

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 086 ~ 1 of 49

[2- Warner hand Groton Area first loss with a fifth game win](#)

[3- Schuring kisses the pig](#)

[3- Bowling Scores](#)

[4- Weather Pages](#)

[7- Daily Devotional](#)

[8- 2019 Groton Events](#)

[9- News from the Associated Press](#)



Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

25 - Wednesday

St. John's: Confirmation, 3:45 p.m.

Emmanuel: Confirmation, 7 p.m.; Bible Study, 7 p.m.

C&MA: Adult Bible Study, Youth Group, Kid's Club, 7 p.m.

UMC: Coffee time, 9 a.m.

Breakfast: Mini Pancakes

Lunch: *New Item* Loaded Bake Potato Soup

Senior Menu: Roast beef, mashed potatoes and gravy, carrots, peach cobbler, whole wheat bread.

26 - Thursday

10 a.m.: Boys Golf at Sisseton

4 p.m.: Boys Soccer at James Valley Christian

6 p.m.: Volleyball at Roncalli (7th/C matches at 5 p.m., 8th/JV matches at 6 p.m.; varsity to follow around 7:15 p.m.)

Breakfast: Breakfast Pizza

Lunch: Corn Dog, Tater Tots

Senior Menu: Baked pork chop, sweet potato, lettuce salad with dressing, Ambrosia fruit salad, whole wheat bread.

OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 086 ~ 2 of 49

Warner hands Groton Area first loss with a fifth game win

Wow!

Perhaps that is the only word in the English language that would describe Tuesday's night volleyball action at Warner. Could one official call change the outcome of an entire match? One will never know!

Groton Area and Warner were two evenly matched teams and the volleyball match went all the way to the fifth game before Warner pulled out the win. The game was broadcast on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Dakota Risk Management. The video of the match is being uploaded to 397news.com.

In the first game, it was tied 15 times and the lead changed hands seven times before Warner pulled out a 25-23 win.

It was the second game that had a reversal of a finish. The game was tied eight times. Warner had the lead for most of the game with the biggest at five at 17-12. Groton Area surged back and scored three straight points at the end to take a 26-25 lead. A kill by the Tigers was ruled by the corner judge as being in, which would have given the Tigers the 27-25 win; however, Warner protested as the line judge said it was out. There was discussion among the officials. The corner judge had no question in her mind that the ball was in. But since no consensus could be gathered, the play was ruled null and void and no point was given to either side, leaving the score with Groton Area leading, 26-25. Warner would then score the next three points and go on for the win, 28-26.

Warner, again, had the lead for most of the third game with a six-point lead at one point, 16-10. Once again, the Tigers rallied and tied the game at 19 and thereafter, it was tied five more times before the Tigers would score the last two points for the 27-25 win.

Groton Area jumped out to a 4-0 lead in game number four, but Warner came back to tie it at seven. The Monarchs would take the lead, 10-9, and then upped its lead to five, 15-10. Groton Area came back to tie the game at 19 and took a 21-19 and went on to win, 25-22.

Warner dominated the fifth game, jumping out to a 5-0 lead and went on to win, 15-17.

Nicole Marzahn had 14 kills, two blocks and an ace serve. Eliza Wanner had 22 digs, 12 kills and an ace serve. Indigo Rogers had five kills and two blocks. Madeline Fliehs had three kills and a block. Payton Colestock had three ace serves, Tadya Glover had 21 digs while Kaylin Kucker had 20 digs and two ace serves and Stella Meier had a kill.

Groton Area is now 7-1 on the season and will travel to Aberdeen Roncalli on Thursday.

Jennifer Aman led the Monarchs with 24 kills while Danielle Seymour had 18 kills and two blocks and Kendyl Anderson had 16 kills.

Warner won the junior varsity match, 29-27 and 25-21.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 086 ~ 3 of 49



Alexa Schuring was the lucky person got to kill the pig in the annual FCCLA Kiss the Pig Contest held during homecoming week. Nearly \$240 was raised for Anna Fliehs and her family.

(Courtesy Photo)

Conde National League

Team Standings: Braves 7, Tigers 7, Cubs 7, Pirates 6, Mets 5, Giants 4.

Men High Games: Butch Farmen 269, Rus Bethke 239, John Lowary 216, Lance Frohling 211, Troy Lindberg 202.

Men's High Series: Butch Farmen 646, Russ Bethke 580, Ryan Bethke 566.

Women's High Games: Sandy Hoops 232, Nancy Radke 168, Joyce Walter 158.

Women's High Series: Sandy Hoops 494, Nancy Radke 470, Mayme Baker 416.

Groton Coffee Cup League

Team Standings: Biker Chix 9, James Valley 7, Ten Pins 4, Kens 4.

High Games: Vickie Kramp 164, Sam Bahr 163, Angie Carlson 158.

High Series: Sam Bahr 446, Vickie Kramp 443, Angie Carlson 425.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 086 ~ 4 of 49

Today



Sunny then
Sunny and
Breezy

High: 68 °F

Tonight



Mostly Clear

Low: 43 °F

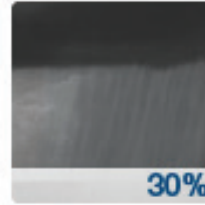
Thursday



Partly Sunny

High: 69 °F

Thursday
Night



Chance
Showers

Low: 48 °F

Friday



Partly Sunny

High: 61 °F

Cool and Crisp Today

Highs in the 60s falling into the low to mid 40s tonight

 NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

Updated: 9/25/2019 4:20 AM Central

Published on: 09/25/2019 at 12:24AM

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 086 ~ 5 of 49

Today in Weather History

September 25, 1981: A late September tornado touched down briefly 14 miles west of Pierre during the early evening hours with no damage occurring.

September 25, 1996: An early fall storm over the Black Hills of northeast Wyoming and western South Dakota re-acquainted area residents with their winter driving techniques. Snow totals ranged from 4 to 8 inches. U.S. Highway 385, south of Deadwood South Dakota, was temporarily closed after a semi-truck jack-knifed on Strawberry Hill. Numerous minor accidents were reported in the Black Hills due to slick roads. Heavy wet snow closed the Needles Highway and Iron Mountain Road in the central/southern Black Hills until snowplows could clear the streets.

1848: The Great Gale of 1848 was the most severe hurricane to affect Tampa Bay, Florida and is one of two major hurricanes to make landfall in the area. This storm produced the highest storm tide ever experienced in Tampa Bay when the water rose 15 feet in six to eight hours.

1942: From September 24th through the 26th, 1942, an early-season winter storm moved through the Northern Plains, Upper Mississippi River Valley, and Great Lakes, dropping measurable snow as it went. In many places across Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, and northern Illinois, this was their earliest measurable snow on record.

1998: Four hurricanes were spinning simultaneously in the Atlantic basin: Georges, Ivan, Jeanne, and Karl. That was the first time this had happened since 1893.

2015: Fairbanks, Alaska received 4–9 inches of snow. Another storm on September 27-30 produced 14.2 inches, including 11.2 inches on the 29th. September 2015 would end up being Fairbanks's second snowiest September on record with 20.9 inches.

2015: An EF2 tornado tracked nearly seven miles across Johns Island in South Carolina.

2017: A large waterspout was seen over the Ionian Sea, off the coast of Gallipoli, Italy.

1939 - A west coast hurricane moved onshore south of Los Angeles bringing unprecedented rains along the southern coast of California. Nearly five and a half inches of rain drenched Los Angeles during a 24 hour period. The hurricane caused two million dollars damage, mostly to structures along the coast and to crops, and claimed 45 lives at sea. "El Cordonazo" produced 5.66 inches of rain at Los Angeles and 11.6 inches of rain at Mount Wilson, both records for the month of September. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Hurricane Emily crossed the island of Bermuda during the early morning. Emily, moving northeast at 45 mph, produced wind gusts to 115 mph at Kindley Field. The thirty-five million dollars damage inflicted by Emily made it the worst hurricane to strike Bermuda since 1948. Parts of Michigan and Wisconsin experienced their first freeze of the autumn. Snow and sleet were reported in the Sheffield and Sutton areas of northeastern Vermont at midday. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Low pressure off the Northern Pacific Coast brought rain and gale force winds to the coast of Washington State. Fair weather prevailed across most of the rest of the nation. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Twenty-three cities in the south central U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date, including Topeka KS with a reading of 33 degrees, and Binghamton NY with a low of 25 degrees. Showers and thunderstorms in the southeastern U.S. drenched Atlanta GA with 4.87 inches of rain, their sixth highest total of record for any given day. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

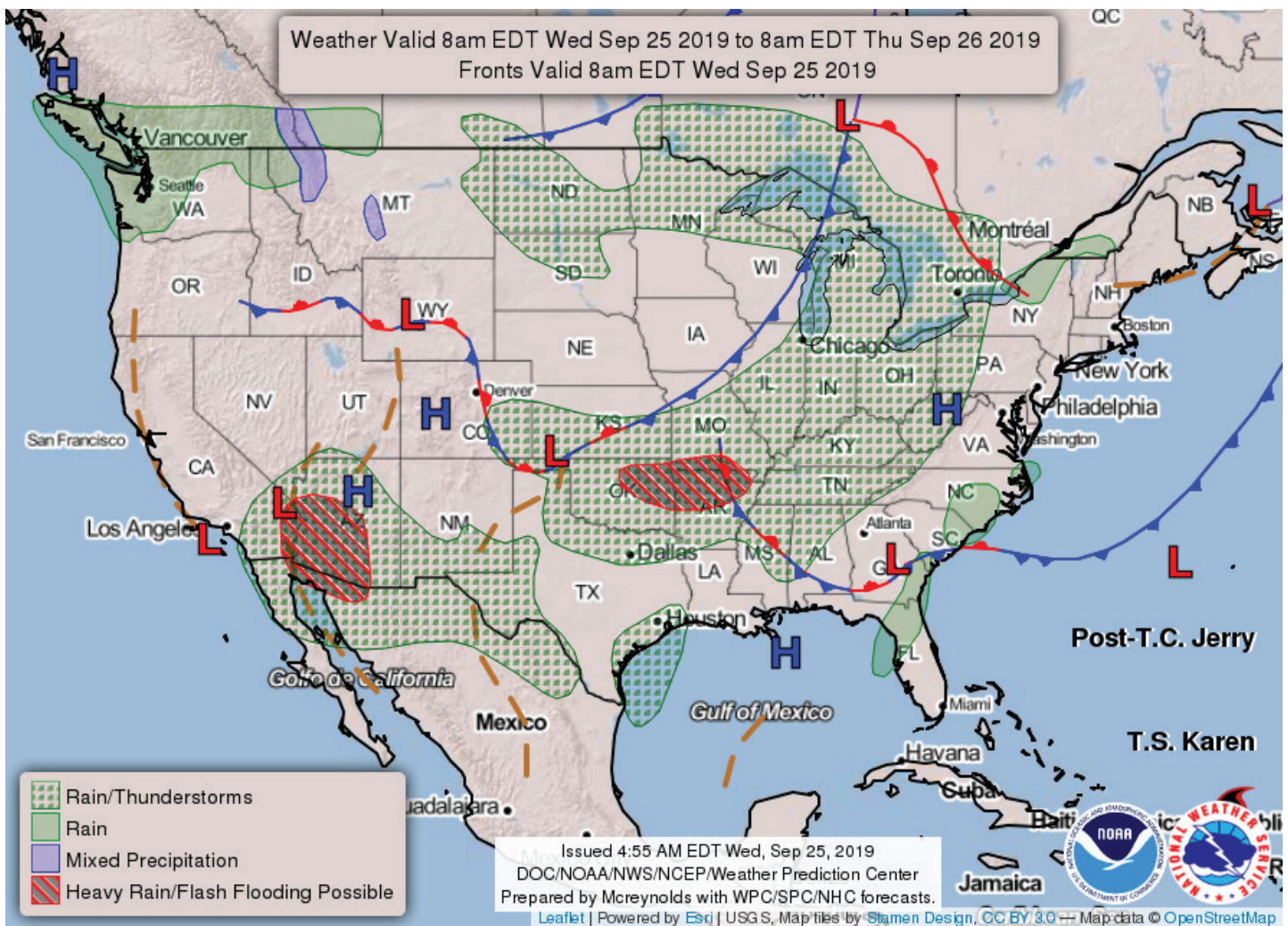
Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 086 ~ 6 of 49

Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 76 °F at 5:12 PM
Low Temp: 54 °F at 3:49 AM
Wind: 19 mph at 5:56 PM
Day Rain: 0.00

Record High: 95° in 1938
Record Low: 19° in 1926
Average High: 68°F
Average Low: 42°F
Average Precip in Sept.: 1.76
Precip to date in Sept.: 5.18
Average Precip to date: 18.05
Precip Year to Date: 24.90
Sunset Tonight: 7:26 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:25 a.m.



Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 086 ~ 7 of 49



WHAT'S NEXT?

Reading through the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, reveals God's thoughtful planning.

Nothing in His creation happened by chance. He wisely created everything to fit together very carefully and logically, in perfect harmony. The fish came after water, grass before animals, and trees before birds. Then when everything was prepared, God created man. God knew what He was doing and where He was going. What a great example for us.

James gave us some insight about planning too. He reminds us that we sometimes begin to do something without even knowing what tomorrow may bring. He seems to be making fun of us when he says, "Now listen, you who go here or there...spend a year here to carry on business...thinking you will make money, but not knowing anything about tomorrow." Rather he says, "Focus on God's will!" Great advice!

It is important for us to have visions of what we want to accomplish and plans to make the vision a reality. But we get into difficult situations if our focus is on our self-sufficiency or self-importance. We must humbly rely on God, looking to Him first and foremost, in all that we plan to do. We must always be close enough to Him to hear His voice, and willing to change our plans when He asks. Our plans must agree with His purpose or our work will be in vain.

Prayer: We ask, Father, that You guide us in all that we do and guard us from being self-centered. May we always seek first the Kingdom of God. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: James 4:13-17 Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that."

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 086 ~ 8 of 49

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)

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 086 ~ 9 of 49

News from the Associated Press

Tuesday's Scores By The Associated Press

Volleyball

Aberdeen Christian def. Waubay/Summit, 25-21, 26-24, 25-20
Andes Central/Dakota Christian def. Tripp-Delmont/Armour, 25-21, 25-22, 22-25, 26-24
Beresford def. Elk Point-Jefferson, 25-13, 25-22, 22-25, 12-25, 15-13
Bridgewater-Emery def. Hanson, 25-20, 25-15, 25-13
Burke def. Platte-Geddes, 25-15, 25-19, 25-16
Chester def. Parker, 25-19, 28-30, 25-15, 25-21
Colman-Egan def. Canistota, 25-9, 19-25, 25-16, 25-10
Dakota Valley def. West Central, 25-13, 25-13, 25-8
Dell Rapids St. Mary def. Howard, 24-26, 25-27, 25-22, 25-19, 15-10
DeSmet def. James Valley Christian, 25-12, 25-12, 21-25, 26-24
Dupree def. Tiospaye Topa, 25-11, 25-10, 25-16
Edgemont def. Crawford, Neb., 25-18, 25-21, 25-19
Elkton-Lake Benton def. Baltic, 25-18, 20-25, 25-22, 25-18
Estelline/Hendricks def. Lake Preston, 25-14, 25-15, 25-18
Faulkton def. Highmore-Harrold, 25-16, 22-25, 25-11, 25-6
Freeman def. Scotland, 21-25, 25-18, 25-20, 25-20
Garretson def. Dell Rapids, 25-16, 25-12, 25-18
Great Plains Lutheran def. Sisseton, 25-22, 25-19, 25-23
Gregory def. Todd County, 25-8, 25-17, 25-12
Harrisburg def. Brookings, 25-19, 20-25, 25-14, 25-20
Heart River, N.D. def. Harding County, 25-23, 25-21, 25-16
Herreid/Selby Area def. McIntosh, 25-16, 25-8, 25-19
Hettinger/Scranton, N.D. def. Bison, 25-11, 25-12, 25-8
Hill City def. Lead-Deadwood, 25-16, 25-15, 25-21
Hitchcock-Tulare def. Iroquois/Doland, 25-7, 25-19, 25-10
Ipswich def. Potter County, 25-14, 25-14, 25-22
Kimball/White Lake def. Corsica/Stickney, 25-23, 11-25, 25-22, 25-22
Langford def. Wilmot, 25-12, 25-18, 25-9
Lennox def. Irene-Wakonda, 25-17, 22-25, 25-12, 25-17
Little Wound def. Oelrichs, 25-20, 25-17, 25-19
Madison def. Chamberlain, 25-14, 25-12, 25-17
McCook Central/Montrose def. Flandreau, 25-22, 25-15, 25-7
Menno def. Viborg-Hurley, 25-15, 16-25, 24-26, 25-18, 16-14
Milbank Area def. Sioux Valley, 16-25, 25-21, 25-21, 19-25, 15-10
Miller def. Redfield, 25-18, 25-18, 25-21
New Underwood def. Newell, 25-16, 25-7, 25-19
Northwestern def. Leola/Frederick, 25-1, 25-6, 25-13
Oldham-Ramona/Rutland def. Flandreau Indian, 25-8, 25-10, 25-6
Rapid City Christian def. Belle Fourche, 25-11, 25-17, 25-17
Red Cloud def. Douglas, 15-25, 25-22, 22-25, 25-16, 15-13
Sioux Falls Roosevelt def. Mitchell, 25-18, 25-16, 25-12
Sturgis Brown def. Spearfish, 25-16, 25-18, 25-21
Tea Area def. Vermillion, 22-25, 10-25, 25-20, 25-12, 15-8

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 086 ~ 10 of 49

Timber Lake def. McLaughlin, 25-10, 25-15, 25-16
Tri-Valley def. Canton, 25-19, 24-26, 25-20, 25-12
Wagner def. Bon Homme, 25-14, 25-10, 25-19
Warner def. Groton Area, 25-23, 28-26, 25-27, 22-25, 15-7
Waverly-South Shore def. Britton-Hecla, 25-13, 25-14, 25-20
Wolsey-Wessington def. Sanborn Central/Woonsocket, 25-23, 25-18, 25-13

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — These South Dakota lotteries were drawn Tuesday:

Mega Millions

06-14-24-42-46, Mega Ball: 9, Megaplier: 4

(six, fourteen, twenty-four, forty-two, forty-six; Mega Ball: nine; Megaplier: four)

Estimated jackpot: \$227 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$40 million

South Dakota group considers possible changes to drug laws

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A legislative committee is reviewing South Dakota's drug laws before the 2020 session to determine whether changes need to be made.

