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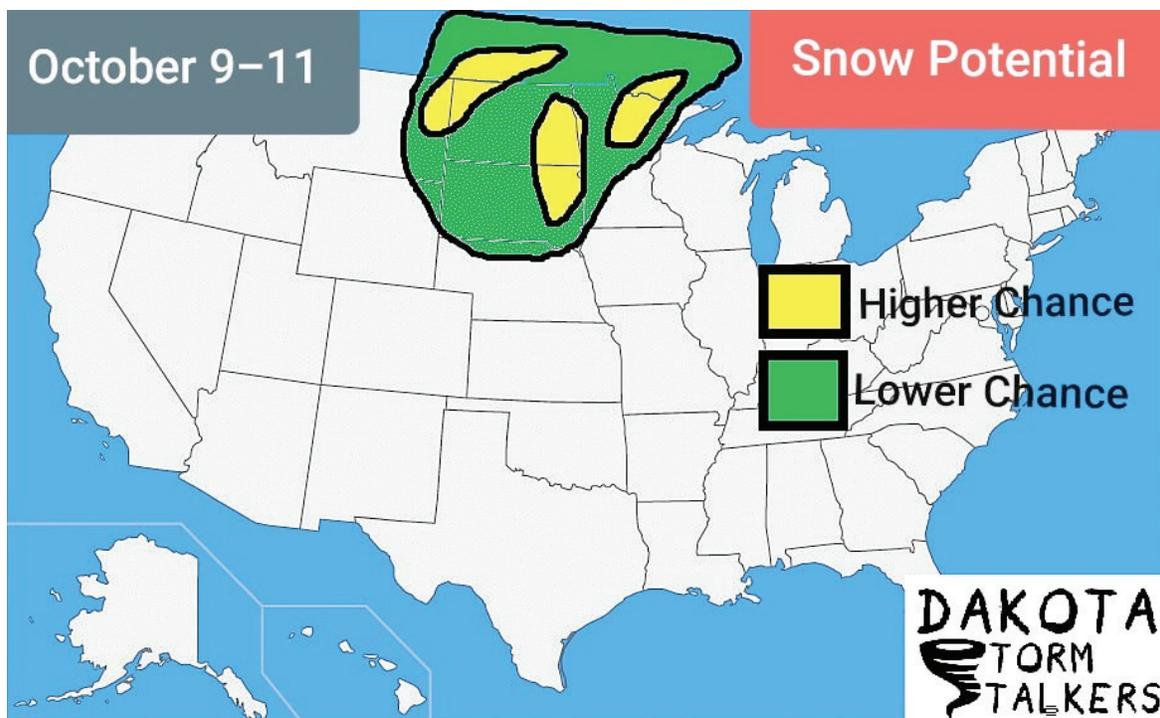
Chicken Soup
for the Soul.

“IF YOU SURRENDER COMPLETELY TO THE MOMENTS AS THEY PASS, YOU LIVE MORE RICHLY IN THOSE MOMENTS.”

-ANNE MORROW LINDBERGH



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



Groton Fire & Rescue looking for your help!

Groton Fire and Rescue and Groton Police Department recently completed a Stop the Bleed Class.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, trauma is the No. 1 cause of death in the U.S. for people under 46, accounting for nearly 50 percent of those fatalities.

Preparedness and vigilance are now requirements as injuries formerly confined to far-away combat zones now occur randomly and unpredictably on American street corners.

It's only been since the early 1990s that CPR training has been available to the general

public, and this simple training has saved countless lives. Many people know what to do when they find someone on the ground without a pulse or when someone puts their hands on their throat, the universal choking sign, they do the Heimlich maneuver or CPR. But when someone is bleeding many panic and don't know how to appropriately stop that bleeding. . The help given by an immediate responder can often make the difference between life and death, even before professional rescuers arrive. It only takes 2-5 minutes for someone to bleed out depending on where the wound is. And in our rural area help sometimes cannot arrive that fast.

The 'Stop the Bleed' campaign aims to save even more lives with training to treat traumatic hemorrhage. The goal is to train people of all ages how to respond to bleeding emergencies in traumas from accidents and intentional violence.

Motivated by the 2012 tragedy in Sandy Hook and multiple tragedies that have occurred in the ensuing years, what has become known as the Hartford Consensus was convened to bring together leaders from law enforcement, the federal government, and the medical community to improve survivability from manmade or natural mass casualty events. The resulting injuries from these events generally present with severe bleeding which if left unattended can result in death. The participants of the Hartford Consensus concluded that by providing first responders (law enforcement) and civilian bystanders the skills and basic tools to stop uncontrolled bleeding in an emergency situation, lives would be saved. The first responder program has received very good response and is widely being used across the country. The next step is to focus on need of civilian bystanders.

Civilians need basic training in Bleeding Control principles so they are able to provide immediate, frontline aid until first responders are able to take over care of an injured person. Due to many situations, there may be a delay between the time of injury and the time a first responder is on the scene. Without civilian intervention in these circumstances, preventable deaths will occur.

Why do we need this training? Because of work-related injuries, home injuries, motor vehicle crashes, mass shootings, bombing.

After receiving instruction on the ABCs of controlling bleeding – alert 911, find bleeding, compress with



The guy in red is Dr. Jason Spjut, DO, Trauma & General Surgeon for Sanford. He taught the class Sept. 22 at the Groton Fire Hall. Members of the Groton Rescue, Groton Fire and Groton Police Dept. attended the training. (Courtesy Photo)

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They are practicing using the tourniquets. They are packing wounds and are taught to put the tourniquets on themselves as well as others so if anyone is hit or hurt, the individual can help to stop their own bleeding. (Courtesy Photo)

pressure or packing, compress with a tourniquet – participants practiced applying tourniquets to each other, as well as to themselves.

All schools are being trained, including Groton Area Schools.

Groton Fire & Rescue are presenting you, our community, an opportunity to help with this mission. Not only do you need to be trained but we need more Stop the Bleed kits available in our schools. Several organizations donated money to the SD Healthcare Coalition to organize a kit distribution throughout the state. Brown County received approximately 100 kits so far, there may be funds available in the future for more. But as you can see that is not enough to help all of our kids. Groton Area High School has 5 kits and Groton Elementary has 5 kits. Groton Fire & Rescue would like to make it a mission for our community to help get at least 2 kits per classroom. Between the Groton High School & Elementary there are approximately 62 classrooms so to put 2 kits in each room we would need 124 kits at \$30 per kit which equals \$3720. If there are any local organizations or memorials that could be donated it would be great to be able to supply our school with these kits. The kits are going to make sure our teachers are prepared in that worst-case emergency. That our school and all the teachers in our schools carry those with them - that level of preparedness is so important,"

If you would like to donate please contact Patti Woods, Groton Fire & Rescue.

Also if you would like to be trained in Stop the Bleed and have a kit in your possession contact Patti Woods. Maybe having one of these kits in your car could save a life.

The only thing more tragic than a death... is a death that could have been prevented.

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Groton Area dominates Roncalli in gridiron win

Groton Area had 319 yards of total offense compared to just 22 yards of total offense for Aberdeen Roncalli as the Tigers posted a 26-0 win.

Jonathan Doeden racked up 244 yards rushing for two touchdowns and had nine tackles. Kaden Kurtz had 14 yards rushing with one touchdown. Darrian Shabazz had 20 yards rushing and 41 yards receiving. Also on defense were Austin Jones with seven tackles and one sack, Alex Morris with six tackles and two sacks and Peyton Johnson with six tackles.

The Tigers had nine penalties for 75 yards while Roncalli had eight penalties for 38 yards. Groton Area had more first downs, 16-5. Each team lost a fumble with Morris recovering one for Groton Area.

Doeden scored on runs of six and 13 yards, Kurtz had a 21 yard touchdown and Darrian Shabazz had a 19 yard run.

It's Volleyball Action on GDILIVE.COM

9 a.m.: Warner
10:40 a.m.: Potter County
1:10 p.m.: Redfield
2 p.m.: Belle Fourche
and maybe at 2:50 p.m.

VS



Groton Area Tigers

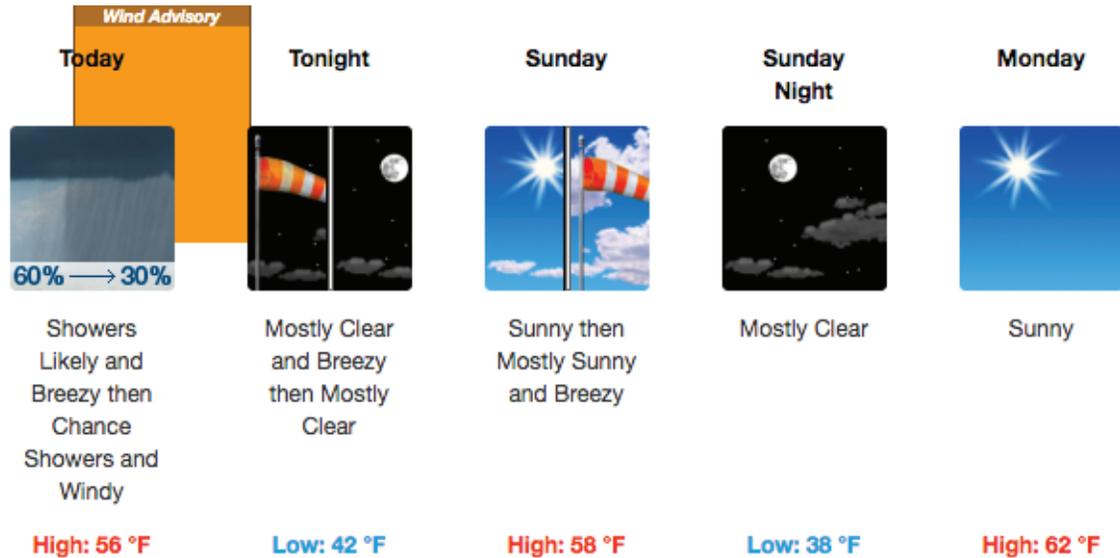
Saturday, Oct. 5, 2019 at Redfield

7:00 p.m. at Doney Field, Groton

SPONSORED BY TYSON DeHOET TRUCKING

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NWS ABERDEEN

Windy With Lingerin Showers

 **TODAY** 

Lingerin showers and turning windy this morning.

Highs 50-65°F

 **SUNDAY**

Partly sunny and **Breezy**

Highs 51-64°F

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
Aberdeen, SD 10/5/2019 3:34 AM

WEATHER.GOV/ABR

Published on: 10/04/2019 at 11:35PM

Today will bring lingerin showers, and gusty winds by mid-morning. The wind will subside this evening, but then should become breezy again on Sunday. Sunday should feature partly sunny skies but still cooler than normal temperatures.

Today in Weather History

October 5, 1982: Strong thunderstorms developed across central South Dakota and raced into portions of southwest Minnesota. The storms were prolific lightning producers in South Dakota setting several structures on fire. An electrical substation was damaged near Salem, an elementary school was set ablaze in Aberdeen, and several homes in Sioux Falls were struck as well. One home in Sioux Falls had a hole knocked in a wall by a lightning strike.

Numerous fires were also started in southern Minnesota by the same line of storms. Strong thunderstorm winds leveled several buildings, damaged a house, and moved a hog shed off its foundation on three separate farms near Worthington. The winds also turned over railroad cars near Pipestone. Worthington narrowly escaped damage as a small tornado touched down two miles southwest of town and moved southeast. Fortunately, the tornado's damage was confined to trees and crops.

