

Groton Daily Independent

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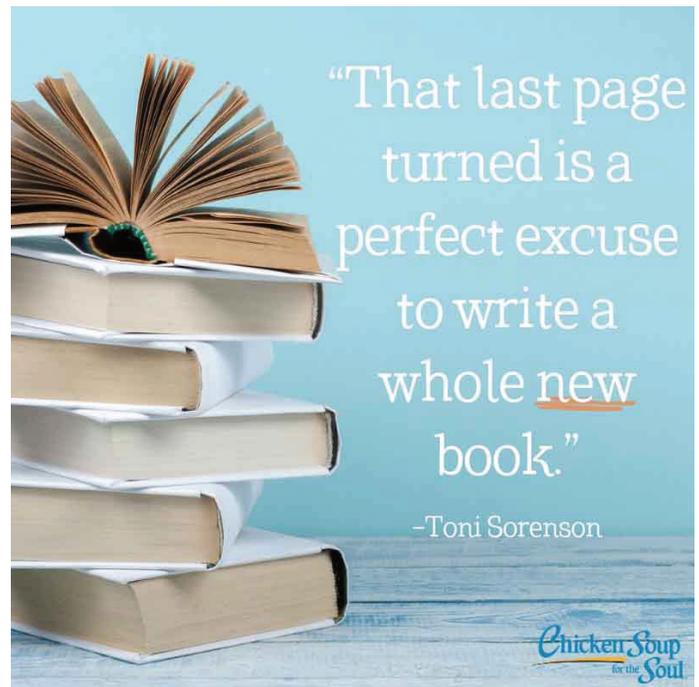
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It's Volleyball Action on GDILIVE.COM



**Florence/Henry
Falcons**

VS



Groton Area Tigers

Tuesday, Oct. 1, 2019

7:15 p.m. at Florence

SPONSORED BY DAKOTA RISK MANAGEMENT
and C & B OPERATIONS

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

Upcoming
**COMMUNITY
EVENTS**

Volleyball at Florence Today
4:30 p.m., Seventh Grade and C Teams play followed by JV and then the varsity match

Three Groton Area Golfers qualify for state

The Region 1A Golf Tournament was held Monday at Volga with the top 60 percent qualifying for the state tournament and that is equal to 28 golfers plus ties. That means Groton will send three to state.

Cade Guthmiller placed third, shooting a 43 and a 42 for a total score of 85. Hunter Kassube shot a 51 and a 45 for a total score of 96 to place 22nd. Tristan Traphagen placed 28th with scores of 51 and 48 for a total of 99.

Also golfing was Brevin Flihs, shooting a 57 and a 54 for a total score of 111.

Madison won the team title with 348 points followed by Sioux Valley with 351, Sisseton had 363, Roncalli 369, Dell Rapids 383, Groton Area 391, Tri-Valley 410, Flandreau 426 and Milbank 448.

The state tournament will be Monday and Tuesday in Vermillion.

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Steve Grode Invitational Cross Country Meet

Monday, Sept. 30, 2019

Olive Grove Golf Course, Groton, SD

Boys Varsity 5K Run

Team Points:

Tri-State 18

Ellendale 19

Sargent Central/Lidgerwood/Oakes 38

Florence/Henry 45

Frederick Area 47

Aberdeen Roncalli 52

Groton Area 63

Individuals

- 1, Ryan Hermes, Sargent Central/Lidgerwood/Oakes, 18:14.28
- 2, Isaac Smith, Groton Area, 18:31.69
- 3, Kaleb Foltz, Tri-State, 19:01.45
- 4, Theo Thurber, Ellendale, 19:11.24
- 5, Noah Gough, Aberdeen Roncalli, 19:32.93
- 6, Levi Reis, Ellendale, 19:41.03
- 7, Grayson Madsen, Tri-State, 19:44.08
- 8, Drew Abrahamson, Tri-State, 19:56.78
- 9, Ian Wagner, Ellendale, 19:59.41
- 10, John Bretsch, Frederick Area, 20:03.57
- 11, Ethan Paulson, Florence-Henry, 20:05.72
- 12, Sarion Watson, Tri-State, 20:07.13
- 13, Kevin Brownson, Florence/Henry, 20:10.23
- 14, Jack Boomersbach, Ellendale, 20:17.35
- 15, Emery Ceroll, Tri-State, 20:40.02
- 16, Brady Grefsrud, Tri-State, 20:44.09
- 17, Jericho King, Frederick Area, 20:47.24
- 18, Jaron Awender, Sargent Central/Lidgerwood/Oakes, 20:47.55
- 19, Marco Liconti, Sargent Central/Lidgerwood/Oakes, 20:50.57
- 20, Levi Little, Frederick Area, 21:11.93
- 21, Andrew Schroeder, Florence/Henry, 21:20.50
- 22, Stephen Achen, Frederick Area, 21:24.35
- 23, Brian Holmstrom, Aberdeen Roncalli, 21:51.55
- 24, Tyler Berndt, Aberdeen Roncalli, 22:03.95
- 25, Kash Cutler, Frederick Area, 22:22.86
- 26, Ricky Larson, Aberdeen Roncalli, 22:35.14
- 27, William Schueller, Britton-Hecla, 22:42.78
- 28, Jaden Thomas, Florence/Henry, 22:47.88
- 29, Andrew Wolf, Sargent Central/Lidgerwood/Oakes, 22:48.28
- 30, Dilon Abeln, Groton Area, 22:57.58
- 31, Noah Poor, Groton Area, 23:07.42
- 32, Michael Garafalo, Aberdeen Roncalli, 23:24.01
- 33, Owen Symens, Britton-Hecla, 23:29.19
- 34, Jackson Garstecki, Groton Area, 24:23.61

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- 35, Gannon Girard, Ellendale, 24:44.13
- 36, William Goscicki, Aberdeen Roncalli, 25:23.71
- 37, Kannon Coats, Groton Area, 25:23.88
- 38, Cyruss DeHoet, Groton Area, 25:41.21
- 39, Evan Grenz, Sargent Central/Lidgerwood/Oakes, 26:51.10
- 40, Dylan Frankki, Sargent Central/Lidgerwood/Oakes, 26:57.23
- 41, Cade Crabtree, Ellendale, 27:32.11
- 42, Steven Paulson, Groton Area, 30:44.43
- 43, Brandon Hahne, Ellendale, 30:47.20
- 44, Bradyn Freeman, Groton Area, 31:26.68

Girls Varsity 5K Run

Team Points:

- Dakota Hills 17
- Aberdeen Roncalli 18
- Sargent Central/Lidgerwood/Oakes 21
- Florence/Henry 42
- Ellendale 46
- Frederick Area 49
- Tri-State 64

Individuals

- 1, Dreah Frolek, Sargent Central/Lidgerwood/Oakes, 20:17.91
- 2, Victoria Zirbel, Dakota Hills, 20:42.33
- 3, Madison Zirbel, Dakota Hills, 20:43.54
- 4, Olivia Frolek, Sargent Central/Lidgerwood/Oakes, 21:13.32
- 5, Lauren Dosch, Aberdeen Roncalli, 21:48.42
- 6, Paige Schmidt, Aberdeen Roncalli, 21:56.56
- 7, Sarah Schmidt, Aberdeen Roncalli, 22:25.31
- 8, Karli Sharp, Florence/Henry, 22:35.33
- 9, Morgan Sumption, Frederick Area, 22:36.51
- 10, Emma Vogel, Aberdeen Roncalli, 22:54.20
- 11, Abbi Wadholm, Ellendale, 22:56.23
- 12, Eva Benike, Dakota Hills, 23:42.39
- 13, McKenna Glynn, Ellendale, 23:55.79
- 14, Laura Sumption, Frederick Area, 24:01.13
- 15, Griffin Moeller, Florence/Henry, 24:23.16
- 16, Allison Peterson, Sargent Central/Lidgerwood/Oakes, 24:28.97
- 17, Bella Martinez, Aberdeen Roncalli, 24:37.17
- 18, Emma Gough, Aberdeen Roncalli, 25:02.59
- 19, Madeline Sandau, Florence/Henry, 25:13.55
- 20, Morgan Navratil, Tri-State, 25:50.12
- 21, Kelly Moeller, Tri-State, 25:54.72
- 22, Kali Norton, Ellendale, 26:02.68
- 23, Chesney Greseth, Tri-State, 26:09.62
- 24, Riley Rosenau, Groton Area, 26:30.13
- 25, Sierra Ehresmann, Groton Area, 26:32.67
- 26, Chloe Arneson, Frederick Area, 27:03.41
- 27, Madison Wolfe, Ellendale, 27:04.26

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- 28, Sofia Losure, Frederick Area, 27:30.74
- 29, Marissa Sumption, Frederick Area, 27:39.32
- 30, Josie Hamilton, Sargent Central/Lidgerwood/Oakes, 28:33.64
- 31, Maggie Kujanson, Sargent Central/Lidgerwood/Oakes, 29:01.04
- 32, Emily Hamilton, Sargent Central/Lidgerwood/Oakes, 30:14.13

Girls Junior Varsity 3K Run

- 1, Anna Schmidt, Aberdeen Roncalli, 13:06.26
- 2, Jenna Helms, Aberdeen Roncalli, 13:19.30
- 3, Halle Kuck, Aberdeen Roncalli, 13:25.13
- 4, Rose Gutenkauf, Aberdeen Roncalli, 14:28.40
- 5, Gabby Millard, Frederick Area, 16:18.06
- 6, Zoe Cox, Frederick Area, 16:38.33
- 7, Madison Steffens, Tri-State, 21:03.90

Boys Junior Varsity 3K Run

- 1, Kaleb Norton, Aberdeen Roncalli, 11:58.40
- 2, Paul Gutenkauf, Aberdeen Roncalli, 11:58.59
- 3, Daniel Person, Langford Area, 12:14:81
- 4, John Reynen, Aberdeen Roncalli, 12:27.50
- 5, Nolan Jensen, Frederick Area, 13:15.55
- 6, Jayven Maag, Florence/Henry, 13:37.58
- 7, D J Waldo, Ellendale, 13:42.88
- 8, Marco Ramos, Tri-State, 13:47.46
- 9, Amsden Piotter, Tri-State, 14:12.36
- 10, Aidan Thurper, Ellendale, 14:24.84
- 11, Tate Hartley, Florence/Henry, 14:52.23
- 12, Jude Bent, Aberdeen Roncalli, 15:02.06
- 13, Gabe Bunt, Aberdeen Roncalli, 15:10.56
- 14, Parker Sween, Florence/Henry, 15:14.85
- 15, Beau Price, Aberdeen Roncalli, 15:34.22
- 16, Jay Bartnick, Tri-State, 17:22.02
- 17, Colton Schamber, Florence/Henry, 18:02.08
- 18, Landon Carlson, Britton-Hecla, 18:38.04
- 19, Aiden Lee, Britton-Hecla, 19:40.32
- 20, James Brooks, Groton Area, 19:48.42
- 21, Carter Gibson, Ellendale, 20:41.92
- 22, Drayten Piotter, Tri-State, 21:24.51

Munchkin Run

K-1-2 Boys

- 1, Ryder Schwan
- 2, Drew Fjeldheim
- 3, Trey Tietz

K-1-2 Girls

- 1, Kinley Sandness
- 2, Andi Iverson
- 3, Libby Johnson

Grade 3-4-5 Boys

- 1, Jace Johnson
- 2, Alex Abeln
- 3, TC Schuster

Grade 3-4-5 Girls

- 1, Kella Tracy
- 2, McKenna Tietz
- 3, Abby Fjeldheim

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Boys Munchkin Run - K-1-2
Third place, Trey Tietz; second place, Drew Fjeldheim; first place, Ryder Schwan. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Girls Munchkin Run - K-1-2
Third place, Libby Johnson; second place, Andi Iverson; first place, Libby Johnson. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Boys Munchkin Run - Grades 3-4-5
Third place, T C Schuster; second place, Alex Abeln; first place, Jace Johnson. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Girls Munchkin Run - Grades 3-4-5
Third place, Abby Fjeldheim; second place, McKenna Tietz; first place, Kella Tracy. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Broton Daily Independent

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9, Morgan Sumption, Frederick Area, 22:36.51



14, Laura Sumption, Frederick Area, 24:01.13



26, Chloe Arneson, Frederick Area, 27:03.41

Broton Daily Independent

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29, Marissa Sumption, Frederick Area, 27:39.32
28, Sofia Losure, Frederick Area, 27:30.74



10, John Bretsch, Frederick Area, 20:03.57

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2, Isaac Smith, Groton Area, 18:31.69

25, Sierra Ehresmann, Groton Area, 26:32.67

24, Riley Rosenau, Groton Area, 26:30.13

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22, Stephen Achen, Frederick Area, 21:24.35
17, Jericho King, Frederick Area, 20:47.24



20, Levi Little, Frederick Area,
21:11.93

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31, Noah Poor, Groton Area, 23:07.42



30, Dilon Abeln, Groton Area, 22:57.58

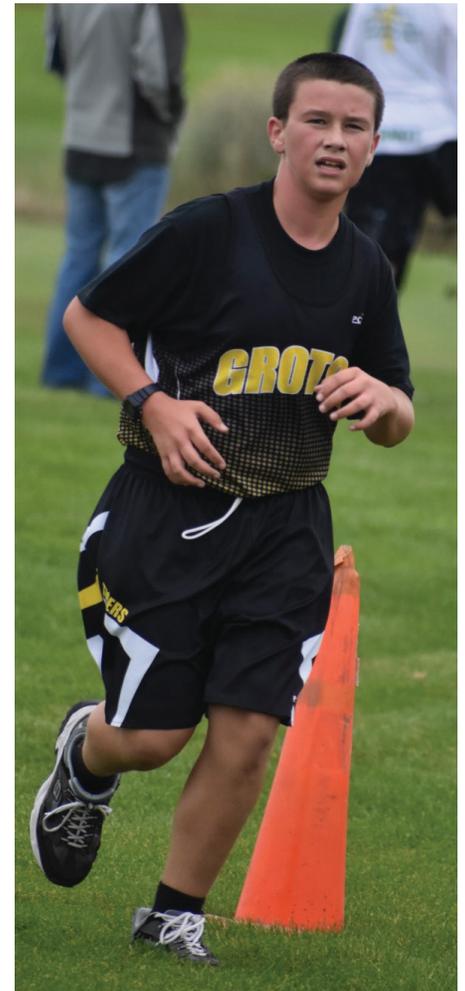
34, Jackson Garstecki, Groton Area, 24:23.61

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38, Cyruss DeHoet, Groton Area, 25:41.21
37, Kannon Coats, Groton Area, 25:23.88



20, James Brooks, Groton Area,
19:48.42

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44, Bradyn Freeman, Groton Area, 31:26.68
42, Steven Paulson, Groton Area, 30:44.43



JV: 6, Zoe Cox, Frederick Area,
16:38.33

Frederick Daily Independent

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25, Kash Cutler, Frederick Area,
22:22.86



JV: 5, Nolan Jensen, Frederick
Area, 13:15.55



JV: 5, Gabby Millard, Frederick
Area, 16:18.06

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Kucker surpasses 1000 assists

CONGRATS to Groton Area Setter Kaylin Kucker on surpassing 1000 assists on Saturday! Big weekend for milestones in SD VB!! (Photo from Adrenaline Volleyball Facebook Page)

Groton Community Transit Notice

To all passengers and parents of passengers,

Effective October 1, 2019 the Groton Community Transit will be merging with Watertown Area Transit and Community Transit of Sisseton. We will all be under one regional transit known as Community Transit Inc. of Watertown and Sisseton (CTIWS).

What does this mean for you, our wonderful passengers? Will things change for you? Will prices be different? Will your ride schedules change and will you still be able to call our Groton office to schedule rides? Things here at the Groton Community Transit will remain EXACTLY as they are now and we will offer all services that we currently offer now. Absolutely NOTHING will change for our valued passengers. The only things that will change are that the administrative duties that go along with GCT will now be done by people in Sisseton and Watertown.

At this time, the only thing we ask is that if you have any outstanding balances on your account that you become current as soon as possible. You will be notified if you have an outstanding balance for rides or if it looks like you will be running out very soon. You can mail a check/cash to the GCT (PO BOX 693), send payment with your child or stop at the office located at 205 East 2nd Ave. We are open Monday-Friday from 8:00 AM-4:00 PM.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns. We look for this to be a smooth transition, with no disruptions to riding services.

Thank you for continuing to use and support the Groton Community Transit and we look forward to serving you in the future.

Groton Community Transit
605-397-8661

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Soccer teams drop games to Tea Area

The Groton Area soccer teams went to Tea Area on Saturday. The boys lost their game, 1-0, and the girls lost their game, 8-0.



Pictured is Garrett Schroeder. (Photo by Dawn Imrie)



Groton's goalie, Emma Schinkel, got a save in the photo below and kicks it away in the photo above. (Photos by Marjae Schinkel)



Pictured are Ani Davidson and Allyssa Locke. (Photo by Marjae Schinkel)



Pictured is Allyssa Locke. (Photo by Marjae Schinkel)

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Pictured are Tucker Carda, Cade Guthmiller, Jacob Zak and Garret Schroeder. (Photo by Dawn Imrie)



Pictured are Jace Kroll and Piet Solling. (Photo by Dawn Imrie)



Pictured are Tucker Carda and Cade Guthmiller. (Photo by Dawn Imrie)



Pictured is Austin Jones.
(Photo by Dawn Imrie)



Pictured is Tucker Carda. (Photo by Dawn Imrie)



Pictured left to right are Bethany Gutierrez, Caryn Sue Bort, Katherine Bort, Instructor Lindsey Tietz, Karen Wolter, Collette Baker, Coralea Wolter and Mayme Baker. (Photo by Tina Kosel)

FACS Dept. receives gift from Ruth Clopine Family

The Groton High School and Middle School FACS classes received a Janome Magnolia sewing machine to its program. The donation comes in honor of Wolter's mother, Ruth, an avid seamstress and quilter.

According to Lindsey Tietz, FACS instructor, "For many years, Karen has worked in close contact with the FACS department, doing the quilting portion of the FACS IV (senior class) quilting projects, as well as offering her expertise on the subject. Her generosity has been kindly noted by all students as she donates her time to quilting their projects. Sewing and quilting are very special, time-honored skills that the Wolters' family has so generously helped to pass on to the students of GHS in the form of a sewing machine. Currently in some classes, students have to share sewing machines, so by the addition of even just one machine, this can help the teaching and learning process to be a more efficient and productive one. Students in FACS classes learn basic to advance sewing skills, how to mend and make repairs, how to quilt, and acquire skills that transfer to being a better consumer and possibly a entrepreneur."

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Today	Tonight	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday
				
Cloudy	Cloudy then Slight Chance Showers	Chance Showers then Showers	Showers	Mostly Cloudy
High: 49 °F	Low: 38 °F	High: 46 °F	Low: 38 °F	High: 51 °F

Cloudy & cool Today and Wednesday...
with a few showers today, more on Wednesday

Today	Wednesday	Thursday
40s to low 50s	40s to near 50	low to mid 50s
		
Scattered showers	Widespread showers	early morning showers, slightly warmer

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD
Updated: 10/1/2019 5:27 AM Central

Published on: 10/01/2019 at 1:37AM

Scattered showers and cool temperatures can be expected through the day. Overcast skies will help to keep daytime highs in the upper 40s to low 50s as northerly breezes continue through the afternoon. Chilly conditions will set in overnight, but cloudy skies will help to keep readings in the upper 30s to low 40s. Better chances to see rain showers will arrive on Wednesday as temps remain stuck in the 40s to around 50 degrees.

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Today in Weather History

October 1, 1971: A rare October tornado touched down in Sully County. This brief tornado damaged a ranch home and large barn, 6 miles WSW of Onida.

October 1, 1999: A narrow band of heavy snow fell across portions of South Dakota. Snowfall amounts of 4 to 8" were common in the relatively narrow band, breaking many records for the day.

October 1, 2012: A drought continued to intensify and expand across parts of central and northeast South Dakota through October, resulting in severe to exceptional drought conditions. Many locations continued the trend of recording well below normal precipitation totals for the month. Exceptional drought conditions expanded into Stanley, Jones and southern Lyman counties. Extreme drought conditions spread into southern Dewey, Sully, Hughes, Lyman, Jones, Southwest Hyde, Hamlin, Codington, Grant and Deuel counties. Severe drought conditions spread into Corson, Dewey, northwest Hyde, Hand, Faulk, Edmunds, McPherson, Brown, eastern Clark and southern Roberts Counties.

1890: The weather service is first identified as a civilian agency when Congress, at the request of President Benjamin Harrison, passes an act transferring the meteorological responsibilities of the Signal

S1893: On this day, the village of Caminadaville was wiped out by a massive hurricane. Caminadaville was a vibrant fishing community in the late 19th century, located on Cheniere Caminada, adjacent to Grand Isle in coastal Jefferson Parish in Louisiana.

1752 - The second severe hurricane in two weeks hit the Carolinas. The Onslow County Courthouse was destroyed along with all its records, and Beacon Island disappeared. (David Ludlum)

1893 - The second great hurricane of the 1893 season hit the Mississippi Delta Region drowning more than 1000 persons. (David Ludlum)

1987 - A blast of cold arctic air hit the north central U.S. An afternoon thunderstorm slickened the streets of Duluth MN with hail and snow, and later in the afternoon, strong northerly winds reached 70 mph. Unseasonably warm weather continued in the Pacific northwest. Afternoon highs of 90 degrees at Olympia WA, 92 degrees at Portland OR, and 89 degrees at Seattle WA, were records for the month of October. For Seattle WA it marked the twenty-first daily record high for the year, a record total in itself. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Afternoon and evening thunderstorms produced severe weather across central Oklahoma and the eastern half of Texas. Thunderstorms in Texas produced softball size hail northwest of Nocona, and baseball size hail at Troy and Park Springs. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather in the southeastern U.S. through the daytime and evening hours. Severe thunderstorms spawned eleven tornadoes, with seven of those tornadoes in Georgia. A tornado southwest of Moultrie, GA, killed two persons and injured a dozen others. Tornadoes also injured one person north of Graceville, FL, and two persons at Bartow, GA. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

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WHERE TO FIND HAPPINESS

A professor was known to ask his students questions to make them think. On one occasion he stood before the class and wrote on the chalkboard, "Who's more content – the man with six million dollars or the man with six children? Now think!" he challenged them.