FBI data shows the state led the nation in per capita drug-related arrests in 2017, according to an Argus Leader report.

The committee, which met Monday, is considering whether to reduce ingestion of a controlled substance from a felony to a misdemeanor, as in other states.

Pennington County Sheriff Kevin Thom said such a change wouldn't reduce the number of addicts and that the state needs more drug treatment and prevention programs.

Aaron McGowan, Minnehaha County state's attorney, said many defendants don't choose treatment options because it's easier to plead guilty and get probation.

"I see them time and time again in this revolving door of addiction," McGowan said.

He added that if treatment was done when those individuals were arrested the first time, their addiction would get addressed and tax dollars would be saved because they wouldn't be in the criminal justice system long term.

South Dakota uses a system that punishes offenders with a felony for any type of controlled substance at any weight. The law is different in that trace drug amounts can result in a drug possession charge.

State figures show 877 people were charged with ingestion of a controlled substance during the 2019 fiscal year, and 1,843 people were charged with possession of a controlled substance.

South Dakota has two ingestion laws. One law adopted in 1981 criminalizes inhaling items such as paint thinner as a misdemeanor, and the other criminalizes ingestion of a controlled substance as a felony, which went in effect in 2014.

The committee comprises legislators, and court and law enforcement officials.

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

Man convicted of seeking murder of wife's doctor gets prison

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A 63-year-old Rapid City man who was convicted of seeking help to murder his late wife's doctor has been sentenced to prison.

William Thoman was sentenced Friday to 15 years in prison, with nearly 10 years suspended and credit for time served.

The Rapid City Journal reports that Thoman was convicted last month of criminal solicitation for asking an acquaintance to aid and abet the murder of Dr. Mustafa Sahin in September 2018. A jury found Thoman guilty of asking Ken Jones to help him obtain a gun to commit the murder, but not of soliciting a hit man to kill the doctor.

Thoman's attorney argued his client was grieving and angry, but never planned to hurt Sahin. Sahin is a former oncologist at Regional Health in Rapid City.

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

Trump says impeachment drive a plus, but he tweets with fury

By JONATHAN LEMIRE and ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Fifty-eight floors above Manhattan, President Donald Trump watched his legacy change and his political future grow more uncertain.

The president, back in his hometown of New York for the U.N. General Assembly, was taking "executive time" at his Trump Tower penthouse late Tuesday afternoon when Speaker Nancy Pelosi announced that the House was launching a formal impeachment inquiry against him. Pelosi's move increases the odds that Trump will become the third U.S. president to be impeached.

It was a step more than 2½ years in the making and one that moves the president farther down the path of self-styled political martyrdom.

The product of Trump's norm-breaking presidency and Democrats' lingering anger over the outcome of the 2016 election, the impeachment inquiry has largely been welcomed by the Republican president's advisers, who believe it could backfire against Democrats. The president himself said the move could help his electoral chances, but he reacted in the moment with a cascade of angry tweets that accused Democrats of engaging in "a witch hunt" and "presidential harassment."

A short time earlier, as word of Pelosi's decision first emerged, an agitated Trump sized up the politics of the moment and the developments that have quickly enveloped his presidency since it was revealed that a whistleblower complaint accused him of pressuring the leader of Ukraine to dig up damaging material about political foe Joe Biden's family.

"They're going to lose the election, and they figure this is a thing to do," Trump told reporters. Speaking of Pelosi, he added, "If she does that, they all say that's a positive for me, for the election. You could also say, 'Who needs it? It's bad for the country.'"

The revelations revolve in part around a July 25 phone call the president had with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in which Trump is said to have asked for help investigating Biden and his son Hunter. In the days before the call, Trump ordered advisers to freeze \$400 million in military aid for Ukraine, prompting speculation that he was holding up the money as leverage for information on the Bidens. Trump has denied that charge but acknowledged he blocked the funds.

The West Wing and Trump's informal advisers have been divided over how to handle the story, according to the accounts of eight people who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to publicly discuss private conversations. Trump spent part of Monday night consulting with family members and confidants over what to do next.

The president has alternately vented about what he sees as media and Democratic attempts to overplay the Ukraine story line while believing that the episode will work against his political foes. Frustrated by the rapid pace of developments and how they have overshadowed his time at the United Nations, Trump said he believed this was the Democrats trying to get a "do-over" after failing to take him down with special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia probe.

For nearly a year, the White House as an institution and Trump personally have been goading Democrats to open impeachment proceedings. They've refused document requests and ignored subpoenas from Congress, claiming broad executive privilege to prevent the testimony of administration officials and even of people who've never formally worked at the White House.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 086 ~ 12 of 49

His strategists have long believed impeachment could be a victory: that the American public would view the move as a purely partisan maneuver that would work against Democrats as it did for Republicans when they went that route against Bill Clinton 20 years ago.

Clinton was not facing reelection; Trump will be on the ballot in 14 months. Moreover, while Trump has largely been convinced by aides that impeachment could be good for his political future, the superstitious, legacy-minded president has told confidants that he is worried that, even if the GOP-controlled Senate were to acquit him as expected, impeachment would become the first line of his political obituary.

As word of the whistleblower complaint slowly made its way through the White House, initial concerns about what the president said on the call quickly gave way to the same sense of defiance that has defined the administration's interactions with Congress. One administration official said there were intense divisions among the West Wing staff and lawyers on whether to release the transcript, a move they believed would exonerate the president but set a dangerous precedent for future administrations. It also could ease the very tensions with Congress that the White House has seen to be politically advantageous.

Even while Trump was weighing whether to authorize the release, he insisted to those around him that the transcript would clear him of any wrongdoing. And he and his closest allies believe that when more is known about the Biden family's involvement in Ukraine, it could damage the electoral prospects of the one candidate Trump himself has mused could peel off some his support among white working-class voters in the Midwest.

By Tuesday, as it became clear that House Democrats were set on an impeachment inquiry, Trump approved release of the "unredacted" transcript. "You will see it was a very friendly and totally appropriate call," he tweeted between meetings at the United Nations. "No pressure."

Most aides believe that Trump's vague, wink-wink style of speaking would not lend itself to the discovery of a smoking gun in the transcript. But it's possible the White House will authorize the release of the entire whistleblower complaint to Congress by the end of the week.

As Democrats pursue impeachment, Trump and his allies believe it could make him a martyr in the eyes of his faithful, providing the necessary motivation to bring his supporters to the polls in droves. Trump's reelection strategy hinges on turning out die-hard supporters who are unreliable voters rather than winning over skeptics at the center of the electorate. Trump is wagering that anger at what he claims is Democratic mistreatment will prove to be a political motivator, and that impeachment proceedings will only add to the nation's pox-on-both-houses view of Washington.

After Pelosi's Tuesday afternoon announcement, the president and his reelection team swung into high gear, releasing a series of tweets attacking Democrats, including a video of presidential critics like the speaker and Rep. Ilhan Omar discussing impeachment. It concluded with a message for the Trump base: "While Democrats 'Sole Focus' is fighting Trump, President Trump is fighting for you."

But while the campaign set a confident tone, the angry tweets from the Trump Tower penthouse kept coming as the last light faded from the Manhattan sky.

Miller reported from Davenport, Iowa. Associated Press writer Mike Balsamo in Washington contributed to this report.

Follow Lemire on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/@JonLemire> and Miller at <http://twitter.com/@zekejmilller>

Dems take up impeachment drive, say Trump betrayed his oath

By LISA MASCARO, MARY CLARE JALONICK and MICHAEL BALSAMO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has launched a formal impeachment inquiry against President Donald Trump, yielding to mounting pressure from fellow Democrats and plunging a deeply divided nation into an election year clash between Congress and the commander in chief.

The probe focuses partly on whether Trump abused his presidential powers and sought help from a foreign government to undermine Democratic foe Joe Biden and help his own reelection effort. Pelosi said

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 086 ~ 13 of 49

Tuesday such actions would mark a "betrayal of his oath of office" and declared, "No one is above the law."

The impeachment inquiry, after months of investigations by House Democrats of the Trump administration, sets up the party's most direct and consequential confrontation with the Republican president, injects deep uncertainty into the 2020 election campaign and tests anew the nation's constitutional system of checks and balances.

Trump, who thrives on combat, has all but dared Democrats to take this step, confident that the specter of impeachment led by the opposition party will bolster rather than diminish his political support.

Meeting with world leaders at the United Nations, he previewed his defense in an all-caps tweet: "PRESIDENTIAL HARASSMENT!"

Pelosi's brief statement, delivered without dramatic flourish but in the framework of a constitutional crisis, capped a frenetic weeklong stretch on Capitol Hill as details of a classified whistleblower complaint about Trump burst into the open and momentum shifted toward an impeachment probe.

For months, the Democratic leader has tried calming the push for impeachment, saying the House must investigate the facts and let the public decide. The new drive was led by a group of moderate Democratic lawmakers from political swing districts, many of them with national security backgrounds and serving in Congress for the first time. The freshmen, who largely represent districts previously held by Republicans where Trump is popular, risk their own reelections but say they could no longer stand idle. Amplifying their call were longtime leaders, including Rep. John Lewis of Georgia, the civil rights icon often considered the conscience of House Democrats.

"Now is the time to act," said Lewis, in an address to the House. "To delay or to do otherwise would betray the foundation of our democracy."

At issue are Trump's actions with Ukraine. In a summer phone call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy, he is said to have asked for help investigating former Vice President Biden and his son Hunter. In the days before the call, Trump ordered advisers to freeze \$400 million in military aid for Ukraine — prompting speculation that he was holding out the money as leverage for information on the Bidens. Trump has denied that charge, but acknowledged he blocked the funds, later released.

Biden said Tuesday, before Pelosi's announcement, that if Trump doesn't cooperate with lawmakers' demands for documents and testimony in its investigations the president "will leave Congress ... with no choice but to initiate impeachment." He said that would be a tragedy of Trump's "own making."

The Trump-Ukraine phone call is part of the whistleblower's complaint, though the administration has blocked Congress from getting other details of the report, citing presidential privilege. Trump has authorized the release of a transcript of the call, which is to be made public Wednesday.

"You will see it was a very friendly and totally appropriate call," Trump said.

The whistleblower's complaint was being reviewed for classified material and could go to Congress by Thursday, according to a person familiar with the issue who was not authorized to discuss it publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Trump has sought to implicate Biden and his son in the kind of corruption that has long plagued Ukraine. Hunter Biden served on the board of a Ukrainian gas company at the same time his father was leading the Obama administration's diplomatic dealings with Kyiv. Though the timing raised concerns among anti-corruption advocates, there has been no evidence of wrongdoing by either the former vice president or his son.

While the possibility of impeachment has hung over Trump for many months, the likelihood of a probe had faded after special counsel Robert Mueller's Trump-Russia investigation ended without a clear directive for lawmakers.

Since then, the House committees have revisited aspects of the Mueller probe while also launching new inquiries into Trump's businesses and various administration scandals that all seemed likely to drag on for months.

But details of Trump's dealings with Ukraine prompted Democrats to quickly shift course. By the time Pelosi addressed the nation Tuesday, about two-thirds of House Democrats had announced moving toward

impeachment probes.

The burden will probably now shift to Democrats to make the case to a scandal-weary public. In a highly polarized Congress, an impeachment inquiry could simply showcase how clearly two sides can disagree when shown the same evidence rather than approach consensus.

Building toward this moment, the president has repeatedly been stonewalling requests for documents and witness interviews in the variety of ongoing investigations.

After Pelosi's Tuesday announcement, the president and his campaign team quickly released a series of tweets attacking Democrats, including a video of presidential critics like the speaker and Rep. Ilhan Omar discussing impeachment. It concluded: "While Democrats 'Sole Focus' is fighting Trump, President Trump is fighting for you."

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said Pelosi's well-known "efforts to restrain her far-left conference have finally crumbled."

Pelosi has for months resisted calls for impeachment from her restive caucus, warning that it would backfire against the party unless there was a groundswell of public support. That groundswell hasn't occurred, but some of the more centrist lawmakers are facing new pressure back home for not having acted on impeachment.

While Pelosi's announcement adds weight to the work being done on the oversight committees, the next steps are likely to resemble the past several months of hearings and legal battles — except with the possibility of actual impeachment votes.

On Wednesday, the House is expected to consider a symbolic but still notable resolution insisting the Trump administration turn over to Congress the whistleblower's complaint. The Senate, in a rare bipartisan moment, approved a similar resolution Tuesday.

The lawyer for the whistleblower, who is still anonymous, released a statement saying he had asked Trump's director of national intelligence to turn over the complaint to House committees and asking guidance to permit the whistleblower to meet with lawmakers.

Pelosi suggested that this new episode — examining whether a president abused his power for personal political gain — would be easier to explain to Americans than some of the issues that arose during the Mueller investigation and other congressional probes.

The speaker put the matter in stark terms: "The actions of the Trump presidency revealed dishonorable facts of the president's betrayal of his oath of office, betrayal of his national security and betrayal of the integrity of our elections."

Associated Press writers Julie Pace, Laurie Kellman, Andrew Taylor, Eric Tucker and Zeke Miller in Washington and Jonathan Lemire and Deb Riechmann in New York contributed to this report.

UK lawmakers to return to Parliament amid political turmoil

By DANICA KIRKA Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — British lawmakers are returning to the House of Commons on Wednesday following the bombshell Supreme Court ruling that Prime Minister Boris Johnson had acted illegally by suspending Parliament.

The historic move backed Parliament's sovereignty and slapped down what justices viewed as an effort by Johnson to squelch debate on Brexit. The prime minister is hurrying back to London after cutting short a trip to the U.N. General Assembly amid demands for his resignation from furious opposition parties.

In New York, Johnson brushed aside questions about whether he would resign, said he "strongly" disagreed with the court decision and suggested he might try to suspend Parliament for a second time. Cabinet minister Michael Gove says the government "respected" the court decision but refused to apologize for breaking the law.

"I think it's important to stress that while the Supreme Court was clear, there is a respectable legal opinion that disagrees with that view," Gove told the BBC. "It's perfectly possible in a democracy to say you respect a judgment and will comply with the judgment, but you also note that there are a range of

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 086 ~ 15 of 49

views about the appropriateness of a particular course of action.”

Opposition leader Jeremy Corbyn countered that Johnson should say he was sorry to the public and to Queen Elizabeth II for telling her that Parliament should be suspended. The suspension would have limited debate before Britain’s scheduled Oct. 31 departure from the European Union.

“I think he should apologize to her (the Queen) for the advice he gave her but, more importantly, apologize to the British people for what he’s done in trying to shut down our democracy at a very crucial time when people are very, very worried about what will happen on Oct. 31,” Corbyn told the BBC.

Johnson remains on a collision course with Parliament over his determination to extract Britain from the EU on Oct. 31, even if no divorce deal is reached. Parliament has passed a law requiring him to seek an extension if there is no deal, but Johnson says he won’t do that under any circumstances.

Johnson is likely to address Parliament on Wednesday afternoon but has begun to position himself as the champion of the people facing a recalcitrant establishment bent on frustrating the 2016 Brexit vote.

In his speech in New York, Johnson mentioned Brexit only once — as a pointed aside while recalling the myth of Prometheus, who was chained to a rock by Zeus and sentenced to have his liver eaten out by an eagle for eternity.

“And this went on forever,” he quipped, “a bit like the experience of Brexit in the U.K, if some of our parliamentarians had their way.”

New climate report: Oceans rising faster, ice melting more

By SETH BORENSTEIN AP Science Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Climate change is making the world’s oceans warm, rise, lose oxygen and get more acidic at an ever-faster pace, while melting even more ice and snow, a grim international science assessment concludes.

But that’s nothing compared to what Wednesday’s special United Nations-affiliated oceans and ice report says is coming if global warming doesn’t slow down: three feet of sea rise by the end of the century, much fewer fish, weakening ocean currents, even less snow and ice, stronger and wetter hurricanes, and nastier El Ninos.

“The oceans and the icy parts of the world are in big trouble and that means we’re all in big trouble, too,” said one of the report’s lead authors, Michael Oppenheimer, professor of geosciences and international affairs at Princeton University. “The changes are accelerating.”

These changes will not just hurt the 71% of the world covered in oceans or the 10% covered in ice and snow, but it will harm people, plants, animals, food, societies, infrastructure and the global economy, according to the special report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

The oceans absorb more than 90% of the excess heat from carbon pollution in the air, as well as much of the carbon dioxide itself. The seas warm more slowly than the air but trap the heat longer with bigger side effects — and the report links these waters with Earth’s snow and ice, called the cryosphere, because their futures are interconnected.

“The world’s oceans and cryosphere have been taking the heat for climate change for decades. The consequences for nature and humanity are sweeping and severe,” said Ko Barrett, vice chair of the IPCC and a deputy assistant administrator for research at the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The report found:

—Seas are now rising at one-seventh of an inch (3.66 millimeters) a year, which is 2.5 times faster than the rate from 1900 to 1990.

—The world’s oceans have already lost 1 to 3% of the oxygen in their upper levels since 1970 and will lose more as warming continues.

—From 2006 to 2015 the ice melting from Greenland, Antarctica and the world’s mountain glaciers has accelerated and is now losing 720 billion tons (653 billion metric tons) of ice a year.

—Arctic June snow cover has shrunk more than half since 1967, down nearly 1 million square miles (2.5 million square kilometers).

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 086 ~ 16 of 49

—Arctic sea ice in September, the annual minimum, is down almost 13% per decade since 1979. This year's low, reported Monday, tied for the second lowest on record. If carbon pollution continues unabated, by the end of the century there will be a 10 to 35% chance each year that sea ice will disappear in the Arctic in September.