October 5, 2013: A historic blizzard pounded western South Dakota with record-setting snowfall and high winds for almost 48 hours from the evening of October 3 through the afternoon of October 5. One to two feet of snow was reported over the plains of western South Dakota, with three to five feet of snow falling over the northern and central Black Hills. Wind gusts to 70 mph across the plains produced significant blowing and drifting snow, with visibilities near zero for much of the day on October 4. The heavy wet snow and strong winds downed trees and power lines, causing prolonged outages and impassable highways. The roofs of several businesses, a middle school, and community center collapsed from the heavy snow. Thousands of livestock were killed from hypothermia, suffocation, or drowning. The South Dakota Animal Industry Board received reports of over 21,000 cattle; over 1300 sheep; 400 horses; and 40 bison deaths from the storm. Tree and debris removal costs were several million dollars. An unyielding low-pressure area moving across the region brought an early fall blizzard to most of the counties west of Missouri River on October 4th and 5th. The snowfall and blizzard conditions occurred mainly along the western parts of the counties. The snowfall amounts varied broadly from 1 to 2 inches to as much as 22 inches in far western Corson County. Very strong northwest winds of 30 to 50 mph with gusts to 60 mph brought blizzard conditions and significant travel problems. Interstate-90 was closed from Murdo to the Wyoming border from 7 pm on October 4th to the evening of the October 8th. No travel was advised on all roads west of the Missouri River. Many cattle were also lost in western Corson County due to the storm. The heavy snow along with strong winds resulted in some power outages along with some downed tree branches. The snowfall began in the late morning hours of the 4th and ended in the early afternoon hours of the 5th. Some snowfall amounts that occurred were 1 inch at Murdo; 2 inches at Timber Lake and 5 miles west of Hayes; 4 inches at McIntosh; 16 inches southeast of Morristown; and 22 inches southwest of Keldron.

1638 - The journal of John Winthrop recorded that a mighty tempest struck eastern New England. This second severe hurricane in three years blew down many trees in mile long tracks. (David Ludlum)

1786 - The famous "Pumpkin Flood" occurred on the Delaware and Susquehanna Rivers. Harrisburg PA reported a river stage of twenty-two feet. The heavy rains culminated a wet season. (David Ludlum)

1864: A tropical cyclone hit India near Calcutta, devastating the city and killing about 60,000 people in the region.

1972: Tropical Storm Joanne, earlier a hurricane, moves across the Baja California peninsula and came ashore in western Mexico south of Ajo. The storm brought heavy rain and flooding to much of Arizona. This storm is the first documented tropical storm to reach Arizona with its cyclonic circulation intact. Over 5 inches of rain was reported on the Mogollon rim southeast of Flagstaff. Additional rainfall amounts included 4.44 at Flagstaff, 3.80 at Prescott, 2.21 at Yuma, 1.95 at Phoenix, 1.63 at Nogales, and 1.63 at Tucson.

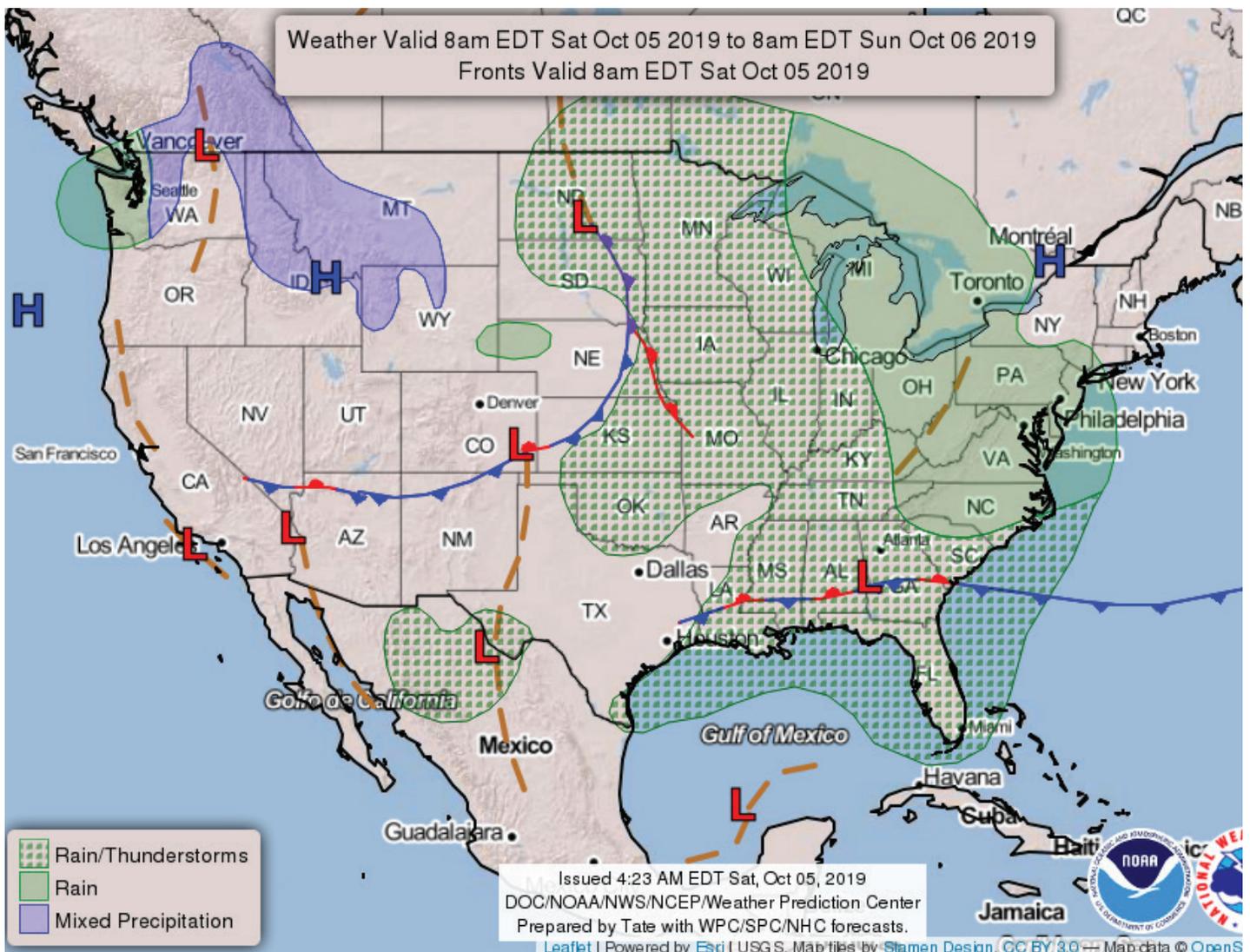
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Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 52 °F at 7:20 PM
Low Temp: 41 °F at 6:23 AM
Wind: 22 mph at 4:05 PM
Day Rain: 0.00

Record High: 96° in 1963
Record Low: 19° in 1935
Average High: 63°F
Average Low: 37°F
Average Precip in Oct.: 0.32
Precip to date in Oct.: 0.38
Average Precip to date: 18.80
Precip Year to Date: 25.40
Sunset Tonight: 7:07 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:38 a.m.



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DISMOUNT!

Stories of the Knights of the Round Table are fascinating – often intriguing. There are many hidden messages in the way they did things.

For example, when they were fully dressed, they would ride a large, strong horse to bear the weight of their armor. When they went hunting, they would ride a small, swift horse that could run fast to catch up with the prey. When in a parade, they would ride a tall, high horse. This made them appear bigger than the poor peasant who had no horse at all and was forced to look up to them.

In fact, the expression “Get off your high horse” originated from their exploits. It meant to the onlookers, “Stop acting as if you are above us! Remember, you’re on a horse.”

Wise Solomon had some advice for those who act as if they are above others. He said, “Haughty eyes, a proud heart, and evil actions are all sin.”

God wants us to develop talents carefully and use wisely the skills, talents, and gifts that He has given us. We are to be thankful for all that we can do in His name to bring Him glory and honor. We must never have an inflated opinion of our value or importance. We have what we have because of His grace. We are what we are and what we can be because of Him. We must realize at all times that we are His and are obligated to serve Him faithfully each day.

Prayer: Father, may we be ever thankful for all of the gifts You have given us and use them to honor You. May we set ourselves aside at all times and exalt only You. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 21:4 Haughty eyes, a proud heart, and evil actions are all sin.

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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

Friday's Scores By The Associated Press

PREP FOOTBALL(equals)

Arlington/Lake Preston 64, Baltic 20
Beresford 34, Flandreau 6
Bon Homme 23, Gregory 7
Britton-Hecla 40, Waubay 20
Brookings 41, Mitchell 7
Burke 54, Corsica/Stickney 14
Canistota 50, Castlewood 0
Canton 44, Todd County 0
Clark/Willow Lake 44, Waverly-South Shore 6
Colman-Egan 52, Estelline/Hendricks 0
Crazy Horse 58, Red Cloud 0
Custer 41, Bennett County 0
Dell Rapids 28, Dakota Valley 7
Dell Rapids St. Mary 52, Centerville 0
Deuel 46, Great Plains Lutheran 15
Douglas 14, Spearfish 0
Elk Point-Jefferson 28, Garretson 21
Faith 62, Edgemont 0
Faulkton 36, Ipswich/Edmunds Central 28
Groton Area 26, Aberdeen Roncalli 0
Hamlin 17, Florence/Henry 0
Hanson 26, Parkston 20
Harding County 66, Lemmon/McIntosh 26
Harrisburg 22, Watertown 14
Hitchcock-Tulare 38, Potter County 0
Hot Springs 51, Pine Ridge 8
Howard 38, DeSmet 6
Lower Brule 40, Marty Indian 14
Madison 26, Milbank 7
McCook Central/Montrose 37, Sioux Valley 36
Menno/Marion 20, Platte-Geddes 14
Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 50, Stanley County 7
Newell 50, Bison 24
Parker 30, Deubrook 6
Philip 56, Jones County/White River 20
Pierre 55, Huron 20
Rapid City Christian 57, Hill City 6
Rapid City Stevens 32, Rapid City Central 27
Scotland 42, Gayville-Volin 6
Sioux Falls Lincoln 26, Brandon Valley 21
Sioux Falls O'Gorman 38, Sioux Falls Washington 20
Sioux Falls Roosevelt 45, Aberdeen Central 7

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St. Thomas More 31, Belle Fourche 7
Sturgis Brown 18, Yankton 13
Sully Buttes 48, North Border 0
Sunshine Bible Academy 20, Colome 0
Tea Area 24, Lennox 0
Timber Lake 20, New Underwood 14
Tri-Valley 20, Sioux Falls Christian 14
Viborg-Hurley 58, Elkton-Lake Benton 6
Wagner 51, Miller/Highmore-Harrold 0
Wall 27, Lyman 20
Warner 38, Langford 6
Webster 34, Mobridge-Pollock 12
West Central 27, Vermillion 6
Winner 28, Chamberlain 6
Wolsey-Wessington 42, Kimball/White Lake 32
Woonsocket/Wessington Springs/Sanborn Central 20, Lead-Deadwood 0

Some high school football scores provided by Scorestream.com, <https://scorestream.com/>

Volleyball

Aberdeen Roncalli def. Belle Fourche, 25-18, 25-16, 25-16
Twin Cities Tournament
Pool Play
White Pool

Rapid City Stevens def. McCook, Neb., 25-13, 25-8
Rapid City Stevens def. Scottsbluff, Neb., 25-17, 25-9
Red Pool

Grand Island Northwest, Neb. def. Spearfish, 25-16, 25-17
Sidney, Neb. def. Spearfish, 25-9, 25-14
Blue Pool

Chadron, Neb. def. Rapid City Central, 25-19, 25-17
Gering, Neb. def. Rapid City Central, 15-25, 25-17, 25-22
Rapid City Central def. Lexington, Neb., 25-15, 25-22

Percussionist rises to national deputy bandmaster in Guard

By **KELDA J.L. PHARRIS** Aberdeen News

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — It's marching band season.

Percussionist Terry Beckler instructs the Northern State University marching band through a number of songs and movements along with his fellow music faculty colleagues in the green space just south of the South Dakota School for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

This is Beckler's 27th season instructing bands in Minnesota and South Dakota at the high school and college level. It should be rote, but this season marks a new chapter for Beckler. He's stepped down from chairman of the music department at Northern and has stepped up to the duty of deputy senior bandmaster for the U.S. Army National Guard. It's only one rung away from the top spot for a bandmaster in the Guard nationwide, the Aberdeen News reported.

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Beckler's rank is chief warrant officer 4. He's served more than 33 years with the South Dakota National Guard and is the commander of the 147th Army Band in Mitchell.

"Some is timing. Some is working through it. Some of it's just being stubborn and sticking around," Beckler said in a phone conversation in late September.

