

Groton Daily Independent

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CLOSED: Recycling Trailer in Groton

The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.

Dakota Brush

Brooms, Brushes, Mops, Can Liners, Paper Products.

Get Ready for Spring With
Wash Brushes & Squeegees

397-9337

104 N. Main, Groton

Groton Area Schedule of Events

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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Hunter update!!!!

Hunter update (12-2-18)

Continuing on with baby steps (great leaps to us) today. It has been a little slow the past few days with Hunter biting his tongue and it becoming swollen. Judging by the way it looked we can't imagine the pain. His tongue continues to get better and now after that is now healing they have taken him off fully of the sedation medication. Fingers crossed this stays good. They sat Hunter up in a chair for 2 hours today and turned the ventilator off for that period and he proceeded to breathe on his own for that time. His eyes are really starting to open more and more often. Us also often noticing that they will follow you around the room when open. He's still not fully conscious but we know he is coming to, because he'll squeeze hands and continues to make these small improvements. We have been reading the cards, showing him videos, posts, etc. (thank you) and although he's not fully conscious we know he hears us and that he's smiling in the inside. Just like all of you, we can not wait to see that contagious smile soon.

Keep those prayers coming

#allforhunt
#huntingforabiggerreason
- Schaller Family



Members of the Groton Area Show Choir took a moment for prayer for Hunter Schaller at a recent show choir practice. (Facebook photo by Kayla Jensen)

HUNTER SCHALLER BENEFIT
December 5th at 4pm
Groton Legion
WALKING TACO WITH
DESSERT
Free will donation

Due to Bingo, you must be 21 to enter the Legion, even if you are accompanied by a parent or guardian.



#allforHunt Fund-raiser - Keychains \$10
All proceeds to go to the family. You can order at the Groton High School office, Professional Management Services, Lori's Pharmacy or BK Custom T's

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USPS Announces Operations Plan for National Day of Mourning

President Donald J. Trump has proclaimed Wednesday, December 5, 2018 as a National Day of Mourning in remembrance of former President George H.W. Bush. Out of respect for the 41st President of the United States and to honor his vast contributions to our country during his lifetime, and consistent with the Presidential Proclamation, the United States Postal Service will suspend regular mail deliveries, retail services and administrative office activity on December 5.

The following are details for USPS business mailers and shippers:

Delivery – Regular mail delivery will be suspended, however there will be limited package delivery consistent with our Peak Season Sunday schedule.

Delivery Destination Units (DDU) – Will accept drop shipments.

Priority Mail Express Mail – Will be delivered.

Retail – All operations will be suspended. Post Offices will be closed.

Collections – Mail will be collected from boxes in front of Post Offices and high volume boxes that have a potential to overflow, while other collections will be suspended.

Package Pickup – We will conduct scheduled package pickup requests.

Plants – All plant operations, including Network Distribution Centers (NDC) and Sectional Center Facilities (SCF), will operate as scheduled except delivery point sequence (DPS) processing. FAST appointments will be accepted.

Transportation – Air and Surface transportation operate as scheduled, and scheduled dispatches to Post Offices will occur.

Business Mail Entry Unit (BMEU) – The BMEU/Detached Mail Unit (DMU) in plant locations will be open, while BMEU operations will be suspended at Post Office locations.

Call Center – In operation but may have reduced staffing.

Administrative Offices including Headquarters – These offices will be closed.

If you have additional questions, please send them to the Industry Alert mailbox: IndustryAlert@usps.gov where a response will be provided.

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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About 10 years of concrete accumulation is being ground up at the Groton rubble site. Webster Scale has been working at the site for the past week and work is expected to be completed by the end of this week. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Work on new water tower could begin in 2021

The Groton City Council pledged \$280,000 at its meeting Monday evening towards a payment on a new water tower. The city would have to take out a loan for the water tower as it does not qualify for a grant. An addition option is to implement a \$10 or \$15 fee to each water hookup in Groton to help raise funds for the water tower. In addition to the water tower, a new building, pumps and controls and a water main loop on the south end of Groton are also being considered. The total cost of the project is \$2.1 million. The city also took out a \$100,000 CD with SD Fit for this year's contribution to the water tower fund. The interest rate was 2.46 percent with SD Fit compared to 1.5 percent at the First State Bank.

The first 25 minutes of the city council meeting was devoted to Cody Lindgren and his request to have a house torn down with the rubble to be hauled to the Groton rubble site instead of being hauled to Aberdeen. Lindgren said it would save him money to have it done locally and he said that he had talked with Jeff Steen and Steen had said Ipswich allows houses to be buried at its landfill. City supervisor Terry Herron said that Groton does not have the space to bury houses and the state permit does not allow painted or stained wood or shingles to be admitted to the city rubble site. Councilman Karyn Babcock said if the city would allow Lindgren a special permit, then the city would be obligated to help everyone and there is no room at the current facility to accommodate houses. Mayor Scott Hanlon suggested that Lindgren talk with some contractors about removing house and that some may be willing to allow payments for the demolition and hauling. Hanlon also said that the city has turned down requests from other people to haul material to the rubble site. In fact, he said that when someone violates the rules, the person is called and asked to go back to the rubble site to remove the material that is not allowed. The council denied Lindgren's request.

The council authorized the repair of the digger truck. The estimate for repairs was a little over \$10,000.

Terry Herron reported during the department reports that the concrete at the rubble site is being grinded by Webster Scale. He also reported that 27 Ash trees will be removed this winter.

After an executive session, the council hired Hollie and Kelsie Frost as warming house attendants and gave first reading to the 2019 Salary Ordinance which reflected a 25 cent per hour raise across the board.

There was discussion on people leaving their vehicles, campers, trailers, boats, etc. out in the street. The council is asking city residents to please remove them from the street or they will get a ticket. Mayor Scott Hanlon said, "People need to be considerate of the city crew when they are doing snow removal."

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Today in Weather History

December 4, 1993: Winds gusting to 40 to 60 mph combined with snow cover along with new snow to cause blizzard conditions making travel hazardous across north central and northeast South Dakota. Several vehicles were stranded or slid into ditches. The winds toppled a private building under construction at Selby in Walworth County. New snowfall amounts were generally from one to three inches.

December 4, 1952: The month of December started off with chilly temperatures in London. This cold resulted in Londoners to burn more coal to heat up their homes. Then on December 5, a high pressure settled over the Thames River causing a dense layer of smog to develop. The smog became so thick and dense by December 7 that virtually no sunlight was seen in London. Most conservative estimates place the death toll at 4,000, with some estimating the smog killed as many as 8,000 individuals.

December 4, 2002: A total solar eclipse was experienced by millions of people from Africa to Australia, and from space.

1786 - The first of two great early December storms began. The storm produced 18 inches of snow at Morristown NJ, and twenty inches of snow at New Haven CT. It also resulted in high tides at Nantucket which did great damage. (David Ludlum)

1972 - Winds gusting to 70 mph sent the temperature at Livingston, MT, plunging from 52 degrees to 18 degrees in just twenty minutes. (The Weather Channel)

1982 - The temperature in New York City's Central Park reached 72 degrees to establish a record high for December. The month as a whole was also the warmest of record. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - A cold front crossing the Pacific Coast Region brought high winds and heavy rain to California. Thunderstorm winds gusted to 55 mph at Newport Beach CA, and Mount Wilson CA was drenched with 2.17 inches of rain in six hours. Gale force winds prevailed along the Northern Pacific Coast, and winds in the Tehachapis Mountains of southern California gusted to 60 mph. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Gale force winds continued to usher cold arctic air into the northeastern U.S. Winds gusted to 65 mph at Windsor Locks CT. Up to a foot of snow blanketed the higher elevations of Vermont. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Seventeen cities in the eastern U.S., including nine in Florida, reported record low temperatures for the date. Lakeland FL reported a record low of 31 degrees, and Watertown NY was the cold spot in the nation with a low of 20 degrees below zero. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2002 - An early season winter storm brought an expansive shield of snow and ice through much of the eastern U.S., from the lower Ohio Valley, southern Appalachians and into the Northeast. Snow accumulations of 4-8 inches were common along the northern edge of the precipitation shield, while a significant accrual of glaze occurred in the Carolinas. The storm caused at least 17 fatalities, mostly from traffic accidents (CNN). In the Carolinas, electric utilities provider Duke Power characterized the ice storm as the worst in the company's history, with 1.2 million customers or nearly half its entire customer base without power on the morning of the 5th. This surpassed electrical outages inflicted by Hurricane Hugo as it swept through the central Carolinas in September 1989.

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Today



Scattered
Flurries

High: 31 °F

Tonight



Scattered
Flurries

Low: 15 °F

Wednesday



Partly Sunny

High: 29 °F

Wednesday
Night



Mostly Cloudy

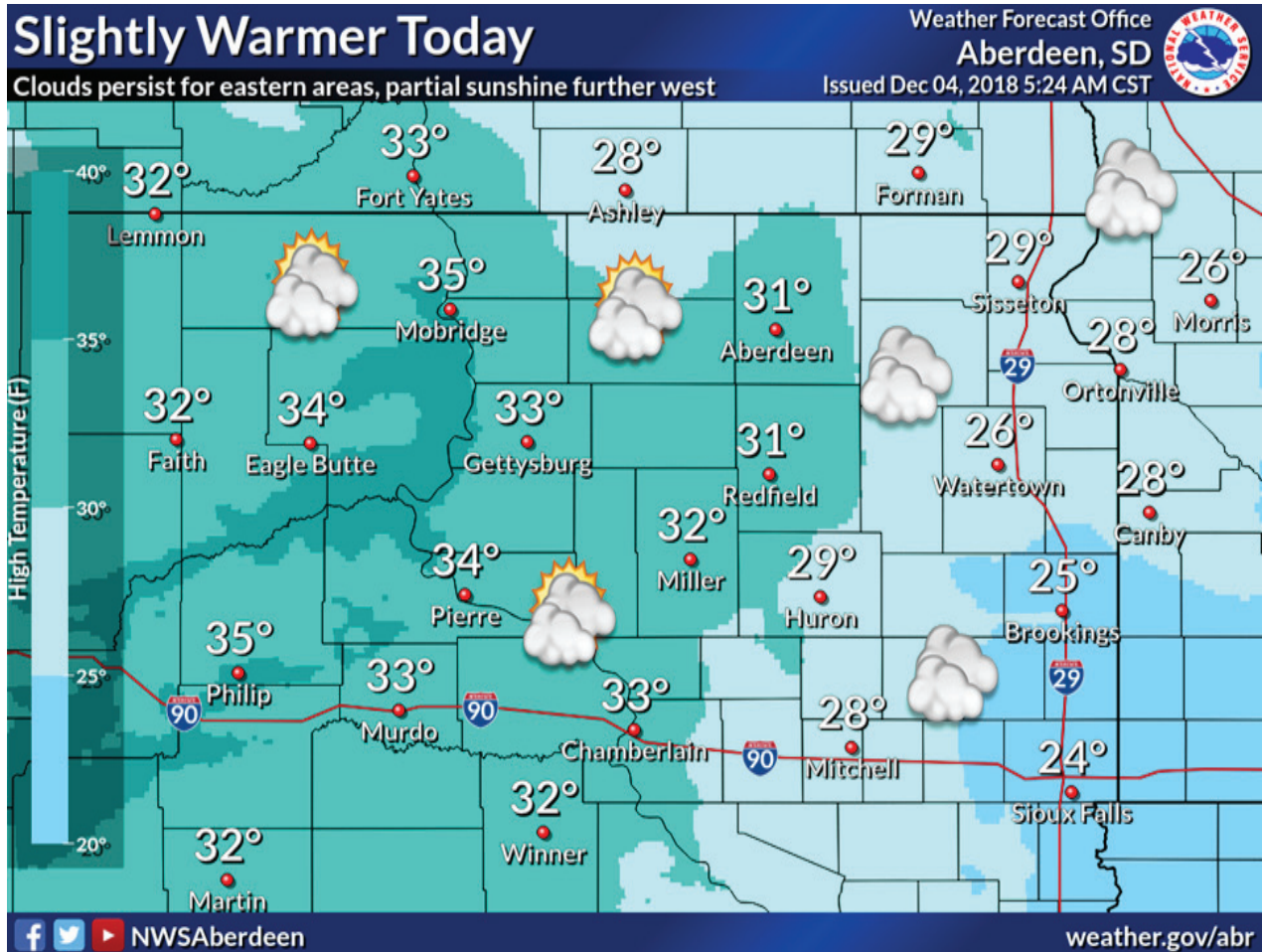
Low: 8 °F

Thursday



Partly Sunny

High: 18 °F



Published on: 12/04/2018 at 5:37AM

Clouds will continue to affect eastern portions of the forecast area today, along with a few flurries or even patches of light freezing drizzle. Otherwise, expect areas of sunshine to try to break out across central South Dakota today. Slightly warmer temperatures will be felt as well, as most areas rise into the 20s and 30s.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 23 °F at 12:00 AM

Low Outside Temp: 22 °F at 10:26 AM

High Gust: 19 mph at 12:18 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 56° in 1979

Record Low: -18° in 1927

Average High: 29°F

Average Low: 10°F

Average Precip in Dec.: 0.05

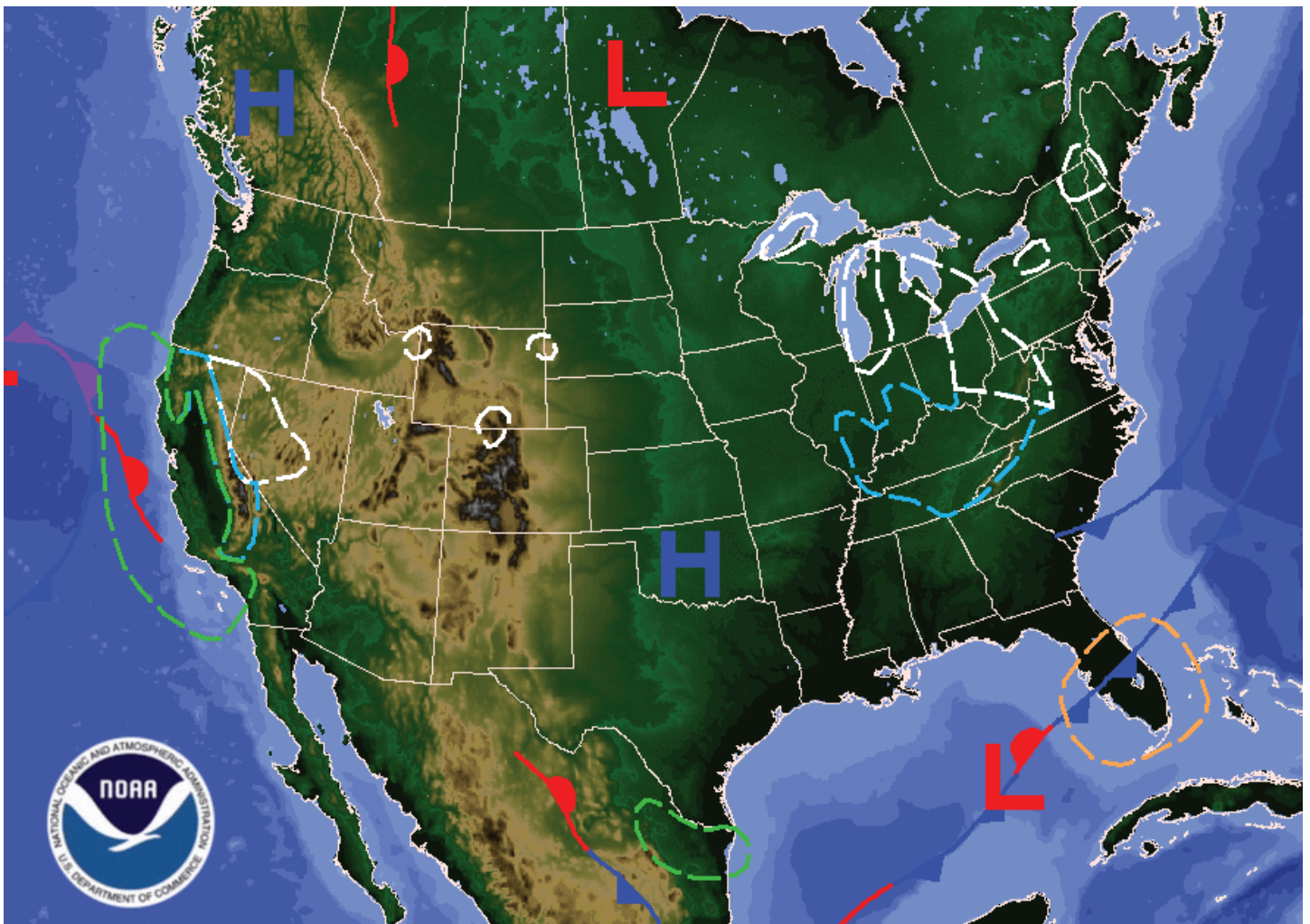
Precip to date in Dec.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 21.25

Precip Year to Date: 15.81

Sunset Tonight: 4:51 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:58 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Tue, Dec 04, 2018, issued 4:06 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

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

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LOVE WITH SKIN ON IT

A young man, who grew up in a housing project, having little hope and few goods, heard an evangelist preaching love on a street corner. After listening for a few moments he shouted to the preacher, Im sick and tired of you people talking about love. I want to see love. I want to feel love. I want to see love with some skin on it!