—Marine animals are likely to decrease 15%, and catches by fisheries in general are expected to decline 21 to 24% by the end of century because of climate change.

And for the first time, the international team of scientists is projecting that "some island nations are likely to become uninhabitable due to climate-related ocean and cryosphere change."

The IPCC increased its projected end-of-century sea level rise in the worst case scenario by nearly four inches (10 centimeters) from its 2013 projections because of increased recent melt of ice sheets in Greenland and Antarctica.

The new report projects that, under the business-as-usual scenario for carbon emissions, seas by the end of the century will rise between two feet (61 centimeters) and 43 inches (110 centimeters) with a most likely amount of 33 inches (84 centimeters). This is slightly less than the traditional one meter (39 inches) that scientists often use.

"Sea level continues to rise at an increasing rate," the report said. "Extreme sea level events that are historically rare (once per century in the recent past) are projected to occur frequently (at least once per year) at many locations by 2050."

And sea level will rise two to three times as much over the centuries to come if warming continues, so the world is looking at a "future that certainly looks completely different than what we currently have," said report co-author Hans-Otto Portner, a German climate scientist.

The Nobel Prize-winning IPCC requires nations meeting this week in Monaco to unanimously approve the report, and because of that the group's reports tend to show less sea level rise and smaller harms than other scientific studies, outside experts said.

"Like many of the past reports this one is conservative in the projections, especially in how much ice can be lost in Greenland and Antarctica," said NASA oceanographer Josh Willis, who studies Greenland ice melt at length and wasn't part of the report. "We're not done revising our sea level rise projections and we won't be for a while."

Willis said people should be prepared for sea rise to be twice these IPCC projections.

The oceans have become slightly more acidic, but that will accelerate with warming. In the worst case scenario, the world is looking at a "95% increase in total acidity of the oceans," said study co-author Nathan Bindoff of the University of Tasmania.

Even if warming is limited to just another couple of tenths of a degree, the world's warm water coral reefs will go extinct in some places and be dramatically different in others, the report said.

"We are already seeing the demise of the warm water coral reefs," Portner said. "That is one of the strongest warning signals that we have available."

The report gives projections based on different scenarios for emissions of heat-trapping carbon dioxide. One is a world that dramatically decreases carbon pollution — and the worst case is where little has been done. We are closer to the worst-case situation, scientists said.

Outside scientists praised the work, but are disturbed by it.

"It is alarming to read such a thorough cataloging of all of the serious changes in the planet that we're driving," Texas A&M University climate scientist Andrew Dessler, who wasn't part of the report, said in an email. "What's particularly disturbing as a scientist is that virtually all of these changes were predicted years or decades ago."

Its authors emphasized that this report doesn't doom Earth to this gloomy outlook.

"We indicate we have a choice. Whether we go into a grim future depends on the decisions that are being made," Portner said. "We have a better future ahead of us once we make the right choice."

Read more stories on climate issues by The Associated Press at <https://www.apnews.com/Climate>
Follow Seth Borenstein on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/borenbears>

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

'Forgotten' war: Syria conflict a footnote at UN meeting

By ZEINA KARAM Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — As dozens of heads of state convene for the annual U.N. General Assembly in New York this week, the lingering conflict in Syria is taking a back seat while tensions in the Persian Gulf and global trade wars take center stage.

Now in its ninth year, many Syrians fear the unresolved war has become a footnote in a long list of world crises, with weary leaders resigned to live with President Bashar Assad ruling over a wrecked and divided country for the foreseeable future.

On the eve of the global gathering in New York, U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres announced that a long-awaited committee that would draft a new Syrian constitution has been finalized — a step the U.N. hopes will put the war-ravaged country on track for a political solution.

But few see any real chance that the committee can make significant progress toward that end.

"The world has forgotten about us — not that anyone cared about Syria to begin with," said Hussein Ali, a 35-year-old internally displaced father of two. He now lives with his family in one rented room in the opposition-controlled northern town of Azaz, near the Turkish border. "The rise of Daesh made the West care momentarily, but not anymore," he said, using an Arabic acronym for the Islamic State group.

A FROZEN CONFLICT

Most of Syria has returned to government control after eight years of war. The exceptions are the opposition-held bastion of Idlib in the northwest, where rebels, Islamic militants and their families from all over the country have been cornered, and the oil-rich northeast, held by U.S.-backed Kurdish groups. The violence has largely tapered off in most of the country, but few among the nearly 6 million refugees scattered across the globe have returned. Many fear detention if they come home — or they simply have no homes to return to.

Entire towns and villages are in ruins. The West will not contribute to reconstruction plans as long as Assad is in power and other countries are unwilling to invest without there first being a political settlement.

In Idlib, a Russia-backed government offensive to recapture the province continues to claim lives. Hundreds have been killed and more than 400,000 displaced in the past four months under Syrian and Russian airstrikes. But the bloodshed hardly makes a dent in global news.

"The world apparently has long since tired of the war, and resigned itself to frozen conflict, with a nationwide cease-fire as the best possible scenario," said Heiko Wimmen, project director for Iraq, Syria and Lebanon at International Crisis Group.

Syria's conflict was a domino effect of the so-called Arab Spring uprisings that began in late 2010, toppling dictators in Tunisia, Egypt and Libya. What started in March 2011 as largely peaceful demonstrations against the Assad family rule turned into an armed insurgency following a brutal government crackdown. The conflict eventually became a proxy war pitting the U.S., Turkey and Gulf countries who supported the rebels, against Russia, Iran and Hezbollah who fought alongside the government. In the chaos, extremists such as the Islamic State group flourished, seizing a third of Syria and Iraq.

Nearly half a million people have been killed and half of Syria's prewar population displaced. The opposition has been crushed for the most part, and Assad is widely considered to have prevailed militarily. IS militants who dominated the news for years have been defeated, although the group continues to stage sporadic insurgent attacks.

A tentative cease-fire has been in place in Idlib since the end of August, but there is no suggestion it will be anything other than a pause before government troops and their allies regroup and relaunch their campaign.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 086 ~ 18 of 49

"The Syrian regime appears determined to clench back every last bit of territory, without the tiniest bit of compromise," Wimmen said. "As long as Damascus persists in its attitude, and is enabled by its foreign backers, the war will continue."

DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS

While the world remains deadlocked over Syria, there is no initiative on the horizon to help resolve it. The U.N.'s current Syria envoy Geir Pedersen is the fourth to hold the post after the previous three resigned following years of mediating peace talks that led nowhere.

The constitutional committee announced Monday is made up of 150 members divided equally among government, opposition and civil society members. It is tasked with drafting a new Syrian constitution in talks facilitated by the U.N. in Geneva. Desperate for a breakthrough, Guterres touted it as "the beginning of the political path out of the tragedy toward a solution."

Syria is scheduled to hold presidential elections in 2021, and the U.N. hopes the talks can help create a climate and mechanism for holding a neutral and fair vote. But with a clear military upper hand, Assad's government is unlikely to offer any concessions, and Syrian officials have suggested he will run again.

A Western diplomat called it an "important step" in the sense that talks overseen by the U.N. would provide some form of international scrutiny over the balloting.

"It will not be a solution for the war but rather a method to get a Syria platform going and try to be more inclusive than the two-side indirect talks," the diplomat said, referring to several rounds of talks between the government and the opposition in Geneva overseen by the U.N. envoy. The diplomat spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive issues.

Underlining the distrust, Syrian lawmaker Safwan Qurabi said the committee is "sensitive and is also dangerous."

"What is planned through this committee is to steal Syria's political decision, which they couldn't do through destructive military action," Qurabi said, referring to the opposition and their foreign supporters.

FAR FROM OVER

While the violence may have diminished, analysts say the war is likely to continue for a long time.

At its height, the conflict unleashed a global migrant crisis that continues to reshape Europe and neighboring countries that once opened their borders to millions fleeing war. That reception has chilled over the past year. Suffering an economic downturn and rising unemployment, the mood in Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan has soured, and calls for the refugees to return home are growing.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan says his country can no longer shoulder the burden of 3.6 million refugees it hosts, and earlier this month, he threatened to "open the gates" and allow a flood of Syrian refugees to leave Turkey for Western countries unless a so-called "safe zone" is established in Syria soon in negotiations with the U.S.

The rising resentment against Syrians seems to be behind a new wave of migrants sailing from Turkey to the Greek island of Lesbos every day.

Erdogan used his speech at the U.N. on Tuesday to highlight the humanitarian cost of the war by holding up a photo of Aylan Kurdi, a 3-year-old boy whose lifeless body was found on a Turkish beach in 2015 and drew the world's attention to the plight of refugees.

Erdogan said the world must "never forget" the world's "baby Aylans."

An all-out Syrian government offensive to recapture Idlib, which seems inevitable, will likely have disastrous consequences, pushing hundreds of thousands of people toward the Turkish border.

"Assad won't go away, since pushing him out is no longer an option, but neither is rehabilitating him, or rebuilding the country in his presence," Wimmen said. "The status quo of misery will likely persist."

Associated Press writer Albert Aji in Damascus, Syria, contributed.

Johnson: 'Terrifying limbless chickens' but little Brexit

By TED ANTHONY AP National Writer

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Things the beleaguered British prime minister said in his astonishing speech to the U.N. General Assembly on Tuesday night: "Pink-eyed Terminators from the future." "Terrifying limbless chickens." "Your fridge will beep for more cheese."

Things Boris Johnson didn't address with any substance: Brexit (though he mentioned it in a quip). The British court ruling earlier in the day that said he acted illegally by dissolving Parliament. The take-no-prisoners politics that some say are threatening his premiership and undermining his influence as Britain's leader.

Many didn't know what to expect Tuesday after the court ruling came down hours before Johnson's inaugural U.N. General Assembly speech as prime minister.

But it's safe to say few anticipated what he dramatically and energetically delivered: a caffeinated screed about the damage that technology can do if misused — and the glories it can hand humanity if it is delivered properly.

In his notably energetic speech, which ended after 10 p.m. as more than 12 hours of U.N. speeches were inching to their end, Johnson said he was optimistic about technology's future — if humanity finds "the right balance between freedom and control."

The first potential future that Johnson mapped out was decidedly dystopian — one where technology permeates every corner of human life, and not in a good way. Digital assistants pretending to take orders — but actually watching you and acting against your interests. Computers that decide what you'll get, where you'll be allowed to go, who you'll be.

"You may keep secrets from your friends, from your parents, your children, your doctor - even your personal trainer - but it takes real effort to conceal your thoughts from Google," he said. "And if that is true today, in future there may be nowhere to hide."

That is not, he said, a good thing at all.

"Can these algorithms be trusted with our lives and hopes?" he asked, his delivery staccato and his hands jabbing with emphasis. "Are we doomed to a cold and hard future where a computer says 'yes' or 'no'?"

But if things are done right, the prime minister said, a different story could unfold for all of us.

"How do you plead with an algorithm? How do you get it to see extenuating circumstances?" he said. "We need to find the right balance between freedom and control."

The spirited, tech-focused address was extraordinary given that immediately after it, he was to head back early to his home country to face a maelstrom of political problems — including the consequences of the court ruling and hearty calls for him to resign as prime minister.

In the speech, Johnson mentioned Brexit only once — as a pointed aside while recalling the myth of Prometheus, who was chained to a rock by Zeus and sentenced to have his liver eaten out by an eagle for eternity. "And this went on forever," he quipped, "a bit like the experience of Brexit in the U.K, if some of our parliamentarians had their way."

But he said that with the right approach — one of "freedom, openness and pluralism" — and making sure that such voices are heard loudly "in the standards bodies that write the rules," humanity can deliver itself to a brighter technological future.

"Together, we must ensure that new advances reflect our values by design," he said, adding: "I am profoundly optimistic about the ability of new technology to serve as a liberator and remake the world wondrously and benignly. Indeed, in countless respects, technology is already doing just that."

Then, his speech over, he headed to the airport. Within the hour, he was flying home.

Ted Anthony, director of digital innovation for The Associated Press, has written about global affairs since 1995. Follow him on Twitter at @anthonyted.

What now? Migrants disembark in Europe to uncertain future

By RENATA BRITO Associated Press

MESSINA, Sicily (AP) — As the weary passengers aboard a rescue ship approached Sicily at the end of an agonizing journey from North Africa, 30-year-old Seke Awa called a friend back in Libya the moment she got cellphone reception.

"I told her we are on the big boat and sent her courage, that she needs to have hope. One day her suffering may end," said Awa, a native of Cameroon. "She was crying."

A total of 182 people, rescued a week ago from fragile boats off Libya's coast, arrived in Italy on Tuesday, filled with excitement and hope, but also myriad questions about what comes next.

Will they be allowed to stay in Europe? If so, in which country? And will they have a choice? Can they go to school even if they are adults? How much does a SIM card cost?

Nelson Oyedele, 37, said he fled violence and poverty in Nigeria with his wife and four small children.

"I don't know where I'm going to end up, I'm just going," he told an Associated Press reporter on the Ocean Viking, a Norwegian-flagged rescue ship run by the humanitarian organizations Doctors Without Borders and SOS Mediterranee. "My daughter says she wants to become a doctor. She could never become a doctor back in our country. Maybe here she will."

Oyedele was the only man on the ship traveling as part of a complete family. The rest had left behind wives, husbands, children and parents in their home countries, mostly in sub-Saharan Africa.

Abdul Kerim, 20, said he fled persecution in Togo and wants to reunite with brothers and aunts living in Germany. He hopes to be granted asylum and is open to any kind of work, though he dreams of having his own construction company.

"I will work for Europe and give all I have," he said. "If possible I would like my family to join me." His wife and 2-year-old son are still in Togo.

However, Kerim and others disembarking in Messina will have no control over where they end up. Their fate will be decided in negotiations among a few European countries that agreed to take them in.

Asylum is typically reserved for people fleeing war and persecution. People escaping poverty in West Africa rarely qualify. In Germany, only 6.5% of Nigerians whose asylum cases have been decided this year received some sort of protection. For Syrians, it was nearly 84%.

The migrants on the Ocean Viking came from a number of countries, including Sudan, Cameroon, Guinea, Mali, Egypt, Morocco and Bangladesh. As they arrived in Messina, their immediate worry was contacting loved ones for the first time since they left Libya, where rape, torture and abuse are widespread at the hands of smugglers demanding ransom payments from the migrants' families.

The Ocean Viking docked in Messina after receiving permission to enter Italy, a country that until a change of governments this month had closed its ports to humanitarian rescue ships, saying their activities encouraged human smuggling. Police and Red Cross workers waited for the migrants on shore.

As they approached Sicily, the passengers marveled at a gargantuan cruise ship docked on the Italian mainland across the Strait of Messina.

"Is there a hotel inside?" asked one of the men watching the floating behemoth from the deck of the much smaller rescue ship. "It's so amazing," said another. The children waved incessantly.

Halfway across the world, on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly in New York, members of the Italian government said most of the migrants on the Ocean Viking would be sent to other European countries.

They called for a permanent European solution to migrant arrivals, instead of the current practice of dealing with the issue ship by ship. They said they also intend to make it easier to return migrants who don't qualify for protection in Europe.

Premier Giuseppe Conte said Italy will soon deliver "good news about a much more effective repatriation system at a European level. Italy is preparing for a decisive turning point."

Associated Press writers Karl Ritter and Giada Zampano in Rome, and David Rising in Berlin, contributed

to this report.

Ukraine entangled yet again in American political storm

By **ERIC TUCKER, RICHARD LARDNER and NATALIYA VASILYEVA** Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's withholding of military aid from Ukraine and his calls for the country's new president to investigate the family of a political rival have thrust the East European nation into an American political storm for the second time in three years.

Before news broke that an intelligence whistleblower had filed a formal complaint based in part on a conversation between Trump and his Ukrainian counterpart, Ukraine had gained notoriety during the trial of former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort. He was convicted last year on charges related to his political consulting work in the country.

Now, Trump has acknowledged pressing Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to investigate Democratic presidential contender Joe Biden and his son, Hunter, who served on the board of directors of an energy company in Ukraine. This prompted a showdown with Congress, as Democrats said they would proceed with a formal impeachment inquiry into Trump.

Ukraine has been a focus of U.S. interest, and recipient of millions of dollars in American aid, since a pro-Western government took power in 2014 and Russia annexed Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula and threw its weight behind separatists fighting in eastern Ukraine.

The country has energy resources that have made it a magnet for people looking for business opportunities such as Hunter Biden. It has a messy political scene that has turned it into a lucrative destination for political consultants and lobbyists such as Manafort.

"It's a place where you need political connections to secure your assets," said Keith Darden, an associate professor at American University's School of International Service who specializes in Ukraine. "You get people who are skilled in operating in that environment, someone like Paul Manafort, or someone who can take advantage of that environment like Hunter Biden, and they can make money."

Ukraine's role in multiple story lines reflects the outsized role billionaire oligarchs play in shaping core sectors of the economy and their ability to offer high-dollar payouts, often with the goal of shaping public opinion and improving the international standing of a country caught in a geopolitical sweet spot between Russia and Western Europe.

Ukraine featured in America's 2016 presidential election because of revelations that Manafort earned millions from his consulting work there and hid the proceeds to avoid paying taxes.

The country was at the center of the recently concluded trial of Greg Craig, a White House counsel to President Barack Obama who was acquitted of lying about Ukraine business dealings.

A nation of 45 million, Ukraine has long been considered one of Eastern Europe's most corrupt countries, with powerful businessmen buying political influence and often their way into parliament to gain immunity from prosecution.

Zelenskyy, an actor who had no political experience, won the presidential election by a landslide in April, reflecting Ukrainians' frustration with rampant corruption. He has pushed fraud-fighting measures that include scrapping criminal immunity for lawmakers.

"They have a very big hole to dig themselves out of," said Nina Jankowicz, an expert on Eastern Europe at the Wilson Center in Washington. "It's basically been 30 years of unchecked corruption."

At the same time, Ukraine is heavily reliant on foreign assistance and seeks to cultivate favorable public opinion in the West to keep the aid flowing, Darden said.