He'll continue his duties as commander of the 147th Army Band as he has since 1998. Most recently, he directed a handful of musicians at the deployment ceremony for the state National Guard's Alpha Battery, 1-147th Field Artillery Battalion and 147th Forward Support Co. on Sept. 1 in Aberdeen.

He began his new National Guard duties on Sept. 1. He's required to serve a minimum of three years in the position. The assignment will also bring a promotion to chief warrant officer 5 later this year, according to a news release from the Guard.

"Chief warrant officer 5 is the rank. There are two of those in the (U.S.) Army National Guard band field. I'm the second-highest ranking as the deputy. Maybe that would be the ultimate goal of a fantastic career," said Beckler who hasn't yet maxed out his career aspirations.

As deputy bandmaster, a new duty for Beckler will be leading one of two operational readiness evaluation teams. The teams visit all 51 Army National Guard bands on a five-year rotation and evaluate their band support.

"As part of the operational readiness evaluation process, I get to see other musicians perform and offer assistance to their groups," Beckler said in the release. "It is also a very valuable thing for my soldiers, as I see best practices from throughout our field. I'm looking forward to mentoring younger band commanders and their soldiers, while learning from them, too."

For a musician, the National Guard might not be the first career path to come to mind. But Beckler said it has evolved through the years to offer variety and a multitude of opportunities.

"It's different. Your public schools are focused on concert, public performance and marching band. In the military, we've moved away from concert band. We've gone to smaller music performance teams — rock, country or brass or woodwind ensembles," Beckler said. "We cover more area than we would in sending one concert band. The unique thing about it is it allows each band to do what is popular in their area."

Case in point — the Virgin Islands has a steel pan band. Other places boast country, bluegrass or jazz groups.

As for advice for a potential new musical recruit:

"The first thing, audition and get in the band. I was enlisted as a percussionist for 11 years before becoming commander. Get your experience in," he said.

After that, shoot for a master's degree and work your way to band director or conductor, he said.

Ultimately, just do what Beckler did — be stubborn and stick around.

Information from: Aberdeen American News, <http://www.aberdeennews.com>

Flaming fountain at South Dakota's Capitol needs repairs

By SETH TUPPER Rapid City Journal

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A fix for the Flaming Fountain near the South Dakota Capitol in Pierre could be more urgent, complicated and expensive than anticipated, and it could require an alternative water source for Capitol Lake, according to an expert report.

"We recommend that the State Engineer consider options to reconstruct an alternative memorial fountain in a different configuration that will be more sustainable and safer," said the report from the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology in Rapid City.

The Rapid City Journal reports that although the fountain is surrounded by modern war memorials, the fountain itself is a relic. It's a 110-year-old uncapped, free-flowing well that produces both water and natural gas from about 1,300 feet underground.

For many years, the gas flowed reliably enough to keep a flame lit, so that the water itself seemed to be ablaze.

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But it's been more than a decade since the fountain consistently held a flame, and some observers say the stone structures around the fountain appear to be settling.

At the invitation of State Engineer Stacy Langdeau, who is a Mines graduate, a team from Mines studied the Flaming Fountain during the summer and recently sent a report to Langdeau.

The report said the underground pocket of natural gas that formerly fueled the fountain's flame is probably almost depleted, which is why the flame won't stay lit. The report also said the well's steel casing might be corroded, and water could be leaking through the casing into soft and crumbly underground formations, where the water could be forming cavities that might settle or collapse.

If the well's casing becomes so corroded that its borehole collapses, water might continue flowing underground and surfacing wherever it finds a pathway.

"Trying to find and shut off the source of this water can be impossible, or at best, extremely expensive," the report says. "Therefore, it is critical that securing the Flaming Fountain be done as soon as possible while the borehole is still intact."

The report recommends plugging the well and obtaining new sources of water and natural gas for the fountain. The gas should be obtained from an existing commercial natural-gas supply line near the fountain, the report said.

Water could be obtained by drilling a new well or running a pipeline from the Missouri River, the report suggested. The new water source would also have to feed Capitol Lake, which is currently fed by the same well as the fountain.

The report did not estimate a cost for the work. A spokeswoman for the Bureau of Administration, which is the caretaker for the Capitol complex, said the bureau is looking over the report and trying to determine the best course of action.

Last winter, the Legislature and Gov. Kristi Noem approved a bill authorizing \$200,000 in private fundraising for a study of the fountain. But the Mines team did its study free of charge.

State Rep. Tim Rounds, R-Pierre, said that the fundraising effort will go ahead, although it's still in its infancy. He has secured a place for the funds with a foundation operated by BankWest, he said, and is assembling a committee of five people to raise the money. He said the funds could be applied to whatever next steps are deemed necessary by the state engineer and the governor's office.

Rounds said he is aware of the Mines report and said it foreshadows a potentially costly project.

"There will be a lot more expense than what people thought," he said.

Memorials to military veterans who served in Korea, Vietnam and World War II stand near the fountain, and Rounds said he would like to avoid disturbing those structures.

The fountain dates to 1909-1910. That winter, while construction of the Capitol was wrapping up, the well was drilled by Norbeck & Nicholson, a company run by then-legislator and eventual governor and U.S. Sen. Peter Norbeck. It was predicted that the well would produce both water and natural gas.

One of the authors of the recent Mines report, Dan Soeder, the director of the school's Energy Resources Initiative, said the gas is a byproduct of animal and plant remains from millions of years ago.

The water comes from an aquifer in a sandstone formation. Soeder said the water originates as precipitation in the Black Hills. It then takes thousands of years to work its way underground and flow all the way to Pierre, where it is under enough pressure that it gushes up the well without any mechanical assistance — a phenomenon known as an "artesian" flow.

"It is remarkable that after 110 years of continuous flow, this well is still vigorously discharging groundwater without the need for a pump," the Mines report said.

When the well was drilled, its 92-degree water was used to fill man-made Capitol Lake. Today, the lake remains warm during the winter, which is why geese — and their droppings — are a constant presence on and around the lake. The Mines report notes that if Missouri River water is substituted as a source for the lake, the lake will freeze each winter.

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"The freezing over of Capitol Lake will also likely drive off some or most of the over-wintering Canada geese," the report said.

In the well's early years, natural gas was separated from the water in a gravity tank and was used to light and heat the Capitol, while excess gas was sold to the city of Pierre.

After two people were injured when gas leaks caused a small building on the Capitol grounds to explode in 1958, the gas lines were capped. The fountain then became the main outlet for the natural gas emanating from the well, and there was so much of it that the state's superintendent of buildings and grounds decided during the 1960s to burn the gas off safely by setting it ablaze.

The water and gas flowed too irregularly to support a consistent flame, so a crew of state workers fashioned a baffle from scrap iron and installed it in the well to regulate the flow, thus producing a supposedly eternal solution.

"Eternity" expired as early as 2008, when reports surfaced that the flame was flickering out repeatedly and had to be periodically re-lit.

In recent years, an inspection device was run down the borehole, where it encountered an unknown obstruction at 500 feet. The Mines report says the obstruction is probably the baffle that was installed during the 1960s, which may have fallen down the well.

The Mines report said a contractor should be hired to first remove the obstruction and install a deep plug in the well, so that a video inspection may be conducted to determine the condition of the casing and the subsurface around it. The well should then be permanently plugged and filled, the report said.

The recommendations are based on three concerns.

First, the report said, the pocket of underground natural gas that formerly fueled the fountain is nearly depleted, but occasional bubbles of natural gas still arise, which could pose a danger to anyone who tries to light the fountain. That conclusion is based on data from a methane-gas sensor that the Mines team installed at the fountain and remotely monitored for three months.

Second, a "rotten egg" smell emitted by the fountain could be hydrogen sulfide, which is toxic, the report said.

The final and "most critical" concern, the report said, is the likelihood of corrosion afflicting the steel casing of the well, due to the casing's age and the presence of corrosive substances in the water.

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

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) _ These South Dakota lotteries were drawn Friday:

Mega Millions

11-38-44-48-70, Mega Ball: 17, Megaplier: 2

(eleven, thirty-eight, forty-four, forty-eight, seventy; Mega Ball: seventeen; Megaplier: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$50 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$70 million

Summit League invites St. Thomas to go Division I

By DAVE CAMPBELL AP Sports Writer

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — St. Thomas is seeking to become Minnesota's second NCAA Division I institution.

The university that will soon to be ousted from the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference due to its recent dominance of smaller schools in its longtime Division III home has received an invitation to join the Summit League with the goal of cranking up the competition for its 20 sports teams and going Division I.

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St. Thomas President Julie Sullivan announced Friday that the university has submitted a request to the NCAA for a waiver of the reclassification rules that would allow it to bypass Division II.

If the waiver is granted, St. Thomas would become the 10th member of the Summit League, a mid-major mixture of public and private institutions mostly in the Upper Midwest, in the fall of 2021. The Tommies would then have to find a different conference for their football and men's and women's hockey teams, sports that aren't sponsored by the Summit League.

In May, the MIAC announced that St. Thomas, the largest school in the league and one of its founding members in 1920, was being "involuntarily removed." Conference presidents cited athletic parity as their primary concern about the Tommies, who have won 12 consecutive MIAC all-sports trophies. The private Catholic liberal arts university has about 6,200 undergraduates, double the enrollment of the next-closest schools in the league.

Because they preferred to stay in the MIAC, where their football rivalry with St. John's University is one of the most storied in the country, the Tommies took what's believed to be an unprecedented step of asking to move up two levels at once. There's no clear sense about when the NCAA would decide on this, athletic director Phil Esten said, though the expectation is the university will receive word at some point during the current academic year.

"There's no blueprint for this or no roadmap," Esten said. "I do think we have a pretty compelling case to make, but it's impossible to speculate."

Reclassification rules currently require an advancing Division III school to spend three years as a provisional Division II member and have five years of good standing before applying for Division I acceptance. Then there'd be another four-year provisional period before becoming a full-fledged Division I member eligible for postseason play. That's a 14-year process, including these final two years of MIAC membership as a Division III institution.

Summit League Commissioner Tom Douple said Friday the conference president's council "unanimously and enthusiastically" voted to approve the application by St. Thomas and support the reclassification process.

"While the league recognizes the extraordinary efforts ahead for UST to seek Division I membership, we believe this institution is the right fit," Douple said.

Current members of the Summit League are Denver, Fort Wayne, North Dakota, North Dakota State, Omaha, Oral Roberts, South Dakota, South Dakota State, and Western Illinois. If the waiver is granted and the Summit League membership is finalized, St. Thomas would then have to apply for affiliate membership for both football and hockey. At the FCS level, the Pioneer League and the Missouri Valley Football Conference, which includes perennial power North Dakota State and three other Summit League members, would be the obvious options.

As for the future of the Tommie-Johnnie football game, which drew a Division III record 37,355 fans to Target Field in 2017, well, that's one of the many question marks facing St. Thomas in this period of transition.

"We'd love to find a way to make it work," Esten said, "within the rules and regulations and policies of whatever league we're in."

NorthWestern to Host Third Quarter 2019 Financial Results Conference Call and Webcast

BUTTE, Mont. and SIOUX FALLS, S.D., Oct. 4, 2019 /PRNewswire/ -- NorthWestern Corporation d/b/a NorthWestern Energy (NYSE: NWE) today announced that it will host an investor conference call and webcast on Wednesday, October 30, 2019, at 2:30 p.m. Eastern time to review its financial results for the quarter ending September 30, 2019. The Company also plans to issue a news release detailing its third quarter financial results the evening of October 29, 2019, after the NYSE close.

The conference call will be webcast live on the Internet at www.northwesternenergy.com under the "Our Company / Investor Relations / Presentations and Webcasts" heading or by visiting <https://www.webcaster4.com/Webcast/Page/1050/31861>. To participate, please go to the site at least 10 minutes in advance of the webcast to register. An archived webcast will be available shortly after the call and remain

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active for one year.

About NorthWestern Energy (NYSE: NWE)

NorthWestern Corporation, doing business as NorthWestern Energy, provides electricity and / or natural gas to approximately 726,400 customers in Montana, South Dakota and Nebraska. We have generated and distributed electricity in South Dakota and distributed natural gas in South Dakota and Nebraska since 1923 and have generated and distributed electricity and distributed natural gas in Montana since 2002. More information on NorthWestern Energy is available on the company's Web site at www.northwestern-energy.com.

