

Groton Daily Independent

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

Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

10 - Tuesday

- 4 p.m.: Cross Country at Britton
- 6 p.m.: Volleyball at Webster (C/JV at 6:00)
- 7 p.m.: City Council Meeting at Groton Community Center
- Emmanuel: Council, 7 p.m.
- UMC: Bible Study, 10 a.m.
- Breakfast:** Breakfast Sandwich
- Lunch:** Chicken -N- Noodles
- Senior Menu:** Chili, corn bread, coleslaw, Lime Pear Jell-O.



11 - Wednesday

- 5:45 p.m.: Gospel Solutions to Social Issues: Drugs & Alcohol at United Methodist Church
- St. John's: Confirmation, 3:45 p.m.
- UMC: Coffee time, 9 a.m.
- Breakfast:** Breakfast Slider
- Lunch:** Pancake Bites, Tri Taters
- Senior Menu:** Baked chicken breast, baked potato with sour cream, green beans, fresh fruit, whole wheat bread.

It's Volleyball Action on GDILIVE.COM



**Webster Area
Bearcats VS**



Groton Area Tigers

Tuesday, Sept. 10, 2019

7:15 p.m. at Webster

SPONSORED BY DAKOTA RISK MANAGEMENT

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Special Message
from the
South Dakota
High School
Activities Association

Parents and Adult Fan Behavior: One of Biggest Challenges Facing High School Sports Today

By Dr. Karissa Niehoff, Executive Director of the National Federation of State High School Associations and Dr. Dan Swartos, Executive Director of the South Dakota High School Activities Association.

Inappropriate adult behavior at high school athletic events across the United States has reached epidemic proportions, and South Dakota is not immune. When more than 2,000 high school athletic directors were asked in a recent national survey what they like least about their job, 62.3% said it was "dealing with aggressive parents and adult fans."

The men and women who wear the black and white stripes agree. In fact, almost 80% of officials quit after the first two years on the job, and unruly parents are cited as the reason why. As a result, there is a growing shortage of high school officials here in South Dakota, and in some sports, the shortage is severe. No officials means no more games.

If you are a parent attending a high school athletic event this fall, you can help by following these six guidelines:

- **Act Your Age.** You are, after all, an adult. Act in a way that makes your family and school proud.
- **Don't Live Your Life Vicariously Through Your Children.** High school sports are for them, not you. Your family's reputation is not determined by how well your children perform on the field of play.
- **Let Your Children Talk to the Coach Instead of You Doing It for Them.** High school athletes learn how to become more confident, independent and capable—but only when their parents don't jump in and solve their problems for them.
- **Stay in Your Own Lane.** No coaching or officiating from the sidelines. Your role is to be a responsible, supportive parent—not a coach or official.
- **Remember, Participating in a High School Sport Is Not About Getting a College Scholarship.** According to the NCAA, only about 2% of all high school athletes are awarded a sports scholarship, and the total value of the scholarship is only about \$4,500 per year.
- **Make Sure Your Children Know You Love Watching Them Play.** Do not critique your child's performance on the car ride home. Participating in high school sports is about character development, learning and having fun—not winning and losing.

Purchasing a ticket to a high school athletic event does not give you the right to be rude, disrespectful or verbally abusive. Cheer loud and be proud, but be responsible and respectful. The future of high school sports in South Dakota is dependent on you.

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Langford Front Porch Help Wanted



Immediate opening for a FT General Manager at The Front Porch Bar & Grill, Langford SD. This person will ensure a profitable and efficiently run restaurant/bar operation through innovative menus, events, staff management and business operations. Wage DOE. Must be 21 years old. Contact Paula Jensen at (605) 228-5963 or email resume by September 30, 2019 to langfordfrontporch@venturecomm.net.

Broman Card of Thanks

The family of Leonard Broman would like to express a heartfelt thank you for all of the cards, telephone calls and other expressions of sympathy we recently received. Thank you to Pastor Bunk and Pastor Duncan for their kind and encouraging words. Thank you to the members of Emmanuel Lutheran Church for the lovely lunch and the beautiful service. We are most appreciative.

Waage Card of Thanks

To my family and friends. Thanks so much for all the Care-Prayers- support- encouragement -cards- flowers- phone calls- food and books. I am getting stronger every day (and trying to have patience!)
Rose Waage

Groton City Council Meeting Agenda

September 10, 2019 – 7:00pm
Groton Community Center

- Public Comments - pursuant to SDCL 1-25-1 (Public Comments will offer the opportunity for anyone not listed on the agenda to speak to the council. Speaking time will be limited to 3 minutes. No action will be taken on questions or items not on the agenda.)
- Minutes
- Bills
- Introduce Tony Garcia, new police officer
- Department Reports
- Change Order No. 3 – H.F. Jacobs & Son Construction
- Payment Request No. 3 – H.F. Jacobs & Son Construction
- Web Water rate increase
1st Reading of Ordinance 729 Water Rates
- SD Municipal League 86th Annual Conference October 8-11 in Aberdeen
- Second reading of Ordinance #728 – 2020 Appropriation Ordinance
- Executive session personnel & legal 1-25-2 (1) & (3)
- Adjournment

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Week 2 SDFBCA Coaches Poll

9B

1. Colman-Egan (11) 81
 2. Wolsey-Wessington (8) 76
 3. Dell Rapids St. Mary 54
 4. Herreid/ Selby Area 21
 5. Alcester/Hudson 16
- Others: Faulkton Area 15, Harding County 8, Colome 6, Corsica-Stickney 3, Langford Area 2, Waverly-South Shore 2, Kadoka Area 1

9A

1. Canistota-Freeman (11) 79
 2. Sully Buttes (4) 67
 3. Britton-Heccla (4) 58
 4. Howard 30
 5. Gregory 29
- Others: Kimball/White Lake 13, Warner 3, DeSmet 2, Wall 2

9AA

1. Bon Homme (14) 82
 2. Viborg-Hurley (4) 71
 3. Deuel 49
 4. Baltic (1) 40
 5. Hamlin 12
 5. Parker 12
- Others: Platte-Geddes 7, Jones Co/White River 4, Arlington/Lake Preston 3, Florence-Henry 3, RC Christian 2

11B

1. Winner (15) 110
 2. Bridgewater-Emery/Ethan (9) 107
 3. St. Thomas More (1) 46
 4. McCook Central/Montrose 30
 5. Webster 27
- Others: Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 26, Mobridge-Pollock 9, Chamberlain 5, Sioux Valley 5, Groton 3, Stanley County 2, Roncalli 2

11A

1. Tea Area (14) 103
 2. Madison (9) 101
 3. SF Christian (1) 59
 3. Dakota Valley 59
 5. Canton 26
- Others: Tri-Valley 9, Dell Rapids 9, West Central 9

11AA

1. Pierre (25)
 2. Brookings 92
 3. Yankton 66
 4. Mitchell 49
 5. Huron 31
- Others: Sturgis 13

11AAA

1. SF Roosevelt (22)
 2. Brandon Valley (1) 80
 3. Harrisburg (1) 67
 4. O'Gorman (1) 59
 5. SF Washington 28
- Others: SF Lincoln 23, RC Stevens 2, RC Central 1

Service Notice: Betty Krueger

Services for Betty Krueger, 87, of Conde will be 1:00 p.m., Thursday, September 12th at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Ferney. Rev. Lloyd Redhage will officiate. Burial will follow in Sunset Memorial Gardens under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

Visitation will be held at the chapel on Wednesday from 5-7 p.m. with a prayer service at 7:00 p.m.

Betty passed away Sunday, September 8, 2019 at Avera St. Lukes Hospital, Aberdeen.

Ethanol Advocate & Former South Dakota Sen. Tom Daschle Meets with Farmers Union Members in D.C.

HURON, S.D. - It's a critical time for the ethanol industry said former South Dakota Sen. Tom Daschle today, Sept. 9, 2019, when he met with more than 300 farmers, ranchers and agriculture supporters in D.C. as part of the National Farmers Union Fly-In.

"It's a critical time, not only for agriculture, but for rural America," said Daschle, calling hardship waivers granted by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to oil refineries, including Exxon Mobile and Chevron (85 since 2016) as "the most devastating thing to happen to ethanol in the last 40 years."

When oil refineries receive EPA Small Refinery Exemption (SREs) also referred to as hardship waivers, they are no longer required to comply with renewable fuel blend laws put in place by the Renewable Fuels Standard – eliminating their need to blend ethanol and other renewable fuels.

"The stakes couldn't be higher, we have 276 million light utility vehicles on the road... emitting over 1 billion tons of carbon," said Daschle, a longtime ethanol advocate. "For the last 40 years we have been able to make a case that ethanol is a national security issue, a jobs issue, an ag issue and is, darn right, an environmental issue."

The solution, Daschle said is found in opening the market to higher ethanol blends. "There is absolutely no better solution in doing exactly that, than E30," said Daschle of the high-octane, low-carbon renewable fuel. "The path forward involves, remaining determined to reduce all regulatory barriers that exist, to allow ethanol to play in the free market – to allow it to do what it is meant to do. Doug Sombke and South Dakota Farmers Union have been strong advocates for this."



Advocates for ethanol, Former South Dakota Sen. Tom Daschle (left) with South Dakota Farmers Union President, Doug Sombke today in D.C. during the National Farmers Union Fly-In.

(Courtesy of SDFU)

Recognizing the road forward will not be an easy one, Daschle encouraged farmers to have resilience, and to continue to engage with Congressional leaders, like Farmers Union members are doing this week during the Fly-In. "I talk to frustrated people who throw up their hands and say they don't want anything to do with Washington or politics. But we need to be more engaged than ever. Someone once said, "difficulty is an excuse that history never accepts," Daschle said. "We are sure at a difficult time. But that can't be a reason for giving up."

Roberts County Democratic Party

is hosting a

STEAK FRY DINNER

Friday, September 20, 2019 • 6:30 p.m.

Valley View Golf Course

Speaker will be Joel Heitkamp

KFGO morning show "News & Views"

TICKET PRICE: \$50

To purchase tickets call: Gary Hanson 268-0448

Jason Frerichs 605-949-2204, Dave Gleason 237-1923



*Adults and Students . . . come
learn what social issues are
involving our youth
in our community.*

GOSPEL Solutions to Social Issues

SPONSORED BY LOCAL CHURCHES

Youth Groups Welcome ~ Large Groups please RSVP 605/377-0709

Seminars are:

September 11 at United Methodist Church:

Drugs & Alcohol

October 9 at Groton Christian & Missionary Alliance Church:

Sex Trafficking and Date Violence

November 6 at Emmanuel Lutheran Church:

Suicide and Bullying

Light Meal at 5:45 p.m. ~ Seminar begins at 6:30 p.m.

Guest Speakers for Sept. 11

Levi Jensen, a State Trooper for the Highway Patrol. Levi will share his experiences seeing what drugs and alcohol do to youth and adults and paraphernalia used.

Andrea Kost who works at the Journey. Andrea does intake interviews and payee services, and works at Safe Harbor. Andrea will share her experience working with at risk foster children, her work for 8 years at a group home. Andrea also worked at North-east Mental Health.

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Groton Class of '69 50th Year Reunion

Saturday, Sept 21st
Olive Grove Golf Course
The public is invited to attend after
6:30 to renew acquaintances
with OLD friends



2019 Groton Area Elementary Preschool Developmental Screening for 3 year olds September 24 and 25

Parents of children age 3 in the Groton Area School District are asked to contact Heidi Krueger at the Groton Area Elementary School during school hours at 397-2317 to either confirm their screening time or set up a time. Letters will be send out the week of September 16. If your child is already receiving services or enrolled at Groton Elementary School they will not need to be screened. If your child has already been screened but you have concerns please contact the elementary school. If you are new to the district and have a child under the age of 5, we also ask you to contact the elementary school.

The Developmental Screening will take place at Groton Area Elementary School.



(0911.0918)

Vaping-related illnesses reported in South Dakota

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Department of Health is reporting two confirmed cases of vaping related illness among residents aged 20-24 years. South Dakota joins 33 states who have reported cases of severe respiratory illness from e-cigarettes.

Patients typically experienced respiratory symptoms, such as cough, shortness of breath, or chest pain, and may also experience nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, fever, or fatigue.

“We will work with patients and healthcare providers to collect information to inform the national outbreak investigation and help CDC identify the cause of these illnesses,” said Dr. Joshua Clayton, state epidemiologist.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends individuals consider not using e-cigarette products while the investigation is ongoing. People who do use e-cigarette products should monitor themselves for symptoms and promptly seek medical attention for any health concerns.

Regardless of the ongoing investigation, people who use e-cigarette products should not buy these products off the street and should not modify e-cigarette products or add any substances that are not intended by the manufacturer, such as illicit THC products. E-cigarette products should never be used by youth, young adults, pregnant women, or adults who do not currently use tobacco products.

The South Dakota QuitLine offers free coaching to quit tobacco and vaping product use. South Dakotans can enroll in the program by calling 1.866.SD QUITTS or by visiting SDQuitLine.com.

To learn more about the national investigation visit CDC’s website.

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*Tribute to 100
years of the
American Legion*



*Coffee and
Birthday
Cake*

THE AMERICAN LEGION

1919

2019

100
Years

*Please help us celebrate a Century
of the American Legion*

VETERANS STILL SERVING AMERICA

Friday, Sept 20, 2019 ~ 3:30 p.m., Groton Legion Post #39

1 free drink to any Veteran

Program to include

Legion history

Local performers singing songs from the following periods

WW I ~ WW II ~ Korea ~ Vietnam to present time

MILITARY RITES AT THE CONCLUSION IN HONOR OF OUR DECEASED COMRADES PERFORMED BY GROTON POST #39

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Soccer teams lose to Tea Area

The Groton soccer teams lost a pair of games to Tea Area on Saturday. The game was played in rainy conditions in Groton.

The girls lost, 10-0. Groton Area had three shots on the goal and none from the corners.

The boys lost, 6-0. The Tigers had shots on the goal but were unable to score.

Enrollment numbers are up

Superintendent Joe Schwan reported to the Groton Area School Board Monday evening that the enrollment numbers so far at Groton Area are up by 10 students from last year and up by eight from the projections. As of Monday afternoon, the district's enrollment was 589.

The board approved the resignation of Joann Donley as paraprofessional effective September 13. In her letter to the board, she said that she deliberated long and hard before deciding to accept a job with the United States Postal Service. She was also a co-cordinator for the Destination Imagination program, of which she also resigned from that position.

The tuckpoint project at the elementary school has begun, but has now been stalled due to the weather.

Elementary Principal Brett Schwan reported on the fifth grade field trip to the Andover Threshing Bee on Friday. Schwan said that he even got to learn some new things during the trip and the students got to have hands on experience with various activities. Students from Webster Area and Aberdeen Roncalli were also present. Schwan also reported on the lunch schedule for Homecoming Day, which will start one-half hour earlier than normal. The Pre-school Developmental Screening will be held September 24 and 25.

Middle/High School Principal Kiersten Sombke reported on the Family night for GHS which will be October 29 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. There will be a free meal and bonus points will be available for students who have at least one parent or guardian participate with them to collect signatures from teachers and college/technical schools. She also reported that all of the scholarships forms and instructions are now posted on the school's web site. United States Representative Dusty Johnson will be visiting Groton Area High School on October 4 from 10:21 a.m. to 11:17 a.m.

The board approved academic lane changes for Ann Gibbs, Lance Hawkins, Julie Milbrandt, Ashley Seeklander and Sydney Wilkinson, all of which will receive at \$750 raise; and for Brooke Compton who went from BS+30 to MS and will get a \$2,250 raise. Two volunteer coaches were approved: Harleigh Stange and Katie Koehler for girls soccer.

The board approved the amended work agreement for the auxiliary staff and bus drivers. Basically, the wages were set based on last year's year-end wage and adjustments are made after the school year starts to reflect changes in duties and adjustments in bus route miles.

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Today



Patchy Fog
then Mostly
Sunny

High: 74 °F

Tonight



T-storms
Likely

Low: 57 °F

Wednesday



Chance
T-storms then
T-storms
Likely

High: 68 °F

Wednesday
Night



Showers

Low: 58 °F

Thursday



Chance
Showers

High: 66 °F

Risk of Severe Thunderstorms

ISSUED: 4:12 AM - Tuesday, September 10, 2019

WHAT

Scattered strong to severe storms possible. Large hail, gusty winds and locally heavy rainfall are possible.

WHERE

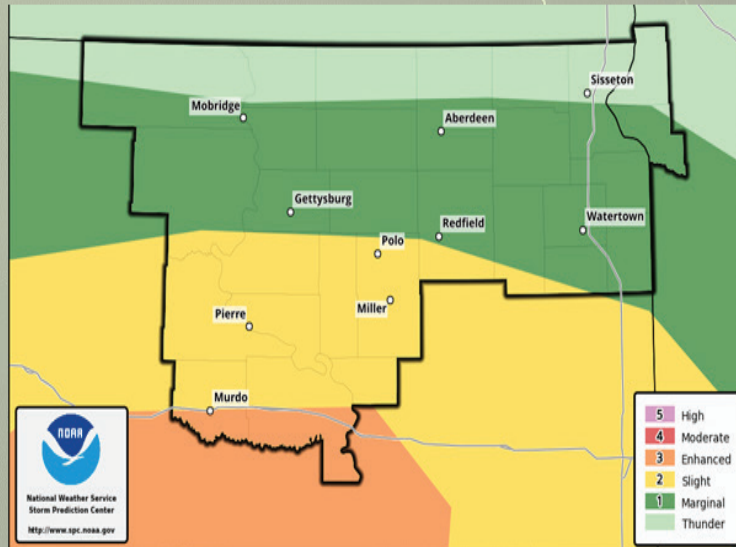
Across much of South Dakota. Best chances for severe storms is south of Highway 212.

WHEN

This evening into the overnight hours. The highest risk period will be from 6 pm - 5 am.

ACTION

Monitor the weather and have a plan of action if severe weather approaches your area.



Published on: 09/10/2019 at 12:14 AM

The majority of the daytime period will feature quiet conditions. Showers and thunderstorms will spread from west to east across the area this evening through the overnight hours. Some of the storms may be strong to severe, mainly south of Highway 212. Large hail, gusty winds and locally heavy rain will be the main threats.

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Today in Weather History

September 10, 1961: In Webster between 1 and 2 am, a large farm implement was destroyed by a lightning-caused fire. Many farm implements, three cars, two trucks, as well as merchandise, were lost. Nearby buildings suffered damage from fire. The torrential rains were helpful in reducing the spread of the fire.

September 10, 1975: Large hail up to the size of 2 inches in diameter damaged many acres of corn, flax, and millet fields during the evening. The area between Volga and Brookings received the most serious damage.

September 10, 1988: Lightning started fires in Todd County southwest of Mission that burned nearly 14,000 acres of grassland and 4000 acres of timber. The damages were more than 60,000 dollars.

1960 - Hurricane Donna struck the Florida Keys, with winds gusting to 180 mph and a thirteen foot storm surge. The hurricane then moved north along the eastern coast of Florida and inundated Naples before moving out to sea. Hurricane Donna claimed fifty lives, injured 1800 others, and caused more than 300 million dollars damage. The Marathon/Tavernier area was almost completely destroyed, and in the Citrus Belt, most of the avocado crop was blown from the trees. Hurricane Donna wreaked havoc from Florida to Maine, with wind gusts to 100 mph along much of the coast. Hurricane Donna produced wind gusts to 121 mph at Charleston SC on the 11th, and wind gusts to 138 mph at Blue Hill Observatory MA on the 12th. The hurricane finally died over Maine two days later, producing more than five inches of rain over the state. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - A late afternoon thunderstorm roared through Austin TX producing wind gusts to 81 mph, and 2.17 inches of rain in just sixty minutes. The high winds toppled six National Guard helicopters at the Robert Mueller Municipal Airport, and damaged or destroyed numerous other aircraft. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Cool air sweeping into the north central U.S. brought snow to some of the higher elevations of Montana. The town of Kings Hill, southeast of Great Falls, was blanketed with six inches of snow. Tropical Storm Gilbert strengthened to a hurricane over the eastern Caribbean. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Light snow fell in Montana overnight, with three inches reported at Fairfield. Billings MT reported a record low of 33 degrees. Unseasonably warm weather prevailed in the northeastern U.S., with record highs of 86 degrees at Caribou ME and 90 degrees at Burlington VT. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1998: Tropical Storm Frances made landfall near Matagorda Bay, TX, causing the worst coastal flooding and beach erosion since Hurricane Carla in 1961. The storm's heavy rains ended a drought in East Texas but caused severe river flooding in parts of Texas and Louisiana. The highest rainfall total noted was 21.10 inches at Terrytown in southeast Louisiana. A major disaster declaration was issued for Cameron, Jefferson, Lafourche, and Terrebonne parishes in Louisiana.