Trump has sought to implicate the Bidens in the kind of corruption that has long plagued Ukraine. He raised the issue in a July 25 phone call with Zelenskyy that is at the center of the whistleblower complaint now roiling Washington.

Hunter Biden was hired by the Ukrainian gas company Burisma Holdings in April 2014, less than two months after Ukraine's Russia-friendly president, Viktor Yanukovich, was ousted by protesters and as Biden's father, as vice president, was heavily involved in U.S. efforts to support the new pro-Western

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 086 ~ 22 of 49

government and its pledge to fight corruption.

The hiring of the U.S. vice president's son immediately raised concerns that the Ukrainian firm, whose owner was a political ally of the ousted president, was seeking to gain influence with the Obama administration. There's been no evidence of wrongdoing by either Biden.

Ukraine's leaders have for years pivoted to Russia or the United States, depending on the political affiliation of each new president, and have often tried to use close ties with one country against the other.

In one of the best-known cases, Yanukovich and his Party of the Regions paid millions of dollars to Manafort. His goal was to promote Yanukovich as a liberal, pro-Western politician and whitewash his attack on political rival Yulia Tymoshenko, who was imprisoned in 2011 following a trial widely seen as Yanukovich's personal vendetta.

Manafort was Trump's campaign chief when revelations surfaced about his work for Yanukovich's party and clandestine payments. He resigned and was convicted, during special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation, of concealing millions of dollars in proceeds from the work.

That probe had multiple offshoot investigations. One was into Greg Craig, who was commissioned with his law firm — for \$4 million — to produce a report on the Tymoshenko prosecution. The government hoped the report would counter international criticism of the prosecution, thereby boosting Kyiv's international standing.

Prosecutors argued Craig helped develop a media rollout strategy for the report and lied about it to the Justice Department. But Craig said he saw his function as simply heading off erroneous spin from Ukraine about his report's findings and maintained that he never did the Ukrainian government's bidding or misled the Justice Department. He was acquitted after just hours of deliberation.

It wasn't the first time Ukrainian interests sought to shape American opinion.

Ukrainian steel mogul Victor Pinchuk, who is married to the daughter of former Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma, paid political consultant Doug Schoen \$40,000 a month to share his views with American policy-makers on democratization in Ukraine, according to records filed under the Foreign Agents Registration Act.

A December 2016 Wall Street Journal op-ed by Pinchuk said Ukraine needed to make "painful compromises" to secure peace with Russia. Among the concessions he suggested were setting aside Ukraine's claim to Crimea and putting its goal of joining the European Union on hold.

Pinchuk said in the op-ed he had hosted Trump as a speaker by video link at the 2015 Yalta European Strategy annual meeting in Kyiv and Trump had expressed "great respect" for Ukraine. Pinchuk didn't mention a \$150,000 payment he made to the Donald J. Trump Foundation in exchange for the talk, which occurred a few months after Trump announced his candidacy for president.

Vasilyeva reported from Moscow.

Al Franken to make return on weekly SiriusXM radio show

By DAVID BAUDER AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Al Franken, who resigned his U.S. Senate seat in 2017 amid sexual misconduct charges, will re-emerge into the public sphere on Saturday when he starts a new weekly radio show on the SiriusXM satellite service.

The Minnesota Democrat is perhaps the most prominent public figure felled by the #MeToo movement to step back into public life. He said he has no plans to return to politics, but as an author, former "Air America" radio host and "Saturday Night Live" writer and comedian, he's returning to a realm he inhabited before becoming a senator.

"I miss the Senate a lot but I'm not there so I want to be a voice," he said in an interview. Of the public's acceptance, he said "a lot of that will depend on me and whether folks think what I'm saying is important and fun at the same time."

The one-hour interview show with figures from politics, entertainment and other fields will air Saturdays at 10 a.m. ET on the Sirius Progress channel, with replays available on demand. Comic Chris Rock will

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 086 ~ 23 of 49

be the first guest, with former Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and comic Patton Oswalt lined up for future shows.

Franken said he's been talking for a few months with Sirius about the show, the conversations an outgrowth of a podcast he's been hosting.

He said there's a lot of public issues he wants to talk about, particularly with the 2020 election looming, mentioning health care and education specifically.

"When Harry's (Reid) on, I'll be the funny one," he said. "When Rock is on, I'll be the one who served in the Senate."

Franken's support among fellow Senate Democrats crumbled quickly in 2017 after conservative radio host Leeann Tweeden and several other women accused him of unwanted kissing or touching. A photo that showed him with his hands appearing to reach for the breasts of Tweeden as she slept while returning from a USO tour — an apparent joke badly gone awry — mobilized public opinion against him.

An investigation by The New Yorker magazine published this summer called some of the charges against him into question. In the piece, seven current or former senators who had demanded his resignation now said they regretted doing so. An eighth, Illinois Sen. Dick Durbin, said so after the article was published. But New York Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, widely seen as the leader of the movement to remove Franken, has expressed no such regrets.

"I was very gratified that eight of my colleagues have apologized and done so publicly and expressed regret for not giving me due process," he said. "It's pretty rare that you get one senator admitting that he or she had done something wrong. I think the American people believe in due process as well."

He said he doesn't plan further discussion on his show about what happened to him and, if anyone is interested, he'll point them in the direction of the New Yorker piece. In that article, Franken said he "absolutely" regretted stepping down and that he was angry at fellow senators who pressured him to leave.

Franken told the AP that he didn't expect that any feeling of betrayal by colleagues will be a problem when he has to discuss issues that involve, for instance, Gillibrand or Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer. He said he's had no potential guest turn him down out of skittishness about being involved in controversy.

"When I'm doing that it won't be about personalities," Franken said. "It will be about where people stand."

He said he had no comment about the fate of Gillibrand's presidential campaign, which she ended in late August.

SiriusXM did not make its executives available for an interview. Megan Liberman, the company's senior vice president of news, talk and entertainment programming, said in a statement that "Al Franken is an important and influential progressive voice, whom many have missed. SiriusXM is the perfect platform for him to re-enter the public conversation."

The company said that in addition to his weekly show, Franken will participate in elections coverage, including on the nights of debates, primaries and the election.

Domingo withdraws from Met Opera after harassment reports

By RONALD BLUM Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The Metropolitan Opera announced Tuesday that Plácido Domingo had agreed to withdraw from his slate of scheduled performances at the opera house following allegations of sexual harassment made by multiple women in two Associated Press stories. The opera legend indicated that he would never again perform at the Met.

Domingo had been scheduled to sing the title role in the season premiere of Verdi's "Macbeth" on Wednesday night, which would have been his first performance in the United States since the AP reported that numerous women had accused him of inappropriate behavior, including one soprano who said he grabbed her bare breast.

The Met had been under increasing pressure to cancel Domingo's appearances, but general manager Peter Gelb reiterated to performers after a dress rehearsal Saturday that the opera house was awaiting results of investigations by the LA Opera, where Domingo has been general director since 2003, and the

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 086 ~ 24 of 49

American Guild of Musical Artists, the union that represents various opera staff.

Domingo, who had sung in rehearsals, issued a statement saying his Met career was over after what the company said was 706 performances as a singer, plus 169 as a conductor.

"I made my debut at the Metropolitan Opera at the age of 27 and have sung at this magnificent theater for 51 consecutive, glorious years," the star said. "While I strongly dispute recent allegations made about me, and I am concerned about a climate in which people are condemned without due process, upon reflection, I believe that my appearance in this production of 'Macbeth' would distract from the hard work of my colleagues both on stage and behind the scenes.

"As a result, I have asked to withdraw," he added, "and I thank the leadership of the Met for graciously granting my request. I am happy that, at the age of 78, I was able to sing the wonderful title role in the dress rehearsal of 'Macbeth,' which I consider my last performance on the Met stage."

In its statement, the Met said the long-married, Spanish-born superstar had "agreed to withdraw from all future performances at the Met, effective immediately."

Gelb sent an email to the Met staff saying, "We are grateful to him for recognizing that he needed to step down."

The Philadelphia Orchestra, San Francisco Opera and Dallas Opera previously canceled upcoming concerts starring Domingo after the AP stories were published. But his reception has been far different in Europe, where he received lengthy ovations after concert performances of Verdi's "Luisa Miller" at the Salzburg Festival in Austria on Aug. 25 and 31, just weeks after the initial AP story.

Angela Turner Wilson, the singer who allowed the AP to use her name in accusing Domingo of grabbing her breast, said she was "relieved" by the Met's action, but criticized Gelb for previously asserting that the opera house could not act without corroborated evidence and that all of Domingo's accusers were anonymous. She called Gelb's remarks "a major concern to me and many others who wish to see the current culture of sexual harassment and retaliation removed from our industry. It is time."

Another of Domingo's accusers, Patricia Wulf, also called the withdrawal a relief.

"I feel like we accomplished something," said Wulf, who accused Domingo of repeatedly harassing her during performances at Washington Opera in the late 1990s, while he was general director of the company.

"The Met finally stepped up and did the right thing," she told the AP.

In addition to announcing Domingo's withdrawal, Gelb said the Met was suspending tenor Vittorio Grigolo pending the outcome of an investigation opened Tuesday by The Royal Opera in London, which said he was alleged to be involved in a Sept. 18 incident when he sang the title role in Gounod's "Faust" on tour in Tokyo.

Grigolo, 42, was scheduled to sing six performances of Alfredo in Verdi's "La Traviata" at the Met in February and March. He did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment.

The Met fired conductor James Levine in March 2018 after an investigation by a law firm retained by the company found evidence of sexual abuse and harassment. Levine, the company's music director from 1976-2016, was music director emeritus at the time and denied the allegations. He filed a breach of contract and defamation lawsuit that was settled last month.

Domingo made his Met debut in September 1968 and is known to many beyond opera for his performances as part of The Three Tenors with Luciano Pavarotti and José Carreras. Singing far beyond the retirement age of most singers, he shifted to baritone parts in 2009, extending his repertoire to more than 150 roles. He sang 21 opening nights at the Met, breaking Enrico Caruso's previous record of 17.

Domingo's next scheduled performance is in Verdi's "Nabucco" at the Zurich Opera on Oct. 13. He is not slated to sing in the U.S. until Donizetti's "Roberto Devereux" at the LA Opera, which opens Feb. 22.

Zeljko Lucic, originally scheduled for later in the run, will replace Domingo and sing all six performances of "Macbeth" at the Met. Domingo also had been scheduled for four performances as Sharpless in Puccini's "Madama Butterfly" at the Met in November.

Outside the Met entrance Tuesday night, a poster advertising the "Macbeth" production had Domingo's name whited out, with the name of his replacement covering it.

Cathy Soderquist, a retired U.S. government employee from Washington who planned to see "Macbeth" on Wednesday, called the Met's action an overreaction in the "#MeToo era." "Too many allegations are coming in and people are being accused and penalized," she said. "I mean, he's being accused, but he hasn't been prosecuted. He hasn't gone to court."

Said her husband, Dick Soderquist, "Europeans are kind of laughing at us."

Before Domingo's withdrawal, the New York state senator whose district includes the opera house had called for his removal.

"I believe they have an obligation to hold their performers to a high standard, given the fact that they are one of the world's most important cultural institutions," said Brad Hoylman, a Democrat. "They should be thinking also not just about his celebrity and star power, but about the 20 women who allegedly have made complaints. The Met has an obligation to ensure the safety and well-being of their employees and I'm concerned that if they don't take action on this, this matter might discourage future employees from coming forward."

Associated Press writers Jocelyn Gecker, Jocelyn Noveck and Verena Dobnik contributed to this report.

Federal prosecutors join Trump to block tax return subpoena

By LARRY NEUMEISTER Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Federal prosecutors are joining President Donald Trump in asking a federal judge in New York to temporarily block a state court grand jury subpoena seeking his tax returns.

They say in papers filed late Tuesday in Manhattan federal court that Trump has raised "weighty constitutional issues" in trying to stop the subpoena and they want to review them and decide whether to join the fight.

"To the extent that enforcement of the subpoena may adversely affect federal interests of constitutional dimension, those effects could not be redressed after the fact," the prosecutors said in asking for a "short stay of the subpoena's enforcement."

Prosecutors say they could inform the judge by next Tuesday whether they intend to join Trump's quest to block his longtime accountant from complying with the subpoena, which stems from a criminal probe.

Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance Jr. said Trump's challenge doesn't belong in federal court and he's asked U.S. District Judge Victor Marrero to reject the effort to block the subpoena.

Marrero will listen to lawyers as they try to persuade him during a hearing Wednesday morning. A ruling may be immediate or come within hours since Trump's attorneys are seeking emergency relief in the form of a temporary order preventing a turnover of the tax returns while the legal issues are studied in more depth.

However Marrero rules, his decision is almost certain to be appealed.

The president's lawyers say Vance is "charging down this blatantly unconstitutional path" by demanding the records from his accountant. They say Vance is subjecting Trump to a criminal probe even though he cannot be criminally charged while president.

They say Trump was cooperating with Vance's probe until the district attorney "took an outrageous step" after a disagreement ensued over the scope of the subpoena.

Trump's lawyers say Vance sent a photocopy of a congressional subpoena seeking wide access to Trump and his family's financial records to his accounting firm. In separate litigation, Trump's lawyers are challenging the congressional subpoena too.

"Had the District Attorney not acted in such an irresponsible and abusive fashion, the President likely would have cooperated here too," the attorneys wrote in papers submitted to Marrero Tuesday.

Vance argued in court papers that Trump's effort to get federal courts to intervene was misplaced since "important separation of powers and federalism concerns prohibit federal litigation of a state court subpoena."

Vance and his lawyers said Trump was presenting the "remarkable proposition that a sitting President

enjoys not only a blanket immunity from criminal prosecution, but that this blanket immunity also protects a president from having to respond to any routine, lawful grand jury request for information about his conduct or that of his businesses or employees before he took office."

University of Richmond law professor Carl Tobias said the White House strategy was likely aimed at delaying litigation rather than airing out thorny legal issues.

"The White House has a blanket 'no' on everything," he said. "At some point, they're not going to be able to stop all of them. I think they're just trying to run out the clock, get him re-elected."

California ramps up efforts to combat invasive swamp rodents

By SAMANTHA MALDONADO and TERRY CHEA Associated Press

LOS BANOS, Calif. (AP) — One of the most recent threats to California's environment has webbed feet, white whiskers, shaggy fur and orange buck teeth that could be mistaken for carrots.

"Boy, they're an ugly-looking thing," said David Passadori, an almond and walnut grower in central California. "And the way they multiply — jeez."

The swamp rodents, called nutria, are setting off alarms in California. They weigh about 20 pounds (9 kilograms) each and eat the equivalent of about a fourth of their weight each day by burrowing into riverbanks and chomping into plants that emerge from the water.

The animals can destroy the wetland habitats of rare and endangered species, degrading soil, ruining crops and carrying pathogens that may threaten livestock.

Most of all, they pose a public safety risk: Left unchecked, nutria could jeopardize California's water supply, especially if they get into the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta.

The delta is the "heartbeat of California's water infrastructure," according to Peter Tira, spokesman for the state's Department of Fish and Wildlife. It contains a network of more than 1,000 miles (1,600 kilometers) of canals and levees that protect the area from flooding, provide drinking water to millions of Californians and irrigate the lush agricultural region.

Now, armed with \$10 million in state funds, the wildlife agency is deploying new tactics to eradicate the nutria and try to prevent the widespread destruction they are known to cause.

"Over the past two years, our best efforts were trying to not even control the population but keep it from exploding while we pursued the resources needed to actually pursue eradication," said Valerie Cook, environmental program manager for Fish and Wildlife's newly established Nutria Eradication Program.

"We haven't had nutria in California for 50 years, so nobody really knows much about them," Tira said. "We've had to learn on the job as we go."

An invasive species originally from South America and brought to the U.S. at the height of the fur trade in the late 19th century, nutria were believed to have been eradicated in the state in the 1970s until one turned up in a beaver trap in 2017. Since then, more than 700 nutria have been trapped and killed, including four on Passadori's property.

Farmers, landowners and biologists in the Central Valley, an agricultural region 130 miles (210 kilometers) north of Sacramento, have been on high alert.

On a recent morning in Merced County, where the most nutria have been found, state biologists Greg Gerstenberg and Sean McCain paddled in kayaks in a wetland pond thick with cattails. Wearing waders, they trudged through chest-deep water to check surveillance cameras and cage traps where they leave sweet potato pieces to entice the invasive rodents.

Last year, wildlife officials removed almost 90 nutria from this pond. Gerstenberg and McCain have returned because they believe at least a few nutria are back. But on this morning they found only muskrats, smaller swamp-dwelling rodents, and release them back into the pond.

"Our goal is to get out here and find them and eradicate them before they become fully established throughout our Central Valley," said Gerstenberg, a senior Fish and Wildlife biologist.

The Central Valley is the United States' most productive agricultural region, responsible for more than half the nation's fruits, vegetables and nuts, including almost all its apricots, table grapes, carrots, aspara-

gus and tree nuts. Federal Department of Agriculture figures pegged the market value of Central Valley agricultural in 2017 at almost \$29 billion.

Damage to the region's soil or water infrastructure would be devastating to the economy and diet.

"It would mean no more sushi because the alternative would be to buy rice from Japan or Korea, where the price is five times higher," said Daniel Sumner, director of the Agricultural Issues Center at the University of California-Davis. "Kiss off carrots, or live without table grapes in the summertime."

Trail cameras and landowners have helped locate the elusive, nocturnal creatures over an area of almost 13,300 square miles (34,449 square kilometers) that wildlife officials are evaluating for nutria habitats. Live traps baited with sweet potato donated by farmers help capture them. Once identified as nutria, the animals are shot. Tira said about three-quarters of female nutria have been found pregnant — they can have up to three litters a year, allowing them to repopulate quickly.

The new attention and funding will allow Fish and Wildlife to hire 46 dedicated staff. By December, the agency will launch what's known as a Judas Nutria program that would outfit surgically sterilized nutria with radio collars and send them out in the wild. Because the animals are so social, they will lead the team to other nutria.

