of women to get their implants removed as a precautionary measure.

Cook, 41, said she and others who already had the saline implants never were warned of the FDA's actions.

"I'm not going to sit back and be embarrassed about my decision when I can try to change the way that the future is going to occur for women younger than me," she said. "We need to make sure we're giving that patient the most safe device we possibly can. And above that, we need to make sure she understands what the risks are before she makes that choice."

The FDA may now require an identifying number on medical devices, but Zuckerman and other advocates note one big issue with the code associated with breast implants: The number is not actually stamped on the implant itself, but on the packaging.

"For the most part, these devices don't cause immediate problems — they cause problems later," Zuckerman said. "What good does it do to have these numbers if they're not in your medical records and they aren't on the implant itself?"

The unique device identifier, or UDI, is intended to help standardize device names and manufacturer information and make it easier to track devices to help in recall efforts and analyses of problems.

But that doesn't work if the codes aren't in the FDA's own database. Tomes, whose company Device Events analyzes MAUDE data, said UDIs are still rarely included in adverse event reports and, even when they are, often are removed from the public data so they can't be used to identify specific devices.

"The whole point of having a UDI is so that hospitals and providers and insurance companies and anyone else would be able to say 'I'm seeing a pattern, it's all this serial number,'" Tomes said. "But it's redacted."

Similarly, Tomes and others say the FDA's expansion of summary reporting and its use of device registries — databases funded and maintained by outside organizations to track a singular specific device — may ultimately make less data available to consumers.

This fall, the agency announced a breast implant registry run through the Plastic Surgery Foundation that will collect patient and device data — including UDI numbers for breast implants — and allow surgeons to track patients' medical history, complications and follow-up surgeries.

The participation of plastic surgeons in the registry is voluntary, and patients also can opt out. Doctors and researchers will have access to the collected data, but the public will not.

As the FDA weighed its expansion of the summary reporting program earlier this year, Cook and a dozen other patients with medical device problems, along with the patient-advocacy group Public Citizen, urged the agency to rethink its plan.

But the FDA sided with manufacturers and industry organizations, which had asked for easier reporting requirements for malfunctions, freeing them in some cases from filing tens of thousands of individual reports a year. Under the new rules now in place, roughly 90 percent of devices can report malfunctions quarterly.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 141 ~ 62 of 63

"Thousands on thousands of consumers are harmed every single year by medical devices and we are discussing making it easier to hide the information that we need to make an informed decision," Cook wrote in her dissent to the plan.

"While the goal is not to 'hide' the data," she wrote, "in essence that is what is happening."

AP Health Writer Matthew Perrone contributed to this story.

Asian shares rise despite Trump's latest talk on tariffs

By ANNABELLE LIANG, Associated Press

SINGAPORE (AP) — Asian markets clocked more gains Tuesday ahead of a meeting between the U.S. and China at the Group of 20 summit this week, despite President Donald Trump's comments that it's "highly unlikely" he'll hold off on raising tariffs as Beijing requested.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 added 0.1 percent to 21,843.37 and South Korea's Kospi rose 0.4 percent to 2,090.35. The Shanghai Composite was up 0.3 percent at 2,582.72. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 gained 0.6 percent to 5,702.70. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index bucked the trend, giving up 0.4 percent to 26,269.33. Shares rose in Malaysia but fell in Taiwan, Singapore and Indonesia.

WALL STREET: Technology and retail companies led a recovery of U.S. stocks, which suffered big losses last week. Monday marked the first full trading day of the holiday shopping season. Amazon surged 5 percent and Nike gained 1.7 percent. The S&P 500 index closed 1.6 percent higher at 2,673.45. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 1.5 percent to 24,640.24 and the Nasdaq composite jumped 2.1 percent to 7,081.85. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks added 1.2 percent to 1,505.96.

TRUMP ON TARIFFS: In an interview with the Wall Street Journal, Trump said it is "highly unlikely" he'll reverse plans to raise tariffs on \$200 billion of Chinese goods in January. He also threatened to impose tariffs on more Chinese goods if he fails to broker a deal with Chinese President Xi Jinping this week. The two leaders are set to meet on the sidelines of G-20 summit in Argentina, which takes place on Friday and Saturday. Trump also said that the new tariffs would "maybe" apply to iPhones and laptops imported from China. Apple slumped 2.1 percent to \$170.93 in after-hours trading, erasing its gains in the U.S. session.

ANALYST'S TAKE: The rebound in U.S. equities "is set to be tested as Trump has resumed his confrontational approach ahead of G-20 meeting with Xi," Zhu Huani of Mizuho Bank said in a market commentary. "This has sent a cautious mood to the market as a grim reminder that hurdle remains high in the forthcoming Trump-Xi trade talk," she added.

