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



Dakota Outdoors

Erik Dean

402 N Main St
Aberdeen, SD 57401
605.229.0123

dakoutdoors@midconetwork.com

Groton Area Schedule of Events

Monday, December 3, 2018

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

Tuesday, December 4, 2018

Notice Debate at Milbank High School

Wednesday, December 5, 2018

ACT Practice Test at Groton Area High School
12:30pm- 3:00pm: MathCounts at Aberdeen Roncalli Middle School

Thursday, December 6, 2018

Big Question Debate at Watertown High School
7:00pm: MS/HS Christmas Concert at GHS Gymnasium

Saturday, December 8, 2018

Ringneck LD and PF Debate at Aberdeen Central High School
Robotics at Rapid City Stevens High School
10:00am: Wrestling: Boys Varsity Tournament vs. LaMoure/Litchville-Marion @ LaMoure High School
2:00pm: Basketball: Girls Varsity Double Header vs. Leola-Frederick @ Frederick High School (JV Girls game at 2pm JV Boys game at 3pm Varsity Girls game at 4:30pm Varsity Boys game at 6pm)

Sunday, December 9, 2018

(2:00pm- 6:00pm: Open Gym, GHS Arena
Grades JK-8 2pm - 4pm; Grades 6-12 4pm - 6pm)

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Please join us for an
Open House Celebration
in honor of
Rosalie Gerdes
as she retires after
nearly 35 years
years of dedicated service.

**JAMES
VALLEY**
TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Monday, December 3
10am - 12pm
235 E 1st Ave, Groton
Refreshments served



**JAMES VALLEY TELECOMMUNICATIONS
HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE**

Monday, December 3rd 10am - 4pm
235 E 1st Ave Groton

DOOR PRIZES - TREATS - SPECIALS

Register in stores or online at jamesvalley.com
for the **12 Days of Christmas Giveaway!**



Honor Band Members

Eight Groton Area High School musicians took part in the Honor Band presentation held this past weekend in Aberdeen. Students are Braden Freeman (Tuba), Rease Jandel (1st chair Bass Clarinet), Rylee Rosenau (Trombone), Stella Meier (Alto Sax), Kylie Kassube (3 year 1st chair clarinet and 4 year Honor Band Member), Samantha Pappas (Bari Sax), Emily Thompson (4 year 1st chair percussion leader AND 4 year Honor Band Member), Ashley Garduno (French Horn). Their directors are Austin Fordham and Dez Yeigh. (Photo from Yeigh's Facebook)

Help Wanted

Looking for full-time and part-time labor in Hecla area. Pressure washing livestock trailers and hog barns. Also working in hog barns as needed, training is provided. Must be able to lift at least 50 lbs. Would require some evenings. Must have good work ethic and references. Full-time benefits of health insurance and 401K, part-time has 401K. Contact Cole at 994-2201.

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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

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Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

The Minnesota Vikings needed to play a perfect game against the Patriots if they wanted to have any chance to beat them in New England, but the Vikings fell flat and are now 6-5-1 this season. The Vikings' playoff hopes are still alive, but with only four games left this year, the team will need to play much better than they have as of late.

The Vikings' offense was unable to do anything against New England. The offensive line allowed pressure nearly every time Kirk Cousins dropped back to pass, Cousins' accuracy and timing on intermediate and deep passes was off all game, and neither Diggs or Thielen were able to get open against a relatively underwhelming Patriots' defensive backfield.

Cousins completed 32 of 44 passes (73%), but only had 201 yards, one touchdown and two interceptions – and his 4.6 yards per attempt and 70.3 passer rating were both season lows. Adam Thielen only had five catches for 28 yards, but he did haul in the Vikings lone touchdown. Stefon Diggs had the same amount of receptions but fared slightly better with 49 yards. Dalvin Cook was the only offensive player to do anything, as he had nine carries for 84 yards (9.3 ypc!) and led the team with eight receptions. However, for some reason I cannot understand, Cook was only given three second-half carries and was phased out in favor of Latavius Murray (who only managed 2.8 ypc).

The Vikings defense was undone by injury. The Patriots are great at taking advantage of an opponent's weakness, and this game was no different. In the beginning of the game the Patriots were picking up big gains on short passes to the flat, which the Vikings have shown an inability to stop. Later in the game, when Trae Waynes left the game with a concussion and with Xavier Rhodes playing with a hamstring injury, the Vikings were left with their third string cornerbacks playing meaningful minutes and the Patriots changed up their game plan to take advantage.

The Patriots also did a great job of taking away the Vikings' defensive line. The group didn't have a single sack and only managed one quarterback hit. The Vikings are the best in the NFL at stopping third down conversions, but they allowed the Patriots to complete 7 of 14 (50%) while also giving up a conversion on New England's only fourth-down attempt.

The player of the game on offense was Dalvin Cook. As mentioned above, he averaged 9.3 yards per carry, which is ridiculously good. He is electric with the ball in his hands, which is why it's unfathomable why he only got three carries in the second half.

The player of the game on defense was Eric Kendricks. He finished with a team-high 16 tackles (the next player only had seven), and he also had a pass breakup. Kendricks doesn't get a lot of love in the media, but he has been solid all season and is perhaps the Vikings' most consistent player on defense.

Looking ahead, the Vikings are on the road again, this time heading to Seattle to take on the Seahawks. The game is on Monday Night Football, so it will air on ESPN December 10 at 7:10 (CT). The Seahawks are 7-5 this season and are ahead of the Vikings for a wild card spot in the playoffs. ESPN gives the Seahawks a 61% chance to win, which isn't surprising considering they have won their last three and have averaged 33.3 points per game during that run. The Vikings should be able to move the ball against this once-formidable defense, so this game will come down to whether the Vikings' defensive line can contain Russell Wilson. If they can do that, the Vikings will win this one. Skol!

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

Equipping the Next Generation By Governor-elect Kristi Noem

Today, about one in three South Dakota students have to spend credit hours, and their hard-earned dollars, on remedial courses when they first arrive to college - just to catch up to where they need to be to begin their higher education.

A study recently released by the state Department of Education reflected the same results and showed that even in our largest communities, only one third of students are able to fulfill the state's standards for college and career readiness.

We can do better.

There is no underestimating the influence of a good education. Students gain confidence and upward mobility, communities often experience decreased crime rates, and employers get access to a skilled workforce, bringing good jobs and higher wages to the area.

That's why I've created a plan to better prepare students for college, the workforce, and citizenship over the next four years, doing so in a way that balances the needs of families, teachers and administrators, and taxpayers.

This starts with doing more good with every taxpayer dollar. We can do that by expanding centralized and standardized purchasing and giving local schools more options to cut costs by taking advantage of the state's massive purchasing power.

We'll also need to continue fighting for the flexibilities we need from the federal government to best serve South Dakota students. Those working closest with our kids shouldn't be micromanaged by bureaucrats in Washington, D.C.

Exposing kids to in-demand jobs earlier is critical as well, so I'm committed to providing career counseling and information regarding these sorts of jobs beginning at the middle-school level. My administration will also work to expand experience-driven learning opportunities before college.

What's more, I believe the next generation of South Dakotans must understand the foundations of our nation, the tremendous sacrifices made to protect our constitutional rights, and the freedoms, liberties, and responsibilities we have as citizens. I'll collaborate with school districts to expand civics and U.S. history programs and encourage schools to include the citizenship test as part of their graduation criteria.

There's no better place to grow up than South Dakota, and in order to equip the next generation with the tools they need to thrive and stay in our state, we must strengthen the training programs available to them and continually look for innovative ways to improve our education system. Let's make sure our kids have the educational support necessary to unleash every ounce of their God-given potential.

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Tax Reform Continues to Benefit American Families and Businesses One Year Later

Since the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act was signed into law almost one year ago, more than 2 million jobs have been created, unemployment is at the lowest level since 1969, incomes continue to rise and our economy is strong. It has led to more jobs, bigger paychecks and a fairer tax system, especially for lower-and-middle-income Americans.

The law lowered the tax rates in every income bracket, allowing all South Dakota families to keep more of their hard-earned paychecks. It also doubled the child tax credit to \$2,000, doubled the standard deduction and repealed Obamacare's individual mandate which imposed an unfair tax on families making less than \$50,000 per year. Additionally, the tax law created the first national paid family leave program, which offers flexibility for parents to take care of their kids or care for an elderly parent.

It is also a win for farmers, as it doubled the exemption rate of the death tax to \$10.98 million a person and stopped a massive tax hike for farmer co-ops. With farm income down 50 percent in the past five years and trade uncertainty adversely affecting the ag economy, these tax changes have provided a sliver of relief and certainty.

Over the past year, we've seen the law's role in improving the economy and making a positive impact in the lives of American families. The U.S. Department of Commerce recently reported the U.S. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) rose at 3.5 percent in the third quarter of 2018. American families are seeing higher paychecks and feel more comfortable spending in the current economic environment. Consumer spending, which according to the Commerce Department accounts for more than two-thirds of U.S. economic activity, is up .6 percent last month.

With unemployment at a historic low, we now have more job openings than job hunters in the United States. This gives potential employees leverage when looking for a job that fits their needs. However, we must also continue to advance workforce development policies so businesses can fill open jobs with skilled workers. When U.S. businesses thrive, they help to strengthen the entire economy.

We especially want small businesses in South Dakota to succeed. Our small businesses provide good-paying jobs, pay local property taxes and reinvest into the future of our state. They help to support the communities where we live and raise our kids. The tax law enhanced small businesses by allowing them to keep more of their hard-earned income and reinvest in their companies. As a result, hundreds of small businesses have announced expansion, pay raises, bonuses and other benefits to employees.

Tax reform has delivered results for families across our state and across the country. It was the first time in a generation – since Ronald Reagan was president – that we enacted sweeping new reforms to the tax code and provided tax relief to hardworking families. I'm proud of the historic changes we made to the tax code that are already helping millions of Americans, and will continue to benefit our country for years to come.

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Today in Weather History

December 3, 1991: Strong northwesterly winds behind a departing surface low brought blizzard conditions and dangerously cold wind chill readings across west central and southwest Minnesota on the 3rd. A general 1 to 3-inch snowfall occurred across the area and combined with winds gusting to 50 mph at times to generate whiteout conditions from the morning into the evening. Air temperatures coupled with the strong wind to produce wind chill values ranging from 30 to 50 below zero. Some schools and businesses were closed during the morning as the storm intensified. Several car accidents and jackknifed tractor-semitrailers littered roadways. Many roads were closed at the height of the storm. Power outages occurred over a small portion of the area due to the strong winds downing ice-covered power lines.

December 3, 1838: Cleveland Abbe, an American meteorologist, and advocate of time zones was born on this day. He was trained as an astronomer and was appointed the director of the Cincinnati Observatory in 1868. He eventually turned to meteorology and inaugurated a public weather service that served as a model for today's National Weather Service.

1856 - A severe blizzard began to rage across Iowa and Kansas. It produced as much as 16 inches of snow in Iowa. (David Ludlum)

1926 - Yuma, AZ, was soaked with 1.10 inch of rain, and by the 10th of the month had received 4.43 inches, making it the wettest December of record. The average annual rainfall for Yuma is 3.38 inches. (3rd-10th) (The Weather Channel)

1983 - Birmingham, AL, was drenched with 9.22 inches of rain in 24 hours. The rains caused severe flash flooding which literally submerged traffic. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Stormy weather in the northwestern U.S. finally began to abate, but not before Gold Beach OR was drenched with 7.94 inches of rain in 24 hours. Low pressure spread snow from the Upper Mississippi Valley to the Central Appalachians. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Gale force winds ushered cold air into the northeastern U.S., and produced snow squalls in the Lower Great Lakes Region. Winds gusted to 48 mph at Buffalo NY. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Heavy snow and high winds created blizzard conditions in northern New England. Snowfall totals in Maine ranged up to 31 inches, at Limestone. Presque Isle ME reported a record 30 inches of snow in 24 hours, along with wind gusts to 46 mph. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Today



Scattered
Flurries

High: 23 °F

Tonight



Mostly Cloudy

Low: 12 °F

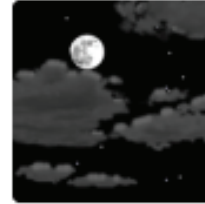
Tuesday



Mostly Cloudy

High: 29 °F

Tuesday
Night



Partly Cloudy

Low: 13 °F

Wednesday




Mostly Sunny

High: 29 °F

Today
Cloudy - Temperatures In The 20s

Tonight
Cloudy - Lows In The Teens

 Updated: 12/3/2018 4:44 AM Central

Published on: 12/03/2018 at 4:47AM

Cloudy skies will leave us with temperatures in the 20s today and lows in the teens tonight. The clouds will stick around into Tuesday before we get some sunshine and milder temperatures.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 24 °F at 8:29 PM

Low Outside Temp: 20 °F at 8:39 AM

High Gust: 30 mph at 5:04 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 63° in 1941

Record Low: -18° in 1897, 1905

Average High: 30°F

Average Low: 10°F

Average Precip in Dec.: 0.04

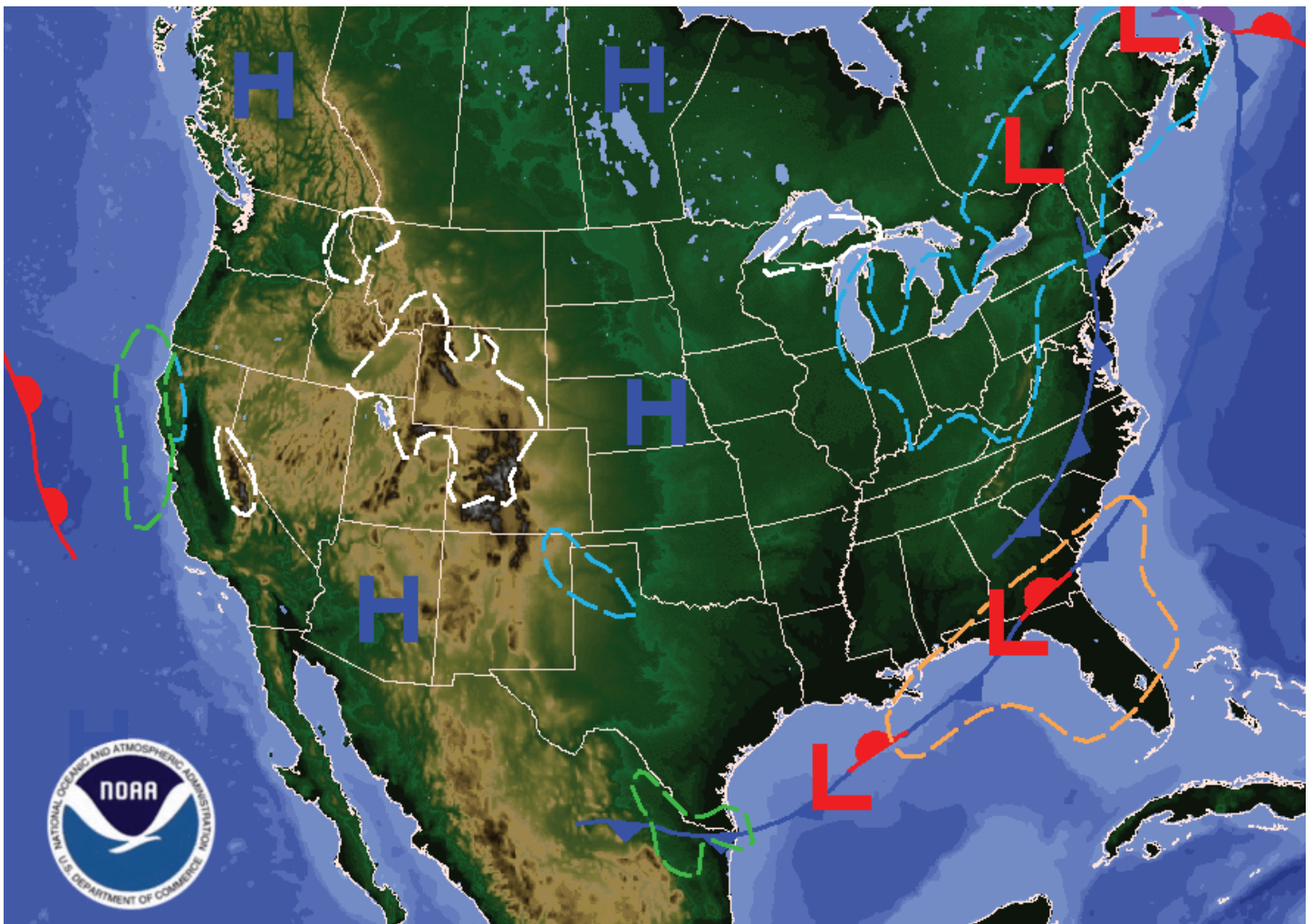
Precip to date in Dec.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 21.24

Precip Year to Date: 15.81

Sunset Tonight: 4:51 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:57 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Mon, Dec 03, 2018, issued 3:57 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain

Rain and T'Storms

Rain and Snow

Snow

Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)

Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)

Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)

Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)

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WHAT GIFT?