Thats Christmas: Gods love with skin on it.

Paul wrote, For in Christ the fullness of God lives in a human body!

In Jesus, we see Someone bringing love to life but a very special type of love. It is Gods love. We see this love coming to life when Jesus fed the hungry, gave sight to the blind, cleansed the lepers, healed the sick, offering water to a thirsty soul, calming the waves to relieve the fears of experienced fishermen, washing dirty feet, spending time with little children, teaching people the truth that brought meaning and purpose to their lives and finally hanging lifeless from a cross abandoned and alone.

Jesus is God loving through a human heart, healing with a human hand, walking on errands of mercy with human feet, showing love, grace and mercy to those who would do Him harm.

Jesus is God loving the least, the last and the lost. In Jesus, God showed His love with skin on it.

Prayer: Help us, Father, to put Your love in our skin and take Your love to those in need. May we be as faithful in caring for others as You are in caring for us. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Colossians 2:9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily;

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

Fall River County crash kills 1 person, injures 2 others

OELRICHS, S.D. (AP) — A two-vehicle crash in Fall River County over the weekend killed one person and injured two others.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol says a minivan and a pickup truck collided on U.S. Highway 18 after the minivan crossed the center line shortly after 2 p.m. Sunday.

The 72-year-old woman driving the minivan died at the scene, about 13 miles east of Oelrichs. The 69-year-old man driving the pickup suffered minor injuries and a 72-year-old female passenger in his truck life-threatening injuries. She was hospitalized in Rapid City.

The patrol didn't immediately release the names of those involved.

Panel backs requesting funds to expand 211 telephone service

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota legislative panel has endorsed requesting funding to expand a telephone program that helps connect callers with services for preventing suicide and addressing domestic abuse and child mistreatment.

KELO-TV reports that the committee unanimously agreed Monday to ask for funds to expand the 211 telephone service across the state. The program currently receives about \$500,000 each year from partners, and growing statewide would cost roughly \$300,000 more.

Republican Rep. Herman Otten says he thinks it's a "step we need to take."

The group also decided they need additional time to figure out more ways to improve mental health services. The panel wants five task forces to examine different areas of mental health at a cost of roughly \$95,000.

South Dakota's 2019 legislative session starts Jan. 8.

Information from: KELO-TV, <http://www.keloland.com>

State agents investigate fatal shooting by deputy

NEW UNDERWOOD, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation has launched its review of a fatal shooting by a sheriff's deputy in New Underwood.

The state attorney general's office on Monday identified the man shot as 19-year-old Matthew Lorenzen, of Rapid City. A Pennington County deputy shot Lorenzen Friday following a chase that ended when he crashed his vehicle near the interstate exit for New Underwood.

Chief Deputy Willy Whelchel says the suspect got out of the vehicle with a weapon after it landed upside down. The deputy then shot the suspect, who died at the scene.

Whelchel says no law enforcement officers were struck by the man's bullets, which he allegedly fired during the chase. Authorities say the pursuit started in Rapid City after an attempted traffic stop.

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Girl's Basketball Polls

By The Associated Press

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Sportswriters Association high school girl's preseason poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records, total points and last week's ranking.

Class AA

Rank-School	FPV	TP	
1. Sioux Falls O' Gorman	(13)	89	
2. Brandon Valley	(2)	61	
3. Sioux Falls Lincoln	(1)	44	
4. Harrisburg	-	42	
5. Stevens	(1)	30	

Others receiving votes: Aberdeen Central (3) 26, Washington 4, Rapid City Central 3, Brookings 1.

Class A

Rank-School	FPV	TP	
1. St. Thomas More	(17)	93	
2. Lennox	(3)	63	
3. Winner	-	45	
4. Sioux Falls Christian	-	31	
5. Miller	-	23	

Others receiving votes: Aberdeen Roncalli 21, Hamlin 9, Dell Rapids 5, Vermillion 5, Crow Creek 2, McCook Central/Montrose 2, Pine Ridge 1.

Class B

Rank-School	FPV	TP	
1. Ethan	(6)	78	
2. Warner	(7)	77	
3. Castlewood	(6)	69	
4. Tripp-Delmont-Armour	(1)	33	
5. Avon	-	12	

Others receiving votes: De Smet 9, Sully Buttes 6, White River 5, Corsica-Stickney 4, Faith 3, Hanson 2, Irene-Wakonda 2.

Boy's Basketball Polls

By The Associated Press

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) - The South Dakota Sportswriters Association high school boy's preseason poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records, total points and last week's ranking.<

Class AA

Rank-School	FPV	TP	
1. Yankton	(16)	95	
2. Sioux Falls O'Gorman	(4)	71	
3. Brandon Valley	-	43	
4. Rapid City Stevens	-	33	
5. Lincoln	-	32	

Others receiving votes: Washington 8, Huron 7, Harrisburg 6, Roosevelt 4, Aberdeen Central 1. .<

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Class A

Rank-School;FPV;TP

1. Tea Area;(19);99
2. Sioux Falls Christian;(1);79
3. Pine Ridge;-;46
4. Red Cloud;-;23
5. St. Thomas More;-;21

Others receiving votes: Sioux Valley 13, Parker 8, Madison 4, Dell Rapids 3, Canton 2, Miller 1, Lennox 1.<

Class B

Rank-School;FPVTP

1. Bridgewater-Emery;(16)92
2. Clark-Willow Lake;(2)73
3. White River;-57
4. Sully Buttes;(2)41
5. Timber Lake;-30

Others receiving votes: De Smet 2, Colome 1, Irene-Wakonda 1, Aberdeen Christian 1, Kimball/White Lake 1, Dell Rapids St. Mary 1.<

—;—

Excerpts from recent South Dakota editorials

By The Associated Press

American News, Aberdeen, Nov. 28

The case for city rankings

"We're No. 1!" is more than just bragging rights. That "stamp of approval" often is free marketing for businesses, attractions and cities.

As Aberdeen attempts to attract new employers and employees to town, we believe online rankings can be a valuable tool in reaching new audiences and spreading the word.

We started thinking about this after reading Mayor Mike Levsen's Nov. 3 "Ask the Mayor" column. A resident asked why Aberdeen doesn't seem to participate in rankings and scoring reports that rate how cities treat minority groups, among other issues.

"My response to national issue advocacy groups has been to not join and not participate in their campaigns," Levsen wrote. "We would have no control over any subsequent actions or policies of those groups, and no control over how our city name would be used. ... Instead, let's concentrate on doing the right thing, not worrying how some third party evaluates us."

That seems short-sighted to us.

Let's look at how universities, for instance, tout their rankings.

In just the past month alone, Black Hills State University has sent email news releases mentioning its rankings from the Sierra Club ("Cool Schools 2018" listing) and Best Value Schools (No. 9 of "the best online Bachelor of Business Administration degree programs for 2018").

Do those rankings really mean anything? Not in a tangible way — we don't think BHSU won any money, for instance.

Intangibly, however, it keeps the school's name out there for very little money. It looks like things are happening, and helps the university extend its brand. Those little connections might mean something to a high school senior who would not have otherwise heard of Black Hills State, let alone considered applying.

When you consider how competitive universities are for students, for faculty and for dollars, it makes sense that they would take full advantage of any opportunity to look good.

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In the noisy online world, this kind of marketing can be the viral difference between being noticed or being ignored.

Levensen continues, "Instead of having national groups passing judgments, we regard critical evaluation by local residents as a better indicator. If things are mishandled, hearing from those involved has much more power and relevance for encouraging necessary changes."

That misses a key point: Sometimes local folks don't know all we have to offer, or the standards to which our city should aspire.

And, assuming that "evaluation by local residents" is a more valuable metric to improving our city, wouldn't being recognized for those successes by an outside organization help get the message out?

The concerns mentioned in the "Ask the Mayor" column don't seem to slow down Sioux Falls, Rapid City, Brookings and other cities from bragging about their gains. Maybe those cities and their promotions people can suggest which surveys are worth participating in, and which aren't?

We say: Take every opportunity to shine — especially when it doesn't cost us a dime.

Madison Daily Leader, Madison, Nov. 26

Science of agriculture sometimes returns home

Who would have thought that farming would be among the most innovative, scientific, technology-driven industries in the United States? And that some of the innovation is to take a step back in time?

We're excited to see all the agriculture research being conducted at South Dakota State University, and we're impressed by the outreach departments working with existing farm operations.

We've also been impressed with the growth of precision agriculture, the concept of measuring and responding to variability in land and crops. Using satellite data, a farmer can treat each micro-portion of their land differently for maximum efficiency.

Despite these advances, as well as other research in agriculture, sometimes the best methods are those rooted in the past.

The science of regenerative agriculture is based around some older concepts, like crop rotation and no-till farming. But the newest movement is based entirely on science. Advocates say the results of studies are indisputable.

While many of the benefits of regenerative agriculture accrue directly to the farmer, like reduced costs and more profit, some benefits accrue to the region. Less runoff, reduced water contamination and, possibly, reduced air pollution are wonderful environmental benefits that will be critical to our future.

We applaud those who are contributing to the ongoing improvement of agriculture, especially those who are contributing to environmental protection.

Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, Nov. 26

A quiet warning on climate change

A report quietly released on Black Friday by the Trump administration paints a grim picture of what could happen to our planet by the end of the century due to unchecked climate change.

Thus, the report also serves as the latest call to arms to confront this issue that most of the world — except, it seems, the United States proper — is taking more urgently.

The Fourth National Climate Assessment Volume II (NCA), a mandated survey issued by the government, is a continuation of the assessments that were also released as discreetly as possible this past summer. The details of the report, such as an expected rise in temperature of up to 3 degrees centigrade by 2100, is at least as alarming as the fact that the current administration has dumped out the information so casually and matter-of-factly, since the findings conflict with the government's official denialist stance on climate change. President Trump on Monday dismissed it by declaring, "I don't believe it."

That being said (and dismissed), here is what the government's own assessment says climate change could do to, for instance, our own area.

The NCA states that climate change "presents numerous challenges to sustaining and enhancing crop

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productivity, livestock health, and the economic vitality of rural communities." Granted, it DOES say that climate change could create "conditions conducive to expanded or alternative crop productivity over the next few decades." However, overall "yields from major U.S. crops are expected to decline as a consequence of increases in temperatures and possibly changes in water availability, soil erosion, and disease and pest outbreaks." It notes that rising temperature will also increase heat stress on livestock, which can create economic losses for producers.

"Climate change is also expected to lead to large-scale shifts in the availability and prices of many agricultural products across the world, with corresponding impacts on U.S. agricultural producers and the U.S. economy," the NCA adds.

In regards to infrastructure, extreme weather events will put even more stress on aging roadways and energy grids. This could mean longer blackouts and a disruption of transportation and energy systems. "Infrastructure currently designed for historical climate conditions is more vulnerable to future weather extremes and climate change," the report notes.

Also vulnerable to climate change are air and water quality, which could lead to greater health issues. Other impacts could be felt in issues ranging from exposure to cold in extreme winter events to heightened problems with asthma and allergies.

The report even goes into how climate change could impact tourism, especially coastal areas, places that rely on extended snowpack and "inland water-based recreation" like the Lewis and Clark Recreation Area.

However, the report does have a small silver lining — with an asterisk. It declares, "The integration of climate risk into decision-making and the implementation of adaptation activities have significantly increased since the Third National Climate Assessment ..." and notes that the U.S. has lowered greenhouse gas emissions since the previous report. But, the last report was in 2014, and the current administration has been working diligently the last two years to roll back many of the policies that helped make that happen.

The report concludes, "The continued warming that is projected to occur without substantial and sustained reductions in global greenhouse gas emissions is expected to cause substantial net damage to the U.S. economy throughout this century, especially in the absence of increased adaptation efforts." Losses could range up to 10 percent of the nation's Gross Domestic Product, which would represent a major contraction that could cost tens of thousands of jobs.

And remember, all this is the conclusion from a government that otherwise ignores the science on this issue, or is claiming that actions to prevent such an economic catastrophe could hurt the economy ...

We stated in this space a couple weeks ago that the issue of climate change may become even more potent politically as more people find themselves on the front lines of the crisis. This report reinforces that fact that we are all increasingly in the crosshairs of this matter and action needs to be taken now. The future is depending on us to find the will to make that commitment. The first step is to acknowledge the reality we face.

Midwest economy: November state-by-state glance

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — The Institute for Supply Management, formerly the Purchasing Management Association, began formally surveying its membership in 1931 to gauge business conditions.

The Creighton Economic Forecasting Group uses the same methodology as the national survey to consult supply managers and business leaders. Creighton University economics professor Ernie Goss oversees the report.

The overall index ranges between 0 and 100. Growth neutral is 50, and a figure greater than 50 indicates growth in that factor over the next three to six months.

Here are the state-by-state results for November:

Arkansas: The overall Arkansas index rose to 53.9 last month from October's 52.9. Index components were new orders at 50.9, production or sales at 52.2, delivery lead time at 55.9, inventories at 53.4 and employment at 57.3. Arkansas nondurable-goods manufacturers added 1,400 workers for a 1.7 percent gain over the past 12 months, Goss said. And Arkansas' durable-goods producers boosted jobs by 800

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for a 1.1 percent gain.

Iowa: The state's overall index climbed a point to hit 52.8 in November, compared with 51.8 in October. Index components were new orders at 50.0, production or sales at 51.0, delivery lead time at 54.6, employment at 56.1 and inventories at 52.2. Iowa nondurable-goods manufacturers added 3,100 workers for a 3.3 percent gain over the past 12 months, he said. Durable-goods producers in the state boosted jobs by 6,100 for a 4.9 percent gain over the same period.

