

# Groton Daily Independent

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## Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

### 30 - Monday

10 a.m.: Boys Golf at Volga  
4 p.m.: Cross Country at Olive Grove  
Emmanuel: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.  
Breakfast: Breakfast Sliders  
Lunch: Chicken Alfredo, Cooked Broccoli  
Senior Menu: Meatballs, mashed potatoes and gravy, carrots and peas, fruit cocktail, 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.

## Lady Netters take fifth at the Pentagon



**Tadyn Glover**

(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

It was a grueling day for the Lady Tigers as the volleyball team played in the Sioux Falls Pentagon on Saturday. The Tigers ended up playing four matches, virtually back to back, with little to no rest between matches. Groton Area finished in fifth place and the matches were broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Dakota Risk Management and C&B Operations.

The Tigers won the first match, beating Elkton-Lake Benton, 2-0. The Tigers had several short runs in the first game en route to a 25-12 win. Nicole Marzahn had five kills and a block, Payton Colestock had three ace serves, Stella Meier had two kills and Tadyn Glover, Indigo Rogers and Kaylin Kucker each had one kill.

The second game was tied four times with the Elks having the lead for most of the game, until it was tied at 15. Groton Area scored two sets of four straight points to secure a 25-19 win. Marzahn had five kills, Eliza Wanner had four kills, Rogers had three, Kucker had two ace serves and a kill and Glover had two ace serves.

In the same arena, the Tigers then faced Mt. Vernon-Plankinton in a three-game set with the Titans pulls out the win, 2-1.



**Nicole Marzahn**

(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



**Payton Colestock**

(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

The first game was tied 10 times, including at 24 before the Tigers got the last two points for the win. Marzahn had six kills, Rogers and Wanner each had four kills and Kucker had an ace serve. The second game was tied four times, but this time, the Titans had the upper edge on the score at the beginning, the Tigers in the middle and the Titans at the end. It was 21-20, with Mt. Vernon-Plankinton leading, and the Titans would score the last four points for the 25-20 win. Marzahn had five kills, Wanner had two, Rogers and Kucker each had one kill and Glover had two ace serves. That set up a third game. That set was tied five times at the beginning before the Titans would



**Stella Meier**

(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

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outscore Groton Area, 7-1, to take a 14-9 lead. The Tigers closed to within two, 19-17, but was unable to close the game as the Titans went on to win, 25-18. Marzahn had five kills, Wanner had three kills, Meier, Rogers and Madeline Fliehs each had a kill and Colestock had a kill and an ace serve.

Then the Tigers had to change courts and even before Coach Chelsea Hanson could get everything moved over, they had the team taking the court for the next match, which was against Aberdeen Roncalli. The Tigers seemed out of rhythm with the rush of changing courts and it showed on the court as Roncalli took the early lead and the Tigers were never able to get a rally going in the first game. The Cavaliers won the first game, 25-19. Marzahn had four kills and two ace serves, Wanner had six kills and Meier had a kill.

The Tigers got things going in the second game, taking a 4-0 lead, but the Cavaliers battled back and the game was tied eight times including at 22. But the score got stuck at 22 for the Tigers and the Cavaliers won the second game, 25-22. Marzahn had four kills, Kucker had two ace serves and a kill, Rogers had two kills, Colestock had two ace serves and Meier and Wanner each had one kill.

Then it was on the move again for the Tigers, moving to a different court. They had a little resting time, perhaps about 10 minutes while their opponent, Sioux Valley, had warm-up time. The Tigers just rested during that time for the match-up with the Cossacks. Sioux Valley jumped out to a 5-2 lead before Groton Area came back and tied the game at five, six and eight before Sioux Valley would rally to take a 15-9 lead. The Tigers closed to within two at 22-20, 23-21 and 24-22, but Sioux Valley scored the last point for the win, 25-22. Rogers led the Tigers with four kills while Marzahn had three, Wanner and Fliehs each had two, Glover had two ace serves and a kill, Meier had a kill and Colestock had an ace serve. Groton Area jumped out to a 10-5 lead in the second set and led for most of it until the Cossacks tied the game at 23 and 24, sending the game into extra points. The Tigers would get the last two points for the 26-24 win. Marzahn had six kills, Wanner had four kills and an



**Eliza Wanner**

(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



**Indigo Rogers**

(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



**Kaylin Kucker**

(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

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ace serve, Meier had two kills, Rogers had a kill, Glover and Colestock each had an ace serve and Flihs had a block. That set up the third game where Groton Area had a four point rally late in the game to pull away for the 25-14 win. Marzahn had a day high eight kills and an ace serve, Meier had four kills and a block, Rogers and Wanner each had two kills and Colestock and Kucker each had an ace serve.

Groton Area, now 10-3 on the season, will travel to Florence on Tuesday to take on the Florence-Henry Falcons. There will be a seventh grade match at 4:30 followed by the junior varsity match at 6 p.m. and then the varsity match.

- Paul Kosel

	Region 1	Seed Points	W-L
1	<a href="#">Groton Area</a>	44.231	10-3
2	<a href="#">Aberdeen Roncalli</a>	43.214	10-4
3	<a href="#">Redfield</a>	43.077	10-3
4	<a href="#">Webster Area</a>	41.625	12-4
5	<a href="#">Tiospa Zina</a>	40.250	10-6
6	<a href="#">Milbank</a>	38.800	6-9
7	<a href="#">Sisseton</a>	37.850	5-15

## Weekly Vikings Roundup By Jordan Wright

Another divisional road game, another embarrassing effort by the Minnesota Vikings. This game was a perfect opportunity for the Vikings to secure a meaningful win – three starters on Chicago’s defense were out, and quarterback Mitch Trubisky left the game early with an injury. On paper, the Vikings should have won this one handily. Instead, the team fell flat on both offense and defense and the Vikings lose, 16-6.

Kirk Cousins was abysmal in this game. His final stat line of 27/36 for 233 yards doesn’t seem too bad, but 95 of those yards came late in the fourth quarter when the Vikings were down by 16 points. Cousins was also sacked six times on Sunday, many of which were his fault because he either held onto the ball too long or because he didn’t spot the blitz coming and adjust his protection. The icing on the cake for Cousins were the two fumbles (one lost). Through four games this season, Cousins has fumbled the ball or thrown an interception eight times. Two turnovers a game is not a winning formula.

In the team’s first three game, the running game was able to carry the team and mask how bad Cousins has been. Chicago was ready, coming into the game with the focus being to shut down the run – and boy did they. Dalvin Cook carried the ball 14 times for only 35 yards (2.5 ypc) and a touchdown. Rookie Alexander Mattison wasn’t able to find any room to run either, adding a measly five yards on two carries. The Vikings’ running game has been stellar coming into this game, but they can’t be expected to carry the team every week.

The Vikings were average on defense against the Bears. They only gave up only 269 yards and one touchdown, but the Bears were without their most explosive wide receiver and starting quarterback (for most of the game). The Vikings and head coach Mike Zimmer should have had the huge advantage in this game, but the Vikings’ defense allowed Chicago to convert two out of three times on fourth down and pick up 17 total first downs.

The player of the game on offense was Stefon Diggs. Honestly, I don’t think anyone deserves this distinction this week. Diggs had a nice stat line, catching seven passes for 108 yards... but he also had a costly fumble that ended a promising Vikings drive in the first half.






The player of the game was Shamar Stephen. This game would have been a great opportunity for someone on the defense to step up, but nobody rose to the challenge. Stephen had the best stat line of any player on Minnesota’s pedestrian defense, with a sack, tackle for a loss, and a QB hit.

Looking ahead, the Vikings will once again be on the road, this time traveling to the east coast to take on the New York Giants. The game will start at noon and will air on FOX. The Giants have recently benched their long-time starting QB Eli Manning in favor of first round pick Daniel Jones, so Mike Zimmer will look to take advantage of that. This game will be a good opportunity for the Vikings to get back on track, both offensively and defensively. Skol!

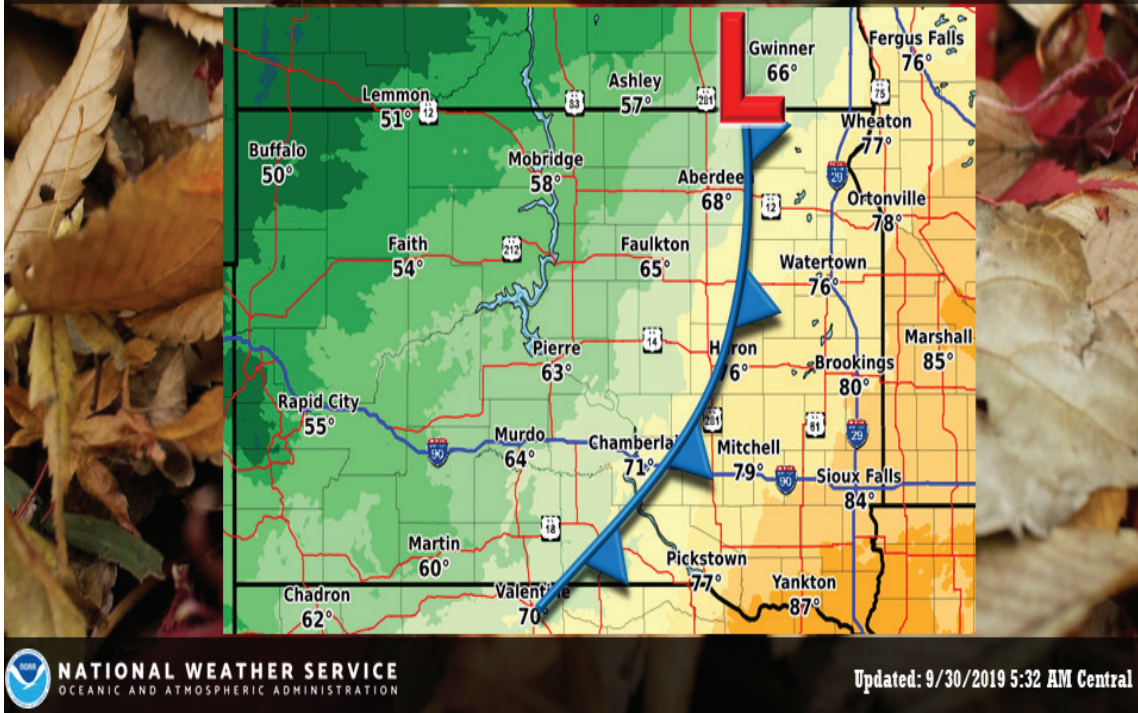
If you have any questions or comments, reach out to me on Twitter (@JordanWrightNFL)

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Today	Tonight	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday
				
Chance Showers then Mostly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy then Slight Chance Showers	Cloudy	Cloudy then Chance Showers	Chance Showers
<b>High: 67 °F</b>	<b>Low: 43 °F</b>	<b>High: 50 °F</b>	<b>Low: 40 °F</b>	<b>High: 49 °F</b>

## Colder Temperatures on the Way!



Published on: 09/30/2019 at 1:32AM

An area of low pressure will cross the region today bringing much colder temperatures along with it. Highs will range from the mid-50s, in western South Dakota, to the mid-70s, in western Minnesota. The high temperatures in western Minnesota will occur this morning with temps falling this afternoon. A few showers and thunderstorms will be possible through the morning hours as well.

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## Today in Weather History

September 30, 2006: Severe to exceptional drought conditions improved dramatically by the end of the month across central and north central South Dakota as above normal rainfall was recorded for the month of September.

1896: A hurricane formed on September 22 and lasted until September 30. It formed directly over the Lesser Antilles and hit Cuba, Florida, Georgia, South and North Carolina, Virginia, Washington D.C., and Pennsylvania. Its maximum sustained winds were at 130 mph. The heaviest rainfall deposited in association with the storm was 19.96 inches at Glennville, Georgia. This hurricane was responsible for an estimated 130 deaths and \$1.5 million in damage (1896 dollars).

1992: The past month was the coldest September ever recorded in interior Alaska. Fairbanks averaged a frigid 31.7° which was 13.2° below normal and the first below freezing September ever. Beginning on the 9th and on every day for the rest of the month, a new record low was set for either low minimums or low maximums, or both. On this date, the city plunged to 3° to set a new all-time record low for September. Snowfall for the month totaled 24.4 inches which was more than three times the previous record for September.

1959 - Three tornadoes spawned by the remnants of Hurricane Gracie killed 12 persons at Ivy VA. (The Weather Channel)

1970 - A nineteen month drought in southern California came to a climax. The drought, which made brush and buildings tinder dry, set up the worst fire conditions in California history as hot Santa Anna winds sent the temperature soaring to 105 degrees at Los Angeles, and to 97 degrees at San Diego. During that last week of September whole communities of interior San Diego County were consumed by fire. Half a million acres were burned, and the fires caused fifty million dollars damage. (David Ludlum)

1977 - The temperature at Wichita Falls, TX, soared to 108 degrees to establish a record for September. (The Weather Channel)

1986 - Thunderstorms, which had inundated northern sections of Oklahoma with heavy rain, temporarily shifted southward producing 4 to 8 inches rains from Shawnee to Stilwell. Baseball size hail and 80 mph winds ripped through parts of southeast Oklahoma City, and thunderstorm winds caused more than half a million dollars damage at Shawnee. (Storm Data)

1987 - Afternoon thunderstorms in Michigan produced hail an inch in diameter at Pinckney, and wind gusts to 68 mph at Wyandotte. A thunderstorm in northern Indiana produced wet snow at South Bend. Seven cities in the northwestern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date, including readings of 98 degrees at Medford OR and 101 degrees at downtown Sacramento CA. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Unseasonably warm weather prevailed over Florida, and in the western U.S. The afternoon high of 94 degrees at Fort Myers FL was their tenth record high for the month. Highs of 98 degrees at Medford OR and 99 degrees at Fresno CA were records for the date, and the temperature at Borrego Springs CA soared to 108 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thirteen cities reported record high temperatures for the date, as readings soared into the upper 80s and 90s from the Northern and Central High Plains Region to Minnesota. Bismarck ND reported a record high of 95 degrees, and the temperature reached 97 degrees at Broadus MT. Afternoon thunderstorms developing along a cold front produced wind gusts to 60 mph at Wendover UT. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)







## WHERE DOES YOUR LIGHT COME FROM?

Little Sara came home from school and proudly said to her mother, "I learned a new song today!"

"Sing it to me," came the request.

"God bless America, land that I love: Stand beside her, and guide her through the night with the light from a bulb," sang Sara.

There is a great difference between "light from a bulb" and "light from above." As we look at our nation today, we find that much "light" has come from education, information, training, and knowledge that enables individuals to earn a living. However, the "light" that comes from wisdom – the ability to judge what is true or right or something with lasting value or worth – appears to be in short supply.

James reminds us that if we want to have the ability to make wise decisions in troubling times we can always pray and ask God for guidance and wisdom.

We do not have to stumble in the darkness hoping to find good answers while looking for a "bulb" to light our path. We can ask God for His directions and He will gladly tell us what to do.