Before year's end, Fish and Wildlife will start genetically testing the nutria to determine where they came from. Tira said migration from Oregon or Washington is doubtful, but the team isn't sure whether the nutria were reintroduced to California or part of a remnant population.

Taking a cue from Maryland's eastern shore and parts of Delaware and Virginia, officials also will test dogs trained to sniff out the rodents' scent and scat.

"We can't be successful if we can't find every single animal," Cook said.

Besides threatening agriculture and infrastructure, nutria can harm wetlands, which play a critical role in keeping carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere and helping mitigate global warming.

The Central Valley also hosts the largest concentration of migratory waterfowl on Earth, said Ric Ortega, the Grassland Water District's general manager.

"We only have so much surface water storage in California," he said. "It's not a wetland if it's not wet. The nutria complicate that."

Samantha Maldonado reported from San Francisco.

Iran president to address UN as Persian Gulf tensions mount

By EDITH M. LEDERER Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — With tensions high in the Persian Gulf, all eyes will be on Iranian President Hassan Rouhani on Wednesday as he speaks on the second day of the U.N. General Assembly's annual gathering of world leaders.

In another highly anticipated speech, Ukraine's freshly minted president will address the group for the first time as a fast-escalating scandal involving U.S. President Donald Trump swirls around him. Volodymyr Zelenskyy's speech comes just a day after U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi launched a formal impeachment inquiry against Trump, focused partly on whether Trump abused his presidential powers and sought help from Ukraine to undermine Democratic foe Joe Biden and help his own re-election.

Many of the world's leaders have used their speeches so far to defend the multilateralism embodied by the United Nations at a time when the U.S. and other nations are sliding toward unilateralism and going it alone.

In a flurry of diplomatic activity this week, European and other leaders have pushed for a thaw in the nuclear standoff between the Iran and the U.S.

But Rouhani has hinted at only the faintest possibility of a breakthrough. He said he would not even consider meeting with Trump until the U.S. lifts crippling sanctions imposed in the wake of Trump's pullout from a nuclear deal. The Iranian told a group of U.S. media leaders that his government would first need a clearer idea of what the U.S. administration actually seeks.

Rouhani's speech comes a day after Trump took his turn at the U.N. General Assembly, blasting what he called Iran's "bloodlust" and rising aggression. The U.S. has blamed Iran for recent strikes on oil facilities in Saudi Arabia that have rattled the Middle East and global oil markets. Iran has denied being behind the attacks, saying they were solely the work of Yemeni rebels.

Rouhani said he had some optimism that the departure of national security adviser John Bolton could change U.S. behavior, but he had seen "no tangible evidence" of that yet. At the U.N. meetings this year, Rouhani said he would remind many leaders that the Iran is still here, despite what he described as mistaken promises from Bolton that tough sanctions would destabilize the Islamic Republic's leadership.

Workers, car owners, dealers and GM feel pinch from strike

By TOM KRISHER AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — As the United Auto Workers' strike against General Motors stretches into a second week, it's not just the company and striking workers getting pinched.

With many replacement part warehouses shut down, dealers are beginning to run short of components to repair cars, trucks and SUVs. And companies that make auto parts are also starting to see work slow down. Dealer inventory of new vehicles is holding up but starting to get depleted on a few models.

Meanwhile, GM is losing millions of dollars and has been forced to close one Canadian factory and send workers home at another. The 49,000 striking workers are going to have to get by on \$250 per week in strike pay.

This doesn't even include the restaurants and other businesses around the more than 30 U.S. factories that have been closed due to the strike. And the longer the strike lasts, the worse it will get for everyone.

Here's a look at the ripple effects of the strike as bargaining continues:

AUTO PARTS: The biggest impact so far seems to be the lack of availability of some replacement parts for GM vehicles. The strike has shut down a parts depot in Charlotte, North Carolina, where the Southeast region normally gets its replacements, said Ed Williamson, who owns several GM dealers in the Miami area.

Parts suppliers, especially smaller ones where GM is the main customer, are also starting to get hit, says Morningstar analyst David Whiston. Even bigger ones like Magna International, a Canadian company that makes components for many GM models, is reporting temporary layoffs at some of its U.S. and Canadian operations.

GM spokesman Jim Cain acknowledged there are some parts shortages, but says it is still shipping parts from depots staffed by management, dealers that stockpile parts for sale to other dealers, and outside companies that make parts for GM vehicles.

"Obviously it's a difficult situation, and we are working to find other sources of parts around the country," he said.

DEALER INVENTORY: GM had a hefty 77-day supply of vehicles at the end of August, but big SUVs were only at about 55 days, lower than the industry average of 61. With no shipments since Sept. 16, supplies are starting to drop.

Michelle Krebs, executive analyst for Autotrader, said dealers have told her that they'll have ample supply for another week or so. Sales in September thus far have been slowing from August levels, so supplies aren't being depleted that quickly, she said.

Williamson said he's still got plenty of vehicles, including 80 to 90 days worth of big SUVs such as the Cadillac Escalade and GMC Yukon. But he's running short of the Cadillac XT5 midsize SUV.

GM IN CANADA AND MEXICO: Citi analyst Itay Michalei estimates GM is losing \$100 million in profits per day. The strike has already caused GM to lay off 1,850 workers and shut down its assembly plant in Oshawa, Ontario, near Toronto. Another 730 were laid off from an engine plant in St. Catherine's, Ontario, according to Unifor, the Canadian auto workers union.

Thus far, GM says no Mexican plants have been shut down, nor has a factory in Ontario that builds the Chevrolet Equinox compact SUV.

UAW WORKERS: Striking workers received their last GM paycheck this past Friday and now will have to rely on \$250 per week in union strike pay that starts this Friday. When they're on the job, most workers get about \$30 per hour in wages, or roughly \$1,200 per week. Whiston estimates that the work stoppage will cost the UAW's roughly \$750 million strike fund about \$31.5 million per week in strike pay and health care costs.

Impeachment a rarely used path for ousting a president

By DAVID CRARY AP National Writer

Donald Trump joins a small group of fellow presidents now that he's the subject of an official impeachment inquiry in the House of Representatives. Only three of his predecessors underwent similar proceedings: Andrew Johnson and Bill Clinton, who were acquitted after trials in the Senate, and Richard Nixon, who resigned to avoid being impeached in the Watergate scandal.

The rarely used procedure is spelled out in Article II, Section 4 of the Constitution, which stipulates that the president and other officers of government "shall be removed from office on impeachment for, and conviction of, treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors."

The first step toward impeachment is taken by the House, which debates and votes on whether to bring charges. This can be done by a simple majority of the House's 435 members.

If the House adopts an impeachment resolution, the Senate then holds a trial, with the chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court presiding. A two-thirds majority vote is required in the Senate to convict and remove a president — an outcome that has yet to occur.

Only 20 government officers in all, including Johnson and Clinton, have been impeached, and only eight of them, all federal judges with lifetime tenure, have been convicted and removed from office.

A brief look at past presidential impeachment proceedings:

BILL CLINTON

The Republican-controlled House voted in October 1998 to begin impeachment proceedings against Clinton after months of controversy over his relationship with White House intern Monica Lewinsky.

That vote was triggered by two rounds of testimony given by Clinton earlier in the year. In January, he denied having a sexual relationship with Lewinsky; in August, under questioning from independent counsel Kenneth Starr before a federal grand jury, he testified that he engaged in an inappropriate relationship with Lewinsky.

Clinton was impeached on Dec. 19, 1998, on the grounds of perjury to a grand jury and obstruction of justice. A Senate trial against Clinton commenced on Jan. 7, 1999, and unfolded over four weeks, with Chief Justice William Rehnquist presiding.

On Feb. 12, the Senate voted to acquit Clinton on both charges — falling far short of the 67 votes needed to convict. Only 45 senators voted for conviction on the perjury charge, and 50 for the obstruction charge.

RICHARD NIXON

The House initiated an impeachment process against Nixon in February 1974, authorizing the Judiciary Committee to investigate whether grounds existed to impeach him of high crimes and misdemeanors. The charges mostly related to Watergate — shorthand for the 1972 break-in at the Democratic National Committee headquarters and the Nixon administration's attempts to cover up its involvement.

In July 1974, the Judiciary Committee approved three articles of impeachment against Nixon — for obstruction of justice, abuse of power and contempt of Congress.

Before the full House could vote on the articles of impeachment, a previously undisclosed audio tape was released that made clear Nixon had a role in the cover-up. He resigned from office on Aug. 9, 1974.

ANDREW JOHNSON

Johnson's impeachment in 1868 was the culmination of a bitter dispute between the president and the Republican-controlled House over Reconstruction following the Civil War.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 086 ~ 30 of 49

The specific trigger for impeachment was Johnson's attempt to fire Secretary of War Edwin Stanton, who favored a tougher approach than Johnson toward the defeated South. Nine of 11 impeachment articles concerned the head of the War Department.

The House voted to impeach Johnson on March 3, 1868. Three days later, the Senate convened a formal impeachment trial, with Supreme Court Chief Justice Salmon P. Chase presiding.

On May 16, after an often-stormy trial, the Senate failed to convict Johnson on one of the 11 articles, falling short of the necessary two-thirds majority by one vote. After a 10-day recess, two more votes failed by the same margin, and the trial was adjourned.

Another fine mess: Brexit-dogged Johnson's UN trip goes awry

By JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — British Prime Minister Boris Johnson landed in New York this week on a speedy Royal Air Force jet, bringing his vision of a post-Brexit "Global Britain" to the United Nations.

Then he sat on the tarmac for more than an hour. The captain informed passengers that another VIP's plane was occupying the stand. It was the first hint that Johnson's trip to the U.N.'s General Assembly might not run entirely smoothly.

The annual gathering — a diplomatic-media bear pit where scores of world leaders compete for attention in the middle of a teeming, gridlocked Manhattan — can be a daunting experience for new leaders. But for Johnson it could have been something of a respite: a chance to leave the melodrama of Britain's stalled departure from the European Union behind for 72 hours, show a Brexit-befuddled world that Britain is still a serious global player and cement his relationship with U.S. President Donald Trump.

That was never going to be easy, and it got spectacularly harder on Tuesday, when the U.K. Supreme Court ruled that Johnson acted illegally when he suspended Parliament just weeks before Britain is due to leave the EU on Oct. 31. The 11 justices ruled the suspension "unlawful, void and of no effect."

Absorbing the news before dawn at a luxury New York hotel, Johnson's advisers were taken aback. The damning, unanimous ruling was much worse for the government than they had hoped.

With lawmakers set to return to Parliament on Wednesday, Johnson's trip was abruptly cut short. He flew back to London immediately after his speech to the General Assembly on Tuesday evening — one he was still drafting on Tuesday afternoon.

When he did deliver it, it was decidedly unusual — a vivid screed about the dark dangers of, and then about the utopian possibilities of, an increasingly tech-drenched future.

"Can these algorithms be trusted with our lives and hopes?" he asked, before pivoting to positivity: "I am profoundly optimistic about the ability of new technology to serve as a liberator and remake the world wondrously and benignly."

In the speech, Johnson mentioned Brexit only once — as a pointed aside while recalling the myth of Prometheus, who was chained to a rock by Zeus and sentenced to have his liver eaten out by an eagle for eternity.

"And this went on forever," he quipped, "a bit like the experience of Brexit in the U.K, if some of our parliamentarians had their way."

Earlier, Johnson had soldiered on as if it were business as usual, giving a speech to business leaders and holding a series of meetings with other world leaders.

He brushed aside questions about whether he would resign, said he "strongly" disagreed with the court decision and suggested he might try to suspend Parliament for a second time. He also rebuffed calls by the opposition to resign for misleading Queen Elizabeth II when he told her to give her formal assent to Parliament's suspension.

Rapid movement followed by sudden halts and reversals have long marked the roller-coaster political career of Johnson, who ricocheted between high office and political back benches before becoming prime minister two months ago.

His carefully cultivated air of chaos — the shock of blond hair, rumpled shirt and mumbling self-depre-

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 086 ~ 31 of 49

cation — led many to write him off as a national leader.

But he got the U.K.'s top job when Britain's political deadlock over Brexit finally exhausted his predecessor, Theresa May. Johnson promised the governing Conservative Party he would deliver Brexit on the scheduled date of Oct. 31 "do or die."

Since then, Johnson has run straight into the morass that entrapped May: a country split down the middle between supporters and opponents of Brexit, and a Parliament that has rejected the divorce terms on offer but also opposes leaving without a deal.

He is stuck and — alarmingly for a politician who wants to be liked — he's divisive. Outside the Supreme Court in London last week, some Brexit supporters chanted "Boris is our leader." But pro-European Britons spit out his name in conjunction with crude expletives.

Even before the court ruling, Johnson had a rough few weeks. Parliament passed a law to bind his hand, ordering the government to seek a delay to Brexit if it doesn't approve a deal with the EU by late October. Two ministers quit his Cabinet over Brexit — one of them his own younger brother, Jo Johnson.

He was accused in the Sunday Times of giving public funding to a female friend (he denies wrongdoing) and was berated by the father of a sick child on a visit to a hospital.

But speaking to reporters on the plane to New York, Johnson seemed relaxed and more self-aware than he often appears in public. He shrugged off the hospital confrontation, saying there was nothing wrong with "a spot of lively interchange with members of the public."

Johnson's successful stint as mayor of London between 2008 and 2016 shows that he can be an effective ambassador for the U.K. But his message in New York — that post-Brexit Britain will be "more global, more outgoing and more open to the rest of the world than ever before" — was drowned out by the crisis engulfing him in London.

Still, Downing Street officials insisted the trip had been a success, pointing to a joint U.K.-France-Germany statement blaming Iran for the attack on Saudi oil facilities and urging Tehran to comply with its nuclear responsibilities.

Johnson's friends say it would be unwise to write him off just yet. His most prominent friend at the U.N. was Trump, who may see in Johnson a leader with a divisive style — and woes — to match his own.

The two men have significant differences, especially on tackling climate change, a priority for Johnson. But the president was effusive when they met on Tuesday.

"I know him well. He's not going anywhere," Trump told reporters. "Don't worry about him."

Pelosi orders impeachment probe: 'No one is above the law'

By LISA MASCARO, MARY CLARE JALONICK and MICHAEL BALSAMO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Speaker Nancy Pelosi launched a formal impeachment inquiry against President Donald Trump on Tuesday, yielding to mounting pressure from fellow Democrats and plunging a deeply divided nation into an election-year clash between Congress and the commander in chief.

The probe focuses partly on whether Trump abused his presidential powers and sought help from a foreign government to undermine Democratic foe Joe Biden and help his own reelection. Pelosi said such actions would mark a "betrayal of his oath of office" and declared, "No one is above the law."

The impeachment inquiry, after months of investigations by House Democrats of the Trump administration, sets up the party's most direct and consequential confrontation with the president, injects deep uncertainty into the 2020 election campaign and tests anew the nation's constitutional system of checks and balances.

Trump, who thrives on combat, has all but dared Democrats to take this step, confident that the specter of impeachment led by the opposition party will bolster rather than diminish his political support.

Meeting with world leaders at the United Nations, he previewed his defense in an all-caps tweet: "PRESIDENTIAL HARASSMENT!"

Pelosi's brief statement, delivered without dramatic flourish but in the framework of a constitutional crisis, capped a frenetic weeklong stretch on Capitol Hill as details of a classified whistleblower complaint about

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 086 ~ 32 of 49

Trump burst into the open and momentum shifted toward an impeachment probe.

For months, the Democratic leader has tried calming the push for impeachment, saying the House must investigate the facts and let the public decide. The new drive was led by a group of moderate Democratic lawmakers from political swing districts, many of them with national security backgrounds and serving in Congress for the first time. The freshmen, who largely represent districts previously held by Republicans where Trump is popular, risk their own reelections but say they could no longer stand idle. Amplifying their call were longtime leaders, including Rep. John Lewis of Georgia, the civil rights icon often considered the conscience of House Democrats.

"Now is the time to act," said Lewis, in an address to the House. "To delay or to do otherwise would betray the foundation of our democracy."

At issue are Trump's actions with Ukraine. In a summer phone call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, he is said to have asked for help investigating former Vice President Biden and his son Hunter. In the days before the call, Trump ordered advisers to freeze \$400 million in military aid for Ukraine — prompting speculation that he was holding out the money as leverage for information on the Bidens. Trump has denied that charge, but acknowledged he blocked the funds, later released.

Biden said Tuesday, before Pelosi's announcement, that if Trump doesn't cooperate with lawmakers' demands for documents and testimony in its investigations the president "will leave Congress ... with no choice but to initiate impeachment." He said that would be a tragedy of Trump's "own making."

The Trump-Ukraine phone call is part of the whistleblower's complaint, though the administration has blocked Congress from getting other details of the report, citing presidential privilege. Trump has authorized the release of a transcript of the call, which is to be made public Wednesday.

"You will see it was a very friendly and totally appropriate call," Trump said.

The whistleblower's complaint was being reviewed for classified material and could go to Congress by Thursday, according to a person familiar with the issue who was not authorized to discuss it publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Trump has sought to implicate Biden and his son in the kind of corruption that has long plagued Ukraine. Hunter Biden served on the board of a Ukrainian gas company at the same time his father was leading the Obama administration's diplomatic dealings with Kyiv. Though the timing raised concerns among anti-corruption advocates, there has been no evidence of wrongdoing by either the former vice president or his son.

While the possibility of impeachment has hung over Trump for many months, the likelihood of a probe had faded after special counsel Robert Mueller's Trump-Russia investigation ended without a clear directive for lawmakers.

Since then, the House committees have revisited aspects of the Mueller probe while also launching new inquiries into Trump's businesses and various administration scandals that all seemed likely to drag on for months.

But details of Trump's dealings with Ukraine prompted Democrats to quickly shift course. By the time Pelosi addressed the nation Tuesday, about two-thirds of House Democrats had announced moving toward impeachment probes.