Kansas: Kansas' overall index inched up to 51.6 last month from October's 51.4. Index components were new orders at 49.1, production or sales at 49.8, delivery lead time at 53.3, employment at 55.0 and inventories at 50.9. The state's nondurable-goods manufacturers added 900 workers for a 1.3 percent gain over the past 12 months. During this same period of time, durable-goods producers in the state boosted jobs by 2,800 for a 3 percent gain.

Minnesota: The state's overall index dropped to 53.9 in November, down a point from 54.9 in October. Index components were new orders at 50.8, production or sales at 52.1, delivery lead time at 55.8, inventories at 53.3 and employment at 57.2. Minnesota's nondurable-goods manufacturers added 700 workers for a 0.6 percent gain over the past 12 months, while durable-goods producers boosted jobs by 5,100 for a 2.5 percent gain.

Missouri: Missouri's overall index rose to 54.7 last month from 52.5 in October. Index components were new orders at 51.5, production or sales at 53.0, delivery lead time at 56.7, inventories at 54.2 and employment at 58.1. Missouri's nondurable-goods manufacturers lost 1,500 jobs — a 1.4 percent loss over the past 12 months. But durable-goods producers boosted jobs by 8,200 for a 5.2 percent gain.

Nebraska: The state's overall index slipped to 51.3 in November from October's 51.5. Index components were new orders at 48.9, production or sales at 49.5, delivery lead time at 53.0, inventories at 50.6 and employment at 54.7. Nebraska's nondurable-goods manufacturers added 2,000 workers for a 3.7 percent gain over the past 12 months, while durable-goods producers boosted jobs by 2,300 for a 5.2 percent gain.

North Dakota: North Dakota's overall index dropped to 57.6 last month from 61.3 for October. Index components were new orders at 63.5, production or sales at 63.3, delivery lead time at 68.7, employment at 58.1 and inventories at 52.9. North Dakota's nondurable-goods manufacturers added 200 workers for a 2.3 percent rate of growth over the past 12 months, while durable-goods producers boosted jobs by 500 for a 3 percent gain.

Oklahoma: The state's overall index climbed to 55.9 in November from October's 55.0. Index components were new orders at 52.4, production or sales at 54.3, delivery lead time at 58.0, inventories at 55.5 and employment at 59.3. Oklahoma's nondurable-goods manufacturers shed 2,200 workers — a 5.5 percent loss over the past 12 months. But durable-goods producers in the state boosted jobs by 3,100 for a 3.5 percent gain.

South Dakota: South Dakota's overall index jumped to 55.6 last month, compared with 52.6 in October. Index components were new orders at 52.2, production or sales at 53.9, delivery lead time at 57.7, inventories at 55.2 and employment at 59.0. South Dakota's nondurable-goods manufacturers added 600 workers for a 3.8 percent gain over the past 12 months, while durable-goods producers boosted jobs by 1,400 for a 5.1 percent gain.

Economist: Skilled worker shortage hurts Midwestern economy

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — The economy continued to expand in nine Midwestern and Plains states last month but was hampered by shortages of skilled workers, according to monthly survey results released Monday.

The Mid-America Business Conditions Index dropped to 54.1 in November from 54.9 in October, the report said. The September reading was 57.5.

"The regional economy continues to expand at a healthy pace," said Creighton University economist Ernie Goss, who oversees the survey of supply managers. "However, as in recent months, shortages of skilled workers remain an impediment to even stronger growth. Furthermore, supply managers are reporting mounting negative impacts from tariffs and trade skirmishes," he said.

The November employment index climbed to 57.5, from 52.2 in October.

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Overall manufacturing employment growth in the region over the past 12 months has been very healthy, at 2.5 percent compared with the national average of 2.3 percent, Goss said.

"I expect this gap to close in the months ahead as regional job growth slows faster than national manufacturing job growth," he said.

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.

Economic optimism remained on the plus side last month, at 55.5, but was lower than the 59.6 in October. "Almost one-third, or 30 percent, of supply managers expect business profits to improve in 2019," Goss said.

The regional new export orders index rose slightly, to 51.8 from October's 51.5, and the import index climbed to 54.3, from 48.7 in October. Healthy regional growth boosted imports for the month despite higher tariffs on imported goods, the report said.

More than 65 percent of the supply managers who responded to the survey indicated that rising tariffs had made it more difficult or expensive to purchase from abroad, Goss said.

The survey was completed before word came of an agreement reached Saturday between President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping for the U.S. to hold off for 90 days raising tariffs on \$200 billion in Chinese goods. It buys the two countries more time for their talks aimed at settling their trade differences.

Israel launches operation to thwart Hezbollah border tunnels

By **ARIEL SCHALIT** and **TIA GOLDENBERG**, Associated Press

METULA, Israel (AP) — The Israeli military launched an operation Tuesday to "expose and thwart" tunnels it says were built by the Hezbollah militant group that stretch from Lebanon into northern Israel.

The military said the tunnels were not currently being used by militants and that its work to find and neutralize them was taking place inside Israeli territory. However, the Israeli operation could send tensions soaring between Israel and its Iranian-backed foe, which have both been preoccupied with other conflicts since their last conflagration more than a decade ago.

"We see Hezbollah's activities as a flagrant and blatant violation of Israeli sovereignty" and U.N. resolutions, said Lt. Col Jonathan Conricus, a military spokesman. "This activity is another example of the negative effects of Iranian entrenchment in the region."

The military did not disclose how many tunnels snake into Israeli territory from Lebanon, nor reveal details of the operation that could last for weeks, it said. Troops were reinforced along the border and later Tuesday, the military announced the first tunnel had been uncovered and would be demolished.

Conricus said the tunnel, outfitted with electricity, a ventilation pipe and a communication cable, was about 200 meters (220 yards) long, at a depth of 25 meters (80 feet) and was about 2 meters (6 feet) high.

The tunnel's exit point was found in a patch of farmland southwest of the pastoral Israeli border town of Metula, the military said.

Lebanese troops and military intelligence agents, along with U.N. peacekeepers deployed in southern Lebanon, were observing the border Tuesday, a Lebanese military official told The Associated Press, speaking on condition of anonymity in line with regulations.

Israel has spent years attempting to tackle a network of tunnels from the Gaza Strip into Israel and has used several methods to destroy tunnels and prevent them from being rebuilt, from using earthmovers and other large machinery to building a massive wall along its northern border. The barrier, Israel says, is needed to protect civilians from Hezbollah attacks. While the construction has prompted complaints from the Lebanese army, Hezbollah has not responded — an indication it could remain restrained amid the new operation.

Israel, meanwhile, gave no special orders to residents of northern Israel, signaling that it too was not expecting an immediate response from Hezbollah.

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Israel has tracked the tunnels' development for years. Conricus said that Hezbollah has been developing an offensive plan that would "shift the battleground into Israel," using firepower and ground units.

"The surprise component of that plan was supposed to be tunnels that would allow infiltrators into Israel," he said.

He added that Israel has investigated the possibility of underground Hezbollah tunnels since 2013 and that a task force established in 2014 has been searching for them for more than two years. He did not explain why the operation to uncover the tunnels started now.

Near Metula, bulldozers and military vehicles were seen working and residents of the area told Israeli media they had been hearing digging noises for years and had reported their suspicions to the military.

The Israeli operation began hours after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu held a snap trip to Brussels to meet U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo in which the two discussed "ways to halt together Iranian aggression in the region," including in Lebanon. Netanyahu's office said Tuesday the Israeli leader updated Pompeo on the operation.

"Whoever tries to attack the state of Israel will pay a heavy price," he said in a statement.

There was no immediate comment from Hezbollah. Its Al-Manar TV quoted Israeli media reports on the operation.

An official from the so-called "Axis of Resistance" — a grouping led by Iran and made up of Syrian officials, Iraq Shiite militias, Hezbollah and other groups — said Hezbollah fighters were "on high alert to confront any possible Israeli aggression." The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the group's military activities with the media.

Malene Jensen, spokeswoman for the U.N. force in Lebanon known as UNIFIL, said the situation in the peacekeepers' "area of operation remains calm" and that they are in touch with all relevant parties to make sure calm and stability is maintained.

Israel and Hezbollah fought a month-long war in 2006 that ended in a stalemate. Israel's border with Lebanon has been relatively quiet in the years since, but Israel has continued to identify the Shiite militant group and its expanding weapons cache of tens of thousands of rockets as a major threat.

Israel has long voiced concern about Iran's growing military presence along its northern border, warning of an Iranian corridor that could assist in the transfer of weapons to Hezbollah. Israel has generally refrained from engaging in Syria's civil war, though it has carried out scores of airstrikes against what Israel says were Iranian shipments of advanced weapons bound for Hezbollah.

The operation comes weeks after Netanyahu faced a major crisis in his governing coalition over the handling of a cease-fire with Gaza militants. Amid the crisis he took on the defense portfolio from his resigning minister and promised to pursue a hard line against Israel's enemies during what he described as a "complex" security situation.

Although its attention has been diverted to violent protests along its border with Gaza in recent months, Israel's main security concerns lie to the north, along the border with Lebanon.

Israeli officials have long warned the threat posed by Gaza's Hamas rulers pales in comparison to that of Lebanon's Iran-backed Hezbollah — a heavily-armed mini-army with valuable combat experience and an arsenal of some 150,000 rockets that can reach nearly every part of Israel.

Hezbollah meanwhile has also been distracted by the war in Syria, where it has fought fiercely alongside Assad's troops. With Syria's civil war winding down, Hezbollah is now free to re-establish itself back home in Lebanon and refocus on Israel.

Neither side appears interested quite yet in another full-fledged confrontation like the 2006 war, but any skirmish could spark an all-out conflict along the tense border.

Goldenberg reported from Jerusalem. Associated Press writer Bassem Mroue in Beirut contributed to this report.

Solemn public pays tribute to Bush before dawn in Rotunda

By CALVIN WOODWARD, LAURIE KELLMAN and ASHRAF KHALIL, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The nation's capital embraced George H.W. Bush in death with solemn ceremony and high tributes to his service and decency, as the remains of the 41st president took their place in the Capitol Rotunda for three days of mourning and praise by the political elite and everyday citizens alike.

Even before sunrise Tuesday, members of the public lined up to pay their respects as an honor guard stood watch beside Bush's casket in the cavernous Rotunda, open until Wednesday's funeral.

With Bush's casket atop the Lincoln Catafalque, first used for Abraham Lincoln's 1865 funeral, dignitaries came forward Monday to honor the Texan whose efforts for his country extended three quarters of a century from World War II through his final years as an advocate for volunteerism and relief for people displaced by natural disaster.

President from 1989 to 1993, Bush died Friday at age 94.

In an invocation opening Monday evening's ceremony, the U.S. House chaplain, the Rev. Patrick J Conroy, praised Bush's commitment to public service, from Navy pilot to congressman, U.N. ambassador, envoy to China and then CIA director before being elected vice president and then president.

"Here lies a great man," said Rep. Paul Ryan, the House speaker, and "a gentle soul. ... His legacy is grace perfected."

Vice President Mike Pence and Republican Senate leader Mitch McConnell also spoke. President Donald Trump did not attend, but he and first lady Melania Trump came to the Capitol later Monday to pay tribute. They stood in front of the casket with their eyes closed for a few moments, before Trump saluted the casket.

Political combatants set aside their fights to honor a Republican who led in a less toxic era and at times found commonality with Democrats despite sharp policy disagreements. Democratic Rep. Nancy Pelosi, a past House speaker nominated for the post in the new Congress, exchanged a warm hug with George W. Bush and came away dabbing her face. Bush himself seemed to be holding back tears.

Pelosi and Chuck Schumer, the Senate Democratic leader, placed wreaths in the short ceremony before the rotunda was opened to the public.

Sent off from Texas with a 21-gun salute, Bush's casket was carried to Joint Base Andrews outside the capital city aboard an aircraft that often serves as Air Force One and designated "Special Air Mission 41" in honor of Bush's place on the chronological list of presidents. His eldest son, former President George W. Bush, and others from the family traveled on the flight from Houston.

Cannon fire roared again outside the Capitol as the sun sank and the younger President Bush stood with his hand over his heart, watching the casket's procession up the steps.

Bush was remembered just feet away from what he called "Democracy's front porch," the west-facing steps of the Capitol where he was sworn in as president.

He will lie in state in the Capitol for public visitation through Wednesday. An invitation-only funeral service, which the Trumps will attend, is set for Wednesday at Washington National Cathedral.

Although Bush's funeral services are suffused with the flourishes accorded presidents, by his choice they will not include a formal funeral procession through downtown Washington.

On Sunday, students, staff and visitors had flocked 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 Sunday while showing friends from California around.

After services in Washington, 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.

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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.

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 ex-presidents' club 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 a Japanese island. He had joined the Navy when he turned 18.

Shortly before leaving the service, he married his 19-year-old sweetheart, Barbara Pierce, and forged the longest presidential marriage in U.S. history. 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 Arkansas Gov. 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 of 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."

Associated Press writers Juan A. Lozano and Nomaan Merchant in Houston and Darlene Superville in Washington contributed to this report.

France suspends fuel tax, utility hikes amid protests

By SAMUEL PETREQUIN, Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — The French government suspension fuel tax and utility hikes Tuesday, a major U-turn in an effort to appease a protest movement that sparked large-scale rioting in Paris last weekend.

Prime Minister Edouard Philippe made the announcement in a live televised address three days after the worst unrest on the streets of Paris in decades.

Philippe backpedaled on the planned increase, which was set to be introduced in January and is now postponed until the summer.

"No tax is worth putting the nation's unity in danger," said Philippe, just three weeks after insisting that the government wouldn't change course and remained determined to help wean French consumers off polluting fossil fuels.

More than 100 people were injured in the French capital and 412 arrested over the weekend in Paris, with dozens of cars torched. Shops were looted and cars torched in plush neighborhoods around the famed Champs-Élysées Avenue.

The Arc de Triomphe, which is home to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and was visited by world leaders last month to mark the centenary of the end of World War I, was sprayed with graffiti and vandalized inside.

"This violence must end," Philippe said.

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Philippe also announced that electricity and natural gas prices will be frozen until May 2019 in a move aimed at improving spending power.

Philippe's announcement is unlikely to put an end to the road blockades and demonstrations, though, with more possible protests this weekend in Paris.

A soccer game between Paris Saint-Germain and Montpellier which was scheduled for Saturday in Paris was postponed after police said they couldn't guarantee security amid expected protests in the capital.

"If another day of protests takes place on Saturday, it should be authorized and should take place in calm," Philippe said. "The interior minister will use all means to ensure order is respected."

On Tuesday, protesters kept blocking several fuel depots and many insisted their fight wasn't over.

"It's a first step, but we will not settle for a crumb," said Benjamin Cauchy, a protest leader.

Prominent Socialist figure Segolene Royal, a former candidate for president, lauded Philippe's decision but said it came too late.

"This decision should have been taken from the start, as soon as the conflict emerged," she said. "We felt it was going to be very, very hard because we saw the rage, the exasperation, especially from retirees. They should have withdrawn (the tax hikes) right away. The more you let a conflict fester, the more you eventually have to concede."

Far-right leader Marine Le Pen lashed out at the decision as too little, tweeting that it was "obviously not up to the expectations of the French people struggling with precarity."