Joyce fell behind in her Christmas shopping and suddenly realized that she had neglected to purchase cards for her friends. Hurriedly, she ran to the card section of a large greeting card store and purchased 100 cards with a beautiful scene of a family gathered in front of a glowing fireplace enjoying its warmth.

Returning home she hastily signed each of the cards without reading the message. Several days later she was sitting with her husband reviewing the guest list for a family dinner. She decided to show him the card she had sent to their friends.

After looking at the picture, she opened the card and read the verse to Jason, her husband:

This card is sent to you to say,
A lovely gift is on the way!

Quite a surprise!

God sent us a card to inform us that He would and did send us a lovely gift His son. All of the books of the Bible tell us of the Gift that He was going to send, tell us the reason He sent us this gift and what we can enjoy now and in the life to come because of this gift.

But as with every gift, there are two parts: one is giving and the other is receiving. An angel rejoiced and proclaimed: For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior which is Christ the Lord. That is God giving. And John said, As many as received Him...to them He gave life. But the choice to receive Gods gift is ours.

Prayer: We thank You, Father, for the Gift of life You provided for each of us. May we accept Your Gift in faith believing. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Luke 1:11 & John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

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

Fire rips through trading post in Pine Ridge

PINE RIDGE, S.D. (AP) — The cause of a fire at a trading post in Pine Ridge is under investigation. The Oglala Sioux Tribe Emergency Management responded to a fire Saturday at the Pine Ridge Trading Post. Built in 1942, it's the only business in Pine Ridge that sells Red Diesel fuel to the area's farmer and ranchers.

KOTA-TV reports the trading post sells everything from jewelry to souvenirs. Owners Bat and Patty Pouri say that employ about 10 people and have insurance that should cover their wages in the meantime.

Information from: KOTA-TV, <http://www.kotatv.com>

Economist: Shortage of skilled workers curbs Midwest economy

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — An economist says a monthly survey suggests the economy continued to expand in nine Midwest and Plains states last month but was hampered by shortages of skilled workers.

A survey report issued Monday says the Mid-America Business Conditions Index dropped to 54.1 in November from 54.9 in October. The September reading was 57.5.

Creighton University economist Ernie Goss oversees the survey, and he says that in addition to the hiring problems, the supply managers who responded report mounting harm from tariffs and trade disagreements.

The survey results are compiled into a collection of indexes ranging from zero to 100. Survey organizers say any score above 50 suggests growth. A score below that suggests decline.

The survey covers Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma and South Dakota.

Rapid City parents volunteer in disabilities program for son

By JIM HOLLAND, Rapid City Journal

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Bianca Boll will readily admit it. She has an innate inability to say "no" to a worthy cause.

"I have a lot of trouble with saying 'yes' to everything," said Boll, 46, an electrical engineer for Black Hills Energy during the day and involved with her husband, Dan, in numerous community activities in their off-hours.

Bianca and Dan Boll are involved in volunteer programs partly because of their son Josh, 21, and his participation with Black Hills Works, which serves developmentally disabled and special-needs people in Rapid City and throughout the Black Hills.

The Bolls are parent volunteers with the Out and About program, which takes people served through Black Hills Works to community events, such as Rapid City Rush hockey games, shopping trips or nights at the movies.

Josh Boll recently became able to participate in Black Hills Works' adult services programs, including Out and About, Bianca Boll said.

"We've been trying to get him on that list for a while, and when we finally get him on, the first question they ask is 'Could you help us out?'" Bianca said.

Of course, the answer was "yes."

Bianca and Dan Boll offer three nights per month volunteering to help with Out and About, the Rapid City Journal reported. For now, their participation coincides with events where Josh is involved as they learn the ropes of the program, which is, as the name implies, keeping people served by Black Hills Works active in the community and dependent on volunteers.

"They do a little bit of everything. They just try to imagine, what would other adults be doing for fun

and how can we get our people back out in the community doing those same things," Bianca explained. "It's important for us to volunteer because it means there are more opportunities for people like our son to go out," she said.

Bianca is also a volunteer with Our Camp, a summer camp for people with disabilities, helping them experience outdoor activities, including campfires, hiking, fishing and arts and crafts. She used her previous experience with Camp Friendship in the Black Hills, where she served as program director and was also a nursing assistant for several years.

The Bolls also volunteer with The Officials, an organization whose members usher at Civic Center events to raise funds for the South Dakota Athletic Association.

And if that isn't enough, Bianca Boll also serves as area director for Toastmasters, overseeing and providing training for Rapid City and Wall Toastmaster clubs.

Bianca Boll is from Rapid City, graduating from Rapid City Central High School in 1990. She received her degree in electrical engineering from the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology in 2015.

"I'm a late bloomer," she said.

In her three years at Black Hills Energy, Bianca Boll has become known throughout the company as someone who gets involved, serving on numerous committees and helping with employee activities.

The company took notice and this fall awarded her the Black Hills Energy Chairman's Award for her leadership, dedication and community service. Boll was one of 110 nominated company-wide and the only South Dakotan among the six winners.

Boll recalled hearing of the award when she first started at Black Hills Energy and hoped she might be worthy of it someday.

"And when I got it you could have pushed me over with a feather, because I really did not expect it at that time," she said. "I'm still a little flabbergasted. I'm totally, deeply honored."

Black Hills Energy senior program manager Val Simpson said Boll often does things that people don't expect.

About a year-and-a-half ago, someone began leaving intricately designed and cut paper snowflakes anonymously on desks throughout the company as a holiday gift.

"It took me months to finally figure out it was her," Simpson said. "It doesn't surprise me because of the things she does out in the community."

Boll said her willingness to chip in, both at work and in the community, brings her as much return benefit.

"It's not that I'm a glutton for punishment or trying to impress everyone else. It's because we believe in that value of giving back," she said.

"The reason I do that is that it gives right back," she said. "It re-energizes and re-inspires me. It gives me more than what I give to those things — by far."

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

Shared Living program offers independence to Sioux Falls man

By DANIELLE FERGUSON, Argus Leader

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Ben Graff is the ultimate host.

He'll run to greet guests with a hug or high five as soon as they walk in the door. He'll then scurry them off on an eager tour of his new house in central Sioux Falls, pointing out photos or flourishes on the walls that help signify him starting a new life.

He'll grab his communication device to share a bit more about himself. Through the device, Ben can tell you his favorite foods, his birthday, who his parents are and introduce his new roommates.

Ben's parents, Neil and Debbie Graff, weren't sure if the 25-year-old would ever be able to live on his own, without their constant care. Diagnosed with global developmental disorder at 2 years old, Ben Graff's been heavily dependent on his family his whole life and is experiencing self-governance for the first time, the Argus Leader reported.

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"As Debbie and I are aging, Ben's working on establishing his own, independent life," said Neil Graff, a former NFL quarterback who works as a financial adviser in Sioux Falls.

A program from Resources for Human Development South Dakota called Shared Living has helped make it possible.

Shared Living has taken off in South Dakota in the last two years. The first employee started in June 2017 and now the program serves 19 individuals with disabilities across the state. Most of them have been paired with families looking to add to their lives and help someone looking to get a fresh start on their own.

Shared Living is about building healthy, happy relationships that last, said program director Kelli Anderson. "It's a different way of living," Anderson said.

It was an unexpected but long-awaited blessing for the Graff family, which has struggled for years with love-driven attempts to build up Ben for a safe, independent life.

Watching Ben zip around his house near Augustana University and jump on his beloved new roommates brings a smile to Debbie's face.

In the Shared Living program, individuals with disabilities are paired with qualified providers who assist with the adjustment to a new home and way of life.

"It's just such a cool thing," Debbie Graff said. "Ben is in a home with someone who cares about him. I never would've thought his life would have had a total turnaround like this."

The opportunity comes six months after a yearslong battle over alleged misuse of restraints against Ben Graff by staff during his time living at Children's Care Hospital and School, which has since combined with South Dakota Achieve to form LifeScape. The Graffs started noticing drastic behavioral changes in their son during that time.

The normally happy, loving and outgoing teen would show more signs of aggression and acting out when it was time to go to Children's Care, the parents testified in front of a Minnehaha County jury in May. After a two-week trial, the jury ultimately ruled in favor of Children's Care, leaving the Graff family devastated.

"We were broken," Debbie said.

Fast forward to Ben Graff's first nights in his new home, and any sign of nervousness or agitation has washed away — from Ben, his parents and his new roommates, Jenna Askelson and Kayla Harris, who serve as live-in care providers.

From the few hours the Argus Leader spent with Ben just a week after he moved in, happiness seemed to radiate from him every time he jumped on the couch, pointed to his Christmas decorations or hugged those around him.

Ben Graff's home is his reflection.

Designed to maximize social interaction, living room couches and chairs surround a large ottoman, so those seated are squared for conversation — or in Ben's eyes, perfectly baited for playful wrestling.

Ben's love for Christmas is showcased with character figurines in a glass case and Santa Claus images on the walls, watching over the bustling activity filling the space. Pictures of friends and family cover remaining wall space, so Ben can see all the people who have supported him in his life.

The house has been waiting for him for four years. Ben's parents bought it with hopes to find a way he could live in it.

The decor is a mix of his mother's collecting over the years — mostly coffee-toned, sturdy, rustic furniture from family and garage sales — and his roommates' belongings.

As it turns out, their furnishings meshed as quickly as their personalities.

Just a week into living together, Ben Graff acts as if Askelson and Harris are bonus sisters added to his family.

He gobbles up Askelson's chocolate chip cookies and cupcakes, whipped up in a kitchen that features a compact eating nook with a table and two chairs overlooking a full-length window.

Ben's room, strategically close to the kitchen, is watched over by a 5-foot Santa and a large picture of a train centered on a wall. Right outside his door are stairs that lead up to Askelson's and Harris' area, making it easier for him to be their alarm clock every morning.

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"He comes up and knocks on the wall in the stairway, doesn't come up and wake us up, but he'll knock on the wall," Askelson said.

As soon as Ben's awake, each day turns into an adventure, Harris said.

It's just one of the reasons the two click so well. They both have a thing for trains and trying new things.

Harris' dog, Chuchi, was named after a train that chugged by about 10 years ago. Ben Graff for years has watched trains at the station near downtown, gone on walks at the mall and taken trips on the trolley.

Harris plans to add to the activities list and take him to karaoke night. They're all looking forward to regular visits to see Santa at the Empire Mall.

Ben and Harris' relationship began years before they became roommates. Harris worked with Ben while she was a direct support professional at Children's Care. They didn't work together every day, but Harris can quickly recall fun memories of crafts and silly outfits.

"I wasn't worried about (this living arrangement) because I'd known Ben and love Ben," Harris said.

The three roommates are learning a new rhythm with Ben's routine, figuring out how to balance time with him and time to themselves. They have a calming room to help deescalate any behaviors that come up.

But mostly, they just have fun together.

"There's never a dull moment," Askelson laughed, somewhat stifflingly under the weight of Ben's recent tackle.

Askelson didn't have any experience working with people with disabilities, and was nervous to make the move to South Dakota to live with a man she'd learned was non-verbal, and heard stories about sometimes aggressive behaviors associated with some autism.

But as soon as she met Ben Graff, those worries washed away.

"I had my reservations; I was nervous about it," Askelson said. "But right away we became friends. He's so happy and warm. You can be in the worst of moods, all you need is some Ben."

Like a matchmaking service, Shared Living employees think about who would make a good pair, then the parties meet up multiple times and start building a relationship. Eventually, if a connection seems strong, stable and safe, it's time to test out a living situation.

Shared Living evaluates applicants with background and sex offender registry checks and interviews. Once cleared, the participants go through around 50 hours of training, depending on the participants' background and knowledge of persons with disabilities.

The individual with disabilities move in with that person or family, and Shared Living employees will check in at least once each month to see how their new shared life is going.

Not every match works out.

Anderson said the program had a pairing fall through in July, but even that can be seen as a success for people with disabilities looking to start a new life.

"We're learning a lot," Anderson said. "We have rough days, don't get me wrong, but they have the best life they've ever had."

Anderson had met the Graffs in 2016 when the family went out to eat at a restaurant where she was a server. She told them Shared Living might be a good option for them, and gave them her contact information.

About a year later, Debbie Graff reached out asking for more information.

Another year's worth of coffee dates later, the women and the rest of the Shared Living and Graff family crafted the ideal living situation for Ben: his own home near his part-time magazine delivery gig and close to Augustana, where his sister goes to school, allowing for regular drop-in visits.

"Deb and Neil, they deserve to be Mom and Dad, and Ben deserves this life," Anderson said. "We want to make an impact and have a purpose."

Ben goes to LifeScape every day for a few hours, a connection the Graffs are thankful for, even after the rocky relationship in LifeScape's former title of Children's Care.

Neil and Debbie Graff are going to focus on their marriage, and Debbie plans to spend more time with her mother. They are looking forward to alternating weekends with Ben, who will also go home for garbage day to help out his friend at Novak Sanitary Services.

They no longer are anchored to their worry about Ben's future. He has people who will care for him in the long run, and they're hoping other families consider doing the same.

"We can be secure as parents to know that somebody is watching out for Ben," Debbie Graff said. "I know he's OK, and that makes me very happy. It has been a dream and it came true."

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

Man arrested after firing shots, leading police on chase

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Police in Sioux Falls say a man is under arrest after allegedly firing shots and then leading authorities on a chase through the city over the weekend.

Officers were called about gunshots reported outside of a business in central Sioux Falls on Saturday night. Police Sgt. Jon Thum says officers found the suspect's vehicle and began pursuing it.

The Argus Leader reports the vehicle continued fleeing through the western part of Sioux Falls until it eventually crashed into a business sign. The suspect ran away but was arrested without incident.

Police say the 24-year-old man faces potential charges of aggravated assault and aggravated eluding a law enforcement officer, among others.