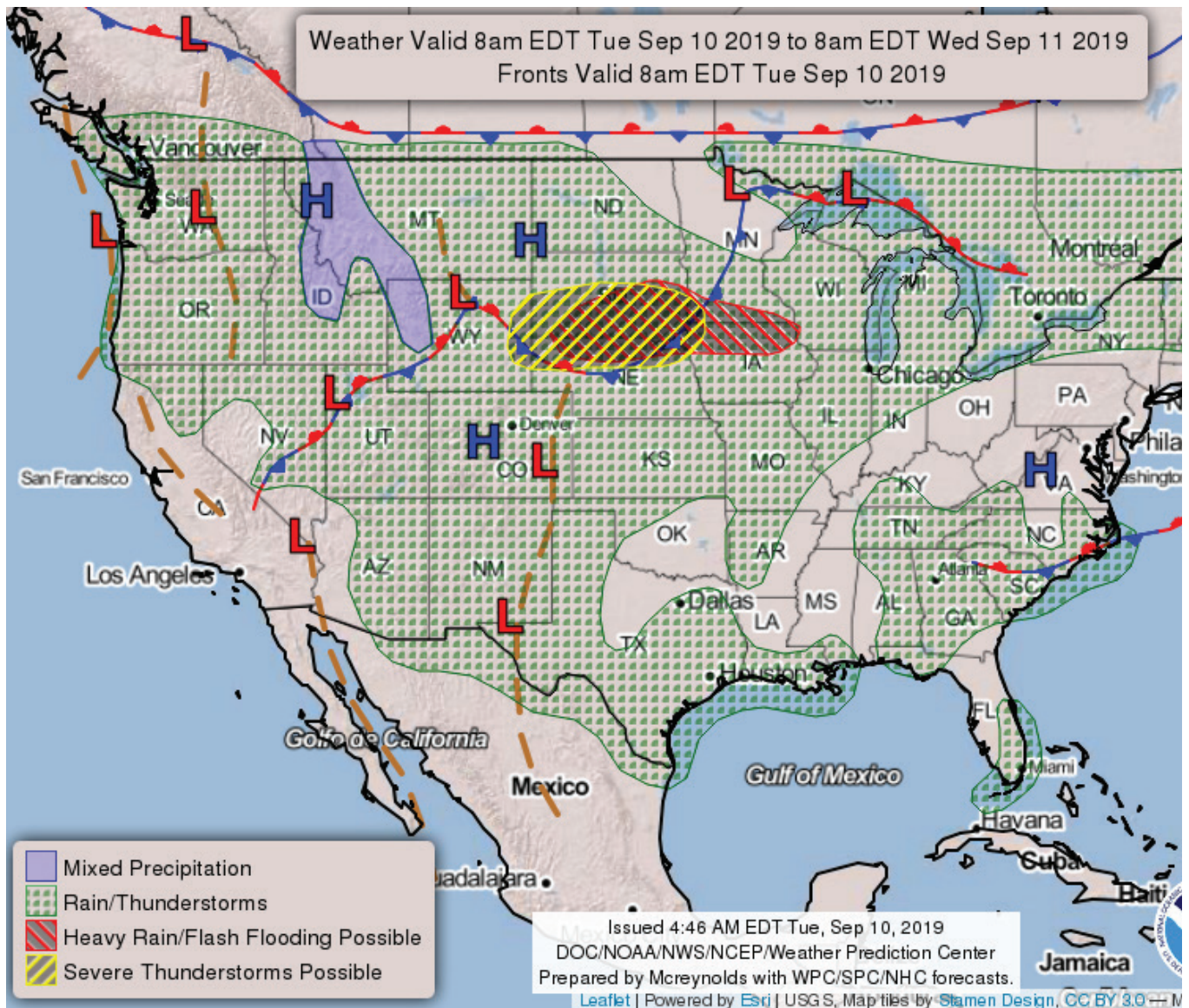
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Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 78 °F at 6:21 PM
Low Temp: 57 °F at 12:06 AM
Wind: 17 mph at 8:01 PM
Day Rain: 1.79

Record High: 107° in 1931
Record Low: 27° in 1898
Average High: 75°F
Average Low: 48°F
Average Precip in Sept.: 0.67
Precip to date in Sept.: 3.30
Average Precip to date: 16.96
Precip Year to Date: 23.06
Sunset Tonight: 7:55 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:07 a.m.



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ENCOURAGING CHILDREN

A large cathedral was having its beautiful, hand-carved doors replaced with ones that were lighter and easier to open. A gentleman walking by the church stopped and asked the foreman the reason for changing the doors.

Because, came the reply, they are too heavy for children. No church should have doors that are too difficult for children to open.

Jesus set the example for us to follow in our relationships with children. He said, Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to them!

What a precious picture of Jesus perhaps one of the most important ones of Him in the Gospels. He was the kind of person who children loved. In fact, George MacDonald once said, People would never be followers of Jesus if the children were afraid of Him. The love He spoke of must have been obvious to everyone because of the life He lived. He was never too busy to be interrupted, or too tired to be disturbed. He gave His all to everyone who needed anything.

Jesus also seemed to say that children were nearer to God than anyone else. Why? Because of their trust and truthfulness, simplicity and sincerity. As we age, we seem to grow further from God rather than closer. Might we learn from this truth from children and ask God for a child-like faith? Are we too involved with ourselves to return to a child-like faith?

Prayer: Help us, Father, to live lives that attract the young, the old and everyone in between who need You. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Matthew 19:13-15 Jesus said, Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.

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2019 Groton SD Community Events

- 09/07/2019 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
- 09/08/2019 Sunflower Classic at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 09/12/2019 St. John's Lutheran Luncheon
- 09/20/2019 Presbyterian Luncheon
- 09/28/2019 Granary Living History Fall Festival
- 10/11/2019 Lake Region Marching Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
- 10/12/2019 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
- 10/31/2019 Trunk or Treat/Halloween on Main (Halloween)
- 11/09/2019 Legion Post #39 Turkey Shoot (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
- 12/07/2019 Olive Grove Golf Course Holiday Party
- 12/07/2019 Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services
- Bingo: every Wednesday at the Legion Post #39

2020 Groton SD Community Events

- 01/26/2020 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm (Last Sunday of January)
- 04/04/2020 Groton Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt, 10 a.m. Sharp (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 04/25/2020 Fireman's Stag (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
- 05/02/2020 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. (1st Saturday in May)
- 05/25/2020 Groton American Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Services (Memorial Day)
- 06/8-10/2020 St. John's VBS
- 07/04/2020 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
Groton Hosting State B American Legion Baseball Tournament
- 07/12/2020 Summer Fest/Car Show
- 09/12/2020 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. (1st Sat. after Labor Day)
- 10/10/2020 Pumpkin Fest
- 10/31/2020 Groton United Methodist Trunk or Treat (Halloween)
- 11/14/2020 Groton American Legion Post #39 Annual Turkey Party (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)

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News from the Associated Press

Monday's Scores By The Associated Press

Volleyball

Bison def. Mott-Regent, N.D., 18-25, 29-27, 25-17, 25-13
Castlewood def. Clark/Willow Lake, 25-20, 21-25, 25-18, 25-7
Ellsworth, Minn. def. Dell Rapids St. Mary, 3-2
Garretson def. Hills-Beaver Creek, Minn., 21-25, 25-18, 25-23, 25-13
North Central def. McIntosh, 25-17, 25-18, 25-7
Oelrichs def. Crazy Horse, 25-16, 25-13, 23-25, 25-17
Wolsey-Wessington def. Lake Preston, 25-16, 24-26, 25-17, 25-16

South Dakota Volleyball Polls By The Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Here is the South Dakota media volleyball poll. Teams are listed with first place votes in parenthesis, record, points and previous ranking.

Class AA

T1. Watertown (8) 7-1 76 1
T1. O'Gorman (8) 5-1 76 2
3. S.F. Washington (3) 5-2 63 3
4. Aberdeen Central 4-0 33 5
5. Brandon Valley 5-2 21 4
Receiving Votes: Huron (5-2)10, S.F. Roosevelt (5-3) 4, R.C. Stevens (1-1) 2

Class A

1. S.F. Christian (19) 5-1 95 1
2. Miller 2-0 74 2
3. Parker 4-0 53 5
4. Dakota Valley 3-0 30 RV
5. McCook Central-Montrose 5-2 23 3
Receiving Votes: Elk Point-Jefferson (2-1) 5, Hill City (6-0) 2, Beresford (3-0) 1, Madison (2-0) 1

Class B

1. Northwestern (18) 8-0 94 1
2. Warner (1) 2-0 73 2
3. Faulkton Area 3-0 47 4
4. Chester Area 2-1 37 3
5. Faith 3-0 26 5
Receiving Votes: Burke (3-0) 7, Kadoka Area (2-0) 1

South Dakota reports 1st two vaping-related illnesses

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota health officials are reporting the state's first two cases of illnesses related to vaping.

The health department gave no details Monday beyond the victims being ages 20-24.

U.S. health officials said Friday they have identified 450 possible cases of vaping-related illnesses in 33 states, including as many as five deaths.

Many of the illnesses have been linked to use of THC-laden vaping liquids. THC is the high-inducing

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component of marijuana.

The Centers for Disease Control has urged people to stop using vaping products while they investigate.

Bird revival: Total pheasant numbers up 10% in North Dakota

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — North Dakota's annual pheasant brood survey released Monday shows that total pheasants are up 10% from last year and broods have increased by 17%, which state Game and Fish Department officials call continued improvement after nearly bottoming out two years ago.

Wildlife officials say the numbers are particularly encouraging in the northwest, up 49% percent from 2018, and southeast, which saw a 32% increase. Upland game biologist RJ Gross says this was the first year "in a while" with good residual cover to start the year and good weather for nesting and brood-rearing.

"Two good years of chick production should translate to more birds for hunters to pursue," Gross said.

Gross said populations in the state's primary pheasant district and most popular hunting area, in southwestern North Dakota, are "slowly improving" although total birds were down 7%. Broods were up 2% from 2018.

The summary is based on 275 survey runs made along 101 brood routes across the state.

Neighboring states South Dakota and Minnesota, also known for banner pheasant hunting, each saw 17% drops in total pheasants from last year. Bad weather contributed to the decline in those two states. Drought and declining habitat led to North Dakota's drop-off in pheasants two years ago.

North Dakota has been rallying since the 2017 hunt that was the smallest harvest in 16 years, with 309,400 pheasants. That number went up to 327,000 roosters in 2018.

The 2019 regular pheasant season opens Oct. 12 and continues through Jan. 5.

The state Game and Fish Department announced Monday that numbers also were up for sharp-tailed grouse and gray partridge. Grouse are up 113% statewide from 2018 and partridge have increased by 58%.

Jesse Kolar, upland game management supervisor, said the grouse numbers are still about 50% below 2012-15 levels. However, he said there have been slight increases in all metrics, especially in counties east of the Missouri River where the highest numbers of grouse were observed since 2013.

For some Texans, nearest abortion clinic is 250 miles away

By DAVID CRARY AP National Writer

After seven states passed sweeping abortion bans this year, speculation soon arose about the potentially onerous travel burdens the laws could someday impose on women seeking to end unwanted pregnancies.

Across a huge swath of West Texas and the Panhandle, there's no need for speculation. The nearest abortion clinics are more than 250 miles away, despite the region having several midsize cities and a population of more than 1 million people.

"I've been telling folks, if you want to see the future, we've been living that since 2012," said Denise Rodriguez of the Dallas-based Texas Equal Access Fund, which helps women across much of the state pay for abortions they could not otherwise afford.

Faced with drives of four hours or more to Fort Worth, Dallas, El Paso or out-of-state clinics, many women need at least two days to obtain an abortion — a situation that advocates say exacerbates the challenges of arranging child care, taking time off work and finding lodging. Some end up sleeping in their cars.

Between 2011 and 2013, the Texas Legislature slashed funding for family planning services and passed a law that imposed hospital-like operating standards on abortion clinics and required doctors who perform abortions to have admitting privileges in nearby hospitals.

The law led to closure of more than half the state's 41 abortion clinics before its key provisions were struck down by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2016. There are now 23 abortion clinics in Texas, but none from Amarillo in the Panhandle south to Lubbock and the oil patch cities of Odessa and Midland. There used to be several.

Those four cities — along with Rapid City, South Dakota — are the farthest from an abortion clinic among all U.S. cities with more than 50,000 residents, according to a research team at the University of

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California, San Francisco.

Lubbock, with a population of about 250,000, is 310 miles from the nearest clinic in Fort Worth. Odessa, with 120,000 residents, is 280 miles from clinics in El Paso.

One result, according to the Texas Policy Evaluation Project at the University of Texas, has been a 50% decline in abortions in the affected counties.

In such a large state, clinic closures force women to travel farther, spend more time and money and often undergo "a different kind of procedure from the one they prefer." The result, researchers said, is that legal abortion becomes unattainable.

The closures have increased the caseload for Fund Texas Choice, a statewide nonprofit. It doesn't pay for abortions but covers patients' other costs, including transportation and lodging.

Sarah Lopez, the fund's program coordinator, says many requests come from the Panhandle, where clients often must endure a round trip of 700 miles or more.

Many abortion seekers "don't even realize how far away a clinic is until they start looking," she said.

Among recent clients was a 20-year-old Amarillo woman who made a solo 290-mile drive to Albuquerque, New Mexico, in June to get an abortion. The unmarried woman, who asked to be identified only as Angel to protect her privacy, said she already has two children, 6 months and 2 years old.

"I knew I couldn't handle another," she said.

The trip took 4 hours, 20 minutes — mostly through open desert. She spent the night at a motel before driving back to Amarillo. The abortion cost \$450. The fund helped with Angel's motel bill and gas money.

Angel opted for Albuquerque only after Google searches and phone calls produced no easier alternative.

"I was trying to get help with basically everything," she said. "The procedure itself is expensive, and there was no way I could also afford the traveling."

Angel said she works as a home health care aide and hopes to study criminal justice at college en route to becoming an investigator. She also wants to advocate for abortion access.

Another group offering assistance is the Dallas-based Afiya Center, which advocates for reproductive rights on behalf of black women in Texas.

Emma Robinson, Afiya's digital organizer, said the first client to get such help was an 18-year-old from Odessa who got pregnant as she was finishing high school and feared her dream of attending college would be dashed if she had a child. Afiya last year helped finance the young woman's round trip by bus to Dallas, where she got an abortion, and then helped her patch up differences with her mother, who had vehemently opposed the abortion.

The woman has now enrolled in college, Robinson said: "She's very determined to have a life different from her mom, who gave birth to her at a young age."

Planned Parenthood, which closed abortion clinics in Lubbock and Midland in 2013, hopes to re-establish its presence in the region. A donor has pledged several million dollars for that cause. Spokeswoman Sarah Wheat says the organization — wary of possible harassment — is not ready to announce where a new health center might be located or what services it would provide.

State Sen. Charles Perry of Lubbock, a staunch abortion foe, responded to news of the donor's pledge by launching an online petition drive to "keep Planned Parenthood out of West Texas."

Perry also has sought increased funding for the state's Alternatives to Abortion program, which supports anti-abortion pregnancy counseling centers. Several such centers operate in the Panhandle/West Texas region.

JeanMarie Kmetz, president of an anti-abortion student group at Lubbock-based Texas Tech University, said she has heard that a new Planned Parenthood clinic might be destined for a site near the campus.

"That would be extremely detrimental to so many young women — giving them the option of making careless mistakes with their body," she said.

Kmetz, a junior who wants to be a nurse, said her group, Raiders Defending Life, would be active in any campaign protesting a proposed new clinic.

Kimberly Schwartz also was an anti-abortion activist at Texas Tech. She's now spokeswoman for Houston-

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based Texas Right To Life. She said many people in West Texas "are on their toes" to prevent any revival of abortion services in the region. Her organization hopes communities declare themselves "sanctuaries for the unborn," as the east Texas town of Waskom did in June.

"Pro-choice values are very out of touch with the majority in West Texas," Schwartz said.

Moss Hampton, a Midland obstetrician-gynecologist who has taught at Texas Tech's Health Sciences Center, says he would like to see Planned Parenthood return to provide contraception as well as abortions. But he acknowledges that abortion-rights supporters in the region are vastly outnumbered by abortion foes.

"It's been that way for so long, they've just kind of accepted it," he said.

One key figure in the Texas abortion debate is Amy Hagstrom Miller, CEO of Whole Women's Health, which operates abortion clinics in Texas and four other states. Her company spearheaded the lawsuit that led to the Supreme Court's dismantling of the Texas law in 2016. A 5-3 majority of justices ruled that the law placed an "undue burden" on women seeking abortions.

Hagstrom Miller says some women resort to inducing their own abortions with medication because they lack health insurance, child care or a supportive employer.

"Some well-informed people are able to overcome the barriers," she said. "But so many are left behind."

The new abortion bans in Georgia, Alabama and elsewhere are unlikely to take effect unless the Supreme Court overturns or weakens *Roe v. Wade*, the 1973 decision establishing a nationwide right to abortion. But for anyone curious about the consequences, Hagstrom Miller has a suggestion.

"People are asking what happens if *Roe* falls," she said. "I keep telling them, 'Look at Texas.'"

Motorcyclist killed in McKenzie County crash

GRASSY BUTTE, N.D. (AP) — The North Dakota Highway Patrol says a motorcyclist traveling with a group of riders was killed when he swerved to avoid a vehicle that had crossed over the center line on a highway in McKenzie County.

The patrol says the 55-year-old man from Saskatchewan, Canada was traveling to Sturgis, South Dakota when the crash occurred Sunday afternoon on Highway 85.

The man was thrown from his bike after he lost control while trying to avoid the vehicle. The victim died at the scene of the crash.

Trump tells rally crowd: Vote for Bishop in special election

By JONATHAN LEMIRE and ALAN FRAM Associated Press

HAVELOCK, N.C. (AP) — Trying to prove his political clout by pushing a Republican to victory in a special election, President Donald Trump used a North Carolina rally to paint a bleak picture of a nation he claimed would be overrun with crime, poverty and immigrants if Democrats seize power in Washington.

Trump, appearing Monday at his first campaign rally in nearly a month, went on the offensive in an effort to change a series of late-summer negative headlines over his slipping poll numbers, warning signs of an economic slowdown and a running battle over hurricane forecasts. He urged the Fayetteville crowd to vote for Republican Dan Bishop on Tuesday, brandishing his usual incendiary rhetoric to declare from the stage that "tomorrow is a chance to send a clear message to the America-hating left."

While the stakes for the House are high, Trump's trademark rallies inevitably become more about him than the local candidate, as he uses the stage to settle political scores, sharpen attacks and take on perceived foes. With an eye to his own reelection next fall, he touted his administration's accomplishments but also urged voters to give him more time.

"That's why we need four more years," Trump said at the nearly 90-minute rally. "It's got to seed — it's a plant. It has to grow. It has to grow those roots. That's why 2020 is just as important. Because they will try to take it away."

Trump's appearance Monday emerged as a test of the Republican president's pull with voters. The special election could offer clues about the mindset of Republicans in the suburbs, whose flight from the party

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fueled the GOP's 2018 House election losses.

The president enjoys wide popularity within his own party, but a GOP defeat in a red-leaning state could portend trouble for his reelection campaign. But before leaving Washington, Trump dismissed questions of whether a poor result for the Republican candidate would serve as a warning sign in next year's elections.

"No, I don't see it as a bellwether," Trump said.