After a third consecutive weekend of clashes in Paris led by protesters wearing distinctive yellow traffic vests, Philippe held crisis talks with representatives of major political parties on Monday. He also met with Macron and other ministers in order to find a quick solution to the crisis.

Facing the most serious street protests since his election in May 2017, Macron has canceled a two-day trip to Serbia to stay in France this week.

The protests began last month with motorists upset over the fuel tax hike but have grown to encompass a range of complaints, with protesters claiming that Macron's government doesn't care about the problems of ordinary people.

Since the movement kicked off on Nov. 17, four people have been killed and hundreds injured in clashes or accidents stemming from the protests.

Elaine Ganley and Sylvie Corbet contributed to this report.

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. BUSH REMEMBERED AS 'GREAT MAN' AND 'GENTLE SOUL'

The nation's capital mourns the 41st president as he lies in state with solemn ceremony and high tributes to his service and decency.

2. ISRAEL TARGETS HEZBOLLAH BORDER TUNNELS

The Israeli operation could send tensions soaring between Israel and its Iranian-backed foe, whose last conflict was more than a decade ago.

3. FRANCE TRIES TO DEFUSE TENSIONS

The French government announces a suspension of fuel tax hikes in an effort to appease a protest movement that has radicalized.

4. EXPERTS SKEPTICAL OF TRADE TRUCE

Economists at Goldman Sachs say that the amount of progress made between Trump and China's president at the G-20 summit appears "quite limited."

5. DEEP-POCKETED DEMOCRATS HIT KEY STATES

Billionaires Tom Steyer and Michael Bloomberg are travelling to early presidential primary states, stoking speculation about whether they will run.

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6. THE MISSING: A MOTHER'S ANGUISH

Eight years ago, Haydee Posadas' son fled violence in Honduras and disappeared en route in Mexico, one of thousands of U.S.-bound migrants who have died or gone missing, AP finds.

7. WHAT A NEW YORK LAWMAKER WANTS

State Sen. Kevin Parker's proposal would require police to scrutinize the social media activity and online searches of handgun license applicants.

8. ECONOMIC CHILL DULLS CHINESE APPETITE FOR LUXURY BRANDS

Designer boutiques like Louis Vuitton and Burberry increasingly rely on Chinese customers who spend \$90 billion a year on jewelry, clothes and other high-end goods.

9. WHO IS THE KING OF SPOTIFY ... AND APPLE

Drake is the platform's most-streamed artist of the year globally while the rapper also dominated streaming at Apple Music.

10. FLY, EAGLES, FLY

Carson Wentz keeps Philadelphia in the hunt for the NFC East title with a 28-13 victory over the depleted Washington Redskins.

About 4,000 migrants died or missing on way to US, AP finds

By MARIA VERZA, Associated Press

SAN PEDRO SULA, Honduras (AP) — Haydee Posadas had waited eight years for her son to come home. On the last night of her long vigil, she was too agitated to sleep.

Her son had fled Honduras for the U.S. in 2010 in part because of gang threats, just as thousands are doing today in the migrant caravans headed north, including men from the same neighborhood. But en route in Mexico, again like so many others, Wilmer Gerardo Nunez disappeared into the vortex of drug violence that he was trying to escape in the first place. Left in limbo, his anguished mother prayed for an answer.

"I am between a rock and a hard place," she begged God through the years. "I know nothing about my son, whether he's dead or alive."

Nunez's story is part of the hidden toll of migration to the U.S. through Mexico: In the past four years alone, almost 4,000 migrants have died or gone missing along that route, The Associated Press has found in an exclusive tally. That's 1,573 more than the previously known number, calculated by the United Nations. And even the AP's number is likely low — bodies may be lost in the desert, and families may not report missing loved ones who were migrating illegally.

These Latin American migrants are among about 56,800 worldwide who died or disappeared over the same period, the AP found.

While migrants everywhere face risks, the Mexico route holds the added danger of drug trafficking and gang violence. More than 37,000 people have gone missing throughout Mexico because of this violence, with the highest number in the border state of Tamaulipas, through which many migrants cross. The sheer numbers of the disappeared, along with crushing bureaucracy and the fear of gangs, makes it difficult for families to track what happened to their loved ones — as Posadas found out.

Ciudad Planeta in San Pedro Sula looks like an ordinary working-class neighborhood, with one-story concrete houses with metal roofs. Only the bars that hem in nearly every porch let on that it is one of the most dangerous neighborhoods in one of the world's most dangerous countries.

This is the neighborhood Nunez left for the first time in the 1990s to go to the United States at 16, when his mother lost her factory job.

"He did not say anything to me. One day he simply left," said Posadas, a diminutive 73-year-old grandmother known in the neighborhood as "Mama Haydee."

Nunez was not the oldest of the 10 children in the family, but he was the one who looked out for the others. He sent money home, some of which Posadas used to build metal bars around the porch. And he

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called his mother almost every day.

Nunez was deported twice but returned to the U.S. each time. In 2007, he fell in love with a Mexican woman, Maria Esther Lozano, now 38, and they had a child, Dachell. When Lozano was about to give birth to another child, in July 2010, Nunez was deported a third time.

Posadas was happy to have him back home. He would make lunch with her, stewing meat, kneading tortilla flour and frying up ripe bananas.

"He cooked better than a woman," Posadas said, her face lighting up at the memory.

But the neighborhood had grown more dangerous, with organized crime moving in and frequent bloody raids. All of Posadas' children left except for one who stayed, and one who died of illness.

Once Posadas' daughter was handcuffed to the bars of the house, while men who said they were police went inside and shot her grandson because they suspected his involvement with gangs. Other nights there were shootouts in the streets. Sometimes Posadas awoke to the thunder of footsteps from someone fleeing across the metal sheet roofs of houses.

Posadas has a mantra for survival in Planeta: "If you saw it, you didn't see it. If you heard it, you didn't hear it. And everyone keeps quiet."

The third time Nunez was deported, in 2010, things were so bad he barely went outside the home.

"He seemed very pensive," Posadas said. "I'm afraid," he told me."

He was also anxious to get back to California and meet his new daughter. After just a few days in San Pedro Sula and an apparent threat from gang members, he left earlier than planned.

"I have to get out of here now," he told Lozano, without further explanation.

Nunez, his nephew, Joao Adolfo, and two neighbors hopped on a midnight bus that takes dozens of migrants daily to the Guatemalan border.

In the past, Nunez had crossed the U.S. border in California. But this time he hurt his ankle while fleeing from the Zetas gang in Veracruz state, Lozano said. So he struck out for the border with Texas, a shorter but more dangerous route.

He called Lozano every day, sometimes from the phone of the smuggler taking them across the border. He liked the guide but worried that the group was too big, with dozens of migrants in two trucks.

About a week after he left Honduras, he spoke to his mother for the last time, telling her to pray that everything would turn out well. A day later, he spoke to Lozano, for nearly an hour. Rula — Nunez's nickname — seemed relaxed, making jokes, she said.

They were in Piedras Negras, across from Eagle Pass in Texas. Lozano was supposed to wait for a call to pay the smuggler half the money, about \$3,000. Then she needed another call from Nunez's sister to confirm his safe arrival before paying the remaining \$3,000.

The calls never came. Lozano never heard from Nunez. She talked to the smuggler a couple of times, who told her they were still waiting to cross. Then the phone went unanswered.

At first Posadas and Lozano weren't too worried. They were used to losing contact with Nunez, then 35, for a few days during his trips, for example when his cellphone failed.

But about two weeks after he left, when Posadas turned on the television news, fear suddenly seized her. Authorities had found 72 corpses of migrants on a ranch in San Fernando, Tamaulipas, across the border from Texas, the report said.

"I started to weep like a crazy person. There were no names, but I was shaken," said Posadas.

It turned out that gang members in vehicles marked with the letter Z — the calling card of the feared Zetas drug cartel — had stopped two tractor-trailers with dozens of migrants in northern Mexico. They were taken to the ranch and asked to join the cartel. Only one agreed.

The rest were blindfolded, tied up on the floor and shot dead. An Ecuadorian managed to escape and alerted the navy.

A list of victims released days after the massacre included the names of Posadas' grandson and the two neighbors who had been traveling with them. But there was no trace of Nunez, and authorities told

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Posadas that if he was not among the dead, he could be alive.

Posadas asked local prosecutors, the Honduran foreign ministry and Mexican authorities about her son, but no one had information for her. Her ex-husband, Nunez's father, offered a DNA sample to be compared with the cadavers that had not yet been identified. Photos of those cadavers did not include Nunez.

Hoping against hope, Posadas and Lozano worked to find Nunez. They tried jails, detention centers and hospitals. Nothing. Lozano gave the Honduran consulate names, photos and descriptions of Nunez's tattoos, including one of Dachell and another of the number 8. She went there every day.

Still nothing.

Then they heard that the Ecuadorian survivor said another man — a Honduran — also had escaped the massacre and helped him get away from the ranch. Honduran and Mexican authorities refused to give Lozano any more information because the man was under protection. They would not even confirm whether it was Nunez.

There was no luck with the Ecuadorian embassy, either, when Lozano asked to convey a photo of Nunez to the Ecuadorian survivor.

"I didn't want to see him, or even talk to him, just for him to look at the photo and tell me if it was the same person who helped him," Lozano sobbed.

In Honduras, Posadas also ran up against hurdles. She went to the capital, Tegucigalpa, to consult with Honduran and Mexican officials, but nobody could even say what had happened with her ex-husband's DNA sample. She called and called for a year, until finally they stopped answering.

The only thing left was to go to Mexico. But how could a sick old woman do that? Lozano was in no better position to do so, with five children depending on her and no legal residence in the U.S.

Lozano hired a lawyer to help relatives search prisons in Tamaulipas. That's when they thought they had a breakthrough: The lawyer said he saw a man resembling Nunez in one of the prisons. Posadas asked herself, "Has God heard my pleas?"

But that lead also vanished. They heard nothing more from the lawyer, and Lozano's brothers had to abandon the search because of threats from the Zetas.

Posadas told herself that if her son were alive, he would have called her. Yet without information or a body, she still held on to hope.

After three years of searching, that began to diminish. She spent nights awake in her small living room, decorated with knick-knacks and photos, including one of Nunez as a teenager. Days were just as desperate.

"I felt like I was falling into a terrible depression," Posadas said. "I would walk down the street and people would see I was smiling, but it was on the outside ... nobody knew how I was on the inside."

Posadas had no way to know, but she could have had her answer days after the mass killing.

The official report on the massacre stated that body No. 63 was a male with tattoos, including "Dachell" and the number 8. Documents note the finding of a Honduran driver's license in the name of Wilmer Gerardo Nunez Posadas, with a photo of a man with a moustache and beard. Yet nobody made that information public, and body No. 63 was eventually buried in a common grave.

In September 2013, the Argentine Forensic Anthropology Team and other groups reached an agreement with Mexican prosecutors to identify more than 200 bodies from three massacres, including the one at San Fernando. All the bodies in the common grave were exhumed for new autopsies. In March 2015, Mexico's Attorney General's Office sent a letter to the Honduran Supreme Court asking for help locating the relatives of two men, including Nunez.

When the Argentine team found out about Nunez's ID, they tried to track down the family, but did not want to set foot in Planeta.

"I made it clear that I could not enter that area," said Allang Rodriguez, a psychologist with the Committee of Relatives of Disappeared Migrants of El Progreso, a group working with the Argentines.

The Catholic church helped in the search, and talked to nuns who worked with migrants. One woman, Geraldina Garay, knew a taxi driver who lived in Planeta. He offered to leave a scrap of paper with a phone number that Posadas could call in one of the neighborhood's oldest stores, behind her home.

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A neighbor saw the message and brought it to Posadas late last year. Confused, she called the number. The voice on the other end wanted to meet to talk about her disappeared son.

"Today I finally have hope," she thought.

When they met, the forensic experts told her about the driver's license and the tattoos. They arranged for DNA tests for her and for Wilmer Turcios Sarmiento, 18, who was thought to be Nunez's son from a teenage relationship before he left for the U.S.

In May, Posadas learned the DNA tests had come back positive — one of 183 matches for dead migrants found with help of the Argentine team since 2010.

"My heart hurt so much ... most of all because of the death he suffered, not even knowing who killed him, with his eyes blindfolded, hands tied ..." Posadas said, her voice trailing off, tears in her eyes.

The DNA tests also proved Nunez was Turcios' father. It was like finding and losing a father at the same time, he told his grandmother.

One question continued to rattle around in Posadas' mind, and it was what pained her the most: "Why? Why, having the proof, did they hide it so long?"

The report she was given spoke of errors and inconsistencies in the handling of the case, and called for an investigation into the delay. To date, nobody has been convicted for the killings, and nine people are still unidentified. Mexican officials did not comment.

On Oct. 31, Wilmer Gerardo Nunez came home to Honduras.

The coffin arrived at the airport in San Pedro Sula, packaged in cardboard with a thin black ribbon and Nunez's name, and was transported to the morgue. When it was opened, the odor of death filled the room, softened by chemical products.

Posadas, holding a small red towel to wipe away tears and sweat, approached with her husband, her sister and a psychologist. A forensic worker unwrapped the cadaver. By now the head was just a skull, but on the arms some of the skin remained, along with tattoos. Posadas didn't need to see any more.

About 20 people came to the brief wake at the house in Planeta, where the coffin took up most of the living room in the baking sun. After eight years, the final goodbye lasted about two hours. Posadas feared that if it went any longer, the gangsters who control the neighborhood would show up.

Then a bus from the Planeta Baptist Church took the family to a small cemetery with a motley collection of unkempt tombs.

"I am finally sure. It is him. It is him. I give thanks to God," Posadas sobbed before collapsing next to the coffin.

Several mourners took cellphone video for relatives in the United States to see, but Nunez's children in Los Angeles still don't know he is dead. His younger daughter, Sulek Haydee, now 8, talks more and more to her grandmother online, and often asks: "Where is my daddy? Why doesn't he come to see us?"

"He can't, mamita," Posadas answers with a knot in her throat. "He's working."

Nunez's son in Honduras dreams of going to the U.S. himself to seek a better life. "Anything is better than this," Turcios said.

Eight years and three months after the last hug from her son, Posadas says she feels peace for the first time, although she still wants justice.

In her prayers now, she asks for her grandson not to migrate.

White House hails China trade truce as skeptics raise doubts

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER and BLAKE NICHOLSON, AP Writers

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration is celebrating the 90-day truce it reached in its trade war with China as a significant breakthrough despite scant details, a hazy timetable and widespread skepticism that Beijing will yield to U.S. demands anytime soon.

"This is just an enormous, enormous event," Larry Kudlow, President Donald Trump's top economic adviser, said Monday of the cease-fire that Trump and President Xi Jinping reached over the weekend on

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the sidelines of an international economic summit in Buenos Aires, Argentina. "This one covers so much ground in some detail, we've never seen this before."

Yet many economists raised doubts that very much could be achieved within three months.

"The actual amount of concrete progress made at this meeting appears to have been quite limited," Alec Phillips and other economists at Goldman Sachs wrote in a research note.

During the talks in Buenos Aires, Trump agreed to delay a scheduled escalation in U.S. tariffs on many Chinese goods, from 10% to 25%, that had been set to take effect Jan. 1. Instead, the two sides are to negotiate over U.S. complaints about China's trade practices, notably that it has used predatory tactics to try to achieve supremacy in technology. These practices, according to the administration and outside analysts, include stealing intellectual property and forcing companies to turn over technology to gain access to China's market.