After a few moments, one of the students raised his hand and answered, "The man with the six children."

"Oh? Why?" asked the professor.

"Well, the man with the six million dollars would always want more!" came the reply.

True contentment is always independent of "things" – whether possessions or pleasures. It only comes from an inner attitude toward life. That is why Paul said, "True religion, with contentment, is great wealth."

This does not imply that being a Christian means living in poverty or wanting to be poor. But it does mean that the attraction of "things" will never bring true happiness or satisfaction, and that the Christian must always focus on things that are eternal.

In the final analysis, we can only take two things to heaven: Ourselves, through His grace, and those who we have let to the Lord through witnessing His grace to others.

So, we must live our lives with one goal: that is: to present ourselves to God without shame and share His grace with the lost..

Prayer: Help us, Father, to realize that life does not consist in the abundance of things, but in pleasing You and doing Your will. May we center our lives on things eternal. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: 1 Timothy 6:6 True religion, with contentment, is great wealth.

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2019 Groton SD Community Events

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

2020 Groton SD Community Events

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

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News from the Associated Press

Monday's Scores By The Associated Press

Volleyball

Andes Central/Dakota Christian def. Menno, 25-10, 25-15, 24-26, 25-8
Avon def. Freeman Academy/Marion, 25-10, 25-11, 25-4
Baltic def. Tri-Valley, 25-16, 24-26, 25-13, 25-23
Chester def. Deubrook, 25-14, 25-18, 25-16
Freeman def. Canton, 27-25, 25-14, 22-25, 25-8
Howard def. Viborg-Hurley, 25-16, 25-13, 25-22
Ipswich def. North Central, 25-23, 25-14, 18-25, 25-14
Madison def. West Central, 25-20, 25-22, 25-20
Milbank Area def. Ortonville, Minn., 25-17, 25-12, 18-25, 25-14
Platte-Geddes def. Bon Homme, 19-25, 25-20, 25-19, 25-20
Wagner def. Gregory, 25-13, 25-9, 25-16
Waverly-South Shore def. Tri-State, N.D., 21-25, 25-19, 25-19, 23-25, 15-13
Wilmot def. Britton-Hecla, 13-25, 25-22, 23-25, 25-15, 15-12

Oglala Sioux ban e-cigarettes on Pine Ridge Reservation

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The Oglala Sioux Tribal Council has banned the sale, possession and use of e-cigarettes on the Pine Ridge Reservation amid a nationwide outbreak of vaping-related illnesses.

The tribal council approved the ban last week, the Sioux Falls Argus Leader reported Monday. The maximum penalty for violating the ordinance is a fine of \$250 or 30 days in jail.

"The health of our people, including our youth, is of the utmost importance and our tribe has always strived to take a leading role in addressing the health issues of our people," the ordinance states.

There have been six confirmed cases of vaping-related illness in South Dakota, according to the South Dakota Department of Health, and over 800 across the country, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, with 12 confirmed deaths in other states.

The CDC says most of the patients reported using products containing THC, the chemical that produces marijuana's high, or both THC-containing products and nicotine-containing products. Some patients reported using only nicotine-containing products. The CDC recommends refraining from using vaping products, particularly those containing THC, while the investigation is ongoing, and against buying these products off the street.

Tribal President Julian Bear Runner heralded the vaping ban as a "bold action" and used the occasion to call for further action to regulate all forms of tobacco and nicotine on the reservation.

"In the near future it would empower us to adopt additional legislation related to the cultivation and sale of all forms of tobacco and nicotine, as those industries have profited from our misery since we can remember," Bear Runner said in a statement. "It is to our benefit to authorize only tobacco the Oglala Sioux Tribe has sanctioned."

The Pine Ridge Reservation has a population of roughly 20,000 in southwestern South Dakota.

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

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South Dakota Prep Polls By The Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Prep Media football polls for the week of Sept. 30 are listed below, ranking the top-five teams in each class. First-place votes received are indicated in parentheses.

Class 11AAA

1. Brandon Valley (20) 4-1 112 1
2. SF Roosevelt (3) 4-1 95 2
3. SF Lincoln 4-1 58 4
4. Harrisburg 4-1 54 3
5. SF O'Gorman 3-2 26 5

Class 11AA

1. Pierre (23) 5-0 115 1
2. Brookings 5-0 92 2
3. Mitchell 3-2 68 3
4. Huron 3-2 43 5
5. Yankton 2-3 27 4

Class 11A

1. Tea Area (19) 4-1 111 1
 2. Dell Rapids (4) 5-0 92 2
 3. Dakota Valley 4-1 73 3
 4. SF Christian 3-2 32 5
 5. Madison 2-3 22 4
- Receiving votes: Canton 14, Tri-Valley 1.

Class 11B

1. Bridgewater-Emery/Ethan (20) 6-0 112 1
 2. Winner (3) 6-0 95 2
 3. Webster Area 5-0 58 3
 4. St. Thomas More 4-1 37 5
 5. Mount Vernon/Plankinton 3-2 27 4
- Receiving votes: Mobridge-Pollock 15, McCook Central/Montrose 1.

Class 9AA

1. Bon Homme (20) 6-0 112 1
 2. Viborg-Hurley (3) 5-0 95 2
 3. Baltic 4-1 52 5
 4. Deuel 4-1 44 4
 5. Parker 4-1 31 3
- Receiving votes: Lemmon-McIntosh 9, Hamlin 2.

Class 9A

1. Sully Buttes (13) 5-0 102 1
2. Canistota/Freeman (9) 5-0 100 2
3. Britton-Hecla (1) 5-0 71 3
4. Gregory 5-0 47 5

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T-5. Howard 4-1 12 RV
T-5. Kimball/White Lake 4-1 12 4
Receiving votes: Warner 1.

Class 9B

1. Colman-Egan (21) 5-0 113 1
2. Dell Rapids St. Mary (2) 5-0 94 2
3. Wolsey-Wessington 3-2 67 3
4. Harding County 4-1 40 5
5. Herreid/Selby Area 4-1 20 RV
Receiving votes: Alcester-Hudson 9, Langford Area 2.

South Dakota Volleyball Polls By The Associated Press

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

Class AA

1. Watertown (15) 12-1 83 1
2. O'Gorman (2) 11-1 70 2
3. S.F. Washington 10-3 48 3
4. Aberdeen Central 7-2 29 5
5. Brandon Valley 7-4 12 4
Receiving Votes: S.F. Roosevelt (10-4) 7, Huron (8-4) 4, S.F. Lincoln (9-5) 2

Class A

1. Dakota Valley (8) 15-1 75 3
2. Miller (6) 14-1 66 2
3. S.F. Christian (3) 12-9 61 1
4. McCook Central-Montrose 13-3 31 4
5. Hill City 19-0 19 5
Receiving Votes: Parker (14-5) 3

Class B

1. Northwestern (17) 20-0 85 1
2. Faulkton Area 13-3 62 2
3. Chester Area 13-6 35 4
4. Burke 14-2 28 3
5. Faith 14-2 21 RV
Receiving Votes: Ethan (13-2) 12, Warner (8-7) 9, Kadoka Area (13-1) 3

Brookings man dies after being stabbed during fight

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Brookings police say they are investigating a fight between a 15-year-old boy and a 37-year-old man that left the adult dead from a stab wound.

KELO-TV reports the teenager fled from the scene but surrendered to police later. Police say the stabbing happened Saturday night.

The victim, Justin Proctor of Brookings, later died at a Sioux Falls hospital.

Police are still investigating before prosecutors decide whether criminal charges are merited.

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

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Box Elder city attorney getting \$100K to resign

BOX ELDER, S.D. (AP) — Box Elder's city attorney is being paid \$100,000 to resign but government officials are not disclosing the reason.

The Rapid City Journal reports Monday that the Box Elder City Council approved the payment in July during a closed session. The newspaper says it tried for weeks to get a copy of the separation agreement between Box Elder and former City Attorney Kristi Vetri but received little more than meeting minutes.

The meeting meetings don't disclose the reasons why Box Elder paid Vetri to resign. Vetri did not respond to the newspaper's request for comment.

Vetri was Box Elder's city attorney since April 2018.

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

North Korea says nuclear talks with US will resume on Oct. 5

By KIM TONG-HYUNG Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea and the United States have agreed to resume nuclear negotiations on Oct. 5 following a months-long stalemate over withdrawal of sanctions in exchange for disarmament, a senior North Korean diplomat said Tuesday.

Choe Son Hui, North Korea's first vice minister of foreign affairs, said the two nations will have preliminary contact on Oct. 4 before holding working-level talks on Oct. 5.

In a statement released by North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency, Choe expressed optimism over the outcome of the meeting but did not say where it would take place.

"It is my expectation that the working-level negotiations would accelerate the positive development of the DPRK-U.S. relations," Choe said in the statement, using an abbreviation for North Korea's formal name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Nuclear negotiations have been at a standstill for months following a February summit between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and President Donald Trump in Hanoi, Vietnam. Those talks broke down after the U.S. side rejected North Korean demands for broad sanctions relief in exchange for partially surrendering its nuclear capabilities.

North Korea followed the summit with belligerent rhetoric and a slew of short-range weapons tests that were widely seen as an attempt to gain leverage ahead of a possible resumption of negotiations.

Choe's announcement came after North Korea praised Trump last month for suggesting that Washington may pursue an unspecified "new method" in nuclear negotiations with the North. North Korea also has welcomed Trump's decision to fire hawkish former National Security Adviser John Bolton, who advocated a "Libya model" of unilateral denuclearization as a template for North Korea.

The 2004 disarmament of Libya is seen by Pyongyang as a deeply provocative comparison because Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi was killed following U.S.-supported military action in his country seven years after giving up a rudimentary nuclear program that was far less advanced than North Korea's.

The office of South Korean President Moon Jae-in, who lobbied hard to set up the first summit between Kim and Trump last year in Singapore, welcomed Choe's announcement and expressed hope that the resumed talks would result in "substantial progress" in denuclearization and stabilization of peace.

That's could be a tall order. Under the high-stakes diplomacy between Trump and Kim, which has been driven chiefly by the personalities of the leaders rather than an established diplomatic process, working-level meetings have been useful for fleshing out the logistics of summits but unproductive in hammering out the details of a nuclear deal that has eluded the countries for decades.

The stalemate of past months has revealed fundamental differences between the two sides. North Korea says it will never unilaterally surrender its nuclear weapons and missiles and insists that U.S.-led sanctions against it should be lifted first before any progress in negotiations.

The Trump administration has vowed to maintain robust economic pressure until the North takes real steps toward fully and verifiably relinquishing its nuclear program.

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This are doubts about whether Kim would ever voluntarily deal away an arsenal he may see as his strongest guarantee of survival.

After their Singapore summit in June 2018, Trump and Kim issued a vague statement calling for a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula without describing how or when it would occur.

The lack of substance and fruitless working-level talks set up the failure in Hanoi, which the Americans blamed on what they said were excessive North Korean demands for sanctions relief in exchange for dismantling an aging nuclear facility in Yongbyon. Trump and Kim met for the third time at the inter-Korean border on June 30 and agreed that working-level talks between the countries should resume.

House Democrats subpoena Giuliani in Trump impeachment probe

By JONATHAN LEMIRE, MATTHEW V. LEE, MARY CLARE JALONICK and EMILY SWANSON

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — At one end of Pennsylvania Avenue, the president raged about treason. At the other, the methodical march toward impeachment proceeded apace.

Democrats on Monday subpoenaed Rudy Giuliani, the president's personal lawyer who was at the heart of Trump's efforts to get Ukraine to investigate political rival Joe Biden's family. That was after one of Trump's staunchest defenders, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, said he would have "no choice" but to consider articles of impeachment if the House approved them.

With Congress out of session for observance of the Jewish holidays, Democrats moved aggressively against Giuliani, requesting by Oct. 15 "text messages, phone records and other communications" that they referred to as possible evidence. They also requested documents and depositions from three of his business associates.

Meanwhile, the circle of officials with knowledge of Trump's phone call to Ukraine's president widened with the revelation that Secretary of State Mike Pompeo listened in on the July 25 conversation.

Pompeo's presence on the Ukraine call, confirmed by two officials who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss an internal matter, provided the first confirmation that a Cabinet official heard Trump press President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to investigate Hunter Biden's membership on the board of a Ukrainian gas company. It is that call, and the circumstances surrounding it, that are fueling the new Democratic drive for impeachment.

McConnell, a steadfast Trump defender, nonetheless swatted down talk that that the GOP-controlled Senate could dodge the matter of impeachment if the House approved charges against Trump.

"It's a Senate rule related to impeachment, it would take 67 votes to change, so I would have no choice but to take it up," McConnell said on CNBC. "How long you're on it is a whole different matter."

Trump took to Twitter to defend anew his phone call with Zelenskyy as "perfect" and to unleash a series of attacks, most strikingly against House intelligence committee Chairman Adam Schiff. The Democrat, he suggested, ought to be tried for a capital offense for launching into a paraphrase of Trump during a congressional hearing last week.

"Rep. Adam Schiff illegally made up a FAKE & terrible statement, pretended it to be mine as the most important part of my call to the Ukrainian President, and read it aloud to Congress and the American people," the president wrote. "It bore NO relationship to what I said on the call. Arrest for Treason?"

Trump tweeted repeatedly through the day but was, for the most part, a lonely voice as the White House lacked an organization or process to defend him. Senior staffers, including acting chief of staff Mick Mulvaney and White House counsel Pat Cipollone, were to present Trump this week with options on setting up the West Wing's response to impeachment, officials said.

A formal war room was unlikely, though some sort of rapid response team was planned to supplement the efforts of Trump and Giuliani. But Trump was angry over the weekend at both Mulvaney and press secretary Stephanie Grisham for not being able to change the narrative dominating the story, according to two Republicans close to the White House not authorized to speak publicly about private conversations.

Democrats have orders from House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to keep momentum going despite a two-week

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recess that started Friday. Staff for three committees are scheduled on Wednesday and Thursday to depose Marie "Masha" Yovanovitch, the U.S. ambassador to Ukraine who was removed by the Trump administration earlier this year, and Kurt Volker, who resigned last week as America's Ukrainian envoy. Members of intelligence committee on Friday will interview Michael Atkinson, the inspector general for the intelligence community who first received the whistleblower's complaint.

Democrats are driving the proceedings toward what some hope is a vote to impeach, or indict, Trump by year's end. They have launched a coordinated messaging and polling strategy aimed at keeping any political backlash in closely divided districts from toppling their House majority.

Meanwhile, an outside group that supports GOP House candidates was starting anti-impeachment digital ads on Monday against three House Democrats from districts Trump won in 2016. The ads by the Congressional Leadership Fund accuse Reps. Matt Cartwright of Pennsylvania, Elaine Luria of Virginia and Elissa Slotkin of Michigan of "tearing us apart," and are among the first in which Republicans are trying to use the impeachment issue against Democratic candidates.

However, support across America for impeachment has grown significantly from its level before the House launched its formal inquiry last week.

A new poll from Quinnipiac University shows 47% of registered voters say Trump should be impeached and removed from office, while 47% say he should not. Just a week before, it was 37% for impeachment and 57 percent against. That was before the White House released its rough version of the call between Trump and Ukraine's president and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's announcement of a formal impeachment inquiry.

In the CNN poll, 47% said Trump should be impeached and removed from office, up from 41% in May.

Both polls showed dramatic partisan polarization remains on impeachment: most Democrats expressing support, the vast majority of Republicans opposed. The polls disagreed over whose opinions are changing — Quinnipiac showing increased impeachment support coming more from Democrats, CNN from Republicans.

Schiff said on Sunday that his intelligence panel would hear from the still-secret whistleblower "very soon" but that no date had been set and other details remained to be worked out.

A day after Trump demanded to meet the whistleblower, whom he has repeatedly assailed, he said when asked about the person: "Well, we're trying to find out about a whistleblower," who made his perfect call "sound terrible."

The whistleblower's attorney, Andrew Bakaj, said Monday that the person "is entitled to anonymity. Law and policy support this, and the individual is not to be retaliated against. Doing so is a violation of federal law."

Separately, the Justice Department disclosed that Trump recently asked Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison and other foreign leaders to help Attorney General William Barr with an investigation of the origins of the Russia investigation that has shadowed his administration for more than two years.

Justice spokeswoman Kerri Kupec said Trump made the calls at Barr's request.

Trump was requesting help for U.S. Attorney John Durham's investigation into the origins of special counsel Robert Mueller's probe into Russian interference in the 2016 election. The investigation outraged Trump, who cast it as a politically motivated "witch hunt."

The Russia probe remains Trump's motivating factor, according to Tom Bossert, the president's former homeland security adviser.

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

Lemire reported from New York. Associated Press writers Mike Balsamo, Laurie Kellman, Alan Fram, Kevin Freking and Eric Tucker in Washington contributed to this report.

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10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press undefined

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

1. CIRCLE WIDENS IN IMPEACHMENT PROBE

Democrats subpoenaed Rudy Giuliani, the president's personal lawyer who was at the heart of Trump's efforts to get Ukraine to investigate political rival Joe Biden's family.

2. CHINA PARADES LATEST MISSILES IN CHALLENGE TO US, OTHERS

China celebrates its Communist Party's 70th anniversary by displaying a hypersonic ballistic nuclear missile believed capable of breaching all existing anti-missile shields.

3. HOW ISRAEL IS EASING TENSIONS

Israel is quietly letting in thousands of Palestinian workers from the Gaza Strip, apparently part of an understanding with the ruling Hamas militant group.

4. 'IT'S WORTH IT TO PLANT, TO BUILD'

Around the world, people are planting trees to restore forests, nurturing one of the planet's first lines of defense against climate change.

5. TOWERING BRIDGE COLLAPSES IN TAIWAN

The span over a bay in the eastern part of the island collapses, sending it and a burning oil tanker truck falling onto boats in the water below.

6. SUPPORTERS STILL 'FEELING THE BERN'

Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders says he raised \$25.3 million in the third fundraising quarter from 1.4 million donors backing his presidential campaign.

7. JUUL STOPS FUNDING VAPING MEASURE

The San Francisco-based vape products company withdraws support for a ballot measure to overturn an anti-vaping law in the city, effectively killing the campaign.

8. COLLEGES LAUNCH DEGREES IN ESPORTS

Universities are adding the programs to curriculums to capitalize on the competitive game industry's boom.

9. WHO CALLED TOM CRUISE 'GOOD-LOOKING'

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, prompting the Hollywood star to laugh and say "it pays the bills," as the actor studies possible locations in the country for an upcoming film.

10. STEELERS PREVAIL IN BATTLE OF THE WINLESS

Mason Rudolph throws for 229 yards and two touchdowns to pick up his first victory while filling in for the injured Ben Roethlisberger as Pittsburgh easily handles Cincinnati 27-3.

Trump critics struggle to raise money for primary challenge

By HUNTER WOODALL Associated Press

MANCHESTER, N.H. (AP) — Mark Sanford, the most prominent primary challenger to President Donald Trump, has said he won't solicit contributions from his longtime donor base until he's "proven a measure of electoral success."

Bill Kristol has yet to fully activate a super PAC aimed at hurting Trump's reelection chances.

And Stuart Stevens, the top strategist for Sen. Mitt Romney's 2012 presidential campaign, until he was prompted, could not recall the name of the super PAC he is advising that supports another Trump challenger, Bill Weld.

So far, not even the start of an impeachment inquiry against the president has energized the campaigns of those candidates, or aligned groups, seeking to deny Trump the Republican presidential nomination.

Still, outside spending by disenchanted "Never Trump"-type Republicans could diminish Trump's 2020 odds by wounding his candidacy even if stopping well short of denying him the nomination.

"For now, the idea that somehow, some way, some seven-figure guy or some seven-figure bundler, is going to break from the pack to go support one of these guys is just, I don't think realistic," said Reed Galen, a former Republican turned independent who worked in the past for George W. Bush and John McCain.

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Weld, the former Massachusetts governor and the first Republican to announce a primary challenge to Trump, has struggled to mount a serious fundraising effort, according to the most recent Federal Election Commission filings. That's also been true for the pro-Weld super PAC America United.

At the end of June, the committee had raised only \$60,000 and had less than \$20,000 cash on hand. Stevens emphasized last week that fundraising is just starting. By comparison, New Day for America, a super PAC supporting former Ohio Gov. John Kasich, ended June with close to \$414,000 cash on hand.

"The people that we're talking to are against Donald Trump," Stevens said. "And they were against Donald Trump before, so it's not like some light bulb went off. This may open up a new group of donors. I just don't know yet."

Weld was joined in the Republican primary race in recent weeks by Joe Walsh, a former tea-party-backed, one-term congressman from Illinois, and Sanford, the former South Carolina governor and congressman.

Since announcing for president in April, Weld has struggled to gain footing in New Hampshire even with frequent campaigning in the state. Sanford and Walsh both recently made initial visits.

Kristol, a director of Defending Democracy Together, a 501(c)(4) anti-Trump conservative group, said Trump's dealings with Ukraine and the impeachment proceedings have led to Never Trump donors feeling vindicated. And last week Republicans for the Rule of Law, a project of Defending Democracy Together, announced it had begun targeting digital ads at some congressional Republicans as "the first stage in a \$1 million campaign urging Republicans to stand up for the rule of law and speak out against the president's abuse of power."

It could be a new ballgame, Kristol said, and raised the possibility of other Trump challengers getting into the race.

"I would say they're being seen as serious. I don't think people think they can win," Kristol said of the three current Trump primary challengers. "But I think you can be serious without having much of a chance of winning if you raise issues and show weakness in the front-runner."

That has resulted in a transition for Trump's Republican critics.

"Most of the Never Trumpers in the Republican Party, both donors and activists, are gradually becoming After Trumpers," said Dan Schnur, a former Republican turned independent who was national director of communications for McCain's 2000 presidential run. He added: "Impeachment could force their hand, but right now, they're devoting their time and effort to thinking about what the Republican Party could or should be once Trump has left the political landscape."