After a light rally schedule of late, the president had plenty of new material to work with.

Chief among them was the White House's worries about the impact an economic downturn could have on a president who has made a strong economy his central argument for a second term. Trump advisers worry that moderate Republican and independent voters who have been willing to give him a pass on some of his incendiary policies and rhetoric would blame him — and, in particular, his trade war with China — for slowing down the economy.

Trump offered up a robust defense of the trade war with Beijing. He pushed for Congress to approve his new U.S.-Mexico-Canada trade deal. And he exaggerated the number of miles constructed on his promised border wall.

Monday's rally was held just over 100 miles (160 kilometers) from the site of a Trump rally in July where "send her back" chants aimed at a Somali-born American congresswoman rattled the Republican Party and seemed to presage an ugly reelection campaign.

The chant was not heard Monday.

Instead, Trump repeatedly painted the Democrats as a party that has moved to the extreme left on issues like immigration, abortion and health care.

"You don't have any choice. You have to vote for me," Trump told the crowd. "What are you going to do: Put one of these crazy people running? They are so far left."

"Your way of life is under assault by these people," he claimed.

Trump also expressed his support for the Second Amendment against the backdrop of a recent spate of deadly mass shootings across the country. It comes as congressional Democrats push for expanded background checks for gun purchases and as Trump has flip-flopped on the issue amid pressure from the National Rifle Association.

In the hours before the rally, Trump flew to coastal North Carolina to inspect the damage left by Hurricane Dorian, but bad weather forced officials to scrap those plans. Instead, he received a briefing on Air Force One, where Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper told him three deaths are connected to the storm and some 3,500 people are without power.

Many of the president's comments about the storm have been defending his erroneous claim that Alabama was likely to face significant impact from it. Trump did not mention the matter at Monday's rally.

The House district flows eastward from the prosperous Charlotte suburbs into rural areas hugging the South Carolina border. State officials invalidated last November's election following allegations of voter fraud by a GOP operative.

The district has been held by the GOP since 1963. In 2016, Trump won the district by 11 percentage points. Should Bishop defeat Democrat Dan McCready, it could give Trump room to assert that he pulled Bishop over the top. If McCready prevails or Bishop wins by a whisker, it will suggest GOP erosion and raise questions about Trump's and his party's viability for 2020.

"This will tell us if Trump can carry candidates through suburban districts or not," said Sarah Chamberlain, president of the Republican Main Street Partnership, which represents moderate Republicans. If not, she said, the GOP must "work harder to address the concerns of suburban individuals, mainly women."

Marshville residents Philip and Diane Ezzell, both 70, were near the front of the line Monday waiting to enter the Trump rally. Both attributed their support for Bishop to his backing by Trump. "We like his values, and he supports Trump," Diane Ezzell said. "And we don't want no socialist clowns."

That was a reference to a TV spot by Bishop superimposing the faces of McCready and other prominent Democrats on swaying clown figures.

Cynthia Brown, of Fayetteville, 50, is also attending the rally. Brown, who is black, said supporting Trump

has been "a pretty lonely experience" for her. She added: "But that's OK. I'm not a follower."

Associated Press writer Kevin Freking contributed to this report from Washington.

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Did you lose Downton Abbey in the British fog? Catch up here

By LEANNE ITALIE AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Does it feel like forever since we lost the style, splendor and scandals of "Downton Abbey?"

Well, dust off your jewels and put up the kettle because the twists and turns at your favorite Yorkshire estate in early 20th-century Britain are back with a feature film, to the delight of fans and "Masterpiece," among others involved in creating the show.

"When we agreed to co-produce the television series we had no expectation that this was going to become a darling of the American audience," said Susanne Simpson, deputy executive producer for "Masterpiece." "It was really a surprise to all of us."

So, what to do about all those delicious details that may have faded after the six-season, upstairs-downstairs series ended in 2015 in the United Kingdom and the following year in the United States. We've got you covered with this guide to Downton's past, but first a quick catch up on the cast.

Key aristocrats and their original actors are back, including the Crawleys, of course. Hugh Bonneville is Robert Crawley, the 7th Earl of Grantham, and Elizabeth McGovern is Cora, his countess. They have three daughters, including their eldest, the opinionated Lady Mary, played by Michelle Dockery.

Maggie Smith reprises her role as the wry matriarch Violet Crawley, Dowager Countess of Grantham. So does her frenemy, Isobel Crawley Grey, played by Penelope Wilton.

Below stairs, Joanne Froggatt remains Anna May Bates, lady's maid to Mary, and Brendan Coyle returns as her selfless hubby, John Bates.

There are newcomers on the big screen, but we'll get to that later.

WHERE WE LEFT THINGS

The PBS series concludes on New Year's Eve, heading into 1926. The rich are selling off their estates in the crash and the middle class is ascending, but there's even bigger news: Anna procures a shiny silver electric hair dryer at Mary's request. You know, because progress. And it's a beaut. Daisy, the assistant cook, can't resist it, making a mess of her hair.

In other Anna news: She gives birth in Mary's bedroom, on New Year's Eve during Edith Crawley's wedding, no less, as the series winds down.

Sadly, Mr. Carson (the estate's top dog as butler) has "the palsy," which did in the careers of his dad and granddad. He agrees to emeritus status, letting the villainous Thomas Barrow take over.

Leading up to her wedding, Lady Edith (the former spinster and one of Mary's sisters) is surprised at The Ritz by Bertie Pelham, who had previously broken her heart. The arrangements for them to meet were an act of rare kindness on the part of Mary for Edith after years of rocky rivalry between the two.

Pelham begs Edith's forgiveness before the show concludes with their nuptials. First, Edith comes clean about her daughter, Marigold, who was born out of wedlock, and fends off the initial "damaged goods" qualms of Bertie's judgy mother.

"Edith is going to be happy. Just think about that," gushes her American mom, Cora.

"Hoorah," rejoices Lord Grantham.

"LORD KNOWS THEY DON'T DESERVE THEIR LUCK, THOSE TWO"

That's how Robert once summed up the Bateses. Before their happily ever after, with a brand new son, Anna and John had virtually no luck at all.

Anna was sexually abused by her stepfather and fought back with a knife — she only cut him — before arriving at Downton. John is an injured war hero (he uses a cane after taking shrapnel in one leg) who was Robert's soldier-servant during the second Boer War and saved Robert's life in an explosion. Robert

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repays the debt by employing John as his new valet, but John must withstand all manner of resistance from doubters on staff who think his disability makes him unsuitable for the job.

John's personal life was equally challenging. His horrid first wife, Vera, killed herself with arsenic and set it up to look like he murdered her. John was sent to prison for a long stretch but was later freed. He had already spent time in prison after taking the fall for Vera in a theft of regimental silver.

Specifically, 1924 wasn't kind to Anna and John.

Anna was attacked and raped by a visiting valet, Alex Green, but she tells only Mrs. Hughes, the housekeeper. Green turns up dead after mysteriously being pushed or falling into traffic at Piccadilly Circus. Anna is charged after a witness reports seeing her near the body on the busy London road. Word also leaks of her earlier knife incident, with prosecutors planning to use that against her as evidence that she's capable of violence.

John is desperate to see Anna cleared. He falsely confesses to the murder as she awaits trial and then flees to Ireland. The two are eventually let off the hook and reunited.

Got that?

"IT IS, DELICIOUS"

Gladys Denker. Septimus Spratt. Violet Crawley. Is there anything more fun on "Downton" than these three?

In 1924, Violet hires Denker as her lady's maid to replace Collins, who was never given a first name, by the way. Denker is an issue for Spratt, her butler, as Collins pretty much deferred to him. The sharp-tongued Denker, who pops up in Season 5, is another matter.

The scheming is divine, especially in the episode in which Denker lies about her ability to make a good chicken broth. She doesn't, and Spratt sets out to make sure Violet is well aware, including a sink dump of Daisy's good soup intended to masquerade as one made by Denker.

When Denker is forced to attempt a broth, which is awful — to the delight of Spratt — his scheming backfires. Violet covers for Denker as she samples the foul soup:

"It is, delicious," Violet manages, spoon in hand. "There's a point, Spratt, where malice ceases to be amusing." Denker huffs at Spratt during a Christmas party: "God, you are a dreary little man."

DEAD BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

The series spans 14 years, starting in 1912, and the dead sort of piled up. Let us honor some of them here.

Robert had no sons so his first cousin, James Crawley, was his presumptive heir. James' only son was Patrick, who was unofficially intended for Mary, though she had little use for him. James died and Patrick was presumed dead in the sinking of the Titanic at the beginning of the series.

That's how Matthew Crawley — a distant relative — became Robert's new heir. Technically speaking, he was a third cousin, once removed. Matthew fell truly, madly, deeply for Mary, but Mary — being Mary — took her time over eight tumultuous years before she finally accepted his second marriage proposal. They married in May 1920. Sadly, Matthew died shortly after their son, George Crawley, was born in September 1921. Matthew was killed in a car accident after visiting his wife and newborn at the hospital.

That made young George the presumptive heir. However, a letter found after Matthew's death has him leaving his half of the estate to Mary after he and Robert divvied it up. We lost Matthew, but his mother Isobel lived on.

Lady Sybil, the youngest daughter of Robert and Cora, died of complications after childbirth. That's how the former chauffeur, Tom Branson, became a single father to their daughter Sybbie, who was named after her mom. Tom was eventually welcomed into the family after a rough road for the Irish socialist.

There are more, including Robert Crawley's beloved Isis, one of his golden retrievers. Show creator Julian Fellowes insists the dog's death was not intended to eliminate her name and its terrorist connotations from the series. He said the prize animal was named after the Egyptian goddess. The Granthams had another dog named Pharaoh.

THOSE GUEST APPEARANCES

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Shirley MacLaine played Martha Levinson, mother of Cora. Paul Giamatti was Harold Levinson, Cora's blunt-speaking playboy of a brother.

Theo James had lots to do. He played the drop-dead gorgeous Turkish diplomat Kemal Pamuk, who died while in bed with Mary during Season 1. He's mentioned on occasion after that.

Iain Glen, who was Jorah Mormont on "Game of Thrones," played a newspaper mogul, Sir Richard Carlisle. He was a short-lived love interest of Mary.

Richard E. Grant, Tim Pigott-Smith, there were oh so many more guests, but we'd need to write a book.

The film is set in 1927, hinged on a visit to Downton by King George V (Simon Jones) and Queen Mary (Geraldine James). It will be released Sept. 13 in the UK and Sept. 20 in the US.

There are some other new faces, including David Haig as the king's butler and Max Brown in an undisclosed role.

Flynn due in court as lawyers mount attack on Mueller probe

By ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former Trump administration national security adviser Michael Flynn is due back in court for the first time in weeks as his lawyers mount an aggressive attack on special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia investigation.

U.S. District Judge Emmet Sullivan has scheduled a conference for Tuesday morning to discuss Flynn's cooperation with prosecutors and whether the two sides are ready to set a sentencing date.

Flynn was supposed to be sentenced last December for lying to the FBI about his December 2016 conversations with the Russian ambassador to the United States. But the sentencing hearing was abruptly cut short after Flynn, facing a sharp rebuke from Sullivan that raised the prospect he could be sent to prison, asked that he be allowed to continue cooperating with prosecutors in hopes of earning credit toward a lighter punishment.

Since then, he has changed lawyers and hired a new legal team led by Sidney Powell, a conservative commentator and former federal prosecutor who has been an outspoken critic of Mueller's investigation into ties between the Trump campaign and Russia.

In a court filing, Powell accused Justice Department prosecutors of withholding evidence that she says would be favorable to the defense.

She said prosecutors had engaged "in even more malevolent conduct in the prosecution" of Flynn than in the case of the late Alaska Sen. Ted Stevens, which Sullivan threw out a decade ago after determining that prosecutors had withheld information from the senator's defense team.

Prosecutors have strongly rejected that assertion, saying "the government has exceeded its discovery and disclosure obligations in this matter," including by providing Flynn with more than 22,000 pages of documents.

Powell has also advanced theories of law enforcement bias that President Donald Trump and many of his supporters have seized on to allege that Mueller's investigation was tainted.

In a court filing earlier this month, she invoked former FBI agent Peter Strzok, who interviewed Flynn at the White House and was later fired from the bureau because of pejorative text messages about Trump, and Chris Steele, a former British spy who was funded by Democrats to investigate Trump's connections to Russia.

Follow Eric Tucker on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/etuckerAP>

Trump's Afghanistan decision pushes country toward vote

By CARA ANNA Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — President Donald Trump's sudden halt to U.S.-Taliban talks looks like a gift to the beleaguered Afghan president, who has insisted on holding a key election in less than three weeks' time despite widespread expectations that a peace deal would push it aside. Now, with an agreement to

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end America's longest war on hold, Afghanistan suddenly faces a presidential vote amid warnings that it's not ready — and the threat of even more violence.

The Taliban, who control or hold sway over roughly half the country, have told Afghans to boycott the vote and warned that rallies and polling stations would be targets. Spurned by Trump on the brink of a deal they said had been "finalized" to end nearly 18 years of conflict, the insurgent group is more distrustful than ever and has vowed to keep fighting. The talks are "dead," Trump now says.

The Afghan people, essentially shut out of the talks, want a say in their fate. But if this election is as chaotic as last year's parliamentary vote and the 2014 presidential one, some observers fear the Afghan government could be badly weakened at a pivotal time.

Trump's surprise weekend announcement benefits Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, who was sidelined in the negotiations as the Taliban dismiss his government as a U.S. puppet. Ghani insists the Sept. 28 election go ahead, even as the U.S. seemed to be more interested in signing a deal with the Taliban and committing to immediate intra-Afghan talks on the country's political future.

So certain were many candidates that the election would be delayed — and that an interim government might be formed instead — that they hadn't bothered to campaign. The uncertainty also restricted Ghani; with U.S.-Taliban talks seemingly hurtling toward a deal he had been holding "virtual" campaign rallies via video conference instead of traveling out of the capital, Kabul. He seeks a second five-year term and what he calls a strong mandate to deal with the Taliban.

"Let the people decide," Ghani declared on Monday, and vowed not to allow the "slightest threat" to the legitimacy of the vote.

Now as many scramble to comprehend the breakdown in the peace process, some are pleading for stability in a country with little of it.

"Today more than ever Afghanistan needs a political leadership who will receive from citizens a renewed democratic mandate to set the country on a course to peace," the European Union's mission to Afghanistan said. "Now is time for a reduction in violence," the British high commission said. Both are major election funders in a country where the international community pays for much of the process.

The U.S.-Taliban talks could still resume and the Taliban have signaled they are open to that. But time is quickly running out for a deal before the election. The Taliban have said that under the "finalized" deal the intra-Afghan talks were set to begin on Sept. 23, five days before the vote.

Ghani, who Trump said had been invited to the now-canceled Camp David talks, could still visit Washington if he attends the annual United Nations General Assembly of world leaders that starts on Sept. 24. It's a chance to make his case for an elected Afghan government to speak directly with the Taliban instead of an interim one.

But confidence in the Afghan electoral process is low. The 2014 presidential vote led to months of turmoil ending in a shaky national unity government between Ghani and his rival, now-Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah, who alleged fraud. Last year's parliamentary elections were so chaotic that Ghani fired the entire Independent Electoral Commission.

This year's vote already has been delayed since April as the electoral machinery was replaced. And the country hardly seems ready even now, a local watchdog, the Transparent Election Foundation of Afghanistan, warned last week.

One major problem has been the confusion about how the U.S.-Taliban negotiations would affect the election, along with the lack of international consensus to prioritize "these two momentous processes." That has led to political disunity and "scattered preparations" for the vote, it said.

Taliban attacks are also a danger. At least 56 people were killed and 379 wounded in election-related violence during last year's polling, the U.N. has said.

Of the 5,373 polling centers for the current election some 400 to 500 are either in areas controlled by the Taliban or under high threat, a spokesman with the electoral commission, Aziz Ibrahim, said Monday. Thousands of security forces will be deployed.

In addition, the majority of the 17 candidates have alleged that Ghani has been using government re-

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sources for his campaign. While there is no reliable national election polling in Afghanistan, many Afghans expect him to win.

"It would have been smarter to delay the election on logistical grounds months ago," said Jarrett Blanc, the deputy U.S. special representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan from 2012 to 2014. Each Afghan election has weakened the perception of the government and this vote could be "incredibly damaging."

There will certainly be allegations of fraud which "will lead, at best, to major delays in declaring a result and, at worst, to a paralyzing political crisis that may require U.S. mediation," said Michael Kugelman, deputy director of the Asia program at the Wilson Center. Either will complicate efforts to resume talks because "once Afghanistan is in full-on election mode, the political class will be too consumed with the poll to focus on anything else."

But an influential joint statement issued last week by several former U.S. ambassadors to Afghanistan said there was a strong argument for the election to go ahead.

"Millions of Afghans have risked, and again are prepared to risk, death to vote," they said. "It is not up to the United States to deprive them of this opportunity to determine who speaks for the Afghan state."

The former ambassadors acknowledged the risks, including a possible runoff vote that could take months and delay any intra-Afghan talks. But the struggle within Afghanistan's politically fractured society to decide who might make up an interim government, they said, could take just as much time.

Associated Press writer Rahim Faiez in Kabul, Afghanistan, contributed to this report.

Kashmiris allege night terror by Indian troops in crackdown

By AIJAZ HUSSAIN Associated Press

HEFF SHIRMAL, India (AP) — The Indian soldiers descended on Bashir Ahmed Dar's house in southern Kashmir on Aug. 10, a few days after the government in New Delhi stripped the disputed Himalayan region of its statehood and launched a crackdown. Over the next 48 hours, the 50-year-old plumber said he was subjected to two separate rounds of beatings by soldiers.

They demanded that he find his younger brother, who had joined rebels opposing India's presence in the Muslim majority region, and persuade him to surrender or else "face the music."

In the second beating, at a military camp, Dar said he was struck with sticks by three soldiers until he was unconscious. He woke up at home, "unable to sit on my bruised and bloodied buttocks and aching back," he added.

But it wasn't over. On Aug. 14, soldiers returned to his house in the village of Heff Shirmal and destroyed his family's supply of rice and other foodstuffs by mixing it with fertilizer and kerosene.

Dar's account of violence and intimidation by Indian soldiers was not unusual. In more than 50 interviews, residents in a dozen villages in Kashmir told The Associated Press that the military had raided their homes since India's government imposed a security crackdown in the region Aug. 5. They said the soldiers inflicted beatings and electric shocks, forced them to eat dirt or drink filthy water, poisoned their food supplies or killed livestock, and threatened to take away and marry their female relatives. Thousands of young men have been arrested.

Asked by AP to respond to the recent allegations of abuse from the Northern Command, the Indian army's headquarters in Jammu and Kashmir. Its spokesman based in the main city of Srinagar, Col. Rajesh Kalia, dismissed the villagers' accounts as "completely baseless and false," and asserted the Indian army values human rights.

"There have been reports of movement of terrorists" in the areas AP visited, Kalia said. "Some youth were suspected to be involved in anti-national and disruptive activities and were handed over to police as per law of the land."

India's top security official, National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, said the army has not been involved in the operation in Kashmir. "There have been no atrocities," he said.

For years, there have been accusations from Kashmir residents and international human rights groups

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that Indian troops have carried out systematic abuse and unjustified arrests of those who oppose rule from New Delhi in the divided region that is claimed by both India and Pakistan.

But frustration, anger and fear have been growing in Kashmir in the five weeks since the Hindu nationalist government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi stripped the region of most of its semiautonomous status on Aug. 5 and imposed a curfew and a communications blackout. Although some restrictions have been eased in the main city of Srinagar, with students encouraged to return to school and businesses to reopen, rural residents complain of what they perceive as a campaign of violence and intimidation that seems designed at suppressing any militancy, rebellion or dissent.

The abuses in the nighttime raids by troops began in early August as New Delhi took its action on Kashmir, according to interviews with at least 200 people. The change in status nullified decades-old constitutional provisions that gave Jammu and Kashmir some political autonomy and land inheritance rights. It also downgraded the state into two federally governed territories. The actions have been challenged in India's Supreme Court.