Authorities ID man killed in I-90 bridge crash near Humboldt

HUMBOLDT, S.D. (AP) — Authorities have released the name of a Kimball man who died in a crash on the interstate near Humboldt last week.

The state Department of Public Safety on Sunday identified the victim as 54-year-old Mark Munger.

Authorities say Munger lost control of his Pontiac Grand Am on Interstate 90 while traveling across a bridge, slid into the median, collided with guard wires and flipped over. Munger died at the scene of Wednesday's crash.

Munger was driving alone and was not wearing a seat belt.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol continues to investigate.

Ending presumptive probation cornerstone of new AG's agenda

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's incoming attorney general plans to follow through on his tough-on-crime campaign plan to reverse the state's presumptive probation policy for some lower-level felonies, a measure credited with helping avert expensive prison population growth but criticized by some for tying judges' hands.

Attorney General-elect Jason Ravnsborg told The Associated Press recently that ending presumptive probation would be the cornerstone of his legislative agenda for the upcoming session, saying the move would give the courts more flexibility. But critics argue it would open the floodgates to imprisoning significantly more people after South Dakota in 2013 passed a Republican-led justice system overhaul to tackle prison overcrowding, cut costs and expand drug addiction treatment options.

"It's groundhog day again, and we're looking down the barrel of potential criminal justice laws that will increase the number of people who are suffering from health problems like addiction being in our prison," said Libby Skarin, policy director at the ACLU of South Dakota. "I think if we eliminate presumptive probation, we're going to be washing away some of the very real advances and gains that we have seen over the past five years."

Officials said at the time of the overhaul that if nothing was done to curb the rapid increase of inmates, the state would have to spend more than \$200 million to build and operate new prisons over the following decade. The package Republican Gov. Dennis Daugaard and other officials championed included presumptive probation for some nonviolent crimes — including drug possession and ingestion — in the two lowest classes of felonies. A 2016 report from the Urban Institute found presumptive probation and

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other changes played a major role in avoiding growth in the state prison population, and the latest state analysis credits the overhaul with saving taxpayers more than \$30 million.

The state report says South Dakota spent roughly \$22 million on the overhaul during state budget years 2014-2017 and avoided more than \$52 million in costs, including \$36 million in building expenses.

Ravnsborg, a Republican lawyer and Army Reserve officer, said he's not sure the change would increase the prison population. But he said it would add a "stick" to the justice system and give judges the discretion they were trusted with before the overhaul.

"To end presumptive probation gives a formidable and necessary tool back to our prosecutors and our courts," Ravensborg said. "Just because we give them the tool back doesn't mean they have to use the stick, per se, but you have to have deterrence."

But opponents contend courts have enough discretion now: Judges can deviate from probation if they find aggravating circumstances that pose a major risk to the public. Judges sent 20 percent of people eligible for presumptive probation directly to the penitentiary in the 2017 budget year, according to the state report.

"Presumptive probation is just that — it is a presumption, and under the law judges can and do rebut that presumption by finding certain aggravated circumstances," Skarin said.

Prison is the most restrictive, most expensive and least effective method of dealing with drugs, said Eric Whitcher, director of the Pennington County Public Defender's Office.

Ravnsborg argued drug offenders have no incentive to work with law enforcement to turn in dealers because they know they'll be sentenced to probation. He said he's after distributors and would hope to get users treatment. Drug arrests have jumped significantly in recent years, growing roughly 50 percent from 2013 to 2017, according to attorney general's office statistics.

Lincoln County State's Attorney Tom Wollman, who supports ending presumptive probation, said he hasn't seen the same level of cooperation with law enforcement since the justice overhaul passed. He said it's driven up county jail budgets across the state as courts send offenders there rather than prison.

Staci Ackerman, executive director of the South Dakota Sheriffs' Association, said the group has attempted to dig deeper into why jails are full, but discovered the necessary data isn't being collected to identify the cause. She said sheriffs believe anecdotally that presumptive probation is causing some of the issues they're having.

"We just can't prove it through data," said Ackerman, who added that the group hasn't yet taken a position on Ravensborg's proposal.

The future of presumptive probation will fall to the incoming Republican-controlled Legislature and GOP Gov.-elect Kristi Noem. Daugaard, who leaves office in January, signed the justice system overhaul in 2013 after legislators overwhelmingly approved it.

A spokesman for Daugaard said the governor wouldn't comment on proposals for the next session; a Noem transition team spokeswoman said she wouldn't commit to legislation until she can look over the text.

House Majority Leader Lee Qualm said recently that he supports ending the policy.

"I think it would be a good thing to get rid of," he said.

Qatar will pull out of OPEC amid tension with Saudi Arabia

By JON GAMBRELL, Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The tiny, energy-rich Arab nation of Qatar announced on Monday it will withdraw from OPEC in January, mixing its aspirations to increase production outside of the cartel's constraints with the politics of slighting the Saudi-dominated group amid the kingdom's boycott of Doha.

The surprise announcement from Qatar's minister of state for energy affairs, Saad Sherida al-Kaabi, again throws into question the role of the cartel after needing non-members to push through a production cut in 2016 after prices crashed below \$30 a barrel.

It also marks the first time a Mideast nation has left the cartel since its founding in 1960.

In a statement, al-Kaabi said Qatar, the world's largest exporter of liquified natural gas, planned to

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increase its exports from 77 million tons of gas per year to 110 million tons. He also said Qatar wants to raise its oil production.

"In light of such efforts and plans, and in our pursuit to strengthen Qatar's position as a reliable and trustworthy energy supplier across the globe, we had to take steps to review Qatar's role and contributions on the international energy scene," al-Kaabi said.

There was no immediate comment from Vienna-based OPEC, which is to meet this month and discuss possible production cuts. In November, Saudi Energy Minister Khalid al-Falih said OPEC and allied oil-producing countries will likely need to cut crude supplies, perhaps by as much as 1 million barrels of oil a day, to rebalance the market.

Qatar produces only some 600,000 barrels of crude oil a day, making it OPEC's 11th biggest producer. The loss of production, under 2 percent of overall OPEC supply a day, won't greatly affect the cartel's position in the market.

Anas Alhajji, an oil analyst, said Qatar's decision "has no impact on the market either way whether they're in or they're out."

"The cost for them is higher than the benefit" of remaining in OPEC, Alhajji said. "This is just like shutting down a losing business."

Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim Al Thani, Qatar's former prime minister who remains a powerful figure in the country, called the nation's withdrawal from OPEC a "wise decision."

"This organization has become useless and adds nothing to us," Sheikh Hamad wrote on Twitter. "They are used only for purposes that are detrimental to our national interest."

Qatar, a country of 2.6 million people where citizens make up over 10 percent of the population, discovered its offshore North Field gas deposit in 1971, the same year it became independent.

It took years for engineers to discover the field's vast reserves, which shot Qatar to No. 3 in world rankings, behind Russia and Iran, with which it shares the North Field. It's also made the country fantastically wealthy, sparking its successful bid for the 2022 FIFA World Cup.

Qatar's wealth also has seen it take on a larger importance in international politics. Its political stances, often supporting Islamists, have drawn the ire of its neighbors, particularly Saudi Arabia, OPEC's largest exporter.

In June 2017, Bahrain, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates cut ties to Qatar in a political dispute that continues to this day. They also launched an economic boycott, stopping Qatar Airways flights from using their airspace, closing off the small country's sole land border with Saudi Arabia and blocking its ships from using their ports.

They say the crisis stems from Qatar's support for extremist groups in the region, charges denied by Doha. The four nations have also pointed to Qatar's close relationship with Iran, with which its massive offshore gas field. Qatar restored full diplomatic ties to Iran amid the dispute.

OPEC, or the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, was formed in 1960 as a reaction to Western domination of the oil industry.

Qatar was the first nation outside of its founding members to join the cartel, entering its ranks in 1961. Qatar is a nation about the size of the U.S. state of Connecticut, which juts out from the Arabian Peninsula into the Persian Gulf. It hosts the al-Udeid Air Base, the home of the forward headquarters of the U.S. military's Central Command and some 10,000 American troops.

With Qatar, OPEC had 15 members, including Algeria, Angola, Congo, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Venezuela. OPEC nations like Ecuador, Gabon and Indonesia have either withdrawn or suspended their membership in the past, only later to rejoin. Qatar could potentially do the same.

OPEC sets production targets for its members in an effort to control the price of oil available on the global market. However in recent years, oil-producing nations outside of the group like the United States and Russia have played a larger role in affecting prices.

Among its members, Saudi Arabia is by far its largest oil exporter, hitting a record high in November of

over 11 million barrels of oil a day.

President Donald Trump repeatedly has criticized both OPEC and American ally Saudi Arabia over rising oil prices in recent weeks, demanding a production hike to drive down U.S. gasoline prices. That rising supply, coupled with the Trump administration allowing many countries to continue to import Iranian oil despite his targeting of Tehran with sanctions, has seen global prices drop.

Benchmark Brent crude for instance reached over \$85 a barrel in early October, only to drop sharply in the time since. It was over \$61 a barrel in trading Monday.

This story has been corrected to show that the name of the minister is Saad Sherida al-Kaabi.

Dutch court rejects man's request to be 20 years younger

By MIKE CORDER, Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — Dutch motivational speaker Emile Ratelband may feel like a 49-year-old but according to Dutch law he is still 69.

A Dutch court on Monday rejected Ratelband's request to shave 20 years off his age in a case that drew worldwide attention.

"Mr. Ratelband is at liberty to feel 20 years younger than his real age and to act accordingly," Arnhem court said in a press statement. "But amending his date of birth would cause 20 years of records to vanish from the register of births, deaths, marriages and registered partnerships. This would have a variety of undesirable legal and societal implications."

Ratelband went to court last month, arguing that he didn't feel 69 and saying his request was consistent with other forms of personal transformation which are gaining acceptance in the Netherlands and around the world, such as the ability to change one's name or gender.

But in a written ruling, the court said Dutch law assigns rights and obligations based on age "such as the right to vote and the duty to attend school. If Mr. Ratelband's request was allowed, those age requirements would become meaningless."

The court said it acknowledged "a trend in society for people to feel fit and healthy for longer, but did not regard that as a valid argument for amending a person's date of birth."

It said Ratelband failed to convince the court that he suffers from age discrimination. It adding that "there are other alternatives available for challenging age discrimination, rather than amending a person's date of birth."

UN chief issues dramatic climate appeal to world leaders

By FRANK JORDANS and MONIKA SCISLOWSKA, Associated Press

KATOWICE, Poland (AP) — U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres opened the climate summit in Poland by issuing a dramatic appeal to world leaders Monday to take seriously the threat of global warming and act boldly to avert a catastrophic rise in temperatures before the end of the century.

Guterres named climate change as "the most important issue we face."

"Even as we witness devastating climate impacts causing havoc across the world, we are still not doing enough, nor moving fast enough, to prevent irreversible and catastrophic climate disruption," Guterres told representatives from almost 200 countries gathered in Katowice, Poland.

The U.N. chief chided countries, particularly those most responsible for greenhouse gas emissions, for failing to do enough to meet the goals of the Paris climate accord. The 2015 agreement set a goal of keeping global warming well below 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit), ideally 1.5 C (2.7 F) by the end of the century.

Citing a recent scientific report on the dire consequences of letting average global temperatures rise beyond 1.5 degrees, Guterres urged countries to cut their emissions by 45 per cent from 2010 levels by 2030 and aim for net zero emissions by 2050.

Such a move, which experts say is the only way to achieve the 1.5-degree goal, would require a radical

overhaul of the global economy.

"In short, we need a complete transformation of our global energy economy, as well as how we manage land and forest resources," Guterres said.

He said governments should embrace the opportunities rather than cling to fossil fuels such as coal, which are blamed for a significant share of man-made greenhouse gas emissions.

In order to steer businesses and consumers away from heavily polluting forms of energy, he urged countries to embrace carbon pricing, something few countries have yet to do.

Guterres also called on negotiators not to lose sight of the fact that the challenges they face pale in comparison to the difficulties already caused by climate change to millions of people around the world seeing their livelihoods at risk from rising sea levels, drought and more powerful storms.

The two-week conference, in Poland's southern coal mining region of Silesia, is expected to work out how governments can report on their efforts to reduce green gas emission and keep global warming within the Paris accord limit.

"This is the challenge on which this generation's leaders will be judged," Guterres said.

Host Poland proposed a declaration for a "just transition" away from coal mining, the supplier of its main source of energy, which calls for winning social acceptance for the necessary changes.

Fiji's prime minister, Frank Bainimarama, who presided over last year's summit, said the "just transition" proposal shouldn't just consider the fate of workers in the fossil fuel industries, but all people around the world whose lives are affected by climate change.

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. GEORGE H.W. BUSH'S BODY HEADING TO WASHINGTON

The capital will recall the 41st president's lifetime of public service, which began in the Navy during World War II and continued with one term as commander in chief.

2. TRUCE DECLARED IN TRADE WAR

Asian stock markets cheer Trump's agreement to postpone U.S. tariff hikes on Chinese goods for 90 days while the two sides negotiate.

3. 'THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE WE FACE'

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres opens the climate summit in Poland by appealing to world leaders to take seriously the threat of global warming.

4. ABUSE RAMPANT AT WASHINGTON STATE HOSPITAL

Thousands of nurses, mental health techs and security guards have been assaulted by patients at the state's largest psychiatric facility, AP finds.

5. YEMEN'S OTHER CONFLICTS SIMMER IN CITY ONCE HELD BY AL-QAIDA

The lingering instability in the port town of Mukalla raises questions about whether a truce would bring peace to the Arab world's poorest country, AP reports.

6. WHAT AMAZON CUSTOMERS ARE STILL WAITING FOR

Jeff Bezos predicted five years ago that drones would be carrying packages to people's doorsteps by now, but regulatory hurdles and safety issues have proved challenging.

7. AN INSURGENT UNDERDOG NO MORE

Now 77, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders is laying the groundwork to launch a "bigger" presidential campaign than his first, and advisers view him as a front-runner in 2020.

8. WHERE THEY'RE HEADED BACK TO SCHOOL

Makeshift classrooms are ready for thousands of children who lost their homes to a deadly wildfire in Northern California.

9. HOLIDAY TOY SHOPPING JUST GOT A LOT EASIER

Pediatricians say the best toys for young children are simple, old-fashioned toys rather than costly electronic games or the latest high-tech gadgets.

10. PACKERS FIRE MCCARTHY

Green Bay fires its Super Bowl-winning head coach after a stunning 20-17 loss to the Arizona Cardinals, dropping the Packers to 4-7-1.

Washington to pay respects, bid farewell to George H.W. Bush

By **JUAN LOZANO** and **DARLENE SUPERVILLE**, Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — George H.W. Bush is set to embark on his final tour of Washington, the capital city that is remembering the 41st president's lifetime of public service that began in the Navy during World War II, ended with one term as president and was characterized throughout by what admirers say was his innate decency, generosity and kindness.

In Texas, students, staff and visitors have been flocking to Bush's presidential library on the campus of Texas A&M University, with thousands of mourners paying their respects at a weekend candlelight vigil at a nearby pond and others contributing to growing flower memorials at Bush statues at both the library and a park in downtown Houston.

"I think he was one of the kindest, most generous men," said Marge Frazier, who visited the downtown statue on Sunday while showing friends from California around.

A similar outpouring is anticipated in Washington this week during the state funeral for Bush, who died late Friday at his home in Houston. He was 94.