Dating back to 1976, sitting presidents have a history of losing the general election after a serious primary challenge. But for Trump's Republican challengers, the case to be taken seriously has only become more difficult as a handful of state parties cancel their primaries and other nominating contests.

Walsh hasn't been shy about his struggles as a candidate and conceded before the impeachment inquiry that it had "not been easy to raise money." But he has been encouraged by interest and support from small-dollar donors.

There is less support from big donors now, even from the ones who had donated to him in the past.

"The vast majority of those donors, even though they like me, many of them are still on board the Trump train," Walsh said.

China parades its latest missiles in challenge to US, others

By CHRISTOPHER BODEEN Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — Military planners in Washington and elsewhere will be taking note of new missile technology displayed by China, particularly a hypersonic ballistic nuclear missile believed capable of breaching all existing anti-missile shields deployed by the U.S. and its allies.

The vehicle-mounted Dong Feng 17, or DF-17, was the standout among weapons showed off at a military parade on Tuesday marking the 70th anniversary of the founding of the Chinese state. Those also include the Dong Feng 41, or DF-41, an intercontinental ballistic missile with a range of 15,000 kilometers (9,300 miles) — China's longest-range weapon — that that could reach the United States in 30 minutes.

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Also featured at the event were the JL-2 submarine-launched strategic missile believed to be standard weaponry for China's nuclear-powered subs, as well as the CJ-100 cruise missile.

Beijing insists all are homegrown, and though China is believed to have benefited from industrial spying and imported technologies, its massive military research and development program and the size of its economy have put its weapons technology at the forefront along with Russia and the U.S.

"The overall combat ability of China's missile force has been enhanced significantly," said Song Zhongping, a military commentator for Hong Kong's pro-China Phoenix TV.

The DF-17 hyper-glide vehicle can be launched from a missile and once separated can reach more than five times the speed of sound, according to analysts. That speed, and its use of multiple independently targetable reentry vehicles, a technology known as MIRV, to deliver its warheads makes it far more difficult to detect and intercept.

It also flies at a much lower altitude just prior to delivering its warhead, further frustrating attempts to detect and intercept.

Some analysts have called the missile a threat to regional stability because its speed allows far less time to determine whether to fire nuclear weapons in response.

As with the DF-17, little has been officially released about the DF-41, which was shown publicly for the first time. It was loaded aboard a formation of launch vehicles but is also transportable by train. Analysts say they believe it may be housed in silos in the country's northeast.

The Center for Strategic & International Studies in Washington says the missile may have the world's longest range at 15,000 kilometers (9,400 miles). Flying at 25 times the speed of sound, it might be able to reach the United States in 30 minutes and send up to 10 warheads to separate targets using MIRV technology.

China also displayed an upgrade of its mainstay missile, the Dongfeng 31, which has a range of more than 11,200 kilometers (6,990 miles) that puts most of the continental United States within reach. The second-generation Dongfeng-31AG, which like the DF-41 uses solid fuel for ease of deployment and speed of launch, comes with "high mobility and precision," according to the official Xinhua News Agency.

Displayed for the first time, the JL-2 is the standard weapon for China's Jin class nuclear-powered subs, each of which can deploy 12 missiles with one warhead each. Their range of 7,200 kilometers (4,473 miles) makes more of a threat regionally than to the continental United States.

China's latest CJ-100 supersonic cruise missile also made its public debut Tuesday, carried aboard 16 trucks in formation. Little is known about the weapon that is speculated to be a replacement for the PLA's current CJ-10 cruise missile which has an estimated range of about 1,500 kilometers (930 miles).

The CJ-100s are "characterized by a long range, high precision and quick responsiveness and are the latest addition to the CJ missile series," Xinhua reported.

All those weapons seemed intended to imbue China with the ability to back up its territorial claims with credible threats, especially against the possibility of U.S. intervention. Many, including the already deployed DF-21D anti-ship ballistic missile, are seen as standoff weapons to keep U.S. aircraft carriers at bay while subjecting bases such as Guam to the possibility of attack.

China has also responded to what it sees as U.S. moves in the region that threaten its own security. That includes the deployment of the advanced THAAD air defense system in South Korea and Washington's stated determination to deploy a land-based intermediate-range missile in the Asia-Pacific "sooner rather than later," following its withdrawal last week from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty.

China said in August it "will not stand idly by" and would take countermeasures if the U.S. goes ahead with those plans.

"China should develop missiles that can hit any corners of the world especially the U.S. as a means of counter-attack," Yue Gang, retired colonel and military commentator said. "China must have the deterrent to curb the use of nuclear weapons ... China has been forced to do so by the situation."

The renewed attention focused on China's missile programs comes largely following the formation in 2015 of the latest branch of the People's Liberation Army, the Rocket Force. Tuesday's military parade

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featured 350 members of the force in their dark green uniforms and was their first group participation in such an event.

Apart from missiles, China also showed off new technologies, such as its "Sharp Sword" unmanned aerial vehicle believed capable of attacking targets such as radar stations and military bases, as well as drone submarines that could reach depths far deeper than those of crewed subs.

Drones are becoming increasingly important for the Chinese military in a range of fields, including for use by artillery units in reconnaissance and damage evaluation, TVBS's Song said.

Technology gaps still remain with the U.S. and Russia, who have had longer to develop their strategies, especially in the nuclear field, Song said.

However, the advances align with commander of the armed forces and President Xi Jinping's calls for a military that is capable of fighting and winning wars under modern conditions.

Observing the new hardware first from his staff car then from the viewing platform atop Tiananmen Gate, he gave off an aura of satisfaction, although he said little on the matter in his address other than that "no force" could block China's progress.

Associated Press researcher Yu Bing contributed to this report.

Fierce clashes hit Hong Kong on China's National Day

By EILEEN NG and JOHN LEICESTER Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — Fierce clashes between pro-democracy protesters and police broke out in multiple parts of Hong Kong on Tuesday in the most widespread violence challenging Chinese rule as its Communist Party celebrated its 70th year in power.

Local media reported that police fired live bullets in the Tsuen Wan area, injuring a protester. There was no immediate comment from police.

Riot police fired multiple volleys of tear gas in at least six locations and used water cannons in the business district in the semi-autonomous Chinese territory as protesters turned streets into battlefields to spoil the Oct. 1 anniversary of Communist rule.

A security clampdown in the city to thwart violence that would embarrass Chinese President Xi Jinping failed to deter the protests, including a massive march in the city center.

Organizers said at least 100,000 people marched along a broad city thoroughfare in defiance of a police ban, chanting anti-China slogans and some carrying Chinese flags defaced with a black cross. Police didn't provide an estimate of the turnout.

"They are squeezing our necks so we don't breathe the air of freedom," said King Chan, a 57-year-old homemaker who came out to protest with her husband.

Many demonstrators tossed wads of fake "hell" bank notes usually used at funerals into the air. "The leaders who won't listen to our voice, this is for them," said marcher Ray Luk.

Thousands of people confronted police in multiple locations across the city, the largest number of simultaneous protests since the unrest began in early June over a now-shelved extradition bill that activists say was an example of how Hong Kong's freedoms and citizen rights are being eroded.

The movement has since snowballed into an anti-Chinese campaign with demands for direct elections for the city's leaders and police accountability.

The smell of stinging tear gas and smoke from street fires started by protesters engulfed the Wan Chai, Wong Tai Sin, Sha Tin, Tuen Mun, Tsuen Wan and Tsim Sha Tsui areas. Protesters hurled gasoline bombs, bricks and other objects at police, who responded with volleys of tear gas.

Protesters used umbrellas as shields and threw tear gas canisters back at police. Police said protesters used corrosive fluid in Tuen Mun, injuring officers and some reporters.

In Wong Tai Sin, a gasoline bomb that protesters hurled at police exploded near motorcycles parked along a pavement, creating a large blaze that was put out by firefighters. Some protesters placed an emergency water hose down a subway station to try to flood it.

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A water cannon truck sprayed blue water, used to identify protesters, to disperse crowds from advancing to government offices in the city. Scores of police officers also stood guard near the Beijing's liaison office as the battles continued across the territory.

"Today we are out to tell the Communist Party that Hong Kong people have nothing to celebrate," said activist Lee Cheuk-yan as he led the downtown march. "We are mourning that in 70 years of Communist Party rule, the democratic rights of people in Hong Kong and China are being denied. We will continue to fight."

Activists carried banners saying, "End dictatorial rule, return power to the people."

Dressed in a black T-shirt and dark jeans, 40-year-old Bob Wong said his clothing expressed "mourning" over "the death of Hong Kong's future."

The popular LIHKG online chat forum used by protesters was inaccessible on cellphones, a move believed to have been made to prevent communication by protesters. More than two dozen subway stations and many shopping malls across the city were shut.

The protests contrasted with Beijing's anniversary festivities marked with a colorful parade and display of new missile technology. Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam, who is in Beijing for the ceremony, smiled as a Hong Kong float passed by.

In the morning as the city's government marked the anniversary with a solemn ceremony, police used pepper spray to break up a brief scuffle between Beijing supporters and a small group of pro-democracy protesters.

Hong Kong Chief Secretary Matthew Cheung told hundreds of guests at a reception that the city has become "unrecognizable" due to the violence.

Cheung said Beijing fully supports the "one country, two systems" framework that gives Hong Kong freedoms and rights not enjoyed on the mainland. The system was implemented when the former British colony returned to Chinese rule in 1997.

2020 Democrats plead for campaign cash as 3rd quarter closes

By BRIAN SLODYSKO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Bernie Sanders said, "I hate asking people for money" — and then asked for money. Joe Biden's campaign warned that President Donald Trump would "feel like he won" if a fundraising goal wasn't reached. And Beto O'Rourke offered to "try to text you" in exchange for \$5.

In the days and hours before Monday's third-quarter fundraising deadline, Democratic White House hopefuls were pleading for campaign cash, making appeals on social media and collectively blasting out more than 80 emails asking supporters to "chip in" \$5, \$10 or \$50.

With the Iowa caucuses approaching in February, there's a growing sense of urgency as the primary becomes a fierce battle for a limited pool of cash that could make the difference between staying in the race and heading for the exits. Those who continue to muddle along in the lower tier will not only face challenges paying for advertising to amplify their message, but they are also likely to struggle reaching fundraising thresholds set by the Democratic National Committee to qualify for future debates.

Top-tier candidates like Sanders, a Vermont senator, former Vice President Biden and Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts are anticipated to be among the leaders in the field. But others are facing pressure to post competitive numbers or get out, something that might not happen soon enough for some angry Democrats.

"If you are being outraced 3-to-1 by Elizabeth Warren, Bernie Sanders or Joe Biden, you have no viable path to victory," said Rufus Gifford, Barack Obama's former finance director. "Even if you can compete in the early states ... shortly thereafter you will run out of money."

Cory Booker recently warned that unless he juiced his fundraising numbers by an additional \$1.7 million he'd likely have to drop out, stating that he didn't "believe people should stay in this just to stay in it." But the New Jersey senator announced he surpassed his goal on Monday, raising \$2 million after enlisting help from Hillary Clinton and his girlfriend, the actress Rosario Dawson.

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Regardless, he will still lag behind the top contenders even if he has an outstanding quarter.

Montana Gov. Steve Bullock, who has also struggled to raise money, announced Monday that he's applying for public financing, turning to a fund that is replenished by those who volunteer to chip in \$3 from their taxes. He hopes it will supplement his campaign with a \$2 million fundraising boost.

The third quarter is coming to a close as Trump faces an impeachment inquiry in Congress related to his attempts to get the Ukrainian government to investigate Biden. The development has scrambled politics in Washington but has turned into a fundraising rallying cry for both major political parties.

Trump has turned his outrage over the inquiry into a flood of campaign cash. Trump and the Republican National Committee reported raising \$13 million in the three days after House Speaker Nancy Pelosi announced the probe last week. And Trump's son Eric tweeted later that the total grew to \$15 million.

That's on top of what's already expected to be a major haul for the quarter. Trump and the RNC previously reported pulling in more than \$210 million since the start of 2019, more than his Democratic rivals combined.

That's a source of worry for some Democrats concerned it will be hard to catch Trump once a nominee is selected.

"Trump's presidency is wounded but not mortally wounded, and their operation is as good as it gets," Gifford said.

Like Trump, some Democrats have treated the impeachment inquiry as a fundraising opportunity. Biden ramped up Facebook ad spending that seized on unfounded allegations made against him and his son Hunter by Trump and his personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani, the former mayor of New York.

A recent series of Biden ads asking for donations said Trump was "trying to distract you from what's really at stake for your family by spreading lies about my family," and his campaign says they've seen a significant uptick in donations.

Sanders, Warren and California Sen. Kamala Harris have also made fundraising appeals based around impeachment.

But in a sign that the primary could be taking a bitter turn, Hawaii Rep. Tulsi Gabbard, who has also struggled to raise money, took aim at her rivals for capitalizing on impeachment.

"Candidates for POTUS who are fundraising off 'impeachment' are undermining credibility of inquiry in eyes of American people, further dividing our already fractured country," she tweeted on Monday. "Please stop. We need responsible, patriotic leaders who put the interests of our country before their own."

Ready student one? Universities launch degrees in esports

By **KELVIN CHAN AP Business Writer**

LONDON (AP) — On their first week in class, a group of students is playing a first-person shooter video game in a sleek new digital studio. It's their introduction to the degree in esports they've all enrolled in.

The group clicking away on their mice are at the University of Staffordshire, one of several U.K. and U.S. schools launching programs aimed at capitalizing on the booming industry's need for skilled professionals.

Ryan Chapman, 18, said his parents were "skeptical at first" about studying esports, or competitive multiplayer videogaming.

"But now they understand how big the industry is growing, the pace it's growing at. They're now really all for it because it's a great industry to start to get into," said Chapman, who was among the students in the lab playing Counter-Strike, one of the most popular esports games.

The University of Staffordshire last year launched its bachelor's and master's esports programs, in which students mainly learn marketing and management skills tailored to the industry. This autumn, it's expanding the program to London while other schools are also debuting esports degree courses, including Britain's Chichester University, Virginia's Shenandoah University, Becker College in Massachusetts and The Ohio State University. In Asia, where esports has seen strong growth, schools in Singapore and China offer courses.

The global esports market is expected to surge to \$1.1 billion this year, up \$230 million from 2018 on growth in sponsorships, merchandise and ticket sales, according to Newzoo. The research firm expects

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the global esports audience to grow in 2019 to about 454 million as fans tune in on livestreaming platforms such as Twitch and Microsoft's Mixer.

Esports tournaments have become a cultural phenomenon and now rival traditional sports events in size and scale. Big competitions are held in arenas where thousands of fans watch big-name professional video gamers compete for lucrative prize pools.

Esports leagues have franchises in North America, Europe and Asia. The biggest names, such as Fortnite superstar Tyler "Ninja" Blevins, can earn millions in prize money and livestreaming deals. Esports are even set to be a medal event at the Southeast Asian Games in the Philippines in November.

Dozens of U.S. colleges have offered varsity level esports competitions for years. But some schools are taking it a step further by adding courses as the industry's boom drives demand for professionals who know how to, for example, organize esports tournaments.

New niche degrees partly highlight the changing economy, but they also reflect the "need to communicate to parents and students that there will be a job waiting for someone once they earn a degree," which may include hefty tuition fees and student loans to pay for them, said Joni Finney, director of the University of Pennsylvania's Institute for Research on Higher Education.

She worried that some degrees are too specialized and that some schools are launching them to offset falling enrolment.

"It's really up to the faculty of those institutions to step up and say, 'You know, a degree in business will cover these kinds of jobs,' rather than saying we have a degree in a certain job category," Finney said.

Becker College formally launched its Bachelor of Science in esports management this month after an initial "soft release" last year.

"It's no longer kids playing games in their basement," said Alan Ritacco, dean of Becker College's School of Design and Technology. The top esports players now earn almost as much as the highest paid stars in traditional sports like golf or tennis, he said.

The schools emphasize that their courses aren't about just playing video games.

"People are unaware of the industry that goes behind esports," said Matt Huxley, a lecturer at Staffordshire University's Digital Institute London, a new outpost the university, near Birmingham, England, opened so students could be closer to game companies in the British capital.

Huxley, who teaches a class on organizing tournaments, said learning about esports was akin to studying sports management.

"If you were to go and study to be a director of football you're not playing football, you're learning the business behind how (player) transfers work, how you run a stadium and all those kind of operational things."

Chichester University hired former pro gamer Rams Singh, known as R2K, as a senior lecturer for its program, which includes playing games such as FIFA and League of Legends as part of the course.

Ohio State is poised to launch an esports and game studies undergraduate major that will include the application of games to health and medicine.

A business focus helps to ease worries among students and parents about paying tuition for degrees that have no track record. In Britain, standard tuition fees are set at 9,250 pounds (\$11,430) a year while the U.S. programs charge as much as \$36,000 a year.

"There's always going to be risks but I have zero regrets," said Ellis Celia, 26, who is also starting the Staffordshire course. The industry "can only go up at this point," she said.

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Follow Kelvin Chan at www.twitter.com/chanman

Arch bridge falls in Taiwan bay, divers search for victims

By RALPH JENNINGS Associated Press

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — A towering arch bridge over a bay in eastern Taiwan collapsed Tuesday, sending a burning oil tanker truck falling onto boats in the water below. An air force helicopter, fishing vessels and more than 60 military personnel, including divers were searching for possible victims.

Six people are believed trapped on one of the fishing boats, the National Fire Agency said. Interior Minister Hsu Kuo-yung told reporters about five people were feared to have been on the bridge when it collapsed. Ten people were sent to hospitals, six of them with serious injuries.

The 140-meter-long (460-feet) bridge collapsed about 9:30 a.m. in Nanfangao, a tiny but often-crowded Pacific coast fishing village.

The weather at the time was sunny, but the collapse occurred hours after a typhoon swept by the island. Disaster relief officials would not say if the storm had weakened the bridge or give other details on the potential cause. Government-run Central News Agency said a bridge pier may have collapsed.

Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen said she hoped all government departments would do everything possible to save people and "keep the number of deaths and injuries as low as possible," CNA reported.

National Fire Agency spokesperson Su Hong-wei said the tanker's fall smashed three fishing boats. It also set off a fire on the tanker truck but it did not spread beyond the vehicle.

Of the 10 people hospitalized, six are Filipinos and three are Indonesians, the agency said in a statement. People from both countries regularly work on fishing boats registered in Taiwan, where pay is better than in their home countries.

The center of Typhoon Mitag passed east of Taiwan on Monday night and early Tuesday, but the outer winds gusting up to 137 kilometers per hour (85 mph) affected the island before the storm moved to the northeast. The storm injured 12 people, felled trees, damaged vehicles and caused power outages around the island.

Nanfangao Bridge is a tourist attraction in Yilan. It was opened in 1998 and was built to replace a lower bridge that prevented large fishing vessels from passing underneath.

According to the company that designed the 18-meter-high (nearly 60 feet) high bridge, MAA Consultants, it's the only single-span arch bridge in Taiwan supported by cables and the second single arch-cable steel bridge in the world.

Video footage on Twitter showed a large truck almost getting across the bridge and then tumbling backward as the bridge collapsed into the water.

Associated Press writer Elaine Kurtenbach in Bangkok contributed to this report.

Off message: A Republican takes heat for impeachment remarks

By MICHELLE L. PRICE Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — GOP Rep. Mark Amodei's comment seemed harmless enough. Asked what he thought of the Democrats' impeachment probe into President Donald Trump, the Nevada Republican gave reporters a vague dodge: "Let's put it through the process and see what happens."

Within about an hour, Amodei was on phone calls with his party's leaders and the White House, explaining himself. No, he did not intend to be the first Republican to endorse the investigation, he told House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, as his Facebook page exploded with angry Republicans.

Amodei's episode stemming from a phone call with reporters last Friday is something of a cautionary tale for Republicans as they try to answer questions about impeachment, Trump's behavior and the rocky road ahead. In the highly charged partisan environment, even nods to bipartisanship or process can sound like betrayal.

"I'm a big fan of oversight, so let's let the committees get to work and see where it goes," Amodei said in the call.

Amodei is a moderate who sometimes makes a point of striking a nonpartisan tone. But he's also the

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chair of Trump's campaign in the state. His apparent endorsement of the Democrats' investigation quickly became a headline. His Facebook page filled up with people calling him a "traitor" and "RINO" (Republican in name only) who should be voted out of office — along with some scattered praise from those across the aisle.

The backlash is one gauge of the pressure rank-and-file Republicans face. House GOP leaders have aggressively defended Trump against accusations that he abused his power when he asked the Ukrainian president to investigate Joe Biden and his son. They've tried to shift the focus to Biden and dismiss the president's request as unimportant. Over the weekend, several of those defenses resulted in viral videos of Republicans dodging questions and uncomfortable interviews. Trump, meanwhile, has gone to new levels of outrage, suggesting the people leading the probe should be arrested and charged with treason.

For Republicans seeking to appear measured and who may need anti-Trump voters to win their elections, the safest move may be to keep the mess at a distance.

Amodei is not considered in danger in his northern Nevada district, which encompasses Reno and a swath of rural towns. Republicans make up 4 in every 10 voters in the district, while Democrats count every 3 voters out of 10. Last year, Amodei easily defeated a primary challenge from tea party favorite Sharron Angle and a general election challenge from former Obama administration official Clint Koble.

Still, the congressman has at times struggled to break from the president. In 2017, he initially opposed Republican plans to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, saying the plan would gut Medicaid funding for the state. He later decided to support the plan, saying that upon further research and conversations, he concluded that deep cuts would be avoided.

In his meandering remarks to reporters on Friday, Amodei said he does not think "at this point in time" that the president committed an impeachable offense but did not come down hard on the Democrats' probe.

A whistleblower complaint that touched off the controversy should be processed by "all the committees that have a dog in that fight for oversight," Amodei said.

His remarks in some ways echoed the name game Democrats played for months before the Ukraine scandal broke. Democrats claimed they had effectively launched an impeachment probe by conducting oversight investigations into Trump on a host of matters, even though none of those investigations carried the impeachment label. The argument was aimed at appeasing progressives in the party who wanted them to be more aggressive. On Friday, Amodei seemed to adopt that view, backing an investigation, just not an impeachment investigation.