God's wisdom always leads us to the right decision and guarantees us good results. But we must have God-centered goals that come from knowing, accepting, and living our lives according to His Word if we expect to receive His wisdom.

Prayer: Lord, fill our minds with wisdom that can only come from Your Word. May we always look to You for guidance to guard us and live lives worthy of You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: James 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

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## 2019 Groton SD Community Events

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

## 2020 Groton SD Community Events

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

## News from the Associated Press

### Regulators want bigger bonds from oil, gas drillers

By SETH TUPPER Rapid City Journal

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — State regulators will ask the Legislature to require bigger financial guarantees for oil and gas wells in response to a failed 40-well natural gas project in northwest South Dakota.

Under current state law, drillers of wells shallower than 5,500 feet can choose to post a \$10,000 bond for each well, or a \$30,000 blanket bond covering an unlimited number of wells. Wells deeper than 5,500 feet require bonds of \$50,000 per well, or a blanket bond of \$100,000.

Mike Lees, administrator of the Minerals and Mining Program for the state Department of Environment and Natural Resources, said last week that the department will ask for changes to the bonding requirements when legislators convene for their annual lawmaking session this winter. His comments came during a meeting of the state Board of Minerals and Environment at the Mineral Palace Hotel in Deadwood, the Rapid City Journal reported .

Lees said the department will propose that all oil and gas drillers be required to post bonds of either \$50,000 per well, or a \$100,000 blanket bond for an unlimited number of wells, regardless of depth.

Some board members suggested capping the blanket bond at a certain number of wells, rather than allowing it to cover an unlimited number of wells.

“There are states that have a cap, so we could look at that,” Lees said.

Bonds are intended to protect landowners and state government from situations like the one playing out near Buffalo, where 40 natural gas wells have been idle and orphaned for several years since the company that drilled them, Spyglass Cedar Creek LP, of Texas, encountered financial problems.

When drilling of the wells began in 2006, the company was required to post \$30,000 in bonds. Someone associated with the company later cashed out \$20,000 from the bonds without state government’s knowledge, leaving the state with only \$10,000 to apply toward the estimated cost of nearly \$900,000 to plug the 40 orphaned wells.

The state has since imposed a \$15.5 million fine against Spyglass and filed a lawsuit against the company to pursue the money. Meanwhile, a lawyer for the state Attorney General’s Office said during Wednesday’s meeting that Spyglass recently paid \$20,000 to state government to replace the cashed-out bond.

Lees said his department will also pursue legislation allowing it to shift captured bond funds from one project to another.

That proposed change is another reaction to the Spyglass situation. While state officials were brainstorming ways to fund the plugging of the Spyglass wells, they considered using leftover bond money from a failed oil-well project near Wasta. But they received legal advice that the bond money could not be lawfully moved from one project to the other.

Additionally, Lees said, the department will seek legislation allowing it to require an extra \$20,000 in bonding per well for any well that has been idle for at least six months.

It’s unclear how that would have helped the state recover money from Spyglass, which appeared to be in dire financial straits by the time its wells had been idle for six months. Lees said the ability to require extra bonding at the six-month mark would have at least “brought things to a head sooner.”

The Spyglass wells remain unplugged, but the Department of Environment and Natural Resources has said the wells do not pose an immediate environmental threat.

## South Dakota fifth-graders delight in arc of dreams

By MAX HOFER KELO

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Whether it's high in the sky or in the halls of an elementary school, inspiration has no limits.

The Arc of Dreams has only been up for over three months and in that time it's not only drawn huge crowds but something even bigger.

Hawthorne art teacher Lisa Brunick has drawn a lot of inspiration from the Arc of Dreams, KELO reported. "Every fall we try to do a community-building project in art class because we have a lot of new kids that are coming and going all of the time. We try to start off all on the same art project," Brunick said.

She, along with her students ranging from kindergartners to fifth-graders, helped design a version small enough to fit the hallway.

"We really had to go through a thought process and so there is little clouds underneath the arc and every cloud is a student's hopes or dreams with the thought that I could do something to make that really happen," Brunick said.

"You got to draw any pattern you want, and you get to make a cloud of what you want to do with your family, your friends, your life," fifth-grader Alexis Arterberry said.

Now, while it may not be to the same physical scale as the one outside Charapa place, this arc undoubtedly reaches for the same heights.

"If your work your best and your hardest, you can work up that dream of yours and maybe it can come true in the future," Arterberry said.

And encourages students to take that leap of faith.

"I want to try and become an artist or a designer but I couldn't choose between them both, so then I would basically be a designer but I would want to paint my own clothes," Fourth-grader Jerzey Traversai said.

"I want to become a doctor so I can save people's lives so they don't pass away super early. And my second dream is going to Hawaii once I become a doctor, once I get paid a lot of money, I can take my brother, my mom and me on a vacation," Arterberry said.

"It's sometimes scary, but It's sometimes scary for all of us but here we all are supporting each other through our art to make our dreams come true," Brunick said.

The colorful arc is made up of dreams by students and even some teachers, and while it might not light up at night, the many colors keep it shining bright through the halls.

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

## Fast-moving water below dam creates dangers for fishermen

SIoux CITY, Iowa (AP) — The fast-moving water flowing out of Gavins Point dam on the South Dakota-Nebraska border will create dangerous fishing conditions on the Missouri River this fall.

The Sioux City Journal reports the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is warning fishermen to take precautions and stay out of restricted areas because of the high volume of water in the river.

The paddlefish snagging season begins Tuesday. But the Corps plans to continue releasing 80,000 cubic feet per second of water from the dam throughout October.

All fishermen should wear life vests and be careful of their footing. The Corps says boaters should not anchor their boats in the area near the dam because of the turbulent water.

## China's Xi renews commitment to Hong Kong amid protests

By CHRISTOPHER BODEEN Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — Chinese Communist Party leader and President Xi Jinping on Monday renewed his government's commitment to allowing Hong Kong to manage its own affairs amid continuing anti-government

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protests in the semi-autonomous Chinese territory.

Xi made his remarks at a reception on the eve of a massive celebration of the People's Republic's 70th anniversary that threatens to be marred by clashes between police and anti-government demonstrators in Hong Kong.

Demonstrators and police clashed for a second straight day on Sunday in Hong Kong, sparking further chaos in the city's business and shopping belt and drawing fears of more ugly scenes during the weeklong National Day holiday.

"We will continue to fully and faithfully implement the principles of 'One country, two systems' (and 'Hong Kong people administering Hong Kong,'" Xi said according to a printed copy of his remarks.

China's approach is to ensure that Hong Kong and its fellow semi-autonomous region of Macao "prosper and progress alongside the mainland and embrace an even brighter future," Xi said.

Earlier Monday, Xi led other top officials in paying respects to the founder of the Communist state, Mao Zedong, ahead of the massive celebrations emphasizing China's rise to global prominence.

The unusual move saw Xi bow three times to Mao's statue at his mausoleum in the center of Beijing's Tiananmen Square and pay his respects to Mao's embalmed corpse, which has lain in state in the hulking chamber since soon after his death in 1976. It was believed to be the first visit to the mausoleum by Xi and other officials since 2013, the 120th anniversary of Mao's birth.

Xi also ascended the nearby Monument to the People's Heroes to pay further tribute on what has been designated Martyr's Day, just ahead of Tuesday's National Day festivities, which will be marked by a massive military parade through the center of the city of 20 million people.

Along with other top party officials, more than 4,000 Chinese, including elderly military veterans and retired senior officials, "relatives of martyrs, honorees of national medals and honorary titles," and members of the party's youth organization visited the monument to lay flowers and wreaths.

Sept. 30 was designated Martyr's Day by China's legislature in 2014, a year after Xi became president and began redoubling propaganda efforts to promote patriotism and glorify the party, as well as to cultivate a cult of personality surrounding himself unseen since the time of Mao.

The nationwide celebrations seek to highlight China's enormous transformation from an impoverished state ravaged by Japan's World War II invasion and a following civil war into the world's second-largest economy. China now sits on the cutting edge of breakthrough technologies such as artificial intelligence and 5G communications and its growing military and diplomatic clout increasingly challenges U.S. leadership.

On Tuesday, Xi is expected to preside from atop iconic Tiananmen Gate over a parade that will display China's rapidly developing arsenal, possibly including the nuclear-capable Dongfeng 41 missile that could reach the United States in 30 minutes. Plans call for 15,000 troops, more than 160 aircraft and 580 pieces of military equipment to take part in the event.

The display of military prowess is seen as a way to underscore Beijing's ambition to enforce claims to self-governing Taiwan, virtually the entire South China Sea and territory held by Japan.

The anniversary comes as China appears more stable than ever, 30 years after the party used its military to crush a pro-democracy movement centered on Tiananmen Square. Xi has revived theatrical expressions of love of party and state that were popular under Mao and has rallied the nation to his call for the attainment of a "Chinese Dream" of global prominence, all while cracking down ruthlessly on any sign of political dissent.

Xi faces no serious political rivals and has brought the party to heel through a wide-ranging anti-corruption drive. Last year, he cemented his role as China's most powerful ruler of the modern era by amending the constitution to remove presidential term limits, sweeping away years of efforts to systematize leadership transitions and prevent the concentration of power in any one individual.

At the same time, Xi faces a slowing economy, an aging population and an ongoing dispute over trade and technology with the U.S. that has restricted China's access to American technology and hit its imports with tariffs. Beijing has responded with duties on American products, and the escalating trade war threatens the global economy.

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The protracted unrest in Hong Kong, approaching four months, has meanwhile battered the city's economy, with tourism plunging.

Many people view China as chipping away at the autonomy and freedoms Hong Kong was promised when the former British colony returned to Chinese rule in 1997, while Beijing has accused the U.S. and other foreign powers of fomenting the unrest in a bid to smear its reputation and weaken its control.

Despite speculation that China may be running out of patience with the protests, Beijing has yet to take radical steps such as sending in military forces to quell unrest.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Xi hailed China's development achievements over the last seven decades, especially its success in largely wiping out absolute poverty. He attributed those successes to the party's leadership and called for absolute unity around the 90 million-member body to write a "more brilliant chapter" toward realizing the "Chinese Dream."

Xi also touched on the issue of Taiwan, which China has vowed to annex by force if necessary.

Taiwan's incorporation into China is "an inevitable trend" and "no one and no force can ever stop it," Xi said.

## 10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

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

### 1. TRUMP ALLIES STRUGGLE OVER HOW TO MANAGE IMPEACHMENT THREAT

Republicans' talking points on the whistleblower scandal include a debunked conspiracy theory, the "deep state" and Joe Biden's son.

### 2. 'THIS WAS A HEINOUS CRIME'

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman says he takes full responsibility for the grisly murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi but denies he ordered it.

### 3. TRANSGENDER WOMAN'S CASE HEADS TO SUPREME COURT

The high court will hear Aimee Stephens' case Oct. 8 over whether a federal civil rights law that bars job discrimination on the basis of sex protects transgender people.

### 4. 'THIS GENERATION HAS HELPED US WITH OUR POLITICAL AWAKENING'

Hong Kong's older protesters admire the bravery and tireless zeal of their younger counterparts.

### 5. WHAT FASHION CHAIN HAS FILED FOR BANKRUPTCY

The privately held company Forever 21 is closing 178 stores in the U.S.

### 6. WHAT REAL LIFE ORDEAL IS COMING TO THE BIG SCREEN

"The Cave" will tell the story of the rescue of 12 boys and their soccer coach trapped in a flooded cave deep inside a northern Thai mountain.

### 7. CHINESE OFFICIALS PAY RESPECT TO FOUNDER OF COMMUNIST STATE

Chinese Communist Party leader and President Xi Jinping honors Mao Zedong ahead of a massive celebration of the People's Republic's 70th anniversary that will emphasize its rise to global prominence.

### 8. URUGUAY'S LAX CONTROLS ATTRACT DRUG TRAFFICKERS

It appears that in Uruguay's bid to speed up trade and lower export costs, customs controls have been neglected and the roving eye of the global drug trade found an easy shipment point, government officials found.

### 9. WHO WILL APPLY FOR PUBLIC FINANCING FOR PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN

Montana Gov. Steve Bullock will be the first to seek assistance to give his struggling fundraising efforts a boost.

### 10. THE SAINTS BEAT THE COWBOYS

New Orleans survives quarterback Drew Brees' absence with a 12-10 win over previously unbeaten Dallas.

## **GOP split over impeachment pushback as Democrats plow ahead**

**By LAURIE KELLMAN Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The president's lawyer insists the real story is a debunked conspiracy theory. A senior White House adviser blames the "deep state." And a Republican congressman is pointing at Joe Biden's son.

As the Democrats drive an impeachment inquiry toward a potential vote by the end of the year, President Donald Trump's allies are struggling over how he should manage the starkest threat to his presidency. The jockeying broke into the open Sunday on the talk show circuit, with a parade of Republicans erupting into a surge of second-guessing.

At the top of the list: Rudy Giuliani's false charge that it was Ukraine that meddled in the 2016 elections. The former New York mayor has been encouraging Ukraine to investigate both Biden and Hillary Clinton.

"I am deeply frustrated with what he and the legal team is doing and repeating that debunked theory to the president. It sticks in his mind when he hears it over and over again," said Tom Bossert, Trump's former homeland security adviser. "That conspiracy theory has got to go, they have to stop with that, it cannot continue to be repeated."

Not only did Giuliani repeat it Sunday, he brandished pieces of paper he said were affidavits supporting his story.

"Tom Bossert doesn't know what's he's talking about," Guiliani said. He added that Trump was framed by the Democrats.

Senior White House policy adviser Stephen Miller, meanwhile, noted that he's worked in the federal government "for nearly three years."

"I know the difference between whistleblower and a deep state operative," Miller said. "This is a deep state operative, pure and simple."

Meanwhile, Rep. Jim Jordan, R-Ohio, heatedly said Trump was merely asking Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to root out corruption. That, Jordan said, includes Hunter Biden's membership on the board of a Ukrainian gas company at the same time his father was leading the Obama administration's diplomatic dealings with Kyiv. There has been no evidence of wrongdoing by either of the Bidens.

Mixed messaging reflects the difficulty Republicans are having defending the president against documents released by the White House that feature Trump's own words and actions. A partial transcript and a whistleblower complaint form the heart of the House impeachment inquiry and describe Trump pressuring a foreign president to investigate Biden's family.

In a series of tweets Sunday night, Trump said he deserved to meet "my accuser" as well as whoever provided the whistleblower with what the president called "largely incorrect" information. He also accused Democrats of "doing great harm to our Country" in an effort to destabilize the nation and the 2020 election.

Trump has insisted the call was "perfect" and pushed to release both documents.

"He didn't even know that it was wrong," said House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, describing a phone call from Trump in which the president suggested the documents would exonerate him.

But Democrats seized on them as evidence that Trump committed "high crimes and misdemeanors" by asking for a foreign leader's help undermining a political rival, Democrat Joe Biden. Pelosi launched an impeachment inquiry and on Sunday told other Democrats that public sentiment had swung behind the probe.

By all accounts, the Democratic impeachment effort was speeding ahead with a fair amount of coordination between Pelosi, Democratic messaging experts and its political operation.