Bush, who was president from 1989 to 1993, will lie in state beneath the soaring U.S. Capitol rotunda for a ceremony and public visitation from Monday through Wednesday. An invitation-only funeral service is set for Wednesday at Washington National Cathedral. President Donald Trump and first lady Melania Trump are scheduled to attend. Bush's family has not said who will speak at the service.

Afterward, Bush will be returned to Houston to lie in repose at St. Martin's Episcopal Church before burial Thursday at his family plot on the library grounds. His final resting place will be alongside Barbara Bush, his wife of 73 years who died in April, and Robin Bush, the daughter they lost to leukemia in 1953 at age 3.

Bush's casket is set to arrive in Washington on Monday afternoon aboard the U.S. military airplane that's more commonly recognized as Air Force One. The crew has been tasked by President Trump with carrying out "Special Air Mission 41." The number is a reference to Bush's place in the roster of America's presidents.

Former President George W. Bush, the eldest of the four Bush sons, and his wife, Laura, along with brother Neil Bush and his family, will accompany their father's body to Joint Base Andrews outside Washington, said family spokesman Jim McGrath. Other Bush family members are expected to be at the Maryland military base for the arrival.

Retired Gen. Colin Powell, who as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff was Bush's top military adviser, said Bush was the "perfect American" for serving his country in so many different capacities and should be remembered for "a life of quality, a life of honor, a life of honesty, a life of total concern for the American people."

"He was a patriot. He demonstrated that in war, he demonstrated that in peace. He was able to demonstrate that in his four years of service," Powell said on ABC's "This Week."

Trump has ordered the federal government closed Wednesday for a national day of mourning. Flags on public buildings are flying at half-staff for 30 days out of respect for Bush.

Trump, who has not always uttered kind words about the Bush family, offered nothing but praise in the hours after the former president's death was announced.

"He was just a high-quality man who truly loved his family," Trump said Saturday while in Argentina. "One thing that came through loud and clear, he was very proud of his family and very much loved his family. So he was a terrific guy and he'll be missed."

Bush's passing puts him back in the Washington spotlight after more than two decades living the relatively low-key life of a former president. His death also reduces membership in the exclusive ex-presidents' club

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to four: Jimmy Carter, Bill Clinton, George W. Bush and Barack Obama.

One of Bush's major achievements was assembling the international military coalition that liberated the tiny, oil-rich nation of Kuwait from invading neighbor Iraq in 1991. The war lasted just 100 hours. He also presided over the end of the Cold War between the United States and the former Soviet Union.

A humble hero of World War II, Bush was just 20 when he survived being shot down during a bombing run over Japan. He joined the Navy when he turned 18.

Shortly before leaving the service, he married his 19-year-old sweetheart, Barbara Pierce, and forged a 73-year union that was the longest presidential marriage in U.S. history until her death. Bush enrolled at Yale University after military service, becoming a scholar-athlete and captaining the baseball team to two College World Series before graduating Phi Beta Kappa after just 2½ years.

After moving to Texas to work in the oil business, Bush turned his attention to politics in the 1960s. He was elected to the first of two terms in Congress in 1967. He would go on to serve as ambassador to the United Nations and China, head of the CIA and chairman of the Republican National Committee before being elected to two terms as Ronald Reagan's vice president.

Soon after he reached the height of his political popularity following the liberation of Kuwait, with public approval ratings that are the envy of today's politicians, the U.S. economy began to sour and voters began to believe that Bush, never a great communicator - something even he acknowledged - was out of touch with ordinary people.

He was denied a second term by then-Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton, who would later become a close friend. The pair worked together to raise tens of millions of dollars for victims of a 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami and Hurricane Katrina, which swamped New Orleans and the Gulf Coast in 2005.

"Who would have thought that I would be working with Bill Clinton of all people?" he joked in 2005.

In a recent essay, Clinton declared of Bush: "I just loved him."

Superville reported from Washington. Associated Press writer John Rogers in Los Angeles contributed to this report.

This story has been corrected to show a quote was by Trump, not Bush.

Bush gets tributes at Kennedy Center Honors program

By ASHRAF KHALIL, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Last year's Kennedy Center Honors ceremony was almost overshadowed by controversy surrounding the sitting president. This year's event took place in the shadow of the death of a former commander-in-chief.

Sunday night's ceremony honoring lifetime artistic achievement featured multiple tributes to former President George H.W. Bush, who died Friday night at age 94.

The night kicked off with an extended standing ovation in Bush's memory at the request of hostess Gloria Estefan.

"I think it's appropriate to recognize the passing of a wonderful man who dedicated his life to service and who graciously attended this event many times during his administration, laughing, applauding, singing along and even shedding a tear from right up there in the presidential box," said Estefan, who recalled being invited to the White House and how Bush "literally spent 45 minutes patiently talking to my eight-year-old son" about how the government worked.

Within days of that White House visit, Estefan's tour bus was in a serious accident that left her nearly paralyzed and President Bush called her in the hospital, she said.

For the second straight year, President Donald Trump and first lady Melania Trump declined an invitation to the awards. They returned to Washington before dawn Sunday from the Group of 20 summit in Argentina.

The Trumps skipped last year's ceremony after several of the honorees — most notably leftist television producer Norman Lear — threatened to boycott if he attended. This year, nobody issued that kind of overt

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threat, but the Trumps still announced three weeks ago that they wouldn't attend.

David Rubenstein, the chairman of the board for the Kennedy Center, said after intermission that he often thinks about the values Bush brought to public service.

"I never met a more decent man, a more philanthropic person, a more genuine person," Rubenstein said.

Bush attended the Kennedy Center Honors for most years during his presidency — and even afterward, during his son's presidency — but like other leaders, he was pulled away by major issues that demanded his time. Bush didn't attend in 1989 because he was at a summit in Malta. Jimmy Carter missed the 1979 awards because of the Iran hostage crisis. Bill Clinton was on his way to a conference during the 1994 Kennedy Center awards.

Trump, however, is the first president to miss them twice.

Had he gone to the Kennedy Center, he might have faced opposition from at least some of the honorees, including Cher and Lin-Manuel Miranda.

Trump and his administration have put unprecedented distance between themselves and the arts and science communities. No arts or humanities medals have been announced or handed out since September 2016, when Barack Obama was president — the longest gap by months since the awards were established in the mid-1980s.

This year's honorees for lifetime achievements in the arts were Cher, composer Philip Glass, country music legend Reba McEntire and jazz icon Wayne Shorter. An unprecedented special award went to the co-creators of "Hamilton" for their genre-bending musical.

McEntire was introduced by music star Kelly Clarkson, who performed McEntire's hit song "Fancy."

"Sometimes when we meet our heroes, it doesn't always pan out," Clarkson told McEntire, "but my friendship with you became one of the highlights of my life."

Shorter was hailed by the Kennedy Center for a six-decade career that included collaborations with Art Blakey, Miles Davis, Carlos Santana and Joni Mitchell.

Jason Moran, the Kennedy Center's artistic director for jazz, described Shorter's music in celestial terms.

"His sound holds a special place in the galaxy," Moran said. "I can safely say that somewhere in the galaxy right now, a band is playing one of his pieces."

Glass received his tribute from a fellow Kennedy Center Honors recipient: singer-songwriter Paul Simon.

"He can rightfully be described as one of our greatest modern composers," Simon said.

Simon praised Glass for his eclectic body of work, "never settling into one particular style, always developing and exploring."

This year's event contained a break from tradition by honoring an actual contemporary work of art — the blockbuster musical "Hamilton" — in addition to lifetime achievement awards for late-career artists. Writer and actor Miranda, director Thomas Kail, choreographer Andy Blankenbuehler and music director Alex Lacamoire were honored as "trailblazing creators of a transformative work that defies category."

Comedian Whoopi Goldberg kicked off a tribute to Cher in a flowing sparkly gown that she joked came from the pop music icon's closet.

"She is the true original," Goldberg said. "She not only marched to the beat of her own drum — honey, she is a one-woman band!"

The evening ended with Cyndi Lauper, a longtime friend of Cher's, performing "If I Could Turn Back Time."

The Honors tribute performers are always kept secret from the recipients, and this was no exception. When Lauper appeared, Cher yelled from her seat, "You told me you were going to Los Angeles!"

Lauper shrugged onstage and said, "I lied."

APNewsBreak: Assaults surge at Washington mental hospital

By MARTHA BELLISLE, Associated Press

BREMERTON, Wash. (AP) — The tall, lanky patient walked out of his room at Washington state's largest psychiatric hospital and spit on two patients before ducking back inside. A few minutes later, he came back out and punched two patients, so Larry Herbert, a licensed practical nurse, went after the man. As

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Herbert approached, the patient punched him in the face.

Herbert wrapped his arms around the patient, and they wrestled until another worker joined in and they all hit the floor. Herbert's knee went "snap, snap" as his body twisted in one direction then the other. He ended up in surgery with three torn ligaments and has spent the past six months on the couch, unsure when or if he can return to work.

Attacks like the one on Herbert are on the rise at Western State Hospital, leaving patients, their families and health care workers fearful on a daily basis, an Associated Press investigation has found.

Thousands of nurses, mental health technicians and security guards have been punched, kicked, knocked unconscious, and bitten during patient assaults that resulted in hospitalizations and time off work in recent years, according to interviews and public records obtained by the AP. Disability claims by injured staff topped \$5 million in less than three years, and the number of days missed due to injuries has more than doubled since 2016, the records show. The number of patients has remained relatively steady during that period.

Workers blame the hospital administration for an increase in assaults, saying they are failing to provide enough staff and are moving dangerous patients into less-secure wards and leaving them there after they attack others.

"Many employees work 20 or more double shifts per month," Nursing Supervisor Paul Vilja told the AP. "We are burning out our employees and endangering our patients by not addressing the request for enough permanent staffing."

Hospital employees who work directly with patients, like nurses and counselors, put in 24,260 overtime hours during the first two weeks of September, at a cost of \$944,280, according to payroll records acquired by the AP.

Officials at the Department of Social and Health Services deny that they're moving dangerous patients into civil-commitment wards and say staffing levels are stable.

"As far as understaffing, there is no understaffing," agency spokeswoman Kelly Stowe said. The staffing office makes constant adjustments to ensure staffing needs are met by using overtime, calling in temporary workers and pulling staff from other wards, she said.

Another nursing supervisor, Willie Saw, said using "on-call" workers in a psychiatric hospital is problematic because they don't know the patients and need extra supervision.

The Washington Department of Labor and Industries launched an investigation at the 850-bed hospital in October after especially violent attacks in August and September in which two workers said patients stomped on their heads and another said a patient fractured her spine.

The federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services no longer oversees the facility. The federal agency cut the hospital's certification and federal funding in June after it continually failed health and safety inspections.

"It's pretty rare that things get so bad that CMS withdraws certification," said Ron Honberg, senior policy adviser for the National Alliance on Mental Illness. "That tells you that things are really pretty bad at this point."

Diana Callison fears for her daughter's safety. She's been in and out of the hospital since last year due to court-ordered civil commitments, which found she was a danger to herself or others.

"I am scared to death I am going to lose her," Callison said. "WSH is such a dangerous place, and I feel it is more so now that there is no federal oversight."

Washington state recently agreed to pay a \$900,000 settlement to Lisa Bowser, whose mother, Sharon Struthers, suffered dozens of falls and assaults during her two-year stay at the hospital.

Bowser told the AP the facility lacked the staff needed to protect patients and said "going there was like going into hell."

ASSAULTS AND MISSED WORK

The state health services agency documented more than 18,000 assaults by patients on staff and other patients over the past 10 years, but attacks on staff doubled in the past five years after hitting a low of 444 in 2013.

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In the first nine months of 2018, patients attacked hospital workers 890 times, compared with 512 assaults for all of 2008, according to agency records. At this rate, the hospital is on track to surpass the 2017 record of 1,058 staff assaults.

Patients are suffering, too. Through September, there were 932 assaults by patients on other patients, the records show.

The attacks make staffing problems worse. Injuries force workers off the job for weeks, months or more than a year, and that time has increased in the past three years, according to Occupational Safety and Health Administration reports.

Injured hospital staff missed 4,601 days of work in 2016; that number jumped to 9,893 days for the first 10 months in 2018, OSHA reports said.

Of the \$7 million in injury claims made by staff since 2016, \$5.2 million were for "assaults or violent acts by persons."

Dr. Joel Dvoskin, a psychologist who works as a consultant for psychiatric hospitals in the U.S., said violent behavior in these facilities is "not uncommon," but the ability to control the assaults depends on staffing and training.

"Any time you see a double in the number of assaults in a few years, that's bad," he said.

Saw, the nursing supervisor, says the violence creates a stressful work environment.

"I fear for my safety, but I'm more fearful for the other staff," Saw said. "There are lots of people who are physically vulnerable."

MOVING PATIENTS

Hospital staff complain the administration moves dangerous patients from high-security forensics wards to civil-commitment wards, which have fewer safeguards like barriers and Plexiglas, and lighter security.

At an Aug. 30 town hall-style meeting that followed a rally outside the hospital, nurses told hospital CEO Dave Holt that civil-commitment wards are ill-equipped for dangerous patients and that they fear for the chronically mentally ill patients living in those wards.

The hospital's nurses recently sent "vote of no confidence" petitions to Holt and Washington's health services agency.

When someone is arrested and found incompetent to stand trial, they're sent to the hospital's forensic ward to receive treatment to restore their competency. If treatment fails and the state wants to keep the person in custody for safety reasons, courts will dismiss the criminal charges and order them civilly committed. The patient is "flipped" from the forensics side to the civil side.

The number of forensic flips has varied over the past 10 years. It dropped to 102 in 2015 but this year reached 155 by the end of September, surpassing the 139 cases in all of 2017.

The increase in forensic transfers coincides with the uptick in assaults, records show.

When asked about the increase, Stowe referred the question to the courts. Dan Jackson, with the Washington attorney general's office, said they handle the cases after they're referred to their office by the hospital.

"We are not aware of any policy decision related to an increase in referrals," he said.

Staff say civilly committed patients who are violent should be moved to high-security wards. Stowe said they move violent patients if they commit a "serious assault" while on a civil ward.

But that's not happening, according to staff.

Several months before patient Christopher Adams Jones fractured nurse Bernia Garner's spine by jumping over a nursing station and knocking her to the ground, he assaulted Eloisa Panza, a mental health technician, according to a lawsuit filed by Garner.

Panza said Jones pushed her down and bit her leg. The attack forced her to miss three weeks of work. When she returned, Jones was still there. She said he grabbed Garner's arm on one occasion and then in September, he committed the assault that led to Garner's lawsuit, in which he also allegedly bit off her earlobe.

Jones was known for targeting female staff, Panza and other workers said.

Stowe declined to comment on Panza's claims.

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NOT GUILTY BY REASON OF INSANITY

Staff also say the administration has moved people found not guilty by reason of insanity, or NGRI, into the civil wards. These are people who have committed serious crimes but were found criminally insane, so they're held in a secure psychiatric hospital instead of prison. Western State Hospital has special forensic wards for these patients.

When the AP asked how often they've transferred NGRI patients out of the forensic wards, Stowe said: "There have been no NGRI patients moved onto civil wards."

But in December 2017, the Washington Department of Health investigated a complaint about an NGRI patient who was moved to a civil ward, according to the agency's report.

The man, who had been charged in a double murder, lived on the specialized forensics unit for more than 30 years but was hospitalized for several medical issues, the report said. When he returned to Western State Hospital, they placed him in a civil commitment ward. Staff complained, fearing he might escape — a problem the hospital has faced in the past.