In the village of Parigam, the family of baker Sonaullah Sofi was asleep when army troops raided his home. The soldiers took his two sons into a street, hitting them with gun butts, iron chains and sticks, Sofi said. "Helpless, I heard my sons scream as soldiers started beating them up mercilessly in the middle of the road," Sofi said.

Soon, soldiers brought 10 more young men to the village square, seeking names of anti-India protesters, said Muzaffar Ahmed, Sofi's 20-year-old son, recounting the Aug. 7 incident.

"They hit our backs and legs for three hours. They gave us electric shocks," Ahmed said, lifting his shirt to show his burned and bruised back. "As we cried and pleaded (with) them to let us go, they became more relentless and ruthless in their beating. They forced us to eat dust and drink water from a drain."

Since the crackdown began, at least 3,000 people, mostly young men, have been arrested, according to police officials and records reviewed by the AP. About 120 of those have been slapped with the Public Safety Act, a law that permits holding people for up to two years without trial, the records showed.

Thousands of others have been detained in police lockups to be screened for potential to join protests. Some have been freed and asked to report back a few days later. Some are only held in the daytime, released at night to sleep at home, while their parents are told to bring them back the next day.

Ahmed, the baker, said the soldiers finally left at dawn, leaving them writhing in pain. He and his elder brother along with at least eight others were then bundled into a single ambulance and taken to a hospital in Srinagar.

The conflict over Kashmir has existed since the late 1940s, when India and Pakistan won independence from the British empire. The countries have fought two of their three subsequent wars over Kashmir, and each administers a portion of the region.

New Delhi initially grappled with largely peaceful anti-India movements in its portion of Kashmir. However, a series of political blunders, broken promises and a crackdown on dissent escalated the conflict into a full-blown armed rebellion against Indian control in 1989 for a united Kashmir, either under Pakistan rule or independent of both. Since then, about 70,000 people have been killed in the conflict, which India sees as a proxy war by Pakistan.

The region is one of the most heavily militarized in the world, patrolled by soldiers and paramilitary police. Most Kashmiris resent the Indian troop presence and support the rebels.

Now, a new generation in Kashmir has revived the militancy, challenging New Delhi's rule with guns and social media. In February, a Kashmiri suicide attacker rammed a van full of explosives into an Indian paramilitary convoy, killing more than 40 people and wounding more than two dozen. Modi said at the time that government forces have been given "total freedom" to deal with militants.

For years, human rights groups have accused Indian troops of intimidating and controlling the population with physical and sexual abuse and unjustified arrests. Indian government officials deny this, calling the allegations separatist propaganda.

Abuses alleged by rights groups since 1989 have included rape, sodomy, waterboarding, electric shocks

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to the genitals, burns and sleep deprivation.

The U.N. last year called for an independent international investigation into allegations of rights violations like rape, torture and extrajudicial killings in Kashmir. India rejected the report as "fallacious."

Parvez Imroz, a prominent rights lawyer, said the new reports of abuse in the security forces' ongoing campaign were "disturbing."

Fear and anger are palpable in the villages that dot the vast apple orchards, especially after sundown, when the soldiers come.

Abdul Ghani Dar, 60, said soldiers have raided his home in the village of Marhang seven times since early August, adding that he sends his daughter to another location before they arrive.

"They say they've come to check on my son but I know they come looking for my daughter," Dar said, his eyes welling with tears.

Residents of three other villages said soldiers had threatened to take girls away from their families for marriage.

"They're marauding our homes and hearths like a victorious army. They are now behaving as if they have a right over our lives, property and honor," said Nazir Ahmed Bhat, who lives in Arihal.

In early August, soldiers came to the home of Rafiq Ahmed Lone while he was away.

"The soldiers asked my wife to accompany them for searching our home. When she refused, she was beaten up with gun butts and sticks," Lone said. While she was being beaten, the soldiers killed their rooster, he added.

Associated Press writer Emily Schmall in New Delhi contributed to this report.

Follow Aijaz Hussain at twitter.com/hussain_ajaz

Democratic candidates look for edge on Iowa's campuses

By ALEXANDRA JAFFE Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — On a sunny Tuesday as the fall semester was beginning on Iowa State University's campus, volunteers for three presidential candidates set up tables, calling out to harried students as they made their way to the school's massive library.

Ryan Ford, a senior who's serving as one of Sen. Kamala Harris' campus leaders, was up at 7:30 that morning just to be ready. "I will wake up as early as it takes if it means getting rid of Donald Trump," he said.

Ford had ample company. Student volunteers for Harris, Bernie Sanders and former Texas Rep. Beto O'Rourke were there already making the hard sell — sometimes with candy as an enticement — to a constituency that could be key to success in a crowded caucus field: college students.

With so many Democratic candidates competing, and a fragmented vote a distinct possibility, many of the 2020 hopefuls are hoping to turn dissatisfaction with Trump on Iowa's campuses into votes on caucus night when small margins might mean the difference between going on to New Hampshire or getting out of the race.

Most of the history of young voters suggests it's a flawed strategy — 18- to 29-year-olds have far lower turnout rates than their older counterparts. But there is one powerful exception: In 2008, Barack Obama's successful courting of college students helped propel him to an upset caucus victory, and ultimately, the White House.

In this cycle, candidates think they have another edge: animosity toward Trump on issues like guns and climate change. In 2018, about 38% of registered Iowans between the ages of 18 and 24 voted in the midterm election — the highest turnout among that age group in any midterm election since 1990, according to the Iowa secretary of state.

The burst of organizing activity on campuses shows that Democrats believe that energy can be tapped again.

"It's a fractured primary field and locking up a key constituency or two might be enough to win the

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caucuses or place higher than pundits might've expected," said Ben LaBolt, a campaign spokesman for Obama in 2008 and 2012. "The path to victory for Obama in '08 was reliant on changing the caucus electorate — to reach younger voters and nontraditional voters."

It is not easy, particularly because caucus voters often have to trudge to their precincts on a cold winter night and stay for an extended period to understand the complicated rules and vote.

That's where students like Ford come in — he said he plans to spend "a couple dozen" hours a week organizing for the campaign on ISU's campus, and even more time when it gets closer to caucus night.

He's one of a student organizing corps spread out across a dozen campuses in Iowa for Harris. She also has paid organizers working on each campus, and launched over the summer "Camp Kamala," an in-person training program focused on getting students and young Iowans to caucus.

But Harris faces fierce competition for the youth vote, with every top-tier campaign in Iowa organizing heavily on campuses and making a pitch directly to young voters. In addition to Harris' organization, Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren has had organizers on 18 different campuses around the state; South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg's team is organizing on a dozen campuses across Iowa; and Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders' staff says he has students who have trained to volunteer for the campaign at nearly every campus in Iowa.

Sanders' success in attracting young voters in 2016 was part of what helped catapult him to a near-tie with Hillary Clinton in Iowa, and helped drive his unexpectedly strong candidacy. This cycle, his campaign just completed its own youth voter training camp, with 1,600 students going through six webinars to effectively learn how to be independent, volunteer organizers. Sanders himself just completed a two-day swing through the state's three public universities, which are located in three of its bluest counties, where he emphasized the power young voters could wield — if they get out and vote.

"The bad news is, your generation does not get out and vote to the level it should," Sanders said. "The truth is that if younger people in this country voted at the same level as people 65 and older, we could transform this country."

Both Sanders' and Harris' campaigns have started efforts focused specifically on high-school students as well, who are able to participate in the February caucuses if they turn 18 by the November general election.

Paul Tewes, Obama's Iowa state director in '08, said that was one of their key advantages that year.

"It was a focus from Day One. Any community we went into, we had a rule that 20-30 minutes before an event, then-Sen. Obama had a meeting or photo ops with local high school kids," he said.

Tewes noted this made a huge difference in smaller precincts, where 10-12 caucusgoers might typically show up, "but suddenly here comes some young, energetic student who has invited 8-10 of their friends and you've almost doubled the population of that caucus."

Buttigieg, as the youngest candidate in the field, has made the case for generational change central to his pitch to voters, and his campaign has deployed organizers to a dozen campuses. He's also running digital radio ads on Spotify and Pandora aimed at young people in Iowa.

New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker has hired three organizers from NextGen Iowa, the youth voter turnout group, and his campaign said they registered more than 400 students across 15 campuses during the first week of school. O'Rourke held campus organizing events across Iowa as well.

But the biggest challenge may simply be getting students to show up for a caucus, a process where voters display and defend their votes publicly and one that can seem complicated and opaque to first-time voters.

Somerle Rhiner, an Iowa State University freshman, said she's interested in the presidential election but "really hesitant" about caucusing.

"I don't know anybody that's ever caucused before. It's the pressure of not knowing what to expect," she said.

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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. TRUMP'S TALIBAN DECISION PUSHES COUNTRY TOWARD VOTE

The U.S. president's decision to halt talks with the insurgent group pushes Afghanistan toward a fragile — and possibly violent — presidential ballot in less than three weeks.

2. HURRICANE SURVIVORS STRUGGLE TO START NEW LIFE IN BAHAMAS

Thousands descend on the capital, Nassau, facing the need to start new lives after Dorian but with few ideas on how or where to begin.

3. HOW TRUMP VIEWS A WORLD RUN BY DEMOCRATS

The president uses a North Carolina rally to paint a bleak picture of a nation he claimed would be over-run with crime, poverty and immigrants.

4. PYONGYANG USING DIFFERENT PRESSURE TACTICS

Since late July, North Korea has been testing shorter-range missiles and artillery — weapons that could possibly hit rivals South Korea and Japan, but not the U.S. mainland.

5. SYRIA'S 'CALIPHATE' TOWN STILL FINDING THE DEAD

First responders say they have pulled nearly 20 bodies out of the latest mass grave uncovered in Raqqa — the 16th mass grave discovered in the de facto capital of the Islamic State group.

6. WHAT KASHMIRIS ARE ALLEGING

Villagers accuse Indian troops of raiding their homes in an apparent campaign of intimidation, inflicting beatings and electric shocks and poisoning food supplies.

7. BIG TECH FACES NEW SET OF FOES

Google and Facebook are facing a scrappy new coalition of U.S. states looking into possible monopolistic behavior.

8. WHERE VIOLENCE AGAINST TRANSGENDER WOMEN IS ON THE RISE

Mexico has become the world's second deadliest country after Brazil for transgender people, with 261 transgender women slain in 2013-2018, a recent study finds.

9. 2020 HOPEFULS HOPE TO GET OUT THE VOTE

Many Democratic presidential candidates want to turn dissatisfaction with Trump on Iowa's campuses into votes on caucus night.

10. SAINTS PULL OUT STUNNER

Wil Lutz makes a 58-yard field goal as time expires to lift New Orleans to a 30-28 victory over Houston in game that had three scoring plays in the final minute.

Fourth and final crewman pulled alive from capsized ship

By JEFF AMY and STEPHEN MORTON Associated Press

JEKYLL ISLAND, Ga. (AP) — Coast Guard rescuers pulled four trapped men alive from a capsized cargo ship Monday, drilling into the hull's steel plates to extract the crew members more than a day after their vessel overturned while leaving a Georgia port.

All four were described as alert and in relatively good condition and were taken to a hospital for further evaluation.

"Best day of my 16-year career," Lt. Lloyd Heflin, who was coordinating the effort, wrote in a text message to The Associated Press.

A video posted online by the Coast Guard showed responders clapping and cheering as the final man, wearing only shorts, climbed out of a hole in the hull and stood up.

Three of the South Korean crew members came out in the midafternoon. The fourth man, who was trapped in a separate compartment, emerged three hours later.

The rescues followed nearly 36 hours of work after the Golden Ray, a giant ship that carries automobiles, rolled onto its side early Sunday as it was leaving Brunswick, bound for Baltimore.

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"All crew members are accounted for," Coast Guard Southeast wrote on Twitter. "Operations will now shift fully to environmental protection, removing the vessel and resuming commerce."

South Korean President Moon Jae-in sent a letter to President Donald Trump to express gratitude over the successful rescue of the men, saying that the news brought "huge relief and joy" to South Koreans.

The presidential Blue House said Moon also sent a letter to U.S. Coast Guard Commandant Karl Schultz and praised the "courage and dedication" of Coast Guard members involved in the rescue.

In the hours immediately after the accident, the Coast Guard lifted 20 crew members into helicopters before determining that smoke and flames and unstable cargo made it too risky to venture further inside the vessel. Officials were concerned that some of the 4,000 vehicles aboard may have broken loose.

That left responders looking for the remaining four crew members. At first, rescuers thought the noises they were hearing inside could be some of the vehicles crashing around. But by dawn Monday, they were confident that the taps were responses to their own taps, indicating someone was alive inside.

"It was outstanding when I heard the news this morning that we had taps back throughout the night," Capt. John Reed said. Those sounds helped lead rescuers to the right place on the 656-foot (200 meter) vessel and provided motivation.

"They were charged up knowing the people were alive," Reed said.

On Monday morning, rescuers landed on the side of the Golden Ray and rappelled down the hull. Heflin, who was coordinating the search, said they found three men in a room close to the propeller shaft, near the bottom of the stern. Responders began drilling, starting with a 3-inch (7.5-centimeter) hole. Coast Guard officials brought the ship's chief engineer, who was rescued Sunday, out to the ship to translate, and found the three men were "on board and OK," as Heflin put it.

Reed said rescuers passed food and water through the hole to the men. They also provided fresh air to the propeller room, which Reed said was even hotter than outside, where the high was 93 degrees (34 Celsius).

Responders set up a tent on the hull and began drilling additional holes, eventually making an opening large enough to insert a ladder and help the men climb out.

"It was like connect the dots," Reed said of the hole, which grew to 2 feet by 3 feet (0.6 meters by 1 meter).

The fourth rescue was a greater challenge. That crewman was behind glass in a separate engineering compartment on another deck, Reed said.

The Golden Ray is now stuck in the shipping channel, closing one of the busiest U.S. seaports for shipping automobiles. One ship is unable to leave port and four more are lined up outside waiting to come in, according to ship-tracking website Marine Traffic.

A statement issued Monday by the South Korea foreign ministry said the crew members were isolated in an engine room. It said 10 South Koreans and 13 Filipinos had been on board, along with a U.S. harbor pilot, when the ship began tilting.

Position records for the Golden Ray show the ship arrived in port in Brunswick Saturday evening after making the short sail from a prior stop in Jacksonville, Florida. The ship then departed the dock in Brunswick shortly after midnight and was underway only 23 minutes before its movement stopped in the mouth of the harbor where it capsized, according to satellite data recorded by Marine Traffic.

Port officials were "working closely with the Coast Guard to reopen the channel," Georgia Ports Authority Executive Director Griff Lynch said in a statement after the final man was rescued.

The cause of the capsizing remains under investigation. Marine Traffic shows the Golden Ray overturned as it was passed by another car carrier entering St. Simons Sound.

At the time, the skies were clear and the weather calm, with a southerly breeze of only 5 miles per hour, according to National Weather Service records.

Many of those rescued were taken to the International Seafarers' Center in Brunswick. Sailors arrived with only what they were wearing when rescued. A restaurant donated a meal, and the volunteer-run center provided the seamen with clothes, toiletries and Bibles.

The vessel is owned by Hyundai Glovis, which carries cars for automakers Hyundai and Kia as well as others.

In a statement, the company thanked the Coast Guard for saving the crew and sought to assure the public that it would now focus on "mitigating damage to property and the environment."

Amy reported from Atlanta. Associated Press Writer Michael Biesecker contributed from Washington.

Big Tech faces a new set of foes: nearly all 50 US states

By MATT O'BRIEN AP Technology Writer

Big tech companies have long rebuffed attempts by the U.S. federal government to scrutinize or scale back their market power. Now they face a scrappy new coalition as well: prosecutors from nearly all 50 states.

In a rare show of bipartisan force, attorneys general from 48 states along with Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia are investigating whether Google's huge online search and advertising business is engaging in monopolistic behavior. The Texas-led antitrust investigation of Google, announced Monday, follows a separate multistate investigation of Facebook's market dominance that was revealed Friday.

The state moves follow similar sweeping antitrust tech investigations launched by the Federal Trade Commission and the Trump administration's Department of Justice; the Democrat-led House Judiciary Committee is conducting a similar probe. But should federal officials tire of their work, the state-led efforts could keep them on their toes.

States have worked closely together on other matters, such as the fight to curb opioid abuse. But the sheer number participating in this kind of antitrust effort is unprecedented and gives it more weight, said Utah Attorney General Sean Reyes, a Republican.

"It's just an accumulation of public frustration, whether it's from consumers, other players in the market, regulators, lawmakers," Reyes said in an interview Monday.

Fiona Scott Morton, a Yale economics professor and former antitrust official at the Justice Department under the Obama administration, said it's important that states are taking the lead because the Trump administration is "not really enforcing antitrust law except against companies the president is upset with."

She noted the Trump administration's unsuccessful push to use antitrust law to block AT&T's acquisition of Time Warner, which owns CNN, a frequent target of Trump's criticism; and Friday's announcement that federal antitrust enforcers would investigate automakers that worked with California on tougher emissions limits.

"That's not what consumers want," she said. "Consumers want to be protected from anticompetitive conduct."

States haven't seriously taken up antitrust enforcement — using laws originally crafted to combat railroad and oil barons in the 19th century — since a major antitrust case against Microsoft about two decades ago. Then, state leadership helped propel federal action.

Back in 2016, Reyes and a Democratic counterpart, Washington, D.C. Attorney General Karl Racine, tried unsuccessfully to get the Federal Trade Commission to reopen an earlier investigation into Google for allegedly favoring its own products in search results.

The FTC declined, leaving European regulators to take the lead in similar probes overseas, Reyes said.

Google's parent company, Alphabet, has a market value of more than \$820 billion and controls so many facets of the internet that it's almost impossible to surf the web for long without running into at least one of its services. Google's dominance in online search and advertising enables it to target millions of consumers for their personal data.

The company — and peers such as Amazon, Facebook and Apple — have long argued that although their businesses are large, they are useful and beneficial to consumers. Influenced by the popularity of the companies' ubiquitous tech products and their significant lobbying power, most American political leaders didn't challenge that view.

But the public debate over the tech industry has changed dramatically since Reyes and Racine sent their

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letter to the FTC at the end of the Obama administration three years ago. Culprits in that shift include Facebook's Cambridge Analytica privacy scandal, in which a political data mining firm affiliated with Donald Trump's presidential campaign improperly accessed the personal data of as many as 87 million users.

On Monday, Reyes and Racine joined forces again — this time flanked by nearly a dozen mostly Republican state attorneys general on the steps of the Supreme Court and dozens more from both parties who signed onto the formal investigation.

"Ignoring 50 AGs is a lot more difficult than ignoring two AGs," Reyes said. "DC and Utah had raised these issues but didn't feel we had enough firepower or resources on our own."

Scott Morton, the Yale professor, said most states have laws that mimic federal antitrust laws, but it can be harder for state attorneys general to enforce those laws because they don't usually have in-house antitrust experts. They can get around that, she added, by working together with other states and hiring shared experts.

Reyes emphasized that the state-led effort is not "anti-tech," and argued it is "actually for the benefit of the tech ecosystem to help level the playing field."

He said there's nothing wrong with Google being the dominant search player if it's done fairly, but the investigation will look into whether Google crosses the line "between aggressive business practices and illegal ones."

A tech trade association that has supported some antitrust measures expressed wariness about how states are proceeding.

"We hope the investigations will be law and evidence-based and will restrain from overly politicizing these inquiries, and that both companies and authorities will work together in good faith," said Ed Black, president and CEO of the Communications Computer and Communications Industry Association.

Associated Press writers Rachel Lerman in San Francisco and Marcy Gordon in Washington contributed to this report.

Report: Schumacher treated in secrecy in Paris hospital

PARIS (AP) — Seven-time Formula One champion Michael Schumacher has been admitted to a Paris hospital to be treated Tuesday with cutting-edge stem-cell therapy, according to a French newspaper.

The Paris hospitals authority, citing France's strict medical privacy rules, said it could not comment on the report in *Le Parisien* that Schumacher was admitted under tight guard Monday to the Georges-Pompidou hospital for transfusions of inflammation-reducing stem cells.