The comments quickly prompted the congressman's phone call with McCarthy, as well as calls with No. 2 GOP House leader Steve Scalise and acting White House chief of staff Mick Mulvaney.

Amodei issued a statement attempting to clarify his remarks, although he did not succeed. "In no way, shape or form did I indicate support for impeachment," he said. But he also said that the first news article that said he "supports the House's inquiry into whether President Donald Trump should be impeached" is "absolutely an accurate statement."

In a weekend interview with conservative Breitbart News, Amodei declared that he does not support the impeachment inquiry — but again reiterated that he felt the initial news article was fair and accurate.

Amodei's spokeswoman Logan Tucker said Amodei is "a process guy that doesn't get into 'inside-the-beltway' word semantics. From any logical standpoint, "inquiry", "process", and "fact finding" are interchangeable."

She noted the congressman voted twice last week in favor of a resolution officially disapproving of Speaker Nancy Pelosi's decision to open an impeachment inquiry.

On the calls from party leaders she noted, "Everyone in leadership and in the administration that Mark has talked to heard him out."

Associated Press writer Alan Fram in Washington contributed to this report.

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China's 70-year parade shows economic and military might

By JOE McDONALD Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — Trucks carrying weapons including a nuclear missile designed to evade U.S. defenses rumbled through Beijing on Tuesday as the Communist Party celebrated its 70th anniversary in power with a military parade that showcased its emergence as an increasingly ambitious global power.

The military showed off China's most advanced weapons, some being shown for the first time, as rows of soldiers marched in lockstep past President Xi Jinping and other leaders in Tiananmen Square, the country's symbolic political heart. Thousands of spectators waved Chinese flags and fighter jets flew low overhead.

"No force can shake the status of our great motherland, and no force can stop the progress of the Chinese people and the Chinese nation," Xi, wearing a gray Mao jacket, said in a nationally televised speech.

As he spoke, anti-government protesters in Hong Kong gathered for the latest in a series of demonstrations that have challenged Beijing ahead of this year's highest-profile political event. The largest group took over a broad thoroughfare in central Hong Kong and chanted slogans against the Communist Party.

Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam attended the Beijing parade, accompanied by dozens of Hong Kong officials and dignitaries in a show of unity with the ruling party.

Xi was joined on the Tiananmen rostrum by Premier Li Keqiang, former Presidents Hu Jintao and Jiang Zemin and other leaders.

The event commemorates the anniversary of the Oct. 1, 1949, founding of the People's Republic of China by then-leader Mao Zedong following a civil war. Invoking Mao's memory, Xi made his speech Tuesday on the same spot as the former leader's 1949 declaration.

Xi rode in an open-topped limousine past dozens of rows of truck-mounted missiles, armored personnel carriers and other military gear.

Soldiers in helmets and combat gear shouted, "Hello, leader!" and "Serve the people!" Xi replied, "Hello, comrades."

A formation of fighter jets trailing colored smoke and led by a plane with a radar dish flew low over the capital as Xi waved to the pilots from the ground.

The event highlighted rapidly developing Chinese weapons technology, paid for by a three-decade old economic boom that supported a 400% increase in military spending over the past decade. Foreign analysts say it is close to matching the United States, Russia and Europe in missiles, drones and some other fields.

The People's Liberation Army, the world's biggest military with 2 million men and women in uniform, also is working on fighter planes, the first Chinese-built aircraft carrier and a new generation of nuclear-powered submarines.

Tuesday's parade "aims to show the outside world China's confidence" and ability to protect its "overseas interests," said Yue Gang, a retired army colonel and military commentator.

"Although China has made great improvements in its military equipment, China should not relax vigilance and needs to continue to make efforts," Yue said.

One closely-watched weapon unveiled Tuesday was the Dongfeng-17, a glider capable of carrying a nuclear warhead. Foreign analysts say it is designed to maneuver at high speed to evade anti-missile defenses.

Another missile displayed, the Dongfeng-41, is believed to have a range of up to 15,000 kilometers (9,400 miles), which would make it world's longest-range military missile. Analysts say it may be able to carry as many as 10 warheads to hit separate targets.

The party's emphasis on missiles and other long-range weapons reflects Beijing's desire to displace the United States as the region's dominant force and enforce claims to Taiwan, the South China Sea and other disputed territories.

The PLA had the world's second-highest military spending at an estimated \$250 billion last year, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. The United States, with a force of 1.3 million people, led in spending at \$650 billion, or more than 2½ times China's level.

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

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use atomic weapons in a conflict.

China can "reach potential adversaries across the globe," the U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency said in a report in January.

Tuesday's celebration comes as Xi's government faces economic and political challenges, but the ruling party's hold on power appears to be secure three decades after it crushed pro-democracy protests centered on Tiananmen Square.

Beijing is trying to shore up cooling economic growth and prevent politically dangerous job losses amid a tariff war with Washington over trade and technology, a dispute that has battered Chinese exporters.

Xi promised in a speech Monday to stick to official commitments to let Hong Kong manage its own affairs despite the unrest in the territory.

Paramilitary policy maintained a strong presence Tuesday in Shenzhen, the mainland city that abuts Hong Kong. Dozens of armored personnel carriers and other vehicles of the People's Armed Police were parked outside a stadium as authorities prepared for an evening fireworks display.

Also Tuesday, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un praised his country's decades-long ties with Beijing in a congratulatory message to Xi and said Pyongyang would stand by China in "defending and glorifying socialism," according to the North's official news agency. The two leaders have met five times amid pressure on Pyongyang to renounce nuclear weapons development.

Xi, the son of a commander in Mao's guerrilla army, has emerged as China's most powerful leader in decades after using a marathon anti-corruption drive to neutralize potential rivals.

The party removed presidential term limits last year, rolling back efforts to create a consensus-based system and prevent autocratic one-man rule.

In his speech Monday, Xi reminded Taiwan, the self-ruled island Beijing claims as its own territory, of the ruling party's pledge to unite it with the mainland, by force if necessary.

Beijing is using China's status as the world's second-biggest economy as leverage to isolate Taiwan politically. China has pressured foreign retailers, airlines and other companies to identify the island and the mainland as one country on their websites. In its latest diplomatic coup, Beijing persuaded the Solomon Islands last month to break diplomatic ties with Taiwan.

Taiwan's unification with the mainland is "an inevitable trend" and "no force can ever stop it," Xi said.

AP researcher Yu Bing in Beijing and video journalist Dake Kang in Shenzhen contributed.

Steelers break out of funk, stomp Bengals 27-3

By WILL GRAVES AP Sports Writer

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The Pittsburgh Steelers insisted they might have been winless through three weeks, but they were far from hopeless. They stressed the process of finding an identity with franchise quarterback Ben Roethlisberger out for the season with an elbow injury would take time and a collective effort from all involved.

An effort that looked an awful lot like what they put together during a 27-3 pounding of Cincinnati on Monday night.

Mason Rudolph threw for 229 yards and two scores. Running back, part-time wide receiver and occasional wildcat quarterback Jaylen Samuels accounted for 134 yards of total offense and a 2-yard touchdown run. James Conner emerged from an early funk to run for 42 yards and catch eight passes for 83 yards and a score. The defense sacked Andy Dalton eight times and held the Bengals scoreless over the final 51 minutes.

It wasn't perfect. But it was a start. One that helped the Steelers (1-3) avoid their second 0-4 start in 51 years and reaffirmed their belief that they can find a way forward without Roethlisberger.

"It's huge," Samuels said. "Coming in 0-3 and coming back, getting a divisional game, that's huge. We've just got to build off this game."

With Pittsburgh's running game going nowhere through three weeks, running backs coach Eddie Faulkner suggested to offensive coordinator Randy Fichtner that it might be time to dust off the wildcat. Samuels

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ran it frequently during his college career at N.C. State, and the Bengals (0-4) certainly looked caught off guard when Samuels lined up in the shotgun and started distributing the ball like a point guard. Sometimes he'd hand it off to Conner. Others he'd "throw" a "pop" pass to a teammate running in motion in front of him. Still others he opted to keep it himself, including on his third-quarter touchdown in which he strolled into the end zone after the Bengals bit on a fake handoff.

"We knew if we could get a lot of guys going sideways, it was going to mess them up a little bit so that's what we did," Samuels said. "It was working. ... We were picking up five, six yards every play. They couldn't stop it."

Samuels ran for 26 yards on 10 carries, caught eight passes for 57 more and was credited with three completions for 31 yards. Conner had 14 touches for 125 yards in all, including a 21-yard sprint through the Cincinnati defense in the second quarter that gave the Steelers a lead they never came close to squandering while beating the Bengals for the ninth straight time.

WOE AND 4

Cincinnati coach Zac Taylor became the second first-year coach to drop his first four games with the Bengals. Sam Wyche started 0-5 in 1984 but helped his team rebound to an 8-8 finish. Taylor's task of getting Cincinnati back to respectability will be far harder if he can't figure out a way to protect Dalton.

"To be quite honest, it starts with me," Taylor said. "I've got to make sure the standard is higher than what it is right now, because I haven't done a good enough job."

The eight sacks Dalton endured were a career-high for the nine-year veteran, who also threw an end zone interception in the fourth quarter and was strip-sacked by Pittsburgh's outside linebacker Bud Dupree in the second quarter. T.J. Watt fell on the ball and the Steelers were off and running. Dalton finished 21 of 37 for 171 yards, stressing he felt "fine" physically and that he's not panicking.

"Everybody is going to stick together," Dalton said. "We have from the beginning, regardless of the circumstances of these games, we've stuck together. And so I don't expect that to change."

Tyler Boyd, elevated to the No. 1 receiver while A.J. Green recovers from ankle surgery, was held to three receptions for 33 yards on the same field where he starred in college at Pitt.

"Personally I hate being embarrassed," Boyd said. "At the end of the day, I can take the losing. But when you go out there and get embarrassed, Monday night, prime time. I got too much pride to go out there and showcase what we showcased. It was just awful overall."

RUDOLPH ROLLS

Rudolph was uneven at best in his first career start last week in San Francisco after being thrust into the gig for the rest of the season while Roethlisberger rehabs from elbow surgery. Rudolph was considerably sharper against Cincinnati, though he wasn't asked to do much other than find the closest open man — usually Conner or Samuels — and keep the sticks moving. He completed 24 of 28 passes, the only deep shot a 43-yard strike to Diontae Johnson in the third quarter that broke it open.

"Our message all week was stack one (win) and then start stacking more," said Rudolph, who was awarded the game ball by head coach Mike Tomlin.

INJURIES

Bengals: WR John Ross III left in the third quarter with a right-shoulder injury. ... LT Cordy Glenn missed his fourth straight game while recovering from a concussion and Cincinnati's protection problems continued. The Bengals have now surrendered 19 sacks through four games.

Steelers: TE Vance McDonald sat out with a right shoulder injury. Nick Vannett, acquired in a trade with Seattle last week, started and caught two passes for 28 yards.

UP NEXT

Bengals: Host Arizona next Sunday. The Cardinals won the last meeting, 34-31, in 2015.

Steelers: Welcome AFC North rival Baltimore to Pittsburgh on Sunday. The teams split the season series last year, both winning at home.

Trump sought Australia's help on Russia probe origins

By **MICHAEL BALSAMO** and **COLLEEN LONG** Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump recently asked the Australian prime minister and other foreign leaders to help Attorney General William Barr with an investigation into the origins of the Russia probe that shadowed his administration for more than two years, the Justice Department said Monday.

The revelation underscores the extent to which Trump remains consumed by special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation, and the ways in which he has used the apparatus of the United States government to investigate what he believes are its politically motivated origins. It also highlights Barr's hands-on role in leading that investigation, including traveling overseas for personal meetings with foreign law enforcement officials.

Trump's interactions with foreign leaders — and Barr's role in those discussions — are under heightened scrutiny now that the House has launched an impeachment inquiry into the president. The probe centers on Trump's summertime call with Ukraine's president, revealed by a whistleblower CIA intelligence officer, in which Trump presses for help investigating Democrat Joe Biden.

Trump has heaped praise on Barr since he took the helm of the Justice Department earlier this year, viewing him as a key ally for his political agenda, including his push to "investigate the investigators" in the Russia probe. But the Justice Department has denied Barr had any knowledge that Trump encouraged Ukraine to work with him on a separate investigation into Biden.

The president has sought, without evidence, to implicate the Bidens in the kind of corruption that has long plagued Ukraine. Hunter Biden served on the board of a Ukrainian gas company at the same time his father was leading the Obama administration's diplomatic dealings with Kyiv.

Though the timing raised concerns among anti-corruption advocates, there has been no evidence of wrongdoing by either the former vice president or his son. There is no evidence that Biden's son was ever under investigation in Ukraine.

The July 25 call by Trump to Ukrainian leader Volodymyr Zelenskyy prodding him to dig up dirt on Biden was separate from the numerous conversations Trump had with foreign leaders as part of the investigation into the Russia probe.

Justice spokeswoman Kerri Kupec said Trump made those calls on Barr's behalf.

"At Attorney General Barr's request, the President has contacted other countries to ask them to introduce the Attorney General and Mr. Durham to appropriate officials," Kupec said.

Trump was requesting help for U.S. Attorney John Durham's investigation into the origins of special counsel Mueller's probe into Russian interference in the 2016 election. The investigation outraged Trump, who cast it as a politically motivated "witch hunt."

Durham's investigation has been cheered by Trump allies, who believe the original FBI probe into Russia's election interference was driven by Democrats.

Barr traveled to Italy last week with Durham, where the two met with government officials as part of the investigation, a person familiar with the matter told The Associated Press. As part of his investigation, Durham is examining what led the U.S. to open a counterintelligence investigation on the Trump campaign and the roles various countries played in that probe. The attorney general's presence on the trip exemplifies how much of an active role the nation's chief law enforcement officer is taking in overseeing the investigation.

Mueller wrapped up his report earlier this year with an inconclusive finding about Trump — the president was not charged with any crimes, but Mueller pointedly said he did not exonerate Trump. The president promptly called for an investigation into the origins of the Mueller probe.

Justice officials said that has involved seeking help from numerous foreign countries, including Australia. The FBI's counterintelligence investigation that later became the Mueller probe was triggered, in part, from a tip from an Australian diplomat. George Papadopoulos, a former Trump campaign adviser, had told the diplomat, Alexander Downer, in May 2016 that Russia had thousands of stolen emails that would be potentially damaging to Hillary Clinton.

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Papadopoulos, who served as a foreign policy adviser to Trump's campaign, had learned from a Maltese professor that Russia had "dirt" on Clinton in the form of stolen emails. The FBI's investigation into potential coordination between Russia and the Trump campaign later morphed into part of Mueller's probe.

One official said Trump told Prime Minister Scott Morrison that the attorney general would be contacting his Australian counterpart.

Morrison's office said in a statement, "The Australian government has always been ready to assist and cooperate with efforts that help shed further light on the matters under investigation."

"The P.M. confirmed this readiness once again in conversation with the President," the statement said, referring to Morrison.

Papadopoulos pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI about the 2016 conversation with the professor, Joseph Mifsud, and served a nearly two-week sentence in federal prison.

Associated Press writer Rod McGuirk in Canberra, Australia, contributed to this report.

Restoring forests 1 tree at a time, to help repair climate

By CHRISTINA LARSON AP Science Writer

MADRE DE DIOS, Peru (AP) — Destruction of the forests can be swift. Regrowth is much, much slower. But around the world, people are putting shovels to ground to help it happen.

In a corner of the Peruvian Amazon, where illegal gold mining has scarred forests and poisoned ground, scientists work to change wasteland back to wilderness. More than 3,000 miles to the north, on former coal mining land across Appalachia, workers rip out old trees that never put down deep roots and make the soil more suitable to regrow native tree species.

In Brazil, a nursery owner grows different kinds of seedlings to help reconnect forests along the country's Atlantic coast, benefiting endangered species like the golden lion tamarin.

They labor amid spectacular recent losses — the Amazon jungle and the Congo basin ablaze, smoke from Indonesian rainforests wafting over Malaysia and Singapore, fires set mostly to make way for cattle pastures and farm fields. Between 2014 and 2018, a new report says, an area the size of the United Kingdom was stripped of forest each year.

Rebuilding woodland is slow and often difficult work. And it requires patience: It can take several decades or longer for forests to regrow as viable habitats, and to absorb the same amount of carbon lost when trees are cut and burned. "Planting a tree is only one step in the process," says Christopher Barton, a professor of forest hydrology at the Appalachian Center of the University of Kentucky.

And yet, there is urgency to that work — forests are one of the planet's first lines of defense against climate change, absorbing as much as a quarter of man-made carbon emissions each year.

Through photosynthesis, trees and other plants use carbon dioxide, water and sunlight to produce chemical energy to fuel their growth; oxygen is released as a byproduct. As forests have shrunk, however, so has an already overloaded Earth's capacity to cope with carbon emissions.

Successful reforestation programs take into account native plant species. They are managed by groups with a sustained commitment to monitoring forests, not just one-off tree planting events. And usually, they economically benefit the people who live nearby — for instance, by creating jobs, or reducing erosion that damages homes or crops.

The impact could be great: A recent study in the journal *Science* projected that if 0.9 billion hectares (2.2 billion acres) of new trees were planted — around 500 billion saplings — they could absorb 205 gigatonnes (220 gigatons) of carbon once they reached maturity. The Swiss researchers estimated this would be equivalent to about two-thirds of man-made carbon emissions since the start of the Industrial Revolution.

Other scientists dispute those calculations, while some fear the theoretical promise of tree-planting as an easy solution to climate changes could distract people from the range and scope of the responses needed.

But all agree: Trees matter.

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On a spring morning, forestry researcher Jhon Farfan steered a motorcycle through the dense Peruvian jungle, his tires churning up red mud. He was following a narrow path cut by illegal gold miners in the heart of the Amazon, but he was not seeking treasure. Instead, he was on a quest to reforest abandoned gold mines within the world's largest tropical forest.

After three hours of difficult travel, he reached a broad clearing where knee-high saplings stood in rows, their yellow-green leaves straining for the sun. Farfan whipped out a clipboard with a diagram of the saplings planted months earlier, much like a teacher checking attendance.

"The goal is to look for the survivors," he said.

Within the thick jungle, only a sliver of light escapes to the forest floor. Often more can be heard than seen: a chorus of howler monkeys, the chatter of red-crowned parakeets — reminders that the Amazon is home to more species diversity than anywhere on the planet.

But the rainforest is under increasing threat from illicit logging, mining and ranching. In a region of southeastern Peru called Madre de Dios, Farfan's job involves inspecting lands where the forest has already been lost to illegal mining spurred by the spike in gold prices following the 2008 global financial crash.

To recover the gold, the floor of the jungle was turned upside down. There are no gold seams in the lowland areas of the Amazon, but only flakes of gold washed down from the Andes mountains by ancient rivers, buried beneath the soil.

After cutting and burning centuries-old trees, miners used diesel pumps to suck up deep layers of the earth, then pushed the soil through filters to separate out gold particles. To turn gold dust into nuggets, they stirred in mercury, which binds the gold together but also poisons the land.

Left behind are patches of desert-like land — dry, sandy, stripped of topsoil and ringed by trunks of dead trees.

Last December, Farfan and other scientists with the Peru-based nonprofit CINCIA planted more than 6,000 saplings of various species native to this part of the Amazon, including the giant shihuahuaco, and tested different fertilizers.

"Most tree deaths happen in the first year," Farfan added. "If the trees make it to year five, typically they're going to be there a long time."

A study of former gold mines in Peru by scientists at CINCIA and Wake Forest University several years ago found that seedlings transplanted with soil were more likely to survive than "bare-root seedlings," and the use of special fertilizers also helped growth. Some of the trees tested had absorbed trace amounts of mercury through contaminated soil, but it's not clear yet how this will affect them.

Since the project began three years ago, the team has planted more than 42 hectares (115 acres) with native seedlings, the largest reforestation effort in the Peruvian Amazon to date. The group is in discussion with Peru's government to expand their efforts.

"It's very hard to stop mining in Madre de Dios, since it's a major activity," said Farfan. The challenge now: to plant a tree that can grow in this soil.

While scientists struggle with tainted landscapes in the Amazon, activists a continent away are reckoning with flawed past attempts to heal the land.

After miners left West Virginia's Cheat Mountain in the 1980s, there was an effort to green the coal mining sites to comply with federal law. The companies used heavy machinery to push upturned soil back into place, compacting the mountainside with bulldozers. The result was soil so packed in that rainwater couldn't seep down, and tree roots couldn't expand.

Companies planted "desperation species" — grasses with shallow roots or non-native trees that could endure, but wouldn't reach their full height or restore the forest as it had been. On Cheat Mountain and at other former mining sites across Appalachia, more than a million acres of former forests are in similar arrested development.

"It was like trees trying to grow in a parking lot — not many could make it," said Michael French, director of operations for the Kentucky-based nonprofit Green Forests Work.

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The Appalachian highlands once supported a large and unique ecosystem, dominated by 500,000 acres of red spruce forest a century and a half ago. But commercial logging in the late 1800s and later coal mining in the 20th century stripped the landscape, leaving less than a tenth of the red spruce forests intact.

Now French and colleagues at Green Forests Work are collaborating with the U.S. Forest Service to restore native Appalachian forests and the rare species they support — by first tearing down other trees.

"We literally go in with a giant plow-like machine and rip the guts out of the soil," by dragging a 4-foot ripping shank behind a bulldozer, said Barton, the University of Kentucky professor and founder of Green Forests Work. "Sometimes we call it ugly."

This "deep ripping," as it's known, gives rainwater and tree roots a better chance to push down into the soil. A 2008 study found that disrupting the soil on U.S. brownfield sites through this method helped tree growth. After five growing seasons, trees planted on "ripped" sites had more roots compared to those where deep ripping didn't occur. Trees also grew taller.

The idea of ripping up the ground seemed startling at first.

"When we first started, a lot of our colleagues thought we were crazy. But 10 years later, we're well on our way," said Shane Jones, a wildlife biologist for the U.S. Forest Service.