At the end of the investigation, health officials found there was a "cause for corrective action against Western State Hospital." At the time, the hospital was still in a probationary phase with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and health officials said the federal agency would handle the violation.

Holt, the hospital's CEO, recently sent an email to staff saying employee and patient safety is his No. 1 priority.

"Our team is working on a '10-Point Plan' for safety, including enclosing nurses' stations and creating an intensive ward for our most dangerous civil patients," he wrote.

Vilja said he applauds the promise of changes that staff have sought for years, but it's not enough.

"We demand so much overtime from our staff that the majority of our direct patient care workforce is perpetually exhausted," he said.

US-China trade truce seen boosting US stock market

By **MARCY GORDON, AP Business Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The truce in the trade dispute between the U.S. and China should boost rattled financial markets, at least through the year's end, experts say. But the stock market's recent wild gyrations likely will persist as the two countries strain to reach a permanent accord.

"The all-clear sign hasn't flashed yet but it's certainly positive news," says Mike Loewengart, vice president of investment strategy at E-Trade.

The U.S. was set to raise tariffs on \$200 billion in Chinese goods on Jan. 1. President Donald Trump agreed Saturday in a meeting in Buenos Aires with Chinese Leader Xi Jinping at the G-20 summit to hold off for 90 days while the two sides try to settle their differences.

That looming deadline, as well as Trump's threat to impose tariffs on an additional \$267 billion of goods from China, possibly including iPhones and laptops, had contributed to sharp declines in stocks since early October.

The agreement buys time for the two countries to try to work out their differences in a fight over China's aggressive drive to acquire advanced technologies.

In the short term, at least, strong market gains could be in the offing.

"I think the market will probably respond quite favorably," Sam Stovall, chief investment strategist for CFRA, said in reference to the temporary trade accord. "I do think that a Santa Claus rally is in the making."

Markets opened the week in Asia with solid gains after the Trump-Xi meeting. In early trading Monday the Shanghai Composite index jumped 2.7 percent and the Hang Seng in Hong Kong added 2.8 percent. Japan's Nikkei 225 index climbed 1.4 percent. The Dow and S&P futures contracts were 1.9 percent and 1.8 percent higher, auguring a strong start on Wall Street.

After a steep decline in October, stocks steadied in early November. The selling picked up again as investors abandoned high-flying technology stocks amid concerns over the U.S.-China trade tussle and slowing global economic growth and bailed on energy stocks as the price of oil plummeted.

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The market also feared the Federal Reserve's policy of gradual interest rates hikes could end the longest bull market in history by slowing economic growth and depressing company profits. But last week Fed Chairman Jerome Powell indicated the central bank might consider a pause in rate hikes next year while it gauges the impact of its credit tightening.

Stocks soared last week, with the S&P 500 rising nearly 5 percent for the week. The closely watched index is now up 3.2 for the year and, with the U.S.-China tentative agreement now in hand, some analysts expect it could post a gain for the year in the mid-single digits.

The euphoria could stretch into early next year. But if the 90-day deadline nears without a formal trade pact, Trump could tweet his displeasure and issue threats, creating more market choppiness, analysts say.

"You're going to see a ton of volatility," suggested Nate Thooft, a senior portfolio manager at Manulife Asset Management. "There's definitely no shortage of uncertainty."

Volatility has been a hallmark of the market recently. According to S&P Dow Jones Indices, the S&P 500 closed with a gain or loss of 1 percent or more on 18 of 44 trading days in October and November. There were eight such days in all of 2017.

Beyond the trade and tariff issues, there are still nagging concerns that higher interest rates could crimp economic growth in the U.S. and globally. Potential hot spots and instability abroad that can fuel higher commodity prices and spark inflation also aren't going away.

That means even with the encouraging results of the Group of 20 summit, "There will still be a cloud hanging over the market," E-Trade's Loewengart said.

Still, Stovall believes a formal trade agreement with China could help stave off a recession or bear market next year because uncertainly around growth in corporate profits would be lessened.

In the meantime, analysts say stocks that were especially hard-hit during the recent months of market turmoil are positioned for a nice rebound in the post-summit rally.

The Chinese agreed over the weekend to buy a "very substantial amount" of agricultural, energy, industrial and other products from the U.S. to trim America's widening trade deficit with China, so some companies in those sectors could benefit.

Stocks of tech giants like Facebook and Apple, which took a severe beating, as well as banks and electronic semi-conductors also look to be in for a turnaround.

Yemen's other conflicts simmer in city once held by al-Qaida

By JON GAMBRELL and MALAK HARB, Associated Press

MUKALLA, Yemen (AP) — Two years after al-Qaida militants withdrew from Yemen's eastern city of Mukalla, troops from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates patrol the streets in armored vehicles, driving past secessionist murals and keeping an eye out for jihadi sleeper cells.

The city on the Gulf of Aden, hundreds of kilometers (miles) from the front lines of the devastating war with Houthi rebels, offers a glimpse at the other conflicts simmering in Yemen, which threaten to boil over even if the latest international push for a truce in Stockholm this week succeeds.

Chipped murals throughout the city still bear the flag of communist South Yemen, and secessionists want to press their demands in any U.N.-brokered peace deal between the Houthis, the internationally-recognized government and Saudi-led forces. The United States under President Donald Trump meanwhile has increased the tempo of its drone strike campaign against al-Qaida to the highest level ever seen in the long shadow war.

Outrage over the killing of Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi by Saudi agents has galvanized efforts to end Yemen's civil war, which pits the U.S.-backed and Saudi-led coalition against the Iran-aligned Houthis. But the lingering instability in Mukalla and other areas raises questions about whether a truce would bring peace to the impoverished country — or simply free up the warring parties to settle other scores.

"The situation in the south remains one of the least analyzed aspects of the conflict and a worrying policy vacuum exists," Chatham House expert Peter Salisbury wrote. "The south is a 'powder keg' in the words of one seasoned observer, waiting to explode."

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Yemen's war pits the Houthis — Shiite militants who hold the capital, Sanaa, and much of northern Yemen — against an internationally-backed government that is heavily dependent on Saudi and Emirati forces and is allied with various local armed groups.

More than 10,000 people have been killed in the war, with experts estimating a much higher toll. The fighting has displaced 2 million others, spawned a cholera epidemic and pushed the country to the brink of famine, with emaciated children dying of malnutrition.

Initially a civil war, Yemen's conflict has grown into a regional conflict. Saudi-led warplanes using American weaponry have hit hospitals and markets, killing large numbers of civilians. Iran has supplied arms ranging from assault rifles to ballistic missiles to the Houthis, according to U.N. experts, Western nations and analysts. Tehran supports the Houthis but denies arming them.

Mukalla is far from the Houthis' front lines, but the collapse of the central government allowed al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula to sweep in from the rugged, surrounding desert to seize control in 2015. The militants, part of what Washington considers to be the deadliest branch of the terror group, seized weapons from military stockpiles and made off with an estimated \$100 million.

In April 2016, the UAE and allied forces retook Mukalla, in part by negotiating a secret deal with the militants to withdraw. The Associated Press reported earlier this year.

Over two years later, Mukalla still feels on edge. Journalists on a recent trip organized by Saudi Arabia saw youths holding their hands up over their heads when a military convoy including the Saudi ambassador to Yemen passed by, seeming to signal they were unarmed.

Coalition forces have physically and sexually abused Yemeni prisoners, including at the local Emirati base near Mukalla, according to AP reporting and the United Nations. Saudi officials declined to take journalists to any detention facilities.

As the war has gone on, pressure has mounted on the Saudi-led coalition to end the conflict. The Oct. 2 killing of Khashoggi, at the hands of Saudi agents linked to Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's entourage, fueled a U.S. Senate vote advancing a measure to withdraw American support for the war. Prince Mohammed started the Saudi-led campaign in March 2015 as the kingdom's defense minister.

But that would have little effect on other conflicts simmering across the country.

"Even if the Saudis and the Emiratis were to withdraw tomorrow, the local Yemeni civil war would still go on and it would go on for quite a while and in fact, I think that the fighting would actually be much worse than the fighting that we're seeing right now," said Gregory D. Johnsen, a former member of the U.N. Panel of Experts on Yemen.

"You have these different groups and they're all going to be fighting to ... get as big a piece of the pie as possible."

Chief among them is the fight against al-Qaida. Under Trump, the U.S. has launched at least 93 drone strikes, according to the Washington-based New America think tank. Former President Barack Obama launched a total of 183 strikes in his eight-year presidency. Trump also ordered a January 2017 raid in Yemen that killed a U.S. Navy SEAL and 30 other people, including women, children and an estimated 14 militants.

Secession is another. Rusting Soviet tanks on the shoreline of the Emirati base once belonged to socialist secessionists in Yemen's brief 1994 civil war. From 1967 to 1990, South Yemen was its own nation, a Marxist client of the Soviet Union. Its national flag, a tricolor red, white and black with a light blue chevron and red star on one side, can be seen on murals across Mukalla.

Secessionists, some allied with the UAE, fly the same flag today. An August shooting in Aden at a military college graduation ceremony apparently was sparked by officials flying Yemen's flag, as opposed to South Yemen's.

"Yemen has a Humpty Dumpty problem," Johnsen said. "It's broken and I don't think anybody, no matter how much money they pour into the country, will be able to put it back together again — and certainly not anytime soon."

com/malakharb .

Sanders eyes 'bigger' 2020 bid despite some warning signs

By STEVE PEOPLES, Associated Press

BURLINGTON, Vt. (AP) — An insurgent underdog no more, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders is laying the groundwork to launch a bigger presidential campaign than his first, as advisers predict he would open the 2020 Democratic presidential primary season as a political powerhouse.

A final decision has not been made, but those closest to the 77-year-old self-described democratic socialist suggest that neither age nor interest from a glut of progressive presidential prospects would dissuade him from undertaking a second shot at the presidency. And as Sanders' brain trust gathered for a retreat in Vermont over the weekend, some spoke openly about a 2020 White House bid as if it was almost a foregone conclusion.

"This time, he starts off as a front-runner, or one of the front-runners," Sanders' 2016 campaign manager Jeff Weaver told The Associated Press, highlighting the senator's proven ability to generate massive fundraising through small-dollar donations and his ready-made network of staff and volunteers.

Weaver added: "It'll be a much bigger campaign if he runs again, in terms of the size of the operation."

Amid the enthusiasm — and there was plenty in Burlington as the Sanders Institute convened his celebrity supporters, former campaign staff and progressive policy leaders — there were also signs of cracks in Sanders' political base. His loyalists are sizing up a prospective 2020 Democratic field likely to feature a collection of ambitious liberal leaders — and not the establishment-minded Hillary Clinton.

Instead, a new generation of outspoken Democrats such as Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker and California Sen. Kamala Harris are expected to seek the Democratic nomination. All three have embraced Sanders' call for "Medicare for All" and a \$15 minimum wage, among other policy priorities he helped bring into the Democratic mainstream in the Trump era.

Acknowledging the stark differences between the 2016 and 2020 fields, Hollywood star Danny Glover, who campaigned alongside Sanders in 2016, would not commit to a second Sanders' candidacy when asked this weekend.

"I don't know what 2020 looks like right now," Glover said before taking a front-row seat for Sanders' opening remarks. "I'm going to support who I feel to be the most progressive choice."

One of Sanders' chief supporters from neighboring New Hampshire, former state senate majority leader Burt Cohen, acknowledged that some people worry Sanders is too old for a second run, although that's not a major concern of his. Like Glover, he's not sure if he'll join Sanders a second time.

"There are other people picking up the flag and holding it high, and you know, it could be Bernie, but I think there are other people as well," said Cohen, who did not attend the Vermont summit. "It's not 'Bernie or bust.' That's certainly not the case."

Another high-profile Sanders supporter who was in attendance, Cornel West, described the Vermont senator as "the most consistently progressive one out there," suggesting that some would-be 2020 candidates have adopted Sanders' words, but maintained ties to Wall Street and "militarism."

Still, West conceded that none of likely 2020 candidates "have as much baggage" as Clinton did.

Perhaps the most important member of Sanders' network, wife Jane O'Meara Sanders, said Democrats may be embracing Sanders' "bold progressive ideas" on health care and the economy in some cases, but there's need to go further on issues like climate change, affordable housing and student debt.

Whether her husband will lead the debate as a presidential candidate in 2020, she said, remains unclear. O'Meara Sanders noted that one question above all others would guide their decision: "Who can beat Donald Trump?"

"That has to be the primary goal. To win. We think you win by a very strong progressive commitment," she told AP. When asked if Sanders could win in 2020, she said "every single poll" showed that Sanders would have beaten Republican nominee Donald Trump two years ago.

O'Meara Sanders also downplayed the grueling personal demands of a presidential campaign, something

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that historically has led some other spouses to pressure their husbands to avoid the white-hot presidential spotlight more than once.

"It was extremely inspiring meeting all the people all over the country," she said of the 2016 campaign. "And what might be difficult for me is not as important as what might be difficult for them and whether or not we can help them with those difficulties."

"It's not about us," O'Meara Sanders added. "It's about what's right for the country."

Despite signs pointing to a 2020 run, Sanders has given himself a clear escape hatch.

Weaver, like Sanders himself in a recent interview, suggested that the senator would step aside if he believes another candidate has a better shot at denying Trump a second term. There are no clear indications from Sanders or those closest to him, however, that he currently has that belief.

"I know they haven't announced, but it sort of seems like that's what's happening," said John Cusack, another actor invited to the weekend summit. Asked about his preference for 2020, he called Sanders "the only real progressive candidate out there."

"All of the sudden, what was once fringe politics is now mainstream. Don't get me wrong, it's great that (Texas congressman) Beto O'Rourke and all these young candidates are running on the People's Summit and progressive movement platform, but let's not forget who broke us through."

"If he runs again, I'll be on board," Cusack said.

This story has been updated to correct the first name of Jeff Weaver, former Sanders campaign manager.

Rivers rallies Chargers past Steelers 33-30

By WILL GRAVES, AP Sports Writer

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Philip Rivers watched Ben Roethlisberger do what the Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback so often does — lead a game-tying drive late in the fourth quarter — and decided it was time for the Los Angeles Chargers to do something they so rarely do: win a big one on the road against a team with Super Bowl aspirations of its own.

So the longtime Los Angeles quarterback gathered his teammates around him and delivered a very blunt message.

"It was 'Let's go win it,'" Rivers said. "Let's make this the last drive and win it."

Done and done. Rivers drove the Chargers 64 yards in 11 plays to set up Michael Badgley's 29-yard field goal on the final snap as the Los Angeles rallied for a 33-30 victory on Sunday night.

Badgley's initial 39-yard attempt sailed wide left, but the Steelers were called for offsides. Badgley's ensuing 34-yard attempt was blocked, but Pittsburgh's celebration was cut short when the Steelers were again flagged for crossing the line of scrimmage early. The Steelers jumped once more Badgley's 29-yarder, but the Chargers gleefully declined the penalty as they spilled onto the field.

"There was no worry or doubt," Badgley said. "It's just one of those things where you stay tough. It's a situation you never really plan out there where you get three in a row like that. You just have to go do what you know how to do."

Down 23-7 at the half, the Chargers (9-3) became the first visiting team to win in Pittsburgh after trailing by 16. The Steelers (7-4-1) had been 174-0-1 when up by that much at home. Now Pittsburgh heads into the final quarter of the season having its once comfortable lead in the AFC North trimmed to just a half-game over surging Baltimore (7-5).