In return for the postponement in the higher U.S. tariffs, China agreed to step up its purchases of U.S. farm, energy and industrial goods, the White House said.

Most economists noted that the two countries remain far apart on the biggest areas of disagreement, which include Beijing's subsidies for strategic Chinese industries, in addition to forced technology transfers and intellectual property theft.

"Ninety days is very little time to fix these perennial issues," said Bill Adams, senior economist at PNC.

Complicating the challenge, Trump's complaints strike at the heart of the Communist Party's state-led economic model and its plans to elevate China to political and cultural leadership by creating global champions in robotics and other fields.

"It's impossible for China to cancel its industry policies or major industry and technology development plans," said economist Cui Fan of the University of International Business and Economics in Beijing.

At the same time, analysts said they were relieved that the Trump-Xi meeting at least pressed the "pause" button on tariff hikes. Besides escalating existing tariffs, Trump had threatened to impose import taxes on the remaining \$267 billion of U.S. goods from China. This would have raised prices in the United States on many consumer items, including smartphones, clothes and toys.

Fears of a hotter trade war had sent financial markets tumbling in October and November. But they jumped Monday in response to Saturday's truce. The Dow Jones industrial average closed up 288 points, a gain of 1.1%.

Megan Greene, chief economist at Manulife, said the market's recent decline had likely contributed to Trump's willingness to reach a truce.

"We are no longer in the same buoyant economic or markets environment that we enjoyed earlier this year when threats of tariffs against China were first made," she said.

In the meantime, the outlines of the agreement remain hazy and in some cases confusing. Trump tweeted late Sunday that China had agreed to "reduce and remove" its 40% tariff on cars imported from the U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said Monday that there was a "specific agreement" on the auto tariffs.

Yet Kudlow said later that there was no "specific agreement" regarding auto trade, though he added, "We expect those tariffs to go to zero."

Shares of U.S. and overseas auto companies rose on the announcement, though it's unclear how much companies like GM or Ford will actually benefit. Nearly all the cars they sell in China are made there.

Details regarding China's pledge to buy more American products — one that it has made before — remain scant. Mnuchin said Monday morning on CNBC that China had offered to buy up to \$1.2 trillion of additional U.S. goods, even while the "details of that still need to be negotiated."

But Kudlow said the ultimate amount will depend on market prices and the health of China's economy.

"I would think of that as a broad goal," he said.

State-run Chinese media has described the agreement very differently from how the Trump administration has. It has made no mention of any changes to its auto tariffs. And it has said nothing about a 90-day deadline for the talks.

Greene said this might simply reflect China's communications strategy. Or it might illustrate China's weak commitment to the deal.

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China agreed to eliminate the retaliatory tariffs it had placed on U.S. soybeans, according to the White House, which also said Beijing had agreed to buy an unspecified but "very substantial" amount of agricultural and other products. That left some U.S. farmers cautiously hopeful Monday.

"This is the first positive news we've seen after months of downturned prices and halted shipments," said John Heisdorffer, a farmer in Keota, Iowa, who is president of the American Soybean Association. "If this suspension of tariff increases leads to a longer-term agreement, it will be extremely positive for the soy industry."

Kevin Scott, who farms near Valley Springs, South Dakota, and serves on the American Soybean Association, said the news provides hope for farmers who are storing their crops while awaiting better prices. But he cautioned that "it's going to take a little more to move more beans."

Among the skeptics is Scott Gauslow, who grows soybeans and corn near Colfax in eastern North Dakota's Red River Valley. He noted the lack of specifics in the White House announcement.

"What if China calls tomorrow and says, 'We changed our mind?'" Gauslow said. "There was nothing in writing, which scares me a little bit."

China is the top market for North Dakota's soybeans. The state's farmers sell about \$1.4 billion to China annually, according to the nonprofit North Dakota Trade Office.

Some retailers were also encouraged by the agreement, according to the National Retail Federation. At the same time, the federation noted that the truce prolongs the uncertainty around trading with China.

Jonathan Gold, an executive at the federation, said most retailers had already ordered goods for the first three months of the year, so the 90-day delay in the tariff hikes won't affect them. Many companies have already switched their purchases from China to another country to avoid the potential 25% tariff.

"The question is, what happens at the end of 90 days?" Gold asked.

Nicholson reported from Bismarck, North Dakota. AP News Writer Joe McDonald contributed to this report from Beijing.

Bush's state funeral follows generations of tradition

By The Associated Press

Former President George H.W. Bush's state funeral encompasses four days of events, from his arrival in Washington to his burial in Texas on Thursday.

The guidelines for state funerals date back to the mid-1800s and have been shaped over time. Seating arrangements, for example, are detailed with precision, with the presidential party followed by chiefs of state, arranged alphabetically by the English spelling of their countries.

Ronald Reagan's state funeral in 2004 was the first of its kind since Lyndon Johnson died in 1973. Gerald Ford's state funeral overlapped the end of 2006 and the beginning of 2007.

The president, former presidents and a president-elect are all entitled to a state funeral, but the family decides if they actually get one or just how involved it will be. Richard Nixon's family, acting on his wishes, opted out of the Washington traditions when he died in 1994, his presidency shortened and forever tainted by Watergate.

The rules and what actually happens are based on what has come before.

John F. Kennedy's services were modeled after those of Abraham Lincoln, at the request of his widow, Jacqueline, in her first public statement after the assassination. Historians examined musty documents by flashlight in the middle of the night as the stunned country waited for a plan — the Library of Congress' automatic lights could not be rigged to come on after hours.

Bush is the 12th president to lie in state in the Capitol Rotunda. Like many presidents, Bush and Ford served in Congress. Reagan did not.

Eight presidents have had funeral processions down Pennsylvania Avenue, including all four presidents to die by assassination — Lincoln, James Garfield, William McKinley and Kennedy. Bush decided his state funeral would not include a formal procession through downtown Washington.

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Washington National Cathedral, which will host Bush's national service Wednesday, served the same function for Dwight D. Eisenhower, Reagan and Ford.

Two presidents are buried at Arlington National Cemetery: Kennedy and William Howard Taft. Bush will be buried at his presidential library in College Station, Texas, near his wife, Barbara, who died in April, and their daughter Robin, who died of leukemia at age 3.

Only sitting presidents and immediate family members have ever lain in the White House for viewing. Ex-president John Adams didn't even lie in the White House, though his son, John Quincy Adams, was the sitting president at the time of the death. The older Adams died the same day as Thomas Jefferson — July 4, 1826 — possibly complicating his chances for a White House viewing.

The Capitol has a more expansive policy for lying in state. Congressman Henry Clay, in 1852, was the first to lie in the Capitol Rotunda. FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover lay in the Capitol in 1972. Police officers killed in 1998 while protecting the Capitol also lay in state there. Sen. John McCain lay in state after his death earlier this year.

The first presidential state funeral was for William Henry Harrison, who in 1841 became the first president to die in office, just 30 days after his inauguration. Alexander Hunter, a Washington merchant, was tasked with putting on a first-of-its-kind American ceremony. He draped the White House in black. Official buildings and many private households followed suit, starting a now-lost tradition that was repeated at Lincoln's funeral 25 years later.

Fate of state official raises questions about NH primary

By HOLLY RAMER, Associated Press

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) — The longtime protector of the New Hampshire presidential primary could get ousted by the Legislature this week despite concerns from his supporters that replacing him could jeopardize the state's coveted first-in-the-nation status.

Lawmakers will decide on Wednesday whether to re-elect Bill Gardner as secretary of state, the official who oversees elections in New Hampshire. Gardner has held the position for 42 years and fiercely protects New Hampshire's place on the primary calendar from other states that want the attention — and money — that comes along with being one of the first states to vote for president.

Gardner's supporters say that replacing him with Colin Van Ostern — a longtime political operative and the 2016 Democratic nominee for governor — would politicize the office and could weaken the state's case for staying first.

"Our argument is we have high voter turnout, we've been doing it a long time, we have active engagement, we give lesser-known candidates a shot and, by the way, we have the best election process in the country with a secretary of state who is completely even-handed who doesn't tilt one way or another," said Steve Dupery, one of New Hampshire's Republican National Committee members.

"A couple of times, when states like Texas or Colorado or Arizona have made moves on us, they said, 'Well, your election is run by a Democrat secretary of state.' And it's pretty handy to point out that he's been doing it for 30-plus years, that he's never run for office and we could've replaced him, and we never have," Dupery said.

Gardner, who is one of just three secretaries of state chosen by a state legislature, is under fire from fellow Democrats for his participation in President Donald Trump's commission on voter fraud and for backing GOP legislation to tighten voter registration rules. That's created an opening for Van Ostern, who has campaigned for months on a platform of modernizing the office, holding it accountable and resisting what he views as voter suppression measures.

Democrats won control of both the 400-member House and 24-member Senate last month, and they overwhelmingly backed Van Ostern in a nonbinding caucus vote Nov. 15. In an interview, Van Ostern said the primary tradition is about more than any one person. He argues that Gardner has already politicized the office by backing the voter registration bills, and says he will be fully committed to the job.

"I will not run from this office for any other job," Van Ostern said. "I only can ask legislators for a two-

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year term at a time but I think it will probably take more than two years to bring the changes we need after 42 years without a change in leadership.”

Gardner said the trust he earned by pledging to not use the office as a stepping stone for higher office has helped him negotiate the often-fraught scenario of protecting the primary. Van Ostern has raised and spent more than \$200,000 to defeat him, but Gardner said he views this challenge as he did others in the past.

“It’s the same way I felt other years,” he said in an interview. “I’m feeling all right.”

So far, the drama isn’t slowing potential contenders for the 2020 Democratic presidential nomination from visiting New Hampshire. Sen. Cory Booker of New Jersey will headline an event Saturday in Manchester.

The New Hampshire primary is a time-honored tradition in politics. In 1916, Indiana held its primary a week before New Hampshire, and Minnesota voted on the same day. But New Hampshire has gone first ever since.

Democratic National Committeeman Ray Buckley, also the state party chairman, declined to comment on how a new secretary of state might affect the primary calendar because the party is staying neutral in the race. But John Hammond, vice chairman of the RNC Rules Committee, said the fairness and integrity of the New Hampshire primary has buffered it against efforts to create a rotating system of primary dates or otherwise overhaul the calendar system.

“The reliability of that state’s process has been factored in, I think, in a big way for New Hampshire being in the No. 1 slot, and anything that would put that at risk should be seriously weighed,” he said. “There’s been a perception, and also I think a reality, that there’s been a nonpartisan approach taken to the conduct and execution of the New Hampshire primary process, and it’s given it a lot of credibility and injected a strong air of fairness and independence from any political tampering. I think the state would do well to maintain that reputation.”

Though there are no current challengers, California last year approved scheduling its primary in early March to coincide with “Super Tuesday” — the day when the largest number of states conduct primaries — and thus give the nation’s most populous state more sway.

That would still fall after the four early states, but California’s recent expansion of early voting and voting by mail raises questions not just about where candidates will focus their energies but the calendar as well. In last month’s midterm election, more than 12 million Californians received mail-in ballots.

Van Ostern said he will “faithfully and without compromise” follow New Hampshire’s law requiring its primary to be held seven days ahead of any “similar contest” but declined to say last week whether early voting in California fits that definition.

“One of the important tools we use as a state in order to protect the primary is to determine the date of the primary at the appropriate time in the future, and that’s what I will do if I’m elected,” he said.

Gardner also said it was too soon to assess California’s move. And while he pushed back against Van Ostern’s criticism that the office’s is outdated, he also noted that he was right to reject some technology over the years, namely problematic punch-card voting machines.

“It’s a good thing to modernize, sometimes,” he said. “But not all the time.”

Should social media check be required to get a gun license?

By MICHAEL HILL, Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — Should authorities be able to deny handgun licenses for hateful tweets?

A New York lawmaker is raising the question with a bill that would require police to scrutinize the social media activity and online searches of handgun license applicants, and disqualify those who have published violent or hateful posts.

State Sen. Kevin Parker says he hopes his proposal sparks discussion about how to balance public safety and online privacy. The Brooklyn Democrat noted that mass killers often provide warning signs through their social media posts, as in the case of the Pittsburgh synagogue shooting suspect, who ranted online that Jews were “children of Satan.”

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"It's a new time. It's a new technology," Parker said. "It's time that we in fact start having that conversation about how we monitor social media in a way that we can create safety for our communities."

Free-speech watchdogs and even some gun-control advocates have raised concerns about the bill, which would require handgun applicants to turn over login information to allow investigators to look at three years' worth of Facebook, Snapchat, Twitter and Instagram postings. Google, Yahoo and Bing searches over the previous year also would be checked.

Licenses could be denied if investigators uncover threats of violence or terrorism or the use of racial or ethnic slurs. The process would be the same for five-year re-certifications.

The bill will be among many related to guns waiting for lawmakers when they return to New York's Capitol in January. While Democrats now control both houses, only a fraction of those measures are expected to make it to floor votes in the coming months.

Still, Parker has already succeeded at one of his goals of creating "fodder for discussion," including pushback.

At the American Tactical Systems gun range, a short drive from New York's Capitol, gun owners called the proposal unnecessary and intrusive.

"I don't think the government should have access to anybody's history, especially for pistol permits," Steve Wohleber, who works at the range. "And the state police have enough to worry about besides checking everyone's social media."

Even likely allies raised concerns.

Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence staff attorney David Pucino said while he shared the legislator's goals, he thought there were better alternatives, such as another bill that would create a court order of protection to bar people considered dangerous from possessing or buying guns.

Civil rights attorney Norman Siegel said he believes bill language directing police to consider "commonly known profane slurs or biased language" is too broad to pass constitutional muster.

"A person could be prejudiced," Siegel said. "That doesn't mean he's not entitled to his Second Amendment right."

On a practical level, the measure would mean more work for police in New York who already check the criminal and mental health histories of handgun license applicants.

Albany County Sheriff Craig Apple, whose department processes a few hundred applications every year, said "it's definitely going to bog things down a bit" in a licensing process that already can take from 120 days to a year to complete.

Parker countered that states have the authority to limit hand gun use for public safety and that many employers perform social media checks on job applicants.

"We certainly want to make sure we're putting weapons in the hands of the right people and keeping them out of the hands of the wrong people," he said. "Now, if you're afraid of your personal privacy, don't apply for a handgun license."

Lawyers for Trump seek to punish porn star in court fines

By BRIAN MELLEY, Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Lawyers for President Donald Trump asked a court Monday for nearly \$800,000 in lawyers' fees and penalties from porn actress Stormy Daniels for a failed defamation lawsuit against him.

Attorney Charles Harder defended ringing up a nearly \$390,000 legal bill for the president and asked for an equal amount in sanctions as a deterrent against a "repeat filer of frivolous defamation cases."

Judge S. James Otero didn't immediately rule. He noted that fees by Harder's firm — as high as \$840 an hour — were reasonable but the 580 hours spent on the case appeared to be excessive and might be trimmed in his eventual award. He didn't indicate how he felt about the requested penalties, but had questioned whether attorneys' fees alone would serve as a deterrent.

Harder had not put a dollar figure on sanctions he was seeking before the hearing and Daniels' attorney

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Michael Avenatti objected vehemently, calling it "absurd and outrageous."

"You can't just pick a number out of thin air in an effort to put my client under Donald Trump's thumb and intimidate her," Avenatti said.