House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff said Sunday that he expects the whistleblower to testify "very soon," though details were still being worked out and no date had been set. Hearings and depositions were starting this week. Many Democrats are pushing for a vote on articles of impeachment before the end of the year, mindful of the looming 2020 elections.

Schiff said in one interview that his committee intends to subpoena Giuliani for documents and may eventually want to hear from Giuliani directly. In a separate TV appearance, Giuliani said he would not

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cooperate with Schiff, but then acknowledged he would do what Trump tells him. The White House did not provide an official response on whether the president would allow Giuliani to cooperate.

Lawyers for the whistleblower expressed concern about that individual's safety, noting that some have offered a \$50,000 "bounty" for the whistleblower's identity. They said they expect the situation to become even more dangerous for their client and any other whistleblowers, as Congress seeks to investigate this matter.

On a conference call Sunday, Pelosi, traveling in Texas, urged Democrats to proceed "not with negative attitudes towards him, but a positive attitude towards our responsibility," according to an aide on the call who shared the exchange on condition of anonymity. Polling, Pelosi said, had changed "drastically" in the Democrats' favor.

A one-day NPR/PBS NewsHour/Marist poll conducted Sept. 25 found that about half of Americans — 49% — approve of the House formally starting an impeachment inquiry into Trump.

There remains a stark partisan divide on the issue, with 88% of Democrats approving and 93% of Republicans disapproving of the inquiry. But the findings suggest some movement in opinions on the issue. Earlier polls conducted throughout Trump's presidency have consistently found a majority saying he should not be impeached and removed from office.

House Democratic Caucus Chairman Hakeem Jeffries of New York urged the caucus to talk about impeachment by repeating the words "betrayal, abuse of power, national security." The Democrats' campaign arm swung behind lawmakers to support the impeachment drive as they run for reelection, according to another call participant who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The contrast with the Republicans' selection of responses was striking.

A combative House Republican leader Kevin McCarthy said that nothing in Trump's phone call rose to the level of an impeachable offense.

"Why would we move forward on impeachment?" the California Republican said. "There's not something that you have to defend here."

Bossert, an alumnus of Republican George W. Bush's administration, offered a theory and some advice to Trump: Move past the fury over the 2016 Russia investigation, in which special counsel Robert Mueller found no evidence of conspiracy but plenty of examples of Trump's obstruction.

"I honestly believe this president has not gotten his pound of flesh yet from past grievances on the 2016 investigation," Bossert said. "If he continues to focus on that white whale, it's going to bring him down."

Two advisers to the Biden campaign sent a letter Sunday urging major news networks to stop booking Giuliani on their shows, accusing Trump's personal attorney of spreading "false, debunked conspiracy theories" on behalf of the president. The letter to management and anchors of shows at ABC News, NBC News, CBS News, MSNBC, CNN and Fox News added: "By giving him your air time, you are allowing him to introduce increasingly unhinged, unfounded and desperate lies into the national conversation."

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Giuliani appeared on ABC's "This Week" and CBS' "Face the Nation," while Schiff was interviewed on ABC and NBC's "Meet the Press." Bossert spoke on ABC and Miller on "Fox News Sunday." Jordan appeared on CNN's "State of the Union." Pelosi and McCarthy appeared on CBS' "60 Minutes."

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Associated Press writers Kevin Freking, Eric Tucker and Mary Clare Jalonick in Washington; writer Bill Barrow in Atlanta; and AP Polling Director Emily Swanson contributed to this report.

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## Forever 21 fashion chain files for Chapter 11 bankruptcy

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Low-price fashion chain Forever 21, a once-hot destination for teen shoppers that fell victim to its own rapid expansion and changing consumer tastes, has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.



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The privately held company based in Los Angeles said Sunday it will close up to 178 stores in the U.S. As of the bankruptcy filing, the company operated about 800 stores globally, including more than 500 stores in the U.S.

The company said it would focus on maximizing the value of its U.S. stores and shutter certain international locations. Forever 21 plans to close most of its locations in Asia and Europe but will continue operating in Mexico and Latin America.

"The decisions as to which domestic stores will be closing are ongoing, pending the outcome of continued conversations with landlords," it said in the statement. "We do, however, expect a significant number of these stores will remain open and operate as usual, and we do not expect to exit any major markets in the U.S."

Forever 21 joins Barneys New York and Diesel USA on a growing list of retailers seeking bankruptcy protection as they battle online competitors. Others, like Payless ShoeSource and Charlotte Russe, have shut down completely.

The numbers show the crisis facing traditional retailers. So far this year, publicly traded U.S. retailers have announced they will close 8,558 stores and open 3,446, according to the global research firm Coresight Research. That compares with 5,844 closures and 3,258 openings in all of 2018.

Coresight estimates the store closures could number 12,000 by the end of 2019.

Forever 21 was founded in 1984 and, along with other so-called fast fashion chains like H&M and Zara, rode a wave of popularity among young customers that took off in the mid-1990s.

Their popularity grew during the Great Recession, when shoppers sought fashion bargains.

But over the last year or so, fast fashion has fallen out of style. Young customers are losing interest in throw-away clothes and are more interested in buying eco-friendly products. They're also gravitating toward rental and online second-hand sites like Thredup, where they see clothes worn again instead of ending up in a landfill.

These trends are happening while discounters like Target have spruced up their fashion assortments, stealing away customers.

Forever 21 has also been more vulnerable than some other chains because of its large footprints in major malls, which are attracting fewer shoppers.

## Transgender woman in Supreme Court case is 'happy being me'

By MARK SHERMAN Associated Press

FERNDALE, Michigan (AP) — Aimee Stephens lost her job at a suburban Detroit funeral home and she could lose her Supreme Court case over discrimination against transgender people. Amid her legal fight, her health is failing.

But seven years after Stephens thought seriously of suicide and six years after she announced that she would henceforth be known as Aimee instead of Anthony, she has something no one can take away.

"I'm happy being me," she said in an interview with The Associated Press. "It's taken a long time."

The Supreme Court will hear Stephens' case Oct. 8 over whether federal civil rights law that bars job discrimination on the basis of sex protects transgender people. Other arguments that day deal with whether the same law covers sexual orientation.

The cases are the first involving LGBT rights since the retirement of Justice Anthony Kennedy, the court's gay-rights champion and decisive vote on those issues. They probably won't be decided before spring, during the 2020 presidential campaign.

The 58-year-old Stephens plans to attend the arguments despite dialysis treatments three times a week to deal with kidney failure and breathing problems that require further treatment. She used a walker the day she spoke to AP at an LGBT support center in the Ferndale suburb north of Detroit.

"I felt what they did to me wasn't right. In fact, it was downright wrong," Stephens said, her North Carolina roots evident in her speech. "But I also realized it wasn't just me, that there were others in the world facing the same tune."

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On the other side of the case is the R.G. and G.R. Harris Funeral Homes, whose owner worries that a ruling for Stephens also would prohibit sex-specific sleeping facilities in shelters, as well as showers, rest-rooms and locker rooms. Congress can change the law to make explicit protections for LGBT people if it wishes, owner Thomas Rost says in court papers.

More than half the states do not prohibit discrimination in employment because of gender identity or sexual orientation, despite the Supreme Court's 2015 ruling that made same-sex marriage legal across the United States. In Michigan, the state's civil rights commission last year decided to interpret existing state law to protect LGBT people from workplace bias. But that wouldn't affect Stephens, who was fired in 2013.

There's no dispute over the sequence of events that led to the Supreme Court case. Stephens was once a Baptist minister in North Carolina and she said she always liked "comforting people in need." She spent nearly six years as a licensed funeral home director and embalmer at the company's Garden City, Michigan, location. Stephens, then known as Anthony Stephens, came to work every day in a dark suit, white shirt and tie.

At the end of July 2013, Stephens met with Rost in the home's chapel and handed him a letter in which Stephens revealed she had struggled with gender most of her life and had, at long last, "decided to become the person that my mind already is." Stephens wrote, "As distressing as this is sure to be to my friends and some of my family, I need to do this for myself and for my own peace of mind and to end the agony in my soul."

Following a vacation, Stephens said she would report to work wearing a conservative skirt suit or dress that Rost required for women who worked at his three funeral homes.

"He read the letter, folded it up and put in his pocket and we were basically done for that day," Stephens recalled. Two weeks later, Rost and Stephens met again, briefly. "He handed me a letter and said this is not going to work," she said.

The letter was a termination notice and the offer of a modest severance payment, Stephens said. She turned down the severance because it would have meant signing away her right to sue, she said.

Stephens took her complaint to the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, which agreed to sue the company. During the Obama years, the EEOC had changed its longstanding interpretation of civil rights law to include discrimination against LGBT people. The law's Title 7 prohibits discrimination because of sex, but has no specific protection for sexual orientation or gender identity.

A trial judge ruled against her, but the federal appeals court in Cincinnati sustained the complaint. The court found that discrimination on the basis of transgender status is sex discrimination. The appeals court also separately found that Rost fired Stephens because of his sex stereotypes about Stephens' appearance and dress.

The funeral home appealed, and the justices agreed to hear the case. Appeals courts in Chicago and New York issued similar rulings bringing sexual orientation under the rights law, while the appeals court in Atlanta declined to do so. The justices also will weigh in on that issue.

Rost's family has been in the funeral home business since 1910. He testified that Stephens dressed in women's clothing would be "a distraction that is not appropriate" for grieving families.

Rost declined an interview request, but his lawyer described him as a caring man whose service to clients is paramount.

"Tom has gone out and gotten groceries for widows who were incapable of doing it," lawyer John Bursch said.

In firing Stephens, Rost was not trying to prevent her from dressing as she wants on her own time, Bursch said, though he declined to use female pronouns to describe Stephens.

"To say this is somehow rolling back respect for people is just a false premise," Bursch said.

The issue, he said, is the extent of federal civil rights law. "It's asking to have a right recognized which has never existed," he said.

Congress has never expressly included sexual orientation or gender identity in Title 7's prohibition on discrimination "because of...sex," though pending legislation would do so. The bill's prospects are slim.

The Trump administration has reversed course from the Obama administration and has sided with em-

ployers who argue that the civil rights law does not protect LGBT people. The change of position puts Trump Solicitor General Noel Francisco in the odd position of representing the EEOC at the Supreme Court, where he will argue against the EEOC's stance.

Trump's election and his rollback of Obama administration policies allowing transgender people to use school bathrooms corresponding to their identity, and to serve openly in the military are major reasons why Stephens has persisted in her fight, even as her health struggles have mounted.

"With all the things that have come out, with the way that transgender people are being treated, basically trying to be forcibly erased from society, I have no regrets at all about it," she said.

## What's next as House committees launch impeachment probes

By MARY CLARE JALONICK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Democrats are planning a rapid start to their push for impeachment of President Donald Trump, with hearings and depositions starting this week.

Democratic leaders have instructed committees to move quickly — and not to lose momentum — after revelations that Trump asked Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to investigate his potential 2020 Democratic challenger, Joe Biden, and his family. The action is beginning even though lawmakers left town Friday for a two-week recess.

The chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., says his committee is moving "expeditiously" on hearings and subpoenas. That committee, as well as the House Oversight and Reform Committee and the House Foreign Affairs Committee, have scheduled depositions starting this week for State Department officials linked to Trump's dealings with Ukraine.

A look at next steps as Democrats march toward an impeachment vote:

### A BUSY RECESS

Members of the House Intelligence Committee have been told to be prepared to return to Washington during the break. California Rep. Jackie Speier said she has already canceled some of her previous commitments.

"We're expected to be here," Speier said.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has told the Democrats they need to "strike while the iron is hot" on impeachment, sending the committees into overdrive. Connecticut Rep. Jim Himes, a Democrat, said a plan is "being formed very rapidly."

"What I know for sure is that momentum will not slow," Himes said.

Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi, D-Ill., said they will have to "work harder" and "sleep less."

### LONG WITNESS LIST, QUICK TIMELINE

Schiff's committee has been negotiating to interview the whistleblower who began the firestorm by reporting to the inspector general for the intelligence community that Trump had urged the investigations on a July phone call with Zelenskyy.

Schiff told ABC's "This Week" that his panel had reached agreement to hear from the whistleblower, who would testify "very soon." Schiff said the exact date would depend in part on how quickly acting Director of National Intelligence Joseph Maguire completes the security clearance process for the whistleblower's lawyers. "We'll keep obviously riding shotgun to make sure the acting director doesn't delay in that clearance process," Schiff said.

The complaint from the whistleblower, whose identity is not publicly known, was released last week after Maguire withheld it from Congress for weeks. In the complaint, the whistleblower said White House officials moved to "lock down" the details of Trump's call by putting all the records of it on a separate computer system.

The inspector general who handled that complaint, Michael Atkinson, is slated to testify to the Intelligence Committee in private on Friday, according to a person familiar with the committee who was spoke

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on condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations.

Lawmakers on the committee say they also want to speak to White House aides who were present for the call and to Rudy Giuliani, the president's personal lawyer, who urged the investigations. Giuliani told ABC on Sunday that he "wouldn't cooperate" with Schiff, but if Trump "decides that he wants me to testify, of course I'll testify." Schiff says he hasn't decided whether he wants to hear from Giuliani.

Democrats say they hope to finish the investigation in a matter of weeks — perhaps even before Thanksgiving.

## ARTICLES OF IMPEACHMENT

Once the committees have finished their own investigations, the committees will submit their findings to the House Judiciary Committee, which oversees the impeachment process.

Rep. Pramila Jayapal, D-Wash., who serves on the Judiciary Committee, said the Intelligence Committee will be the "star of the show" as it investigates Trump's activities related to Ukraine. Articles of impeachment would be drafted by the Judiciary Committee and, if adopted, sent to the House floor.

The Judiciary Committee chairman, Rep. Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., has said he wants resolution on impeachment by the end of the year. Jayapal said that deadline "absolutely" stands, and that the plan is to be done before January, or "perhaps sooner."

## REPUBLICAN RESISTANCE

Republicans have focused their ire about impeachment on the Democrats, criticizing the probes as a rerun of a two-year investigation into Russian election interference in the 2016 election.

California Rep. Devin Nunes, the top Republican on the Intelligence Committee, said Democrats "don't want answers, they want a public spectacle."

"They have been trying to reverse the results of the 2016 election since President Trump took office," said House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif.

## SLOWER SENATE

If the House votes to approve charges against Trump, the Republican-led Senate would then hold a trial.

Some Senate Republicans have expressed concerns about Trump's interactions with Ukraine, but there are few signs that there would be enough discontent to convict the president, who still has strong support in the GOP ranks. If Trump were impeached, it would take a two-thirds vote in the Senate to convict him and remove him from office. A memorandum from Senate Republicans circulated over the weekend acknowledged it would be hard for Republican Majority Leader Mitch McConnell to block an impeachment trial, but he could deflect any House-approved impeachment articles to a committee.

The chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, Sen. Richard Burr, R-N.C., has said his committee will investigate the Ukraine matter but "don't expect us to move at light speed — that will probably happen in the House."