The newspaper said the 50-year-old German, who suffered a near-fatal brain injury in a 2013 skiing accident in the French Alps, was expected to be discharged on Wednesday.

His long-time manager, Sabine Kehm, had no comment.

Following the accident, Schumacher's condition stabilized after he was placed in a drug-induced coma, from which he later emerged. Since September 2014, he has been cared for at home on the shores of Lake Geneva.

Le Parisien, citing sources it did not name, said Schumacher has been treated at least twice previously at the Georges-Pompidou hospital, admitted each time under a false name and treated by a small medical team.

Le Parisien published a photo of a yellow and blue ambulance with Geneva plates that it said drove Schumacher to the hospital on Monday afternoon. Inside, he was taken to a first-floor cardiovascular unit on a gurney with a dark-blue covering that hid his face and body.

The paper said about 10 security agents, some equipped with earphones, watched over the patient.

Schumacher's family fiercely protects his privacy. Thick forest around his castle-like home and high surrounding walls provide sanctuary from fan and media intrusion.

Schumacher won a record 91 Formula One races before retiring in 2012. He was skiing with his son Mick — who now races in F2 — when he fell on Dec. 29, 2013.

He hit the right side of his head on a rock, splitting open his helmet. Doctors worked frantically to remove blood clots from his brain, but some were left because they were too deeply embedded.

More AP auto racing: <https://racing.ap.org> and https://twitter.com/AP_Sports

Johnson suspends UK Parliament after latest Brexit defeat

By JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Prime Minister Boris Johnson has succeeded in his plan to suspend Britain's rebellious Parliament for five weeks, but he has achieved little else in his first prolonged jousting with legislators determined to prevent a no-deal Brexit.

The simmering showdown between Johnson and Parliament over Brexit came to a head as lawmakers delivered three defeats to the government's plans for leaving the European Union, before being sent home early Tuesday for a contentious five-week suspension of the legislature.

In a session that ran well past midnight, Parliament ordered the government to release private communications about its Brexit plans and rejected Johnson's call for a snap election to break the political deadlock.

Parliament was then suspended — or prorogued — at the government's request until Oct. 14, a drastic move that gives Johnson a respite from rebellious lawmakers as he plots his next move.

Opponents accuse him of trying to avoid democratic scrutiny. What is usually a solemn, formal prorogation ceremony erupted into raucous scenes as opposition lawmakers in the House of Commons chamber shouted "Shame on you" and held up signs reading "Silenced."

Commons Speaker John Bercow expressed his displeasure at Parliament's suspension, saying "this is not a standard or normal prorogation."

"It's one of the longest for decades and it represents an act of executive fiat," he said.

The prime minister has had a turbulent week since Parliament returned from its summer break on Sept. 3. He kicked 21 lawmakers out of the Conservative group in Parliament after they sided with the opposition, and saw two ministers quit his government — one of them his own brother.

Parliament's suspension ended a day of blows to the embattled Johnson. First an opposition-backed measure designed to stop Britain from crashing out of the EU on Oct. 31 without a divorce deal became law after receiving the formal assent of Queen Elizabeth II. The law compels the government to ask the EU for a three-month delay if no deal has been agreed by Oct. 19.

Johnson says the country's delayed exit must happen at the end of October, with or without a divorce agreement to smooth the way. But many lawmakers fear a no-deal Brexit would be economically devastating, and are determined to stop him.

"I will not ask for another delay," Johnson said. But he has few easy ways out of it. His options — all of them extreme — include disobeying the law, which could land him in court or even prison, and resigning so that someone else would have to ask for a delay.

Legislators also demanded the government release, by Wednesday, emails and text messages among aides and officials relating to suspending Parliament and planning for Brexit amid allegations that the suspension is being used to circumvent democracy.

Under parliamentary rules, the government is obliged to release the documents.

In a statement, the government said it would "consider the implications of this vote and respond in due course."

Then, early Tuesday, lawmakers rebuffed, for a second time, Johnson's request for an early election, which he said was "the only way to break the deadlock in the House."

Opposition parties voted against the measure or abstained, denying Johnson the two-thirds majority he needed. They want to make sure a no-deal departure is blocked before agreeing to an election.

"We're eager for an election, but as keen as we are we, we are not prepared to inflict the disaster of a no deal on our communities, our jobs, our services, or indeed our rights," Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn said.

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Johnson acknowledged Monday that a no-deal Brexit "would be a failure of statecraft" for which he would be partially to blame.

On a visit to Dublin, Johnson said he would "overwhelmingly prefer to find an agreement" and believed a deal could be struck by Oct. 18, when leaders of all 28 EU countries hold a summit in Brussels.

The comments marked a change of tone, if not substance, for Johnson, who is accused by opponents of driving Britain at full-tilt toward a cliff-edge Brexit.

Meanwhile, Bercow, whose control of business in the House of Commons has made him a central player in the Brexit drama, announced he would step down after a decade in the job.

The colorful speaker, famous for his loud ties and even louder cries of "Order!" during raucous debates, told lawmakers he will quit the same day Britain is due to leave the EU, Oct. 31.

Throughout the three years since Britain voted to leave the EU, Bercow has angered the Conservative government by repeatedly allowing lawmakers to seize control of Parliament's agenda to steer the course of Brexit.

He said he was simply fulfilling his role of being the "backbenchers' backstop" and letting Parliament have its say.

"Throughout my time as speaker, I have sought to increase the relative authority of this legislature, for which I will make absolutely no apology," he said.

Associated Press writer Gregory Katz contributed to this story.

Follow AP's full coverage of Brexit and British politics at: <https://www.apnews.com/Brexit>

Hurricane survivors struggle to start new life in Bahamas

By DÁNICA COTO Associated Press

NASSAU, Bahamas (AP) — Thousands of hurricane survivors are filing off boats and planes in the capital of the Bahamas, facing the need to start new lives after Hurricane Dorian but with little ideas on how or where to begin.

Some sat in hotel lobbies as they debated their next steps. Others were bused to shelters jammed to capacity. Some got rides from friends or family who offered a temporary place to stay on New Providence, an island of some 13,000 residents that has never seen so many people arrive on its shores in recent history.

Carla Ferguson, a 51-year-old resident of Treasure Cay, walked out of a small airport in Nassau with her daughter and other relatives late Monday afternoon and looked around as the sun set.

"We don't know where we're going to stay," she said. "We don't know."

Ferguson and her family had one large duffel bag and three plastic storage boxes, most of them stuffed with donated clothes they received before leaving their tiny, devastated island.

"No one deserves to go through this," said her daughter, 30-year-old Dimple Lightbourne, blinking away tears.

The government has estimated that up to 10,000 people from the Abaco islands alone, including Treasure Cay, will need food, water and temporary housing as officials consider setting up tent or container cities while they clear the country's ravaged northern region of debris so people can eventually return.

Getting back to Abaco is the dream of Betty Edmond, a 43-year-old cook who picked at some fries Monday night while with her son and husband in a restaurant at a Nassau hotel, where her nephew is paying for their stay.

They arrived in Nassau on Saturday night after a six-hour boat trip from Abaco and plan to fly to South Florida on Wednesday, thanks to plane tickets bought by friends who will provide them a temporary home until they can find jobs. But the goal is to return, Edmond said.

"Home will always be home," she said. "Every day you wish you could go back."

"You try to keep your hopes up, but ...," she added, her voice trailing off as she shook her head.

The upheaval, however, was exciting to her 8-year-old son, Kayden Monestime, who said he was looking

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forward to going to a mall, McDonald's and Foot Locker.

Instead of starting school Monday, as had been scheduled before the Category 5 storm hit, Monestime spent the day accompanying his parents to the bank and a shelter as they prepared for the move to the U.S.

Also flying to Florida was 41-year-old Shaneka Russell, who owned Smacky's Takeaway, a takeout restaurant known for its cracked conch that opened in 2005 and was named after the noises her son made as a baby. Russell's mother once ran the place, which was destroyed by Dorian.

On Monday, she sat in a white plastic chair under a white plastic tarp as she waited for her 13-year-old son to arrive from Abaco.

Russell said good Samaritans had taken her and a group of people into their home over the weekend and found them a hotel room in Nassau for a couple of days.

"To know that we were going to a hotel, with electricity and air conditioning and a proper shower, I cried," she said. "I've never been through anything like this in my life."

Dorian slammed into Great Abaco and Grand Bahama islands a week ago as one of the strongest Atlantic hurricanes ever, killing at least 44 people, with emergency workers saying they expect to find more victims.

Members of the Gainesville, Florida, fire department were checking the ruins of The Mudd, the Bahamas' largest Haitian immigrant community on Great Abaco.

"We've probably hit at most one-tenth of this area, and so far we found five human remains," said Joseph Hillhouse, assistant chief of Gainesville Fire Rescue. "I would say based off of our sample size, we're going to see more."

After U.S. teams recovered some bodies, Bahamas police and medical authorities moved in to conduct autopsies and fly the bodies south to Nassau.

"There are still more bodies," said Genoise Arnold, a resident of The Mudd, who knew of at least three neighbors killed during the storm.

Arnold said one neighbor clung to a tree during Dorian and succumbed to flood waters that surged through the low-lying neighborhood. Others were caught under their homes when winds turned the structures into splinters, leaving the cowering residents exposed, he said.

The huge debris piles left by the storm are challenging for search and recovery teams, which cannot use bulldozers or other heavy equipment to search for the dead. That makes recovery and identification a slow process.

At least five deaths have been blamed on the storm in the southeastern United States and one in Puerto Rico.

Lightbourne, the Abaco resident now in Nassau, said she couldn't wait to escape the disaster Dorian left behind.

"I don't want to see the Bahamas for a while. It's stressful," she said. "I want to go to America. ...This is a new chapter. I've ripped all the pages out. Just give me a new book to fill out."

Associated Press writer Gonzalo Gaudenzi in Abaco contributed to this report.

North Korea fires 2 projectiles after offering talks with US

By HYUNG-JIN KIM Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea launched two projectiles toward the sea on Tuesday, South Korea's military said, hours after the North offered to resume nuclear diplomacy with the United States but warned its dealings with Washington may end without new U.S. proposals.

The launches and demand for new proposals were apparently aimed at pressuring the United States to make concessions when the North Korea-U.S. talks restart. North Korea is widely believed to want the United States to provide security guarantees and extensive relief from U.S.-led sanctions in return for limited denuclearization steps.

The North Korean projectiles fired from its South Phyongan province, which surrounds its capital city of

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Pyongyang, flew about 330 kilometers (205 miles) across the country and in the direction of the waters off its east coast, according to South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff and Defense Ministry.

The military said South Korea will monitor possible additional launches. The JCS didn't immediately say whether the weapons were ballistic missiles or rocket artillery. "More detailed analysis is needed to determine the exact specifications," JCS spokesman Kim Joon-rak said.

Tuesday's launches were the eighth round of launches since late July and the first since Aug. 24. The previous seven launches have revealed short-range missile and rocket artillery systems that experts say would potentially expand its capabilities to strike targets throughout South Korea, including U.S. military bases.

On Monday night, the North's first vice foreign minister, Choe Son Hui, said North Korea is willing to resume nuclear diplomacy in late September but that Washington must come to the negotiating table with acceptable new proposals. She said if the proposals don't satisfy North Korea, dealings between the two countries may end.

President Donald Trump called North Korea's announcement "interesting."

"We'll see what happens," Trump said. "In the meantime, we have our hostages back, we're getting the remains of our great heroes back and we've had no nuclear testing for a long time."

The White House said it was aware of the new reports of projectiles being launched from North Korea and was continuing to monitor the situation and consulting with its allies in the region.

South Korea's presidential office said national security adviser Chung Eui-yong presided over an emergency National Security Council meeting where officials expressed "strong concern" over the continuing short-range launches by the North.

Japan's defense ministry said the projectiles did not land in Japan's territorial waters or its exclusive economic zone and there was no indication the launches posed a direct threat to Japan's security.

"We believe North Korea is upgrading its (missile) technology by repeatedly firing missiles," said Japanese Defense Minister Takeshi Iwaya. "We consider this a serious problem and will continue to monitor the development, while ensuring the functioning of warning and surveillance activity."

In the late-night statement carried by state media, Choe said North Korea is willing to sit down with the United States "for comprehensive discussions in late September of the issues we have so far taken up, at a time and place to be agreed."

Choe said she hopes the United States will bring "a proposal geared to the interests of the DPRK and the U.S. and based on decision methods acceptable to us." DPRK stands for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the North's official name.

She warned that "if the U.S. side fingers again the worn-out scenario which has nothing to do with new decision methods at the DPRK-U.S. working negotiation to be held with so much effort, the DPRK-U.S. dealings may come to an end."

Kim Dong-yub, an analyst at Seoul's Institute for Far Eastern Studies, said the North likely tested one of the new weapons systems it demonstrated in July and August. They include a mobile short-range ballistic missile system that experts say resembled an enlarged version of the U.S. Army Tactical Missile System and a "super-large" multiple rocket system the North tested on Aug. 24.

Kim said the North was apparently trying to increase its bargaining power by pairing its dialogue offer with short-range launches, sending a message to Trump that it could potentially tests bigger weapons if the United States refuses to make major concessions.

Talks on North Korea's nuclear disarmament fell apart in February when Trump rejected North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's demand for sweeping sanctions relief in return for partial disarmament at their second summit in Vietnam.

It was a huge embarrassment for the young North Korean leader, who made a dayslong train trip to the Vietnamese capital to obtain the sanctions relief he needs to revitalize his country's troubled economy.

In April, Kim said he was open to another summit with Trump but set the end of the year as a deadline for the U.S. to offer improved terms for an agreement to revive the nuclear diplomacy.

Kim and Trump met again at the Korean border in late June and agreed to restart diplomacy, but there

have no public meetings between the sides since then.

Associated Press writers Kim Tong-hyung in Seoul and Mari Yamaguchi in Tokyo contributed to this report.

Analysis: North Korean tests put pressure on Washington

By FOSTER KLUG Associated Press

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP) — Another week, another North Korean weapons test.

North Korea's relentless, carefully calibrated barrage of firepower — Tuesday's test was its eighth since late July — has managed to normalize a martial display of defiance that not too long ago raised fears of war in one of the most dangerous corners of the world.

The tests, which have been repeatedly dismissed by President Donald Trump as routine, are just the latest bit of proof that North Korea, a small, fiercely proud, totalitarian nation surrounded by big neighboring powers that are often unfriendly, is a master at getting a lot from a little.

North Korea has done this, in part, by testing shorter-range missiles and artillery. That means weapons that could possibly hit rivals South Korea and Japan — but, and this is key, not the U.S. mainland, as the longer-range weapons it tested in 2017 were designed to do.

This strategy allows the North to perfect its growing short-range arsenal's technology, stealth and maneuverability.

But it also sends two simultaneous and crucial, from its point of view, signals to the United States: By avoiding Trump's red line of tests of long-range missiles or nuclear bombs, it keeps alive the possibility of a return to disarmament talks that Pyongyang hopes will provide it with relief from crushing international sanctions imposed as it boosted its missile and nuclear capabilities over the last several years. It also clearly reminds Washington that if the North does not get what it wants from negotiations, the resumption of tests of much scarier weapons is a real possibility.

Tuesday's test has still not been fully analyzed by outside experts, but it appears to fit a pattern.

The previous tests have revealed short-range missile and rocket artillery systems that could expand North Korea's ability to strike targets throughout South Korea, including U.S. military bases there.

The one wrinkle this time: The most recent test came hours after the North offered to resume nuclear diplomacy with the United States — but only if Washington shows it has changed its approach since the failed nuclear summit between Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Hanoi, Vietnam, in February.

"On the one hand, it's a classic good cop, bad cop routine," Vipin Narang, a North Korea nuclear specialist at MIT, said in a message. "On the other hand, it may be aimed at improving or perfecting certain technologies before talks begin, for technical reasons."

The Hanoi meeting fell apart when Trump rejected Kim's demand for sweeping sanctions relief in return for partial disarmament.

Besides playing well in North Korean domestic propaganda aimed at showing strength in the face of outside pressure, the tests allow the North to demonstrate improvements in mobility, solid fuel, speed and in tricky flight patterns that could dodge regional missile defense systems.

"If some of those technologies and concepts eventually find themselves in the long-range systems, they can develop a much more responsive and penetrative and dangerous missile force against Japan, U.S. bases and the homeland," Narang said, adding that the missiles, taken together, could "pose a nightmare."

"Imagine a lot of these different types of missiles being fired at once — identifying, characterizing, and tracking them, something that (South Korea) seems to have had trouble doing ... let alone intercepting all of them, may be an insurmountable challenge," he said.

So what does North Korea want from a resumption of talks with Washington?

First off, security guarantees from the United States, which it accuses of a hostile policy that aims to overthrow its government. And in return for limited nuclear disarmament steps, it is pushing for an easing of harsh U.S.-led sanctions that outside analysts believe may be damaging the country's already battered economy.

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Hours ahead of Tuesday's launch, the North's first vice foreign minister, Choe Son Hui, said that North Korea is willing to resume nuclear diplomacy with the United States in late September, but that Washington must come to the negotiating table with acceptable new proposals. She said if the proposals don't satisfy North Korea, dealings between the two countries may come to an end.

Trump called North Korea's announcement "interesting."

North Korea has so far avoided the kind of long-range missile tests that in 2017 had Trump and Kim threatening each other with war and trading crude insults.

But the recent short-range tests may put a different sort of pressure on Washington by raising "tensions in a way that creates a heightened sense of urgency behind getting a diplomatic deal on North Korea's own terms," said Mintaro Oba, a former Korea expert at the U.S. State Department.

There's a danger to this tactic, however.

"North Korea conducting missile tests is sort of the geopolitical equivalent of the boy who cried wolf," Oba said in an email. "The more North Korea conducts these very calculated tests, the less credibility we attach to the threat that North Korea would actually use nuclear weapons."

"North Korea," he said, "has to tread the line between using these tests to gain leverage and getting Washington so acclimated to this tactic that it has increasingly little impact."

EDITOR'S NOTE — Foster Klug, AP's news director for the Koreas, Japan and the South Pacific, has covered North Korea since 2005. Follow him at www.twitter.com/apklug

Trump says peace talks with Taliban are now 'dead'

By **ROBERT BURNS, DEB RIECHMANN and MATTHEW LEE Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. peace talks with the Taliban are now "dead," President Donald Trump declared Monday, two days after he abruptly canceled a secret meeting he had arranged with Taliban and Afghan leaders aimed at ending America's longest war.

Trump's remark to reporters at the White House suggested he sees no point in resuming a nearly year-long effort to reach a political settlement with the Taliban, whose protection of al-Qaida extremists in Afghanistan prompted the U.S. to invade after the 9/11 attacks.

Asked about the peace talks, Trump said: "They're dead. They're dead. As far as I'm concerned, they're dead."

It's unclear whether Trump will go ahead with planned U.S. troop cuts and how the collapse of his talks will play out in deeply divided Afghanistan.

Trump said his administration is "looking at" whether to proceed with troop reductions that had been one element of the preliminary deal with the Taliban struck by presidential envoy Zalmay Khalilzad.

"We'd like to get out, but we'll get out at the right time," Trump said.

What had seemed like a potential deal to end America's longest war unraveled, with Trump and the Taliban blaming each other for the collapse of nearly a year of U.S.-Taliban negotiations in Doha, Qatar.

The insurgents are now promising more bloodshed, and American advocates of withdrawing from the battlefield questioned on Monday whether Trump's decision to cancel what he called plans for a secret meeting with Taliban and Afghan leaders at the Camp David, Maryland, presidential retreat over the weekend had poisoned the prospects for peace.

"The Camp David ploy appears to have been an attempt to satisfy Trump's obsession with carefully curated public spectacles -- to seal the deal, largely produced by special envoy Zalmay Khalilzad and Taliban negotiators, with the president's imprimatur," said John Glaser director of foreign policy studies at the Cato Institute.

Trump has been talking of a need to withdraw U.S. troops from the "endless war" in Afghanistan since his 2016 presidential campaign. And he said anew in a tweet on Monday, "We have been serving as policemen in Afghanistan, and that was not meant to be the job of our Great Soldiers, the finest on earth."