Earlier efforts at reforesting old mining sites within West Virginia's Monongahela National Forest hadn't fared so well; sometimes, the majority of seedlings died. But in areas where the team has deep-ripped over the last decade, the survival rate of saplings has been around 90%.

Green Forests Work has now reforested around 800 acres within the Monongahela, and it is taking a similar approach to other former mining sites across Appalachia, having reforested around 4,500 total acres since 2009. Their ultimate goal is to restart the natural cycle of the forest — so that scientists' work becomes invisible again.

Other reforestation crusades are more personal.

Maria Coelho da Fonseca Machado Moraes, nicknamed Dona Graça, runs a tree nursery that grows seedlings of species native to Brazil's lesser-known jungle — the Atlantic coastal rainforest.

She collaborates with a nonprofit group called Save the Golden Lion Tamarin, which works to protect and restore the forest habitat of the endangered namesake monkey. "The Atlantic rainforest is one of the planet's most threatened biomes, more than 90 % of it was deforested," said Luis Paulo Ferraz, the nonprofit's executive secretary. "What is left is very fragmented."

As she nears 50, Dona Graça says she is furious at what has happened to the forest, which was whittled down to allow for the urban expansion of Rio de Janeiro and other cities.

She deplores "the stupidity and ignorance" of people who have "destroyed most of the trees and continue destroying them. So I'm trying. I can't do too much, but the little I can do, I try to do it properly to rescue those trees."

And so, between feeding her chickens and raking the leaves, she grows seedlings of rare species — pau pereira, peroba, "trees that people have damaged already, they don't exist anymore." She mixes limestone and clay, places it in plastic nursery bags and plants seeds in them; she irrigates them with water and cow urine.

Local replanting efforts — which aim to reconnect fragmented parcels of forest — often use the seedlings from Dona Graça's nursery, which gives her both income and great satisfaction.

She does this, she said, for posterity. "In the future when I pass away ... that memory I tried to leave for the people is: It's worth it to plant, to build," she said.

Federica Narancio contributed to this report from Peru and West Virginia, and Yesica Fisch reported from Brazil.

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Arrows and smartphones: daily life of Amazon Tembe tribe

By LUIS ANDRES HENAO Associated Press

ALTO RIO GUAMA INDIGENOUS RESERVE, Brazil (AP) — They hunt with bows and arrows, fish for piranhas and gather wild plants, while some watch soap operas on TV or check the internet on phones inside thatch-roof huts.

They paint their faces with dyes from seeds to prepare for battle and also use video technology to fight illegal loggers and other threats.

Daily life in the remote Tembe indigenous villages in the Amazon jungle of Brazil mixes tradition and modernity.

They bathe in muddy brown rivers in the mornings, and play soccer in sandy fields wearing jerseys from European teams like Chelsea in the afternoons.

In a Brazilian state ravaged by deforestation and thousands of fires, the Tembe shoot photos and video to document the cutting of trees in their land by loggers and share them on social media. They also recently met with a non-governmental group that offered the tribe drones and GPS devices to track the encroachers in exchange for harvesting wood sustainably. And like their ancestors, they plant trees to teach their children the value of preserving the world's largest rainforest, which is a critical bulwark against global warming.

"I tell my children: I planted for you, now you have to plant for your children," Cidalia Tembe said in her backyard at the Tekohaw village, where she grows fruits, vegetables and medicinal herbs.

"These are our home remedies," she said. "We don't go to pharmacies in the city, we make our own medicines. We have more faith in what's ours."

She also proudly pointed to four sugarcane plants — each tended by one of her children — and avocados, coconuts, lemons and acai, the Amazonian berry that's a vitamin-packed breakfast staple in Brazil.

"This is paradise," her husband Muti Tembe said. "You don't see any smoke from cars that pollute because we don't have any. In the city, at midday it gets too hot. ... Here, you're at ease and you don't hear the noises. Only the calls of birds," he said as birds chirped on trees.

One of the trees was planted by Muti's grandfather, a Tembe chieftain and Tekohaw founder. For generations, members of the tribe have extracted a black dye from that Jenipapo tree in the couple's yard to paint their body during celebrations.

During the rite of passage that can last for days, tribe members also hunt monkeys and birds that they later cook, while the young who come into adulthood jump, sing and mimic bird sounds with other members of the tribe inside a communal hut to banging of feet on the floor and the shaking of rattles.

About 2,000 Tembe live in their 1,080-square-mile (2,766-square-kilometer) Alto Rio Guama homeland, which can only be reached after long journeys on boats or on dirt roads. Villages along the Guama and Gurupi rivers that divide the reserve can range in size from a few dozen people to hundreds. The indigenous reserve is officially protected, but it's constantly under siege by loggers who illegally try to extract prized hardwood.

The Amazon, 60% of which is in Brazil, is also home to 20% of the earth's plant species, many of which are found nowhere else.

Satellite data from the Brazilian Space Agency has shown a sharp increase in deforestation and forest fires in the past year. In August, the agency issued an alert that fires in the Amazon had increased 84% in the first seven months of this year, compared with the same period in 2018.

Concern about the Amazon's rainforest, has heightened since far-right President Jair Bolsonaro took office this year with calls to loosen protections for nature reserves and indigenous lands.

"We have to fight for the trees that allow us to breathe," said Gleison Tembe of the small village of Ka' a kyr, which in their native tongue means Green Jungle.

"The Amazon, nature, is my mother, because it raised me. The animals that it takes care of give us strength. My children only eat natural food and it all comes here from the forest, he said. "So, why deforest?"

In a corner, he dried fish in the blazing sun on a grill held by bricks. Inside his home, some of his chil-

dren and nephews gathered around a cellphone on a purple hammock to watch a children's cartoon on YouTube. Later, during a short forest trek, his 7-year-old daughter Emilia climbed on a fallen tree that had burned and pointed a bow and arrow that she made with branches.

"This part used to be a native forest. This was primary jungle. But the fire arrived and it cleared the land," said Emidio Tembe, Emilia's grandfather and the Ka' a kyr chieftain who named the village.

"Our concern here is the food, the cutting of wood, the fires," said Emidio, who recently traveled to the state capital of Belem to sell his wooden handcrafts at a book fair.

"They worry us because we feed ourselves with fish, birds, what we hunt from the forest. So, for us, it's extremely important to remain in the forest, listening to the sounds of birds, the calls of the animals."

For the 2nd time this year, NYPD gunfire kills 1 of its own

By MICHAEL R. SISK Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — For the second time this year, a New York City police officer has been killed by friendly fire.

Officer Brian Mulkeen was fatally struck by two police bullets while struggling with an armed man after chasing and shooting at him Sunday in the Bronx, Police commissioner James O'Neill said.

"This is an absolute tragedy," O'Neill said Monday, quickly turning the blame on the man Mulkeen was grappling with, who was also killed in the burst of gunfire.

"Make no mistake, we lost the life of a courageous public servant solely due to a violent criminal who put the lives of the police and all the people we serve in jeopardy," O'Neill said.

Investigators are still piecing together exactly what happened, but police officials described a chaotic confrontation in which six officers fired 15 shots in about 10 seconds.

Mulkeen, 33, was on patrol with a plainclothes anti-crime unit when he and his partners encountered Antonio Williams, 27, around 12:30 a.m. Sunday near a public housing complex, police said.

Williams, who was on probation following a drug arrest last year, ran away and officers chased after him.

Mulkeen grabbed him and the two began wrestling.

O'Neill said Mulkeen could be heard on body-worn camera footage saying, "He's reaching for it! He's reaching for it!"

Investigators had previously suggested that Williams had wrested the officer's gun away as the pair struggled. But police said Monday that Mulkeen retained control of his gun and fired five shots after Williams reached toward his waistband, said Deputy Chief Kevin Maloney of the NYPD's Force Investigation Division.

Other officers fired a total of 10 shots.

A loaded .32-caliber revolver belonging to Williams was recovered at the scene, police said. It had not been fired. Police officials said they were still investigating whose shots killed Williams.

"Anybody who wants to play the 'blame the cops' game with this tragedy needs to swallow their rhetoric and look at the facts," said Patrick Lynch, president of Mulkeen's union, the Police Benevolent Association.

"That perp is the one who carried an illegal gun onto our streets. He is the one who chose to fight with the cops. He is solely responsible for our hero brother's death."

Williams previously served 3½ years behind bars for burglary, according to state prison records.

He was due in court in Binghamton on Friday following an arrest in August that stemmed from an alleged physical dispute with a woman. Binghamton Police Department spokesman John Ryan said detectives have provided information about the case to the NYPD.

Court records don't list a lawyer representing him in that matter.

All of the officers except Mulkeen activated their body cameras. He was unable to amid the struggle with Williams, O'Neill said.

"He displayed incredible, incredible courage," O'Neill said.

Mulkeen's death echoed that of Detective Brian Simonsen, who was killed by friendly fire in February.

Simonsen was hit once in the chest by crossfire as he and six other officers fired 42 shots at a robbery suspect who charged toward them and mimicked pulling the trigger of a fake handgun.

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In more than 6½ years with the NYPD, Mulkeen made 270 arrests — many of them for felonies, including possession of illegal guns.

He left a high-paying finance job to become a police officer because, as friend Daniel Tucker wrote on Facebook, he “felt like he wasn’t doing enough with his life.”

Mulkeen graduated from Fordham University’s business school and worked as a financial adviser at Merrill Lynch in New York from 2007 to 2009, the company said.

In his Facebook post, Tucker recounted Mulkeen’s departure from the company. He remembered his friend calling him and saying: “Tuck! I couldn’t wait to tell you, I quit my job at Merrill Lynch and I’m gonna be a cop!”

Police officers and firefighters lined up along the New York State Thruway on Monday as a caravan of police vehicles transported Mulkeen’s body to a funeral home in his hometown of Monroe, a suburb northwest of the city. His funeral is scheduled for Friday.

Mulkeen, who lived in Yorktown Heights with his girlfriend, an officer in a different Bronx precinct, started his law enforcement career as a dispatcher for the police department in Tuxedo, a town near Monroe. He joined the NYPD in January 2013.

“He brought joy, and caring with him when he came,” the Tuxedo Police Department posted on Facebook. “He followed his dream. He will always be one of us, remembered for his courage, his love and his drive. We will never forget, we will always be with you.”

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Prosecutor: Officer’s testimony on killing neighbor ‘absurd’

By JAKE BLEIBERG Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — A prosecutor on Monday dismissed as garbage a former Dallas police officer’s claim that she believed she was in her own apartment when she fatally shot a neighbor in his home.

Assistant District Attorney Jason Fine used his closing argument to describe Amber Guyger as “an intruder” who killed Botham Jean in his apartment — one floor above hers — last September.

Guyger tearfully testified last week that she mistook Jean’s apartment for her own after a long shift. Speaking publicly for the first time about the events of that night, she said she found the door of what she believed was her apartment unlocked and was afraid that someone had broken in. She said she feared for her life and opened fire using her service weapon when a silhouetted figure walked toward her in the dark.

“Most of what she said was garbage,” Fine said Monday.

Defense attorney Toby Shook said Monday that Guyger made “a series of horrible mistakes” that were entirely understandable. He noted that other residents have also gone to the wrong apartments in that complex after parking on the wrong floor.

Lead prosecutor Jason Hermus said Guyger should have known she was outside the wrong apartment — at which point she drew her gun — because of the distinctive bright red doormat that lay at the entrance to Jean’s home.

“You can’t miss this,” he said, holding it up for jurors.

And even if she missed the obvious signs that this wasn’t her home, Guyger should have retreated and called for backup when she found the door unlocked, instead of forging forward and opening fire, Hermus said.

“For Amber Guyger, Mr. Jean was dead before that door ever opened,” he said.

“It sounds so absurd — all of the things that she missed and all of the things that she thought,” Fine said.

The jury can find Guyger guilty of murder, manslaughter or no crime. They deliberated Monday afternoon until 5 p.m. and were expected to resume at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday.

In her testimony Friday, the 31-year-old Guyger, who is white, repeatedly apologized for killing Jean, a

black accountant from the Caribbean island nation of St. Lucia who lived a floor above her.

"I hate that I have to live with this every single day of my life and I ask God for forgiveness, and I hate myself every single day," she said as she looked across the courtroom at Jean's family.

Prosecutors said Jean was unarmed and eating a bowl of vanilla ice cream in his living room when Guyger killed him.

Guyger was arrested on a manslaughter charge three days after the killing. She was later fired and charged with murder .

Lee Merritt, an attorney for Jean's family, said the evidence proved Guyger is guilty and that the jury will have to weigh whether Jean's life mattered.

Associated Press writer Jamie Stengle contributed to this report.

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 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

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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.

Biden's dilemma: Navigating Trump's no-holds-barred style

By BILL BARROW Associated Press

John Kerry got "Swift Boated" in 2004. For Hillary Clinton in 2016, it was her "damn emails." Remembering those failed Democratic presidential campaigns, Joe Biden is determined not to get "Ukrained" in 2020.

Since a whistleblower report last week revealed that President Donald Trump asked Ukrainian officials to investigate Biden, the former vice president has struck an aggressive tone.

He has told supporters that he would beat Trump "like a drum" in a general election and that the Republican president is scared of that possibility. Biden has demanded that reporters "ask the right questions" and accused Trump of trying to "hijack" the campaign with unfounded assertions that Biden and his son Hunter had corrupt dealings in Ukrainian business and politics.

Biden has built his campaign around the idea that he can return Washington to a more stable pre-Trump era. But Biden's ability to win will turn on his ability to navigate the turbulent, no-holds-barred vortex that Trump has imposed on American politics with his Twitter megaphone, deep well of campaign cash and phalanx of surrogates.

And while many Democratic strategists and Biden supporters give him plaudits for pushback, there remain some worries about how the storyline might affect Biden's tenuous front-runner status.

"It's really a no-win situation," said Karen Finney, an adviser to Clinton in 2016, when the former secretary of state was besieged with media scrutiny and Trump criticism over her use of a private email server when she ran the State Department.

Finney credited the Biden campaign for "working the refs" by sending detailed memos to the media explaining the timeline of Hunter Biden's service on a Ukrainian energy company board and Joe Biden's involvement in Ukraine as vice president to establish that there were no conflicts. The campaign followed that by pressuring television executives not to give a platform to Rudy Giuliani, the president's personal attorney.

Giuliani has alleged that Biden, while vice president, tried to quash a Ukrainian investigation of the company that paid Hunter Biden as a board member. The top Ukrainian prosecutor said earlier this year that his team found no wrongdoing, and there's no evidence that U.S. law enforcement has gotten involved.

"Why should Joe Biden be forced to defend himself against something that's not true?" Finney argued.

Trump raised his theory in a July telephone conversation with the new Ukrainian president, asking Volodymyr Zelenskyy to investigate the Bidens anew. That move, now the center of a formal whistleblower complaint and the House impeachment inquiry, could be found to violate U.S. law making it a crime to solicit or accept foreign contributions in an American election.

"This is about Donald Trump, not Joe Biden," said Barry Goodman, a Michigan attorney and major Biden donor.

But a media cacophony can smother any argument, Finney said, pointing back to Clinton and to Kerry's 2004 campaign. Kerry, a Vietnam War veteran who'd earned a Silver Star, Bronze Star and three Purple Hearts for his service, was criticized in the summer of 2004 by a group of Vietnam veterans who — contrary to military records — questioned the service accounts that resulted in his recognition. Kerry was

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later admonished for not aggressively counterattacking the "Swift Boat Veterans for Truth," despite his campaign releasing his military records.

Finney put the onus on the media "to not get sucked in" to Trump's narrative.

Goodman, the Biden donor, said he's pleased with the campaign's strategy. But he said there are other ways to stay on offense — and not necessarily against Trump. Biden must also push back against Sens. Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders, his chief progressive rivals for the Democratic nomination.

"Many Democrats are scared ... of 'Medicare for All' and losing their private health insurance," Goodman said, referring to single-payer health insurance proposals from Sanders and Warren. Goodman noted an ongoing United Auto Workers strike in Michigan. "Those people are striking to keep the health care they have," he said, recommending that Biden go to Michigan and turn the issue around on his primary rivals.

Interviews with Democratic voters in early primary states make clear Biden's challenge.

"I think that a certain amount of dirt will stick to him, even if it shouldn't," said Lee Williams, 69, of Fort Mill, South Carolina. A retired Navy officer, Williams backs Warren, even though he says his politics align with the more centrist Biden. "The fact is," Williams says, "that truth doesn't matter to Trump, so on the campaign trail, all you will hear is Biden, corruption, Ukraine."

In New Hampshire, Ellen Bowles, a 71-year-old retired middle school teacher, said she is uncomfortable with people using their influence even if there's no wrongdoing. Biden had been her second choice among Democrats behind Warren, but that's no longer the case.

"I think (Biden's) going to have to talk a lot more about what his son was doing in Ukraine," Bowles said. "I just feel that he's going to get tainted by that somehow."

Barrow reported from Atlanta. Associated Press writers Meg Kinnard in Rock Hill, S.C., and Hunter Woodall in Hollis, N.H., contributed to this report.

Follow Barrow on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/BillBarrowAP> .

NFL suspends Raiders' Vontaze Burfict for rest of season

By JOSH DUBOW AP Pro Football Writer

Oakland Raiders linebacker Vontaze Burfict was suspended Monday for the rest of the season for a helmet-to-helmet hit on Indianapolis Colts tight end Jack Doyle, the most severe punishment in NFL history for an on-field infraction.

Burfict will miss the final 12 games of the season and any playoff games for "repeated violations of unnecessary roughness rules." He has been suspended three times in his career for hits violating the league's player safety rules.

Burfict has the right under the collective bargaining agreement to appeal the punishment in the next three days. He had one of his previous suspensions reduced from five games to three games on an appeal in 2017.

It's that history that led to the most severe punishment the NFL has handed out when it comes to player safety, topping the five games Tennessee's Albert Haynesworth got in 2006 for kicking and stomping on Cowboys center Andre Gurode's face, leading to 30 stitches.

Burfict had served two three-game suspensions already in his career and had been warned about severe punishment for future infractions.

"There were no mitigating circumstances on this play," NFL Vice President of football operations Jon Runyan said in a letter to Burfict announcing the suspension. "Your contact was unnecessary, flagrant and should have been avoided. For your actions, you were penalized and disqualified from the game.

"Following each of your previous rule violations, you were warned by me and each of the jointly-appointed appeal officers that future violations would result in escalated accountability measures. However, you have continued to flagrantly abuse rules designated to protect yourself and your opponents from unnecessary risk."

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"Your extensive history of rules violations is factored into this decision regarding accountability measures." The suspension is without pay, costing Burfict more than \$1.1 million in salary and per game active roster bonuses.

Burfict was flagged for unnecessary roughness and ejected from the Raiders' game against the Colts on Sunday after a blow to Doyle's head early in the second quarter.

"I just got tackled," Doyle said after the game. "I'm sure it looked worse than it was. I didn't really feel anything from it. My helmet protected me."

The Colts have now had two players enter the concussion protocol following games this season — All-Pro linebacker Darius Leonard two weeks ago and starting safety Clayton Geathers following Sunday's game. Doyle, Colts coach Frank Reich said Monday, showed no symptoms of a head injury.

But Reich backed the league's decision.

"I was just thankful the league took the action that it did, and (I) support the league and the decision," he said on a conference call Monday. "I did have a reaction yesterday. When someone does something like that and attacks one of your players — that's just not supposed to be in the game. Then when it's against one of your players, you naturally have a reaction. I'm just glad they did what they did at the game and the follow-up action seems very appropriate."

Burfict during his time in Cincinnati was repeatedly suspended by the NFL for egregious hits and violating its policy on performance-enhancers. He was fined regularly for hits that crossed the line, most notably the one to Antonio Brown's head that helped the Steelers rally for an 18-16 playoff win in the 2015 season. That led to a three-game suspension to start the 2016 season.

Burfict then was penalized for a blind-side block against Kansas City fullback Anthony Sherman in the 2017 preseason that led to a five-game suspension that was later reduced to three games.

Burfict was also fined \$112,000 last season for hits on Brown and James Conner in a game against Pittsburgh.

Despite that history, Burfict said after signing with the Raiders that he disputes accusations that he is a "dirty" player.

"I play a physical position, which is middle linebacker, outside linebacker. That's physical," he said. "I can't go in there playing patty-cake. If I go out there playing patty-cake, then I'm going to be getting run over. I have 300-pound linemen, 300-plus pound linemen coming at me, trying to block me. If I play soft, then I'm not doing my job. I could see if I played quarterback or kicker or punter, then yeah you can be, I wouldn't say soft, but you know what I'm saying. I play a physical position to where I have to put my jockstrap on right, put my shoes on right, put my cleats on right and come out ready to play physical."

Burfict also was suspended for the first four games in 2018 for violating the league's policy on performance-enhancers.

The loss of Burfict will be a big blow to the Raiders defense. He was brought in because of his extensive knowledge of coordinator Paul Guenther's scheme and had a key role as captain and signal caller to make sure Oakland ran it properly.

Tahir Whitehead took over as signal caller after Burfict left the game.

The Raiders arrived in London on Monday to prepare for an upcoming game against the Chicago Bears and players and coaches were unavailable for comment.

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

Jessye Norman, international opera star, dead at 74

By MESFIN FEKADU AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Jessye Norman, the renowned international opera star whose passionate soprano voice won her four Grammy Awards, the National Medal of Arts and the Kennedy Center Honor, has died, according to family spokesperson Gwendolyn Quinn. She was 74.

A statement released to The Associated Press on Monday said Norman died at 7:54 a.m. EDT from septic

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shock and multi-organ failure secondary to complications of a spinal cord injury she suffered in 2015. She died at Mount Sinai St. Luke's Hospital in New York, and was surrounded by loved ones.

"We are so proud of Jessye's musical achievements and the inspiration that she provided to audiences around the world that will continue to be a source of joy. We are equally proud of her humanitarian endeavors addressing matters such as hunger, homelessness, youth development, and arts and culture education," the family statement read.

Funeral arrangements will be announced in the coming days.

Norman was a trailblazing performer, and one of the rare black singers to attain worldwide stardom in the opera world, performing at such revered houses like La Scala and the Metropolitan Opera, and singing title roles in works like "Carmen," "Aida" and more. She sang the works of Wagner, but was not limited to opera or classical music, performing songs by Duke Ellington and others as well.