## A NOD TO HISTORY

Trump would join a rare group if the House moves forward toward impeachment. Only two presidents have been impeached: Andrew Johnson in 1868 and Bill Clinton in 1998. Both won acquittal in the Senate.

President Richard Nixon, who faced impeachment proceedings, resigned from office in 1974.

AP Congressional Correspondent Lisa Mascaró contributed to this report.

## **NYPD officer shot and killed during struggle with suspect**

NEW YORK (AP) — A New York City police officer grappling with an armed man died early Sunday in the Bronx after being shot three times, possibly with his own gun.

The 27-year-old suspect also died after five officers fired at him, police officials said. He has not been

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publicly identified yet.

The NYPD identified the slain officer as 33-year-old Brian Mulkeen.

"We lost a hero this evening," Mayor Bill de Blasio said at a news conference outside Jacobi Medical Center in the Bronx.

Mulkeen was patrolling the streets around a city apartment complex at around 12:30 a.m. as part of a unit investigating potential gang activity, Chief of Department Terence Monahan said.

Mulkeen and his partner tried to apprehend a man who had fled questioning, and a struggle on the ground ensued, Monahan said.

As the men wrestled, Mulkeen's body camera recorded him saying, "He's reaching for it! He's reaching for it!"

"Officer Mulkeen's gun fired five times," Monahan said. "At this point, it is not clear who fired Officer Mulkeen's gun."

A .32-caliber revolver that police say belonged to the man was recovered. It had not been fired, Monahan said.

Monahan said the suspect was on probation until 2022 for a narcotics-related arrest last year and had several prior arrests, including a burglary conviction in Rockland County.

Mulkeen had served nearly seven years with the department and worked out of the 47th precinct. He lived with his girlfriend, an NYPD police officer in the Bronx's 44th precinct.

Monahan called the officer "brave," and said he was "doing the job we asked him to do, a job that New Yorkers needed him to do."

The track and field program at Fordham University in the Bronx posted that Mulkeen was an alumnus, and had recently become a volunteer coach. The program said that as a student, he was part of the 2008 team that won the Metropolitan Outdoor Track & Field Championship, a first for the program.

"He was a remarkable human being. Everybody loved him," the slain officer's father, also Brian Mulkeen, told the New York Post.

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, at an unrelated event, said Mulkeen "made the greatest sacrifice. He put his life on the line and he lost it in service to the people of this city."

The NYPD has had a difficult year, with a number of tragic deaths.

Mulkeen is the second NYPD officer killed in the line of duty, following Detective Brian Simonsen, who was accidentally shot by fellow officers in February while confronting a robbery suspect.

"We've been here too often. We know the directions to get here," Pat Lynch, the president of New York City's Police Benevolent Association, said at the press conference. "It has to stop."

Mulkeen's death comes as the NYPD has declared a mental health emergency amid a spate of suicides by police officers. Nine NYPD officers have taken their own lives this year, a disturbing trend that is also happening throughout the country.

## Saudi crown prince denies ordering journalist's murder

NEW YORK (AP) — Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman said in a television interview that he takes "full responsibility" for the grisly murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi, but denied allegations that he ordered it.

"This was a heinous crime," Prince Mohammed, 34, told "60 Minutes" in an interview that aired Sunday. "But I take full responsibility as a leader in Saudi Arabia, especially since it was committed by individuals working for the Saudi government."

Asked if he ordered the murder of Khashoggi, who had criticized him in columns for The Washington Post, Prince Mohammed replied: "Absolutely not."

The slaying was "a mistake," he said.

Khashoggi entered the Saudi consulate in Turkey on Oct. 2, 2018, to collect a document that he needed to marry his Turkish fiancée. Agents of the Saudi government killed Khashoggi inside the consulate and apparently dismembered his body, which has never been found. Saudi Arabia has charged 11 people in

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the slaying and put them on trial, which has been held in secret. As of yet, no one has been convicted. A U.N. report asserted that Saudi Arabia bore responsibility for the killing and said Prince Mohammed's possible role in it should be investigated. In Washington, Congress has said it believes Prince Mohammed is "responsible for the murder." Saudi Arabia has long insisted the crown prince had no involvement in an operation that included agents who reported directly to him.

"Some think that I should know what 3 million people working for the Saudi government do daily," the powerful heir told "60 Minutes." "It's impossible that the 3 million would send their daily reports to the leader or the second-highest person in the Saudi government."

In an interview Thursday in New York, Khashoggi's fiancée, Hatice Cengiz, told The Associated Press that responsibility for Khashoggi's slaying "was not limited to the perpetrators" and said she wanted Prince Mohammed to tell her: "Why was Jamal killed? Where is his body? What was the motive for this murder?"

Prince Mohammed also addressed the Sept. 14 missile and drone attack on Saudi oil facilities. While Yemen's Iranian-allied Houthi rebels claimed the assault, Saudi Arabia has said it was "unquestionably sponsored by Iran."

"There is no strategic goal," Prince Mohammed said of the attack. "Only a fool would attack 5% of global supplies. The only strategic goal is to prove that they are stupid and that is what they did."

He urged "strong and firm action to deter Iran."

## AP FACT CHECK: Trump mistruths on Ukraine, impeachment fight

By HOPE YEN and CALVIN WOODWARD Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A whistle blew, an impeachment inquiry swung into motion and the president at the center of it all rose defiantly to his own defense, not always in command of the facts.

A CIA officer, in a complaint filed under federal whistleblower protections that preserve anonymity, alleged President Donald Trump abused his office in pressing for a Ukrainian investigation of a Democratic rival, Joe Biden. That revelation persuaded Democrats to move ahead with an inquiry that could produce articles of impeachment. Trump has reacted with anger, with weekend tweets that made the groundless accusation that Democratic Rep. Adam Schiff, the Intelligence Committee chairman taking the lead in the impeachment review, criticized him "illegally."

A look at Trump's recent words on impeachment, Ukraine and other subjects:

### UKRAINE

TRUMP: "Liddle' Adam Schiff ... fraudulently and illegally inserted his made up & twisted words into my call with the Ukrainian President to make it look like I did something very wrong. He then boldly read those words to Congress and millions of people, defaming & libeling me." — tweets Saturday.

THE FACTS: He is exaggerating Schiff's exaggerations. The California Democrat, in what he said was a parody during a committee hearing, mocked and overstated the president's pleas in his July 25 call to Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, as Trump does with his critics routinely. Schiff's remarks are not illegal nor would it be defamatory or libelous, because lawmakers are shielded from liability for comments made in the course of Congress under the "speech or debate" clause in the Constitution, which seeks to foster political debate.

During Thursday's House intelligence committee hearing, Schiff made clear he was providing an account that was in "essence" what he believed Trump was conveying to Zelenskyy when "shorn of its rambling character."

No exact transcript of Trump's comments with Ukraine's president actually exists, just a rough transcript released by the White House.

TRUMP, describing the July 25 phone call with his Ukrainian counterpart: "Another Fake News Story! See what was said on the very nice, no pressure, call." — tweet Thursday.

TRUMP: "My call was perfect." — remarks to reporters Thursday.

THE FACTS: It's a big stretch for Trump to say he placed no pressure on Zelenskyy in that phone call

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— a conversation marked by Trump's blunt remark: "I would like for you to do us a favor," according to a White House account of the call.

Trump repeatedly prodded Zelenskiy to help investigate Biden and son Hunter, as well as to look into a cybersecurity firm that investigated the 2016 hack of the Democratic National Committee and concluded it was carried out by Russia.

The call followed a monthslong campaign by Trump's personal lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, conducted on Trump's behalf to get Ukrainians to scrutinize Hunter Biden's business dealings in Ukraine when Joe Biden was vice president. It also followed Trump's abrupt suspension of military aid for Ukraine that Congress had approved. The aid was recently released.

When Zelenskiy thanked Trump for past U.S. aid and suggested his country might need more, Trump switched the topic to the investigation he wanted Ukraine to do. He asked Zelenskiy to work with Attorney General William Barr and Giuliani on the matter.

As for the call being "perfect," it was actually worrisome enough so that White House attorneys moved a rough transcript of it to a highly secure system where fewer officials would have access to it than is normally the case for conversations between Trump and world leaders.

The call and the broader effort to win a foreign government's help on a matter that could benefit Trump's reelection are what sparked the impeachment inquiry.

TRUMP, denouncing information from the whistleblower: "All second hand information that proved to be so inaccurate." — tweet Friday.

THE FACTS: The whistleblower's accusations have not been shown to be incorrect. Several key details have actually been corroborated. For example, the White House account of the July 25 phone call showed that the whistleblower had accurately summarized the conversation, as relayed by unidentified U.S. officials, in the complaint sent to the acting director of national intelligence.

TRUMP: "I want to see other countries helping Ukraine also, not just us. As usual the United States helps and nobody else is there." — remarks to reporters Wednesday.

TRUMP: "I'd withhold again, and I'll continue to withhold until such time as Europe and other nations contribute to Ukraine. Because they're not doing it; it's the United States. ... Why is it only the United States putting up the money?" — remarks to reporters Tuesday.

THE FACTS: It isn't only the U.S. putting up money. It's false to say "nobody else is there." European Union institutions have provided far more development assistance than the U.S.— compared with \$204 million from Washington. EU members, Japan and Canada also contribute significantly.

Since 2014, the EU and European financial institutions have mobilized more than \$16 billion to help Ukraine's economy, counter corruption, build institutions and strengthen its sovereignty against further incursions by Russia after its annexation of Crimea.

The U.S. is a heavy source of military assistance. The aid package held back by Trump, and recently released, amounted to nearly \$400 million in such aid. But NATO also contributes a variety of military-assistance programs and trust funds for Ukraine. In most such cases, the programs are modest and NATO countries other than the U.S. take the lead.

TRUMP, in the July 25 call with Ukraine's leader: "Germany does almost nothing for you. All they do is talk." — according to White House account of the conversation, released Wednesday.

THE FACTS: Germany is the third largest bilateral donor to Ukraine, after the EU and the U.S. "Anyone who views this soberly will conclude Germany is strongly involved," said German foreign ministry spokesman Rainer Breul.

## GUN CONTROL

TRUMP: "It is disgraceful what the Do Nothing Democrats are doing (the Impeachment Scam), but it is

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also disgraceful what they are NOT doing, ... Gun Safety ... and much more!" — tweet Saturday.

TRUMP, speaking of the Democratic senator from Connecticut: "Chris Murphy — who I've been dealing with on guns — you know, so nice. He's always, 'Oh, no, we want to work it out. We want to work it out.' But they're too busy wasting their time on the witch hunt." — news conference Wednesday.

THE FACTS: Trump is the main holdup on gun control legislation as he mulls whether to endorse expanded background checks.

The Democratic-controlled House passed a bill in February that would require background checks on all gun sales, including those between strangers who meet online or at gun shows. But Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said it's not clear the Senate would be able to pass the legislation or that Trump would sign it into law. Earlier this month, McConnell stressed that Congress would remain "in a holding pattern" on gun control as lawmakers await proposals from the White House.

A proposal being floated by Barr on Capitol Hill would require background checks on all commercial gun sales, including at gun shows. But Trump told reporters this month the plan was one of many ideas under consideration and he would go "very slowly."

## ECONOMY and TRADE

TRUMP: "How do you impeach a President who has created the greatest Economy in the history of our Country." — tweet Saturday.

TRUMP: "Our country is the strongest it's ever been economically." — news conference Wednesday.

THE FACTS: It isn't.

In the late 1990s, growth topped 4% for four straight years, a level it has not reached on an annual basis under Trump. Growth reached 7.2% in 1984. The economy grew 2.9% in 2018 — the same pace it reached in 2015 under President Barack Obama — and hasn't hit historically high growth rates.

The unemployment rate is near a 50-year low of 3.7%, but the proportion of Americans with a job was higher in the 1990s. Wages were rising at a faster pace back then, too. More Americans are now out of the workforce, taking care of children or relatives, or going to school, while others became discouraged about their job prospects and stopped looking. The government doesn't count people as unemployed unless they are actively searching for jobs.

VICE PRESIDENT MIKE PENCE: "We have before the Congress what will be the largest trade deal in American history. ... It's time for Congress to pass the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement and pass it this year." — remarks Thursday in Indianapolis.

THE FACTS: It's not the largest trade deal ever made.

It covers the same three countries as the North American Free Trade Agreement, which the Trump administration is seeking to replace. In contrast, the Uruguay Round of trade negotiations concluded in 1994 created the World Trade Organization and was signed by 123 countries. The Federal Reserve Bank of Boston found the following year that the WTO's initial membership accounted for more than 90 percent of global economic output.

TRUMP on the effects of the impeachment inquiry: "The stock market went up when they saw the nonsense. All of a sudden the stock market went down very substantially when they saw a charge. After they read the charge, the stock market went up very substantially." — remarks to reporters in New York on Wednesday.

THE FACTS: First, he's not actually charged with anything. He's saying the market went down Tuesday when the impeachment drive was announced and up after the White House memo on his phone call with Ukraine's president came out. That's roughly right, but it's wrong to tie the market fluctuations solely — or even primarily — to the impeachment episode.

The market cares even more about the economy, and currently the biggest wild card for the U.S. economy is how much Trump's trade war with China could curtail growth. Since it began last year, the stock market has fallen with each escalation of tensions and risen when the two sides appeared close to resolving the



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dispute.

The 142-point drop in the Dow Jones Industrial Average on Tuesday was partly due to the impeachment developments but was also tied to Trump taking a hard line on China in a speech to the United Nations, which seemed to dim the prospects that coming talks would resolve the trade standoff. While the market did move higher Wednesday after the release of the memo, the Commerce Department released some solid numbers on the housing market around the same time.

Moreover, just after the comment on the stock exchange, Trump told reporters a deal with China "could happen sooner than you think," and the Dow quickly doubled its gain.

The economic-political dynamic was evident in the impeachment inquiries of Presidents Richard Nixon and Bill Clinton. After the initial inquiry of Nixon in October 1973, the S&P 500 index fell 33% the next year. But the S&P 500 gained 39% after the Clinton impeachment inquiry started in October 1998. The difference: The economy was headed toward a recession in the mid-1970s, while the economy was growing strongly in the late 1990s. For Trump, the U.S. economy slowed to growth of about 2% in the second quarter from 3% in the first quarter and current estimates are for 2% growth in the third quarter.

**TRUMP:** "In America, the result was 4.2 million lost manufacturing jobs ... the United States is now taking that decisive action to end this grave economic injustice." — address Tuesday to the U.N. General Assembly.

**WHITE HOUSE:** "The president is getting rid of the disastrous North American Free Trade Agreement and replacing it with a better deal, the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement. Our country has lost 4 million manufacturing jobs since NAFTA went into effect." — news release Tuesday.

**THE FACTS:** The loss of factory jobs is not all due to NAFTA.

Trump is correct that the United States has lost nearly 4 million factory jobs since that pact took effect in January 1994. But most economists attribute the losses to other factors — the recessions of 2001 and 2007-2009, automation that lets machines replace workers and low-cost competition from China.