View original content: <http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/northwestern-to-host-third-quarter-2019-financial-results-conference-call-and-webcast-300931497.html>

SOURCE NorthWestern Energy

AP FACT CHECK: Trump's fact-challenged week over impeachment By HOPE YEN and PAUL WISEMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Facing an impeachment inquiry, President Donald Trump is turning to a familiar playbook to defend himself: attacking his investigators , blasting the inquiry as illegal and deriding the process as all-but-rigged.

Many facts are getting lost in the process.

He repeatedly lambasted Democratic Rep. Adam Schiff, the House Intelligence Committee chairman who is leading the impeachment review, as guilty of treason or defamation for mocking Trump's July 25 phone call with Ukraine's president, Volodymyr Zelenskiy. Neither charge is valid.

Trump also assailed the whistleblower complaint as improperly filed and "dishonest," compared with a "word for word" transcript of the call. Actually, no exact transcript exists, and the acting director of national intelligence told Congress that he believed the whistleblower complaint was "in alignment" with a rough transcript released by the White House.

Trump had a similar playbook to dispute the Russia investigation by assailing special counsel Robert Mueller as biased and saying the inquiry was illegally hatched by Democrats. Those charges have been shown to be untrue.

Meanwhile, amid signs of manufacturing weakness , Trump unfairly pointed a finger of blame at the Federal Reserve rather than his escalating trade war with China, and overstated his role in a World Trade Organization ruling for the United States.

A review:

IMPEACHMENT

TRUMP: "As I learn more and more each day, I am coming to the conclusion that what is taking place is not an impeachment, it is a COUP, intended to take away the Power of the....People." — tweet Tuesday.

THE FACTS: No illegal coup is afoot.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., last month initiated impeachment proceedings against Trump. She accused him of abusing presidential powers by seeking help from a foreign government to undermine Democratic rival Joe Biden and help his own reelection. The move followed a complaint by a whistleblower, a CIA officer, who made the charges.

A coup is usually defined as a sudden, violent and illegal seizure of government power. The impeachment process is laid out in the Constitution, giving Congress the authority to impeach and try a president as part of its responsibilities as a coequal branch of government to provide a check on a president when he or she commits treason, bribery, or "other high crimes and misdemeanors."

The standard of "high crimes and misdemeanors" is vague and open-ended to encompass abuses of power even if they aren't, strictly speaking, illegal.

2016 ELECTION

TRUMP: "The Do Nothing Democrats should be focused on building up our Country, not wasting every-

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one's time and energy on BULLSHIT, which is what they have been doing ever since I got overwhelmingly elected in 2016, 223-306." — tweet Wednesday.

THE FACTS: Trump again misstates the Electoral College vote. The official count was 304 to 227, according to an Associated Press tally of the electoral votes in every state.

UKRAINE

TRUMP: "I had a transcript done by very, very talented people — word for word, comma for comma. ... We had an exact transcript. And when we produced that transcript, they died." — news conference Wednesday with Finland's president.

TRUMP: "They never thought in a million years that I'd release the conversation ... And this is an exact word-for-word transcript of the conversation, right? Taken by very talented stenographers." — remarks Wednesday to reporters in the Oval Office.

THE FACTS: It's not a word-for-word transcript.

The memorandum of Trump's July 25 phone call with Zelenskij itself makes clear that it does not represent an exact transcript of what was said.

According to the document, it is "not a verbatim transcript" and instead "records the notes and recollections of Situation Room Duty Officers and NSC policy staff assigned to listen and memorialize the conversation in written form as the conversation takes place. A number of factors can affect the accuracy of the record." It cited potential factors such as the quality of the phone connection, variations in accent "and/or interpretation."

NSC refers to the National Security Council.

The acting director of national intelligence, Joseph Maguire, told a House panel last month that he believed the whistleblower acted in "good faith" and the complaint was consistent with the White House's rough transcript.

TRUMP, on the whistleblower: "He got his information, I guess, second or thirdhand. He wrote something that was total fiction." — remarks to reporters Thursday.

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 on Sept. 28.

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

THE FACTS: The process for submitting a whistleblower complaint was not rigged against Trump.

There was nothing improper in how the complaint was submitted. No whistleblower law was changed and nothing under that law requires the complaints to have firsthand information. In a rare statement this past week, the inspector general for the intelligence community also made clear that it had determined the whistleblower did have some firsthand, "direct knowledge of certain alleged conduct."

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

Intelligence agency workers have long been able to blow the whistle based on secondhand 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 Zelenskij in a typed, nine-page document addressed to the House Intelligence Committee. The watchdog said that while the whistleblower was not a direct witness to the call, the inspector general separately obtained other information during its preliminary review to deem the allegations credible.

Pointing to suspicious activity, McCarthy, R-Calif., cites the removal of some information from the standardized complaint form, which previously stressed the need for firsthand information for an inspector general to determine the complaint credible. The inspector general's office said it had removed that language from the form earlier this year because it determined that "it could be read - incorrectly - as suggesting that

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whistleblowers must possess first-hand information in order to file an urgent concern complaint with the congressional intelligence committees.”

In any event, the inspector general’s office said it had provided the whistleblower separate background material on submitting a complaint that included that language.

SCHIFF

TRUMP: “Congressman Adam Schiff should resign for the Crime of, after reading a transcript of my conversation with the President of Ukraine (it was perfect), fraudulently fabricating a statement of the President of the United States and reading it to Congress, as though mine!” — tweet Wednesday.

TRUMP: “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. It bore NO relationship to what I said on the call. Arrest for Treason?” — tweet Monday.

THE FACTS: Trump is overstating Schiff’s exaggerations. The California Democrat, in what he said was a parody during a committee hearing, mocked and overstated the president’s pleas in his July call to Zelenskiy, as Trump does with his critics routinely.

Under the Constitution, treason occurs when a U.S. citizen, or a noncitizen on U.S. territory, wages war against the country or provides material support, not just sympathy, to a declared enemy of the United States. It is defined narrowly as part of an effort by the framers to prevent the government from using it as a reason to suppress political speech, said J. Richard Broughton, associate dean at University of Detroit Mercy and a member of the Republican National Lawyers Association.

The executive branch can only bring charges in extremely limited cases.

For instance, in the Cold War case of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, who were executed for giving atomic secrets to Russia, the Rosenbergs were convicted of espionage, not treason, because the U.S. and Russia were not officially at war. No one has been convicted of treason since the aftermath of World War II, says Carlton F.W. Larson, a University of California law professor who has a book on treason.

During last week’s House Intelligence Committee hearing, Schiff made clear he was providing an account that was in “essence” what he believed Trump was conveying to Zelenskiy, when “shorn of its rambling character.”

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

TRUMP: “Liddle’ Adam Schiff ... fraudulently and illegally inserted his made up & twisted words into my call with the Ukrainian President to make it look like I did something very wrong. He then boldly read those words to Congress and millions of people, defaming & libeling me.” — tweets on Sept. 28.

THE FACTS: Schiff’s remarks are not illegal nor would it be defamatory or libelous. Lawmakers are given wide protections from liability for comments made in the course of Congress under the “speech or debate” clause in the Constitution, which seeks to foster political debate.

ECONOMY and TRADE

TRUMP, on a World Trade Organization ruling allowing the U.S. to tax impose tariffs on \$7.5 billion worth of European imports annually: “You never had wins with other presidents, did you? But we’re having a lot of wins at the WTO since I became president.” — news conference Wednesday.

THE FACTS: Trump is wrong that the U.S. never got any WTO victories under other presidents.

The U.S. has always had a high success rate when it pursues cases against other countries at the WTO. In 2017, trade analyst Daniel Ikenson of the libertarian Cato Institute found that the U.S. had won 91% of time it brought a complaint that ended up being adjudicated by the Geneva-based trade monitor. True, Ikenson noted, the countries bringing complaints tend to win overwhelmingly. That’s because they don’t bother going to the WTO in the first place if they don’t have a pretty strong case.

The WTO announcement culminated a 15-year fight over EU subsidies for Airbus — a fight that began

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long before Trump was in office.

TRUMP: "As I predicted, Jay Powell and the Federal Reserve have allowed the Dollar to get so strong, especially relative to ALL other currencies, that our manufacturers are being negatively affected. Fed Rate too high." — tweet Tuesday.

THE FACTS: Actually, most economists and many factory owners point to Trump's trade policies for the difficulties in U.S. manufacturing, not the Federal Reserve and Chairman Jerome Powell.

The Institute for Supply Management reported on Tuesday that factory activity shrank in September for the second straight month. That report shows that the factory sector has been contracting in large part because of the trade war against China that Trump sparked by launching a salvo of tariffs.

The index is based on a survey of manufacturers. Of the 10 quoted in the report, none blames the challenges they face on the Fed or the strong dollar. But three say the tariffs and trade war have hurt their businesses.

"The primary culprit here is the trade war," Eric Winograd, senior U.S. economist at AllianceBernstein, said Tuesday.

Trump is right that the Fed's decision to raise short-term interest rates four times last year contributed to a stronger dollar. But it wasn't the only factor. The U.S. economy is growing more quickly than Europe's or Japan's, which attracts more investment and boosts the dollar's value. And many global investors prefer to invest in U.S. Treasury securities when the global economy slows, as it is now, because Treasuries are seen as a safe haven. That also pushes up the dollar.

The Fed has reversed itself this year and cut its benchmark interest rate twice, but that hasn't weakened the dollar, because other central banks are also cutting rates. Trump has previously urged the Fed to slash its rate to zero, but that could spook consumers and businesses, who might see it as a sign that a recession is near. Consumer spending could fall as a result and slow the U.S. economy.

The kind of sharp rate cuts by the Fed that Trump is demanding would also likely encourage investors to place more money in stocks and other speculative investments. This would risk inflating a stock market bubble to levels that might ultimately destabilize the U.S. economy.

AP Economics Writers Josh Boak and Christopher Rugaber in Washington and Associated Press writer Amanda Seitz in Chicago contributed to this report.

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Hong Kong 'semi-paralyzed' as ban-defying marches persist

By JOHN LEICESTER and EILEEN NG Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — With subway services shut down, the wearing of face masks criminalized at rallies and Hong Kong's leader reaffirming her determination not to let rioters get the upper hand, anti-government protests that have shaken the city diminished in intensity Saturday but didn't stop.

Marchers still came out to defy the new ban on face coverings that the government of the semi-autonomous Chinese territory says have made the identification of violent protesters difficult for police. Shielded under umbrellas, many wearing masks, several hundred demonstrators clogged a thoroughfare in the central business district, carrying a yellow banner marked "Glory to Hong Kong" and shouting, "Hong Kong, resist!"

Scattered gatherings of protesters in masks popped up elsewhere, too, with some holding hands in a human chain. But protester numbers Saturday afternoon appeared down from previous weekends when tens of thousands flooded the streets.

A combination of factors seemed to be at work. Some marchers said the protest movement that has plunged Hong Kong into its deepest crisis since its handover from British to Chinese rule in 1997 was merely harboring strength for the long haul.

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The closure of the entire MTR network of subway and trains that habitually handles more than 4 million trips a day also caused major disruption to the usually never-resting but now edgy and restive city of 7.5 million people. An express link to Hong Kong international airport also closed for a while before reopening with reduced service Saturday afternoon.

"From MTR to EmptyR," tweeted activist Joshua Wong, a key player in 2014 protests that foreshadowed the past four months of demonstrations that have snowballed into a sustained flare of anti-government and anti-China fury.

"Can't go anywhere," said Kevin Cui, a tourist from mainland China who'd planned to visit Hong Kong Disneyland only to discover at a shuttered subway station that the network was suspended. "This is very troublesome."

Following up on its face-mask ban that went into effect at midnight Friday, the government also hammered home a get-tough message that it would not bow to rioters and appealed for public support after an overnight rash of widespread violence, including arson attacks. Citizens awoke Saturday not only to closed subway stations but also shuttered shops and banks, where lines formed at cash machines.

In a televised address broadcast as protesters again marched in masks, a solemn Carrie Lam, the city's chief executive, described Hong Kong as "semi-paralyzed" and said, "Everyone is worried, anxious, or even scared."