The burden will likely now shift to Democrats to make the case to a scandal-weary public. In a highly polarized Congress, an impeachment inquiry could simply showcase how clearly two sides can disagree when shown the same evidence rather than approach consensus.

Building toward this moment, the president has repeatedly been stonewalling requests for documents and witness interviews in the variety of ongoing investigations.

After Pelosi's Tuesday announcement, the president and his campaign team quickly released a series of tweets attacking Democrats, including a video of presidential critics like the speaker and Rep. Ilhan Omar discussing impeachment. It concluded: "While Democrats 'Sole Focus' is fighting Trump, President Trump is fighting for you."

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said Pelosi's well-known "efforts to restrain her far-left conference have finally crumbled."

Pelosi has for months resisted calls for impeachment from her restive caucus, warning that it would backfire against the party unless there was a groundswell of public support. That groundswell hasn't occurred, but some of the more centrist lawmakers are facing new pressure back home for not having acted on impeachment.

While Pelosi's announcement adds weight to the work being done on the oversight committees, the next steps are likely to resemble the past several months of hearings and legal battles — except with the possibility of actual impeachment votes.

On Wednesday, the House is expected to consider a symbolic but still notable resolution insisting the Trump administration turn over to Congress the whistleblower's complaint. The Senate, in a rare bipartisan moment, approved a similar resolution Tuesday.

The lawyer for the whistleblower, who is still anonymous, released a statement saying he had asked Trump's director of national intelligence to turn over the complaint to House committees and asking guidance to permit the whistleblower to meet with lawmakers.

Pelosi suggested that this new episode — examining whether a president abused his power for personal political gain — would be easier to explain to Americans than some of the issues that arose during the Mueller investigation and other congressional probes.

The speaker put the matter in stark terms: "The actions of the Trump presidency revealed dishonorable facts of the president's betrayal of his oath of office, betrayal of his national security and betrayal of the integrity of our elections."

Associated Press writers Julie Pace, Laurie Kellman, Andrew Taylor, Eric Tucker and Zeke Miller in Washington and Jonathan Lemire and Deb Riechmann in New York contributed to this report.

Isolated and restricted, Iran uses UN gathering for outreach

AYA BATRAWY Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Iran's delegates to the United Nations are confined to a roughly six-block radius of Manhattan, but that hasn't limited their reach as they mount a diplomatic blitz at the U.N. General Assembly this week.

President Hassan Rouhani has used his time in New York to meet with the leaders of the UK, France, Germany and Japan on the sidelines of the U.N. meeting. He also met with U.S. media leaders and gave a TV interview to Fox News.

Inside the U.N., talk of Iran has made it into speeches by world leaders as the crisis brewing in the Persian Gulf looms over the annual gathering. But all around, there's been a diplomatic flurry of activity to address the rising tensions, in addition to demonstrations, conversations and interviews all focused on Iran.

It comes as movements of Iran's delegation to the U.N. are far more restricted than in previous years, when Iranian representatives to the U.N. were allowed to travel within a 25-mile radius in midtown Manhattan.

The need for diplomacy and dialogue— both mainstays of the U.N.— seems to have taken on an added sense of urgency as officials from Europe and the Middle East stress the importance of avoiding escalations that could lead to war.

The sense of urgency follows months of provocations in the Persian Gulf that culminated in a stunning attack earlier this month on key oil facilities in Saudi Arabia.

"We believe that Iran was responsible because these were Iranian weapons," Saudi Arabia's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Adel al-Jubeir, told an audience of intellectuals and journalists on Tuesday at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York.

A day earlier, Britain, France and Germany joined the United States and Saudi Arabia in blaming Iran for the Sep. 14 attack, even as Iran insists it had no involvement in the strikes that were claimed by Yemeni rebels.

Al-Jubeir described the European statement as a "very significant step forward in terms of the European

position.”

He said Saudi Arabia wants “to make sure that we avoid war at all costs.”

“But we’re not going to sit there with our hands tied while the Iranians continue to attack us,” he added.

At another gathering that focused on Iran, a senior Gulf official told a small group of reporters in New York earlier in the week that there’s still room for diplomacy, but he said the discussion must expand beyond the focus on Iran’s nuclear enrichment to include its ballistic-missile program and Tehran’s support for Shiite militias across the Middle East.

“There is much more room and time for diplomacy and discussions. We must work to engage the U.S., the Europeans, and the international community in collective diplomacy,” the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the diplomatic efforts.

The current crisis follows President Donald Trump’s decision last year to withdraw the U.S. from Iran’s nuclear agreement with world powers, reached under the Obama administration. Trump has since re-imposed and expanded sanctions on Iran, targeting its oil exports and crippling its economy.

In his speech at the U.N. on Tuesday, Trump reserved his harshest words for Iran, calling it “one of the greatest threats” to the planet.

“All nations have a duty to act. No responsible government should subsidize Iran’s bloodlust,” he said, accusing Iran of fueling the wars in Syria and Yemen.

Still, he left open the possibility of a diplomatic breakthrough, saying, “The United States has never believed in permanent enemies. We want partners, not adversaries.”

Shortly before Trump took center stage at the U.N. General Assembly, Rouhani met with U.S. media leaders and said he’d consider meeting “at any level” to explore what the Trump administration seeks in a new nuclear deal — but not until sanctions against his country are lifted.

There are signs a rapprochement is possible: Pakistan’s Prime Minister Imran Khan said Tuesday he’d begun to mediate between Trump and Rouhani the U.S. president’s request. Khan provided no details but said he had spoken to Rouhani on Monday after Trump asked Khan to “deescalate the situation.”

While diplomatic talks are taking place quietly in different corners of the city, a loud and lively demonstration drew several hundred people to denounce Iran’s government just blocks away from the U.N. headquarters. The rally’s organizers, the Organization of Iranian American Communities, insisted several thousand people took part in the protest.

Trump’s personal lawyer and former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani addressed the crowd, describing Iran’s Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei as “the murdering ayatollah” and Tehran’s clerical leadership “the murdering mullahs.”

“I am speaking in my individual capacity. I am for regime change. Down with the tyrants in Iran. Down with the ayatollah and the mullahs and all the crooks,” Giuliani said.

On Wednesday, as Rouhani delivers his speech to world leaders at the U.N., U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo will address a high-level audience of his own at an event organized by the advocacy group, United Against Nuclear Iran. There, speakers from Israel, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and the U.S. will gather at a high-end New York hotel to talk more about Iran.

Aya Batrawy has reported on the Middle East for 15 years and helped lead AP’s coverage on Saudi Arabia and the Gulf.

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

Robert Hunter, Grateful Dead’s poetic lyricist, dead at 78

By JOHN ROGERS Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Robert Hunter, the man behind the poetic and mystical words for many of the Grateful Dead’s finest songs, has died at age 78.

Hunter died Monday at his Northern California home with his wife, Maureen, at his side, former Grateful

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 086 ~ 35 of 49

Dead publicist Dennis McNally told The Associated Press on Tuesday. The family did not release a cause of death.

"We loved Bob Hunter and will miss him unimaginably," Grateful Dead drummer Mickey Hart said, adding the lyricist was "a visionary wordsmith extraordinaire."

Although proficient on a number of instruments including guitar, violin, cello and trumpet, Hunter never appeared on stage with the Grateful Dead during the group's 30-year run that ended with the 1995 death of lead guitarist Jerry Garcia, his principal songwriting partner.

When he did attend the group's concerts, he was content to either stand to the side of the stage or, better yet, sit anonymously in the audience. It was in the latter location, he told The Associated Press in 2006, that he received his greatest songwriting compliment, from a man who had no idea who he was.

"He turned to me during 'Cumberland Blues' and said, 'I wonder what the guy who wrote that song a hundred years ago would think if he knew the Grateful Dead was doing it,'" he recalled, referencing the colorful tale of hardscrabble American miners.

Other of Hunter's most memorable Grateful Dead songs include "It Must Have Been the Roses," "Terapin Station," "The Days Between," "Brown Eyed Women," "Jack Straw," "Friend of the Devil," "Box of Rain," "Uncle John's Band" and "Black Muddy River."

Although the man who spoke to him during "Cumberland Blues" couldn't know it, he had perfectly captured Hunter's songwriting brilliance contained in all of those songs: the ability to craft lyrics that sounded so timeless that listeners were certain they had heard them before. It was a skill he matched seamlessly with a boundless knowledge of subjects running the gamut from classic literature to street life, which in turn allowed him to write authoritatively about everyone from card sharks and hustlers to poor dirt farmers and free-spirited lovers.

All of those stories he seasoned with a poetic skill some would say rivaled even that of Bob Dylan, with whom he sometimes collaborated.

"He's got a way with words and I do too," Dylan told Rolling Stone magazine in 2009. "We both write a different type of song than what passes today for songwriting."

"There was nobody like Bob Hunter and there never will be," Hart said Tuesday. "He explained the unexplainable and the words struck deep."

"Truckin'," arguably Hunter and the group's best known song (and the one containing the memorable line, "What a long, strange trip it's been") was designated a national treasure in 1997 by the Library of Congress.

In more than a dozen verses it chronicled the travails of a touring band, among them the Grateful Dead's 1970 drug bust after a show in New Orleans: "Busted, down on Bourbon Street. Set up, like a bowlin' pin. Knocked down. It gets to wearin' thin."

Another song, "Ripple," which was set to a maddening beautiful melody that Garcia composed on guitar, contains the lines Hunter once said he was most proud of: "Reach out your hand, if your cup be empty. If your cup is full, may it be again. Let it be known there is a fountain. That was not made by the hands of men."

Once asked by The Associated Press who his influences were, he laughed and replied that, "just to throw people off," he would often cite both the great 19th century theatrical songwriting team of Gilbert and Sullivan and the American folk music balladeer Woody Guthrie.

After a moment's reflection, he added more seriously, "Actually, that's pretty close to the truth."

Other influencers included novelists James Joyce, John Steinbeck and Hans Christian Andersen, musician Josh White and the traditional European ballads published by American folklorist Francis James Child.

Born Robert Burns on June 23, 1941, Hunter was 7 when his father abandoned him and his mother, resulting in his spending several years in foster homes. It was an experience he said scarred him emotionally and left him feeling forever the outsider.

When he was 11, his mother married McGraw-Hill publishing executive Norman Hunter, who gave the boy a new last name and an appreciation for such peerless writers as William Saroyan and T.S. Elliot.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 086 ~ 36 of 49

Hunter toyed with becoming a novelist himself but music called and by his senior year of high school he was playing trumpet in a fusion Dixieland-rock band. He attended the University of Connecticut for one year where he studied drama, became a Pete Seeger fan and turned his interest to folk music.

He met Garcia in 1960 at a production of the musical "Damn Yankees," introduced by a former girlfriend who by then was Garcia's first wife. The pair quickly formed a folk music duo called Bob and Jerry.

Both homeless for a time, they lived out of their cars, parking them side-by-side in a Palo Alto, California, vacant lot. They survived those days, both would say later, by eating tins of pineapple Hunter had pilfered from a military installation during his brief time in the National Guard.

Hunter had moved to New Mexico by the time Garcia, Bob Weir, Bill Kreutzmann, Phil Lesh and Ron "Pigpen" McKernan had formed the Grateful Dead. Hunter would join soon after.

When Garcia asked him to send some lyrics along that could be set to music Hunter quickly responded with future Grateful Dead classics "China Cat Sunflower" and "St. Stephen." Garcia then asked him to return to the San Francisco Bay Area and write for the band.

Eventually Hunter would write for all of the group's members, and when the Grateful Dead was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1994 he was included as the lyricist.

He and Garcia were inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 2015.

Over the years Hunter also released nearly a dozen albums of his own, published several volumes of poetry and co-wrote songs with Dylan. He also published two books translating the works of German poet Rainer Maria Rilke.

"Bob was an intellectual and I can't tell you that there are a lot of intellectuals in the rock and roll business. But Bob was an intellectual," longtime friend Barry "The Fish" Melton of Country Joe and the Fish said by phone from Paris Tuesday.

Hunter's survivors include his wife and daughter Kate.

Emmett Till cousin on inquiry: 'What is the holdup?'

By JAY REEVES Associated Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) — The government is still investigating the brutal slaying of Emmett Till, a black teenager whose death helped spur the civil rights movement more than 60 years ago.

A Justice Department report issued to Congress about civil rights cold case investigations lists the 1955 slaying of 14-year-old Emmett Till as being among the unit's active cases, The Associated Press was the first to report Tuesday.

Till, who was from Chicago, was abducted and beaten to death hours after he whistled at a white woman while visiting Mississippi. His body was found in a river days later.

The investigation, closed in 2007, was reopened after a book published two years ago indicated a key witness had lied.

A cousin who was with Till the night he was abducted said he was encouraged that the case is still under review but anxious for a resolution.

"We want them to go ahead and do something," said the Rev. Wheeler Parker, 80. "What is the holdup?"

The Justice Department refused comment in emails sent Monday and Tuesday.

The department has closed its investigations into six other apparently racially motivated killings dating from 1940 to 1973 because authorities have been unable to make any headway in them, according to the report, which was posted to a Justice Department website with no announcement. In each case, suspects or witnesses died or the law prohibited charges against people who had already been tried and acquitted.

The government's report is required under a law named for Till, whose slaying incensed the nation and has been credited with helping build support for civil rights.

Till was abducted from a relatives' home after whistling at a white woman, Carolyn Bryant Donham, at a country store in Money, Mississippi.

Bryant's then-husband Roy Bryant and his half brother, J.W. Milam, both white, were charged with murder but acquitted by an all-white jury. The men later confessed to the crime in a magazine interview but

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 086 ~ 37 of 49

weren't retried. Both have since died.

In the 2017 book "The Blood of Emmett Till," author Timothy B. Tyson quoted Donham as saying she wasn't truthful when she claimed Till grabbed her, whistled and made sexual advances.

After publication of the book, Tyson said FBI agents called him and he turned over interview recordings and other research materials. Parker, who was with Till at the store and later when he was kidnapped, said he also has spoken with investigators since the case was reopened.

Another cousin of Till, Deborah Watts, said the family hasn't had any contact with Donham.

"I would have a conversation with her," Watts said. "The truth needs to be told. I think Carolyn holds the key to that."

The report doesn't provide any update on the Till investigation or indicate when it might conclude. The fact that the case is still open means new charges could be brought, but Parker said he doesn't expect much.

"At least they are touching it, and values have changed," he said. "At least America has reached the point where they will investigate and you can't go out and just kill people."

The report said cold case investigators were ending reviews of the deaths of Elbert Williams in Brownsville, Tennessee, in 1940; Dan Carter Sanders in Johnston Township, North Carolina, in 1946; Peter Francis in Perry, Maine, in 1965; Lee Culbreath in Portland, Arkansas, in 1965; John Thomas Jr. in West Point, Mississippi, in 1970; and Milton Lee Scott in 1973 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. All the victims were black except Francis, who was a member of the Passamaquoddy Indian tribe.

The report said federal agents fatally shot Scott during an attempted arrest and there was no new evidence to support bringing charges.

Follow Reeves on Twitter at @Jay_Reeves

Slow-moving TS Karen drops heavy rain over Puerto Rico, USVI

By DÁNICA COTO Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Tropical Storm Karen drenched the U.S. Virgin Islands on Tuesday as it bore down on an earthquake-shaken Puerto Rico still scarred by a hurricane two years ago.

Heavy squalls were expected to hit some areas of the U.S. territories overnight as the storm moved slowly over the region and headed to open waters.

Forecasters said the heaviest rains would affect Puerto Rico's southern and eastern region from 8 p.m. Tuesday to about 2 a.m. on Wednesday.

"The worst is yet to come," said Elmer Román, secretary of the island's Department of Public Safety.

U.S. Virgin Islands Gov. Albert Bryan Jr. said late Tuesday evening that Karen had already caused some mudslides in the territory and warned people to remain inside.

"We're not out of the woods yet," he said, adding that an island-wide power outage occurred in St. Thomas early in the morning, followed by smaller outages throughout the day.

Schools and government offices remained closed in Puerto Rico as well as in the U.S. and British Virgin Islands, with officials warning people to stay indoors.

Just hours before the storm approached, Puerto Ricans were shaken from their beds late Monday by a magnitude 6.0 earthquake that hit in the Atlantic near the island at a shallow depth of 6 miles (10 kilometers). Three aftershocks, of magnitude 4.7 and 4.6, followed within less than an hour.

No significant damage was reported, said Carlos Acevedo, director of Puerto Rico's emergency management agency, adding that the concern now was how much rain Karen would drop on the region. The U.S. National Hurricane Center said it could bring 3 inches to 6 inches (8 to 15 centimeters) with isolated amounts of 10 inches (25 centimeters).

Up to 29,000 customers in Puerto Rico were left without power at one point, including those who live in the southeast coastal town of Yabucoa, where 69-year-old retiree Víctor Ortiz huddled inside his home with his wife.

"Every year the storms are stronger and more frequent," he said, adding that he worried about landslides

because he lives in a mountainous region.

The National Guard, which was activated by Puerto Rico Gov. Wanda Vázquez on Monday, carried out a last-minute evacuation of a weeks-old baby from the neighboring island of Vieques, which has been without a hospital since Hurricane Maria hit in 2017. Lt. Col. Paul Dahlen said in a phone interview that the baby was sick and would be taken to a hospital before the storm hits.

Karen regained tropical storm strength Tuesday morning after slipping to a tropical depression. Its maximum sustained winds increased in the afternoon to 45 mph (70 kph), with additional strengthening expected in upcoming days. The storm was centered about 45 miles (75 kilometers) east of San Juan and was moving north at 10 mph (16 kph). Forecasters said it was expected to hit Puerto Rico's southeast region by late afternoon.

It was expected to keep heading north after passing over Puerto Rico and stay well east of the Bahamas, the Hurricane Center said. A tropical storm warning remained in effect for Puerto Rico, Vieques, Culebra and the U.S. and British Virgin Islands, and forecasters said certain areas could experience stronger winds.

Roberto Garcia, meteorologist in charge of the National Weather Service's San Juan office, said that some towns in the eastern part of Puerto Rico would likely be hit with moderate to serious flooding, especially those next to mountains.