"Don't need to panic," Roethlisberger said. "Don't need to worry."

Might be time to start. The Steelers have dropped two straight for the first time this season and seemingly had no answer for the Chargers in the second half.

Rivers completed 26 of 36 passes for 299 yards and two touchdowns for Los Angeles. Keenan Allen caught 14 passes for 148 yards and a score and Justin Jackson ran for 63 yards and a touchdown in place of injured starter Melvin Gordon. Desmond King added a 73-yard punt return for a score as the Chargers bolstered their postseason chances by winning in Pittsburgh for just the fourth time in 19 tries.

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"These guys, they believe," Chargers head coach Anthony Lynn said. "When you believe in something strongly, you can will it to happen."

Roethlisberger threw for 281 yards with two scores and an interception for the Steelers. Antonio Brown caught 10 passes for a season-high 154 yards and a touchdown. James Conner added 60 yards rushing and two touchdowns before leaving in the fourth quarter with a leg injury.

STEELERS SOAR ... THEN STUMBLE

Roethlisberger and Brown are among the most productive quarterback/wide receiver tandems in the league but that didn't stop Roethlisberger from publicly tweaking Brown following a loss to Denver last week, though the star wide receiver stressed he understood it was nothing personal.

The minor dust-up certainly didn't seem to have an impact on their play. Roethlisberger hit Brown for a 9-yard gain on Pittsburgh's second play from scrimmage and again for 46 yards on the following snap. The two connected on a 28-yard score late in the second quarter that seemed to put Pittsburgh firmly in control on a night the franchise celebrated the 1978 and 2008 Super Bowl champion squads.

Suddenly, a team that looked capable of joining them appears to be in a bit of a tight spot with a somewhat daunting final month ahead that includes games against New England and New Orleans.

"There's a quarter left of football," Brown said. "We've got to continue to figure out a way to win and get ourselves to the dance."

GETTING A HEAD START

Down 13-0 in the first quarter, the Chargers appeared to be in trouble before Rivers hit a streaking Travis Benjamin for a 46-yard touchdown to get Los Angeles on the board on a play that began with Chargers right tackle Sam Tevi standing up and shuffling his feet backward an instant before the ball was snapped.

Several Steelers pointed at Tevi as the play began looking for a penalty, but there were no flags on the field when Rivers lofted a rainbow down the right sideline to Benjamin.

Pittsburgh head coach Mike Tomlin called it "unfortunate" but declined to criticize the officials.

"I am going to keep my mouth shut," Tomlin said. "I am going to do that because I send enough money to (the NFL in fines)."

It marked the second time this season Los Angeles benefited from a non-call on what appeared to be a pre-snap penalty. The Chargers scored a touchdown in Cleveland in October on a play in which left tackle Russell Okung moved before the ball was hiked to Rivers.

JUSTIN WHO?

Austin Ekeler was given the first crack at filling in for Gordon but managed just one yard on eight carries in the first half. The Chargers turned to Jackson, a rookie seventh-round pick from Northwestern, in the second half. Jackson's quickness appeared to catch Pittsburgh's defensive front off guard, and his 18-yard dart up the middle early in the fourth quarter marked the first touchdown of his career.

INJURIES

Pittsburgh WR Justin Hunter, given a spot on the game-day roster over rookie James Washington, left in the first half and did not return after injuring himself while diving for a Roethlisberger pass in the end zone. ... Steelers WR Ryan Switzer was taken to the locker room to be evaluated for a concussion after taking a vicious hit by Los Angeles linebacker Jatavis Brown in the fourth quarter.

UP NEXT

Chargers: Host Cincinnati next Sunday.

Steelers: Travel to Oakland to play the Raiders next Sunday.

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

Top tot toys? Blocks and boxes backed over high-tech toys

By LINDSEY TANNER, AP Medical Writer

Skip the costly electronic games and flashy digital gizmos. Pediatricians say the best toys for tots are old-fashioned hands-on playthings that young children can enjoy with parents — things like blocks, puzzles — even throwaway cardboard boxes — that spark imagination and creativity.

"A cardboard box can be used to draw on, or made into a house," said Dr. Alan Mendelsohn, co-author of a new report on selecting toys for young children, up to around age 5.

Many parents feel pressured by ads promoting tablet-based toys and games as educational and brain-stimulating but there's not much science to back up those claims, Mendelsohn said. Their main misconception: "The toy that is best is the one that is the most expensive or has the most bells and whistles or is the most technologically sophisticated."

Simpler hands-on toys that parents and young children can play with together are preferable for healthy development, said Mendelsohn, a pediatrician at NYU Langone Health in New York.

The report published Monday by the American Academy of Pediatrics cites studies suggesting that heavy use of electronic media may interfere with children's speech and language development, replace important playtime with parents and lead to obesity.

Studies also have found that more than 90 percent of U.S. kids have used mobile devices and most started using them before age 1.

The pediatricians' group recommends no screen time for children up to age 2, and says total screen time including TV and computer use should be less than one hour daily for ages 2 and older.

"A little bit of screen time here and there is unlikely to have much harm if a child otherwise has other activity," Mendelsohn said. But he added that screen time can overwhelm young children and is difficult to limit and control.

The academy's website offers suggestions on ideal toys for young children, including balls, puzzles, coloring books and card games.

Shopping recently at Dancing Bear Toys in Asheville, N.C., a store that doesn't sell electronic toys, Leah Graham Stewart said she supports the academy's advice even if avoiding digital toys and games is tough.

She said she's noticed her two young boys tend to misbehave after playing on an iPad she typically reserves for long airplane rides.

"We try to keep it as minimal as possible," Graham Stewart said. "I just tell them to go outside and play."

Erika Evers, Dancing Bear's co-owner, said the store's mission is to give kids an alternative to tech toys.

"Not that video games and electronic toys don't have their place — in moderation, in our opinion," she said. "But we feel like kids really need opportunities to socialize and interact with their environment in a way that is hands-on and tangible."

Follow AP Medical Writer Lindsey Tanner on Twitter at @LindseyTanner.

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.

Where are the drones? Amazon's customers are still waiting

By DAVID KOENIG and JOSEPH PISANI, The Associated Press

Jeff Bezos boldly predicted five years ago that drones would be carrying Amazon packages to people's doorsteps by now.

Amazon customers are still waiting. And it's unclear when, if ever, this particular order by the company's founder and CEO will arrive.

Bezos made billions of dollars by transforming the retail sector. But overcoming the regulatory hurdles and safety issues posed by drones appears to be a challenge even for the world's wealthiest man. The result is a blown deadline on his claim to CBS' "60 Minutes" in December 2013 that drones would be mak-

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ing deliveries within five years.

The day may not be far off when drones will carry medicine to people in rural or remote areas, but the marketing hype around instant delivery of consumer goods looks more and more like just that — hype. Drones have a short battery life, and privacy concerns can be a hindrance, too.

“I don’t think you will see delivery of burritos or diapers in the suburbs,” says drone analyst Colin Snow.

Drone usage has grown rapidly in some industries, but mostly outside the retail sector and direct interaction with consumers.

The government estimates that about 110,000 commercial drones are operating in U.S. airspace, and the number is expected to soar to about 450,000 in 2022. They are being used in rural areas for mining and agriculture, for inspecting power lines and pipelines, and for surveying.

Amazon says it is still pushing ahead with plans to use drones for quick deliveries, though the company is staying away from fixed timelines.

“We are committed to making our goal of delivering packages by drones in 30 minutes or less a reality,” says Amazon spokeswoman Kristen Kish. The Seattle-based online retail giant says it has drone development centers in the United States, Austria, France, Israel and the United Kingdom.

Delivery companies have been testing the use of drones to deliver emergency supplies and to cover ground quickly in less populated areas. By contrast, package deliveries would be concentrated in office parks and neighborhoods where there are bigger issues around safety and privacy.

In May, the Trump administration approved a three-year program for private companies and local government agencies to test drones for deliveries, inspections and other tasks.

But pilot programs by major delivery companies suggest few Americans will be greeted by package-bearing drones any time soon. United Parcel Service tested launching a drone from a delivery truck that was covering a rural route in Florida. DHL Express, the German delivery company, tested the use of drones to deliver medicine from Tanzania to an island in Lake Victoria.

Frank Appel, the CEO of DHL’s parent company, Deutsche Post AG, said “over the next couple of years” drones will remain a niche vehicle and not widely used. He said a big obstacle is battery life.

“If you have to recharge them every other hour, then you need so many drones and you have to orchestrate that. So good luck with that,” he told The Associated Press.

Appel said human couriers have another big advantage over drones: They know where customers live and which doorbell to ring. “To program that in IT is not that easy and not cheap,” he said.

Analysts say it will take years for the Federal Aviation Administration to write all the rules to allow widespread drone deliveries.

Snow, the CEO of Skylogic Research, says a rule permitting operators to fly drones beyond their line of sight — so critical to deliveries — is at least 10 years away. A method will be needed to let law enforcement identify drones flying over people — federal officials are worried about their use by terrorists.

While the rules are being written, companies will rely on waivers from the FAA to keep experimenting and running small-scale pilot programs.

“People like DHL and the rest of them (will say), ‘Hey, we can deliver via drone this parcel package to this island,’ but that’s not the original vision that Amazon presented,” Snow says.

There is a long list of FAA rules governing drone flights. They generally can’t fly higher than 400 feet, over many federal facilities, or within five miles of an airport. Night flights are forbidden. For the delivery business, the most biggest holdup is that the machines must remain within sight of the operator at all times.

In June, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine said the FAA’s was being overly conservative in its safety standards for drones. The group said FAA’s risk-averse attitude was holding back beneficial uses, such as drones helping firefighters who are battling a fierce blaze.

Even before the criticism by the scientific panel, the FAA had begun to respond more quickly to operators’ requests for waivers from some rules, says Alan Perlman, founder of the Drone Pilot Ground School in Nashville, Tennessee. He said it is also getting easier and cheaper to buy liability insurance.

Bezos was mindful of the safety issues, telling “60 Minutes” back in 2013, “This thing can’t land on somebody’s head while they’re walking around their neighborhood.”

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That didn't stop him from predicting that drones fed with GPS coordinates would be taking off and making deliveries in "four, five years. I think so. It will work, and it will happen."

To Perlman, the billionaire's optimism made perfect sense.

"When you're in his world you think more about technology than regulations, and the (drone) technology is there," Perlman said.

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Could anyone have stopped gene-edited babies experiment?

By **MARILYNN MARCHIONE** and **CHRISTINA LARSON**, Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — Early last year, a little-known Chinese researcher turned up at an elite meeting in Berkeley, California, where scientists and ethicists were discussing a technology that had shaken the field to its core — an emerging tool for "editing" genes, the strings of DNA that form the blueprint of life.

The young scientist, He Jiankui, saw the power of this tool, called CRISPR, to transform not only genes, but also his own career.

In visits to the United States, he sought out CRISPR pioneers such as Jennifer Doudna of the University of California, Berkeley, and Stanford University's Dr. Matthew Porteus, and big thinkers on its use, like Stanford ethicist Dr. William Hurlbut.

Last week, those shocked researchers watched as He hijacked an international conference they helped organize with an astonishing claim: He said he helped make the world's first gene-edited babies, despite clear scientific consensus that making genetic changes that could be passed to future generations should not be attempted at this point.

U.S. National Institutes of Health Director Francis Collins called He's experiment "a misadventure of a major sort" — starring "a scientist who apparently believed that he was a hero. In fact, he crossed every line, scientifically and ethically."

But nobody stopped him. How can that be?

To be fair, scientists say there's no certain way to stop someone intent on monkeying with DNA, no matter what laws or standards are in place. CRISPR is cheap and easy to use — which is why scientists began to worry almost as soon as the technology was invented that something like this would happen.

And there is a long history in science and medicine of researchers launching experiments prematurely that were met with scorn or horror — some of which led to what are now common practices, such as in-vitro fertilization.

Gene-editing for reproductive purposes is effectively banned in the U.S. and most of Europe. In China, ministerial guidelines prohibit embryo research that "violates ethical or moral principles."

It turns out He wasn't exactly tight-lipped about his goals. He pursued international experts at Stanford and Rice Universities, where he had done graduate studies work, and elsewhere, seeking advice before and during the experiment.

Should scientists who knew of He's plans have spoken up? Could they have dissuaded him?

The answers aren't clear.

"It doesn't fall into the category of legal responsibility, but ethical responsibility," said Collins. He said that not speaking up "doesn't seem like a scientist taking responsibility."

China's National Commission of Health, Chinese Academy of Sciences and He's own university have said they were in dark and have since condemned him.

But three Stanford scientists — Hurlbut, Porteus and He's former fellowship adviser, Stephen Quake — had extensive contact with him over the last few years. They and other scientists knew or strongly suspected that He intended to try to make genetically edited babies.

Some confidantes didn't think He would follow through; others raised concerns that were never heeded. Stanford has not responded to an interview request.

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Quake, a bioengineering professor, was one of the first to know about He's ambition. Quake said he had met with He through the years whenever his former student was in town, and that He confided his interest a few years ago in editing embryos for live births to try to make them resistant to the AIDS virus.

Quake said he gave He only general advice and encouraged him to talk with mainstream scientists, to choose situations where there's consensus that the risks are justified, to meet the highest ethics standards and to publish his results in a peer-reviewed journal.

"My advice was very broad," Quake said.

Hurlbut thinks he first met He in early 2017, when he and Doudna, co-inventor of CRISPR, held the first of three meetings with leading scientists and ethicists to discuss the technology.

"Somehow, he ended up at our meeting," Hurlbut said.

Since then, He returned several times to Stanford, and Hurlbut said he "spent many hours" talking with He about situations where gene editing might be appropriate.

Four or five weeks ago, Hurlbut said He came to see him again and discussed embryo gene editing to try to prevent HIV. Hurlbut said he suspected He had tried to implant a modified embryo in a woman's womb.

"I admonished him," he said. "I didn't green-light his work. I challenged him on it. I didn't approve of what he was doing."

Porteus said he knew that He had been talking with Hurlbut and assumed Hurlbut discouraged the Chinese scientist. In February, He asked to meet with Porteus and told him he had gotten approval from a hospital ethics board to move forward.

"I think he was expecting me to be more receptive, and I was very negative," Porteus said. "I was angry at his naivete, I was angry at his recklessness."

Porteus said he urged He "to go talk to your senior Chinese colleagues."

After that meeting, "I didn't hear from him and assumed he would not proceed," Porteus said. "In retrospect, I could have raised a hue and cry."

In a draft article about the gene-edited twin girls, which He planned to submit to journals, he thanked UC Berkeley biophysicist Mark DeWitt for "editing the manuscript." DeWitt said he tried to dissuade He and disputed that he edited the paper. He said he saw the paper, but the feedback he offered was "pretty general."

He's claims, including that his work has resulted in a second pregnancy, cannot be independently confirmed and his work has not been published. He defended his actions last week at a gene editing summit in Hong Kong.

In contrast, another U.S. scientist said he not only encouraged He but played a large role in the project.

Michael Deem, a bioengineering professor at Rice University and He's doctoral degree adviser, said he had worked with He since the scientist returned to China around 2012, and that he sits on the advisory boards and holds "a small stake" in He's two genetics companies in Shenzhen. Deem defended He's actions, saying the research team did earlier experiments on animals.

"We have multiple generations of animals that were genetically edited and produced viable offspring," and a lot of research on unintended effects on other genes, Deem said. Deem also said he was present in China when some study participants gave their consent to try embryo gene editing.