"I have always been drawn to things other people might consider unusual. I'm always taken by the text and beautiful melody. It's not important to me who has written it. It's just more reasonable to have an open mind about what beauty is," Norman said in a 2002 interview with the Chicago Sun-Times. "It's important for classical musicians to stretch and think beyond the three B's (Bach, Beethoven and Brahms). They were wonderful composers, but they went to the great beyond a long time ago. There's lots of music that will live for a very long time."

In that same interview she profoundly said, "Pigeonholing is only interesting to pigeons."

Norman certainly knew no boundaries or limits. She broke barriers and had hoped her industry would see more faces like hers.

"It is a more diverse place, thank goodness," Norman said of the opera world in a 2004 interview with NPR, "I wish it were even more diverse than it is."

Norman was born on September 15, 1945 in Augusta, Georgia, in segregationist times. She grew up singing in church and around a musical family that included pianists and singers. She earned a scholarship to the historically black college Howard University in Washington, D.C., to study music, and later studied at the Peabody Conservatory and the University of Michigan.

Eventually she made her operatic debut in 1969 in Berlin, wowing audiences around the world on stages in Milan, London and New York thanks to her shining vocals, no matter the language. The New York Times described her voice as "a grand mansion of sound."

"It defines an extraordinary space. It has enormous dimensions, reaching backward and upward. It opens onto unexpected vistas. It contains sunlit rooms, narrow passageways, cavernous falls," the Times' Edward Rothstein wrote.

The Met Opera called Norman "one of the great sopranos of the past half-century" in a statement.

"Starting with her Met debut as Cassandra in Berlioz's Les Troyens on Opening Night of the Met's centennial 1983-84 season, Norman sang more than 80 performances with the company, dazzling audiences with her beautiful tone, extraordinary power, and musical sensitivity," the statement read.

Former Georgia gubernatorial candidate Stacey Abrams said: "Farewell to the beloved Jessye Norman, a woman of vision, adventure and joy. A glorious voice and beautiful soul has winged towards Heaven. Her legacy lives on in music and the children who greet art in her name each day." And Broadway legend Audra McDonald wrote on Twitter, "UGH! Nooooooo! This is awful. I was literally supposed to spend time with her next week. RIP most magnificent amazing brilliant Diva."

In 1997, at age 52, Norman became the youngest person ever to earn the Kennedy Center Honor in the organization's 20-year history at the time. She received her National Medal of Arts from former President Barack Obama and has earned honorary doctorates from a number of prestigious schools, including Juilliard, Harvard and Yale. She is a member of British Royal Academy of Music and Georgia Music Hall of Fame. Norman even has orchid named after her in France, and the country also made her a Commander of the Order of Arts and Letters.

She's earned 15 Grammy nominations throughout her illustrious career, picking up her first at the 1985 show for best classical vocal soloist performance for "Ravel: Songs Of Maurice Ravel." She earned Grammy

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Lifetime Achievement Award in 2006.

Norman also gave back, raising funds to help students attend school, championing the arts in schools and championing diversity.

"I look at symphony orchestras around this country and I want those orchestras to look more like the demographic they're meant to serve. I would like to see more African-Americans on the stage at the Metropolitan Opera here in New York. There are certainly some, but not nearly enough, and I come across so many singers who are terribly gifted and that would be an asset to these opera companies around our country. But we still have these people who are just a little bit hesitant, and perhaps not as openhearted ... as I'd like them to be," she said. "I look forward to the day when we do not think about color of skin when we're looking to have a person do a job, whatever that job is."

The Jessye Norman School of the Arts opened in 2003 in Augusta to provide a free fine arts education to disadvantaged children. The Augusta Chronicle reported that Norman was set to attend the Oct. 11 street-naming ceremony in her hometown on Eighth Street, where the school is located. It will be named Jessye Norman Boulevard.

In 1990, Augusta opened the Jessye Norman Amphitheater to honor the opera icon.

Norman released her memoir, "Stand Up Straight and Sing!," in 2004.

She is survived by two remaining siblings, James Norman and Elaine Sturkey.

AP FACT CHECK: Trump's fiction about whistleblower complaint

By AMANDA SEITZ and HOPE YEN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump and his GOP allies are making groundless accusations that a whistleblower complaint by a CIA officer was improperly filed because it was not based on first-hand knowledge.

In tweets and public statements, they assert that a whistleblower cannot submit a complaint if it relies on so-called hearsay or second-hand information. They also suggest nefarious behavior — "deep state" as one White House adviser put it — in the circumstances surrounding the form for the complaint, which alleged that Trump abused his office in pressing for a Ukrainian investigation of a Democratic rival, Joe Biden.

Their statements were rebutted Monday by the inspector general for the intelligence community and misrepresent reality.

GOP HOUSE MINORITY LEADER KEVIN MCCARTHY: "Whistleblowers were required to provide direct, first-hand knowledge of allegations...but just days before the Ukraine whistleblower came forward, the IC secretly removed the requirement from the complaint form." — tweet Saturday.

TRUMP: "Who changed the long standing whistleblower rules just before submittal of the fake whistleblower report? Drain the swamp!" — tweet Monday.

STEPHEN MILLER, White House senior adviser: "This is a deep-state operative, pure and simple. People who haven't been in the federal government, who haven't worked in the White House may not appreciate this, but the situation is you have a group of unelected bureaucrats who think that they need to take down this president." — interview on "Fox News Sunday."

THE FACTS: There was nothing improper in the submission of the whistleblower complaint. No whistleblower law was changed and nothing under that law requires the complaints to have first-hand information. The IG's office also said Monday that it had determined that the whistleblower did have some first-hand, "direct knowledge of certain alleged conduct."

It's not true that the whistleblower could "provide nothing more than second-hand or unsubstantiated assertions," the IG said.

Intelligence community workers have long been able to blow the whistle based on second-hand or "hearsay" information. The law only requires federal workers to have a "reasonable belief" of misconduct in order to file a complaint, according to Debra D'Agostino, a federal employment lawyer.

In this case, the whistleblower flagged in part Trump's July call to Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskiy

in a typed, nine-page document addressed to the House Intelligence Committee. The IG said that while the whistleblower was not a direct witness to the call, the IG separately obtained other information during its preliminary review that supported the allegations to deem them credible.

Pointing to suspicious activity, McCarthy cites the removal of some information from the standardized complaint form, which previously stressed the need for first-hand information for an IG to determine the complaint credible. The IG said it had removed that language from the form earlier this year because it determined that "it could be read - incorrectly - as suggesting that whistleblowers must possess first-hand information in order to file an urgent concern complaint with the congressional intelligence committees."

Seitz reported from Chicago.

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Of treason and civil war: An agitated Trump amps up threats

By LAURIE KELLMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump, never one for understatement, is leaning into his threats as impeachment pressure mounts.

On Monday, he suggested Democratic Rep. Adam Schiff was guilty of treason. But the Constitution is clear that treason is not the same as disloyalty. And an agitated Trump was very publicly blurring the two as he tweeted against his critics and the House impeachment push.

Trump also suggested that any effort to oust him could lead to civil war, part of a weekend barrage of tweets that offered a window into his raw emotions.

Trump was anything but subtle in taking on Schiff, the chairman of the House Intelligence Committee and a longtime nemesis.

"Arrest for Treason?" Trump tweeted of the California Democrat. It was Trump's latest objection to Schiff's summation of a rough transcript in which the president on July 25 pressured Ukraine's leader to investigate Joe Biden's son.

A day earlier, Trump had grouched: "I want Schiff questioned at the highest level for Fraud & Treason."

Even presidents don't always get what they want, by design.

It's a bitter truth for the former real estate magnate who controlled much of his world before the presidency put him face-to-face with equivalent branches of government.

Trump has reacted by second-guessing critics and the Constitution, stonewalling information requests and venting against the government machine he calls "the deep state."

The intensity of Trump's tweets has been rising in tandem with a notable shift in public sentiment toward impeachment.

Polls conducted since the details of the Ukraine call went public show division over whether Trump should be impeached and removed from office, with support for impeachment growing significantly since the House launched the inquiry Sept. 24.

Trump went full-tilt.

Asked Monday whether he knows the identity of the whistleblower, he replied, "We're trying to find out," even though the person is protected by the Whistleblower Protection Act.

Earlier in the day, the president tweeted a comment by a conservative pastor that drew swift rebuke from a Republican member of Congress.

The president posted this comment from Rev. Robert Jeffress, pastor of the Southern Baptist megachurch First Baptist Dallas: "If the Democrats are successful in removing the president from office, it will cause a civil war like fracture in this nation from which our country will never heal."

Republican Rep. Adam Kinzinger, a former Air Force pilot who represents an Illinois district Trump won in 2016, tweeted in response: "I have visited nations ravaged by civil war. ... I have never imagined such

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a quote to be repeated by a President. This is beyond repugnant.”

Trump has long saved the threat of treason for special perceived offenders, some that have never been proven to exist.

“My Campaign for President was conclusively spied on,” Trump falsely tweeted on May 17. “Nothing like this has ever happened in American Politics. A really bad situation. TREASON means long jail sentences, and this was TREASON!”

It wouldn't be, even if it really had happened.

Likewise, Trump aimed his fury at the still-anonymous op-ed author who wrote in The New York Times just over a year ago that “many of the senior officials in his own administration are working diligently from within to frustrate parts of his agenda and his worst inclinations.” The writer described the president's decision-making as “half-baked, ill-informed and occasionally reckless.”

“TREASON?” the president tweeted the same day, Sept. 5

Embarrassing, certainly, but not treason.

The Constitution states, “Treason against the United States, shall consist only in levying War against them, or in adhering to their Enemies, giving them Aid and Comfort.”

Note the word “only.”

Treason occurs when a U.S. citizen, or a non-citizen on U.S. territory, wages war against the country or provides material support — not just sympathy — to a declared enemy of the United States. The wording was derived from England's treason statutes. In the United States, the executive branch can only bring charges in extremely limited cases.

Even gargantuan betrayals have not been deemed treason. Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, who were executed for giving atomic secrets to Russia during the Cold War, were charged with espionage.

Also not treasonous: the FBI official known as Deep Throat who undermined Richard Nixon's presidency with his Watergate revelations.

AP Polling Director Emily Swanson contributed to this report.

Follow Kellman on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com//APLaurieKellman>

AP-NORC poll: Most disapprove of Trump on race relations

By RUSSELL CONTRERAS and DEEPTI HAJELA Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Large majorities of black and Latino Americans think Donald Trump's actions as president have made things worse for people like them, and about two-thirds of Americans overall disapprove of how he's handling race relations, according to a new poll conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

About half of all Americans think Trump's actions have been bad for African Americans, Muslims and women, and slightly more than half say they've been bad for Hispanics.

Trump's 33% approval rating on handling race relations makes that one of his worst issues in recent AP-NORC polls. That stands in stark contrast to his handling of the economy: About half say they approve of his handling of that issue, while views of current economic conditions continue to be rosy amid robust employment numbers and a strong stock market.

Four in 10 Americans said they approve of Trump overall, according to the poll, conducted before the release of a rough transcript of a phone call showing Trump prodded the president of Ukraine to investigate Democratic political rival Joe Biden and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's announcement that she would launch a formal impeachment inquiry.

The poll provides a bleak assessment of how the nation views Trump on race issues as he runs for a second term and repeatedly boasts of his popularity among African Americans and Latinos. Trump has consistently said his economic policies have been good for African Americans and other people of color.

But the poll shows few black Americans think that's true. Just 4% say they think Trump's actions have

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been good for African Americans in general, while 81% think he's made things worse. Similar shares of black Americans think Trump has been bad for Hispanics, Muslims and women.

"He speaks nothing but hate rhetoric," said Chris Smith, 38, an African American information technology worker in Columbia, Tennessee, who considers himself independent but leans Democratic. "If the leader of this country is free to speak like that, there's going to be people who think it's OK to speak like that."

"He's making people live their life in fear," Smith said.

Trump has drawn widespread condemnation for racist rhetoric throughout his presidency. He's warned of an "invasion" at the southern border, posted racist tweets about four women of color in Congress and attacked Democratic U.S. Rep. Elijah Cummings' largely black district as a "rat and rodent infested mess." He's showered praise on Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee, a slaveowner who fought to protect the institution of slavery during the U.S. Civil War, and said there were "very fine people on both sides" of clashes between white nationalists and counterprotesters. But he has claimed he doesn't have a "racist bone" in his body.

The poll comes weeks after a suspected gunman, who is white, apparently wrote an anti-Hispanic rant before opening fire in El Paso, Texas, with an AK-47-style rifle on Walmart shoppers, many of them Latino. Some blamed Trump's rhetoric for inciting the gunman.

Simon Wey, 54, a Nigerian immigrant who lives in Houston and is a registered Republican, said the president's rhetoric on migrants makes him feel uncomfortable.

"I think some of his immigration policies have been hurtful to countries with large minority populations," Wey said. "There's a lot of uncertainty now."

Sixty-nine percent of Latinos think Trump's actions have been bad for Hispanics generally, while 19% think they've been good. Majorities of Latinos also think Trump's actions have been bad for African Americans, Muslims and women.

"It's his attitude. He just has this real cocky way about him," said Rose Haway, a 62-year-old Hispanic woman who lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico. "It's what he says in his speeches and the way he's treated migrant children. I'm appalled."

Haway also pointed to the Republican president's rhetoric about his desire to build a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border as especially hurtful.

Among white Americans, about a third think Trump's actions have been good for black Americans, women and Hispanics, while about a quarter think they have been good for Muslims. Forty-seven percent think Trump's actions have been bad for Hispanics, 44% say they've been bad for Muslims and 39% say they've been bad for women and black Americans.

Shane Chessey, a white Republican from Pittsburgh, lauded Trump's performance on the economy and thinks critiques of the president as racist or sexist are overblown, even as he acknowledges the president's language sometimes comes across as "crass."

"I think he's trying to bring this country up together," said Chessey, 54. "Everybody has a fair opportunity to make it in this country."

Among Republicans, about 6 in 10 say they think Trump has been good for women, Latinos and black Americans. Fewer, 4 in 10, think his actions have been good for Muslims. No more than 2 in 10 Republicans think Trump's actions have been bad for any of the groups asked about in the poll.

The share of Republicans saying Trump's actions have been good for each group has increased since an AP-NORC poll conducted in February 2018. In that poll, about half said Trump's actions had been good for African Americans and women and about 4 in 10 said they'd been good for Latinos, while about 3 in 10 said they'd been good for Muslims.

Large majorities of Democrats think Trump's actions as president have been bad for black, Hispanic and Muslim Americans and for women.

The AP-NORC poll of 1,286 adults was conducted Sept. 20-23 using a sample drawn from NORC's probability-based AmeriSpeak Panel, which is designed to be representative of the U.S. population. The margin of sampling error for all respondents is plus or minus 3.8 percentage points. Respondents were first

selected randomly using address-based sampling methods and later were interviewed online or by phone.

Contreras reported from Albuquerque, New Mexico. AP polling editor Emily Swanson contributed to this report from Washington. Hajela and Contreras are members of The Associated Press' race and ethnicity team. Follow Hajela on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/dhajela> and Contreras at <http://twitter.com/russcontreras>

Online: <http://www.apnorc.org>

WeWork shelves plan for IPO, tries to rebuild battered image

By ALEXANDRA OLSON and STAN CHOE AP Business Writers

NEW YORK (AP) — WeWork's new leaders shelved plans to enter the stock market Monday as they sought to repair the battered image of a company that appeared to revolutionize the office-rental industry and was poised just weeks ago to go public with a valuation of nearly \$50 billion.

The decision came less than a week after co-founder Adam Neumann stepped aside as chief executive officer. His corporate governance practices had raised conflict-of-interest questions that compounded skepticism about the money-losing company's prospects for turning a profit.

The suspended IPO raised an immediate funding challenge for WeWork, which had counted on a successful stock offering to pursue the meteoric growth strategy that made it so attractive to private investors in the first place. The company, which began as a co-working space in Manhattan in 2010, had planned to expand in many of the 111 cities where it now operates and launch in up to 169 additional cities across the world.

Analysts have said WeWork's outlook could improve if it raised cash and slowed its growth to conserve capital, even though that would lower its long-term value. Its revenue has more than doubled each year since 2016, mostly through its acquisition of new property leases.

"It's a dangerous line they have to walk. You have to keep up the revenue growth, and for that you have to keep adding properties. And to keep adding properties you have to keep getting investment or issue stocks or bonds," said Dan Morgan, senior portfolio manager for Synovus Trust.

Without revenue growth, "you lose the whole magnet of why anyone would be interested in the stock, because you aren't profitable," he added.

WeWork's new co-CEOs, Artie Minson and Sebastian Gunningham, said the company was suspending its IPO to "focus on our core business, the fundamentals of which remain strong."

The company gave no further details, but its core business involves leasing buildings and dividing them into office space that it rents out to members, many of them startups, freelancers and small business owners who cannot afford permanent office space.

The We Company also has an eclectic portfolio of side businesses meant to cater to the well-being of its members — a community-building vision set forth by Neumann, a magnetic Israeli immigrant who partly grew up on a kibbutz, and his wife Rebekah Neumann, a certified yoga instructor who studied both business and Buddhism at Cornell University.

Those ventures include a fitness company called "Rise by We," a school for children called "WeGrow," and a co-living rental company "WeLive." An acquisition spree included the social media network Meetup.

Larger corporations are also a growing part of the company's customer base because it offers a cost-efficient way to expand to new markets or recruit workers from a wider selection of cities without having to build new offices.

But WeWork's grandiose vision failed to resonate on Wall Street after the company revealed massive losses in its IPO filings. Initially valued at \$47 billion, WeWork was considering an IPO priced at well below \$20 billion before pulling out.

For now, WeWork has cash. It was sitting on \$2.5 billion at the end of June.

But it continues to burn more cash running its day-to-day business than it brings in. During the first six

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months of the year, WeWork went through \$198.7 billion to fund its operations, meaning it spent more on rent, taxes, maintenance and other operating expenses than it brought in. That figure does not include the cash that it spent on buying equipment, paying security deposits for new locations or other financing or investing activities.

Some cash is coming in the next year, with \$1.5 billion arriving from its biggest investor, the Japanese firm SoftBank, in April as part of a deal struck at the start of this year. But even with that infusion, uncertainty remains about whether WeWork can raise enough cash to support its aggressive growth. Last week, S&P Global Ratings cut WeWork's credit rating to "junk" status.

WeWork is burning through a total of about \$2.8 billion each year, according to estimates by Sanford C. Bernstein analysts. If it continues at that estimated pace, it may not have enough cash to make it to June.

Bernstein estimates that WeWork needs at least \$6 billion in funding and possibly up to \$8 billion if a recession were to hit in the next three years.

That's what makes WeWork's withdrawn IPO so damaging. If it had raised at least \$3 billion from the offering, it would have gotten access to \$6 billion in financing that was contingent on the deal.

US targets Russia in first step against meddling in midterms

By DEB RIECHMANN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Treasury Department on Monday took its first action in response to foreign interference in the 2018 midterm elections by placing the yacht and private planes of a Russian financier on an international sanctions list along with employees of a Russian troll farm he funded to spread false information on social media.

Sanctions placed on the planes and yacht of financier Yevgeny Prigozhin mean that any U.S. and many foreign ports would face penalties for providing services to the vessel or the aircraft, according to a U.S. Treasury Department notice announcing the measures.

"Let this serve as a warning: any actors who continue to engage with these individuals, companies, aircraft or vessel may also be subject to future sanctions," Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said in a statement. "We have been clear: We will not tolerate foreign interference in our elections."

The Russian Foreign Ministry criticized the sanctions.

"We realize that such steps reflect an internal political crisis that has engulfed the United States, in which Russia-related issues are deliberately used by part of Washington's establishment to achieve its goals," the ministry said in a statement.

"This anti-Russian move won't be left unanswered. At the same time, we are urging U.S. politicians to end the stupid game of sanctions that brings zero results and come back to common sense."

Prigozhin, who was already on the sanctions list for his alleged involvement in influencing the 2016 U.S. elections, uses a series of front companies to manage the yacht and planes that he and his family use to vacation around the world, Treasury said.

The U.S. accuses him of attempting to "subvert American democratic processes," though there is no evidence that the efforts of the Internet Research Agency or other foreign actors managed to prevent anyone from voting, changed votes or disrupted the counting, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said.

The U.S. is also taking measures to protect the 2020 elections against adversaries that may be seeking to influence that vote as well, Treasury said, singling out Russia, Iran and China.

In the run-up to the November 2018 elections, the Internet Research Agency, based in St. Petersburg, Russia, used fake social media accounts to flood America with disinformation aimed to discredit candidates it deemed hostile to Russia. In 2016, the same organization sought to help Donald Trump by disparaging Hillary Clinton, according to the special counsel Robert Mueller's report on Russian interference in the campaign.

Treasury identified the six employees of the IRA facing sanctions as Dzheykhun Nasimi Ogly Aslanov; Mikhail Leonidovich Burchik; Vadim Vladimirovich Podkopaev; Vladimir Dmitriyevich Venkov; Igor Vladimirovich Nesterov; and Denis Igorevich Kuzmin.

Associated Press writer Vladimir Isachenkov in Moscow contributed to this report.

Forever 21 bankruptcy reflects teens' new shopping behavior

By ANNE D'INNOENZIO AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — For years, teens flocked to Forever 21's massive stores at the nation's malls for its speedy take on fashion, like its \$5 shimmery halter tops and \$25 dresses.

But the chain that helped popularize so-called fast fashion has moved too slow for a new generation of young customers.

The Los Angeles-based privately held chain filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy Sunday, a victim of rapidly changing shopping tastes among teens who are increasingly turning away from malls and heading to trendy online sites.

They're also interested in buying eco-friendly fashions, like pants made from recycled plastic, not stuff they'll just throw away after a few uses. And they're gravitating toward online second sites where clothes can be used over and over again. In fact, the secondhand fashion business is projected to reach \$64 billion by 2028, nearly 1.5 times the size of fast fashion, according to a report by Global Data Retail.