Gov. Wanda Vázquez urged people in flood-prone areas to seek shelter, with more than 30 people reported in shelters by Tuesday morning.

The island is still recovering from Hurricane Maria, which hit as a Category 4 storm two years ago and is estimated to have caused more than \$100 billion in damage. More than 25,000 homes still have blue tarps for roofs and the electric grid remains unstable.

Farther north, Tropical Storm Jerry was moving northward and was projected to pass near Bermuda by Wednesday morning. It was about 250 miles (405 kilometers) west-southwest of Bermuda and had sustained winds of 50 mph (85 kph).

Meanwhile, Tropical Storm Lorenzo formed over the far eastern Atlantic and was projected to become a major hurricane by the end of the week, though while curving out over open sea away from land. It was centered about 465 miles (745 kilometers) west-southwest of the southernmost Cape Verde Islands and had maximum sustained winds of 65 mph (100 kph). It was heading west-northwest at 17 mph (28 kph).

Executive gets 4 months for bribing son's way into USC

By COLLIN BINKLEY AP Education Writer

BOSTON (AP) — A Los Angeles business executive was sentenced Tuesday to four months in prison for paying \$250,000 to get his son admitted to the University of Southern California as a fake water polo recruit.

Devin Sloane, 53, pleaded guilty in May to a single count of fraud and conspiracy. He is the second parent sentenced in a sweeping college admissions scandal that has ensnared dozens of wealthy mothers and fathers.

U.S. District Judge Indira Talwani also ordered Sloane to perform 500 hours of community service over two years of supervised release and pay a fine of \$95,000.

Authorities say Sloane helped fabricate documents depicting his son as an international water polo star even though he had never played the sport. He bought water polo gear online, investigators found, and staged action photos of his son in the family's swimming pool.

Sloane is a graduate of USC and founder of the Los Angeles water systems company AquaTecture.

"There are no words to justify my behavior nor will I offer any excuses or justification," he said Tuesday with tears in his eyes. "The crime I committed is unacceptable. In my heart and my soul I want what's best for my son. I realize now my actions were the antithesis of that."

He was accused of paying \$200,000 to a sham charity operated by William "Rick" Singer, an admissions consultant at the center of the scheme, and \$50,000 to an account controlled by Donna Heinel, a former USC athletics official. Sloane previously said he accepts responsibility for his crime but has argued he was drawn into the scheme by Singer, who provided a year of legitimate counseling before mentioning

the scheme.

Singer pleaded guilty in March and agreed to work with authorities. Heinel is accused of accepting bribes to get students admitted as fake athletic recruits. She has pleaded not guilty.

Last week, "Desperate Housewives" star Felicity Huffman became the first parent sentenced in the scheme after admitting to paying \$15,000 to rig her daughter's SAT score. She was sentenced to 14 days in prison, 250 hours of community service and a \$30,000 fine.

Talwani challenged the idea that parents would pursue the admissions or test scheme out of a desire to help their children.

"The crime that's at issue in all of these cases is not basic care-taking for your child. It's not getting your child food or clothing. It's not even getting your child a college education," she said. "It's getting your child into a college that might be called exclusive. Are they doing that for their children or are they doing it for their own status?"

Prosecutors said Sloane deserved prison time because he enlisted his son in the scheme, stole an admissions spot from another student, and failed to take full responsibility by blaming Singer.

"Prison is necessary here as a great leveler between rich and poor," federal prosecutor Eric Rosen said Tuesday.

He added that Sloane's deceit is worse than Huffman's.

"Huffman kept her child out of the crime, preferring to not let her know what was going on," he said. "The defendant, by contrast, literally threw his son into the family pool."

Several others paid similar sums to get their children into other elite schools, authorities said, while some paid as much as \$400,000 per student.

Sloane's son, Matteo, was accepted to USC in 2018. It's unclear if he still attends the school. As August of this year, USC said it had not made a decision regarding students whose families were accused in the admission scheme.

Fifteen parents have pleaded guilty, while 19 are fighting the charges, including "Full House" actress Lori Loughlin and her fashion designer husband, Mossimo Giannulli, who are accused of paying \$500,000 to get their two daughters into USC as fake athletes.

Several other parents are scheduled to be sentenced in coming weeks, including Stephen Sempervivo, who faces sentencing Thursday on charges that he paid \$400,000 to get his son into Georgetown University.

Trump administration to triple democracy aid to Venezuela

By JOSHUA GOODMAN Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The Trump administration is more than tripling U.S. support for pro-democracy work in Venezuela and for the first time directly funding opposition leader Juan Guaidó as he attempts to set up a government to rival the socialist administration of Nicolás Maduro.

The \$52 million in new aid was announced Tuesday by Mark Green, the administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development, following a meeting in New York with Guaidó's envoy Carlos Vecchio, whom the Trump administration recognizes as Venezuela's ambassador in Washington.

The funding was mostly repurposed from aid originally earmarked for Honduras and Guatemala that President Donald Trump cut last year after accusing the Central American countries of failing to stem the flow of migrants to the U.S.

The funding boost shows the level of U.S. support for Guaidó, who has drawn recognition as Venezuela's rightful leader by more than 50 nations. But he has been unable to translate the international support and popularity at home into real power capable of helping regular Venezuelans suffering from hyperinflation and an economic collapse akin to the destruction wrought by war.

A senior Trump administration official said the new U.S. aid package seeks to address that deficit, providing about \$19 million to pay for secure communication devices, travel stipends and training in budget planning and other tools to effectively govern should they manage to force Maduro from power.

The U.S. official spoke on the condition of anonymity because he is not authorized to publicly discuss

details of the aid package.

Guaidó's team said in a statement that it would not administer the money directly or give it to any institution or political party. It said it hoped to work with the U.S. in the coming days to decide how the funds would be spent and leave it to the American authorities to distribute the funds and audit their use.

The decision aimed at boosting transparency comes after a string of accusations earlier this year that Venezuelan opposition groups mismanaged humanitarian aid for migrants in Colombia.

The Trump administration had budgeted \$9 million during the 2017 fiscal year and \$15 million in 2018 to promote free press, the monitoring of human rights abuses and anti-corruption initiatives — work by civil society groups that will be greatly expanded by the additional funding.

A U.S.-backed uprising in April by a cadre of security forces failed to break the armed forces' loyalty to Maduro. The embattled socialist in recent days has gone on the offensive, announcing a deal with a small group of minority opposition parties to reshape the nation's electoral council and other reforms after talks with Guaidó sponsored by Norway broke down.

Trump, speaking at the United Nations on Tuesday, delivered a sharp warning to Venezuela, declaring that he awaited the day "when Venezuela will be free and when liberty will prevail throughout this hemisphere." He also called socialism "the wrecker of nations" and "destroyer of societies."

It came just a day after the United States and more than a dozen Latin American countries agreed to investigate and arrest associates and senior officials of Maduro's government who are suspected of crimes such as drug trafficking, money laundering and financing terrorism.

Venezuela's opposition is relying heavily on the international community to force Maduro from power.

In addition to the Trump administration funds for pro-democracy work, the Treasury Department also moved to block any U.S. assets controlled by four transport companies that it says keep delivering Venezuela oil to Cuba, another act aimed at punishing those who support Maduro's government.

The funding announced Tuesday is in addition to hundreds of millions of dollars already committed by the U.S. to support the more than 4 million vulnerable Venezuelans who have fled the country's crisis and migrated to Colombia, Peru, Ecuador and other nations throughout Latin America.

The United Kingdom, meanwhile, announced a major boost in aid for Venezuela, responding to a U.N. call for donors to give \$223 million to support a humanitarian response this year.

The U.K. pledged 30 million euros (\$33 million) on top of the 14.5 million euros (\$15.9 million) it announced earlier this year. The funds will go to organizations delivering medicine, vaccinations and clean water inside Venezuela and neighboring countries hosting millions of Venezuelans who have fled the crisis.

The U.K. said it would not reveal which groups are receiving the funds for security reasons.

"The people of Venezuela are needlessly suffering as a direct result of Maduro's refusal to accept the scale of his country's worsening humanitarian crisis," said Alok Shark, U.K. international development secretary.

Follow Goodman on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/APjoshgoodman>

Trump attacks globalism and urges action on Iran at UN

By JONATHAN LEMIRE, DEB RIECHMANN and MATTHEW LEE Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — President Donald Trump stood before world leaders at the U.N. General Assembly on Tuesday and rejected "globalism" and liberal immigration policies while exhorting the world to act against Iran's "bloodlust." His speech and subsequent meetings had to compete with news from Washington that the House is moving forward with an impeachment inquiry.

In his address, Trump took aim at China, Venezuela and what he called a "growing cottage industry" of radical activists intent on pushing for open borders that harm national security and sovereignty. In a later meeting with British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, he fended off fresh questions from reporters about his attempts to press Ukraine's president to investigate the family of political rival Joe Biden.

As he spoke to the General Assembly, Trump lambasted the World Trade Organization for giving China preferential treatment that he said was undeserved. He slammed socialism for bringing ruin to Venezuela.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 086 ~ 41 of 49

But he reserved much of his ire for Iran, which he called "one of the greatest threats" to the planet.

"Not only is Iran the world's largest state sponsor of terrorism, but Iran's leaders are fueling the tragic wars in both Syria and Yemen," Trump told world leaders. "All nations have a duty to act. No responsible government should subsidize Iran's bloodlust."

Back in Washington, talk of impeachment has been growing among congressional Democrats since it was revealed that Trump ordered his staff to freeze nearly \$400 million in aid to Ukraine a few days before a phone call in which he pressured the Eastern European nation's leader to investigate Biden's family.

Trump, facing reporters' questions about Ukraine during his meeting with Johnson, said there was nothing inappropriate in his contacts with Ukraine's president, which he said were aimed at fighting corruption. He later tweeted that the government on Wednesday would release a transcript of his talk with the Ukrainian president showing it was a "totally appropriate call."

It was a remarkable split-screen dynamic, Trump using the global spotlight to push his "America First," go-it-alone foreign policy approach even as Democrats debated his political future. Later in the day, when Trump was secluded at Trump Tower, Speaker Nancy Pelosi announced the House would move forward with a formal impeachment inquiry.

Trump quickly tweeted in response: "Such an important day at the United Nations, so much work and so much success, and the Democrats purposely had to ruin and demean it with more breaking news Witch Hunt garbage."

The Trump administration's hard-line Iran policy got a boost on Monday from Britain, France and Germany, which blamed Iran for an attack on Saudi oil facilities earlier this month and said the time had come to negotiate a new deal with Tehran to replace the landmark 2015 nuclear accord from which Trump withdrew last year.

U.S. officials said they hope the new European stance would galvanize opposition to Iran and boost the "maximum pressure" campaign that the administration has pursued by increasing sanctions on the Islamic republic. There had been speculation, fueled by Trump himself, that he might meet in New York with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, but officials said that prospect was increasingly unlikely, particularly after the joint statement from Britain, France and Germany.

The president met separately with France's Emmanuel Macron and Germany's Angela Merkel, both of whom have been urging Trump to meet with Rouhani while the two are in the same city.

"If he (Rouhani) leaves the country without meeting with President Trump this is a lost opportunity," Macron told reporters as he and Rouhani met with Johnson.

Rouhani, for his part, said he'd consider meeting "at any level" to explore what the Trump administration seeks in a nuclear deal — but not until sanctions against his country are lifted. He downplayed any imminent diplomatic breakthrough but added: "No one knows what America will do tomorrow."

Trump, however, did raise the possibility of a breakthrough, in comments while meeting with Iraq's prime minister.

"They would like to negotiate," he said. "We haven't really worked that out. They're here. We're here, but we have not agreed to that yet."

He said both French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Angela Merkel were trying to arrange a meeting. "We have a lot of people involved. A lot of people would like to get us to the table. We'll see what happens, but so far we have not agreed to a meeting."

In his speech, the president implored the world's leaders to prioritize their own nations, with strong borders and one-on-one trade deals, rejecting sweeping transnational organizations and alliances.

"The future does not belong to globalists. The future belongs to patriots. The future belongs to strong, independent nations," Trump told a murmuring crowd at the General Assembly. "Globalism exerted a religious pull over past leaders, causing them to ignore their own national interests. Those days are over."

Trump's speech was greeted with tepid applause from the world leaders. A sharp contrast to his fiery rally speeches, Trump on Tuesday adopted a more somber demeanor. He grasped the podium throughout his address, his voice at times so soft it would have been hard to hear without microphones. For an extended

stretch, Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross sat in the audience with his eyes closed, appearing asleep.

Though denouncing Iran's aggression, Trump did not explicitly blame Tehran for recent strikes against oil facilities in Saudi Arabia. Iran has denied orchestrating the attack, which Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has deemed "an act of war."

Britain, France and Germany joined the United States on Monday in blaming Iran for the attacks. Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, for his part, pointed to claims of responsibility by Yemeni rebels and insisted: "If Iran were behind this attack, nothing would have been left of this refinery."

Trump urged Tehran to follow the example set by North Korea's Kim Jong Un, even though the autocrat continues to hold a tight grip on his nuclear weapons.

Trump, who has met with Kim for a pair of summits and a historic step into North Korea, said this week that another meeting "could happen soon." He provided few details, and it wasn't clear what officials were doing behind the scenes to set up a meeting to break the diplomatic impasse over the North's development of nuclear-armed missiles targeting the U.S. mainland.

"While anyone can make war, only the most courageous can choose peace," said Trump, praising Kim.

He also delivered a bellicose warning to Venezuela. He denounced the government of Nicolás Maduro and declared that he awaited the day "when Venezuela will be free and when liberty will prevail throughout this hemisphere." He called socialism "the wrecker of nations" and "destroyer of societies."

Lee and Lemire reported from New York.

Feds: Engineer manipulated diesel emissions at Fiat Chrysler

By ED WHITE and TOM KRISHER Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — Federal prosecutors on Tuesday expanded a criminal investigation of the auto industry by charging a Fiat Chrysler engineer with rigging pollution tests on more than 100,000 diesel pickup trucks and SUVs sold in the U.S., the first indictment since a wave of similar cases against Volkswagen and its managers.

The alleged scheme involving Emanuele Palma isn't as large as the Volkswagen emissions scandal, which involved nearly 600,000 vehicles. But the charges show that investigators are still on the case, months after Fiat Chrysler agreed to a \$650 million civil settlement and said it would fix Jeep Grand Cherokees and Ram 1500 trucks with "EcoDiesel" engines made between 2014 and 2016.

Palma is charged with conspiracy, violations of the federal Clean Air Act, wire fraud and making false statements.

Prosecutors allege that he manipulated software to make the pollution control system perform differently under government testing than during regular driving. An expert said the mention of co-conspirators in Palma's indictment suggests more people could be charged.

"As a result of his engineering decisions, his management, his lies, these vehicles on the road emitted dramatically higher pollutants than were allowed by law," Assistant U.S. Attorney Timothy Wyse told a judge in U.S. District Court in Detroit.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Elizabeth Stafford rejected Wyse's request that Palma, a native of Italy who still works at Fiat Chrysler, wear an electronic monitoring device while he's free on bond.

"We intend to defend this very vigorously," defense lawyer Ken Mogill said.

Fiat Chrysler released a brief statement, saying it continues to cooperate with investigators. The automaker in January agreed to a settlement with U.S. and California regulators, although the deal didn't resolve any potential criminal liability.

"We acknowledge that this has created uncertainty for our customers, and we believe this resolution will maintain their trust in us," Mark Chernoby, the company's head of North American safety and regulatory compliance, said at the time.

When allegations against Fiat Chrysler first surfaced in 2017, then-chief executive Sergio Marchionne said it was unfair even to try to make a comparison to Volkswagen.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 086 ~ 43 of 49

"There's not a guy in this house that would even remotely attempt to try something as stupid as that," he said of cheating. "And if I found a guy like that, I would have hung him on a door."

Marchionne died in July 2018. The case against Palma shows the government has a different opinion.

"Either people were disobeying leadership or leadership knew about it and lied," said Bruce Huber, a professor at Notre Dame law school. "Either way it's not going to reflect positively on either the corporate culture or management efficacy."

Volkswagen in 2017 pleaded guilty and agreed to pay \$4.3 billion in U.S. civil and criminal penalties on top of billions more to buy back cars. Two people were sent to prison. Charges are pending in Detroit against others at VW or Audi, but they are in Germany and out of reach of U.S. authorities

Meanwhile, prosecutors in Germany on Tuesday charged VW's chief executive, chairman and former chief executive with stock manipulation for not telling investors in 2015 that the scandal was about to break.

Follow Ed White on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/edwhiteap>

UN chief warns of a world divided between US and China

By EDITH M. LEDERER Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned global leaders Tuesday of the looming risk of the world splitting in two, with the United States and China creating rival internets, currency, trade, financial rules "and their own zero sum geopolitical and military strategies."

In his annual "state of the world address" to the General Assembly's gathering of heads of state and government, Guterres said the risk "may not yet be large, but it is real."

"We must do everything possible to avert the great fracture and maintain a universal system, a universal economy with universal respect for international law; a multipolar world with strong multilateral institutions," he told presidents, prime ministers, monarchs and ministers from the U.N.'s 193 member states.

Guterres painted a grim picture of a deeply divided and anxious planet facing a climate crisis, "the alarming possibility of armed conflict in the Gulf," spreading terrorism, rising populism and "exploding" inequality.

His speech was followed by the traditional first speaker — Brazil, represented by its new president, Jair Bolsonaro — and the United States, represented by President Donald Trump.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who is scheduled to speak later, said he was returning to London immediately afterward, where he will face the fallout of a court ruling against his decision to shut down Parliament over the is debating the U.K. in the crucial countdown to the country's withdrawal from the European Union.

The United Nations, designed to promote a multilateral world, has struggled in the face of increasing unilateralism by the U.S. and other nations that favor going it alone.

Trump stressed in his speech that "love of our nations makes the world better for all nations."

"The future does not belong to globalists," he said. "The future belongs to patriots."

Not so, said France's President Emmanuel Macron, who disagreed with the American president and said the world's problems cannot be solved by turning inwards.