"The government needs to take drastic measures to say no to violence, restore peace in society, protect citizens' right to continue their daily lives and freedom, not allowing a small group of rioters to destroy it," she said.

John Lee, the government's security secretary, said by not condemning violence, people are stoking it. "What is adding oil to violence is people's support for these acts," he said. "What is important is that everybody comes out to say, 'No, society will not accept violence.'"

Some agreed, even as they continued to blame Lam for sparking the protest movement with a now abandoned measure that would have allowed criminal suspects to be extradited for trial in Communist Party-controlled courts in mainland China.

"There is outright rioting," said retiree Peter Tai, 67, stocking up on groceries for fear they'd become hard to find.

"Protesters want democracy and freedom, but don't they have freedom now? People can go anywhere and do things freely. Freedom is more valuable than democracy. I hope these young people don't do things they'll regret forever," he said.

But many peaceful protesters say violence has become a means to an end, the only way for young masked protesters to force the government to bend to clamors for full democracy and other demands.

As a group of black-clad youths in protective gear rushed past him, many carrying bamboo sticks, a property industry worker who came out with his wife Friday night to show his opposition to the mask ban expressed his admiration for those confronting police.

"I know they have done terrible things" he said. "Can you believe how brave they are?"

He gave only his first name, Alex. He and his wife, Pauline, both donned masks that covered their mouths to hit streets in central Hong Kong, where clouds of police tear gas to disperse protesters also caused spluttering tourists and Friday night revelers to flee, eyes stinging.

Under cover of darkness, masked protesters rampaged, setting fires, setting up makeshift road blocks that backed up traffic and vandalizing subway stations, China-linked businesses and other property.

An officer fired a single shot from his gun in self-defense after he was attacked by protesters in the northern Yuen Long district, said police spokeswoman Yolanda Yu. She said a man was wounded, but police didn't know exactly how he got shot. A police official, who requested anonymity because he wasn't authorized to speak to the media, said the victim is 14. A Hospital Authority spokesman said the teen was in serious but not critical condition.

The teen became the second victim of gunfire in the protests that began in June. An 18-year-old protester was also shot at close range by a riot police officer on Tuesday.

Associated Press videojournalist Katie Tam contributed to this report.

Revelations in impeachment inquiry rattle State Department

By **BEN FOX, MATTHEW LEE and LOLITA C. BALDOR** Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The State Department has been deeply shaken by the rapidly escalating impeachment inquiry, as revelations that President Donald Trump enlisted diplomats to dig up dirt on a political rival threaten to tarnish its reputation as a nonpartisan arm of U.S. foreign policy, former senior officials said Friday.

A department where morale was already low under a president who, at times, has seemed hostile to its mission is now reeling from days of disclosures that place it at the center of an escalating political scandal, say former diplomats who fear that the turmoil will damage American foreign policy objectives around the world.

"This has just been a devastating three years for the Department of State," said Heather Conley, a senior policy adviser at State under President George W. Bush. "You can just feel there is a sense of disbelief. They don't know who will be subpoenaed next."

The first blow was the release of a rough transcript of the July 25 call between Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy in which the American president pressed for an investigation of the son of former Vice President Joe Biden.

In the call, the president also disparaged the former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine, who was removed from her post in May amid a campaign coordinated by Trump lawyer Rudy Giuliani.

Thursday saw the release of text messages between Ukraine special envoy Kurt Volker and two senior diplomats as they scrambled to accommodate Giuliani's campaign to leverage American support for Ukraine in a search for potential political dirt.

"This is only the latest in a large number of very damaging things that have been done to the State Department," said Thomas Pickering, a former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations and Russia under President George H.W. Bush. "It represents a new low in basically ignoring and indeed punishing the people who have made a professional commitment to the country and Constitution."

With Washington in tumult over the escalating impeachment inquiry, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo toured southeast Europe on Friday, trying to ignore the furor back home.

He did not respond to shouted questions on the topic from journalists at photo opportunities in Podgorica, Montenegro, and Ohrid, North Macedonia, and no questions were allowed at his scheduled press events in the two cities. His staff steadfastly refused to comment on the latest developments in the rapidly unfolding drama, including at a briefing for reporters at his last stop of the day in Athens.

Earlier this week in Rome, Pompeo acknowledged for the first time that he had been on the July 25 phone call between Trump and Zelenskiy.

House Democrats launched the impeachment probe over the Ukraine matter after a government whistleblower disclosed Trump's call with Zelenskiy and the push to have a foreign government interfere in U.S. elections by digging up dirt on Biden.

Trump has sought, without evidence, to implicate Biden and his son Hunter 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.

Trump has had a tense relationship with the State Department since he took office, repeatedly proposing to slash its budget, leaving key posts unfulfilled and choosing political appointees over career foreign service officers for ambassadorships to a greater degree than other recent presidents have.

His ouster of U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch, a respected career officer, and his dismissal of her as "bad news" in the call left many diplomats dismayed.

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"This is a workforce that already feels besieged and undercut and in a perpetual defensive crouch," said Derek Chollet, a former senior policy adviser in the Defense Department and State Department. "The lack of a vigorous defense of her is a signal that they are very vulnerable here. It just confirms their worst fears."

Conley, now a program director at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said the State Department had settled down a bit under Pompeo following the chaotic early part of the administration under former Secretary of State Rex Tillerson.

But now, she said, diplomats are conflicted and confused because everything has happened outside normal channels, with no regard for long-held processes.

Conley said that during her tenure at the department, even when there were disagreements between senior leaders, "there was a respect for hierarchy and the process." And when something went wrong, there was a chain of command and a process that protected people.

But that has changed. "No one knows what's going to happen next," Conley said. "They're all trying their best, but no one is untouched, no one is unharmed."

She said foreign leaders who come to Washington can't make progress on important issues because the Ukraine furor overwhelms the conversation, as it did during a visit by the president of Finland earlier this week.

Other former officials and diplomats say U.S. standing around the world has been weakened.

"Even a hint of the President using the power of his office to advance his personal interests in an upcoming domestic election will undermine the U.S. in diplomacy and military affairs significantly — especially with our NATO allies, who are following all of this closely with real concern," said James Stavridis, a retired Navy admiral who was the top NATO commander in Europe from 2009 to 2013.

"We have come into a situation where not only unpredictability is the hallmark of the United States, but unreliability as well," Pickering said. "The wisdom and judgment that the United States was known for has been diminished."

Lee reported from Ohrid and Athens.

Impeachment probe reaches into White House with new subpoena

By ZEKE MILLER and JILL COLVIN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The impeachment inquiry is reaching directly into the White House, with Democrats subpoenaing officials about contacts with Ukraine and President Donald Trump signaling his administration will not cooperate.

The demand for documents Friday capped a tumultuous week that widened the constitutional battle between the executive branch and Congress and heightened the political standoff with more witnesses, testimony and documents to come.

Trump said he would formally object to Congress about the House impeachment inquiry, even as he acknowledged that Democrats "have the votes" to proceed. They'll be sorry in the end, he predicted.

"I really believe that they're going to pay a tremendous price at the polls," Trump said.

But Democrats accused Trump of speeding down "a path of defiance, obstruction and cover-up" and warned that defying the House subpoena would in itself be considered "evidence of obstruction" and a potentially an impeachable offense.

Lawmakers have made Trump's request last summer that Ukraine investigate former Vice President Joe Biden the centerpiece of the probe. A whistleblower complaint said that Trump sought to use military assistance for Ukraine as leverage to push President Volodymyr Zelenskiy to investigate the 2020 Democratic hopeful.

"We deeply regret that President Trump has put us — and the nation — in this position, but his actions have left us with no choice," wrote the three Democratic House chairmen, Reps. Elijah Cummings, Adam Schiff and Eliot Engel, in issuing Friday's subpoena after White House resistance to the panel's request for witnesses and documents.

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Fighting the inquiry, the White House was expected to send a letter to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi arguing that Congress could not mount its impeachment investigation without first having a vote to authorize it. White House press secretary Stephanie Grisham derided the subpoena as coming from a Democratic "kangaroo court."

But Pelosi insisted the House is well within its rules to conduct oversight of the executive branch under the U.S. Constitution.

In the letter accompanying the subpoena, the three chairmen agreed, stating, "Speaker Pelosi has confirmed that an impeachment inquiry is underway, and it is not for the White House to say otherwise."

Trump's comments at the White House came shortly before Democrats sent a separate extensive request for documents to Vice President Mike Pence about his contacts with Ukraine.

Pence spokeswoman Katie Waldman dismissed the demand, saying that given its wide scope, "it does not appear to be a serious request."

The House has also subpoenaed Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

When Pelosi recently announced that the House was initiating the inquiry, she didn't seek the consent of the full chamber, as was done for impeachment investigations into former Presidents Richard Nixon and Bill Clinton. But it is proceeding at a rapidly escalating pace.

Late Thursday, House investigators released a cache of text messages that showed top U.S. diplomats encouraging Ukraine's newly elected president to conduct an investigation linked to Biden's family in return for granting a high-profile visit with Trump in Washington.

The release followed a 10-hour interview with one of the diplomats, Kurt Volker, who stepped down as special envoy to Ukraine after the impeachment inquiry had begun.

On Friday, investigators in Congress heard again from Michael Atkinson, the intelligence community inspector general who brought forward the whistleblower complaint of Trump's call with the Ukraine president that sparked the impeachment inquiry.

Trump repeated on Friday that he had been pressing Ukraine to investigate corruption, not trying to undermine Biden, who could be his 2020 presidential election opponent. He made a related request of China, specifying Biden and his son, on Thursday.

As Republicans search for a response to the investigation, the absence of a procedural vote to begin the probe has been a main attack line against Democrats.

Pelosi swatted back the need for such a vote as unnecessary.

"The existing rules of the House provide House Committees with full authority to conduct investigations for all matters under their jurisdiction, including impeachment investigations," Pelosi wrote Thursday in a letter to House GOP Leader Kevin McCarthy after he, too, pressed for a floor vote.

Pelosi has sought to avoid a vote on the impeachment probe for the same reason she resisted, for months, liberal calls to try to remove the president: It would force moderate House Democrats to make a politically risky vote.

The White House, meanwhile, is trying to force the question on Democrats, as it seeks to raise the political cost for their impeachment investigation and to animate the president's supporters ahead of the 2020 election.

Two days after telling reporters, "Well, I always cooperate," Trump struck a different note on cooperating with the House probe. "I don't know," he said. "That's up to the lawyers."

There's no clear-cut procedure in the Constitution for initiating an impeachment inquiry, leaving many questions about possible presidential obstruction untested in court, said Allan Lichtman, a history professor at American University.

"There's no specification in the Constitution in what does and does not constitute a more formal impeachment inquiry or investigation," he said.

Rudy Giuliani, the president's personal attorney, dismissed the entire premise of the impeachment inquiry, which is centered on Trump asking Ukraine to investigate Biden.

"The president was not tasking Ukraine to investigate a political opponent," Giuliani told The Associated Press on Thursday. "He wanted an investigation into a seriously conflicted former vice president of the

United States who damaged the reputation of the United States in Ukraine.”

Democrats have sought to use their declared impeachment investigation to bolster their case to access all sorts of documents from the administration, most recently secret grand jury information that underpinned special counsel Robert Mueller’s report on Russian interference in the 2016 election.

Where courts have generally required congressional oversight requests to demonstrate a legitimate legislative purpose, impeachment requests could be wide-ranging.

Democrats have already won some early court battles. It is unclear if Democrats would wade into a lengthy legal fight with the administration over documents and testimony — or if they would just move straight to considering votes on articles of impeachment.

AP writers Lisa Mascaro and Mark Sherman in Washington and Jonathan Lemire in New York contributed.

Sanders, Warren upend how Democrats raise money

By BRIAN SLODYSKO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — There’s big money in thinking small.

Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren raked in more cash over the past three months than any of their rivals for the Democratic presidential nomination. And it’s not because they’ve been working the big-donor fundraising circuit.

The Vermont and Massachusetts senators have upended the way Democratic presidential candidates can raise tens of millions of dollars. Rather than spending time — and considerable financial resources — traveling the country to schmooze with wealthy donors, they’re raising money through small donations made online.