Trump's proposed NAFTA replacement is hardly expected to create a jobs boom. The independent International Trade Commission estimates that the new deal would create 176,000 jobs over six years, a rounding error in a country with 152 million nonfarm jobs.

**BEAUTY PAGEANT**

**TRUMP,** recalling his days as the owner of the Miss Universe pageant: "It's a great thing. And we had a winner from Ukraine." — remarks Wednesday before a meeting with Zelenskiy.

**THE FACTS:** A Ukrainian woman has never won the Miss Universe title. Several made the top 10 during Trump's tenure at the pageant, which he bought in 1996 and sold in 2015. But none took the prize in the pageant's history, which dates to 1952. Ukrainian Olesia Stefanko was first runner-up in 2011.

Associated Press writers Michael Balsamo, Zeke Miller, and Paul Wiseman in Washington and Paul Harloff in New York contributed to this report.

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## Activists wonder why political donor wasn't arrested sooner

By **BRIAN MELLEY** Associated Press

WEST HOLLYWOOD, Calif. (AP) — When a dead man was carried out of Ed Buck's apartment two years ago, members of the gay political club he lavished with thousands of dollars in political donations swiftly ousted him.

Buck attempted a comeback in early January, less than six months after prosecutors declined to bring charges in the overdose death. He tried to crash the Stonewall Democratic Club's holiday party at a West Hollywood wine bar, telling members he had been exonerated, club president Lester Aponte said.

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"When somebody dies at your house, wouldn't you think that's the kind of event that will make you re-examine your life choices?" Aponte told The Associated Press. "It doesn't seem like it registered with him at all."

Two days after Buck was escorted out of the bash, another gay man was found dead in his West Hollywood apartment — again from a methamphetamine overdose. Buck is white, and both dead men were black.

He wasn't stopped until authorities said a third black man nearly died. It's what victims' families and their supporters warned about for two years as they tried to get prosecutors to bring charges.

"I said it the last time we were down here that there's going to be a third victim," said LaTisha Nixon, whose 26-year-old son, Gemmel Moore, was the first to die. "We said there's gonna be a second victim. We kept saying it because we all knew ... Ed Buck didn't stop doing what he was doing."

Nixon and her supporters welcomed the arrest but criticized the time it took to put Buck behind bars and renewed their questions about whether a wealthy white Democratic donor benefited because the victims were mostly gay black men and drug users, some of whom were sex workers and homeless.

"If white gay men had been dying in a black man's house or anybody's house, rather, this case would have been taken a lot more seriously," said Jasmyne Cannick, a communications strategist who spearheaded the effort to get justice for Moore. "Ed Buck knew who he was preying on, and he knew that people would not care. Or he thought that people would not care."

Buck, 65, was arrested Sept. 17 after the third man was hospitalized for an overdose.

The Los Angeles County district attorney charged Buck with running a drug house. Two days later, U.S. prosecutors charged him with distributing methamphetamine resulting in Moore's death.

Buck is being held without bail and has yet to enter a plea in either case. His attorneys declined to comment, but one defense lawyer, Seymour Amster, previously said Buck denied any role in the deaths of Moore or Timothy Dean, 55, who overdosed Jan. 7.

Moore was found naked on a mattress on Buck's living room floor on July 27, 2017. Two dozen syringes and five glass pipes were found, along with meth stored in a toolbox with sex toys.

Prosecutors said Buck paid men with drugs and money to feed a sexual fetish that included having them pose in underwear and injecting some of them with large doses of drugs.

District Attorney Jackie Lacey has defended her decision not to bring charges sooner or file homicide charges. She said there was insufficient evidence to charge Buck in the deaths and that it made more sense to proceed with a federal prosecution that would bring a minimum 20-year sentence if he's convicted.

Lacey, who is black, denied that Buck, who had given her a \$100 donation that she later returned, received any favoritism. She said investigators didn't have the necessary witnesses to make an arrest until the latest victim provided the account that gave them their big break.

"We did not have other victims that were willing to talk to the prosecutors to tell us what happened, to tell us they were injected by Mr. Buck," Lacey said.

The federal criminal complaint, however, said eight men had provided harrowing accounts about encounters with Buck before the latest victim survived overdosing twice in a week this month. He said he lived with Buck for weeks this summer and Buck regularly injected him with meth.

Several of those men said Buck encouraged them to take drugs or injected them himself — some against their will and others who said they woke up to being injected or suspected they had been given a powerful drug before passing out.

One man, who was homeless and worked as a prostitute, told investigators in March that Buck was known as Dr. Kevorkian, a reference to the late doctor imprisoned for helping terminally ill patients end their lives. The man said Buck injected him twice with meth in 2011 and he lost consciousness each time.

"Buck insists on injecting prostitutes with methamphetamine and ... would dismiss anyone who would not permit it without compensation," according to an affidavit by Drug Enforcement Administration agent John Mundell.

Lacey, the district attorney, said witnesses were reluctant or had "lawyered up" and wouldn't speak,

while others didn't have firsthand encounters with Buck.

Cannick, the communications strategist, and two lawyers representing Moore's mother in a lawsuit against Buck, the DA and Sheriff's Department, disputed the prosecutor's assertions. They said they accompanied victims mentioned in the criminal complaint to interviews with sheriff's deputies and provided text messages, photos, videos and receipts of electronic payments Buck made.

The witnesses all spoke with Los Angeles County sheriff's investigators, who consulted frequently with county prosecutors, said Lt. Derrick Alfred, who oversaw the team of detectives who investigated Dean's death. He said the activists were integral by finding witnesses.

Moore's death was originally listed as an accidental overdose. A criminal investigation wasn't launched for about three weeks, after Cannick said she published excerpts from a journal Moore kept that said he had become addicted to drugs and "Ed Buck is the one to thank."

Prosecutors declined to bring charges a year after Moore's death, but another investigation began after Dean died. In July, deputies approached a federal-state task force on opioid overdoses, which agreed to take the case, DEA spokesman Kyle Mori said.

Attorney Ambrosio Rodriguez, a former Riverside County prosecutor, said it was unusual for federal prosecutors to take over a state investigation. He said he didn't buy Lacey's statements about the evidence and said her explanation for passing the case to federal prosecutors was "disingenuous."

"No one is pickier about what cases they file than the federal government," Rodriguez said. "It's a known thing in criminal law that the federal government only files perfect cases. ... They want two helpings of all the evidence in the world."

Before Buck could be charged in federal court, investigators learned of the latest overdose and finally made an arrest.

When Buck was taken into custody, "he acted confused, seemingly wondering why we were there and what was going on," Alfred said.

A small crowd, including Cannick, gathered across the street from the building where protesters had once posted signs saying, "Justice 4 Gemmel" and "Ed Buck is a Predator!"

Within a week, an eviction notice was posted on Buck's door. It cited the illegal drugs and the deaths of two men found inside.

## Director promises dank thrills in Thai cave boys rescue saga

By TASSANEE VEJPONGSA and JERRY HARMER Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — Their story gripped the world: determined divers racing against time and water to rescue 12 boys and their soccer coach trapped for more than two weeks in a flooded cave deep inside a northern Thai mountain.

The ordeal in late June and early July 2018 had barely ended when filmmakers began their own race to get the nail-biting drama onto cinema screens. The first of those projects will premiere this weekend, when director Tom Waller's "The Cave" shows at the Busan Film Festival in South Korea.

The film was shot over three months earlier this year and has been in post-production since then. The 45-year-old Thai-born, British-raised filmmaker said the epic tale of the Wild Boars football team was a story he simply had to tell.

The boys and their coach entered the Tham Luang cave complex after soccer practice and were quickly trapped inside by rising floodwater. Despite a massive search, the boys spent nine nights lost in the cave before they were spotted by an expert diver. It would take another eight days before they were all safe.

Waller was visiting his father in Ireland when he saw television news accounts of the drama.

"I thought this would be an amazing story to tell on screen," he said.

But putting the parts together after their dramatic rescue proved to be a challenge. Thailand's government, at the time led by a military junta, became very protective of the story, barring unauthorized access to the Wild Boars or their parents. Waller often feared his production might be shut down.

His good fortune was that the events at the Tham Luang cave in Chiang Rai province had multiple angles

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and interesting characters. Especially compelling were the stories of the rescuers, particularly the expert divers who rallied from around the world. He decided to make a film "about the volunteer spirit of the rescue."

Other people proposed telling the story from the point of view of the boys, and Netflix nailed down those rights in a deal brokered by the Thai government.

"I took the view that this was going to be a story about the people we didn't know about, about the cave divers who came all the way from across the planet," Waller said. "They literally dropped everything to go and help, and I just felt that that was more of an exciting story to tell, to find out how these boys were brought out and what they did to get them out."

Waller even had more than a dozen key rescue personnel play themselves.

Waller said they were natural actors, blending in almost seamlessly with the professionals around them, and helped by the accuracy of the settings and the production's close attention to detail.

"What you are really doing is asking them to remember what they did and to show us what they were doing and what they were feeling like at the time," he said. "That was really very emotional for some of them because it was absolutely real."

Waller said his film is likely to have a visceral effect on some viewers, evoking a measure of claustrophobia.

"It's a sort of immersive experience with the sound of the environment, you know, the fact that is very dark and murky, that the water is not clear," he said.

"In Hollywood films, when they do underwater scenes, everything is crystal clear. But in this film it's murky and I think that's the big difference. This film lends itself to being more of a realistic portrayal of what happened."

Some scenes were filmed on location at the entrance to the actual Tham Luang cave, but most of the action was shot elsewhere, Waller said.

"We filmed in real water caves that were flooded, all year-round," he said. "It is very authentic in terms of real caves, real flooded tunnels, real divers and real creepy-crawlies in there. So it was no mean feat trying to get a crew to go and film in these caves."

"The Cave" goes on general release in Thailand on Nov. 28.

## Trump allies push denials as Democrats promote impeachment

By LAURIE KELLMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff said Sunday that he expects the whistleblower at the heart of impeachment proceedings against President Donald Trump to testify "very soon."

"All that needs to be done, at this point, is to make sure that the attorneys that represent the whistleblower get the clearances that they need to be able to accompany the whistleblower to testimony," said Schiff, D-Calif., "and that we figure out the logistics to make sure that we protect the identity of the whistleblower."

As Democrats and the director of national intelligence worked out key arrangements, Trump's allies erupted in a surge of second-guessing and conspiracy theorizing across the Sunday talk shows, suggesting the White House strategy is unclear against the stiffest challenge to his presidency. One former adviser urged Trump to confront the crisis at hand and get past his fury over the probe of Russian election interference.

"I honestly believe this president has not gotten his pound of flesh yet from past grievances on the 2016 investigation," said Tom Bossert, Trump's former homeland security adviser. "If he continues to focus on that white whale," Bossert added, "it's going to bring him down."

The Ukraine investigation produced what the Russian probe did not: formal House impeachment proceedings based on the president's own words and actions.

The White House last week released a rough transcript of Trump's July 25 call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, as well as the whistleblower's complaint alleging the U.S. president pressured his counterpart to investigate the family of Joe Biden, the former vice president who is seeking the Democratic nomination to challenge Trump's reelection next year.

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In a series of tweets Sunday night, Trump said he deserved to meet “my accuser” as well as whoever provided the whistleblower with what the president called “largely incorrect” information. He also accused Democrats of “doing great harm to our Country” in an effort to destabilize the nation and the 2020 election.

Trump has sought to implicate Biden and his son Hunter Biden 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. There has been no evidence of wrongdoing by either of the Bidens.

The House forged ahead, with Schiff’s committee leading the investigation. Democrats are planning a rapid start to their push for impeachment, with hearings and depositions starting this week. Many Democrats are pushing for a vote on articles of impeachment before the end of the year, mindful of the looming 2020 elections.

Schiff has said the whistleblower has agreed to testify, but the logistics involving security had yet to be set. Lawyers for the whistleblower expressed concern about that individual’s safety, noting that some have offered a \$50,000 “bounty” for the whistleblower’s identity. They said they expect the situation to become even more dangerous for their client and any other whistleblowers, as Congress seeks to investigate this matter.

On a conference call later Sunday, Pelosi, who was traveling in Texas, urged Democrats to proceed “not with negative attitudes towards him, but a positive attitude towards our responsibility,” according to an aide on the call who requested anonymity to share the private conversation. She also urged the caucus to be “somber” and noted that polling on impeachment has changed “drastically.”

A one-day NPR/PBS NewsHour/Marist poll conducted last Wednesday found that about half of Americans — 49% — approve of the House formally starting an impeachment inquiry into Trump.

There remains a stark partisan divide on the issue, with 88% of Democrats approving and 93% of Republicans disapproving of the inquiry. But the findings suggest some movement in opinions on the issue. Earlier polls conducted throughout Trump’s presidency have consistently found a majority saying he should not be impeached and removed from office.

On the call, Democratic Caucus Chairman Hakeem Jeffries of New York urged the caucus to talk about impeachment by repeating the words “betrayal, abuse of power, national security.” At the same time, Democrats’ campaign arm was mobilizing to support the candidates, according to a person on the call who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the details.

In contrast, Republicans offered a televised array of strategies to a president who spent the day at his golf club in Virginia and prefers to handle his own communications.

Stephen Miller, the president’s senior policy adviser, called the whole inquiry a “partisan hit job” orchestrated by “a deep state operative” who is also “a saboteur.”

“The president of the United States is the whistleblower,” Miller said.

And House Republican leader Kevin McCarthy said Trump had done nothing impeachable.

“Why would we move forward with impeachment? There’s not something that you have to defend here,” the California Republican said.

Rudy Giuliani, Trump’s personal lawyer who has been encouraging Ukraine to investigate both Biden and Hillary Clinton, promoted a debunked conspiracy theory, insisting that Ukraine had spread disinformation during the 2016 election.

Bossert advised that Trump drop that defense.

“I am deeply frustrated with what he and the legal team is doing and repeating that debunked theory to the president. It sticks in his mind when he hears it over and over again,” said Bossert, who also was an adviser to President George W. Bush. “That conspiracy theory has got to go, they have to stop with that, it cannot continue to be repeated.”

Giuliani not only repeated it but also brandished what he said were affidavits that support them and claimed that Trump “was framed by the Democrats.”

Schiff said in one interview that his committee intends to subpoena Giuliani for documents and may

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eventually want to hear from Giuliani directly. In a separate TV appearance, Giuliani said he would not cooperate with Schiff, but then acknowledged he would do what Trump tells him. The White House did not provide an official response on whether the president would allow Giuliani to cooperate.

"If they're going to obstruct," Schiff warned, "then they're going to increase the likelihood that Congress may feel it necessary to move forward with an article on obstruction."

Two advisers to the Biden campaign sent a letter Sunday urging major news networks to stop booking Giuliani on their shows, accusing Trump's personal attorney of spreading "false, debunked conspiracy theories" on behalf of the president. The letter added: "By giving him your air time, you are allowing him to introduce increasingly unhinged, unfounded and desperate lies into the national conversation."