Daniels, whose real name is Stephanie Clifford, alleges she had a one-night affair with Trump in 2006. She sued him earlier this year seeking to break a non-disclosure agreement she signed days before the 2016 election about the tryst as part of a \$130,000 hush money settlement. Trump has denied the affair, but essentially acknowledged the payment to Daniels.

Despite the deal to stay quiet, Daniels spoke out publicly and alleged that five years after the affair she was threatened to keep quiet by a man she did not recognize in a Las Vegas parking lot. She also released a composite sketch of the mystery man.

She sued Trump for defamation after he responded to the allegation by tweeting: "A sketch years later about a nonexistent man. A total con job, playing the Fake News Media for Fools (but they know it)!"

Otero ruled in October that Trump's statement was "rhetorical hyperbole" against a political adversary and was protected speech under the First Amendment.

Although the lawsuit didn't get far before Otero tossed it, he said it was a "one of a kind" case that demanded a fair bit of legal work.

"Given a case of this magnitude, you have to err on the side of being thorough," Otero said.

Daniels has appealed Otero's decision and Avenatti said Monday he expects to prevail at a higher court.

Avenatti, who has positioned himself as a Trump foe and is considering a run for president in 2020, also said he will be seeking attorney's fees against Trump in the ongoing hush money case and he anticipates being awarded a figure that "dwarfs exponentially" what Trump is seeking in the defamation case, possibly exceeding \$2 million.

Trump's lead attorney said the fees and unspecified monetary sanctions were earned because of the extraordinary nature of the defamation case and because of Avenatti's gamesmanship.

"This action is virtually unprecedented in American legal history," Harder wrote in court papers. Daniels "not only brought a meritless claim for defamation against the sitting president of the United States, but she also has engaged, along with her attorney, in massive national publicity."

In a related case in which Daniels has alleged that her former lawyer, Keith Davidson, colluded with Trump's former personal lawyer Michael Cohen to have her publicly deny the affair with Trump, Avenatti and Cohen's lawyer briefly traded accusations Monday in the hallway of a Santa Monica courthouse.

Standing nose-to-nose with attorney Brent Blakely, Avenatti told him he represented a felon. Blakely shot back that Avenatti is a felon. Avenatti said he's never been convicted of a crime.

Cohen has pleaded guilty to several felonies and admitted funneling money to Daniels to keep her quiet about an affair she has said she had with Trump.

Avenatti was arrested last month on suspicion of domestic violence.

Prosecutors declined bringing felony charges against Avenatti. They are investigating whether he should face a misdemeanor charge for allegations he roughed up a girlfriend. Avenatti has denied wrongdoing.

The Cohen and Davidson lawsuit in Los Angeles County Superior Court has been put on hold, though a hearing is scheduled May 22.

Children return to school 3 weeks after California wildfire

By JONATHAN J. COOPER, Associated Press

YUBA CITY, Calif. (AP) — Eight-year-old Bella Maloney woke up next to her little brother in a queen-size bed at a Best Western hotel and for breakfast ate a bagel and cream cheese that her mother brought up from the lobby.

And then she was off to school for the first time in nearly a month.

For Bella, brother Vance and thousands of other youngsters in Northern California who lost their homes or their classrooms in last month's deadly wildfire, life crept a little closer to normal Monday when school finally resumed in most of Butte County.

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"They're ready to get back," Bella's mother, Erica Hail, said of her children. "I think they're sick of Mom and Dad." At school, "they get to have time alone in their own space and their own grade and they get to just be by themselves."

Schools in the county had been closed since Nov. 8, when the blaze swept through the town of Paradise and surrounding areas, destroying nearly 14,000 homes and killing at least 88 people in the nation's deadliest wildfire in a century. About two dozen people remain unaccounted for, down from a staggering high of 1,300 a few weeks ago.

About 31,000 students in all have been away from school since the disaster. On Monday, nearly all of them went back, though some of them attended class in other buildings because their schools were damaged or destroyed, or inaccessible inside evacuation zones.

Bella was shy and not very talkative but agreed she was excited to be going back. She wanted to see her friends.

The small, tidy hotel room with two queen beds has been home to the family of five for some two weeks. Since they lost nearly everything to the fire, there was little to clutter up the space. The Hails are booked there until February.

"Bella, what time is it?" Hail asked her daughter, waking her up in their hotel room.

"Seven dot dot three five," came the 8-year-old's sing-song reply. 7:35. It was time to brush her teeth, comb her hair and hit the road for a nearly hourlong drive to school in the family SUV.

A few minutes later, at seven-dot-dot-four-seven, they were out the door.

Some families driven out by the inferno have left the state or are staying with friends or relatives too far away for the children to go back to school in Butte County.

The Hails — whose five-bedroom, two-bath home in Paradise was destroyed — are staying in Yuba City, a long drive from their new school in Durham.

It was shortly before the 9 a.m. start of the school day when they pulled up to Durham Elementary School, where Bella is in third grade and Vance is in half-day kindergarten.

Across the county, nearly all of the teachers are returning to provide a familiar and comforting face to the children.

"It's important that the kids are able to stay together and have some sort of normalcy in the crazy devastation that we're having now," said Jodi Seaholm, whose daughter Mallory is a third-grader.

Mallory underwent radiation in October to treat a recurrence of brain cancer and showed no fear, Seaholm said, but "this situation with her house burning down has absolutely devastated her."

Counselors brought in from around the country were in nearly every classroom Monday to help children who were distressed by their escape through a burning town and the loss of their homes, Paradise school Superintendent Michelle John said at a celebratory news conference. Many of the teachers lost their homes as well.

"Our kids are traumatized," John said. "Their families are traumatized."

Most of Paradise High School survived but is inaccessible.

The district doesn't have space yet for intermediate and high school students whose classrooms were rendered unusable, so for the 13 days before the holiday break begins, they will learn through independent study. They will have access to online assignments and a drop-in center at a mall in Chico where they can get help from teachers or see classmates.

Schoolwork will probably be secondary to dealing with trauma and reconnecting with friends, said Paradise High Principal Loren Lighthall.

"They don't have their church, they don't have their school, they don't have their work, they don't have their friends. They don't have any of that stuff, and we're asking them to write five-paragraph essays?" Lighthall said. "It's just unreasonable at this point. We're going to do it, but we're going to be super flexible with what we require."

Trump praises witness who refuses to testify against him

By MICHAEL BALSAMO and ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump praised a key witness in the Russia investigation Monday for having the “guts” not to testify against him, and said his former lawyer — who cut a deal with prosecutors — should head straight to prison.

In a pair of politically charged tweets, Trump made clear that he is closely watching those who turn on him in the special counsel’s probe, which has ensnared some of the president’s closest advisers. So far, five people in Trump’s orbit have pleaded guilty to federal charges.

The tweets add to mounting questions about whether Trump is taking steps to improperly influence witnesses in an investigation that has enraged him and shadowed his administration. Some legal experts, though, say they may not amount to witness tampering if Trump didn’t directly tell others what to say or not say.

Trump already has come under scrutiny from critics who fear he may use his executive power to protect himself as well as friends and supporters. Last week, Trump told the New York Post that a pardon for his former campaign chairman Paul Manafort was not off the table.

Prosecutors say Manafort torpedoed his plea deal with special counsel Robert Mueller by repeatedly lying to them, although Manafort denies that he lied.

In one of Monday’s tweets, Trump took aim at Michael Cohen, his former personal attorney who once grandly declared he would “take a bullet” for the president but ultimately took a plea deal.

Cohen pleaded guilty last week to lying to Congress about negotiations he had on Trump’s behalf for a real estate deal in Moscow.

Though he told lawmakers the talks were done by January 2016, he admitted they actually lasted as late as June — after Trump had clinched the Republican nomination and after Russians had penetrated Democratic email accounts for communications later released through WikiLeaks.

Cohen said he lied out of loyalty to Trump, who insisted throughout the campaign that he had no business dealings in Russia, and to be consistent with his political messaging.

On Monday, Trump ripped into Cohen on Twitter.

“You mean he can do all of the TERRIBLE, unrelated to Trump, things having to do with fraud, big loans, Taxis, etc., and not serve a long prison term?” Trump added that Cohen “makes up stories to get a GREAT & ALREADY reduced deal for himself.”

Trump added: “He lied for this outcome and should, in my opinion, serve a full and complete sentence.”

Minutes later, Trump lavished praise on his former campaign adviser Roger Stone. Mueller’s prosecutors are investigating Stone to learn whether he had advance knowledge of WikiLeaks’ plans to release hacked material damaging to Hillary Clinton’s presidential effort.

Trump lauded Stone for saying he’d never testify against the president.

“This statement was recently made by Roger Stone, essentially stating that he will not be forced by a rogue and out of control prosecutor to make up lies and stories about ‘President Trump,’” he tweeted. “Nice to know that some people still have ‘guts!’”

Stone then posted a screenshot of Trump’s tweet with a caption that said he was proud of their 40-year relationship and “prouder still of the amazing job he is doing making America Great Again!”

Sen. Mark Warner, the top Democrat on the Senate intelligence committee, said Trump’s tweet was inappropriate.

“The President of the United States should not be using his platform to influence potential witnesses in a federal investigation involving his campaign,” Warner said in a tweet.

Stone said the idea that Trump’s tweet amount to witness tampering is “hysterical.”

“I’m not a witness to any proceeding,” he said.

David Weinstein, a former Justice Department prosecutor in Florida, said he was surprised by Trump’s comments Monday, but didn’t believe the tweets alone rose to the level of obstruction or witness tampering because Trump did not explicitly tell anyone what to say or not to say. Subjects of an investigation can

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still communicate to others entangled in a probe, and though they can encourage them to tell the truth, they cannot coach them to lie, he said.

"What he seems to be saying is that people who continue to show support for him, in some way, may be rewarded for that support," Weinstein said. "I don't think it rises to the level of obstruction yet, but it certainly would cause people who are conducting the investigation to start asking questions about whether or not the target has reached out to them."

Trump's message had an immediate effect on supporters. His remarks prompted Michael Caputo, the president's former campaign aide and a longtime Stone friend, to launch a "GoFundMe" account to help pay Stone's mounting legal fees.

Stone said he's paid about half a million in legal fees already and is projecting that total to reach \$2 million. "I require a small platoon of excellent lawyers and they're not inexpensive," he said.

A conservative author, who is an associate of Stone and in the crosshairs of Mueller's investigation, filed a complaint Monday with the Justice Department, alleging prosecutors tried to coerce him to give false testimony and threatened to indict him.

Investigators are looking into whether Jerome Corsi had contact with WikiLeaks or knew about their plans to release emails damaging to Clinton. Corsi has released documents showing Mueller's prosecutors offered him a deal to plead guilty to a false statements charge but he's rejected the offer. Corsi says he didn't knowingly mislead investigators and wasn't in contact with WikiLeaks. The Justice Department declined to comment on his complaint.

The Russia investigation has dogged Trump for two years. In recent weeks, Trump has sharpened his criticism, accusing Mueller's prosecutors of dirty tactics and pressuring witnesses to lie.

Cohen's decision to turn on his former boss was a particularly striking blow for the president.

Cohen pleaded guilty in August to eight criminal counts, including campaign-finance violations, in a separate case unrelated to Mueller's investigation. He said Trump directed him to arrange the payment of hush money to porn star Stormy Daniels and a former Playboy model in the run-up to the 2016 campaign.

Cohen's admission during that court appearance marked the first time that a Trump associate had gone to court and implicated Trump in a crime.

Whether — or when — a president can be prosecuted remains a matter of legal dispute. Trump has denied any wrongdoing as well as the extramarital affairs.

Associated Press writers Chad Day and Jill Colvin contributed to this report.

Wentz tosses for 2 TDs, leads Eagles over Redskins 28-13

By **ROB MAADDI**, AP Pro Football Writer

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Carson Wentz was at his best back on the move again.

Wentz tossed two touchdown passes, Darren Sproles ran for a score and the Philadelphia Eagles stayed in the hunt for the NFC East title with a 28-13 victory over the depleted Washington Redskins on Monday night.

The Eagles (6-6) won consecutive games for the first time since Nick Foles led them to a Super Bowl victory over the Patriots.

The Redskins (6-6) lost backup quarterback Colt McCoy to a serious right leg injury in his second game replacing Alex Smith, who broke his right tibia and fibula on Nov. 18. Mark Sanchez took his place.

Redskins coach Jay Gruden said after the game that, from what he understands, McCoy fractured his fibula and will miss the rest of the season.

Adrian Peterson ran 90 yards for a touchdown on Sanchez's first play under center, giving the Redskins a 10-7 lead. It was the longest run Philadelphia has allowed in franchise history but Washington's lead didn't last long.

Wentz, who hasn't scrambled much since returning in Week 3 from surgery to repair two knee ligaments, didn't run for any yards. But he ran around and made big plays when he improvised and on designed

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rollouts.

"Anytime he can extend plays with his legs, he's such a great athlete, that's an advantage to the offense," coach Doug Pederson said. "Being able to do that allows us to stay on the field. He's gifted in doing that. It comes natural to him."

Sproles put Philadelphia up 14-10 on a 14-yard TD run in the second quarter. Wentz tossed a 4-yard TD pass to Jordan Matthews and connected with Golden Tate on a 2-point conversion to extend the lead to 22-13 early in the fourth quarter.

The Eagles twice failed to score inside the red zone and still managed their second-highest point total this season.

They had a first down at the Redskins 2 in the second quarter, but Josh Adams was stopped for a loss on fourth down from the 1.

They had a first down at the Redskins 5 in the third quarter, but Wentz threw an interception right to Josh Norman.

Wentz finished 27 of 39 for 306 yards. He came out firing and led the Eagles to a score on their opening drive for only the third time season.

First, he scrambled out of the pocket, motioned Tate to go deep and lofted a 19-yard pass down the left sideline on a first-and-15. Wentz finished the drive by firing a 6-yard TD pass on the run to Tate.

"Play-action, bootlegs, naked, getting me on the edge, gives me a chance to make plays and we used that effectively," Wentz said.

Dustin Hopkins kicked field goals of 47 and 44 yards for Washington.

"We have to get a plan ready for Mark moving forward," Gruden said. "We've got to play great football around him, which we didn't do tonight."

SANCHIZE TIME

Sanchez, a former first-round pick who led the New York Jets to consecutive AFC championship games in his first two seasons, is now a starter for the first time since he played for the Eagles in 2015.

"I'm grateful for the opportunity. I was praying for the opportunity," he said, adding his "heart definitely breaks for" McCoy and Smith.

WELCOME BACK

Sproles scored his first TD since Dec. 22, 2016. Sproles only played three games last season before he tore a knee ligament and broke his forearm on the same play. He was sidelined since Week 1 this year because of a hamstring injury.

"I'm really happy for him," center Jason Kelce said. "I don't usually know who is back there but when I saw it was him and he got in the end zone, I had a big sense of joy. He's a phenomenal guy."

RECORD SETTER

Zach Ertz broke Brian Westbrook's franchise record for receptions in a season. Ertz has 93 catches and is closing in on Jason Witten's single-season record (110) for tight ends. Westbrook had 90 catches in 2007.

"That's awesome, but I'm sure he's just happy we won," Wentz said.

INJURIES

Redskins: LG Jonathan Cooper (arm), RB Tony Bergstrom (ankle), CB Fabian Moreau (knee) and LB Ryan Anderson (hamstring) left the game.