For Democratic activists who revile the influence of money in politics, the third quarter numbers from Sanders and Warren are powerful reminders of the influence progressives hold in the primary.

But the small dollar phenomenon may be overstated because many of the biggest Democratic donors haven’t taken sides in the crowded primary. And the ultimate nominee will still likely need to turn to traditional ways of raising money to compete against President Donald Trump who, along with the Republican National Committee, has already raised hundreds of millions of dollars to support his reelection.

“The biggest problem that we as Democrats have to face is that this is a war — and I don’t believe in unilateral disarmament,” said Bakari Sellers, a Democratic commentator and top surrogate for California Sen. Kamala Harris. “Trying to beat Donald Trump with small dollar donations? That’s about as good as an ashtray on a motorcycle.”

Third quarter fundraising numbers don’t need to be reported to the Federal Election Commission until Oct. 15 and not all candidates have released theirs. But most have, including all of the top tier contenders.

Sanders leads the field, so far, pulling in \$25.3 million, with Warren’s \$24.6 million close behind. Pete Buttigieg, the mayor of South Bend, Indiana, came in third with \$19.1 million.

From there, the drop off is steep. Former Vice President Joe Biden pulled in \$15.2 million, while Harris raised \$11.6 million. New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker raised about \$6 million. Montana Gov. Steve Bullock brought in \$2.3 million while Colorado Sen. Michael Bennet pulled in \$2.1 million.

Warren and Sanders, a self-described democratic socialist, have run unabashed progressive campaigns, energizing the grassroots base by championing free health care and forgiveness of college debts. The centrist candidates, meanwhile, have tried to put a damper on that, warning that it would cost too much or lead to a massive tax increase.

While Biden and Harris spent much of the summer courting big donors, Warren and Sanders kept up intense campaign schedules where they communicated directly with voters. After a campaign rally, Warren poses for selfies with supporters, who often lined up for hours waiting a turn.

The fundraising numbers suggest that Sanders and Warren are doing well because they’ve tapped into the party’s progressive fervor. But some longtime Democratic finance leaders caution that the numbers are less about policy differences and more about which candidates have connected most effectively with

voters.

Many of the centrist candidates come across as "boring," said Rufus Gifford, the former finance director for Barack Obama's 2012 campaign.

"The firebrand narrative can certainly raise you money, but it's about more than centrist vs. lefty," Gifford said. "It's the way you talk about your idea and whether people feel it's real."

Tom Nides, a Democratic donor and former deputy secretary of state under Hillary Clinton, said the dynamic could change as the field winnows and big donors who have held back decide to choose a candidate to support.

"There is an enthusiasm gap with high-end of fundraisers. Many have torn loyalties," Nides said. "They support one candidate, but like the other and there's not a clear front-runner."

Biden's third quarter total is about a \$6 million drop from what he raised after entering the race in April. He's kept up a steady schedule of high-dollar fundraisers, but his small-dollar operation sputtered after a promising early start, an analysis of campaign finance data shows.

"One shouldn't get tied up in a knot about the money today. Joe Biden's success or failure will not be determined by the amount of money he raises," Nides said.

"Establishment candidates generally don't do particularly well online. It's not dissimilar to who does well on Twitter," he added, referring to the social media platform of choice for some of the party's most outspoken progressive voices.

Still, Warren and Sanders' success has equipped the populist candidates with a massive cash advantage just months before voting begins in Iowa.

"While the media and political pundits spent the last several months casting doubt on Sen. Sanders' chances at winning the White House, the working people of this country are ignoring conventional wisdom from Washington" said Sanders' campaign manager Faiz Shakir.

Campaign: Sanders had heart attack, released from hospital

By MICHELLE L. PRICE Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders had a heart attack, his campaign confirmed Friday as the Vermont senator was released from a Nevada hospital.

The 78-year-old was at a campaign event Tuesday when he experienced chest discomfort and was taken to a hospital where he was diagnosed with a heart attack. The senator was transferred to Desert Springs Hospital Medical Center, where doctors inserted two stents to open up a blocked artery in his heart, according to a statement from the Las Vegas doctors.

The doctors, Arturo Marchand, Jr. and Arjun Gururaj, said the rest of his arteries were normal.

A blocked artery can cause a heart attack, which means that an area of the heart is suffering and in danger of damage because it's not getting enough blood or oxygen. An artery-opening procedure like the one Sanders had, and placing stents, which are tiny scaffolds to keep the artery open, restores blood flow and helps prevent future problems.

The statements from Sanders and his doctors do not indicate whether his heart suffered any permanent damage, or the extent of any. The sooner blood flow is restored, the better the chance of survival without damage, which is why heart experts urge anyone thinking they might be having a heart attack to call 911.

The doctors said the rest of his stay before being discharged Friday was "uneventful with good expected progress."

The campaign also released a statement from Sanders where he thanked the doctors, nurses and hospital staff.

"After two and a half days in the hospital, I feel great, and after taking a short time off, I look forward to getting back to work," he said.

Soon after, he posted a video on Twitter showing him standing at a Las Vegas park with his wife.

"I just got out of the hospital a few hours ago and I'm feeling so much better," Sanders said. "See you soon on the campaign trail."

He and his wife both thanked people for their warm wishes.

He was expected to return to Vermont.

"There should not be an overreaction to this," said Dr. Steve Nissen, a heart expert at Cleveland Clinic who has not treated Sanders himself. "If he were my patient, I might ask him to avoid 16-hour days for at least a little bit of time. But there's absolutely no reason he can't get back to full activity soon."

Heart attack patients may be statistically more prone to future heart attacks, Nissen said, but that doesn't mean Sanders will have another episode or has to slow down for more than a few days or weeks.

"What's more important than his age is his condition before the event. He strikes me as an incredibly vigorous and energetic guy. People like that tend to do well," Nissen said, adding that he doesn't buy the idea that stress causes heart attacks. "The culprit is a blockage in the coronary artery."

This marks the second time in two months that health problems forced Sanders to cancel campaign events. In September, he backed out of some appearances in South Carolina because he lost his voice. His campaign said at the time that Sanders felt fine.

As the oldest candidate in the Democratic 2020 field, Sanders has sometimes jokingly referenced his age on the campaign trail. He is one of three septuagenarians who are leading the crowded race and have sparked questions within the party about whether Democrats need to coalesce around a younger leader.

Younger candidates, such as 37-year-old South Bend, Indiana Mayor Pete Buttigieg, have said it's time for a new generation to lead the Democratic Party and the country. Former Obama Housing Secretary Julian Castro appeared to make a jab at 76-year-old former Vice President Biden's age during the September debate. "Are you forgetting what you said two minutes ago?" the 45-year-old asked.

Former President Jimmy Carter, who turned 95 this week, recently said he hoped there would be an "age limit" for the presidency and said he didn't believe he could undertake the duties of the job if he were just 80.

Democrats know that if they nominate one of the candidates who is 70 or older, it will be hard for them to use 73-year-old President Donald Trump's age against him.

Sanders, Biden and 70-year-old Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren have all pledged to release updated medical records.

AP Chief Medical Writer Marilyn Marchione in Milwaukee and AP Medical Writer Carla K. Johnson in Seattle contributed to this report.

B-17 crash raises questions about vintage plane safety

By JENNIFER McDERMOTT Associated Press

The roar of its four engines, the plexiglass nose, the bristling machine guns — for history buffs and aviation enthusiasts, few thrills compare with that of a flight aboard aircraft like the B-17 Flying Fortress, the World War II bomber that helped smash the Nazi war machine.

"It made you feel like you were back in the 1940s," said commercial pilot Gloria Bouillon, who rode one last month and called it the best flight of her life. "They had it set up just like it would be if it was on a mission. You could put your head out of the hatch. It was windy. It was noisy. You could smell the fuel. It was much different from a flight now."

But a deadly crash in Connecticut this week of the very same B-17 has cast a pall over the band of brothers — and sisters — who enjoy riding in vintage planes and raised questions of whether machinery over 70 years old should be flying passengers.

The propeller-driven 1945 bomber went down at the Hartford airport on Wednesday, killing seven of the 13 people aboard, after the pilot reported engine trouble on takeoff. The cause of the fiery wreck is under investigation.

Arthur Alan Wolk, a lawyer who specializes in crash litigation in Philadelphia, said Friday that the accident shows the risks associated with flying old planes: They break. He said the rules for operating vintage aircraft are stringent, but he questioned whether compliance and training are adequate.

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"The engines are old with no new parts being manufactured for decades," he wrote in a blog post. "Even in service these aircraft needed the resources of a government to keep them flying. The aircraft and engines were never intended to last this long so intense maintenance and inspections are vital to continued safety."

Since 1982, the National Transportation Safety Board has investigated 21 accidents involving World War II-era bombers. They resulted in 23 deaths. Three of the accidents involved B-17Gs, not counting the one that crashed Wednesday.

Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., asked that the NTSB during its investigation of the Connecticut accident look at the inspection and maintenance requirements on vintage planes and whether they need to be more rigorous.

A Federal Aviation Administration spokeswoman said that if an issue is discovered during the investigation that might apply to the fleet, the agency will take appropriate action.

Vintage planes need to be certified as airworthy by the FAA and are subject to periodic inspections. Owners can obtain an FAA "living history flight exemption" to offer flights to paying customers, but they must comply with extra federal requirements for safety and maintenance.

"I would not have any hesitation about flying in these aircraft," said Dick Knapinski, a spokesman for the Experimental Aircraft Association of Oshkosh, Wisconsin, an organization of aviation enthusiasts and airplane restorers. The association flies one of the few remaining B-17s.

Its B-17 will visit Hyannis, Massachusetts, this weekend but will not offer passenger flights out of respect for those connected to the tragedy, Knapinski said.

The Connecticut crash reduces to nine the number of B-17s actively flying, according to the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force, near Dayton, Ohio.

The one that went down was owned by the Collings Foundation, an educational group in Massachusetts that brought its Wings of Freedom vintage aircraft display to the Hartford airport this week. It was FAA-certified through November 2022. The foundation said Friday it would suspend flights for the rest of the year in the wake of the crash.

The pilot, 75-year-old Ernest McCauley, of Long Beach, California, had more than 7,000 hours of experience flying a B-17. He was killed in the crash.

Unlike commercial airline pilots, who must retire at 65, pilots of vintage aircraft can keep flying as long as their medical certificate, training and testing are current.

Knapinski dismissed concerns that the knowledge and equipment needed to keep World War II-vintage planes flying are dwindling, saying that pilots and mechanics are trained to a high standard, and that original parts or new ones manufactured to the same specifications are available.

The B-17 is one of the most celebrated warplanes in U.S. history, used to conduct near-suicidal daylight raids against German industrial sites at a terrible cost in allied lives. About 12,000 B-17s were built during the war, and roughly a third were lost in combat, while others were scrapped afterward, Knapinski said.

"Airplanes are built to fly. When you see them in museums, it's not the same as experiencing them at your local airport, in your community," he said. "The tragedy notwithstanding, we hope to be doing this for a very long time."

Bouillon, manager of Beverly Regional Airport north of Boston, was stunned to hear of the crash involving the same plane she rode in mid-September.

"I took a breath and said that could have been me," she said. "You pause and you're grateful that you're still breathing."

Associated Press writers David Sharp in Portland, Maine, Dave Collins in Hartford, Connecticut, and Mark Pratt in Boston contributed to this report.

This story has been updated to trim a quote to delete an erroneous statement that no one alive ever flew or maintained a B-17 in service.

Hong Kong's leader says mask ban necessary to quell violence

By JOHN LEICESTER and EILEEN NG Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — Hong Kong's embattled leader insisted a new measure banning masks at rallies was not a move toward authoritarian rule or at the behest of the Chinese government, which signaled its approval shortly after she implemented the toughened response to quell four months of increasingly violent protests.

International observers worried, however, that Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam's use of the Emergency Ordinance — last invoked more than 50 years ago — could lead to harsher measures that would limit free expression in the semi-autonomous Chinese territory.

The mask ban went into effect Saturday. Two activists filed legal challenges late Friday on grounds it would instill fear and curtail freedom of assembly, but a court denied their request for an injunction.