Biden advisers Anita Dunn and Kate Bedingfield sent the letter to the presidents of ABC News, NBC News, CBS News, MSNBC, CNN and Fox News as well as executive producers and anchors of their news shows. The advisers also asked that if Giuliani continues to appear, the networks give equivalent time to a Biden campaign surrogate and admonished the networks for giving Giuliani time in the first place, calling it "a disservice to your audience and a disservice to journalism."

Giuliani appeared on ABC's "This Week" and CBS' "Face the Nation," while Schiff was interviewed on ABC, NBC's "Meet the Press" and CBS' "60 Minutes." Bossert spoke on ABC and Miller on "Fox News Sunday." McCarthy's remarks were broadcast Sunday on "60 Minutes."

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Associated Press writers Kevin Freking, Eric Tucker and Mary Clare Jalonick in Washington; writer Bill Barrow in Atlanta; and AP Polling Director Emily Swanson contributed to this report.

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## **Analysis: New challenges confront China's Communists at 70**

**By KEN MORITSUGU Associated Press**

BEIJING (AP) — President Xi Jinping has an ambitious goal for China: to achieve "national rejuvenation" as a strong and prosperous nation by 2049, which would be the 100th anniversary of Communist Party rule. One problem: Donald Trump wants to make the United States great again too.

The emerging clash between a rising power and the world's dominant one is front and center in a new set of challenges that the Chinese Communist Party faces as it celebrates 70 years in power on Tuesday.

The party is all but sure to rule longer than its Soviet Union counterpart, which governed for 74 years until its collapse in 1991 under the weight of economic stagnation. Conversely, China's Communist Party engineered a remarkable policy shift that has lifted millions out of poverty and transformed the country into a global economic force, all while cracking down on dissent.

But this formula, which served the party well through years of double-digit growth, is in need of reinvention as the economy moderates, the population ages and Xi's ambitions, both economic and military, collide with America's interests. In retrospect, as challenging as they may have seemed at the time, the easy years are over.

"The last 30 years, they had a pretty good idea, as long as the party delivers strong economic growth — be pragmatic, maintain domestic stability, do not screw up, do not take big risks — they'll be OK," said Minxin Pei, an expert on Chinese politics at Claremont McKenna College in California. "Now today they don't know."

Through much of China's high-growth era, the United States and other developed countries were willing to help with technology and investment. Many believed that as China grew more interdependent with the rest of the world, it would be drawn into the Western-dominated system that governs international relations. In line with that, China joined the World Trade Organization in 2001, agreeing to abide by its rules in return for better access to overseas markets.

Even then, there were voices that warned against letting China in. Today, from the U.S. to Australia and

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parts of Europe, those voices are coming to the fore.

The Trump administration, taking the view that China is a threat, has restricted the access of Chinese companies to American technology and hit its imports with tariffs, prompting Beijing to impose duties on American products in an escalating trade war that threatens the global economy.

Militarily, the two nations are playing cat and mouse in the South China Sea as China's navy extends its reach into waters that have long been patrolled by the Americans. China believes the U.S., India and others are bent on containing its rise — or, in the mind of China's leaders, its rightful return to its former position as a dominant Asian power until Western and later Japanese forces arrived in the 19th century and inflicted what China calls a century of humiliation.

"China will ... continue to solve problems through cooperation with the outside world, but China must get prepared to use the baton to uphold its legitimate rights and defend what it has achieved in the past 70 years," said Li Qingsi, an international studies professor at Renmin University in Beijing.

On one level, China's trajectory suggests that a collision with the U.S. was inevitable. On another, Xi has made no secret of his ambitions to make China an economic and military power, upending the approach laid out by former leader Deng Xiaoping of keeping a low international profile. His government has said it will not be cowed by threats as it pushes back at U.S. demands on trade and expands its presence in the South China Sea.

Pei traces the shift in approach to 2008, four years before Xi came to power, when China debuted on the global stage as host of the Beijing Olympics and emerged relatively unscathed from the global financial crisis. A resulting assertiveness has accelerated under Xi, and Pei believes it is China's conduct that pushed U.S. policymakers to take a harder line, not its growing economic and military strength alone.

The new assertiveness will be on full display Tuesday with tanks and missiles in a major military parade that is part of the 70th anniversary celebrations. It's a message that plays well domestically, instilling national pride, but fuels overseas fears of China and its intentions.

"Xi has come in and said, 'We've laid low long enough,'" said David Zweig, a longtime China researcher and emeritus professor at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. "He feels that China is now strong enough to make up for those 100 years of humiliation, which he talks about all the time, and to be a great power."

The party faces domestic challenges too. Even before the trade war, economic growth was bound to slow as the country reached middle-income levels. The one-child policy, which the party introduced around 1980 to control population growth, has left China with fewer workers to support an aging population. As incomes have risen, the public's focus has shifted from purely economic improvement to quality of life issues, one reason Xi has made the environment a priority.

No one is predicting the demise of the Chinese Communist Party anytime soon. Zweig notes that not only did the Soviets fail to deliver economically, they also introduced political freedoms that gave people the ability to complain about it.

Chinese party leaders did the opposite, opening the economy while crushing student democracy protesters at Tiananmen Square in 1989. They have built a sophisticated surveillance and intelligence network that, if needed, gives them considerable control over society and the internet.

"They are a very powerful state," Zweig said. "It will not be very easy for people to overthrow them. There's going to have to be some unbelievable crisis before they can really go down."

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Ken Moritsugu, the AP's news director for Greater China, has covered Asian issues for more than a decade.

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Associated Press researcher Yu Bing contributed to this report.

## Military parade will be rare look at China's arms, ambitions

By JOE McDONALD Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — A parade Tuesday by China's secretive military will be a rare look at its rapidly developing arsenal, including possibly a nuclear-capable missile that could reach the United States in 30 minutes, as Beijing gets closer to matching Washington and other powers in weapons technology.

The Dongfeng 41 is one of a series of new weapons Chinese media say might be unveiled during the parade marking the ruling Communist Party's 70th anniversary in power. Others include a supersonic drone and a robot submarine.

The parade will highlight Beijing's ambition to enforce claims to Taiwan, the South China Sea and other disputed territories — and to challenge Washington as the region's dominant force.

The People's Liberation Army, the world's biggest military with 2 million men and women in uniform and the second-highest annual spending after the United States, also is working on fighter planes, the first Chinese-built aircraft carrier and nuclear-powered submarines.

"There are quite a lot of observers, including the U.S. military, who say, 'This is getting close to what we do,' and they are starting to worry," said Siemon Wezeman of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.

Tuesday's parade will include 15,000 troops, more than 160 aircraft and 580 pieces of military equipment, according to Ministry of Defense spokesman Maj. Gen. Cai Zhijun.

Many new weapons "will be shown for the first time," Cai told reporters last week. Asked whether that would include the Dongfeng 41, Cai said, "Please wait and see."

The ability to project power is increasingly urgent for Chinese leaders who want to control shipping lanes and waters also claimed by Japan, South Korea, Vietnam, the Philippines and other governments.

"China has developed nuclear, space, cyberspace and other capabilities that can reach potential adversaries across the globe," the U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency said in a report in January.

Last year's spending on the PLA rose 5% to \$250 billion, or about 10 times its 1994 level, according to SIPRI. The United States, with a force of 1.3 million, was far ahead at \$650 billion, or more than 2½ times China's level.

Beijing is regarded, along with the United States, as a leader in drone aircraft, which it sells in the Middle East.

"In unpiloted aerial vehicles, China has made a lot of progress in recent years and has a vast array of systems under development," said Harry Boyd of the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London.

No details of the Dongfeng 41 have been released, but the Center for Strategic & International Studies in Washington says it may have the world's longest range at 15,000 kilometers (9,400 miles).

Analysts say the DF-41, flying at 25 times the speed of sound, might be able to reach the United States in 30 minutes with up to 10 warheads for separate targets — a technology known as MIRV, or multiple independently targetable re-entry vehicles.

China's current mainstay missile, the Dongfeng 31, has a range of more than 11,200 kilometers (6,990 miles) that puts most of the continental United States within reach.

Photos circulated on Chinese social media of parade preparations show blurry images of a possible attack drone dubbed "Sharp Sword" and another drone, the DR-8 or Wuzhen 8.

The parade also might give more subtle signs of China's plans, said Wezeman.

Airborne tankers or marines in amphibious vehicles could "indicate the importance of long-range intervention," he said. Air defense missiles might show Beijing is preparing for war with the United States or another advanced opponent.

Analysts want to know about Chinese software, electronics and wireless control networks, said Wezeman.

"Ten vehicles full of antennas may give an indication that is something that is becoming more important for China," he said.

If mobile launchers for nuclear missiles are displayed, that might help to shed light on how Beijing sees "the challenge of maintaining credibility with their nuclear deterrent," Boyd said.



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China has about 280 nuclear warheads, compared with 6,450 for the United States and 6,850 for Russia, according to SIPRI. Beijing says it wants a "minimum credible nuclear deterrent" but won't be the first to use atomic weapons in a conflict.

Mobile launchers "would make it more difficult for any potential enemy to do a first strike," said Boyd.

Satellite photos show China is increasing the number of launchers for DF-41 and DF-31 missiles from 18 to as many as 36, Boyd said.

That suggests planners believe that minimum nuclear force "needs to be larger," he said. "It needs to have more advanced systems with MIRV capability to remain credible, in their eyes."

## Lawyers fight for everyday women bringing #MeToo complaints

By DAVID CRARY AP National Writer

Jaribu Hill didn't opt for law school until her early 40s. She'd been a singer, actress, teacher and labor organizer before learning a college classmate had become head of a group for black female judges. "I can do that, too," she thought.

Hill has since become a leading civil rights and workers' rights lawyer in Mississippi and now, at 70, she's part of a nationwide network of attorneys helping women without much money pursue often-costly sexual misconduct cases.

"We're looking for opportunities to lift up women who've never been lifted up," Hill said.

She is among 721 attorneys inspired by the #MeToo movement who have signed up with the Times Up Legal Defense Fund since it launched last year. While the movement burst into the spotlight in October 2017 with celebrities and others accusing powerful men of sexual misconduct, the fund is reaching everyday working women who otherwise wouldn't be able to afford to take their complaints to court.

The Times Up fund, administered by the National Women's Law Center, has received more than 3,670 requests for assistance and has funded 160 cases thanks to \$24 million in donations.

The lawyers in its network hail from big law firms and small practices in 45 states. One is a Harvard Law School graduate who has represented truck drivers and laundry workers. Another is a Washington, D.C., attorney whose approach to discrimination cases evolved after losing his vision a decade ago.

The law center's president, Fatima Goss Graves, praised their commitment.

"Workers who experience sexual harassment and retaliation across all industries now know there are attorneys who have their back," she said.

Hill was the first lawyer in Mississippi to receive support from the Times Up fund. The money helped her with a lawsuit from a black woman in her mid-50s who says she was sexually harassed by a co-worker at a regional bus line, then fired after complaining to her superiors.

Hill said the case will go to trial in February unless the bus company offers a "meaningful settlement."

The plaintiff, Sandra Norman, "has always been a victim of the system," Hill said. "But we should never assume just because someone's been beaten down, they don't have the courage to tell their story."

Hill grew up in Ohio and chose the City University of New York for law school before founding the Mississippi Worker's Center for Human Rights to advocate for low-wage workers.

The fund has enabled Hill to recruit investigators and law students to help her.

"We're telling young lawyers: 'If you're brave enough and skilled enough to take these cases, there's help out there,'" she said.

Based in Washington, David Shaffer has challenged several federal law enforcement agencies — including the Secret Service — in civil rights class-action lawsuits from employees.

With help from the Times Up fund, he's working on perhaps his highest-profile case: representing 16 female FBI recruits who allege gender discrimination. They sued in May over sexual harassment and unfair performance evaluations.

The case will extend into next year — perhaps longer — and Shaffer isn't sure whether the FBI would

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consider a settlement.

Shaffer, 61, has considered himself a strong civil-rights advocate throughout his career, but his perspective evolved as he lost his vision over a two-year period starting when he was 49.

"That provided me a lot more insight into the world of people with disabilities," he said. "I realized how much of the world was inaccessible to the blind and was in position to do something about it."

He now juggles his practice with a job at Washington's public transit agency, where he tries to make the metro system more accessible to vision-impaired riders.

Shaffer also is trying to mentor young blind lawyers and law students. His message to them: "You can do it."

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Childhood memories of inequality stuck with Kathryn Youker as she started representing victims of racial and gender discrimination.

As a white child in the majority Hispanic city of Harlingen, Texas, "I saw inequality in a very stark and racist way," she said. "I always questioned why I had opportunities available to me that my classmates and friends didn't have."

Now based in Brownsville — a twin city of Harlingen on the Mexican border — Youker, 44, coordinates labor and employment cases for Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, which provides free services to thousands of low-income residents and migrant workers.

Many of her cases have involved workplace sexual harassment. One of her clients, Carmen Garza, won about a year's pay in a March settlement after suing her employers for failing to protect her from sexual harassment while working as home care aide.

Youker is coordinating a Times Up grant to help Texas RioGrande expand community outreach on sexual harassment.

"We're talking about how it's happening here — in restaurants, in private homes," she said. "It's a very intimate discussion."

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Philadelphia attorney Robert Vance, who has specialized in employment discrimination cases for four decades, says the fund is allowing him to help harassment victims who never could have paid legal bills on their own.

Vance represented Malin DeVoue, an African American woman who was fired as head cook at a Philadelphia hotel after complaining to managers that the hotel's chief engineer was sexually harassing her.

The case was settled in June. The amount DeVoue received hasn't been made public, but Vance said she is happy with the money and relieved to avoid a trial.

"Sexual harassment cases are difficult to do, because clients often have been fired and have no financial resources," Vance said. "The fund is wonderful because you can devote as much time as the case requires."

As an African American man, Vance finds it rewarding to represent minority women and help them gain confidence that their allegations will be believed.

"I'm motivated to represent them as zealously and successfully as I can because I know what my family's female members go through," he said.

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Eve Cervantez enrolled in Harvard Law School anticipating a career in international law. After campus activism changed her outlook, she's spent more than 25 years championing workers who have faced mistreatment and discrimination.

Working for the San Francisco-based public interest law firm Altshuler Berzon, Cervantez's clients in class-action lawsuits have included pizza delivery drivers, auto mechanics and bank tellers.

With Times Up's support, she's handling sexual harassment complaints that several dozen McDonald's workers in numerous cities filed with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

The women alleged groping, propositions for sex, indecent exposure and lewd comments by supervisors. They say they were ignored or mocked, and in some cases faced retaliation, after making their allegations.

Cervantez's team has asked the federal agency to consolidate the complaints and investigate whether

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McDonald's has systemic harassment problems.

"The goal is not just about money," said Cervantez, 55. "It's about changing practices going forward so employers treat people fairly."

Crary reported from New York.

## Mother's Day: Fraser-Pryce, Felix get golds at worlds

By EDDIE PELLIS AP National Writer

DOHA, Qatar (AP) — Only moments after Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce zoomed past the finish line Sunday night, she scooped up something more precious than gold.