Eagles: DT Tim Jernigan (back spasms) left in the first quarter and LT Jason Peters came out on the final series with an undisclosed injury.

UP NEXT

Redskins: Host the New York Giants (4-8) on Sunday.

Eagles: Visit the Dallas Cowboys (7-5) on Sunday.

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

NASA spacecraft arrives at ancient asteroid, its 1st visitor

By **MARCIA DUNN, AP Aerospace Writer**

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — After a two-year chase, a NASA spacecraft arrived Monday at the ancient asteroid Bennu, its first visitor in billions of years.

The robotic explorer Osiris-Rex pulled within 12 miles (19 kilometers) of the diamond-shaped space rock. It will get even closer in the days ahead and go into orbit around Bennu on Dec. 31. No spacecraft has ever orbited such a small cosmic body.

It is the first U.S. attempt to gather asteroid samples for return to Earth, something only Japan has accomplished so far.

Flight controllers applauded and exchanged high-fives once confirmation came through that Osiris-Rex made it to Bennu — exactly one week after NASA landed a spacecraft on Mars.

“Relieved, proud, and anxious to start exploring!” tweeted lead scientist Dante Lauretta of the University of Arizona. “To Bennu and back!”

With Bennu some 76 million miles (122 million kilometers) away, it took seven minutes for word to get from the spacecraft to flight controllers at Lockheed Martin in Littleton, Colorado. The company built the spacecraft there.

Bennu is estimated to be just over 1,600 feet (500 meters) across. Researchers will provide a more precise description at a scientific meeting next Monday in Washington.

About the size of an SUV, the spacecraft will shadow the asteroid for a year, before scooping up some gravel for return to Earth in 2023.

Scientists are eager to study material from a carbon-rich asteroid like dark Bennu, which could hold evidence dating back to the beginning of our solar system 4.5 billion years ago. As such, it’s an astronomical time capsule.

A Japanese spacecraft, meanwhile, has been hanging out at another near-Earth asteroid since June, also for samples. It is Japan’s second asteroid mission. This latest rock is named Ryugu and about double the size of Bennu.

Ryugu’s specks should be here by December 2020, but will be far less than Osiris-Rex’s promised booty.

Osiris-Rex aims to collect at least 60 grams, or 2 ounces, of dust and gravel. The spacecraft won’t land, but rather use a 10-foot (3-meter) mechanical arm in 2020 to momentarily touch down and vacuum up particles. The sample container would break loose and head toward Earth in 2021.

The collection — parachuting down to Utah — would represent the biggest cosmic haul since the Apollo astronauts hand-delivered moon rocks to Earth in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

NASA has brought back comet dust and solar wind particles before, but never asteroid samples. Japan managed to return some tiny particles in 2010 from its first asteroid mission, also named Hayabusa.

Both Bennu and Ryugu are considered potentially hazardous asteroids. That means they could smack Earth years from now. At worst, Bennu would carve out a crater during a projected close call 150 years from now.

Contact with Bennu will not significantly change its orbit or make it more dangerous to us, Lauretta stressed.

Scientists contend the more they learn about asteroids, the better equipped Earth will be in heading off a truly catastrophic strike.

The \$800 million Osiris-Rex mission began with a 2016 launch from Cape Canaveral, Florida. Its odometer read 1.2 billion miles (2 billion kilometers) as of Monday.

Both the spacecraft and asteroid’s names come from Egyptian mythology. Osiris is the god of the after-life, while Bennu represents the heron and creation.

Osiris-Rex is actually a NASA acronym for origins, spectral interpretation, resource identification, security-regolith explorer.

Institute's Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

Asian stocks slip on worries over US-China tariffs truce

By ANNABELLE LIANG, Associated Press

SINGAPORE (AP) — Asian shares were mostly lower Tuesday as investors questioned if a 90-day truce in a tariffs battle will allow the U.S. and China to resolve a range of issues from technology development to trade.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's Nikkei 225 index shed 1.0 percent to 22,356.80 and the Kospi in South Korea lost 0.5 percent to 2,120.65. Hong Kong's Hang Seng dropped 0.2 percent to 27,139.87 while the Shanghai Composite index was flat at 2,655.96. Both Chinese indexes finished more than 2 percent higher on Monday. The S&P ASX/200 in Australia gave up 0.9 percent to 5,721.00. Shares fell in Taiwan and Singapore but rose in Indonesia and the Philippines.

WALL STREET: A cease-fire in a trade dispute between the world's two largest economies lifted major U.S. indexes on Monday. The S&P 500 index jumped 1.1 percent to 2,790.37, after gaining close to 5 percent last week. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was 1.1 percent higher at 25,826.43. The Nasdaq composite added 1.5 percent to 7,441.51. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks picked up 1 percent to 1,548.96.

U.S-CHINA TRUCE: On Saturday, a meeting between U.S. President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping ended with a verbal agreement to hold off on further tariffs for at least 90 days. Trump was set to raise tariffs from 10 to 25 percent on \$200 billion in Chinese goods, starting Jan. 1. In return, the White House said Xi will buy a "very substantial amount" of U.S. agricultural, energy and industrial products. On Monday, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin told reporters that the leaders had detailed conversations on 142 items and will need to turn those pointers into a "real agreement" in the coming months.

ANALYST'S TAKE: "Markets are reflecting a fragile truce between the U.S. and China after an initial sigh of relief. Investors are taking some money off the table as they figure out the details of what the leaders have agreed to and how long the truce can last," said Song Seng Wun, an economist at CIMB Private Banking.

ENERGY: Oil prices are rallying ahead of an OPEC meeting on Thursday, where members are expected to cut output in 2019. News that the Canadian province of Alberta will cut production by 325,000 barrels a day also boosted sentiment. Benchmark U.S. crude gained 56 cents to \$53.51 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It added \$2.02 to settle at \$52.95 a barrel on Monday. Brent crude rose 60 cents to \$62.29 per barrel. It ticked up \$2.23 to \$61.69 a barrel in London.

CURRENCIES: The dollar weakened to 113.30 yen from 113.63 yen late Monday. The euro rose to \$1.1372 from \$1.1353.

APNewsBreak: Settlement reached in infamous "Norfolk 4" case

By ALAN SUDERMAN and ALANNA DURKIN RICHER, Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — The city of Norfolk has agreed to pay \$4.9 million to four former sailors who were wrongly convicted of a woman's rape and murder based on intimidating police interrogations. A copy of the settlement agreement for the "Norfolk Four" was obtained by The Associated Press.

The state also has agreed to pay \$3.5 million.

The payments close out a decades-long case that drew widespread attention as the men's innocence claims were backed by dozens of former FBI agents, ex-prosecutors and crime novelist John Grisham.

"These guys can now put all this behind them and try to recoup their lives," said Tony Troy, a lawyer who represented one of the sailors.

The men — Eric Wilson, Danial Williams, Joseph Dick and Derek Tice — were pardoned by then-Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe last year of the 1997 rape and murder of Michelle Moore-Bosko.

Moore-Bosko's husband found her stabbed and strangled body in their apartment in July of that year after returning from a week at sea.

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Williams, who lived in the same building, was quickly identified as a suspect because a neighbor told police he had a crush on the victim. Williams admitted to her rape and murder — the first of a series of confessions that the men, then-sailors at the Naval base in Norfolk, say were forced by police.

DNA evidence matched only one person: Omar Ballard, the fifth man convicted in the case. Ballard, who pleaded guilty in 2000, acknowledged he was solely responsible and is serving a life sentence.

The Norfolk Four have said they cracked after they were threatened with the death penalty and repeatedly called liars. One of the men recalled a detective shoving him into a corner and showing him a picture of Moore-Bosko's bloody body. The confessions conflicted with one another. Ballard's account was the only one containing information matching the crime scene.

The detective who questioned them, Robert Glenn Ford, was convicted in 2011 of extortion and lying to the FBI in unrelated cases.

In vacating some of the Norfolk Four's convictions, a federal judge once declared that "no sane human being" could find them guilty.

Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam approved legislation earlier this year that gives the men \$3.5 million in state funds contingent on them resolving claims against the city.

Sen. Scott Surovell, a sponsor the legislation, said he was pleased that the city agreed to settle rather than fight the men.

"Justice was long overdue for these four, what happened to them was outrageous and undermines faith in our criminal justice system," he said. "Hopefully this settlement will help ensure this never happens again."

The settlement with the city was finalized a month ago but had not been previously made public. A city spokeswoman referred questions to the City Attorney Bernard Pishko, who did not immediately return requests for comment.

The false convictions took a heavy toll on the four men, including lengthy prison terms and years as registered sex offenders.

Wilson, who was wrongly convicted of rape, said it took an attorney and \$10,000 to persuade a board to grant him an electrician's license and that he was blocked from working on certain properties, such as schools, and barred from city parks. He also said his son was run out of his Cub Scout troop because other parents didn't want Wilson around.

Steve Northup, an attorney for Wilson, called the city's payout "generous."

"It doesn't restore the 20 years of his life that Eric lost ... but nevertheless it helps and we're pleased and our clients are pleased with the compensation we were able to secure for them," he said.

Richer reported from Brookline, Massachusetts.

Leaders stress need to win support for climate measures

By FRANK JORDANS and MONIKA SCISLOWSKA, Associated Press

KATOWICE, Poland (AP) — As leaders attending the U.N.'s annual climate summit heard fresh warnings about the dire consequences of leaving global warming unchecked, a new issue emerged Monday as a pressing concern: how to persuade millions of workers their industry can't have a future if humanity is to have one.

Hosting the talks in the heart of its coal region of Silesia, Poland tried to set the tone for the two-week meeting by promoting the idea of a "just transition" for miners and other workers facing layoffs as countries adopt alternative energy sources.

"We are trying to save the world from annihilation, but we must do this in a way that those who live with us today in the world have the best possible living conditions," Polish President Andrzej Duda said. "Otherwise they will say, 'We don't want such policy.'"

The issue of a "just transition" isn't restricted to workers in energy industries who might lose their jobs. Many economists argue that ambitious curbs on greenhouse emissions require raising the cost of carbon fuels — one of the measures that triggered large-scale protests in France by motorists feeling the squeeze

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at the pump.

Scientists say the only way to keep average global temperatures from rising above 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 F) by the end of the century is to phase out the use of fossil fuels by 2050. That is the most ambitious goal set in the 2015 Paris agreement, which negotiators from nearly 200 countries have come to Katowice to finalize.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres issued a dramatic appeal to leaders Monday to take the threat of global warming seriously, calling it "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 delegates from almost 200 countries on the second day of talks.

Famed British naturalist Sir David Attenborough echoed his warnings, telling the gathering that the "collapse of our civilizations and the extinction of much of the natural world is on the horizons" if no urgent action is taking against global warming.

The 92-year-old TV presenter blamed humans for the "disaster of global scale, our greatest threat in thousands of years."

Without naming specific countries, Guterres chided the nations most responsible for greenhouse gas emissions for failing to do enough to meet the goals set in Paris.

Citing a recent scientific report, the U.N. chief urged governments to aim for net zero emissions by 2050. Net zero emissions mean that any greenhouse gases emitted need to be soaked up by forest or new technologies that can remove carbon from the atmosphere.

Such cuts would require a radical overhaul of the global economy. But Guterres said governments should embrace the opportunities of shifting to a "green economy" rather than cling to fossil fuels such as coal, which are blamed for a significant share of man-made greenhouse gas emissions.

U.S. officials have kept a low profile at the talks so far. President Donald Trump has announced Washington's withdrawal from the Paris accord, saying it's a bad deal for Americans, and repeatedly questioned the science behind climate change.

By contrast, action film star and former California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger drew crowds and applause at the U.N. conference Monday for insisting that many in the United States remain committed to the agreement.

"America is more than just Washington or one leader," he said, calling Trump "meshugge" — Yiddish for "crazy" — for deciding to withdraw from the Paris accord. Schwarzenegger said he wished he could travel back in time — like the cyborg he portrayed in "The Terminator" — to stop fossil fuels from being used.

The Netherlands, a country with a long history of pumping oil and gas from the ground, is also among the places most at risk from rising sea levels caused by global warming.

With millions of people in the Netherlands living in low-lying areas, "you have your evidence and your case in point to make, sure, that you prevent sea levels from rising even further" Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte told The Associated Press.

Asked about the recent protests in France, one of which turned into a riot in Paris on Saturday, Rutte said politicians must work to get all of society to back the measures needed to tackle climate change.

"That means talking, talking, talking," he said. "With all societal organizations, politicians, all citizens being involved if they want to."

More talk is doubtlessly necessary, including at the international level. Poland's President Duda told reporters that his country, which relies on coal for 80 percent of its energy, would work to reduce its reliance on coal but never entirely give up its "strategic fossil fuel."

Among those addressing conference participants this week is a 15-year-old Swedish activist, Greta Thunberg, who has inspired students around the world to campaign against global warming.

Thunberg criticized leaders, such as Trump and German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who failed to come to the climate talks.

"I think that in the future we will look back and we will either laugh at them or we will hate them," she

told The Associated Press. "It's very sad, but if they don't do anything right now that is the truth."

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

1 child dead, 45 people hurt in Arkansas charter bus crash

By JILL BLEED, Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — A third grader was killed and at least 45 people were injured when a charter bus carrying youth football players from Tennessee rolled off an interstate and overturned before sunrise Monday in central Arkansas, authorities said.

Arkansas State Police said the bus crashed along Interstate 30 near Benton, about 25 miles (40 kilometers) southwest of Little Rock. Police said most of the injured were children and that they were taken to hospitals in Little Rock and Benton.

The elementary-school age children from the Orange Mound Youth Association in southeast Memphis were returning home after playing in a tournament in the Dallas area over the weekend, according to Memphis TV station WMC. Orange Mound is a historically black neighborhood that unites around its highly competitive youth football program.

One of half a dozen adults on the bus, Damous Hailey, said the players from 10 Orange Mound Youth Association football teams had been playing in all-star squads. He told The Commercial Appeal newspaper that the bus swerved then flipped "about 15 or 20 times," before landing on its side at the foot of an embankment.

"When the bus started flipping, the kids were hollering, and we were trying to calm them down," he said in an interview from Saline Memorial Hospital, where he was treated for injuries to his right side and leg. "I was holding on, trying to make sure I didn't get thrown out."

Teams and coaches affiliated with the Orange Mound Youth Association have not returned phone calls and emails seeking comment.

At a news conference in Memphis Monday afternoon, Nickalous Manning, area superintendent of Aspire Public Schools, said a third grader from an Aspire charter school died in the crash. He did not reveal the child's name.

"When we talked to teammates here, you saw on their faces about what that young person meant to them, the impact that he had on the school community," Manning said. "This is going to be a loss that's going to be hard to heal from."

Students from five Achievement School District facilities in Memphis were also on the bus, according to district spokesman Bobby White.

Authorities haven't talked about the cause of the crash that happened under the cloak of darkness. The bus driver told state police that she lost control. The heavily damaged bus came to a rest after tumbling down a steep embankment next to the crook of a sharp bend on an off-ramp.

Dr. Todd Maxson, surgeon in chief and trauma medical director at Arkansas Children's Hospital in Little Rock, said 22 of the 26 children aged 9 to 13 who were admitted to the facility were released by late Monday afternoon. He said the four remaining children were stable and expected to fully recover from their injuries.

Maxson said some of the children suffered injuries to the brain or other internal organs, while others suffered cuts and broken bones. He said two of the kids underwent emergency operations and were stable.