Rice said it had no knowledge of Deem's involvement and is now investigating.

So far most of the attention has focused on regulatory gaps in China.

But that's not the whole story, said Rosario Isasi, an expert on genomics law in the U.S. and China at the University of Miami.

"Let's focus on how it happened and why it happened, and the way it happened," said Isasi. "How can we establish a system that has better transparency?"

There's no international governing body to enforce bioethics rules, but scientific bodies and universities can use other tools.

"If someone breaks those rules, scientists can ostracize, journals can refuse to publish, employers can refuse to employ, funders can refuse to fund," said Hank Greely, a professor of law and genetics at Stanford.

Greely expects He's experiment will have ripple effects in academia, whether or not regulators act.

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"Universities are going to take a harder look at what's going on. This incident will put everyone on alert about any related research."

Of course, sometimes bad beginnings can turn into better endings.

In 1980, University of California, Los Angeles, professor Martin Cline was sanctioned for performing the first gene therapy on two women in Israel and Italy because he hadn't gotten approval to try it at UCLA.

Cline announced his work rather than publishing it in a scientific journal, and faced criticism for trying "genetic engineering" on people when its safety and effectiveness hadn't yet been established in animals. Now gene therapy is an established, although still fairly novel, treatment method.

Two years earlier, in 1978, Dr. Robert Edwards was similarly denounced when he announced through the press the world's first "test tube baby," Louise Brown. The work later earned a Nobel Prize, and IVF has helped millions to have a child.

And this year, Louise Brown — mother of two sons, conceived in the old-fashioned way — turned 40.

Larson reported from Washington, D.C.

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Coal question looms large as climate talks begin in Poland

By FRANK JORDANS, Associated Press

KATOWICE, Poland (AP) — Negotiators from around the world opened the United Nations' annual climate change conference Sunday in a Polish city built around mining coal, widely seen as a main culprit behind global warming.

Arriving for two weeks of talks on tackling climate change, conference participants cast off hats, scarves and heavy coats as they entered cavernous halls in Katowice heated by coal-fired power plants nearby.

Coal is center-stage at the U.N. summit, which is taking place three years after a landmark deal in Paris set a goal of keeping global warming well below 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit).

While the Polish government claims Katowice is in the process of transforming into a green city, power plant chimneys pumped plumes of smoke into a dull December sky and monitoring sites showed elevated levels of air pollution.

Poland, which is presiding over the meeting, plans to use Monday's official opening event to promote a declaration calling for a "just transition" for fossil fuel industries that face cuts and closures amid efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Environmental activists have expressed concerns about the non-binding declaration, arguing that it could be cited as justification for propping up dying industries instead of investing in renewable energy sources. Some also have questioned why coal companies are among the meeting's sponsors.

Poland's deputy environment minister, Michal Kurtyka, who is chairing the conference, urged envoys from almost 200 nations to use the time between Sunday and Dec. 14 to make progress on fleshing out the 2015 Paris agreement.

"We are here to enable the world to act together on climate change," he said. With further meetings next year meant to build on what's decided in Katowice, Kurtyka urged all countries to "show creativity and flexibility."

"The United Nations secretary-general is counting on us, all of us to deliver," he added. "There is no Plan B."

The World Bank Group said Monday it is doubling funding for poor countries preparing for climate change to \$200 billion over five years. It said about \$50 billion will be earmarked for climate adaptation, a recognition that some adverse effects of global warming can't be avoided anymore but require a change in practice.

The meeting, known as COP24, received a boost over the weekend when 19 major economies at the G-20 summit affirmed their commitment to the Paris accord. The only holdout was the United States, which

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announced under President Donald Trump that it is withdrawing from the climate pact.

"Despite geopolitical instability, the climate consensus is proving highly resilient," said Christiana Figueres, a former head of the U.N. climate office.

"It is sad that the federal administration of the United States, a country that is increasingly feeling the full force of climate impacts, continues to refuse to listen to the objective voice of science when it comes to climate change," Figueres said.

She cited a recent expert report warning of the consequences of letting average global temperatures rise beyond 1.5 degrees C (2.7 degrees F).

"The rest of the G-20 have not only understood the science, they are taking actions to both prevent the major impacts and strengthen their economies," said Figueres, who now works with Mission 2020, a group that campaigns to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

While the United States is withdrawing from the climate pact, the State Department said it is sending a delegation to the Katowice conference.

The meeting in Katowice is regarded as a key test of countries' willingness to back their lofty but distant goals with concrete measures, some of which are already drawing fierce protests. At the top of the agenda is the so-called Paris rulebook, which will determine how governments record and report their greenhouse emissions and efforts to cut them.

Separately, negotiators will discuss ramping up countries' national emissions targets after 2020, and financial support for poor nations that are struggling to adapt to climate change.

The shift away from fossil fuels, which scientists say has to happen by 2050, is expected to require a major overhaul of world economies.

"The good news is that we do know a lot of what we need to be able to do to get there," said David Waskow of the World Resources Institute.

Waskow, who has followed climate talks for years, said despite the Trump administration's refusal to back this global effort the momentum is going in the right direction.

"It's not one or two players anymore in the international arena," he said. "It's what I think you could call a distributed leadership, where you have a number of countries — some of them small or medium-sized — really making headway and doing it in tandem with cities and states and businesses."

Not far from the meeting venue, Polish anti-coal activists held a small protest Sunday. It was dwarfed by marches in Brussels, Berlin and Cologne over the weekend calling for greater action to curb climate change.

But the governor of Germany's most populous state said Sunday it was premature to set a firm date for phasing out the use of coal-fired power plants. Armin Laschet, the governor of North Rhine-Westphalia state, told the Funke media group that Germany's decision to stop mining and burning lignite coal "must be considered seriously and decided with broad consensus."

German officials had hoped to present a blueprint for the country's exit from coal at the meeting in Katowice, but an expert committee delayed issuing its recommendations until next year.

Follow Frank Jordans on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/wirereporter>

Read more stories on climate issues by The Associated Press at <https://www.apnews.com/Climate>

Mexico's new leader says military essential to fight crime

By AMY GUTHRIE, Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador used his first full day in office Sunday to double down on promises to deploy Mexico's military for public security to address a key concern: stemming rampant violence and rising murders.

Speaking before rows of generals at a sun-drenched military installation in one of Mexico City's toniest neighborhoods, Lopez Obrador said the retooling of the military is "indispensable" to tackle the daunting task of making Mexico safer.

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The plan requires a constitutional reform that would allow the marines and army to form a National Guard to police much of the country. Mexico's Supreme Court last month struck down a controversial law signed last year that created a similar legal framework, ruling the measure was an unconstitutional attempt to normalize the use of the armed forces in public safety.

Deep-rooted corruption and ineffectiveness among police forces has led Mexico to rely heavily for years on the military to combat drug cartels in parts of the country. But both human rights groups and military commanders have long expressed uneasiness about this open-ended policing mission.

Erika Guevara Rosas, the Americas director for Amnesty International, has called militarized security a "failed model" that has led to "serious human rights violations at the hands of the armed forces."

Hopes for change are running high among the more than 30 million Mexicans who voted for Lopez Obrador in a sweeping July 1 election victory that also gave his party a majority in Congress. At the same time, worries are mounting among critics who see an expanding authoritarian streak.

If three or four more legislators defect to his Morena party, it would have a super-majority needed to pass constitutional reforms.

Gustavo Madero, a leading senator with the opposition National Action Party, told The Associated Press that he is very concerned that bills could quickly make their way through Congress with little input from affected parties or public debate.

"We are going to raise attention to the political costs of the democratic abuses, and that is where we are going to be able to achieve some concessions," said Madero, whose great-uncle was a martyred Mexican president who Lopez Obrador admires and mentions almost daily.

Lopez Obrador says he will put the question of creating a National Guard to a referendum so that the people can weigh in on the decision, as they did with the question of whether to continue with construction of a \$13 billion airport for the capital that was a third built.

Little more than 1 percent of registered voters participated in the airport referendum, with a majority calling to halt the project. The peso and Mexican stocks plunged in response.

Valeria Moy, director of the Mexico, Como Vamos? think tank, called such referendums "authoritarianism in disguise" because the questionnaires can be tailored to validate executive proposals.

Madero described the referendums as "simulations of direct democracy" to legitimize decisions that the executive branch has already taken.

Lopez Obrador vowed on the campaign trail to return troops to the barracks rather than to continue deploying the military in domestic matters. He has since backtracked on that promise, saying he didn't realize how hopelessly corrupt civilian law enforcement agencies were.

Plus, the mission is critical: The national statistics institute logged 31,174 slayings in 2017, the most since comparable records began being kept in 1997, including the peak year of Mexico's drug war in 2011. The homicide rate last year broke down to 25 per 100,000 inhabitants — near the levels of Brazil and Colombia at 27 per 100,000.

Lopez Obrador pledged Sunday to strengthen the armed forces while promoting programs to get more young people to study or work rather than succumbing to the temptation of joining criminal groups. And he praised the generals for having climbed the ranks from working-class beginnings, noting that several were sons of shopkeepers and farmers.

"The soldier, the marine, is the people in uniform," the president said, repeating an oft-used refrain.

Lopez Obrador has steamed ahead on other priorities, such as evaluating options for the thousands of Central American migrants seeking U.S. asylum who are currently camped out in border towns such as Tijuana and Mexicali. Andrew Selee, president of the Migration Policy Institute, told The Associated Press that migration is likely to be the most pressing issue in the U.S.-Mexico relationship for some time.

Lopez Obrador signed an agreement Saturday with his counterparts from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras to work on a development plan to stem migration north. On Sunday, Mexican Foreign Minister Marcelo Ebrard traveled to Washington to meet with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

Mexico's presidential jet will depart for San Bernardino, California, on Monday to be reconditioned for

sale as part of Lopez Obrador's austerity push.

The Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner with beds, shower and stone bathroom countertops was purchased for \$368 million in November 2012, just before Enrique Pena Nieto took office as president for a six-year term that ended Saturday. The finished plane was delivered in February 2016.

Finance Minister Carlos Urzua said Sunday that Mexico will also sell 60 smaller planes and 70 helicopters now in use by the federal government.

Lopez Obrador says he will fly coach in commercial planes.

Bush told son, George W. , 'I love you, too' before he died

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — George H.W. Bush didn't lose his sense of humor even as he was letting go of life. Surrounded by loved ones Friday night as he lay in bed at home in Houston, he was approached by the wife of his longtime friend, James A. Baker III, who was in the room with her husband. She raised a hand and placed it on the former president's forehead before telling him, "We love you very much, Jefe," using the Spanish word for "chief" that her husband says he used to address Bush.

"And he cocked one eye open and quipped, 'Well, you better hurry,'" James Baker recalled Sunday as he described the 41st president's final hours of life. "His sense of humor was intact right up till the very end. His passing was really very peaceful. No struggling, no pain at all."

Bush, who was president from 1989 to 1993, died late Friday at age 94.

His passing ushers in nearly a week of remembrances and tributes in Washington, where Bush will lie in state at the U.S. Capitol following a ceremony there Monday evening. A memorial service is set for Wednesday at Washington National Cathedral before Bush is returned to Houston to be laid to rest Thursday at his presidential library at Texas A&M University in College Station. He will be buried in the family plot alongside Barbara Bush, his wife of 73 years who died in April, and Robin Bush, the daughter they lost to leukemia in 1953 at age 3.

Bush's final day of life began with a visit from Baker, who had served him as secretary of state and White House chief of staff. He expected to see Bush asleep when he stopped in at 7:15 a.m. to check on his former boss.

"But he was alert," Baker said during a blitz of appearances on five Sunday talk shows. Bush hadn't left his bed in the past three or four days and also hadn't been eating. But, on the morning of his friend's visit, he downed a big breakfast consisting of three boiled eggs, yogurt and a pair of fruit drinks. "We all began to think, 'Here we are. He's going to surprise us again. It's another bounce-back day.'"

Bush had been in and out of the hospital in recent years, primarily due to the Parkinson's disease that Baker said hampered his body's ability to get rid of phlegm, often causing pneumonia. But each time he was hospitalized, each time loved ones thought that time might be the last, Bush rallied and was released, free to return to his home in Houston or the family compound in Kennebunkport, Maine.

There would be no bouncing back this time.

"By the time he got back here to Houston from his summer in Kennebunkport, I think he was pretty much ready to go. The quality of life had deteriorated a lot for him," Baker said.

Bush's condition further declined after Baker's visit Friday.

While he and his wife, Susan, were on the way home after dinner, Baker said he was called back to Bush's bedside.

About two hours later, Bush was gone.

After it became clear that death was imminent, they got all the Bush kids on the phone, with son Neil Bush the only one in the room. Each one spoke to the former president and "he mumbled back," Baker said. Another son, former President George W. Bush, was the last on the line, telling his dying father how much he loved him and promising they would see each other again in heaven.

"And 41 said, 'I love you, too,' and those were the last words that he ever spoke," Baker said.

Baker said when his presence was announced to Bush earlier Friday, "he opened both eyes. He looked

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at me, he said, 'Bake, where are we going today?' I said, 'Well, Jefe, I said we're going to heaven.' He said, 'Good, that's where I want to go.'"

"Little did I know or did he know, of course, that by 10 o'clock that night he'd be in heaven," Baker said.

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Analysis: On this Trump trip, low drama, signs of acceptance

By CATHERINE LUCEY and ZEKE MILLER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — If there has been a constant to President Donald Trump's tumultuous first two years in office, it has been that his foreign trips have tended to be drama-filled affairs — the president barreling through international gatherings like a norm-smashing bull, disrupting alliances and upending long-standing U.S. policies. But at this year's Group of 20 summit, Trump appeared to settle in among his global peers.

A brisk two days in Argentina saw Trump reach a trade ceasefire with China and sign a three-way trade deal with Mexico and Canada. With little public spectacle, he joined the leaders of the other member nations on the traditional group statement. He buddied up with traditional allies and largely avoided controversial strongmen. Faced with Russia's spiking aggression in Ukraine, he canceled his sit-down with Vladimir Putin. And when former President George H.W. Bush died, Trump gave respectful remarks and canceled what would likely have been a raucous press conference.

All told, for the often-undisciplined leader, the whirlwind trip was an unusual moment of Zen.

Trump's election forced the world to reckon with sweeping populist movements and the impact of globalization. In the first two years of his presidency, he has brusquely rejected international engagement for what he views as a single-minded focus on U.S. national interests.

Public and private interactions with world leaders over his 48 hours in Argentina demonstrated Trump does have the capacity for restraint. And other world leaders, for their part, showed grumbling acceptance of Trump's untraditional stylings.

It's hardly as though Trump has suddenly abandoned his "America First" world view. But rather than challenge him at every turn, other leaders appear to be adapting to Trump, mindful that multilateral deals are weaker without the United States. Delegation "sherpas" worked through the night to revamp the joint communique so that it would be amenable to Trump, and allies knew to butter Trump up with over-the-top praise.

"From the outset, I would like to congratulate you on your historic victory in the midterm election in the United States," declared Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at the start of their meeting Friday. He made no mention of the big electoral gains that Democrats notched in the U.S. House. Abe has long proved to be the world leader most adept at keeping on Trump's good side, but even more challenging relationships appeared to find firmer ground. Trump's meeting with German Chancellor Angela Merkel was outwardly all smiles, handshakes and praise.