Lam announced the measure Friday afternoon as thousands of masked protesters crammed streets in the central business district and staged demonstrations in other areas of the city, shouting "Hong Kong people, resist!" They set fires and vandalized subway stations, prompting police to respond with tear gas.

An officer fired a single shot from his gun in self-defense after he was attacked by protesters in the northern Yuen Long district, said police spokeswoman Yolanda Yu. She said a man was wounded, but that police didn't know exactly how he got shot. A police official, who requested anonymity because he wasn't authorized to speak to the news media, said the victim is 14. A Hospital Authority spokesman said the teen was in serious but not critical condition.

The teen became the second victim of gunfire since pro-democracy protests began in June and just three days after an 18-year-old protester was shot by a riot police officer at close range.

Lam said the mask ban would be "an effective deterrent to radical behavior."

"We must save Hong Kong — the present Hong Kong and the future Hong Kong," she said. "We must stop the violence. ... We can't just leave the situation to get worse and worse."

Lam said she would seek the legislature's backing for the ban later. She insisted Hong Kong was not in a state of emergency but wouldn't rule out a further toughening of measures if violence continued. She also bristled at a suggestion that the mask ban nudged the territory closer to authoritarian rule.

She said she was not acting under orders from Beijing, which she visited this week when Communist Party leaders celebrated 70 years in power on Tuesday. But Yang Guang, a Chinese spokesman for Hong Kong affairs, expressed support late Friday, saying it was time for stern measures to end the conflict.

Face masks have become a hallmark of protesters in Hong Kong, even at peaceful marches, amid fears of retribution at work or of being denied access to schooling, public housing and other government-funded services. Some young protesters also wear full gas masks and goggles to protect against tear gas. Many are concerned their identities could be shared with the massive state-security apparatus that helps keep the Communist Party in power in mainland China, where high-tech surveillance including facial recognition technology is ubiquitous.

Lam's ban applies to all public gatherings, both unauthorized and those approved by police. It makes the wearing of any face coverings, including face paint, punishable by one year in jail. A six-month jail term could be imposed on people who refuse a police officer's order to remove a face covering for identification. Masks will be permitted when wearers can prove they need them for work, health or religious reasons.

Thousands of masked protesters marched before Lam spoke. The rallies spread to many areas as protesters vowed not to be cowed. Many blocked traffic, smashed up shops and public properties, and set fires at streets and subway exits before the protests ended after midnight.

"Will they arrest 100,000 people on the street?" said a protester who gave his surname as Lui. "The government is trying to intimidate us, but at this moment, I don't think the people will be scared."

Another protester who identified himself as Ernest Ho noted that Hong Kong police wear masks "and they don't show their pass and their number."

"So, I will still keep my mask on everywhere," Ho said.

Analysts said the use of the Emergency Ordinance set a dangerous precedent. The law, a relic of British

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rule enacted in 1922 to quell a seamen's strike and last used to crush riots in 1967, gives broad powers to the city's chief executive to implement regulations in an emergency.

"If the anti-mask legislation proves to be ineffective, it could lead the way to more draconian measures such as a curfew and other infringement of civil liberties," said Willy Lam, adjunct professor at the Chinese University and no relation to Carrie Lam.

British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said Lam's government should avoid aggravating tensions and that "political dialogue is the only way" out. Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, the world's oldest leader, said Lam should resign and predicted Beijing would send in its military to end the crisis.

The ban came after widespread violence Tuesday across Hong Kong that marred China's National Day, when a police officer shot a protester at close range, escalating the violence since protests started over a now-shelved extradition bill. The wounded teenager was charged with attacking police and rioting.

The government last month withdrew the extradition bill, which would have allowed suspects to be sent to mainland China for trial, but the movement has snowballed into an anti-China campaign amid anger over what many view as Beijing's interference in Hong Kong's autonomy. Protesters have widened their demands to include direct elections of the city's leader and police accountability.

More than 2,100 people have been detained so far, including 204 charged with rioting, which carries a penalty of up to a decade in prison.

Purdue opioid deal blasted as records show \$13B to Sacklers

By GEOFF MULVIHILL Associated Press

Attorneys general representing nearly half the states and lawyers for more than 500 local governments on Friday blasted the terms of Purdue Pharma's offer to settle thousands of lawsuits over the nation's opioid crisis in court filings that also said the company had funneled up to \$13 billion to its controlling family.

Their legal filings said the tentative deal does not contain an admission of wrongdoing from members of the Sackler family, would not stop family members from future misconduct and wouldn't force them to repay money "they pocketed from their illegal conduct."

The documents say members of the Sackler family — one of the wealthiest in the U.S. — made \$12 billion to \$13 billion from Purdue, a higher amount than court records had previously given. The figure was in a sworn statement given last month by Jesse DelConte, a restructuring consultant for Purdue; an excerpt of his deposition did not specify over what time period those payments were made.

In a previous deposition, former Purdue chief executive Richard Sackler gave only a broad range — between \$1 billion and \$10 billion — that the family made from its signature painkiller, OxyContin.

Friday's court filings object to Purdue's request that all lawsuits against members of the Sackler family be halted as part of tentative settlement terms that are being considered in bankruptcy court in White Plains, New York. The family faces hundreds of lawsuits in state courts, including at least two dozen filed by state attorneys general.

Purdue's filing for bankruptcy protection last month removed the company from federal litigation in Cleveland that involves some 2,600 local governments, Native American tribes, unions and hospitals. The first trial in that multidistrict case is scheduled to begin Oct. 21.

The company filed for bankruptcy after half of state attorneys general and lawyers representing local governments agreed to their settlement offer, which could be worth as much as \$12 billion over time.

The bankruptcy court filings this week, most of them on Friday, showed the level of dissent over that offer among state and local governments that had been seeking a nationwide settlement.

Many of them argue that the Purdue settlement offer does not hold the Sackler family sufficiently accountable for a crisis that has contributed to more than 400,000 overdose deaths in the U.S. over the past two decades. That's why, they argued, the state cases against the family should continue even as Purdue's bankruptcy plays out.

"The Motion appears to be an attempt to have this Court prematurely approve a 'firebreak' strategy for

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the benefit of the Sacklers, in which the Sacklers have decided to offer up Purdue and see if they can outrace justice for a price they deem acceptable," the local government attorneys said in their filing.

Under its settlement offer, Purdue would be operated as a public benefit trust and its profits would be part of the settlement, as would the value of overdose antidotes and a treatment drug in development; the Sacklers would give up control of the company. Part of the deal's value would come from a contribution of \$3 billion to \$4.5 billion from members of the Sackler family, an amount that at least partially depends on how much they receive from selling their global opioid business, Mundipharma.

"The offer does not shut down Purdue; instead it would keep Purdue in business under a new name, so that settlement money could be collected from future OxyContin sales," the attorneys general said in their filing. "If the States accepted the offer, there would never be a trial to determine the Sacklers' liability for one of the greatest public health crises of our time."

The company has told the bankruptcy judge that if the family has to continue to face hundreds of lawsuits across the country, it might be "unwilling — or unable" to contribute to the settlement. The 500 governments who jointly filed on Friday said the company had it "backwards."

"The Sacklers' failure to make an adequate contribution itself impairs the prospect of achieving a consensual plan of organization," the filing said. "That failure is a reason to deny the injunction (against the state lawsuits), not grant it."

Forbes has estimated that the Sacklers are one of the 20 wealthiest families in the U.S.

Daniel Connolly, a lawyer for the branch of the Sackler family that are heirs to one of the company's late patriarchs, Raymond Sackler, responded to the court filing that revealed the \$12 billion to \$13 billion figure. He said the amount of money taken out of Purdue by the Sacklers is not as simple as it seems.

"The distribution numbers do not reflect the fact that many billions of dollars from that amount were paid in taxes and reinvested in businesses that will be sold as part of the proposed settlement," Connolly said in a statement Friday evening.

He said the Sacklers have agreed to give up control of the company and contribute money to address the opioid epidemic if all lawsuits against them are stopped. That, he said, would "allow parties to focus their efforts on this goal rather than on litigation that will waste resources and delay the deployment of solutions to communities in need."

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Dank, the brand that isn't, scrutinized amid vaping illness

By MICHAEL R. BLOOD Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — It's a widely known vaping cartridge in the marijuana economy, but it's not a licensed brand. And it's got the kind of market buzz no legitimate company would want.

The vaping cartridges that go by the catchy, one-syllable name "Dank" — a slang word for highly potent cannabis — are figuring prominently in the federal investigation to determine what has caused a rash of mysterious and sometimes fatal lung illnesses apparently linked to vaping. Most of the cases have involved products that contain the marijuana compound THC, often obtained from illegal sources.

The suspect Dank vapes are a familiar product in the underground marijuana economy — it's not a legal, tested brand. It's merely a name on a box or a cartridge, packaging that's easily obtained online and used by illicit producers to lure customers.

But with colorful boxes and names like Cherry Kush and Blue Dream, the homemade vapes appear convincing on the shelf.

"It doesn't look very different from what you can buy in a (legal) dispensary," said Beverly Hills-based cannabis attorney Allison Margolin.

So far, investigators have not identified a culprit in the illnesses reported in dozens of states. But officials say patients have mentioned the Dank name frequently. Many of the people who got sick in Illinois and

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Wisconsin, for example, said they used cartridges sold in Dank packaging.

The raw materials to produce a Dank vape aren't hard to find: Ready-to-fill Dank boxes and cartridges can be ordered from Chinese internet sites for pennies apiece. A Craigslist post last week offered a box stuffed with empty Dank packages for \$16. And you can buy the boxes and empty cartridges in shops in downtown Los Angeles.

A rogue producer adds cannabis oil — almost certainly untested — and it's ready for sale.

"It's a generic product name that doesn't really tie back to one store or one distributor," Dr. Jennifer Layden, chief medical officer for the Illinois Department of Public Health, said last month. "Folks are getting it from friends or folks on the street, with no understanding of where it came from prior to that."

The chief selling point for pot vapes in Dank packaging: It's a quick high on the cheap, available for as little as \$20 a gram on the illicit market, roughly one-third of what a customer would pay for a cartridge in a legal marijuana shop in California

But they come with risk: Products in the legal marijuana market are tested for safety and purity, while those in the illicit market are not and could contain pesticides, heavy metals or other dangerous contaminants.

According to California records, no licensed company is manufacturing a cannabis vape carrying the Dank name them in the state.

"It was never a legitimate company," said Los Angeles dispensary owner Donnie Anderson. "It was always an underground brand."

Given the shadowy pedigree of Dank vapes, it's not surprising that details about its history are scarce. In California, the Dank name appears to have emerged during the largely unregulated medical cannabis era, prior to broad legalization that began in 2018.

Dispensary owner Jerred Kiloh, who heads the Los Angeles-based United Cannabis Business Association, recalls seeing Dank vapes for the first time about seven years ago. Kiloh remembers being visited by vendors selling them at his shop, though that stopped long ago.

What remains is the name, which has managed to retain a surprising cachet in the underground industry.

Last month, Wisconsin authorities uncovered an illegal vaping-cartridge operation that they said was producing thousands of cartridges loaded with THC oil every day for almost two years. Photographs released by the Kenosha County Sheriff's Department showed neatly stacked Dank boxes and cartridges, apparently ready for shipment.

Also last month, Minnesota authorities seized nearly 77,000 THC vaping cartridges, some of which were packaged in Dank boxes.

In November 2018, authorities in Lorain County, Ohio, intercepted four packages mailed from California holding individually wrapped and sealed packages of Dank cartridges. They believed numerous similar packages were sent to the area previously.

"Dank Vapes appears to be the most prominent in a class of largely counterfeit brands, with common packaging that is easily available online and that is used by distributors to market THC-containing cartridges with no obvious centralized production or distribution," said a report by Illinois and Wisconsin officials, and from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Doctors say the illnesses resemble an inhalation injury. Symptoms have included shortness of breath, fatigue, chest pain, diarrhea and vomiting.

Ron Gershoni, co-founder of vape producer Jetty Extracts who sits on the board of the California Cannabis Manufacturers Association, said the strictly regulated legal industry has been working to distinguish itself from the underground market that continues to thrive in California.