The bankruptcy marks a dramatic fall for the retailer. Forever 21 was founded in 1984 and, along with other fast-fashion chains like H&M and Zara, rode a wave of popularity among young customers that took off in the mid-1990s. It even stole customers from traditional stalwarts like Abercrombie & Fitch and American Eagle.

Their popularity grew during the Great Recession, when shoppers sought fashion bargains. But Forever 21 went on an aggressive expansion just as shoppers were moving more online. Now, it's closing as many as 350 stores globally, including as many as 178 stores in the U.S. As of the bankruptcy filing, it operated about 800 stores globally, including more than 500 stores in the U.S. The company says it will still operate its e-commerce business, which accounts for 16% of total sales.

"The world has changed, and Forever 21 didn't change with it," said Stacey Widlitz, president of SW Retail Advisors. "And the walls closed in, in terms of the competition."

Widlitz and others noted that the chain was also dogged by the deteriorating quality of its clothing.

Still, fast fashion isn't dead; it's just being reinvented. Swedish chain H&M, which has struggled to keep up with competitors, is showing signs of a comeback and is reinventing itself by offering more eco-friendly fashions. The chain, which once set the standard for speed by flying in frequent small batches, is also digitizing certain areas of its manufacturing process.

Primark, which is based in Ireland and owned by Associated British Foods, opened its first location in the U.S. in 2015. Now the fashion chain, which sells \$10 jeans and \$4 T-shirts, has nine locations in the U.S. and is faring well. It too is focusing more on the environment and announced last month a dramatic increase in its sustainable cotton program.

Sonia Lapinsky, a managing director in the retail practice at AlixPartners LLP, says a retailer's success isn't just about speed.

"They need to deliver the right products, the right story and be sustainable," she said.

Here are three big hurdles for fast-fashion companies like Forever 21:

NEW ONLINE FAST-FASHION RIVALS

Over the last 10 years or so, a slew of online-only fashion retailers have popped up with names like Fashion Nova, Nasty Gal and Boo Hoo. For example, Boo Ho says it drops more than 100 new products daily.

"These sites are curated better and they're fun," said Widlitz.

They also can afford to have lots of sales since they're not weighed down by physical stores. Each also dedicates a section on their website to their code of conduct regarding working conditions at factories and their environmental efforts. For example, online fashion site Asos says that this year, cashmere, mohair, feathers, down silk, bone horn and shell will be banned from its websites.

ECO-FRIENDLY CLOTHING

Young consumers are also looking at digital natives like Allbirds and Everlane that are not fast-fashion sites but offer fashion basics that are easy on the environment. That's forced many traditional retailers including fast-fashion chains to develop products that are made of recycled material or change their manufacturing process.

In fact, H&M says that by 2020 all of its cotton will be sourced in a more sustainable way, meaning recycled, organic or through the Better Cotton Initiative, the largest cotton sustainability program in the world. This year, H&M launched a new section on its website that details where its products were produced, who the suppliers were, the names and addresses of factories and the number of workers they employ. In addition, customers can find out more about the materials used to make a specific garment and learn how to recycle it.

THE RISE OF MICRO TRENDS

It used to be that fast-fashion retailers would embrace one big global trend and push it to their stores. Now, they're contending with lots of micro trends as young shoppers follow influencers on social media. So retailers like Forever 21 and others need to come up with smaller deliveries of more diverse clothing to cater to different shoppers' tastes, analysts say.

"The cool kid is more likely to get clothes on Etsy than at H&M," said Jason Goldberg, chief commerce strategy officer at Publicis Communications.

Follow Anne D'Innocenzio: <http://twitter.com/ADInnocenzio>

CVS stops sale of heartburn drugs with suspect contaminant

By LINDA A. JOHNSON AP Medical Writer

CVS has halted sales of popular heartburn treatment Zantac and its generic store brand after warnings by U.S. health regulators.

It's the latest precautionary move by retailers and manufacturers after the U.S. Food and Drug Administration recently warned consumers about a potentially dangerous contaminant in prescription and over-the-counter versions of Zantac.

In its announcement this weekend, CVS said customers who bought Zantac products can return them for a refund. The retailer will continue to sell other heartburn medications.

WHAT'S THE ISSUE?

In September, the FDA said it detected low levels of a probable cancer-causing chemical known as NDMA in Zantac and related generic drugs to treat ulcers and reflux disease. The same chemical has been linked to dozens of recalls of prescription blood pressure drugs in the past year.

The agency said the amount found in Zantac products barely exceeds levels found in common foods such as meats, dairy products and chemicals. Even so, the warning has led some pharmacies and manufacturers to stop selling drugs containing Zantac's active ingredient, ranitidine.

WHAT'S THE REACTION?

CVS Health said Saturday it has pulled Zantac and its generic store brand, saying the move "is being taken out of an abundance of caution." On Monday, Rite Aid said it's removing Zantac and related drugs sold under its name from its shelves. Walgreens earlier said it's removing Zantac products from shelves while the FDA continues its investigation.

Last week, two generic makers voluntarily recalled their products: Apotex and Sandoz, the generic unit of drug giant Novartis AG. Both companies said they haven't received any reports of patient harm. Some other manufacturers have stopped shipping their product to pharmacies.

The recalled Apotex products are sold at and labeled by Walgreens, Walmart and Rite-Aid, according to the FDA.

Sanofi, which makes brand name Zantac, said Monday it's working with the FDA and doing its own investigation. But it has not stopped selling Zantac in the U.S.

The FDA has asked makers of ranitidine medications to test levels of NDMA in their products and to

send samples to the agency.

WHAT'S THE ADVICE FOR PATIENTS?

Currently, the FDA isn't advising patients to stop taking Zantac and related drugs. The agency said not all ranitidine medicines sold in the U.S. are being recalled. Concerned patients should contact their doctor.

ARE THERE ALTERNATIVES?

Several drugs also treat heartburn and other stomach conditions. They include Pepcid, Nexium, Prilosec, Prevacid and Protonix. Some are available only with a prescription, while others also have less-potent nonprescription versions. For people taking over-the-counter Zantac and related medications, the FDA recommends they consider another heartburn medicine.

Follow Linda A. Johnson on Twitter: @LindaJ_onPharma

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President's windmill hatred is a worry for booming industry

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER AND RODRIQUE NGOWI Associated Press

BLOCK ISLAND, R.I. (AP) — The winds are blowing fair for America's wind power industry, making it one of the fastest-growing U.S. energy sources.

Land-based turbines are rising by the thousands across America, from the remote Texas plains to farm towns of Iowa. And the U.S. wind boom now is expanding offshore, with big corporations planning \$70 billion in investment for the country's first utility-scale offshore wind farms.

"We have been blessed to have it," says Polly McMahon, a 13th-generation resident of Block Island, where a pioneering offshore wind farm replaced the island's dirty and erratic diesel-fired power plant in 2016. "I hope other people are blessed too."

But there's an issue. And it's a big one. President Donald Trump hates wind turbines.

He's called them "disgusting" and "ugly" and "stupid," denouncing them in hundreds of anti-wind tweets and public comments dating back more than a decade, when he tried and failed to block a wind farm near his Scottish golf course.

And those turbine blades. "They say the noise causes cancer," Trump told a Republican crowd last spring, in a claim immediately rejected by the American Cancer Society.

Now, wind industry leaders and supporters fear that the federal government, under Trump, may be pulling back from what had been years of encouragement for climate-friendly wind.

The Interior Department surprised and alarmed wind industry supporters in August, when the agency unexpectedly announced it was withholding approval for the country's first utility-scale offshore wind project, a \$2.8 billion complex of 84 giant turbines. Slated for building 15 miles (24 kilometers) off Martha's Vineyard, Vineyard Wind has a brisk 2022 target for starting operations. Its Danish-Spanish partners already have contracts to supply Massachusetts electric utilities.

Investors backing more than a dozen other big wind farms are lined up to follow Vineyard Wind with offshore wind projects of their own. Shell's renewable-energy offshoot is among the businesses ponying up for federal leases, at bids of more than \$100 million, for offshore wind farm sites.

The Interior Department cited the surge in corporate interest for offshore wind projects in saying it wanted more study before moving forward. It directed Vineyard Wind to research the overall impact of the East Coast's planned wind boom.

Interior Department spokesman Nicholas Goodwin said offshore energy remains "an important component" in the Trump administration's energy strategy. But the strategy includes "ensuring activities are safe and environmentally responsible," Goodwin said in a statement.

Wind power now provides a third or more of the electricity generated in some Southwest and Midwest states. And New York, New Jersey and other Eastern states already are joining Massachusetts in planning

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for wind-generated electricity.

Along with the U.S. shale oil boom, the rise in wind and solar is helping cushion oil supply shocks like the recent attack on Saudi oil facilities.

But the Interior Department's pause on the Vineyard Wind project sent a chill through many of the backers of the offshore wind boom. Critics contrast it with the Republican administration's moves to open up offshore and Arctic areas to oil and gas development, despite strong environmental concerns.

"That I think is sort of a new bar," for the federal government to require developers to assess the impact of not just their projects but everyone's, said Stephanie McClellan, a researcher and director of the Special Initiative on Offshore Wind at the University of Delaware. "That worries everybody."

Thomas Brostrom, head of U.S. operations for Denmark's global offshore wind giant Orsted and operator of the pioneering Block Island wind farm, said that "the last three, four years have seen unbelievable, explosive growth, much more than we could have really hoped for," in the U.S., compared to Europe's already established wind power industry.

Given all the projects in development, "we hope that this is a speed bump, and certainly not a roadblock," Brostrom said.

Wind power and the public perception of it have changed since America's first proposed big offshore wind project, Cape Wind off Cape Cod, died an agonizing 16-year death. Koch and Kennedy families alike, along with other coastal residents, reviled Cape Wind as a potential bird-killing eyesore in their ocean views.

But technological advances since then mean wind turbines can rise much farther offshore, mostly out of sight, and produce energy more efficiently and competitively. Climate change — and the damage it will do these same coastal communities — also has many looking at wind differently now.

Federal fisheries officials have been among the main bloc calling for more study, saying they need to know more about the impacts on ocean life. Some fishing groups still fear their nets will tangle in the massive turbines, although Vineyard Wind's offer to pay millions of dollars to offset any harm to commercial fishing won the support of others. At least one Cape Cod town council also withheld support.

A rally for Vineyard Wind after the Interior Department announced its pause drew local Chamber of Commerce leaders and many other prominent locals. Massachusetts' Republican governor, Charlie Baker, has been traveling to Washington and calling Interior Secretary David Bernhardt to try to win his support.

At Cape Cod Community College in West Barnstable, instructor Chris Powicki's Offshore Wind 101 classes and workshop have drawn nuclear and marina workers, engineers, young people and others. People are hoping wind will provide the kind of good-paying professions and trades they need to afford to stay here, Powicki says.

"Cape Cod has always been at the end of the energy supply line, or at least ever since we lost our dominance with the whale oil industry" after the 19th century, the community college instructor said. "So this is an opportunity for Cape Cod to generate its own energy."

On land, the wind boom already is well established. By next year, 9% of the country's electricity is expected to come from wind power, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. The wind industry already claims 114,000 jobs, more than twice the number of jobs remaining in U.S. coal mining, which is losing out in competition against cleaner, cheaper energy sources despite the Trump administration's backing of coal.

The Trump animosity to wind power has gone beyond words in some states, especially in Ohio. A Trump campaign official was active this summer in winning a state ratepayer subsidy for coal and nuclear that also led to cutting state incentives for wind and solar.

But despite the steady gales of condemnation from the country's wind-hater in chief, wind is booming most strongly in states that voted for Trump.

Then-Texas Gov. Rick Perry, now Trump's energy secretary, pushed his state to one of the current top four wind power states, along with Oklahoma, Kansas and Iowa.

In Iowa, home to nearly 4,700 turbines that provided a third of the state's electricity last year, wind's popularity is such that Republican Sen. Chuck Grassley had a drone film him as he sat, grinning, atop one of the country's biggest wind turbines.

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Grassley had no patience for Trump's April claim that wind turbines like Iowa's beloved ones could cause cancer.

"Idiotic," Grassley said then.

On the East Coast, many developers and supporters of offshore wind politely demur when asked about Trump's wind-hating tweets and comments.

But not on Block Island.

"We're very fortunate that we got it. Very fortunate. It's helped us," McMahon, the retiree on Block Island, said of wind energy. "And don't worry about the president. He's not a nice man."

Knickmeyer reported from Cape Cod, Massachusetts. Associated Press writer Steve LeBlanc in Massachusetts contributed to this report.

Happy now? Everyone is talking about 'Joker'

By LINDSEY BAHR AP Film Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — There may be no such thing as bad publicity, but the spotlight on "Joker" is testing the limits of that old cliché.

The origin story about the classic Batman villain has inspired pieces both in defense of and against the movie. It's been hailed as the thing that's going to finally get Joaquin Phoenix an Oscar and also decried for being "dangerous," "irresponsible" and even "incel-friendly." Last week, some parents of victims of the 2012 Aurora movie theater shooting even wrote to the Warner Bros. CEO asking for support for anti-gun causes. The studio issued a statement in response saying that the film is not "an endorsement of real-world violence of any kind."

In his 80 years as part of the culture, the Joker has always had a way of getting under people's skin — whether it's because of who the character appeals to, what he represents or even the stories actors tell about how they got into character. But perhaps the biggest irony of all this time around is that for all the discourse and hand-wringing, the film has yet to even open in theaters. That doesn't happen until Thursday night.

It's made for a complicated release for the high-profile film, which got off to a triumphant start premiering at and then winning the top award from the Venice Film Festival. And while reviews are mostly positive, it's also been heavily scrutinized and put the filmmakers on the defensive. Director and co-writer Todd Phillips doesn't mind the discussion.

"I'll talk about it all day," he said. "I'm not shy about it."

He just wishes people would see the movie before drawing conclusions.

"It's a little troubling when people write think pieces without having seen it. And even in their think pieces write, 'I don't need to see it to know what it is.' I find it astounding, to be quite frank, how easily the far left can sound like the far right when it suits their agenda," Phillips said. "To that point, I've been disappointed."

The pre-emptive backlash is all the more baffling to Phillips because he hopes it inspires conversations: About guns, about violence and about the treatment of people with mental illness.

"Part of the reason we made the movie is a response to the comic book world of movies," Phillips said. "Like, 'Why is this celebrated? Why is this funny? Why is this fun? What are the real world implications of violence?'"

The film itself is a slow-burn character study of how a mentally-ill, middle-aged man named Arthur Fleck becomes the Joker. When the audience drops in on his life, he's working as a clown-for-hire, living with his mother in a run-down Gotham apartment and checking in occasionally with a social worker. He has a card that he gives to people to explain that his spontaneous and painful bursts of laughter are because of a medical condition. His only joy seems to be watching the talk show host Murray Franklin (Robert De Niro) in the evenings.

"The truth is you see it and it's heartbreaking. And he's heartbreaking," Phillips said. "And you know

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what happens in the movies when you have a world that lacks empathy and lacks love? You get the villain you deserve.”

It’s a role that has often required actors to go to difficult places, and “Joker” has the added complication of being more realistic than most of the other depictions even though it’s still set in a fictional world. To play Arthur and Joker, Phoenix researched a number of people that he’s reluctant to even name.

“Some of the people I studied, I feel what they crave is attention and notoriety,” he said. “I don’t feel like they deserve any more of that.”

He also underwent a drastic physical transformation, losing 52 pounds on an extremely calorie-restricted diet with the supervision of a doctor. He expected “feelings of dissatisfaction, hunger, a certain kind of vulnerability and a weakness.” Instead, he found the emaciation led to a physical “fluidity” that he didn’t quite anticipate.

The set was also fairly fluid in a way, and Phoenix said he and Phillips were constantly discovering new elements to Joker and Arthur.

“There seemed to be an infinite number of ways to interpret every moment or how he might behave in any moment. And there wasn’t anything that didn’t make sense. So we would do scenes so many different ways and some I would cry and others I would make jokes and others I would be angry and it would be the same scene and they all (expletive) made sense,” he said.

It made the experience constantly “exciting” and “surprising,” but portraying Arthur/Joker also proved to be “messy and uncomfortable” for the 44-year-old actor.

As for whether or not audiences will use the character as an inspiration or excuse to act out, Phoenix thinks that the onus is on the individual.

“I do think that the audience should be challenged and they should be able to know the difference between right and wrong. I don’t think it’s the filmmaker’s responsibility to teach morality,” Phoenix said. “If you don’t know the difference between right and wrong, then there are all sorts of things that you are going to interpret in the way that you want.”

Both he and Phillips make sure to stress that “Joker,” which is rated R, is not a kids’ movie. It also won’t be for everyone.

“I just hope people see it and take it as a movie,” Phillips said. “Do I hope everyone loves it? No. We didn’t make the movie for everyone. Anytime anyone tries to make a movie for everyone it’s usually for nobody...You have a choice. Don’t see it is the other choice. It’s ok.”

Follow AP Film Writer Lindsey Bahr on Twitter: www.twitter.com/ldbahr

Collins resigns from Congress ahead of expected guilty plea

By TOM HAYS Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Rep. Chris Collins, a Republican from western New York, submitted his resignation from Congress on Monday ahead of an expected guilty plea in an insider trading case in which he was accused of leaking confidential information during an urgent phone call made from a White House picnic.

Collins’ resignation will take effect when Congress meets in a brief session on Tuesday, according to a spokesman for House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

A federal judge in Manhattan scheduled a hearing for Collins to enter a guilty plea to unspecified charges in the case Tuesday afternoon. A similar hearing has been scheduled Thursday for the congressman’s son, Cameron Collins.

Collins’ congressional office declined to comment on Monday. His attorney didn’t immediately respond to a message. The U.S. attorney’s office in Manhattan also declined to comment.

Collins, who was among the first members of Congress to support President Donald Trump’s run for the White House, had been scheduled to go to trial next year on charges of conspiracy, securities fraud, wire fraud and making false statements to the FBI. Prosecutors accused him of sharing non-public information from a biopharmaceutical company with his son, allowing Cameron Collins and another man to avoid

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nearly \$800,000 in stock losses.

The case, filed in August of 2018, initially caused the 69-year-old Collins to drop a reelection bid, though he denied any wrongdoing and called the charges "meritless."

But he restarted his campaign a month later as Republican leaders were deliberating who would replace him on the ballot.

At the time he said the "stakes are too high to allow the radical left to take control of this seat in Congress."

The charges turned Collins' expected easy reelection in a strongly Republican district into a close race, but he managed to fend off Democratic challenger Nate McMurray by a thin margin.

With his departure from Congress, it would be up to Gov. Andrew Cuomo to set a special election to fill the seat, which leans Republican.

The charges stem from Collins' business ties with Innate Immunotherapeutics Ltd., a biotechnology company headquartered in Sydney, Australia. He was the company's largest shareholder, with nearly 17% of its shares, and sat on its board.

According to the indictment, Collins was attending the Congressional Picnic at the White House on June 22, 2017, when he received an email from the company's chief executive saying that a trial of a drug the company developed to treat multiple sclerosis was a clinical failure.

Collins responded to the email saying: "Wow. Makes no sense. How are these results even possible???" the indictment said.

It said he then called his son, Cameron Collins, and, after several missed calls, they spoke for more than six minutes.

The next morning, according to the indictment, Cameron Collins began selling his shares, unloading enough over a two-day period to avoid \$570,900 in losses before a public announcement of the drug trial results. After the announcement, the company's stock price plunged 92%.

Cameron Collins is accused of passing along the information to his fiancée's father, so he could also dump his stock.

The most serious charge carries a potential prison term of up to 20 years.

— This story has been corrected to reflect that the hearing for Collins' son is on Thursday, not Wednesday.

2 died before political donor's arrest. Some question delay

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 Los Angeles-area wine bar, telling members he had been exonerated, club president Lester Aponte said.

"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

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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 a case 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 alleged victim survived overdosing twice in a week this month. That man 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 district attorney 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 a lack of admissible evidence and that 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.

Ukraine's leader: We can't be ordered to investigate Biden

By ANGELA CHARLTON and DMYTRO VLASOV Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Ukraine's president says his country can't be pressured into opening an investigation into Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden or his son.

And both Ukraine and rival Russia are pushing back at the White House for releasing a transcript of a private phone call between U.S. President Donald Trump and another world leader.

President Volodymyr Zelenskiy is trying to contain damage at home and abroad after the world learned last week that Trump pushed him to "look into" Biden and his son Hunter, who served on the board of a troubled Ukrainian gas company.

"We cannot be ordered to do anything. We are an independent country," Zelenskiy told reporters Monday during a visit to a Ukrainian military base, when asked about Trump's request.

"We are open, we are ready to investigate, but it has nothing to do with me. Our independent law enforcement agencies are ready to investigate any violations of the law," he said. He didn't elaborate on what could trigger an eventual probe.

The Ukrainian president reiterated his criticism of the White House decision to release a rough transcript of the July phone call in which Trump discussed the Bidens with Zelenskiy. The call sparked a Congressional impeachment inquiry now dominating the U.S. political landscape.

Zelenskiy said Ukraine would probably not release its own transcript of the call, because "there are certain nuances and things that I think would be wrong to publish."

The Kremlin — accused of meddling in the 2016 U.S. election in Trump's favor — appears to agree.

Russian President Vladimir Putin's spokesman said Monday that transcripts of calls between him and Trump can only be published by mutual accord. Spokesman Dmitry Peskov said that "diplomatic practice doesn't envisage such publications."

The political furor over the Trump-Zelenskiy call has come as a severe test for Zelenskiy, a comedian who promised to uproot Ukraine's endemic corruption and end fighting with Russia-backed separatists in Ukraine's east. The transcript portrays Zelenskiy as flattering Trump and trying to stay in his good graces.

A top Ukrainian presidential adviser, Andriy Yermak, insisted that Ukraine wants to maintain good relations with both Democrats and Republicans, and doesn't want to get tangled up in U.S. political tensions.

"What is happening there is internal U.S. political doings, and we will not take part in this in any way," he said on Ukraine's 1+1 television Sunday night.

He noted that Ukraine wants to retain good relations with both sides because it needs U.S. support — no matter who is in charge of the White House or Congress.