He added, without explanation, "Over the last four days, we have been hitting our Enemy harder than

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at any time in the last ten years.”

There has been no evidence of a major U.S. military escalation.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo defended Trump’s weekend moves.

“When the Taliban tried to gain negotiating advantage by conducting terror attacks inside of the country, President Trump made the right decision to say that’s not going to work,” Pompeo said Sunday.

Trump said he called off negotiations because of a recent Taliban bombing in Kabul that killed a U.S. service member, even though nine other Americans have died since June 25 in Taliban-orchestrated violence. But the emerging agreement had started unraveling days earlier after Afghan President Ashraf Ghani postponed his trip to Washington and the Taliban refused to travel to the U.S. before a deal was signed, according to a former senior Afghan official.

As Trump’s re-election campaign heats up, his quest to withdraw the remaining 13,000 to 14,000 U.S. troops from Afghanistan remains unfulfilled — so far.

At the Pentagon, spokesman Jonathan Hoffman declined Monday to comment on the outlook for the administration’s plan to reduce the U.S. troop level in Afghanistan to 8,600.

Democrats said Trump’s decision to nix a deal with the Taliban was evidence that he was moving too quickly to get one. Far from guaranteeing a cease-fire, the deal only included Taliban commitments to reduce violence in Kabul and neighboring Parwan province, where the U.S. has a military base.

The Taliban have refused to negotiate with the Afghan government it sees as illegitimate and a puppet of the West. So, the Trump administration tried another approach, negotiating with the Taliban first to get a deal that would lead to Taliban talks with Afghans inside and outside the government.

Some administration officials, including national security adviser John Bolton, did not back the agreement with the Taliban as it was written, a U.S. official familiar with the negotiations said. They didn’t think the Taliban can be trusted. Bolton advised the president to draw down the U.S. force to 8,600 — enough to counter terror threats — and “let it be” until a better deal could be hammered out, the official said.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss private deliberations.

Khalilzad, the lead U.S. negotiator, recently announced that he had reached an agreement in principle with the Taliban. Under the deal, the U.S. would withdraw about 5,000 U.S. troops within 135 days of signing. In exchange, the insurgents agreed to reduce violence and prevent Afghanistan from being used as a launch pad for global terror attacks, including from a local Islamic State affiliate and al-Qaida.

Pompeo said the Taliban agreed to break with al-Qaida — something that past administrations have failed to get the Taliban to do.

The insurgent group hosted al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden as he masterminded the 9/11 attacks in 2001. After the attacks, the U.S. ousted the Taliban, which had ruled Afghanistan with a harsh version of Islamic law from 1996 to 2000.

But problems quickly emerged. On Thursday, a second Taliban car bomb exploded near the U.S. Embassy in Kabul, killing 12 people including a U.S. soldier. Khalilzad abruptly returned to Doha, Qatar, for more negotiations with the Taliban. He has since been recalled to Washington.

It’s unclear if the talks will resume because the Taliban won’t trust future deals they negotiate with the U.S. if they think Trump might then change course, according to the former senior Afghan official, who was not authorized to discuss the issue and spoke only on condition of anonymity. The official, who has discussed the peace process with U.S. and Afghan officials, said Khalilzad’s team was not aware of Trump’s plans to tweet the end of the talks Saturday evening.

Trump’s suspension of the negotiations “will harm America more than anyone else,” the Taliban said in a statement.

The former Afghan official said the deal fell apart for two main reasons. First, the Taliban refused to sign an agreement that didn’t state the end date for a complete withdrawal of American forces. That date was to be either November 2020, the same month of the U.S. presidential election, or January 2021, he said.

The U.S.-Taliban agreement was to be followed by Taliban talks with Afghans inside and outside the government to chart a political future for the country. Ghani told Khalilzad that putting a withdrawal date in the agreement would undermine the all-Afghan discourse before it began.

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Secondly, the U.S. was unsuccessful in convincing Ghani to postpone the Afghan presidential election set for Sept. 28, the official said. The U.S. argued that if the elections were held and Ghani won, his opponents and other anti-Ghani factions would protest the results, creating a political crisis that would make the all-Afghan talks untenable. Other disagreements included why the deal did not address the Taliban's linkages to Pakistan and prisoner-hostage exchanges, the official said.

Associated Press writers Cara Anna and Rahim Faiez in Kabul; Jonathan Lemire in Washington, and Julie Walker with AP Radio contributed to this report.

Judge reinstates nationwide halt on Trump asylum policy plan

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — A U.S. judge in California on Monday reinstated a nationwide halt on the Trump administration's plan to prevent most migrants from seeking asylum at the U.S.-Mexico border.

U.S. District Judge Jon Tigar ruled in Oakland that an injunction blocking the administration's policy from taking effect should apply nationwide.

Tigar blocked the policy in July after a lawsuit by groups that help asylum seekers. But the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals limited the impact of Tigar's injunction to states within the area overseen by the appeals court.

That meant the policy was blocked in the border states of California and Arizona but not in New Mexico and Texas.

In his ruling, Tigar stressed a "need to maintain uniform immigration policy" and found that nonprofit organizations such as Al Otro Lado don't know where asylum seekers who enter the U.S. will end up living and making their case to remain in the country.

"The court recognized there is grave danger facing asylum-seekers along the entire stretch of the southern border," Lee Gelernt, an attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union, said in a statement.

Trump said he disagreed with the judge's ruling.

"I think it's very unfair that he does that," Trump told reporters as he departed the White House for a trip to North Carolina. "I don't think it should be allowed."

White House Press Secretary Stephanie Grisham said in a statement that a sole judge shouldn't have the ability to exert such a broad impact on immigration policy, and noted the administration's request to the Supreme Court to set aside the injunction is still pending.

"This ruling is a gift to human smugglers and traffickers and undermines the rule of law," she said.

The courts have halted some of Trump's key policy shifts on immigration, including an earlier version of an asylum ban. The president has prevailed on several fronts after initial legal setbacks, for example, when the Supreme Court recently lifted a freeze on using Pentagon money to build border walls.

The rules issued by the Trump administration in July apply to most migrants who pass through another country before reaching the United States. They target tens of thousands of Central Americans fleeing violence and poverty who cross Mexico each month to seek asylum and would affect asylum seekers from Africa, Asia and South America who arrive regularly at the southern border.

The shift reversed decades of U.S. policy in what Trump administration officials said was an attempt to close the gap between an initial asylum screening that most people pass and a final decision on asylum that most people do not win.

U.S. law allows refugees to request asylum when they get to the U.S. regardless of how they arrive or cross. The crucial exception is for those who have come through a country considered to be "safe," but the law is vague on how a country is determined to be safe. It says pursuant to a bilateral or multilateral agreement.

People are generally eligible for asylum in the U.S. if they fear return to their home country because they would be persecuted based on race, religion, nationality or membership in a particular social group.

The Border Patrol apprehended about 50,000 people at the southern border in August, a 30 percent drop in arrests from July amid summer heat and an aggressive crackdown on both sides of the border to

deter migrants.

Associated Press writers Elliot Spagat in San Diego and Darlene Superville in Washington contributed to this report.

For 9/11 families, mixed views on Trump-Taliban talks

By JENNIFER PELTZ and LARRY NEUMEISTER Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — If President Donald Trump's now-canceled plan for secret talks with Afghanistan's Taliban insurgents on U.S. soil was stunning, the date chosen was perhaps even more so: days before the anniversary of 9/11, the reason for the war they were going to talk about ending.

Sept. 11 victims' relatives and first responders digested the news Monday with mixed feelings. Several called the timing unfortunate but the idea of talks worthwhile, a potential path toward peace for Afghans and Americans weary of Washington's longest war.

"I don't want to see other families suffer the way I did. That's the bottom line. Not soldiers or innocent victims of terrorism," said Jim Riches, a retired New York deputy fire chief who responded to the terror 2001 attacks and lost his son, Jimmy, a fellow firefighter.

Rosaleen Tallon was angry — though not at the U.S.-Taliban negotiations. She sees the Afghan Islamic militants as "small fish" compared with the nation she feels hasn't been held sufficiently accountable for 9/11: Saudi Arabia.

"We're not really getting at 9/11. That makes my blood boil," said Tallon, who lost her brother, probationary firefighter Sean Tallon.

Tallon wants U.S. troops home, and she really wants the U.S. government to do more to probe allegations, which she and others have raised in a lawsuit, that Saudi government employees knowingly assisting the hijacking plot. Riyadh denies it.

Trump tweeted Saturday that he canceled an until-then-clandestine weekend meeting at Camp David with Taliban representatives and Afghanistan leaders. He said he changed his mind after a Taliban car bombing in Kabul on Thursday killed 12 people, including a U.S. service member.

On Monday, the president declared that U.S. peace talks with the Taliban are "dead."

Word of the planned Camp David meeting was a surprise to Ellen Judd, who chairs the Afghanistan committee of the September Eleventh Families for Peaceful Tomorrows, which involves over 200 relatives.

"I think it would be great if the troops were withdrawn. While we certainly want that, there is so much more involved in the peace process," said Judd, who lost her partner, Christine Egan, in the attack on the World Trade Center.

Judd hopes the Afghan government — which has been largely sidelined from the negotiations — and civilians will have a role in a broader peace process that would produce a durable cease-fire.

The U.S. went to war against Afghanistan's ruling Taliban a month after 9/11 for harboring al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden, mastermind of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks that killed nearly 3,000 people at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and a field in Pennsylvania.

More than 2,400 Americans have died in the nearly 18-year war. About 20,000 American and allied troops remain in Afghanistan, and the Taliban control or hold sway over nearly half the country.

The Taliban "are the people who are partially responsible for our loved ones dying and other Americans dying," Riches said, but "I'd like to see it end."

Days before 9/11 might not be the right time, Camp David might not be the right place, and a peace agreement with the Taliban might not be realistic, but "you have to talk to the enemy if you want it to stop," Riches said. "If you don't talk to them, it's just going to continue."

Lee Ielpi also thought the talks could have been better timed. A retired firefighter, he was at ground zero on 9/11 and lost his firefighter son, Jonathan, there. Still, Ielpi sees the president as a get-things-done leader and hopes he can eventually work out a deal — if it's a stringent one.

"I'm all for some kind of negotiated peace to bring our guys and gals back home, but it has to be the

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correct type of peace where the Taliban and al-Qaida are told point-blank ... any violation at all will be dealt with swiftly and with a lot of strength," said Ielpi, a National Sept. 11 Memorial & Museum board member.

Nearly 18 years after losing his brother-in-law on 9/11, Jim McCaffrey welcomes any effort to resolve the war in Afghanistan and credits Trump with trying to end it.

"So many people have forgotten the sacrifices and the price paid on 9/11," he said. "So many people forget we're still at war."

Associated Press Video Journalist Zoran Drakulic in New York and writer Ben Finley in Norfolk, Virginia, contributed.

MIT scandal highlights thorny ethics of university donations

By COLLIN BINKLEY AP Education Writer

BOSTON (AP) — While MIT grapples with new allegations about its financial ties to Jeffrey Epstein, other universities that accepted donations from the disgraced financier say they have no plans to return the money.

The turmoil at MIT has sent shockwaves through the world of education and highlights the challenges universities face as they screen potential donors and decide whether to keep money that's tainted by its benefactor's misdeeds.

Epstein was arrested in July on federal sex-trafficking charges, drawing new attention to old allegations that he had sexually abused women and girls. He killed himself in jail in August while awaiting trial.

Harvard University says it already spent \$6.5 million that Epstein donated in 2003. The University of Arizona says it isn't returning \$50,000 it received in 2017. The University of British Columbia is not giving back \$25,000 it got from an Epstein charity in 2011.

Ohio State University has not said what will come of its funding from Epstein, including \$2.5 million donated in 2007. The school announced a review of the gifts in July but declined to provide an update Monday.

Epstein's ties to academia are coming under renewed scrutiny amid allegations that a prestigious research lab at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology had a more extensive fundraising relationship with Epstein than it previously acknowledged and tried to conceal the extent of the relationship.

The allegations, first reported Friday by The New Yorker, spurred MIT's president to bring in an outside law firm to investigate. In a letter to campus Saturday, President Rafael Reif called the accusations "deeply disturbing" and "extremely serious."

Reif previously announced that MIT had received about \$800,000 from Epstein over two decades and would donate the same amount to a charity that benefits victims of sexual abuse.

Other schools have said they didn't even know donations they received came from Epstein. His \$50,000 to the University of Arizona to pay for a science conference came through a charity he operated, Gratitude America, Ltd. School officials said they were unaware of his ties to the charity at the time.

Epstein's \$25,000 to the University of British Columbia came through another of his foundations, Enhanced Education. The school says none of the gift's documentation, "nor the university's due diligence," indicated a link to Epstein, who pleaded guilty in 2008 to soliciting a minor for prostitution in Florida under a deal that required him to serve 13 months in jail and register as a sex offender.

"The crimes Mr. Epstein was convicted of, and the later accusations, are abhorrent and the university would not have accepted the donation in 2011 if it had been aware of a link between him and Enhanced Education," Kurt Heinrich, a university spokesman, said in a statement.

Harvard has refused to disclose exactly how much it received from Epstein but says the largest gift was \$6.5 million, given to the school's Program for Evolutionary Dynamics in 2003. A Harvard spokesman said the school did not receive any gifts from Epstein after 2007.

Disputes over tainted money are common at universities and other nonprofits that rely on philanthropy, experts say. Many schools appoint ethics boards to screen donors, but there are no hard rules when it comes to deciding whether to accept a gift.

"Universities have to determine for themselves what is or is not acceptable," said Leslie Lenkowsky, a

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professor emeritus at Indiana University who specializes in philanthropy. "There are no clear standards." Some nonprofit leaders err on the side of caution, Lenkowsky said, while some believe that even "tainted" figures deserve a chance at redemption.

More universities have been crafting policies to guide them when concerns about donors arise, said Henry Stoever, president and CEO of the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges. Different colleges have different appetites for risk, he said, but ultimately the top priority is the school's reputation.

"You don't just say yes to everybody who comes in the door with a big check," Stoever said.

At MIT, it appears there was a breakdown in the system for evaluating donors. According to The New Yorker, the Media Lab continued to accept money from Epstein even after the university labeled him as a "disqualified" donor. MIT says Media Lab director Joi Ito resigned Saturday. Ito, who was also a visiting professor at Harvard Law School, also resigned from that position.

Reif's message on Saturday said the acceptance of Epstein's gifts "involved a mistake of judgment." He added that the school is assessing how to improve policies and prevent similar mistakes in the future.

Among other allegations, The New Yorker reported that Epstein arranged at least \$7.5 million from other wealthy donors to the MIT Media Lab, including \$2 million that he claimed to solicit from Bill Gates. A Gates representative on Monday said the money given directly to the university in 2014 wasn't dedicated to the program that Epstein was fundraising for, and Gates' office wasn't aware of any discussions between the lab and Epstein about the tech billionaire's grant.

At Brown University, a fundraising director was placed on administrative leave following a report that accused him of helping cover up Epstein's connections to the MIT Media Lab. Brown spokesman Brian Clark told The Providence Journal Sunday that Peter Cohen, director of development for computer and data science, is on leave pending a review. Clark said Brown hasn't received donations from Epstein. Cohen did not respond to a phone call seeking comment Monday.

The fallout over Epstein's funding is only the latest in a long list of similar disputes. In 2017, the University of Southern California rejected a \$5 million donation from Harvey Weinstein after he was accused of sexual misconduct. Weinstein has denied all accusations of non-consensual sex.

Purdue University returned an \$8 million donation from the founder of the Papa John's pizza chain last year after he allegedly used a racial slur. In 2016, Ohio University returned \$500,000 from former Fox News CEO Roger Ailes after he was accused of sexual harassment, allegations that Ailes denied.

Students and faculty at Harvard, Yale and other universities have been pressing leaders to reject funding from the Sackler family, which owns Purdue Pharma, maker of Oxycontin, and has been blamed for contributing to the opioid crisis. The Sacklers have called some of the accusations against the company misleading and said that the family has been wrongly vilified, while trying to distance themselves from the workings of the company.

Associated Press writer Sally Ho contributed from Seattle.

States led by Texas target Google in new antitrust probe

BY RACHEL LERMAN and MARCY GORDON Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Fifty U.S. states and territories, led by Texas, announced an investigation into Google's "potential monopolistic behavior."

The Monday announcement closely followed one from a separate group of states Friday that disclosed an investigation into Facebook's market dominance. The two probes widen the antitrust scrutiny of big tech companies beyond sweeping federal and congressional investigations and enforcement action by European regulators.

Nebraska attorney general Doug Peterson, a Republican, said at a press conference held in Washington that 50 attorneys general joining together sends a "strong message to Google."

California and Alabama are not part of the investigation, although it does include the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Google is headquartered in California and employs more workers there than in any other

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region. Google also broke ground last year on a \$600 million data-center project in Alabama.

Tara Gallegos, a spokeswoman for California Attorney General Xavier Becerra, declined to confirm or deny any state investigation and would not comment on the announcement by the other states. Mike Lewis, a spokesman for Alabama Attorney General Steve Marshall, also said the state's legal team had no comment on the probe.

The news conference featured a dozen Republican attorneys general plus the Democratic attorney general of Washington, D.C.

Google's parent company, Alphabet, has a market value of more than \$820 billion and controls so many facets of the internet that it's almost impossible to surf the web for long without running into at least one of its services. Google's dominance in online search and advertising enables it to target millions of consumers for their personal data.

The state officials assembled in Washington were vague about the focus and scope of the investigation, although several suggested scrutiny of the company's dominant search and advertising businesses.

Several advocacy groups applauded the announcement, saying the power of tech companies has gone unchecked for too long. Antitrust enforcement "can help consumers and innovative competitors access markets for platforms that are more fair and more competitive," the group Public Knowledge said in a statement.

Critics often point to Google's 2007 acquisition of online advertising company DoubleClick as pivotal to its advertising dominance.

Europe's antitrust regulators slapped Google with a \$1.7 billion fine in March for unfairly inserting exclusivity clauses into contracts with advertisers, disadvantaging rivals in the online ad business.

One outcome antitrust regulators might explore is forcing Google to spin off search as a separate company, experts say. Regulators also could focus on areas such as Google's popular video site YouTube, an acquisition Google scored in 2006.

Google has long argued that although its businesses are large, they are useful and beneficial to consumers.

"Google is one of America's top spenders on research and development, making investments that spur innovation," wrote Kent Walker, the company's senior vice president of global affairs, in a blog post Friday. On Monday, Google referred reporters to that earlier post.

"Things that were science fiction a few years ago are now free for everyone — translating any language instantaneously, learning about objects by pointing your phone, getting an answer to pretty much any question you might have," Walker wrote.

But federal and state regulators and policymakers are growing more concerned not just with the company's impact on ordinary internet users, but also on smaller companies striving to compete in Google's markets.

"On the one hand, you could just say, 'well Google is dominant because they're good,'" said Jen King, the director of privacy at Stanford's Center for Internet and Society. "But at the same time, it's created an ecosystem where people's whole internet experience is mediated through Google's home page and Google's other products."

For instance, Google's search platform is often the starting point for millions of people when they go online. Google dwarfs other search competitors and has faced harsh criticism in the past for favoring its own products over competitors at the top of search results. European regulators also have investigated in this area, ultimately fining Google for promoting its own shopping service. Google is appealing the fine.

Google will control 31.1% of global digital ad dollars in 2019, according to eMarketer estimates, crushing a distant second-place Facebook. Many smaller advertisers have argued that Google has such a stranglehold on the market that it becomes a system of whatever Google says, goes — because the alternative could be not reaching customers.

"There's definitely concern on the part of the advertisers themselves that Google wields way too much power in setting rates and favoring their own services over others," King said.

Google's smartphone operating system, Android, is also the most widely used in the world.

European regulators have fined Google \$5 billion for tactics involving Android, finding that Google forced

smartphone makers to install Google apps, thereby expanding its reach. Google has since allowed more options for alternative browser and search apps to European Android phones.