His company doesn't view Dank vapes as a competitor, but he understands how the name has survived in the illegal market.

They "essentially sell empty packaging, and anyone can fill it," he said. "It's a business model that made sense. Anybody who wanted to make a buck."

Blood is a member of AP's marijuana beat team. Follow the AP's complete marijuana coverage: <https://>

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apnews.com/Marijuana

'I think it's crazy': Takeaways of diplomats' text messages

By ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A whistleblower complaint about President Donald Trump's contacts with Ukraine had not yet been made public. An impeachment inquiry by Democrats had yet to begin.

But the saga at the center of it all was quietly unfolding in Washington, where two top diplomats catered to the president's interests in a foreign investigation into a political rival.

Text messages released by House Democrats span a frenetic period from July to September, revealing new details about diplomatic efforts to commit Ukraine to an investigation into the 2016 presidential election and the family of Democratic rival Joe Biden.

The communications tell a story of diplomats striving to satisfy a president's unorthodox foreign policy whims even as another conveys misgivings about the whole plan.

Some takeaways on the texts:

"SPECIAL ATTENTION SHOULD BE PAID"

Much of the communication involves Kurt Volker, who resigned last week as special envoy to Ukraine, and Gordon Sondland, the U.S. ambassador to the European Union.

The texts show they were aware of the president's interest in getting Ukraine to conduct politically freighted investigations even before Trump made the request of President Volodymyr Zelenskiy during a July 25 phone call. During that conversation, Trump specifically prodded Zelenskiy to investigate Biden at a time when millions of dollars in U.S. military assistance to the country was being held up.

A week before the call, Sondland spoke with Zelenskiy. Volker, meanwhile, had breakfast with Trump attorney Rudy Giuliani to tee up a future call between the former New York City mayor and a Zelenskiy advisers.

"Most imp't is for Zelensky to say that he will help investigation — and address any specific personnel issues — if there are any," Volker wrote.

In the following weeks, the diplomats brainstormed a statement they expected Ukraine to make committing to undertake investigations sought by the Trump administration.

Volker, in a text to Sondland outlining language Ukraine could use, wrote that "special attention should be paid to the problem of interference in the political processes of the United States especially with the alleged involvement of some Ukrainian politicians.

"We intend to initiate and complete a transparent and unbiased investigation of all available facts and episodes, including those involving Burisma and the 2016 U.S. elections, which in turn will prevent the recurrence of this problem in the future."

Biden's son, Hunter, served on the board of Burisma, 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.

QUID PRO QUO?

Trump has repeatedly denied any sort of quid-pro-quo with Ukraine. Sondland denied it as well in one of the texts. Both maintained the innocuous goal was cleaning up corruption in a scandal-plagued country known for it.

Yet the texts betray a singular focus on a particular company — and, by extension, on Biden too. They also blur the line between Trump's interest in preventing future corruption with resolving vague grievances over the prior presidential election.

The texts also veer into the broad contours of a quid-pro-quo in which the announcement of a Ukraine investigation would secure a sought-after White House visit.

On the morning of the call between Trump and Zelenskiy, Volker told Andrey Yermak, a top Zelenskiy

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adviser: "Heard from White House ___ assuming President Z convinces trump he will investigate / "get to the bottom" of what happened in 2016, we will nail down date for visit to Washington."

Yermak, in turn, appeared reluctant to commit without first securing a date for a White House visit. "Once we have a date," he wrote on August 10, "will call for a press briefing, announcing upcoming visit and outlining vision for the reboot of US-UKRAINE relationship, including among other things Burisma and election meddling in investigations."

GIULIANI IN THE MIDDLE

The texts underscore Giuliani's pivotal role as an intermediary between the diplomats and Ukraine.

On July 19, Volker texted Giuliani to connect him with Yermak. Giuliani remained in the mix, speaking with Yermak and proposing a telephone conversation between Trump and Zelenskiy.

As Volker and Sondland discussed the statement they wanted Ukraine to make, they consulted with Giuliani.

"Can we all get on the phone to make sure I advise Z correctly as to what he should be saying? Want to make sure we get this done right. Thanks!"

THE HOLDOUT

In text after text, one American diplomat lays bare his queasiness about the dialogue.

William "Bill" Taylor, the charge d'affaires at the U.S. embassy in Ukraine, raises repeated flags, starting with a July 21 word of caution to Sondland that Zelenskiy "is sensitive about Ukraine being taken seriously, not merely as an instrument in Washington, domestic reelection politics."

He expresses unease again on September 1 amid discussion about the requirements for a White House meeting with Ukraine: "Are we now saying that security assistance and WH meeting are conditioned on investigations?"

A week later, as discussions continued about security aid for Ukraine and a possible public statement, Taylor puts his concerns in stark terms: "The nightmare is they give the interview and don't get the security assistance. The Russians love it. (And I quit.)"

"I THINK IT'S CRAZY"

By the following day, the discussions disintegrated into disagreement, with diplomats bickering over Trump's intention and the strategy.

Taylor warned about the message that would be sent to Ukraine and Russia by withholding military aid. "With the hold, we have already shaken their faith in us. Thus my nightmare scenario."

He added: "As I said on the phone, I think it's crazy to withhold security assistance for help with a political campaign."

Sondland replied with a defense of the plan, and of Trump, in a response that cut to the heart of the issue roiling Washington.

"Bill, I believe you are incorrect about President Trump's intentions. The president has been crystal clear no quid pro quo's of any kind. The President is trying to evaluate whether Ukraine is truly going to adopt the transparency and reforms that President Zelensky promised during his campaign.

"I suggest," he added, "we stop the back and forth by text."

Fed chairman says goal is to keep economy in 'good place'

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell said Friday that the U.S. economy is facing some risks at the moment, but overall it is in a "good place" and the Fed's main job is to "keep it there as long as possible."

Powell noted that unemployment is at a half-century low and inflation is running close to the Fed's 2% target.

While Fed officials believe they have the correct strategy and tools to extend the current record-long

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expansion, it is important to examine whether any changes could improve the Fed's handling of the economy, Powell said.

In his brief remarks, Powell gave no hint on whether the Fed will cut interest rates for a third time this year when it meets later this month. Many investors are hoping for another quarter-point rate cut at the October meeting.

Among the changes the Fed has been considering at a series of town hall meetings this year is a modification of its current inflation target. The central bank seeks to manage interest-rate policies to achieve annual price increases of 2%.

However, hasn't hit that target in years. Some economists have been arguing for the Fed to use a broader band for inflation that would tolerate higher inflation for a time to compensate for periods when inflation is running below target.

In his remarks Friday, Powell said low inflation can be good, but when inflation and interest rates are too low, "the Fed and other central banks have less room to cut rates to support the economy during downturns."

Powell said that modifying the Fed's current inflation target could help keep inflation expectations among consumers, businesses and investors from slipping too low "as they appear to have done in several advanced economies."

Japan has been struggling with chronically low inflation for decades, and Europe now faces similar issues. Powell's comments came at the Fed's 12th listening session. Two more are scheduled later this month in Kansas City and Chicago.

Powell said the central bank's main policy committee has been discussing its findings from the events since July and plans to continue those discussions at the last two meetings of this year in October and December.

He said the goal was to issue a report with conclusions during the first half of next year.

Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Saturday, Oct. 5, the 278th day of 2019. There are 87 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 5, 1947, President Harry S. Truman delivered the first televised White House address as he spoke on the world food crisis.

On this date:

In 1829, the 21st president of the United States, Chester Alan Arthur, was born in North Fairfield, Vermont.

In 1921, the World Series was carried on radio for the first time as Newark, New Jersey station WJZ (later WABC) relayed a telephoned play-by-play account of the first game from the Polo Grounds. (Although the New York Yankees won the opener, 3-0, the New York Giants won the series, 5 games to 3.)

In 1953, Earl Warren was sworn in as the 14th chief justice of the United States, succeeding Fred M. Vinson.

In 1958, racially-desegregated Clinton High School in Clinton, Tennessee, was mostly leveled by an early morning bombing.

In 1983, Solidarity founder Lech Walesa was named winner of the Nobel Peace Prize.

In 1984, the space shuttle Challenger blasted off from the Kennedy Space Center on an 8-day mission; the crew included Kathryn D. Sullivan, who became the first American woman to walk in space, and Marc Garneau, the first Canadian astronaut.

In 1989, a jury in Charlotte, North Carolina, convicted former P-T-L evangelist Jim Bakker of using his television show to defraud followers.

In 1999, two packed commuter trains collided near London's Paddington Station, killing 31 people.

In 2001, tabloid photo editor Robert Stevens died from inhaled anthrax, the first of a series of anthrax

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cases in Florida, New York, New Jersey and Washington.

In 2005, defying the White House, senators voted 90-9 to approve an amendment sponsored by Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., that would prohibit the use of "cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment" against anyone in U.S. government custody. (A reluctant President George W. Bush later signed off on the amendment.)

In 2011, Apple founder Steve Jobs, 56, died in Palo Alto, California.

In 2017, Hollywood executive Harvey Weinstein announced that he was taking a leave of absence from his company after a New York Times article detailed decades of alleged sexual harassment against women including actress Ashley Judd.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama filled the Rose Garden with doctors supportive of his health care overhaul, saying "nobody has more credibility with the American people on this issue than you do." Americans Elizabeth H. Blackburn, Carol W. Greider and Jack W. Szostak won the 2009 Nobel Prize in medicine. A suicide bomber blew himself up in the lobby of the U.N. food agency in Islamabad, killing five staffers.

Five years ago: A suicide bomber blew himself up in Grozny, killing five policemen and wounding 12 others as the Chechen capital celebrated the birthday of its pro-Russian leader, Ramzan Kadyrov. Geoffrey Holder, a Tony Award-winning director, actor, painter, dancer and choreographer, died in New York at age 84.

One year ago: Republican Sen. Susan Collins of Maine and Democrat Joe Manchin of West Virginia announced that they would vote to confirm Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court, all but assuring that Kavanaugh would be confirmed. A jury in Chicago convicted white police officer Jason Van Dyke of second-degree murder in the 2014 shooting of black teenager Laquan McDonald. The government reported that the unemployment rate fell in September to 3.7 percent, the lowest since 1969, reflecting a healthy economy driven by strong consumer and business spending. In an elaborate prank orchestrated by the street artist Banksy, one of the artist's paintings self-destructed in front of auction-goers in London, moments after it had been sold for \$1.4 million.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Glynis Johns is 96. College Football Hall of Fame coach Barry Switzer is 82. Rhythm-and-blues singer Arlene Smith (The Chantels) is 78. Singer-musician Steve Miller is 76. Sen. Benjamin L. Cardin, D-Md., is 76. Rock singer Brian Johnson (AC/DC) is 72. Blues musician Rick Estrin is 70. Actress Karen Allen is 68. Writer-producer-director Clive Barker is 67. Rock musician David Bryson (Counting Crows) is 65. Astrophysicist-author Neil deGrasse Tyson is 61. Memorial designer Maya Lin is 60. Actor Daniel Baldwin is 59. Rock singer-musician Dave Dederer is 55. Hockey Hall of Famer Mario Lemieux is 54. Actor Guy Pearce is 52. Actress Josie Bissett is 49. Singer-actress Heather Headley is 45. Pop-rock singer Colin Meloy (The Decemberists) is 45. Rock musician Brian Mashburn (Save Ferris) is 44. Actress Parminder Nagra is 44. Actor Scott Weinger is 44. Actress Kate Winslet is 44. Rock musician James Valentine (Maroon 5) is 41. Rock musician Paul Thomas (Good Charlotte) is 39. Actor Jesse Eisenberg is 36. TV personality Nicky Hilton is 36. Actress Azure Parsons is 35. Rhythm-and-blues singer Brooke Valentine is 34. Actor Kevin Bigley is 33. Actor Joshua Logan Moore is 25. Actor Jacob Tremblay is 13.

Thought for Today: "America has believed that in differentiation, not in uniformity, lies the path of progress. It acted on this belief; it has advanced human happiness, and it has prospered." — Louis D. Brandeis, U.S. Supreme Court justice (born 1856, died this date in 1941).