Saline Memorial Hospital admitted 13 injured adults and children, spokeswoman Rebecca Jones said. They were treated for cuts, bruises and some orthopedic injuries then released.

The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences received one adult patient who has not been discharged. A hospital spokeswoman said she couldn't provide any details, citing privacy laws.

It is unclear if seat belts were provided. Lawmakers in Tennessee tried but failed to introduce regulations in 2017 requiring seat belts in new school buses. The bus in Monday's crash was a charter bus.

Orange Mound was created after the Civil War by and for African-Americans, and black-owned businesses

flourished there until desegregation enabled residents to live elsewhere. Chronic disinvestment brought widespread crime and poverty.

One resident, Carlos Morgan, told The Associated Press that the youth football program is vital in a neighborhood where youths can so easily be lured into drugs and crime.

"It helps keep kids out of trouble," said Morgan, who also played on traveling football squads in his youth. It "gives kids opportunity and brings the community together," he said.

A speeding bus filled with school children crashed in Chattanooga, Tennessee, in November 2016, leaving six students dead. Prosecutors said the driver was on the phone at the time of the crash. He was convicted in March this year on six counts of criminally negligent homicide, 11 counts of reckless aggravated assault and seven counts of assault.

Associated Press reporters Adrian Sainz in Memphis, Tennessee, and Rebecca Reynolds Yonker in Louisville, Kentucky, and Hannah Grabenstein in Little Rock contributed to this report.

For the latest on this developing story: <https://apnews.com/3a75c35f461b4c0e8387d71d78062282>

With Olympics looming, surf star captures a bigger prize

By EDDIE PELLIS, AP National Writer

If Australia's Stephanie Gilmore captures the gold medal when surfing makes its Olympic debut two years from now, it might not be her most meaningful win.

Gilmore, who is talked about as possibly the greatest athlete of all time in her sport, takes pride in being on the ground floor in the fight for a prize that could have a longer-lasting impact: equal pay for women on the professional tour where she and her rivals make their living.

The World Surf League put itself in rare company earlier this year with its decision to begin paying women the same as men, starting in 2019. While the majors and a few other tournaments in tennis have committed to paying women and men equal prize money, the WSL is the first U.S.-based global sports league to make that move.

The fight for equal pay begun decades ago by Billie Jean King on the tennis courts — and still waged daily in corporations across America that have nothing to do with sports — has found a toehold on the beach.

"Sports are the perfect platform to show equality," Gilmore said last week, after capturing her record-tying seventh season title. "In most workplaces, what people make is completely private. In ours, the prize money is public knowledge."

When the 30-year-old champion started surfing on tour, women typically made around \$12,000 for a win, while men — led by 11-time champion Kelly Slater — would rake in around \$40,000.

"Surfing was not a career path," Slater recalled of his youth, in the HBO surf documentary "Momentum Generation." "It was just something you enjoyed doing."

Especially so for the women. And even next year, when women and men are both expected to make around \$100,000 for a victory (men made \$100,000 and women \$65,000 in 2018), it's hard for anyone but those at the very top to get rich riding waves. Competitions are only a piece of the puzzle. Sponsorships, filming and free-surfing make up the rest.

Could the Olympics change that?

It's a debate coursing through the sport that is now experiencing some of the same growing pains as other so-called "lifestyle" sports — namely, snowboarding — two decades after their counter-culture vibe was welcomed into the stiff-suited, tradition-bound world of the Olympics. For the most part, snowboarders have accepted the Olympics and benefited from the platform it provides.

"It's definitely new territory, and some people are a little unsure about it," Gilmore said. "They think it's not authentic surfing. I think it's kind of cool. I grew up watching (Australian 400-meter sprint champion) Cathy Freeman, thinking 'I want to go to the Olympics.' But I thought that, as a surfer, I'd never get that chance."

Now she will.

Gilmore grew up only 400 meters (1,300 feet) from the beach. Her father loved surfing, and Gilmore and her sisters "really had no choice" but to learn how to ride, she said. By the time she was 11, she knew this was what she wanted to do for a living.

The moment that triggered the run to her seventh world title came at the exact same beach where she learned how to surf.

Gilmore finished a disappointing fifth in this year's season-opening event, the Roxy Pro Gold Coast in Queensland, Australia. Three years had passed since her last season title, and, she conceded, some doubt was starting to creep into her mind as to whether her best days were behind her.

"It sort of killed the confidence and made me think, 'Do you still want this? Do you still have it?'" Gilmore said. "I got quite overwhelmingly emotional. And that's when I realized, 'You obviously still really care about this.'"

Gilmore refocused. She won three events in 2018 and finished second in three more. After the season's final event in Maui last week, she had captured her seventh title, which ties her with another Australian, Layne Beachley, for the most for a woman. (The title came with a \$150,000 bonus.) Only Slater, with 11, has more.

Already a household name among surfing fans and her peers, an Olympic gold medal would clearly go a long way toward expanding Gilmore's reach.

In many ways, though, she has already sent quite a powerful message.

"Women like Stephanie are competing in the same conditions, on same waves, showing the same bravery as the men," said the WSL's CEO, Sophie Goldschmidt. "It's incredibly inspiring. They are positive role models, pushing boundaries and gaining audiences. But it's not where it should be. There's still room to grow."

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Israeli firm rejects alleged connection to Khashoggi killing

By JOSEF FEDERMAN, Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — An Israeli company known for its sophisticated phone surveillance technology on Monday rejected accusations that its snooping software helped lead to the killing of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

The NSO Group has faced similar claims in the past that its products were used to stifle dissent in other countries. But the alleged connection to the Khashoggi killing is the most high-profile case to date, drawing new attention to the secretive company's business practices and the Israeli government's oversight of private defense contractors.

The latest case against NSO was spelled out in a lawsuit filed in an Israeli court Sunday by a Saudi dissident. In the suit, Omar Abdulaziz, a sharp online critic of the Saudi royals who lives in exile in Canada, said he was friends with Khashoggi and that their communications were monitored by the Saudis using NSO software.

Abdulaziz said he clicked on a link sent to his phone in June 2018 that exposed his mobile communications to Saudi authorities. The lawsuit says Abdulaziz faced increased harassment by Saudi authorities after he clicked on the link, including the detention of family members in Saudi Arabia.

Abdulaziz also believes that his cooperation with Khashoggi was a "crucial factor" in the killing of the U.S.-based columnist for The Washington Post. The men had been working on a project to rein in pro-monarchy Saudi trolls.

Alaa Mahajna, a lawyer for the Saudi dissident, said the suit alleges that NSO sells technology to "dictatorship states" like Saudi Arabia to spy on journalists and human rights activists.

"The lawsuit proves that by using this technology, Saudi Arabia succeeded to follow after Jamal Khashoggi and his interactions with Omar Abdulaziz," he said.

The lawsuit says Abdulaziz was notified that his phone was compromised by internet watchdog Citizen

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Lab. It cites news reports and other sources claiming that NSO Group sold Saudi Arabia the technology in 2017 for \$55 million. Abdulaziz is demanding about \$160,000 in damages and an order preventing NSO from selling its technology to Saudi Arabia.

NSO issued a statement calling the lawsuit "completely unfounded." It claimed the suit was based on inaccurate "press clippings" and showed "no evidence that the company's technology was used."

"We take an extremely scrupulous approach to the licensing of our products — which are only provided after a full vetting and licensing by the Israeli government," it said.

Israel's Defense Ministry said it is "meticulous" in granting export licenses, but it declined to comment on its policies, citing security concerns.

The NSO Group's smartphone-hacking technology has emerged as a favorite for authorities seeking to crush dissent across the Middle East and Latin America.

The Israeli firm's software is part of a larger family of malware that allows spies to take remote control of phones from anywhere in the world — turning the devices in targets' pockets into powerful surveillance tools.

The company said its products "are licensed for the sole use of providing governments and law enforcement agencies the ability to lawfully fight terrorism and crime in the modern age."

Founded by Israeli entrepreneurs, NSO was sold in 2014 for \$130 million to the U.S. private equity firm Francisco Partners. Today, it employs some 600 people and is believed to be valued at over \$1 billion.

The secretive company rarely speaks to the media, does not publicly identify its customers and does not even have a website.

But a person familiar with NSO said the company keeps tight oversight over its sales. He said the company will not do business with 21 countries, including Russia, China and Turkey, as well as many others blocked by the Defense Ministry.

He also said NSO has an "ethics committee" that includes human rights experts and former U.S. officials that must vet every sale. He said the committee has blocked over \$100 million in deals over the past three years, though he declined to elaborate. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was discussing inside corporate information.

The company says it does not assist its customers in the actual monitoring process. But the person familiar with NSO said the company has a number of safeguards to prevent misuse of its products.

For instance, it can restrict in which countries the product will work, and it limits how many people can be targeted by its flagship "Pegasus" product. He estimated that at any given time, there are no more than 150 to 200 "targets" among all of its customers worldwide.

"We do not tolerate misuse of our products. If there is suspicion of misuse, we investigate it and take the appropriate actions, including suspending or terminating a contract," the NSO statement said.

NSO has been under the spotlight for months as dissidents, journalists and other opposition figures have claimed the company's technology has been used by repressive governments to spy on them. These include Mexican and Qatari journalists who have already filed lawsuits against the company and an Amnesty International employee who was allegedly targeted by the software.

Any possible use of Israeli technology to police dissent in the Arab world could raise uncomfortable questions both for Israel, which still sees itself as a bastion of democracy in the region, and for countries with no formal diplomatic ties to the Jewish state.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu frequently boasts of warming ties with Arab states, in what is widely seen as a reference to Saudi Arabia. Last month, Netanyahu paid a landmark visit to the Gulf state of Oman. He has promised that there will soon be additional announcements.

Any Israeli connection to the Khashoggi killing — even indirect or unintentional — could complicate Netanyahu's strategy. It also could draw scrutiny to the Israeli Defense Ministry's opaque export policies.

Itay Mack, an Israeli human rights lawyer who is highly critical of Israeli weapons exports, said the Defense Ministry has notoriously lax policies for the lucrative industry, giving Israel an advantage over competitors.

"What Israel is offering is no limitations," he said. He noted that when Philippine President Rodrigo

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Duterte visited in September, for example, he praised the ease of buying Israeli weapons. "It's the same story with spyware," Mack said.

Mack filed a petition with an Israeli court last year to halt NSO's use of its technology in Mexico after reports that it was being used to target human rights activists, lawyers and journalists. The court ruling remains under a gag order.

Associated Press cybersecurity writer Raphael Satter in London and AP writer Areej Hazboun contributed.

Online:

The lawsuit: <https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/5395971-scan0042.html>

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Dec. 4, the 338th day of 2018. There are 27 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On Dec. 4, 1783, Gen. George Washington bade farewell to his Continental Army officers at Fraunces Tavern in New York.

On this date:

In 1619, a group of settlers from Bristol, England, arrived at Berkeley Hundred in present-day Charles City County, Virginia, where they held a service thanking God for their safe arrival.

In 1867, the National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry, also known as The Grange, was founded in Washington, D.C., to promote the interests of farmers.

In 1875, William Marcy Tweed, the "Boss" of New York City's Tammany Hall political organization, escaped from jail and fled the country.

In 1918, President Woodrow Wilson left Washington on a trip to France to attend the Versailles (vehr-SY') Peace Conference.

In 1942, during World War II, U.S. bombers struck the Italian mainland for the first time with a raid on Naples. President Franklin D. Roosevelt ordered the dismantling of the Works Progress Administration, which had been created to provide jobs during the Depression.

In 1945, the Senate approved U.S. participation in the United Nations by a vote of 65-7.

In 1965, the United States launched Gemini 7 with Air Force Lt. Col. Frank Borman and Navy Cmdr. James A. Lovell aboard on a two-week mission. (While Gemini 7 was in orbit, its sister ship, Gemini 6A, was launched on Dec. 15 on a one-day mission; the two spacecraft were able to rendezvous within a foot of each other.)

In 1978, San Francisco got its first female mayor as City Supervisor Dianne Feinstein (FYN'-styn) was named to replace the assassinated George Moscone (mahs-KOH'-nee).

In 1991, Associated Press correspondent Terry Anderson, the longest held of the Western hostages in Lebanon, was released after nearly seven years in captivity. The original Pan American World Airways ceased operations.

In 1995, the first NATO troops landed in the Balkans to begin setting up a peace mission that brought American soldiers into the middle of the Bosnian conflict.

In 1996, the Mars Pathfinder lifted off from Cape Canaveral and began speeding toward the red planet on a 310 million-mile odyssey. (It arrived on Mars in July 1997.)

In 2000, in a pair of legal setbacks for Al Gore, a Florida state judge refused to overturn George W. Bush's certified victory in Florida and the U.S. Supreme Court set aside a ruling that had allowed manual recounts.

Ten years ago: U.S. automakers drew fresh skepticism from lawmakers during a Senate Banking Committee hearing over their pleas for an expanded \$34 billion rescue package they said was needed for them to survive. For the first time, an NFL game was broadcast live in 3-D to theaters in Boston, New York and

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Los Angeles. (Although the telecast was marred by technical glitches, fans were mostly forgiving as they watched the San Diego Chargers beat the Oakland Raiders 34-7.)

Five years ago: A senior commander in the militant group Hezbollah, Hassan al-Laqis, was shot dead outside his home in Lebanon, the latest in a series of attacks against the Iranian-backed organization, which accused Israel of the attack. Oscar De La Hoya was selected for induction into the International Boxing Hall of Fame; two of his contemporaries in the modern era — Puerto Rican star Felix "Tito" Trinidad and Joe Calzaghe of Wales — were also selected.

One year ago: Declaring that "public lands will once again be for public use," President Donald Trump scaled back two sprawling national monuments in Utah; it was the first time in a half century that a president had undone that type of land protection. The Supreme Court allowed the Trump administration to fully enforce a ban on travel to the United States by residents of six mostly Muslim countries. Trump formally endorsed Republican Roy Moore in the Alabama Senate race, looking past sexual misconduct allegations against the GOP candidate.

Today's Birthdays: Game show host Wink Martindale is 85. Pop singer Freddy Cannon is 82. Actor-producer Max Baer Jr. is 81. Actress Gemma Jones is 76. Rock musician Bob Mosley (Moby Grape) is 76. Singer-musician Chris Hillman is 74. Musician Terry Woods (The Pogues) is 71. Rock singer Southside Johnny Lyon is 70. Actor Jeff Bridges is 69. Rock musician Gary Rossington (Lynyrd Skynyrd; the Rossington Collins Band) is 67. Actress Patricia Wettig is 67. Actor Tony Todd is 64. Jazz singer Cassandra Wilson is 63. Country musician Brian Prout (Diamond Rio) is 63. Rock musician Bob Griffin (formerly with The BoDeans) is 59. Rock singer Vinnie Dombroski (Sponge) is 56. Actress Marisa Tomei is 54. Actress Chelsea Noble is 54. Actor-comedian Fred Armisen is 52. Rapper Jay-Z is 49. Actor Kevin Sussman is 48. Actress-model Tyra Banks is 45. Country singer Lila McCann is 37. Actress Lindsay Felton is 34. Actor Orlando Brown is 31. Actress Scarlett Estevez (TV: "Lucifer") is 11.

Thought for Today: "A person reveals his character by nothing so clearly as the joke he resents." — Georg Christoph Lichtenberg, German scientist (1742-1799).