Her 2-year-old son Zyon came down to the track to join her for the victory lap. What a fitting way to celebrate the Jamaican speedster's fourth and hardest-earned 100-meter title at world championships.

"A victory for motherhood!" Fraser-Pryce said.

Sure is. And if 2019 has been the Year of the Mother in track and field, then Sunday was Mother's Day.

Only moments before Fraser-Pryce — this time with her long hair arranged in a rainbow-pastel pastiche — blasted past the field in a season-best 10.71 seconds, new mom Allyson Felix surpassed none other than Usain Bolt with her record 12th gold medal at worlds. This one came in the brand new mixed relay, in which two men and two women team up for four trips around the track.

Felix was among the Americans who banded together in protest this summer, getting Nike to change a long-standing policy that stopped payments to pregnant athletes in this sport. Her 10-month-old daughter, Camryn, was with her at the stadium. Felix said she got goose bumps watching Fraser-Pryce cross the finish line first .12 seconds ahead of Dina Asher-Smith of Britain.

"What she's done is amazing," Felix said. "She's had a hard road, too. She keeps encouraging me. Her first year wasn't the best, but her second year, she's better than ever. Women are amazing and she's leading the way."

Fraser-Pryce said she sat on her bed and cried the day she found out she was pregnant. Not too much after that, she heard people saying it might be time to quit.

"Everyone's entitled to their opinion," she said. "I knew how I felt and I knew I wasn't ready to go. I had something left to do, and I stayed focused on the goal."

And that, in many ways, has been the point of this year for her, for Felix, for any woman who has ever been told it's over once she decides to start having kids.

Felix spent more than a decade cultivating a reputation as a classy champion, but a very private person. When she went public with her issues with Nike, it served as a tipping point to the movement begun earlier in the summer by Alysia Montano in track, and members of the U.S. women's soccer team, who were fighting a similar battle on different turf for equal pay during their run to a World Cup victory.

All of it eventually made a difference — not only in the terms Nike was willing to rework in its endorsement contracts for elite athletes, but in the message it sent about equality.

"I think everything I went through this year ... it just brings it all back that it's so much bigger than myself," Felix said.

There were others competing in the quarter-full stadium Sunday night, including Christian Taylor, who won his third straight triple-jump world championship.

And pole vaulter Anzhelika Sidorova of Russia, who cleared 4.95 meters to beat American Sandi Morris for the gold. Sidorova is competing as a neutral athlete because of Russia's doping problems and will receive her medal Monday night with the IAAF's "anthem," not Russia's, playing in the background.

Another mother won gold in the women's 20-kilometer walk early Monday morning. Liu Hong of China took the 2017 and 2018 seasons off to have a child before returning triumphantly in 2019. She led a Chinese podium sweep.

Another gold medalist was Courtney Okolo — Felix's 25-year-old relay teammate.

"It's definitely an inspiration to all women," Okolo said of the 33-year-old Felix. "You see the journey

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she's been on this year, and now you're seeing a lot of women can do that and come back successfully. I know that when the time comes for me to have kids, it's something I can do, as well."

Between them, Fraser-Pryce and Felix have piled up a combined 27 medals at world championships over the past 14 years. They are, by almost any measure, the two most dominating sprinters of their time.

Even so, these two golds are destined to stand out for them, mainly for the work they put in simply to make it back to the track.

On top of the normal stresses of pregnancy, both women delivered via cesarean sections that ravage the core muscles critical for sprinters trying to burst out of the blocks.

"For 10 weeks, I couldn't lift weights (while lying) on my back," Fraser-Pryce said. "And mentally, it's even harder because you're 30, you're having a baby, the females are out there running fast. You wonder if you can come back. For me, I just worked really hard."

Felix's baby came two months prematurely and spent around a month in the neonatal intensive-care unit. "It puts things in perspective," Felix said.

Any doubts about what this night was all about were more than put to rest as Fraser-Pryce circled the track, with Zyon resting his head on her shoulder.

So many Jamaican victory laps in the past — whether by Bolt or Fraser-Pryce, who now has a total of eight world golds to go with two from the Olympics — have been topped off with Bob Marley tunes to fuel up a crowd on its way to a party.

This time, it was a selection from "The Lion King" playing over the PA system as the sprinter they're now calling the "Mommy Rocket" exited stage right with her son in her arms.

The song: "Can You Feel the Love Tonight?"

More AP sports: <https://apnews.com/apf-sports> and [https://twitter.com/AP\\_Sports](https://twitter.com/AP_Sports)

## More violence grips Hong Kong ahead of China's National Day

By EILEEN NG Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — Protesters and police clashed in Hong Kong for a second straight day on Sunday, throwing the semiautonomous Chinese territory's business and shopping belt into chaos and sparking fears of more ugly scenes leading up to China's National Day holiday this week.

Riot police repeatedly fired blue liquid — used to identify protesters — from a water cannon truck and multiple volleys of tear gas after demonstrators hurled Molotov cocktails at officers and targeted the city's government office complex.

It was a repeat of Saturday's clashes and part of a familiar cycle since pro-democracy protests began in early June. The protests were sparked by a now-shelved extradition bill and have since snowballed into an anti-China movement.

"We know that in the face of the world's largest totalitarian regime — to quote Captain America, 'Whatever it takes,'" Justin Leung, a 21-year-old demonstrator who covered his mouth with a black scarf, said of the violent methods deployed by hard-line protesters. "The consensus right now is that everyone's methods are valid and we all do our part."

Protesters are planning to march again Tuesday despite a police ban, raising fears of more violent confrontations that would embarrass Chinese President Xi Jinping as his ruling Communist Party marks 70 years since taking power. Posters are calling for Oct. 1 to be marked as "A Day of Grief."

"So many youngsters feel that they're going to have no future because of the power of China," Andy Yeung, 40, said as he pushed his toddler in a stroller. "It's hopeless for Hong Kong. If we don't stand up, there will be no hope."

Hong Kong's government has already scaled down the city's National Day celebrations, canceling an annual fireworks display and moving a reception indoors.

Despite security concerns, the government said Sunday that Chief Executive Carrie Lam, Hong Kong's leader, will lead a delegation of over 240 people to Beijing on Monday to participate in National Day fes-

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tivities.

Sunday's turmoil started in the early afternoon when police fired tear gas to disperse a large crowd that had amassed in the popular Causeway Bay shopping district. But thousands of people regrouped and defiantly marched along a main thoroughfare toward government offices, crippling traffic.

Protesters, many clad in black with umbrellas and carrying pro-democracy posters and foreign flags, sang songs and chanted "Stand with Hong Kong, fight for freedom." Some defaced, tore down and burned National Day congratulatory signs, setting off a huge blaze on the street. Others smashed windows and lobbed gasoline bombs into subway exits that had been shuttered.

Police then fired a water cannon and tear gas as the crowd approached the government office complex. Most fled but hundreds returned, hurling objects into the complex.

Members of an elite police squad, commonly known as raptors, then charged out suddenly from behind barricades, taking many protesters by surprise. Several who failed to flee in time were subdued and detained in a scene of chaos.

The raptors, backed by scores of riot police, pursued protesters down roads to nearby areas. Officers continued to fire a water cannon and more tear gas, and the cat-and-mouse clashes lasted late into the night. Streets were left littered with graffiti on walls and debris.

The demonstration was part of global "anti-totalitarianism" rallies to denounce "Chinese tyranny." Thousands rallied in Taipei, Taiwan's capital, while more than 1,000 took part in a rally in Sydney.

The protracted unrest, approaching four months long, has battered Hong Kong's economy, with businesses and tourism plunging.

Chief Executive Lam held her first community dialogue with the public on Thursday in a bid to defuse tensions but failed to persuade protesters, who vowed to press on until their demands are met, including direct elections for the city's leaders and police accountability.

Earlier Sunday, hundreds of pro-Beijing Hong Kong residents sang the Chinese national anthem and waved red flags at the Victoria Peak hilltop and a waterfront cultural center in a show of support for Chinese rule.

"We want to take this time for the people to express our love for our country, China. We want to show the international community that there is another voice to Hong Kong" apart from the protests, said organizer Innes Tang.

Mobs of Beijing supporters have appeared in malls and on the streets in recent weeks to counter pro-democracy protesters, leading to brawls between the rival camps.

Many people view the extradition bill, which would have sent criminal suspects to mainland China for trial, as a glaring example of the erosion of Hong Kong's autonomy when the former British colony returned to Chinese rule in 1997.

China has denied chipping away at Hong Kong's freedoms and accused the U.S. and other foreign powers of fomenting the unrest to weaken its dominance.

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Associated Press journalists Ken Moritsugu in Beijing and Katie Lam and John Leicester in Hong Kong contributed to this report.

## Could Washington's impeachment drama spark China trade deal?

By **PAUL WISEMAN** and **JOE MCDONALD** AP Business Writers

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Democratic impeachment inquiry may do at least one thing for President Donald Trump: It could give him more incentive to resolve his trade war with China.

As the political heat rises in Washington, a deal with Beijing would allow Trump to claim a much-needed victory and divert some attention from an explosive congressional investigation into his dealings with Ukraine.

Analysts say Trump's conflict with Beijing, which has shaken financial markets and further darkened the global economic outlook, could be headed for some tentative resolution in the coming months. Talks between the two countries are set to resume in October.

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"The political mess may now encourage President Trump to accept an imperfect deal with China," Hussein Sayed of the foreign exchange brokerage FXTM wrote in a report. "After all, he needs to prove that he's the master of deal-making, and now is the right time to raise his approval rating higher."

At the same time, however, the impeachment inquiry may have dimmed the prospects for other items on Trump's trade agenda, including his push for congressional approval of a revamped North American trade agreement. That would require backing from the Democratic-led House, and relations between the two parties may now be more inflamed than ever.

The impeachment proceedings will likely dominate Washington for months, siphoning time and energy from the normal business of government — debating, compromising, legislating, policymaking. The likelihood of meaningful legislative gains was already slight. Now, it appears even more remote.

White House Press Secretary Stephanie Grisham went so far as to assert that the House Democrats' investigation "destroyed any chances of legislative progress for the people of this country."

By contrast, a tentative resolution in Trump's China trade war wouldn't need congressional approval, one reason for some renewed optimism.

The world's two biggest economies are engaged in the biggest trade war since the 1930s. The Trump administration alleges that Beijing deploys predatory tactics — including stealing technology and forcing foreign companies to hand over trade secrets — in its drive to surpass America's technological supremacy.

Trump has imposed tariffs on more than \$360 billion in Chinese imports and is set to raise the taxes on most of them next month. He plans to tax an additional \$160 billion in Chinese goods Dec. 15 — thereby extending his tariffs to just about everything China ships to the United States. Beijing has retaliated by taxing \$120 billion in U.S. imports.

The U.S. business community is eager for an end to the exchange of tariffs, which has raised costs and created uncertainty about where to situate factories, hire suppliers and sell products.

Even before members of Congress began pursuing an impeachment investigation, Chinese leaders were speculating Trump might want a deal to bolster his political standing, said Willy Lam, a politics specialist at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

"Even though the likelihood of impeachment going through is low, the Chinese will think they hold some kind of advantage over the U.S., and Trump might tend to be more conciliatory given his domestic troubles," said Lam. "He needs a triumph overseas to burnish his position."

President Xi Jinping also might want at least a temporary agreement to strengthen his own political position as China's ruling Communist Party's Central Committee heads into a key meeting in October.

"Xi Jinping is anxious to have something to show the Central Committee members on the Sino-U.S. front," Lam said.

It isn't clear what Beijing might be willing to offer as a compromise. Lam said one possibility might be improved protection of foreign patents and copyrights, although Beijing in the past has resisted U.S. demands to write such commitments into law.

This week, Trump himself suggested that some sort of trade pact with China "could happen sooner than you think," repeating his oft-stated assertion that Chinese leaders "want to make a deal very badly."

Congress is meantime considering whether to ratify one of the Trump administration's signature achievements: a pact reached last year with Canada and Mexico to replace the 25-year-old North American Free Trade Agreement.

Trump's trade representative, Robert Lighthizer, has been trying to address congressional Democrats' complaints. Those include criticism that the US-Mexico-Canada agreement wouldn't sufficiently protect American workers who must compete with lower-wage Mexican laborers.

Lighthizer is among the few Trump administration officials who enjoy good relations with House Democrats, and the two sides have stressed that they are working in good faith to address their differences over the agreement, known as the USMCA.

"Lighthizer has worked long and hard to keep it out of the realm of conflict over the broader Trump agenda," said Rufus Yerxa, president of the National Foreign Trade Council and a former U.S. trade official.

But the impeachment proceedings threaten to poison the atmosphere. Sen. Chuck Grassley of Iowa, the Republican chairman of the Finance Committee, urged Democrats not to “use impeachment proceedings as a basis to not act on policy that will directly benefit Americans like the USMCA.”

Daniel Ujczko, a trade lawyer at Dickinson Wright PLLC in Columbus, Ohio, suggested that heightened partisanship has probably torpedoed any hope of a grand bargain in which, say, the administration agrees to some gun-control measures in return for the Democrats approving the USMCA.

“I don’t think USMCA is dead for 2019,” he said. “But it’s definitely on life support.”

Still, Ujczko said, “I don’t see anybody giving up on ratification” — though it likely will spill over into 2020. Lawmakers face intense pressure from business and farm groups eager to have the pact take effect and end uncertainty over U.S. trade with Canada and Mexico, which last year amounted to \$1.4 trillion.

Asked whether the impeachment inquiry will keep Congress from approving USMCA, the Mexican undersecretary for foreign trade, Luz Maria de la Mora, told reporters Wednesday: “No. We really think the USMCA is in its own track and other issues are domestic political issues .... We feel that there is good support for USMCA.”

Even during the Watergate investigation into President Richard Nixon, Yerxa recalled, Congress managed to make progress on what became a major piece of legislation, the Trade Act of 1974.

Yerxa also said he thought that impeachment proceedings could weaken Trump politically and embolden Congress to reassert control over trade policy. The Constitution gives Congress authority over trade. But lawmakers over the years have yielded their power to the White House, allowing the president, for example, to tax imports that the Commerce Department declares to be a threat to national security.

Trump has used the authority aggressively. He has imposed tariffs on foreign steel and aluminum and threatened to tax auto imports, too. Sens. Pat Toomey, R-Penn., and Mark Warner, D-Va., have introduced legislation to restrain the president’s ability to tax imports on national security grounds.

“Things like that are going to gain steam,” Yerxa said. “People in Congress are going to be looking for ways of reestablishing congressional control.”

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McDonald reported from Beijing. AP Writer Luis Alonso Lugo in Washington contributed to this report.

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Follow Paul Wiseman on Twitter at @PaulWisemanAP

## Trump condemns religious persecution amid refugee squeeze

By ELANA SCHOR Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — President Donald Trump said at the United Nations this week that “protecting religious freedom is one of my highest priorities.” But his promise rings hollow to advocates for persecuted religious minorities seeking refuge in the United States.