True patriotism, Macron said, "combines a love of one's nation" with a multilateralism "based on real cooperation that strives to produce concrete results."

Said Guterres: "We are living in a world of disquiet."

"A great many people fear getting trampled, thwarted, left behind. Machines take their jobs. Traffickers take their dignity. Demagogues take their rights. Warlords take their lives. Fossil fuels take their future," he said.

Yet, the secretary-general said people still believe in "the spirit and ideas" of the United Nations and its foundation of multilateralism, of all countries working together.

But he asked the VIP crowd in the horseshoe-shaped assembly chamber: "Do they believe leaders will put people first?"

"We, the leaders must deliver for we, the peoples," Guterres said.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 086 ~ 44 of 49

The global meeting unfolds against the backdrop of flaring tensions between Iran and Saudi Arabia, backed by its longtime ally, the United States. The Saudis say Iran was responsible for an attack earlier this month on two oil facilities in the kingdom, which Iran denies.

The Trump administration has been engaged in an escalating series of harsh words and threats with Tehran. The U.S. has imposed increasingly crippling sanctions.

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani is scheduled to address world leaders on Wednesday.

Guterres gave a dire warning about the situation in the Gulf.

"Above all, we are facing the alarming possibility of armed conflict in the Gulf, the consequences of which the world cannot afford," he said. "In a context where a minor miscalculation can lead to a major confrontation, we must do everything possible to push for reason and restraint."

Trump said the U.S. "does not seek conflict with any other nation" and desires peace, but "I will never fail to defend America's interests."

He called Iran "the world's No. 1 state sponsor of terrorism" and accused it of fueling wars in Syria and Yemen while squandering its wealth in a "fanatical quest" for nuclear weapons and the means to deliver them.

"No responsible government should subsidize Iran's bloodlust," Trump said, warning that as long as Iran's "menacing behavior" continues, U.S. sanctions will be tightened.

Guterres also warned that "outside interference" is making peace processes more difficult. And he pointed to unresolved conflicts from Yemen to Libya, Afghanistan and beyond.

"A succession of unilateral actions threatens to torpedo a two-state solution between Israel and Palestine," Guterres said. "In Venezuela, 4 million people have fled the country — one of the largest displacements in the world. Tensions are elevated in South Asia, where differences need to be addressed through dialogue."

France's Macron appealed to world leaders to bring back the "courage" to make peace, especially in the Middle East.

He urged the United States, Iran and countries in the region to resume negotiations, and the target should be that Iran never develop or acquire nuclear weapons, a solution to the conflict in Yemen, a regional security plan that includes securing navigation, and finally the lifting of economic sanctions.

Tuesday's opening session of the so-called General Debate followed three days of meetings focusing on the growing environmental threat to the planet.

Guterres told leaders "what once was called 'climate change' is now truly a 'climate crisis' . and what was once called 'global warming' has more accurately become 'global heating'."

While satellite data from the Brazilian Space Agency has shown a sharp increase in deforestation and forest fires in the past year, Bolsonaro told leaders: "The Amazon is not being devastated nor is it being consumed by fire as the media misleadingly says."

This year's General Assembly session, which ends Sept. 30, has attracted world leaders from 136 of the 193 U.N. member nations, according to figures it released Friday. That large turnout reflects a growing global focus on addressing climate change and the perilous state of peace and security.

Other countries will be represented by ministers and vice presidents — except Afghanistan, whose leaders are in a hotly contested presidential campaign ahead of Sept. 28 elections, and North Korea, which downgraded its representation from a minister to, likely, its U.N. ambassador. Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu canceled plans to attend and are sending ministers.

Edith M. Lederer, chief U.N. correspondent for The Associated Press, has been covering world affairs for nearly a half-century.

Massachusetts temporarily banning sale of vaping products

By STEVE LeBLANC Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — The governor of Massachusetts declared a public health emergency Tuesday and ordered a four-month ban on the sale of vaping products in the state, apparently the first action of its kind in the nation.

Republican Gov. Charlie Baker's order was quickly approved by the state Public Health Council and applies to all vaping products and devices. The ban, though temporary, is broader than moves in at least two states, Michigan and New York, to ban only vape flavors.

His announcement came amid growing concern about the health effects of vaping products, including deaths.

The administration said that as of Tuesday, 61 cases of potential cases of lung disease related to the use of electronic cigarettes and vaping in Massachusetts had been reported to the state.

Three confirmed cases and two probable Massachusetts cases of vaping-associated pulmonary disease have been reported to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"The use of e-cigarettes and marijuana vaping products is exploding, and we are seeing reports of serious lung illnesses, particularly in our young people," Baker said at a news conference at the Massachusetts Statehouse.

State health officials this month health began requiring the collection of data on potential cases of lung disease related to the use of electronic cigarettes and vaping in Massachusetts.

During the temporary ban, Baker said, the administration will work with medical experts and state and federal officials to better understand vaping illnesses and work on additional steps to address the public health crisis.

That, he said, could include legislation and regulations. The administration will also work on providing more resources for a public awareness campaign and smoking cessation programs, he said.

The CDC is investigating the outbreak but has not yet identified a common e-cigarette or ingredient. Nine deaths have been reported.

Dr. Anne Schuchat, of the CDC, told a congressional subcommittee Tuesday that she believes "hundreds more" lung illnesses have been reported to health authorities since Thursday, when the CDC put the tally at 530 confirmed and probable cases.

Michael Seilback, assistant vice president for state public policy at the American Lung Association, acknowledged the move by Massachusetts and said the federal Food and Drug Administration now needs to step up.

"From our perspective, it's the absence of strong federal action by the FDA that is forcing states to have to make choices like this on how they are going to protect children and adults from the public health emergency of e-cigarettes," he said.

Convenience store owners who rely on the foot traffic brought in by the sale of vaping products are going to be concerned by the decision, according to Jon Hurst, president of the Retailers Association of Massachusetts.

"There are clearly some issues there. The question is, what's the problem? Is it the product being sold on the shelves by companies like Juul, or is it the off-brand stuff coming from other countries and sold on the internet?" Hurst said. "I hope we can all work together and find out what is the problem and find a solution soon."

Democratic Massachusetts House Speaker Robert DeLeo said Tuesday that his legislative chamber is committed to addressing vaping and tobacco use among children.

The House is reviewing a bill that would ban the sale or distribution of any flavored tobacco or vape product to any consumer. The bill would carve out an exception for smoking bars.

"We look forward to collaborating with our partners in the senate and with the Baker administration to develop long-term, legislative solutions to these issues," DeLeo said in a news release.

A lawmaker in Rhode Island also plans to introduce a bill to ban the sale of flavored e-cigarettes in that

state after the new legislative session begins in January.

US official expects 'hundreds more' cases of vaping illness

By **MATTHEW PERRONE AP Health Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of vaping-related illnesses in the U.S. could soon climb much higher, a public health official said Tuesday.

Dr. Anne Schuchat, of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, told a congressional subcommittee that she believes "hundreds more" lung illnesses have been reported to health authorities since last Thursday, when the CDC put the tally at 530 confirmed and probable cases.

"We are seeing more and more cases each day and I expect the next weekly numbers will be much higher," Schuchat said.

Nine deaths have been reported.

The CDC is investigating the little-understood outbreak but has not yet identified a common electronic cigarette or ingredient.

The cases, which resemble an inhalation injury, have helped trigger a swift backlash against e-cigarettes, including a proposed federal ban on flavors by the Trump administration, state-level restrictions in Michigan and New York, and an end to sales in Walmart stores nationwide.

On Tuesday, Massachusetts ordered a four-month halt to sales of all vaping products and devices. The temporary ban is the first of its kind in the nation. Michigan and New York have targeted their bans to vaping flavors.

Under questioning from House Democrats at the first congressional hearing on the emerging problem, Schuchat emphasized how little is known about the effects of inhaling various oils, flavor particles and other ingredients in vaping products.

"We don't know enough about the aerosol that vaping produces in terms of the short and longer-term health impacts," said Schuchat. "It may indeed be that the process itself is risky."

Many patients reported vaping THC from marijuana, but Schuchat and state health officials have cautioned that some said they only vaped nicotine.

One theory is that counterfeiters started adding something new to knock-off vape products this year. Lab tests of some of the suspect vape products found vitamin E acetate. That lines up with what's known about the additives some counterfeiters are using to "cut" THC oil.

The CDC is recommending people who vape consider not using e-cigarettes at all while authorities investigate.

Subcommittee chairman Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi slammed Food and Drug Administration regulators for not requiring more testing of nicotine-containing e-cigarettes.

"When a product is released onto the market without safety testing or clinical trials, this is what we fear," said the Illinois Democrat, who chairs the economic subcommittee of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform.

The FDA gained authority to regulate the products in 2016, but repeatedly pushed back the timeline for reviewing their health effects. The current deadline for submitting products is next May.

Lawmakers also heard from the mother of 18-year-old Piper Johnson, who was rushed to the emergency room in mid-August with chest pain, difficulty breathing, coughing and nausea.

Her mother, Ruby Johnson, told lawmakers the problems emerged while driving Piper to start her freshman year of college in Colorado.

"What started as an exciting rite of passage turned into a terrifying near-death experience that involved a weeklong hospital stay," said Johnson, detailing a battery of drugs and medical interventions used to treat her daughter, including oxygen, intravenous fluids, steroids, anti-nausea drugs and pain relievers.

Johnson said her daughter had vaped THC but was mainly using nicotine e-cigarettes such as Juul in the weeks before she became sick.

Johnson, of New Lenox, Illinois, blamed e-cigarette manufacturers for targeting teens with appealing

flavors and the FDA for allowing vapes to “proliferate, flourish and remain for purchase,” without formal review.

The FDA’s acting commissioner, Ned Sharpless, is scheduled to appear Wednesday at a hearing on the outbreak before a different House subcommittee.

Public health officials have labeled underage vaping an epidemic and new survey data shows the problem worsening. Nearly 28% of high school students reported vaping in the last month, according to preliminary CDC figures for 2019. That number is up from 21% last year and 12% the year before.

Krishnamoorthi has been investigating the vaping industry’s biggest player, Juul Labs, since April, collecting tens of thousands of internal documents dealing with the company’s marketing and business strategy.

The maker of small, pod-based vaping devices has been besieged by scrutiny for its alleged contribution to a dramatic rise in underage vaping. The company faces separate investigations from multiple federal agencies, including the FDA, and state attorneys general.

Follow Matthew Perrone on Twitter: @AP_FDWriter

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

Asian stocks fall as Democrats turn up heat on Trump

By ELAINE KURTENBACH AP Business Writer

BANGKOK (AP) — Stocks skidded in Asia on Wednesday after Democrats in the U.S. House of Representatives said they were considering launching an impeachment probe of President Donald Trump.

Japan’s Nikkei 225 index lost 0.4% to 22,017.64 while the Shanghai Composite gave up 0.6% to 2,966.99. The Hang Seng in Hong Kong lost 1.0% to 26,031.78 and the S&P ASX 200 in Sydney slid 0.5% to 6,718.30. Shares also fell in India, Taiwan and Southeast Asia.

The losses followed declines overnight as investors’ attention swung from headlines on trade to data showing a drop in U.S. consumer confidence.

The Conference Board, a business research group, said its consumer confidence index fell to 125.1 in September from a revised reading of 134.2 in August, suggesting a worrisome shift since consumer spending has underpinned the economy during a slowdown in manufacturing.

The announcement by Nancy Pelosi, speaker of the House, about a possible inquiry came after markets closed in New York. But news the Democrats were considering a probe broke earlier.

Stocks recovered somewhat after Trump said he plans to release the full transcript of a July phone call with Ukraine’s president that is at the center of the impeachment discussions.

The S&P 500 index fell 0.8% to 2,966.60. The benchmark index remains within 2% of its all-time high set in late July.

The Dow slid 0.5% to 26,807.77 and the Nasdaq lost 1.5% to 7,993.63.

Traders also turned away from smaller company stocks. The Russell 2000 index gave up 24.64 points, or 1.6%, to 1,533.61.

Trump dampened optimism over prospects for a trade deal with China that might help resolve the tariffs war with Beijing in remarks before the U.N. General Assembly, where he underscored the need for a fair trade pact and threatened more tariffs.

Tensions had recently eased somewhat, prompting speculation that the next round of negotiations, in October, might at least yield an interim deal on trade.

History shows the impeachment of a president doesn’t necessarily mean disaster for the stock market, but the impeachment issue adds to the uncertainties already overhanging markets, including strife in the Middle East and Britain’s troubled exit from the European Union as well as trade frictions.

“It would be difficult for the market to ascertain how long this matter will drag and the concurrent impact upon U.S.-China trade, which is the bigger worry at present,” Jingyi Pan of IG said in a commentary.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 086 ~ 48 of 49

Still, bonds rose and pushed yields lower, suggesting investors are growing more cautious. The yield on the 10-year Treasury was at 1.66% from 1.7% late Monday.

Benchmark crude oil fell 36 cents to \$56.93 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It tumbled \$1.35 to settle at \$57.29 a barrel on Tuesday.

Brent crude oil, the international standard, gave up 47 cents to \$61.65 per barrel. It dropped \$1.61 to close at \$62.12 a barrel in London.

The dollar rose to 107.34 Japanese yen from 107.09 yen on Tuesday. The euro fell to \$1.0998 from \$1.1020.

AP Business writers Damian J. Troise, Alex Veiga and Stan Choe contributed.

Today in History By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, Sept. 25, the 268th day of 2019. There are 97 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 25, 1789, the first United States Congress adopted 12 amendments to the Constitution and sent them to the states for ratification. (Ten of the amendments became the Bill of Rights.)

On this date:

In 1775, American Revolutionary War hero Ethan Allen was captured by the British as he led an attack on Montreal. (Allen was released by the British in 1778.)

In 1911, ground was broken for Boston's Fenway Park.

In 1919, President Woodrow Wilson collapsed after a speech in Pueblo, Colo., during a national speaking tour in support of the Treaty of Versailles (vehr-SY').

In 1956, the first trans-Atlantic telephone cable officially went into service with a three-way ceremonial call between New York, Ottawa and London.

In 1957, nine black students who'd been forced to withdraw from Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, because of unruly white crowds were escorted to class by members of the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division.

In 1962, Sonny Liston knocked out Floyd Patterson in round one to win the world heavyweight title at Comiskey Park in Chicago.

In 1965, the first installment of "In Cold Blood," Truman Capote's account of the 1959 murders of the Clutter family in Holcomb, Kansas, appeared in The New Yorker. (The work was published in book form the following year.)

In 1978, 144 people were killed when a Pacific Southwest Airlines Boeing 727 and a private plane collided over San Diego.

In 1981, Sandra Day O'Connor was sworn in as the first female justice on the Supreme Court.

In 1992, NASA's Mars Observer blasted off on a \$980 million mission to the red planet (the probe disappeared just before entering Martian orbit in August 1993).

In 1994, Russian President Boris Yeltsin began a five-day swing through the United States as he arrived in New York, hoping to encourage American investment in his country's struggling economy.

In 1997, President Bill Clinton pulled open the door of Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, as he welcomed nine blacks who had faced hate-filled mobs 40 years earlier.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama, British Prime Minister Gordon Brown and French President Nicolas Sarkozy, in Pittsburgh for a G-20 summit, accused Iran of constructing a secret underground uranium enrichment facility and hiding its existence from international inspectors for years. Former Democratic Party chairman Paul G. Kirk Jr. stepped in as the temporary replacement in the Senate for his longtime friend, the late Edward Kennedy.

Five years ago: Attorney General Eric Holder announced his resignation. President Barack Obama, in a sober assessment of international efforts to stem a deadly Ebola outbreak, warned a high-level United

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 086 ~ 49 of 49

Nations gathering that there was a "significant gap" between what had been offered so far and what was actually needed to stem the health crises in West Africa. Derek Jeter capped his Yankee Stadium farewell with a game-winning single in the bottom of the ninth inning to give New York a 6-5 victory over the Baltimore Orioles.

One year ago: Bill Cosby was sentenced to three to 10 years in state prison for drugging and molesting a woman at his suburban Philadelphia home. President Donald Trump denounced the "ideology of globalism" and praised his own administration's achievements in a speech to the U.N. General Assembly that drew headshakes and even laughter from fellow world leaders.

Today's Birthdays: Broadcast journalist Barbara Walters is 90. Folk singer Ian Tyson is 86. Polka bandleader Jimmy Sturr is 78. Former Defense Secretary Robert Gates is 76. Actor Josh Taylor is 76. Actor Robert Walden is 76. Actor-producer Michael Douglas is 75. Model Cheryl Tiegs is 72. Actress Mimi Kennedy is 71. Movie director Pedro Almodovar is 70. Actor-director Anson Williams is 70. Actor Mark Hamill is 68. Basketball Hall of Famer Bob McAdoo is 68. Actor Colin Fries is 67. Actor Michael Madsen is 61. Actress Heather Locklear is 58. Actress Aida Turturro is 57. Actor Tate Donovan is 56. TV personality Keely Shaye Smith is 56. Actress Maria Doyle Kennedy is 55. Basketball Hall of Famer Scottie Pippen is 54. Actor Jason Flemyng is 53. Actor Will Smith is 51. Actor Hal Sparks is 50. Actress Catherine Zeta-Jones is 50. Rock musician Mike Luce (Drowning Pool) is 48. Actress Bridgette Wilson-Sampras is 46. Actress Clea DuVall is 42. Actor Robbie Jones is 42. Actor Joel David Moore is 42. Actor Chris Owen is 39. Rapper T. I. is 39. Actor Van Hansis is 38. Actor Lee Norris is 38. Actor/rapper Donald Glover (AKA Childish Gambino) is 36. Actor Zach Woods is 35. Actor Jordan Gavaris is 30. Olympic silver medal figure skater Mao Asada is 29. Actress Emmy Clarke is 28.

Thought for Today: "It is as fatal as it is cowardly to blink @ facts because they are not to our taste." — John Tyndall, English physicist (1820-1893).

Copyright 2019, The Associated Press. All rights reserved.