ENERGY: Oil futures fell on concerns over rising stockpiles and slowing economic growth. OPEC representatives and other major oil producers will meet in Vienna next week to discuss a possible cut in production. Benchmark U.S. crude shed 33 cents to \$51.30. The contract added \$1.21 to close at \$51.63 in New York on Monday. Brent crude, the international standard, lost 21 cents to \$60.27. It gained \$1.68 to \$60.48 in London.

CURRENCIES: The dollar weakened to 113.45 yen from 113.59 yen late Monday. The euro rose to \$1.1335 from \$1.1327.

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Nov. 27, the 331st day of 2018. There are 34 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 27, 1924, Macy's first Thanksgiving Day parade — billed as a "Christmas Parade" — took place in New York.

On this date:

In 1901, the U.S. Army War College was established in Washington, D.C.

In 1910, New York's Pennsylvania Station officially opened.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 141 ~ 63 of 63

In 1942, during World War II, the Vichy French navy scuttled its ships and submarines in Toulon (too-LOHN') to keep them out of the hands of German troops.

In 1945, General George C. Marshall was named special U.S. envoy to China by President Harry S. Truman to try to end hostilities between the Nationalists and the Communists.

In 1962, the first Boeing 727 was rolled out at the company's Renton Plant.

In 1967, the Beatles album "Magical Mystery Tour" was released in the United States by Capitol Records.

In 1973, the Senate voted 92-3 to confirm Gerald R. Ford as vice president, succeeding Spiro T. Agnew, who'd resigned.

In 1978, San Francisco Mayor George Moscone (mahs-KOH'-nee) and City Supervisor Harvey Milk, a gay-rights activist, were shot to death inside City Hall by former supervisor Dan White. (White served five years for manslaughter; he committed suicide in Oct. 1985.)

In 1989, a bomb blamed on drug traffickers destroyed a Colombian Avianca Boeing 727, killing all 107 people on board and three people on the ground.

In 1999, Northern Ireland's biggest party, the Ulster Unionists, cleared the way for the speedy formation of an unprecedented Protestant-Catholic administration.

In 2000, a day after George W. Bush was certified the winner of Florida's presidential vote, Al Gore laid out his case for letting the courts settle the nation's long-count election.

In 2005, doctors in France performed the world's first partial face transplant on a woman disfigured by a dog bite; Isabelle Dinoire received the lips, nose and chin of a brain-dead woman in a 15-hour operation.

Ten years ago: Indian commandoes fought to wrest control of two luxury hotels and a Jewish center from militants, a day after a chain of attacks across Mumbai. Iraq's parliament approved a pact requiring all U.S. troops to be out of the country by Jan. 1, 2012.

Five years ago: In a short ceremony inside their Chicago apartment, Vernita Gray and her partner of five years, Patricia Ewert, made Illinois history as they became the first gay couple to wed under the state's new law legalizing same-sex marriage. Rising anger over deadly drone attacks spurred a Pakistani political party to reveal the identity of what it said was the top U.S. spy in the country and demand he be tried for murder. A crane collapsed at a Sao Paulo stadium being constructed for the 2014 World Cup, killing two workers.

One year ago: As he tried to bolster his support in the wake of a sexual harassment allegation, Minnesota Democratic Sen. Al Franken apologized to "everyone who has counted on me to be a champion for women." Authorities ordered a mass evacuation of people from an expanded danger zone around an erupting volcano on the Indonesian island of Bali; the eruption had closed the island's international airport, stranding tens of thousands of travelers. On Cyber Monday, the Echo Dot was the top-selling electronic item on Amazon, followed by the Fire TV.

Today's Birthdays: Author Gail Sheehy is 81. Footwear designer Manolo Blahnik is 76. Academy Award-winning director Kathryn Bigelow is 67. TV host Bill Nye ("Bill Nye, the Science Guy") is 63. Actor William Fichtner (FIHK'-nuhr) is 62. Caroline Kennedy is 61. Academy Award-winning screenwriter Callie Khouri is 61. Rock musician Charlie Burchill (Simple Minds) is 59. Jazz composer/big band leader Maria Schneider is 58. Former Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty is 58. Rock musician Charlie Benante (Anthrax) is 56. Rock musician Mike Bordin (Faith No More) is 56. Actor Fisher Stevens is 55. Actress Robin Givens is 54. Actor Michael Vartan is 50. Rapper Skoob (DAS EFX) is 48. Actor Kirk Acevedo is 47. Rapper Twista is 46. Actor Jaleel White is 42. Actor Arjay Smith is 35. Actress Alison Pill is 33. Actress Lashana Lynch (TV: "Still Star-Crossed") is 31. Actress-singer Aubrey Peeples is 25.

Thought for Today: "Pioneers are seldom from the nobility. There were no Dukes on the Mayflower." — Mack Sennett, Canadian-born American movie producer (1880-1960).