Trump’s administration already has slashed the nation’s refugee admissions ceiling to a historic low and on Thursday proposed a further cut for next year, to 18,000 — an 84% drop from the cap proposed during the last year of Barack Obama’s presidency.

The president’s promotion of global freedom to worship prompted the State Department to set aside 5,000 refugee slots for religious minorities. But faith-based groups that resettle refugees had urged him to avoid more erosion of a program dedicated to helping the persecuted worshippers whose oppression Trump has decried.

The list of persecuted religious groups whose access to refugee admission has withered under Trump includes Christians in Iran, Syria, Pakistan, Myanmar and Sudan, as well as Iraqi Christians and Yazidis — whose mass slaughter and enslavement by the Islamic State was labeled “genocide” by Trump’s State Department in 2017.

Trump did not mention his looming decision on next year’s refugee ceiling as he announced \$25 million in new funding for safeguarding religious freedom, including religious sites and artifacts, at a Monday event at the U.N. On Thursday, however, his State Department pitched a set-aside for religious minorities

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designed to bolster the administration's commitment to freedom for all faiths.

"Compared to previous years, where we had broad allocations for regions that did not prioritize protections of beliefs ... this is a particular improvement by having a specific allocation," said a senior administration official, who briefed reporters on condition of anonymity.

While the administration portrayed its move as bringing a better resettlement outlook for refugees fleeing religious persecution, faith-based organizations had held out hope that the program would see no further cuts beyond this year's ceiling of 30,000. During the final full year of the Obama administration, the refugee ceiling was 85,000.

"For the United States to cut refugee resettlement to half of what it was last year is an abrogation of who we are and all that we stand for as a nation," said Bishop Michael Rinehart, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service Chairman of the Board. "This decision means that thousands of people, including those fleeing violence and war, and those fleeing religious persecution, will continue to be left in harm's way."

Prior to the announcement, Free Yazidi Foundation executive director Pari Ibrahim, whose nonprofit group helps raise awareness about Yazidi persecution, said she was invited to attend Trump's speech this week and that she is "happy the U.S. government is trying to put this on the agenda." Still, Ibrahim pointed to the stark contrast between the administration's talk about helping members of her denomination and its "ridiculous" cuts to refugee admissions of Iraqi Yazidis: from 434 in fiscal year 2017, the last year the Obama administration played a role in refugee admissions, to just 5 in fiscal year 2018. Twenty Iraqi Yazidis gained access to the refugee program in the fiscal year that ends this week, according to an Associated Press analysis of State Department data.

"The genocide is still ongoing, and you wonder to yourself, is it all just talk," Ibrahim said, adding that Yazidis "need to get a second chance in their freedom in their right to believe whatever they want to believe."

The Trump administration views its investment in international religious freedom as separate from and not contradictory to its restrictive refugee policy, as explained by a State Department official who addressed the issue on condition of anonymity.

"Prioritizing security here at home is not at odds with our advancement of religious freedom abroad," the official said.

The State Department official declined to discuss the decision-making process regarding next year's refugee ceiling, which involves input from the Pentagon and other agencies, but added that the administration would seek to assist refugees "as close to their home countries as possible."

In addition to Yazidis in Iraq and Syria, other persecuted religious minorities whose refugee admissions have dropped by more than half since the final full year of the Obama administration include Christians from a half-dozen nations, according to AP's analysis. It's not clear whether the proposed 5,000 set-aside for persecuted religious minorities would have any significant impact on those falling refugee admissions numbers.

Trump's final decision on the refugee ceiling must come after consultation with Congress, where Republicans and Democrats alike had pushed for a higher resettlement cap.

Beyond the White House, some prominent evangelical Christians who have supported Trump's agenda are seeking to stanch the ebb of refugee admissions. Family Research Council President Tony Perkins, a stalwart conservative who has defended Trump's immigration agenda as consistent with the Bible, issued a statement this month in his capacity as chair of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom that called on "the administration to extend its admirable commitment to advancing religious freedom to its refugee resettlement policy."

Nadine Maenza, vice chair of that commission and a Trump appointee, drew a direct link between promoting religious freedom worldwide and accepting persecuted worshippers seeking refugee status.

"It's hard for us to go into a country, the U.S. government or the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom ... and talk to government leaders there and make a case that religious minorities have value, that they have dignity, they bring really wonderful things to our society — and then ourselves not be willing to take one" as a refugee, Maenza said in an interview.



A onetime adviser to former Sen. Rick Santorum, R-Pa., Maenza said "there are definitely plenty of Republicans and conservatives who are very supportive of the president that are advocating for a higher level for the refugee cap."

Refugees seeking admission must undergo screenings by eight federal agencies as part of a process initiated outside the country that can take as long as two years. Applicants must have experienced persecution on one of five grounds, religion, race, nationality, political opinions, or membership in a social group.

With the administration spotlighting its commitment to international religious freedom, the cuts to admissions of refugees whose lives can be threatened because of their faith strikes advocates as particularly glaring. The 30,000 cap set for this year by Trump's administration is the lowest since the modern resettlement program's creation in 1980.

That Trump and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo would not view "refugees as part of a religious freedom agenda, I think it's disappointing," said Jenny Yang, vice president of advocacy and policy at World Relief, another faith-based group that assists in resettling refugees.

"The fact they're even considering zeroing out a program that has literally thousands of persecuted Christians waiting to come in," Yang added, suggests that "this is a program they don't value as much as they could or strategically use as much as they could."

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## Can Washington deliver on drug costs amid impeachment probe?

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Major legislation to reduce prescription drug costs for millions of people may get sidelined now that House Democrats have begun an impeachment inquiry of President Donald Trump. Proposals had been moving in Congress, but there are more ways for the process to break down than to succeed. Still, nobody says they're giving up.

Some questions and answers about the legislation and its uncertain prospects:

Q: Why, now, is there a big push to lower drug prices?

A: Some would say it's overdue. Drug prices emerged as the public's top health care concern near the end of the Obama administration as people with health insurance got increasingly worried about their costs.

In the 2016 campaign, Trump and Democrat Hillary Clinton called for authorizing Medicare to negotiate prices. But after Trump won the White House, his focus shifted to the failed Republican drive to repeal the Affordable Care Act. A year went by before the administration reengaged on prescription drugs .

Now, facing the 2020 election, Trump and lawmakers of both parties in Congress have little to show for all their rhetoric about high drug prices. For there to be a deal , enough Democrats and Republicans have to decide they're better off delivering results instead of election-year talking points.

Q: What are the major plans on the table?

A: On the political left is House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's plan authorizing Medicare to negotiate prices for the costliest drugs. In the middle is bipartisan legislation from Sens. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, and Ron Wyden, D-Ore., to restrain drug price increases. The wild card is Trump. He doesn't share the traditional Republican aversion to government as price negotiator and keeps complaining that it's unfair for Americans to pay more than patients in other countries.

There's significant overlap among the major approaches.

Trump, the Senate bill, and Pelosi would all limit what Medicare enrollees pay annually in prescription copays. That would be a major change benefiting more than 1 million seniors with high costs.

Pelosi and the Senate bill would require drugmakers to pay rebates if they raise their prices to Medicare beyond the inflation rate. Long-available medicines like insulin have seen steep price hikes.

Pelosi and the administration would use lower international prices to determine what Medicare pays for at least some drugs. Pelosi is echoing Trump's complaint that prices are unfair for Americans.

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"If they wanted to do a deal, it's sitting right there in front of them," said John Rother, president of the National Coalition on Health Care, an umbrella group representing a cross-section of organizations.

Q: How would any of these plans reduce what I pay for prescription drugs?

A: Under Pelosi's bill, private purchasers such as health insurers and employer-sponsored plans would be able to get the same price that Medicare negotiates. Medicare would focus on the costliest medications for individual patients and the health care system as whole.

People on Medicare could be the biggest winners. There's consensus that seniors should get an annual limit on out-of-pocket costs for medications — \$2,000 in the Pelosi bill or \$3,100 in the Senate bill. Older people are the main consumers of prescription medicines

Q: What would "Medicare for All" do about drug prices?

A: Under Medicare for All, the government would negotiate prices for prescription drugs.

Whether or not they support Medicare for All, Democratic presidential candidates are calling for Medicare to negotiate prices.

Q: Why are drug prices so much higher in the U.S. than in other countries?

A: It's not the case for all drugs. U.S. generics are affordable for the most part.

The biggest concern is over cutting-edge brand-name drugs that can effectively manage life-changing diseases, or even cure them. Drugs with a \$100,000 cost are not unusual any more. In other countries, governments take a leading role in setting prices.

In the U.S., some government programs such as Medicaid and the veterans' health system get special discounts. But insurers and pharmacy benefit managers negotiate on behalf of Medicare and private health plans. Federal law protects the makers of a new drug from generic competition, which gives the manufacturer a lot of leverage.

Pharmaceutical companies say high initial prices are justified to recoup the costs of research and development.

However, a major case study — the 2015 Senate investigation of costly breakthrough drugs for hepatitis C infection — found that drugmaker Gilead Sciences priced the medication to maximize profits, not to foster access.

Q: What's the outlook for drug pricing legislation?

A: Impeachment could suck the air out of the room.

"It is extremely difficult to get things done in that type of environment, and certainly for a president who is largely incapable of compartmentalizing," said longtime Democratic health care adviser Chris Jennings. "Having said that, the work of policymakers in power must include being responsive to here-and-now domestic problems."

Trump has pointedly refrained from criticizing Pelosi's bill even as other Republicans called it "socialist."

Pelosi's legislation had its first committee consideration last week, and the leading Democrat on that committee promoted it using Trump-like rhetoric that it's unfair for Americans to pay more. The bill will get a floor vote, and it could gain political momentum if a pending budget analysis finds big savings.

Democrats would be hard-pressed to drop their demand for Medicare negotiations. But could Trump agree to a more limited form of negotiations than what's now in Pelosi's bill? Could he sell that to Senate Republicans?

"It boils down to the crude political calculus of whether in the end this will help my side," said health economist Joe Antos of the business-oriented American Enterprise Institute. "Will Democrats be able to stomach Donald Trump taking credit for all of this? On the Trump side, it is going to be more of a legacy issue for him."

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## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Monday, Sept. 30, the 273rd day of 2019. There are 92 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 30, 1777, the Continental Congress — forced to flee in the face of advancing British forces — moved to York, Pennsylvania.

On this date:

In 1399, England's King Richard II was deposed by Parliament; he was succeeded by his cousin, Henry of Bolingbroke, who was crowned as King Henry IV.

In 1846, Boston dentist William Morton used ether as an anesthetic for the first time as he extracted an ulcerated tooth from merchant Eben Frost.

In 1938, after co-signing the Munich Agreement allowing Nazi annexation of Czechoslovakia's Sudetenland, British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain said, "I believe it is peace for our time."

In 1939, the first college football game to be televised was shown on experimental station W2XBS in New York as Fordham University defeated Waynesburg College, 34-7.

In 1949, the Berlin Airlift came to an end.

In 1952, the motion picture "This Is Cinerama," which introduced the triple-camera, triple-projector Cinerama widescreen process, premiered at the Broadway Theatre in New York.

In 1954, the first nuclear-powered submarine, the USS Nautilus, was commissioned by the U.S. Navy.

In 1955, actor James Dean, 24, was killed in a two-car collision near Cholame, California.

In 1962, James Meredith, a black student, was escorted by federal marshals to the campus of the University of Mississippi, where he enrolled for classes the next day; Meredith's presence sparked rioting that claimed two lives.

In 1972, Roberto Clemente hit a double against Jon Matlack of the New York Mets during Pittsburgh's 5-0 victory at Three Rivers Stadium; the hit was the 3,000th and last for the Pirates star.

In 1988, Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev retired President Andrei A. Gromyko from the Politburo and fired other old-guard leaders in a Kremlin shake-up.

In 2001, under threat of U.S. military strikes, Afghanistan's hard-line Taliban rulers said explicitly for the first time that Osama bin Laden was still in the country and that they knew where his hideout was located.

Ten years ago: A powerful earthquake rocked western Indonesia, killing 1,115 people. A Soyuz spacecraft carrying Canadian circus tycoon Guy Laliberte and two crew mates lifted off from Kazakhstan, headed for the International Space Station.

Five years ago: Under withering criticism from Congress, Secret Service Director Julia Pierson admitted failures in her agency's critical mission of protecting the president but repeatedly sidestepped key questions about how a knife-carrying intruder penetrated ring after ring of security before finally being tackled deep inside the White House. U.S. and Afghan officials signed a long-delayed security pact to keep nearly 10,000 American forces in Afghanistan beyond the planned final withdrawal of U.S. and international combat forces at the end of the year. The first case of Ebola diagnosed in the U.S. was confirmed in a patient who had recently traveled from Liberia to Dallas. Jerry Brown signed the nation's first statewide ban on single-use plastic bags at grocery and convenience stores.

One year ago: U.S. and Canadian officials announced an agreement for Canada to take part in a revamped North American free trade deal with the U.S. and Mexico; the new agreement would be called the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, or USMCA. As part of a new one-week investigation, FBI agents interviewed Deborah Ramirez, one of the three women who had accused Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh of sexual misconduct. With more than 800 already confirmed dead from an earthquake and tsunami in Indonesia, rescuers struggled to reach additional victims in several large coastal towns.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Angie Dickinson is 88. Singer Cissy Houston is 86. Singer Johnny Mathis is 84. Actor Len Cariou is 80. Singer Marilyn McCoo is 76. Former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert is 74.

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Pop singer Sylvia Peterson (The Chiffons) is 73. Actor Vondie Curtis-Hall is 69. Actress Victoria Tennant is 69. Actor John Finn is 67. Rock musician John Lombardo is 67. Singer Deborah Allen is 66. Actor Calvin Levels is 65. Actor Barry Williams is 65. Singer Patrice Rushen is 65. Actress Fran Drescher is 62. Country singer Marty Stuart is 61. Actress Debrah Farentino is 60. Rock musician Bill Rieflin (R.E.M.) is 59. Former Sen. Blanche Lincoln, D-Ark., is 59. Actress Crystal Bernard is 58. Actor Eric Stoltz is 58. Rapper-producer Marley Marl is 57. Country singer Eddie Montgomery (Montgomery-Gentry) is 56. Rock singer Trey Anastasio is 55. Actress Monica Bellucci is 55. Rock musician Robby Takac (Goo Goo Dolls) is 55. Actress Lisa Thornhill is 53. Actress Andrea Roth is 52. Actress Amy Landecker is 50. Actor Silas Weir Mitchell is 50. Actor Tony Hale is 49. Actress Jenna Elfman is 48. Actor Ashley Hamilton is 45. Actress Marion Cotillard is 44. Actor Christopher Jackson is 44. Actor Stark Sands is 41. Actor Mike Damus is 40. Actress Toni Trucks is 39. Tennis player Martina Hingis is 39. Olympic gold medal gymnast Dominique Moceanu is 38. Actress Lacey Chabert is 37. Actor Kieran Culkin is 37. Singer-rapper T-Pain is 35.

Thought for Today: "The idea is to die young as late as possible." — Ashley Montagu, Anglo-American anthropologist (1905-1999).