The U.S. Justice Department opened a sweeping investigation of big tech companies this summer, looking at whether their online platforms have hurt competition, suppressed innovation or otherwise harmed consumers. The Federal Trade Commission has been conducting its own competition probe of Big Tech, as has the House Judiciary subcommittee on antitrust.

Lerman contributed from San Francisco. Matt O'Brien in Providence, Rhode Island, contributed to this report.

Italy's Conte wins first confidence vote in Parliament

By FRANCES D'EMILIO Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Italian Premier Giuseppe Conte on Monday won the first of two mandatory confidence votes on his four-day-old coalition of rival parties, after a day of fielding insults during a boisterous Parliament session from an opposition outraged that Italy got a new government instead of a new election.

The 343-263 vote in the lower Chamber of Deputies, with three lawmakers abstaining, was the preamble to Tuesday's vote in the Senate. The vote in the upper chamber promises to be tighter, since the coalition holds only a handful votes more than needed for a simple majority, and any defections in Conte's unnatural coalition could cost him dearly.

Should Conte lose, he must resign. That would make elections this fall all but certain.

"I'm satisfied," Conte said of Monday's vote.

Much of Monday's 11-hour-long session in the Chamber of Deputies seemed more like a soccer stadium with frenzied fans than a hall of lawmakers weighing whether to confirm Italy's second government of mismatched partners in 15 months.

Practically eclipsed in the raucous atmosphere was any debate over Conte's main policy thrust — a government focused on economic growth and determined to keep Europe united.

In the square outside the Chamber, Matteo Salvini, leader of the "Italians first," right-wing League party who brought down Conte's first government, rallied a few thousand supporters who clamored for their say at the ballot box.

Shouts against "robbers of sovereignty" and "elections now" rang out in the crowd. A few wrapped Italy's red-white-and-green flag around them like a shawl.

"Inside, there's the regime that knows it's about to fall and is acting like Marie Antoinette," Salvini told the rally, sarcastically likening Conte's cobbled-together coalition to the tone-deaf attitude of the French queen.

Inside the legislature, the opposition called out "buffoon," "elections, elections" and "sold" to indicate Conte had betrayed voters in a quest for a new mandate.

Conte lobbed his own barbs at Salvini, who abruptly withdrew the League as a partner in the previous government in a bid for an early election that would make him premier and bring him "full powers."

"That every year a leader can think he can bring the country to elections is irresponsible," Conte said.

The premier forged a new coalition last week out of rival parties that have sparred nastily for years — the populist 5-Star Movement that he led in a first coalition and the center-left Democratic Party to replace the League.

Each of the two major partners has been plagued by squabbling, including over whether this marriage of convenience is a good idea.

More than any policy convergence, the alliance of 5-Stars and Democrats mainly hinges on mutual determination to keep out of power Salvini and his anti-migrant League, soaring in opinion polls for months. The League was Italy's biggest party in European Parliament elections last May, practically doubling in a year its percentage of support from voters.

Conte outsmarted Salvini in forming the alternative coalition, also with the aid of a tiny left-wing party which has one Cabinet minister.

Salvini and his allies, including a far-right party with neo-fascist roots, contend Italians deserved to have early elections.

"Our voice counts. They have to respect the people's voice, we must vote," said Daniela De Licio, who turned out for the rally outside Parliament from the Rome suburb of Tivoli.

Conte vowed that his new government would solidly support a strong, united Europe and focus on getting Italy's stubbornly stagnant economy growing again.

Buoyed by his booming popularity among a voter base that blame migrants for crime and taking work away from Italians, Salvini while interior minister stiffened an already-tough government policy on illegal immigration, with a decree that harshly enforces a ban on charity migrant rescue boats from entering Italian ports.

Conte indicated that migrant policy will be tweaked, but offered no details.

One lawmaker from a tiny opposition party expressed ambivalence about the new coalition, still containing populists. However, Riccardo Magi, from the More Europe party, announced reluctant support, saying the risk of an "illiberal and anti-European drift" if Conte's government falls would be worse.

Volkswagen bets big on electric. Will consumers buy in?

By DAVID McHUGH AP Business Writer

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) — Volkswagen is rolling out what it bills as the breakthrough electric car for the masses, the leading edge of a wave of new battery-powered vehicles about to hit the European auto market.

The cars are the result of big investments in battery technology and new factories driven by environmental regulation and concerns about global warming.

But it's not at all clear whether consumers are ready to buy them. Electric cars remain a niche product, with less than 2% of the market, due to higher prices and worries about a lack of places to charge. It adds up to a risky undertaking for the companies.

Volkswagen is betting that the ID.3, with a roomy interior, brisk acceleration and battery range of up to 550 kilometers (340 miles) for the top model, will change things. It argues that the base price under 30,000 euros (\$33,000) makes the ID.3 "an electric car for everyone." A key competitor, Tesla's Model 3, starts at 36,800 euros (\$40,000) in Europe, but the company's website indicates it can run to well over 40,000 euros, depending on options.

The ID.3 went on display Monday ahead of the Frankfurt Motor Show, and Volkswagen is also revealing a new logo.

Both moves are aimed at underlining the company's transformation since its 2015 diesel scandal, in which Volkswagen was caught using software to cheat on emissions testing and paid more than 30 billion euros (\$33 billion) in fines and penalties. The company is positioning itself as younger and more oriented toward digital services and zero local emissions electric driving.

Volkswagen CEO Herbert Diess said that the launch is "a decisive moment" for the company and that the ID.3 will "bring the electric car from its niche into the middle of society."

The company touts the ID.3 as the third chapter in the company's history, following the Beetle, which became a symbol of postwar German prosperity, and the Golf, of which Volkswagen has sold more than 35 million since 1974.

The car will reach customers in Europe next year, while Volkswagen plans to launch an electric SUV in the United States at an as-yet unspecified date.

The German company is deploying extensive financial and manufacturing capabilities to make a success of its electric cars, saying it will have invested 30 billion euros in this area by 2023. It has sunk 1.2 billion euros into a factory in Zwickau in eastern Germany to make the ID.3, the first of eight planned electric-car plants worldwide, including one in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

The company, which sold 10.8 million vehicles last year, aims for 40% of its sales to be electrics by 2030.

Analysts warn that the industry could be saddled with slow-selling products that undermine earnings

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in a weakening global car market. Electrics were only 1.8% of the European market through the first six months of the year.

The launch of electric cars is so far mainly driven by regulation, not consumers. Above all, companies are rushing to make electric cars to meet tighter rules on carbon emissions and pollutants, particularly in the European Union and China.

"The industry has spent billions developing its new generation of electric vehicles," wrote analyst Max Warburton at research firm Bernstein. "Clean sheet designs with dedicated platforms ... have been engineered at great cost. Battery pack assembly plants have been built. Huge cell supply contracts with Asian suppliers have been signed."

"But this money is being spent without convincing evidence that customers are waiting for these cars."

The EU has new limits on emissions of carbon dioxide, the main greenhouse gas blamed for global warming, that will kick in fully in 2021 to comply with the Paris climate accord. Cars will have to produce no more than 95 grams of CO₂ per kilometer, the equivalent of requiring mileage of 66 miles per gallon under U.S. measurements.

Failure to comply means a fine for every gram of CO₂ over the limit per car. In practice, that means each electric car sold could be worth more than 10,000 euros (\$11,000) in avoided fines, according to Ferdinand Dudenhofer of the Center for Automotive Research at the University of Duisburg-Essen in Germany.

China, a major market for German carmakers, is also pushing for lower-emission vehicles. Regulatory pressure for electric uptake is less certain in the U.S., where the Trump administration has sought to relax standards set by the Obama administration.

So far, electrics are most popular in wealthier countries with per capita incomes over 40,000 euros (\$44,100) a year, such as Norway, Sweden and Switzerland. In poorer countries, electrics are nowhere to be seen. Just 293 were sold in Slovakia and 315 last year in Greece.

Incentives play a big role. In Norway, where electrics were over 30% of the market last year, incentives amount to 11,600 euros in tax breaks.

Finding a place to charge is another issue. Tesla has its own network of highway fast-charging stations. A consortium of automakers including Volkswagen aims to have 400 highway charging stations by 2020.

While Volkswagen has been aggressive about electric cars, others are taking a more gradual approach. Daimler has the EQC sport-utility, which shares parts with an existing internal combustion vehicle. That means lower new investment spending. BMW is launching its iX3 electric SUV and an electric Mini. BMW's experience shows the hazards: it was first with an all-electric car, the i3 city car in 2013, but according to the Bernstein analysis lost money on it and cancelled a successor.

Other new electric cars at the show include Daimler's Smart fortwo and, at the high end of the market, Volkswagen's Porsche is bringing out the Taycan coupe, a direct challenge to Tesla's Model S. In all, some 20 new electric models will hit the market by 2021.

If demand is lacking, carmakers may have to offload the cars through sales to rental companies and corporate fleets, require employees to take them as company cars, or subsidize sales with generous financing, all of which would sap profits.

"We are proceeding on the assumption that there will be many incentives in the market in 2020-2021," said Dudenhofer from the Center for Automotive Research. "They are simply condemned to sell these things."

Afghans brace for fresh violence after US-Taliban talks halt

By RAHIM FAIEZ Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Afghans braced for a possible new wave of Taliban violence Monday after President Donald Trump abruptly broke off nearly a year of talks with the insurgent group just when a deal to end America's longest war seemed to be at hand.

Trump's stunning weekend announcement that he had canceled a secret meeting with Taliban leaders and the Afghan president at Camp David and halted negotiations left many in Washington and Kabul

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scrambling to understand just what happens now.

"They're dead," Trump said of the negotiations on Monday, after the Taliban signaled they would return to talks.

At the same time, the Taliban said Trump's decision to upend the deal just before its signing "displays lack of composure and experience," and they vowed to continue their fight against "foreign occupation."

"What more violence can they bring?" Afghan presidential spokesman Sediq Sediqqi said in an interview. "What else can they do? You know they have killed 300 civilians in the past three weeks. ... So we will not be surprised if we see more attacks, but they have already done it."

Political analyst Waheed Muzhda was gloomy about the prospects for the country.

"Unfortunately all the months of efforts came to an end with no result," he said, "and I think the fight in Afghanistan will continue for long years."

Tens of thousands of Afghan civilians and more than 2,400 American service members have been killed in nearly 18 years of war that began when the U.S. invaded after the Sept. 11 attacks. The Taliban ruled Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001, when they were ousted by the U.S. military for hosting the mastermind of 9/11, Osama bin Laden.

Afghans were wary of fresh violence in part because Trump's announcement came shortly before a string of highly sensitive days in Afghanistan, including Monday's anniversary of the killing of anti-Taliban commander Ahmad Shah Massoud, the major Shiite Muslim holy day of Ashoura on Tuesday, and Wednesday's 9/11 anniversary.

There were no immediate reports of any major attacks in the country, but the streets of the capital, Kabul, were largely empty as armed supporters of Massoud, a rare Afghan unifying figure who was killed two days before 9/11, roamed in flag-draped vehicles, firing into the air in a show of power. One police officer was killed, officials said.

Elsewhere in Kabul, a roadside bomb wounded three civilians, but there was no claim of responsibility. And in northeastern Takhar province, the Taliban claimed attacks on at least two districts overnight, with no immediate reports of casualties.

In calling off negotiations, Trump cited a Taliban car bombing Thursday near the U.S. Embassy in Kabul that killed an American service member along with 11 others. The insurgent group has defended its continued attacks even while a deal was taking shape, saying they were intended to strengthen its bargaining position.

Trump's decision got a mixed reaction in Afghanistan.

Many people seek peace above all after four decades of various conflicts. But some fear a failed or weak deal could lead to the government's collapse and bring another civil war like the one that raged in the 1990s before the Taliban swept into power.

Some feared that the deal that was on the table would do little or nothing to stop the carnage against the Afghan people. Also, many Afghan women have been wary of a Taliban return to power in some form under the intra-Afghan talks that would follow a U.S.-Taliban deal, recalling the years of oppression under a strict form of Islamic law.

Under the agreement in principle that the U.S. and the Taliban had worked out, the U.S. would withdraw about 5,000 of the 14,000 American troops in the country within 4½ months, and the insurgents would agree to prevent Afghanistan from being used as a launch pad for global terror attacks by al-Qaida and others.

But such assurances would be "unbelievable," said Sediqqi, the Afghan presidential spokesman. He said other groups across the region would have seen the deal as a victory for the Taliban and "would have joined them."

He said the only way now for the Taliban to re-enter the peace process is to accept a cease-fire and speak directly with the Afghan government, which has been sidelined in the talks because the Taliban dismiss it as a U.S. puppet.

Others in the government of Afghan President Ashraf Ghani reacted positively to Trump's decision.

"Inviting un-repenting & unapologetic terrorists and mass murderers to Camp David would have tarnished the stature of the camp. ... Gratified that US returned back to a principled stand," Ghani's running mate, Amrullah Saleh, tweeted.

Ghani, who is seeking re-election, has been insisting that the country's Sept. 28 election be held as scheduled and not set aside by a U.S.-Taliban deal. Trump's decision appears to have suddenly opened the path to a vote.

The Afghan president appeared to make an important shift in his stance on direct talks with the Taliban, declaring that his country is ready to meet but that "negotiation without a cease-fire is not possible." The Afghan government had previously said it had no conditions for entering talks with the Taliban.

Ghani also invited Taliban chief Maulvi Hibatullah Akhunzada to a video conference and urged him to "at least talk with people" instead of hiding.

Associated Press writer Cara Anna in Kabul, Afghanistan, contributed.

NOAA scientist: agency likely broke science integrity rules

By JAY REEVES and SETH BORENSTEIN Associated Press

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. (AP) — The acting chief scientist at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said his agency likely violated its scientific integrity rules last week when it publicly chastised a weather office that contradicted President Donald Trump's claim that Hurricane Dorian threatened Alabama.

Two top NOAA civil servants not so quietly revolted against an unsigned agency press release issued late Friday rebuking the Birmingham weather office for saying Alabama was safe. The agency's top scientist called Friday's release "political" and the head of the National Weather Service said the Alabama office "did what any office would do to protect the public."

"My understanding is that this intervention to contradict the forecaster was not based on science but on external factors including reputation and appearance, or simply put, political," acting chief scientist and assistant administrator for ocean and atmospheric research Craig McLean wrote to staffers Sunday night.

In the email, first reported by The Washington Post, McLean said he is "pursuing the potential violations" of the agency's science integrity policy.

NOAA spokesman Scott Smullen said Monday, "NOAA's policies on scientific integrity and communications are among the strongest in the federal government, and get high marks from third party observers. The agency's senior career leaders are free to express their opinions about matters of agency operations and science. The agency will not be providing further official comment, and will not speculate on internal reviews."

Meanwhile, another career civil servant, National Weather Service Director Louis Uccellini said forecasters in Birmingham did the right thing Sept. 1 when they tried to combat public panic and rumors that Dorian posed a threat to Alabama.

"They did that with one thing in mind: public safety," said Uccellini, who prompted a standing ovation at a meeting of the National Weather Association by asking members of the Birmingham weather staff to stand.

"Only later, when the retweets and politically based comments started coming to their office, did they learn the sources of this information," he said.

Kevin Laws, science and operations officer for the weather service in Birmingham, declined comment on Uccellini's remarks.

"I think the speech speaks for itself," Laws said.

McLean in his letter said the Birmingham staff "corrected any public misunderstanding in an expert and timely way as they should. There followed, last Friday, an unsigned press release from 'NOAA' that inappropriately and incorrectly contradicted the NWS forecaster."

McLean said that the NOAA Scientific Integrity Policy tells all agency employees to "approach all scientific activities with honesty, objectively, and completely, without allegiance to individuals, organizations, or ideology."

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He said the Friday NOAA press release “compromises the ability of NOAA to convey life-saving information” and “violated NOAA’s policies of scientific integrity.”

The policy said employees should not “intimidate or coerce employees, contractors, recipients of financial assistance awards, or others to alter or censor scientific findings.”

The scientific integrity policy is not criminal and has no punishments, said former NOAA general counsel and deputy administrator Monica Medina, who served in the Barack Obama and Bill Clinton administrations. She praised McLean and Uccellini “for looking into the matter and holding their current leadership accountable.”

At the National Weather Association’s annual meeting, members including its president, signed two posters supporting the hurricane center and Birmingham office.

“We make forecasts, we don’t deal with politics,” said association president Paul Schlatter, who works for the weather service in Boulder, Colorado. “Our job is to protect the American public with the weather information we pass around. Of course, it’s frustrating when things get politicized and we are the scientists and the communicators that are delivering the message for weather safety.”

Trump has defended his Sept. 1 tweet that said Hurricane Dorian would threaten Alabama. Last week Trump displayed an altered hurricane forecast map in the Oval Office that included a crudely drawn addition in black ink to include parts of Alabama, in an attempt to make his point.

Alabama had never been included in hurricane forecast advisories. Trump cited older and less authoritative information, which was based on outdated computer models and older graphics on wind speed.

Borenstein reported from Washington.

An earlier version of this report had an incorrect spelling of National Weather Association President Paul Schlatter’s name.

Juul warned over claims e-cigarette safer than smoking

By **MATTHEW PERRONE AP Health Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal health authorities on Monday blasted vaping company Juul for illegally pitching its electronic cigarettes as a safer alternative to smoking and ordered the company to stop making unproven claims for its products.

The Food and Drug Administration also upped its scrutiny of a number of key aspects of Juul’s business, telling the company to turn over documents about its marketing, educational programs and nicotine formula.

The FDA action increases the pressure on the nation’s best-selling vaping company, which has been besieged by scrutiny from state and federal officials since a recent surge in underage vaping. Federal law bans sales to those under 18. The FDA has been investigating Juul for months but had not previously taken action against the company.

A Juul spokesman said the company “will fully cooperate” with the FDA.

In a sternly worded warning letter, the agency flagged various claims made by Juul representatives, including that its products are “much safer than cigarettes.” Currently no vaping product has been federally reviewed to be less harmful than traditional tobacco products, and that won’t happen for a while.

In the past year, Juul has tried to position its e-cigarettes as a tool to help adult smokers stop smoking, using the tagline “Make the Switch.” In a separate letter to the company’s CEO, the FDA said it is “concerned” that the advertising campaign suggests “that using Juul products poses less risk or is less harmful than cigarettes.”

“JUUL has ignored the law, and very concerningly, has made some of these statements in school to our nation’s youth,” said FDA acting commissioner Ned Sharpless, in a statement.

The agency’s warning letter highlights an incident recounted by two New York high school students during a congressional hearing in July. The students told House lawmakers that a representative from Juul was invited to address the school as part of an assembly on mental health and addiction issues. During

the presentation, the students said the representative told them the company's product was "totally safe." The representative also showed students a Juul device and claimed the FDA "was about to come out and say it was 99 percent safer than cigarettes."

Juul says it discontinued its school programs — which were intended to discourage underage use — last September. Juul and similar small, discrete e-cigarettes have become a scourge in U.S. schools nationwide.

FDA warning letters are not legally binding, but regulators can take companies to court if they don't comply with their requests. Juul has 15 business days to respond with a plan for fixing the problems.

E-cigarettes have been on the U.S. market for more than a decade, but the FDA didn't gain the authority to regulate them until 2016. E-cigarette makers have until next May to submit their products to the FDA for health reviews.

Most experts, though, agree the aerosol from e-cigarettes is less harmful than cigarette smoke since it doesn't contain most of the cancer-causing byproducts of burning tobacco. E-cigarettes generally heat liquid containing nicotine. But there is virtually no research on the long-term effects of vaping.

The recent outbreak of lung illnesses mostly involves people who said they vaped marijuana.

In the letter to Juul CEO Kevin Burns, FDA regulators said they were "troubled" by a number of other points raised at the congressional hearing. The letter cites testimony that Juul's advertising "saturated social media channels frequented by underage teens," and "used influencers and discount coupons to attract new customers."

Last year, Juul closed down its social media sites. And under pressure, it also voluntarily removed its fruit and dessert flavors from retail stores. The FDA has proposed regulations on e-cigarettes that would restrict their sales in most stores, though they have not been finalized.

In a tweet Monday, first lady Melania Trump said she was concerned about the "growing epidemic of e-cigarette use in our children."