The G-20 joint statement included U.S.-preferred language on reforming the World Trade Organization — something Trump demanded — and made note that the U.S. opposed the Paris climate agreement, which the president has announced plans to exit.

French President Emmanuel Macron called it a victory that the U.S. signed onto the statement at all, given the tensions going into the talks. He said, "With Trump, we reached an agreement. The U.S. accepted a text."

American allies did express mild frustration with Trump at times. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, at the signing of the revised North American Free Trade Agreement, needled "Donald" over U.S. tariffs on Canadian aluminum and steel.

But Trump, for his part, played the role of gracious victor, proclaiming that he and Trudeau, along with outgoing Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto, were battle-tested friends. The new trade accord was a long-sought win for Trump, who as a candidate had promised to reform NAFTA, and he embraced its

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arrival as vindication of his abrasive negotiating tactics.

Most notably, Trump largely kept his distance from Putin and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. He made small talk with the two strongmen but toed the line on a Western freeze-out of the pair — the former over Russia's recent seizure of three Ukrainian naval vessels and their crews, and the latter over the murder two months ago of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

In previous global summits, the shock factor invariably came from Trump. There was his speech lecturing NATO allies over defense spending in spring 2017. The surprise tete-a-tete with Putin at a G-20 dinner in Germany that summer. And the G-7 meeting earlier this year in Canada, where Trump agreed to a group statement on trade, only to withdraw from it on Twitter while flying to Asia, insulting Trudeau in the process.

This time, the viral moment of the weekend came when Putin and the crown prince, the two relative outcasts of the summit, exchanged an enthusiastic handshake.

Trump also showed control when word came during the summit of Bush's death. While Trump has struggled to strike the right tone during moments of national loss, he sought to meet this one with grace. He followed the scripted playbook for the state funeral he wishes for himself when that day comes, swiftly declared a day of national mourning and ordered American flags to be flown at half-staff for 30 days. He lauded Bush as a man of "sound judgment, common sense and unflappable leadership."

For Trump, the Bush family has been a longtime punching bag. He dubbed Jeb Bush "low energy" when they faced off during the 2016 Republican presidential primary. He has been highly critical of George W. Bush's presidency. And he mocked George H.W. Bush's signature phrase about a "thousand points of light" during his campaign rallies just this year.

Those insults were put aside Saturday as Trump spoke to reporters about his respect for the late president. "We'll be spending three days of mourning and three days of celebrating a really great man's life. So we look forward to doing that, and he certainly deserves it. He really does. He was a very special person," Trump said.

The president's decision to cancel the planned news conference in the wake of Bush's death helped keep him on a disciplined track. Those affairs can easily go off the rails, as did Trump's news conference after a July summit with Putin in Helsinki, where Trump drew widespread criticism for failing to publicly denounce Russia's interference in the 2016 U.S. election and appearing to accept Putin's denials of such activity.

The president arrived back in the United States early Sunday, with a week of mourning for Bush ahead, a government funding fight on the horizon and more to come from the Russia investigation. The question now, as always, is just how long can this moment last?

EDITOR'S NOTE — Catherine Lucey has covered politics and the White House for the AP since 2012. Zeke Miller has covered the White House and politics in Washington since 2011. Miller reported from Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Paris assesses injuries, damage after worst riot in decade

By SYLVIE CORBET, Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — French President Emmanuel Macron asked for an evaluation of possible protest security measures Sunday, a day after a Paris demonstration against increased taxes and living costs devolved into France's worst urban riot in a decade.

Hours after he flew back to the French capital from the G-20 summit in Argentina, Macron held an emergency meeting at the Elysee presidential palace while crews worked to remove charred cars, broken glass and graffiti from the famed Champs-Elysees Avenue and other top Paris sites.

Paris police said 133 people were injured, including 23 police officers, as crowds trashed the streets of the capital Saturday. Officers fired tear gas and used water cannon to tamp down the violence as protesters torched cars, smashed windows, looted stores and tagged the Arc de Triomphe with spray paint.

Paris police Prefect Michel Delpuech said some officers described encountering "unprecedented" violence, including protesters using hammers, gardening tools, bolts, aerosol cans as well as rocks in physical

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confrontations.

Some radical far-right and far-left activists were involved in the riot, as well as a "great number" of protesters wearing yellow jackets, Delpuech said. The fluorescent jackets, which French motorists are required to have in their cars for emergencies, are an emblem of a grassroots citizens' movement protesting fuel taxes.

Fires were started at six buildings and more than 130 makeshift barricades and 112 vehicles were torched, Delpuech said.

Paris prosecutor Remy Heitz said 378 people remained in police custody as of Sunday evening, 33 of them minors.

Earlier Sunday, Macron visited the Arc de Triomphe, which had damaged statues as well as graffiti. One slogan on the famed war memorial read: "Yellow jackets will triumph." He then headed to a nearby avenue where activists battled police on Saturday to meet with firefighters, police officers and restaurant owners.

At the security meeting, the French leader asked his interior minister to consider making "adaptations" to security procedures to try to contain ongoing protests sparked by rising fuel taxes, Macron's office said in a statement.

Macron also asked Prime Minister Edouard Philippe to meet with the heads of France's major political parties and representatives from the grassroots movement behind the protests.

Plans for an earlier meeting between the prime minister and representatives of the movement collapsed last week after a request to broadcast the talks live was rejected.

It was the third straight weekend of clashes in Paris involving activists dressed in the yellow vests of the new protest movement. The grassroots protests began Nov. 17 with motorists upset over a fuel tax hike, but have grown to encompass a range of demands and complaints that Macron's government does not care about the problems of ordinary people.

The scene in Paris contrasted sharply with protests elsewhere in France that were mostly peaceful.

"It's difficult to reach the end of the month. People work and pay a lot of taxes and we are fed up," said Rabah Mendez, a protester who marched peacefully Saturday in Paris.

Speaking in Buenos Aires before he flew home to Paris, Macron said he welcomed the views of protesters but vowed that those who participated in wreaking havoc would be held responsible for their behavior.

"(Violence) has nothing to do with the peaceful expression of a legitimate anger" and "no cause justifies" attacks on police or pillaging stores and burning buildings, Macron said.

Damaging police report looms over Netanyahu re-election bid

By JOSEF FEDERMAN, Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli police on Sunday recommended indicting Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on bribery charges, adding to a growing collection of legal troubles that have clouded the longtime leader's prospects for pursuing re-election next year.

Netanyahu denied the latest allegations. But his fate now lies in the hands of his attorney general, who will decide in the coming months whether the prime minister should stand trial on a host of corruption allegations that could play a central role in next year's election campaign.

In a scathing attack on police investigators in a speech on Sunday, Netanyahu called the investigation a "witch hunt" that was "tainted from the start."

"Israel is a law-abiding country. And in a law-abiding country police recommendations have no legal weight," he told his Likud party at a Hannukah candle-lighting ceremony. Most of his half-hour holiday speech went to dismissing the allegations, and the boisterous crowd of hundreds of party members rallied behind him.

Sunday's decision followed a lengthy investigation into a case involving Netanyahu's relationship with Shaul Elovitch, the controlling shareholder of Israel's telecom giant Bezeq.

Police said they found sufficient evidence that confidants of Netanyahu promoted regulatory changes worth hundreds of millions of dollars to Bezeq. In exchange, they believe Netanyahu used his connections with Elovitch to receive positive press coverage on Bezeq's popular news site Walla.

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In a statement, police said the investigation concluded that Netanyahu and Elovitch engaged in a "bribe-based relationship."

Police said they believed there was sufficient evidence to charge Netanyahu and his wife Sara with accepting bribes, fraud and breach of trust. They also recommended charges be brought against Elovitch, members of his family and members of his Bezeq management team.

Police have already recommended indicting Netanyahu on corruption charges in two other cases. One involves accepting gifts from billionaire friends, and the second revolves around alleged offers of advantageous legislation for a major newspaper in return for favorable coverage.

The prime minister has denied any wrongdoing.

"The police recommendations regarding me and my wife don't surprise anyone," Netanyahu said in a statement. "These recommendations were decided upon and leaked even before the investigation began."

The police recommendations do not have any immediate impact on Netanyahu. They go to his hand-picked attorney general, Avichai Mandelblit, who will review the material and make the final decision on whether to press charges.

That decision will have a great impact on Netanyahu's future. Israeli law is unclear about whether an indicted prime minister would have to step down. But at the minimum, a trial would put great pressure on Netanyahu, who has been in office for nearly a decade, to step aside.

Israel must hold its next election by November 2019. But Israeli governments rarely last their full terms.

Netanyahu last month was nearly forced to call elections after a key partner withdrew from his coalition to protest a cease-fire with the Hamas militant group in Gaza. Netanyahu now leads a coalition with a razor-thin 61 seat majority in the 120-seat parliament.

With his Likud Party firmly behind him and his remaining coalition partners remaining silent, there does not seem to be any immediate threat to the government.

Mandelblit's office has not said when he will issue his decision. Most analysts expect him to take several months to review the material.

Reuven Hazan, a political scientist at Hebrew University, said Netanyahu will likely try to push forward elections before Mandelblit decides whether to indict. Netanyahu holds a solid lead in all opinion polls, and a victory would make it more difficult for Mandelblit to indict and potentially force out a newly re-elected leader.

"He'll send a message to the attorney general that everyone knew about these three police reports and they still voted for him and want him in power," Hazan said. That would force the attorney general "to seriously reconsider his decision," he said.

The Bezeq case, known as Case 4000, is the most serious of which Netanyahu has been accused. Two of his top confidants have turned state witnesses and are believed to have provided police with incriminating evidence.

Netanyahu held the government's communications portfolio until last year and oversaw regulation in the field. Former journalists at the Walla news site have attested to being pressured to refrain from negative reporting of Netanyahu.

Opposition lawmakers called on Netanyahu to resign.

"The prime minister has no moral mandate to keep his seat and must resign today. Israel must go to elections," said Tamar Zandberg, head of the dovish Meretz party.

But Netanyahu's colleagues in the ruling Likud Party lined up behind him, attacking outgoing Police Commissioner Roni Alsheikh for releasing the recommendation on his last day on the job.

The appointment of Alsheikh's potential successor is being held up after a government-appointed committee rejected his candidacy, and Netanyahu has repeatedly criticized the police as the investigations into his behavior have mounted.

Micky Zohar, a Likud lawmaker, sarcastically called the police report Alsheikh's "parting gift" to Netanyahu.

Netanyahu and his wife have long had reputations for being overindulgent and out of touch with common Israelis.

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Sara Netanyahu went on trial in October on fraud and breach of trust charges for allegedly spending roughly \$100,000 of government funds on private meals at the prime minister's official residence, even as there was a full-time chef on staff.

In 2016, a court ruled she abused an employee and awarded the man \$42,000 in damages. Other former employees have accused her of mistreatment, charges the Netanyahus have vehemently denied.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Monday, Dec. 3, the 337th day of 2018. There are 28 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On Dec. 3, 1984, thousands of people died after a cloud of methyl isocyanate gas escaped from a pesticide plant operated by a Union Carbide subsidiary in Bhopal, India.

On this date:

In 1818, Illinois was admitted as the 21st state.

In 1828, Andrew Jackson was elected president of the United States by the Electoral College.

In 1833, Oberlin College in Ohio — the first truly coeducational school of higher learning in the United States — began holding classes.

In 1926, English mystery writer Agatha Christie, 36, disappeared after driving away from her home in Sunningdale, Berkshire. (Christie turned up 11 days later at a hotel in Harrogate, Yorkshire.)

In 1947, the Tennessee Williams play "A Streetcar Named Desire" opened on Broadway.

In 1964, police arrested some 800 students at the University of California at Berkeley, one day after the students stormed the administration building and staged a massive sit-in.

In 1967, a surgical team in Cape Town, South Africa, led by Dr. Christiaan Barnard (BAHR'-nard) performed the first human heart transplant on Louis Washkansky, who lived 18 days with the donor organ, which came from Denise Darvall, a 25-year-old bank clerk who had died in a traffic accident.

In 1979, 11 people were killed in a crush of fans at Cincinnati's Riverfront Coliseum, where the British rock group The Who was performing.

In 1980, Bernadine Dohrn, a former leader of the radical Weather Underground, surrendered to authorities in Chicago after more than a decade as a fugitive.

In 1991, radicals in Lebanon released American hostage Alann (cq) Steen, who'd been held captive nearly five years.

In 1992, the first telephone text message was sent by British engineer Neil Papworth, who transmitted the greeting "Merry Christmas" from his work computer in Newbury, Berkshire, to Vodafone executive Richard Jarvis' mobile phone. The Greek tanker Aegean Sea spilled more than 21 million gallons of crude oil when it ran aground off northwestern Spain.

In 1999, Tori Murden of the United States became the first woman to row across the Atlantic Ocean alone as she arrived at the French Caribbean island of Guadeloupe, 81 days after leaving the Canary Islands near the coast of Africa.

Ten years ago: President-elect Barack Obama selected New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson as his commerce secretary. (However, Richardson withdrew a month later when it appeared his confirmation hearings would be complicated by a grand jury investigation over how state contracts were issued to political donors; Gary Locke ended up being appointed.) Theological conservatives upset by liberal views of U.S. Episcopalians and Canadian Anglicans formed a rival North American province.

Five years ago: Seeking to regroup from his health care law's disastrous rollout, President Barack Obama insisted the sweeping overhaul was working and warned Republican critics that he would fight any efforts to strip away its protections. A federal judge ruled Detroit could use bankruptcy to cut employee pensions and relieve itself of other crushing debts, handing a defeat to the city's unions and retirees and shifting the case into a delicate new phase. The Illinois Legislature approved a historic plan to eliminate the state's

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\$100 billion pension shortfall.

One year ago: The second-largest U.S. drugstore chain, CVS, announced that it was buying Aetna, the third-largest health insurer, in order to push much deeper into customer care. Former longtime Illinois congressman John Anderson, who ran for president as an independent in 1980, died in Washington at the age of 95. A partial implosion of the Silverdome in Pontiac, Michigan, failed to bring down the upper section of the Detroit Lions' former home; the demolition company handling the project was successful the following day.

Today's Birthdays: Movie director Jean-Luc Godard is 88. Singer Jaye P. Morgan is 87. Actor Nicolas Coster is 85. Actress Mary Alice is 77. Rock singer Ozzy Osbourne is 70. Rock singer Mickey Thomas is 69. Country musician Paul Gregg (Restless Heart) is 64. Actor Steven Culp is 63. Actress Daryl Hannah is 58. Actress Julianne Moore is 58. Olympic gold medal figure skater Katarina Witt is 53. Actor Brendan Fraser is 50. Singer Montell Jordan is 50. Actor Royale Watkins is 49. Actor Bruno Campos is 45. Actress Holly Marie Combs is 45. Actress Liza Lapira is 43. Actress Lauren Roman is 43. Pop-rock singer Daniel Bedingfield is 39. Actress/comedian Tiffany Haddish is 39. Actress Anna Chlumsky (KLUHM'-skee) is 38. Actress Jenna Dewan is 38. Actor Brian Bonsall is 37. Actress Dascha Polanco is 36. Pop/rock singer-songwriter Andy Grammer is 35. Americana musician Michael Calabrese (Lake Street Dive) is 34. Actress Amanda Seyfried is 33. Actor Michael Angarano is 31. Actor Jake T. Austin is 24.

Thought for Today: "The well of Providence is deep. It's the buckets we bring to it that are small." — Mary Webb, Scottish religious leader (c.1881-1927).