"We see the U.S. as our friend, our strategic partner," he said.

Yermak met with Trump lawyer Rudy Giuliani earlier this year, as Giuliani pressed Ukraine to investigate the Bidens.

Zelenskiy sought to play down the situation involving Biden and his son's activities in Ukraine, calling it just one of many similar cases he discusses with foreign leaders.

The head of Ukraine's Specialized Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office said last week that Ukrainian authorities have not yet seen information that would signal possible wrongdoing by Biden or his son or a reason to question them.

Meanwhile, Zelenskiy sought Monday to show he is taking control of his domestic political problems by firing his national security chief, Oleksandr Danilyuk. The move came after infighting among camps in Ukraine's power structures.

Yuras Karmanau in Minsk and Vladimir Isachenkov in Moscow contributed.

UK's Johnson denies allegations of patronage, groping

By JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

MANCHESTER, England (AP) — U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson battled to fend off allegations of improper patronage and groping a woman as he prepared a final push Monday to fulfill his pledge to lead his country out of the European Union in just over a month — and, he hopes, move British politics beyond its fracture over Europe.

Johnson sought to energize Conservative members and lawmakers — weary after three years of Brexit gridlock — at the party's annual conference, but he was forced to deny a journalist's claim that he had grabbed her thigh at a private lunch two decades ago.

Sunday Times columnist Charlotte Edwardes said the incident took place when she worked at The Spectator, a conservative newsmagazine, while Johnson was its editor.

Asked if the allegation was true, Johnson said: "No."

Edwardes stood by her story, tweeting: "If the prime minister doesn't recollect the incident then clearly I have a better memory than he does."

Johnson also is under scrutiny for claims that an American businesswoman, Jennifer Arcuri, received money and perks from London coffers while Johnson was mayor of the capital between 2008 and 2016.

He denies any wrongdoing involving Arcuri, who was given grants and places on overseas trade trips for her small tech startup, saying everything was done "with full propriety." The case has been referred to Britain's police watchdog, which will decide whether to investigate Johnson for misconduct in public office.

Johnson, who took over as Conservative leader and prime minister from Theresa May two months ago, has vowed that Britain will leave the European Union on the scheduled date of Oct. 31 with or without a divorce deal governing future relations with the bloc. His foes in Parliament — who include some longtime members of his own party — are determined to avoid a no-deal exit, which economists say would disrupt trade with the EU and plunge Britain into recession.

Legislators have already passed a law that compels the government to seek a delay to Brexit if it can't strike a deal with the EU by Oct. 19. But with Johnson saying he would rather be "dead in a ditch" than postpone Britain's departure, opposition parties are seeking ways to make sure he complies.

Opposition leaders held a strategy meeting Monday in London, with no definitive conclusion. They ruled out an immediate attempt to topple the government with a no-confidence vote. That could trigger an election, but not until after Oct. 31.

Jo Swinson, leader of the centrist Liberal Democrats, said the parties would continue to meet "to plan out different scenarios and different options, including the possibility of an insurance option of a government of national unity" if Johnson's government was brought down by lawmakers.

The personal allegations against Johnson overshadowed the Conservative Party's four-day annual conference in the northwestern England city of Manchester, where Johnson is trying to rally the party — and prepare for an election that could come within weeks — under the slogan "Get Brexit Done."

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Billboards around the cavernous Manchester convention center promised a bright future in which Britain is no longer consumed and divided by Brexit: "Get Brexit done — invest in schools and police."

In a keynote speech, Treasury chief Sajid Javid promised many millions in new investment, and pledged to raise the minimum wage, currently 8.21 pounds (\$10) an hour, to 10.50 pounds (\$13) within five years.

The Confederation of British Industry welcomed the speech, although the business group said Javid had avoided the elephant in the room: Brexit.

"It feels like there was a page missing from his speech," said Director-General Carolyn Fairbairn. "It was silent on how the government and the Treasury would respond to the serious rupture caused by failing to secure a deal with the EU — and the implications for the investments he announced today."

Johnson denied that the claims of misconduct were a distraction from the message he was trying to convey.

"I think what the public want to hear is what we are doing to bring the country together and get on with improving their lives," he said.

The Conservative conference follows a tumultuous week for Johnson. Last week the U.K. Supreme Court declared that Johnson's attempt to suspend Parliament for five weeks was illegal. He cut short a trip to the United States, racing home to face the House of Commons, where lawmakers greeted him with cries of "Resign!" He then lost a vote on a normally routine matter — a request to adjourn for a week so that Conservatives could attend their conference.

Johnson was also accused of inflaming tensions in Britain with populist, people-versus-politicians rhetoric. He branded an opposition law ordering a Brexit delay as the "Surrender Act" and said postponing the country's departure would "betray" the people who voted in a 2016 referendum to leave the EU. He also dismissed the complaints of some opposition lawmakers who reported they have received death threats.

Johnson later claimed he had been "a model of restraint."

The allegations cut little ice with many Conservative delegates, who cheered and shouted "Boris!" as Johnson walked into the conference center from a nearby hotel.

"Is your conference ruined?" a journalist shouted.

Johnson made no reply.

Javid said he had "full faith in the prime minister," adding: "I don't think it's a good idea to get drawn into personal allegations."

But some Conservatives expressed unease. Health Secretary Matt Hancock said he knew Edwardes and "I entirely trust what she has to say."

And Justine Greening, a former Conservative minister who was expelled from the party in Parliament for backing opposition attempts to stop a no-deal Brexit, said the allegations were "deeply concerning."

"They go to the heart of this question about character and integrity of people in public life and what standards the electorate have a right to expect," she said.

Associated Press writer Gregory Katz in London contributed.

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Saudi crown prince takes responsibility for journalist death

NEW YORK (AP) — Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman said in a television interview that he takes "full responsibility" for the grisly killing of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi, but he 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 killing of Khashoggi, who had criticized him in columns for The Washington Post, Prince Mohammed replied: "Absolutely not."

The slaying was "a mistake," he said.

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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 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."

Pope meets with Jesuit targeted by right for gay outreach

By NICOLE WINFIELD Associated press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Francis met privately Monday with an American Jesuit who has been attacked by conservative U.S. Catholics for reaching out to gays, the latest evidence of Francis' willingness to shrug off right-wing criticism for the sake of his pastoral priorities.

The Vatican listed the audience with the Rev. James Martin among the pope's daily activities, in a sign that Francis wanted it publicized. Since only some of Francis' private meetings are announced, the implicit message was a public vote of confidence in Martin's ministry.

Martin, author of "Building a Bridge," a book about how the Catholic Church should reach out more to the LGBT community, has had several talks canceled in the United States because of pressure from conservative groups who oppose his advocacy. The Vatican under Francis has welcomed him, however, appointing him as a communications consultant, giving him a speaking slot at a 2018 Vatican-sponsored family rally and now a private papal audience.

In a tweet, Martin said during the 30-minute meeting, he shared with Francis "the joys and hopes, and the griefs and anxieties, of LGBT Catholics and LGBT people worldwide."

In a telephone interview, Martin said Francis listened intently to his presentation, delivered in Spanish, about the struggles of LGBT Catholics "and how many of them still feel marginalized" by the church.

"I felt encouraged, consoled and inspired by our meeting," he said. "It was like talking to the most compassionate parish priest you can imagine."

Official church teaching calls for gay men and lesbians to be respected and loved, but considers homosexual activity "intrinsically disordered." Francis, though, has sought to make the church more welcoming to gays, most famously with his 2013 comment "Who am I to judge?"

The Argentine Jesuit also has spoken of his own ministry to gay and transgender people, insisting they are children of God, loved by God and deserving of accompaniment by the church.

Some conservative Catholics, especially in the U.S., have accused Martin of blasphemy and of spreading a "homosexualist" agenda. Many of them belong to the small but loud Francis opposition — a wing that the pope recently acknowledged when he told reporters that he was "honored" to be attacked by Americans and wasn't afraid of schism by conservatives in the U.S. church.

In a tweet, Rorate Caeli, a traditionalist blog that has been critical of Francis, noted that Martin's audience was listed alongside that of an entire bishops' conference. "If that's not an endorsement, nothing is," read the tweet.

Damian Thompson, associate editor at Britain's *The Spectator*, a conservative newsmagazine, said Francis' aim in meeting with Martin was "intended to taunt the U.S. conservatives that he demonizes."

Many of Francis' critics argue he has confused the faithful with his mercy-over-morals priorities and flexibility on doctrinal issues such as sacraments for divorced and civilly remarried Catholics.

New Ways Ministry, a Catholic ministry for the LGBT community, praised the audience and said it showed that Martin's ministry was being recognized and valued at the highest levels of the church.

"It is a clear signal that Pope Francis is calling the church to conversion away from the negative messages it has sent in the past about LGBTQ people," said the head of New Ways Ministry, Francis DeBernardo. "It is a day of celebration for LGBTQ Catholics who have longed for an outstretched hand of welcome from the church that they love."

Martin was in Rome for the plenary meeting of the Vatican's communications department, as well as for the consistory Saturday to name 13 new cardinals.

California to let college athletes sign endorsement deals

By ADAM BEAM Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Defying the NCAA, California opened the way Monday for college athletes to hire agents and make money from endorsement deals with sneaker companies, soft drink makers, car dealerships and other sponsors, just like the pros.

The first-in-the-nation law, signed by Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom and set to take effect in 2023, could upend amateur sports in the U.S. and trigger a legal challenge.

Newsom and others cast it as an attempt to bring more fairness to big-money college athletics and let players share in the wealth they create for their schools. Critics have long complained that universities are getting rich off the backs of athletes — often, black athletes struggling to get by financially.

"Other college students with a talent, whether it be literature, music, or technological innovation, can monetize their skill and hard work," the governor said. "Student athletes, however, are prohibited from being compensated while their respective colleges and universities make millions, often at great risk to athletes' health, academics and professional careers."

Newsom predicted other states will introduce similar legislation.

The NCAA — which had called on him to veto the bill, arguing that it would destroy the distinction between amateurs and pros and give California an unfair recruiting advantage — said it is considering its next steps. It did not elaborate.

In a statement, the NCAA said it is working to revise its rules on making money off a player's name and likeness. But it said any changes should be made at the national level through the NCAA, not through a patchwork of state laws.

California's law applies to students at both public and private institutions — but not community colleges — in the nation's most populous state. While the measure covers all sports, the big money is in football and basketball.

Student athletes won't get salaries. But under the law, they can't be stripped of their scholarships or kicked off the team if they sign endorsement deals.

There are some limitations: Athletes can't enter into deals that conflict with their schools' existing contracts. For example, if your university has a contract with Nike, you can't sign with Under Armour.

The law represents another instance of California jumping out in front of other states when it comes to social and political change. The movement to allow student athletes to profit from their labors on the court or the playing field has been simmering for years, portrayed as a matter of economic fairness and civil rights.

"A majority of these athletes, it's no secret, are African American," said Sen. Steven Bradford, a co-author

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of the bill who is black. "It's an issue of fairness, and it's an issue that has been long overdue."

Newsom tweeted a video showing him signing the law during a special episode of HBO's "The Shop: Uninterrupted" alongside NBA superstar LeBron James, one of many professional athletes who have endorsed the measure.

James, whose 14-year-old son is a closely watched basketball prospect in Los Angeles and will be 18 when the law takes effect, exulted over its signing on Instagram, saying it will "change the lives for countless athletes who deserve it!"

He added: "NCAA, you got the next move. We can solve this for everyone!"

NBA rookie Jordan Poole of the Golden State Warriors also welcomed the new law. Six months ago, as a player at the University of Michigan, he hit a game-winning shot at the buzzer in the second round of the NCAA tournament as millions watched on TV.

"I know for sure I would have been using my name after that Houston shot," he said.

His teammate, three-time NBA champion Draymond Green, went further.

"The NCAA is a dictatorship," the former Michigan State star told reporters Monday. "I'm tired of seeing people get ripped off, and I'm tired of seeing these college athletes being ripped off."

Before the governor signed the law, the NCAA threatened to bar California universities from competition, meaning powerhouses such as the University of Southern California, UCLA, Stanford and the University of California, Berkeley, could find themselves banned.

If that were to happen, California schools could form a new governing body and get schools from like-minded states to join, in a threat to the NCAA's dominance.

But the governor, a former college baseball player, said he doubts the NCAA would kick California schools out, arguing that the state's 40 million people and status as the world's fifth-largest economy make it too big to lose.

The NCAA "can't afford to do that," he said.

Democratic state Sen. Nancy Skinner, the bill's author, said it could especially help female athletes, who have limited opportunities for professional sports once they leave college.

"College is the primary time when the spotlight is on" them, Skinner said. "For women, this might be the only time they could make any money."

NCAA rules bar players from hiring agents. The NCAA has also steadfastly refused to pay players in most cases. But a committee is studying other ways players could make money. Its report is expected in October.

The NCAA does let some athletes accept money in some instances. Tennis players can accept up to \$10,000 in prize money per year, and Olympians can accept winnings from their competitions. Also, many schools pay players yearly cost-of-living stipends of \$2,000 to \$4,000.

"We just kind of joked every kid is going to want to go to college out here in Cali now," Warriors forward Glenn Robinson III, who played college ball at Michigan, said of the new law.

"I think it's time. A lot of people are waking up and starting to see how much money that these universities are making off of players," he added. "Where I went to school, a lot of players couldn't afford lunch."

AP sports writer Janie McCauley contributed reporting from San Francisco.

Stocks climb as markets cap turbulent quarter with calm end

By STAN CHOE and DAMIAN J. TROISE AP Business Writers

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. stocks climbed on Monday and gave one last nudge to ensure the S&P 500 emerged from yet another tumultuous quarter with a modest gain.

As has been the case throughout the quarter, movements in President Donald Trump's trade war with China helped drive the market on Monday. Investors found encouragement after China said that its top trade negotiator will lead talks with the United States that are expected to take place next week. The Trump administration also calmed some worries that it may limit U.S. investment in Chinese companies.

The developments helped push technology stocks higher in particular. Those companies often move

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along with news about trade because of how reliant they are on China as both a customer and a supplier. The S&P 500 climbed 14.95 points, or 0.5%, to 2,976.74.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 96.58, or 0.4%, to 26,916.83, and the Nasdaq composite added 59.71, or 0.8%, to 7,999.34.

The moves left the S&P 500 with a 1.2% gain for the quarter. While that was its smallest quarterly gain this year, the index had been on track for a much worse performance just a month ago.

Trump shocked markets in August when he said he'd raise tariffs on Chinese goods, and the announcement sent stocks and bond yields reeling. The S&P 500 dropped more than 6% in the weeks following July 26, when it set its last record. But stocks began climbing again in September as both sides made conciliatory moves to ease tensions.

Yields, meanwhile, remained lower for the quarter after the Federal Reserve cut short-term rates twice. They were the first rate cuts for the Fed since the financial crisis was swamping the economy in 2008. Across the Atlantic, the European Central Bank was likewise working to keep rates low in hopes of shoring up a slowing global economy.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury dipped to 1.65% from 1.67% late Friday. At the end of the last quarter, it was at 2%.

Like the S&P 500, the Dow also ended the quarter with a gain of 1.2%. The technology-heavy Nasdaq was a touch lower, with a loss of 0.1%.

Small companies took on more damage, as they typically do when investors are worried about the threat of a recession. The Russell 2000 lost 2.8% during the quarter.

Don't expect the tumult to end with the close of the quarter.

Aside from the U.S.-China talks, the next three months have plenty of events on the schedule to keep markets on edge. Beyond the United Kingdom's pending exit from the European Union, investors are also waiting to see whether Germany will enter a recession and how the new incoming head of the European Central Bank performs.

Closer to home, the impeachment inquiry into Trump could create even more uncertainty. That puts more pressure on the consumer, the bulwark of the U.S. economy recently, particularly when businesses have become reluctant to spend due to the trade war.

"The consumer's been enough to keep the economy moving, but things like consumer confidence seem to be plateauing," said Emily Roland, co-chief investment strategist at John Hancock Investment Management.

In the next few weeks, companies are scheduled to tell investors how much profit they made during the third quarter. Expectations are generally low again, with analysts forecasting a drop of nearly 4% from a year ago. The results, plus what CEOs say about their spending and revenue forecasts, should give a better picture of the economy's potential direction.

"We need that earnings engine to kick in to drive markets higher," Roland said.

Last year, the S&P 500 slumped 14% in the fourth quarter for its worst performance in seven years when fear spiked that the Federal Reserve's plans to keep raising interest rates and a slowing global economy would knock the United States into a recession.

This time around, the Federal Reserve has shifted gears, and many investors expect the central bank to cut rates at least one more time this year. That could help support markets, even with all the potential flashpoints on the calendar.

Benchmark U.S. crude fell \$1.84 to settle at \$54.07 per barrel Monday. Brent crude, the international standard, fell \$1.13 to \$60.78 a barrel.

Natural gas dropped 7 cents to \$2.33 per 1,000 cubic feet, heating oil lost 4 cents to \$1.91 per gallon and wholesale gasoline fell 5 cents to \$1.60 per gallon.

Gold fell \$33.40 to \$1,465.70 per ounce, silver fell 65 cents to \$16.90 per ounce and copper fell 2 cents to \$2.56 per pound.

Stock markets around the world were mixed during the quarter, as European growth remained stubbornly weak and Hong Kong saw increasingly violent political protests. In Europe, France's CAC 40 finished with

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a 2.5% gain for the quarter. Germany's DAX rose 0.2%, and the FTSE 100 lost 0.2%.

In Asia, Japan's Nikkei 225 index rose 2.3% for the quarter, while South Korea's Kospi fell 3.2% and the Hang Seng in Hong Kong lost 8.6%.

The dollar rose to 108.07 Japanese yen from 107.81 yen on Friday. The euro weakened to \$1.0902 from \$1.0941.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Oct. 1, the 274th day of 2019. There are 91 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 1, 2017, a gunman opened fire from a room at the Mandalay Bay casino hotel in Las Vegas on a crowd of 22,000 country music fans at a concert below, leaving 58 people dead and more than 800 injured in the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history; the gunman, 64-year-old Stephen Craig Paddock, killed himself before officers arrived.

On this date:

In 1885, special delivery mail service began in the United States.

In 1890, Congress passed the McKinley Tariff Act, which raised tariffs to a record level.

In 1908, Henry Ford introduced his Model T automobile to the market.

In 1910, the offices of the Los Angeles Times were destroyed by a bomb explosion and fire; 21 Times employees were killed.

In 1955, the situation comedy "The Honeymooners," starring Jackie Gleason, Art Carney, Audrey Meadows and Joyce Randolph, premiered on CBS-TV.

In 1957, the motto "In God We Trust" began appearing on U.S. paper currency.

In 1962, Johnny Carson debuted as host of NBC's "Tonight Show," beginning a nearly 30-year run.

In 1971, Walt Disney World opened near Orlando, Florida.

In 1982, Sony began selling the first commercial compact disc player, the CDP-101, in Japan.

In 1987, eight people were killed when an earthquake measuring magnitude 5.9 struck the Los Angeles area.

In 1994, National Hockey League team owners began a 103-day lockout of their players.

In 1996, a federal grand jury indicted Unabomber suspect Theodore Kaczynski in the 1994 mail bomb slaying of advertising executive Thomas Mosser. (Kaczynski was later sentenced to four life terms plus 30 years.) The federal minimum wage rose 50 cents to four dollars, 75 cents an hour.

Ten years ago: The U.S. and five other world powers held high-stakes talks with Iran in Geneva to demand a freeze of its nuclear activities; President Barack Obama, in Washington, called the discussions "a constructive beginning." David Letterman publicly acknowledged having had sexual relationships with some female staffers as "48 Hours Mystery" producer Joe Halderman was charged in a blackmail plot against the CBS "Late Show" host. (Halderman later pleaded guilty to attempted grand larceny and served four months in jail.)

Five years ago: Secret Service Director Julia Pierson abruptly resigned in the face of multiple revelations of security breaches, bumbling in her agency and rapidly eroding confidence that the president and his family were being kept safe. (Pierson was succeeded by Joseph Clancy.) In a striking public rebuke, the Obama administration warned Israel that plans for a controversial new housing project in east Jerusalem would distance Israel from "even its closest allies" and raise questions about its commitment to seeking peace with Palestinians.

One year ago: The marquees on the Las Vegas Strip dimmed their lights for three minutes as officials slowly read the names of 58 people who were killed in a mass shooting a year earlier. Officials in Indonesia began burying hundreds of victims of a devastating earthquake and tsunami in a mass grave. For the first time in major league history, tie-breaking games were needed to decide two division titles; the Milwaukee

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Brewers beat the Chicago Cubs 3-1 to capture the National League Central Division, and the Los Angeles Dodgers beat the Colorado Rockies 5-2 for the Western Division crown.

Today's Birthdays: Former President Jimmy Carter is 95. Actress-singer Julie Andrews is 84. Actress Stella Stevens is 81. Rock musician Jerry Martini (Sly and the Family Stone) is 76. Baseball Hall-of-Famer Rod Carew is 74. Jazz musician Dave Holland is 73. Actress Yvette Freeman is 69. Actor Randy Quaid is 69. Rhythm-and-blues singer Howard Hewett is 64. Former British Prime Minister Theresa May is 63. Alt-country-rock musician Tim O'Reagan (The Jayhawks) is 61. Singer Youssou N'Dour is 60. Actor Esai Morales is 57. Retired MLB All-Star Mark McGwire is 56. Actor Christopher Titus is 55. Actress-model Cindy Margolis is 54. Producer John Ridley is 54. Rock singer-musician Kevin Griffin (Better Than Ezra) is 51. Actor Zach Galifianakis is 50. Singer Keith Duffy is 45. Actress Sherri Saum is 45. Actress Kate Aselton is 41. Actress Sarah Drew is 39. Actress Carly Hughes is 37. Actor-comedian Beck Bennett is 35. Actress Jurnee Smollett-Bell is 33. Actress Brie Larson is 30. Singer/songwriter Jade Bird is 22. Actress Priah Ferguson is 13. Actor Jack Stanton is 11.

Thought for Today: "Everybody favors free speech in the slack moments when no axes are being ground."
— Heywood C. Broun, American journalist (1888-1939).