FDA regulators also asked Juul to turn over detailed information about its potent nicotine formula. In the last year, researchers have published several papers analyzing Juul's use of "nicotine salts," a formulation which allows users to inhale higher levels of nicotine with reduced throat harshness.

Regulators asked the company to explain why it uses nicotine salts and how this affects potential addiction.

The letter also criticizes the company for apparently turning over more documents to congressional investigators than to the agency "despite previous document requests from FDA."

AP Writer Richard Lardner contributed to this report.

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End of an era: UK House Speaker John Bercow to step down

By GREGORY KATZ Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — A colorful era in British parliamentary history is coming to a close with Speaker of the House John Bercow's abrupt announcement Monday that he will leave his influential post by the end of October.

That means he won't be sporting his festive designer ties beneath his solemn robes or clamping down on rude lawmakers with his patented pleas for "orrr-duhhh" from his elevated podium for much longer.

His decision to step down is in keeping with the British tradition that a speaker shouldn't serve too many terms. Bercow has been in the powerful post since 2009, and had earned the enmity of many Conservative Party kingpins who, in a break with normal practice, were planning to challenge him at the next election, which is expected shortly.

Bercow's emotional announcement drew sustained applause from the House and heartfelt thanks from friends and foes alike. He shed a few tears and choked up several times as he explained it was time for him to step down, in part because of family obligations.

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"Throughout my time as speaker I have sought to increase the relative authority of this legislature for which I will make absolutely no apology to anyone, anywhere, at any time," he said.

He also seemed to warn about weakening Parliament's role at a time when the institution is in conflict with the prime minister.

"We degrade this parliament at our peril," he said. "I have served as a member of Parliament for 22 years, and for the last 10 as speaker. This has been, let me put it explicitly, the greatest privilege and honor of my professional life for which I will be eternally grateful.

It was a rare instance in which opposition Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn and Conservative Cabinet minister Michael Gove agreed, both praising Bercow for his commitment to the democratic process.

"Our democracy is the stronger for your being the speaker. And whatever you do when you finally step down from Parliament, you do so with the thanks of a very large number of people," Corbyn said.

Gove said: "Your commitment to your principles and to your constituents is unwavering and an example to others."

Bercow, 56, began his career as a right-of-center conservative, but gradually morphed into someone perceived as an enemy by the Conservative Party power structure, largely because he was seen as a stout defender of Parliament's rights.

The speaker is supposed to be strictly impartial in the British system, and Bercow resigned from the Conservative Party as expected when he was elected to the post by secret ballot, but he has been outspoken in his criticism of Prime Minister Boris Johnson's decision to suspend Parliament, which is due to take effect later Monday.

He called it a "constitutional outrage." Some said that was a partisan statement, but many longtime Bercow watchers believed it was simply an assertion of his view that Parliament is sovereign and must be respected, not silenced.

Bercow's decision to speak out is consistent with the way he sees his role — protecting the primacy of Parliament from encroachment, either by an overzealous prime minister, an intrusive British judge, or by the European Union.

His last possible day in office is the day when Britain is scheduled to leave the 28-nation EU bloc. Bercow hasn't taken a public stance on Brexit, but lawmakers looking to leave the EU as quickly as possible tend to view him as an obstacle.

Bercow has played a pivotal role in the seemingly endless debates over Brexit. Bercow determines which amendments will be voted on and who will be called upon to speak, and uses his position to silence rabble rousers and rule on questions of parliamentary procedure.

He has a long tradition to protect — the speaker's role can be traced back to at least 1377.

There is no question that many of Johnson's allies see Bercow as a foe in the Brexit battle, a perception enhanced perhaps by the fact that his wife's car has an anti-Brexit bumper sticker. He has been called "Speaker of the Devil" in a front-page headline for challenging the government's position.

Despite the frequent grumbling about his outspoken nature, Bercow has been re-elected to the position twice.

During general elections, speakers generally run unopposed by the major political parties and refrain from taking political stands. They are designated only as "speaker seeking re-election" rather than as representatives of a specific party.

But annoyed Conservative Party leaders had indicated over the weekend they planned to sunder this tradition and challenge Bercow in his home district in an effort to force him out of Parliament.

Bercow will be giving up more than the spotlight. The position of speaker comes with handsome benefits, including housing and a spacious office in the Parliament complex.

Bercow has clashed with prior governments as well. He infuriated former Prime Minister Theresa May by making her efforts to bring her defeated Brexit bill back to Parliament more difficult when he ruled she couldn't bring the same bill back for a repeat vote.

He has also faced charges of bullying, but has denied any wrongdoing.

Bercow is an aficionado of American politics and there is speculation he will make a lucrative speaking

tour to the U.S. once he leaves office.

Americans love snacks. What does that mean for their health?

By CANDICE CHOI AP Food & Health Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Americans are addicted to snacks, and food experts are paying closer attention to what that might mean for health and obesity.

Eating habits in the U.S. have changed significantly in recent decades, and packaged bars, chips and sweets have spread into every corner of life. In the late 1970s, about 40 percent of American adults said they didn't have any snacks during the day. By 2007, that figure was just 10 percent.

To get a better handle on the implications of differing eating patterns, U.S. health officials are reviewing scientific research on how eating frequency affects health, including weight gain and obesity. The analysis is intended to gauge the broader spectrum of possibilities, including fasting. But snacking, grazing and "mini meals" are likely to be among the factors considered, given how they have upended the three-meals-a-day model.

Findings could potentially be reflected in the government's updated dietary guidelines next year, though any definitive recommendations are unlikely.

For public health officials, part of the challenge is that snacking is a broad term that can mean a 100-calorie apple or a 500-calorie Frappuccino. How people adjust what they eat the rest of the day also varies. Snacks may help reduce hunger and overeating at meals, but they can also just push up the total calories someone consumes.

While there's nothing wrong with snacks per se, they have become much more accessible. It also has become more socially acceptable to snack more places: at work meetings and while walking, driving or shopping for clothes.

"We live in a 24/7 food culture now," said Dana Hunnes, a senior dietitian at UCLA Medical Center.

To encourage better choices as global obesity rates climb, public health officials have increasingly considered government interventions, including "junk food" taxes.

In Mexico, which has among the highest obesity rates in the world, special taxes on sugary drinks and other foods including some snacks and candies went into effect in 2014.

Last week, a study in the medical journal BMJ said taxing sugary snacks in the United Kingdom could have a bigger impact on obesity rates than a tax on sugary drinks that went into effect last year. While sugary drinks account for 2 percent of average calories in the United Kingdom, sugary snacks like cakes and cookies account for 12 percent, the study said.

Complicating matters, snack options are also continuing to broaden beyond the standard chips and cookies.

"Manufacturers have tried to tap into Americans' concern for health," said Paula Johnson, curator of food history at the National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C.

Beyond nutrition, health officials should also consider what emotional or mental health benefits might be lost when people move away from meals, said Sophie Egan, who writes about American food culture. Meals can be a time for social connectivity, she said, while snacks are usually eaten alone. She also noted the growth in snacking may be fueled by the stress of busier lives.

"Who knows how much food is a Band-Aid for those issues," Egan said.

For their part, food companies have moved to capitalize on Americans' love of snacks and stretched the definition of the word. Dunkin' Donuts' former CEO has said the chain's sandwiches should be considered snacks, not lunch. When Hershey bought a meat jerky company, the candy company said it wanted to expand its offerings across the "snacking continuum" to include more nutritious options.

Health experts' recommendations on snacking vary. Children may need more snacks and to eat more frequently. For adults, many dietitians saying what works for one person might not for another.

Hunnes, the UCLA dietitian, recommends sticking to minimally processed options like fruit or nuts when snacking. But she acknowledged the advice could sound like it's coming from an ivory tower, given the

prevalence of packaged snacks.

"They're just there, and they have a great shelf life," she said.

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UN atomic watchdog confirms Iran installing new centrifuges

By DAVID RISING Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — The United Nations' atomic watchdog confirmed Monday that Iran is preparing to use more advanced centrifuges, another breach of limits set in the country's slowly unraveling nuclear deal with major powers.

Iran had already announced the step, its latest violation of the 2015 agreement as it tries to pressure European signatories to find a way to maintain oil shipments and ease the toll of U.S. sanctions on the Iranian economy.

The International Atomic Energy Agency reported its inspectors verified the installation of new centrifuges. The agency said all had been "prepared for testing" but none yet tested at the time of the Sept. 7-8 inspection.

The nuclear deal was meant to keep Tehran from building atomic weapons — something Iran denies it wants to do — in exchange for economic incentives. Its collapse started with the United States unilaterally withdrawing from the deal last year and imposing increased sanctions.

The other signatories — Britain, France, Germany, China and Russia, as well as the European Union — have been struggling to salvage the agreement and find a way to meet Tehran's demands.

To put pressure on them, Iran has already pushed past limits in the deal, called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or JCPOA, on nuclear enrichment purity and stockpiles of enriched uranium.

A centrifuge is a device that enriches uranium by rapidly spinning uranium hexafluoride gas. The IAEA said the ones its inspectors saw included 30 advanced IR-6 and three IR-6s models, as well as multiple IR-4 and IR-5 models.

Under the atomic accord, Iran has been limited to operating 5,060 older-model IR-1 centrifuges.

Asked what the new centrifuges could mean to enhance Iran's ability to enrich uranium, IAEA Acting Director General Cornel Feruta said "output is not a simple matter" but also it was "not for the agency to judge what these actions will bring."

"We have made it very clear that the role of the agency is to report the facts to members of the JCPOA and also the board," Feruta told reporters in Vienna.

Russia's permanent representative to international organizations in Vienna, Mikhail Ulyanov, downplayed the development, saying after Iran revealed its step about centrifuges that the move "shouldn't be over-dramatized."

"Yes, it's another deviation from JCPOA, but new activities will remain verifiable by IAEA and reversible," he said in a tweet. "No proliferation threat, just a strong signal that balance within the JCPOA must be restored."

Feruta, who returned from Tehran Sunday night, told the agency's board in Vienna on Monday that inspectors on the ground continue "to verify and monitor Iran's nuclear-related commitments under the JCPOA."

He said he emphasized to Iranian authorities "the importance of full and timely cooperation by Iran."

That mirrored a line in a recent IAEA report on Iran that suggested Tehran wasn't as forthcoming with answering questions as the agency hoped.

"I also stressed the need for Iran to respond promptly to agency questions related to the completeness of Iran's safeguards declarations," Feruta said.

Feruta told reporters the meetings had gone well, "covering a full range of issues in our cooperation, and I was pleased with the tone and the input we received in those conversations."

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After the report, China blamed the United States for the situation, and called for world powers to stick to the 2015 deal with Tehran.

"The U.S. should abandon wrong practices such as unilateral sanctions and maximum pressure on Iran," Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said in Beijing.

French President Emmanuel Macron has been talking both to Washington and Tehran about a proposal to create a \$15 billion line of credit for Iran to entice it to remain in the nuclear deal.

German Foreign Ministry spokesman Rainer Breul told reporters that Berlin supports the French president's efforts to resume talks and de-escalate the situation.

"There are confidential conversations among the partners about the specific details," Breul said. "Various news reports are circulating that we won't comment on further."

He reiterated that Germany considers Iran's centrifuge plans "a step in the wrong direction."

"We call on Iran to meet its commitments under the JCPOA and to return to them," Breul said.

Both the U.S. and Israel have pushed the IAEA to look further into a warehouse near Tehran where Israel alleges there is evidence Iran stored "massive amounts of equipment and material" before clearing it out.

Feruta would not comment on a Saturday tweet by John Bolton, U.S. President Donald Trump's national security adviser, that the IAEA informed its board that "Iran may be concealing nuclear material and/or activities."

"The evaluations regarding the absence of ... nuclear material and activity in Iran remain ongoing," Feruta said.

Frank Jordans in Berlin, Kiyoko Metzler in Vienna and Liu Zheng in Beijing contributed to this report.

Asian shares mixed as investors look ahead to rate decisions

By YURI KAGEYAMA AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Asian shares were mixed Tuesday after a day of listless trading on Wall Street, as investors awaited signs on global interest rates.

Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 added 0.2% to 21,360.15 in morning trading. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 fell 0.5% to 6,618.20, while South Korea's Kospi inched up 0.1% to 2,021.73. Hong Kong's Hang Seng was up nearly 0.1% at 26,703.44, while the Shanghai Composite lost 0.4% to 3,012.03.

On Wall Street, the S&P 500 ended virtually flat as losses in technology and health care stocks outweighed gains in financials and other sectors. The Russell 2000 index of smaller company stocks, which has lagged the S&P 500 this year, outpaced the rest of the market.

Investors are taking a shine to smaller company stocks in hopes that they'll be better shielded from the fallout of the costly trade war between the U.S. and China than large multinationals.

The S&P 500 inched 0.28 points lower, or less than 0.1%, to 2,978.43. The index, which has finished higher the past two weeks, is within 1.6% of its all-time high set in late July. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 38.05 points, or 0.1%, to 26,835.51. The Nasdaq fell 15.64 points, or 0.2%, to 8,087.44. The Russell 2000 climbed 19.06 points, or 1.3%, to 1,524.23.

The broader market has bounced back the past two weeks following volatility brought on by the trade war as Washington and Beijing imposed new tariffs on more of each other's imported goods. Investors worry the escalation of tariffs may be dampening global economic growth and threatening to nudge the United States into a recession.

Traders are hoping for a deal between the world's two largest economies and were encouraged last week by news that talks will resume in October.

A mixed bag of economic data has also kept Wall Street focused on central banks and whether they will continue taking measures to shore up economic growth. On Friday, Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell said the central bank doesn't expect a recession and will take necessary actions to maintain growth.

Economists expect the Fed to cut interest rates when it meets next week. Separately, the European Central Bank is expected to unveil new monetary stimulus measures on Thursday to help shore up the

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region's economy.

"Markets look to be adrift ahead of the slew of events this week including the likes of the European Central Bank where further support for the markets is expected," said Jingyi Pan, market strategist at IG in Singapore.

"As far as the risk sentiment is concerned, the improvement carries forth from the previous week in anticipation of the various central bank meetings."

ENERGY:

Benchmark crude oil rose 42 cents to \$58.27 a barrel. It rose \$1.33 to \$57.85 a barrel Monday. Brent crude oil, the international standard, gained 46 cents to \$63.05 a barrel.

CURRENCIES:

The dollar rose to 107.39 Japanese yen from 106.96 yen on Monday. The euro strengthened to \$1.1046 from \$1.1037.

AP Business Writers Alex Veiga and Damian J. Troise contributed to this report.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History.

Today is Tuesday, Sept. 10, the 253rd day of 2019. There are 112 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 10, 1813, an American naval force commanded by Oliver H. Perry defeated the British in the Battle of Lake Erie during the War of 1812. (Afterward, Perry sent the message, "We have met the enemy and they are ours.")

On this date:

In 1912, the jungle character Tarzan made his debut as "Tarzan of the Apes" by Edgar Rice Burroughs was first published in The All-Story magazine.

In 1919, New York City welcomed home Gen. John J. Pershing and 25,000 soldiers who'd served in the U.S. First Division during World War I.

In 1935, Sen. Huey P. Long died in Baton Rouge two days after being shot in the Louisiana state Capitol, allegedly by Dr. Carl Weiss.

In 1960, Hurricane Donna, a dangerous Category 4 storm eventually blamed for 364 deaths, struck the Florida Keys.

In 1962, the U.S. Supreme Court ordered the University of Mississippi to admit James Meredith, a black student.

In 1963, 20 black students entered Alabama public schools following a standoff between federal authorities and Gov. George C. Wallace.

In 1979, four Puerto Rican nationalists imprisoned for a 1954 attack on the U.S. House of Representatives and a 1950 attempt on the life of President Harry S. Truman were freed from prison after being granted clemency by President Jimmy Carter.

In 1987, Pope John Paul II arrived in Miami, where he was welcomed by President Ronald Reagan and first lady Nancy Reagan as he began a 10-day tour of the United States.

In 1991, the Senate Judiciary Committee opened hearings on the nomination of Clarence Thomas to the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 1998, President Clinton met with members of his Cabinet to apologize, ask forgiveness and promise to improve as a person in the wake of the Monica Lewinsky scandal.

In 2000, controversial basketball coach Bob Knight was fired by Indiana University for what was called a pattern of unacceptable behavior. Marat Safin (mah-RAHT' SA'-fihn) beat Pete Sampras 6-4, 6-3, 6-3 to become the first Russian to win the U.S. Open. Tiger Woods won the Canadian Open by one stroke over Grant Waite. The musical "Cats" closed on Broadway after 7,485 performances.

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In 2006, Peyton Manning and the Indianapolis Colts defeated Eli Manning and the New York Giants 26-21 in the first NFL game to feature two brothers starting at quarterback.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama said he'd accepted Republican Rep. Joe Wilson's apology for shouting "You lie!" during the president's health-care speech to Congress. A frail Sen. Robert Byrd addressed the Senate for the first time in months to pay tribute to the late Sen. Edward Kennedy, his one-time rival and longtime dear friend. The activist group ACORN fired two employees of its Baltimore office after they were seen in hidden-camera video giving tax advice to a pair of conservative activists, James O'Keefe and Hannah Giles, who were posing as a pimp and a prostitute.

Five years ago: During a prime-time address, President Barack Obama announced he was authorizing airstrikes inside Syria for the first time along with expanded strikes in Iraq as part of a "steady, relentless effort" to root out Islamic State extremists. Missouri executed Earl Ringo Jr. for a 1998 robbery and double murder. Richard Kiel, 74, the towering actor best known for portraying the steel-toothed villain "Jaws" in a pair of James Bond movies, died in Fresno, California.

One year ago: Florence exploded into a potentially catastrophic Category 4 hurricane as it closed in on North and South Carolina with winds up to 140 mph. The Trump administration ordered the closure of the Palestinian diplomatic mission in Washington, citing the refusal of Palestinian leaders to enter into peace talks with Israel.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Philip Baker Hall is 88. Actor Greg Mullavey is 86. Jazz vibraphonist Roy Ayers is 79. Actor Tom Ligon is 79. Singer Danny Hutton (Three Dog Night) is 77. Singer Jose Feliciano is 74. Actress Judy Geeson is 71. Former Canadian first lady Margaret Trudeau is 71. Political commentator Bill O'Reilly is 70. Rock musician Joe Perry (Aerosmith) is 69. Country singer Rosie Flores is 69. Actress Amy Irving is 66. Actor-director Clark Johnson is 65. Actress Kate Burton is 62. Movie director Chris Columbus is 61. Actor Colin Firth is 59. Rock singer-musician David Lowery (Cracker) is 59. Actor Sean O'Bryan is 56. Baseball Hall of Famer Randy Johnson is 56. Actor Raymond Cruz is 55. Rock musician Robin Goodridge (Bush) is 54. Rock musician Stevie D. (Buckcherry) is 53. Rock singer-musician Miles Zuniga (Fastball) is 53. Actress Nina Repeta (NY'-nuh ruh-PEHT'-ah) is 52. Rapper Big Daddy Kane is 51. Movie director Guy Ritchie is 51. Actor Johnathan Schaech (shehk) is 50. Contemporary Christian singer Sara Groves is 47. Actor Ryan Phillippe (FIHL'-ih-pee) is 45. Actor Kyle Bornheimer is 44. Actor Jacob Young is 40. Rock musician Mikey Way (My Chemical Romance) is 39. Olympic bronze medal figure skater Timothy Goebel (GAY'-bul) is 39. Ballerina Misty Copeland is 37. MLB All-Star first-baseman Joey Votto (VAH'-toh) is 36. Rock musician Matthew Followill (Kings of Leon) is 35. Singer Ashley Monroe (Pistol Annies) is 33. MLB All-Star first-baseman Paul Goldschmidt is 32. Singer Sanjaya Malakar (san-JY'-uh MA'-luh-kar) ("American Idol") is 30. Actor Chandler Massey is 29. Actress Hannah Hodson is 28. Actor Gabriel Bateman is 15.

Thought for Today: "If there is no knowledge, there is no understanding; if there is no understanding, there is no knowledge." — The Talmud.

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