

# Groton Daily Independent

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**Friday, Oct. 11, 2019**

## **No School Today**

Due to the road conditions and (mostly) the forecast for today including the ongoing winter storm warning, there will be no school at Groton Area today, Friday, Oct. 11, 2019. Probably the first time Groton has called off school in October due to the weather! Schwan said he has never called off school in October!

## **Gypsy Day Parade Cancelled**

Due to the winter storm, the Gypsy Day Parade scheduled for Saturday in Aberdeen has been cancelled.

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

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## PUBLIC POWER WEEK COLORING CONTEST

WIN  
PRIZES!



presented by

HEARTLAND

- > For children ages 4-9
- > Contest ends October 30
- > Coloring page, entry form and rules available on Heartland's Facebook page or at [hcpd.com/contest](http://hcpd.com/contest)
- > Winners receive movie/game prize package!



**The state snow plows were out yesterday afternoon.**



**From last night around 9:47 p.m.**



**Brown County SD Office of  
Emergency Management**



18 mins ·

Volunteer firefighters from Aberdeen Rural, Warner, and Stratford are currently onscene of a garage fire south of Aberdeen. Fire fighting in a snow storm. **#volunteersarethebest.**

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## Trick or Treat on Main Street!

Bring the kids down on Main Street, Groton,  
for trick or treating fun!

Thursday, Oct 31 - 4pm-6pm

MANY downtown Groton businesses will be open late  
and handing out Halloween Goodies to the kids!



### ***Businesses participating:***

Main St- City Hall, Bahr Spray Foam/Next Level Nutrition, Professional Management Services, Olde Bank N' Café, Midwest Masonry, The Fitness Project, The Groton Independent, Jungle Lanes & Lounge, Cheri's on Main, Bierman Farm Service, Groton American Legion, Farmer's Union Insurance, Dakota Press, Base Kamp Lodge, Elementary PAC/RC Roosters Lodge, Johnson Agency, Kolker Law Office, Karma Salon & Boutique, Wells Fargo (4-5pm use NE Door)  
1<sup>st</sup> Ave- J. Simon Photography, James Valley  
Railroad Ave- LW Sales, Krueger Bros

## GROTON'S 4<sup>TH</sup>



Saturday, October 12, 2019

10am-3pm

~~Groton City Park~~

Groton Community Center

109 N 3<sup>rd</sup> Street

**Free Pumpkins, Hayrides, Train Rides,  
Face Painting, Pumpkin Painting**

**Lunch Served 11am-1pm**

**Thanks to our many sponsors!!**

Alternate Date: October 13, 2019

## Winter Storm Warning

**URGENT - WINTER WEATHER MESSAGE**  
**National Weather Service Aberdeen SD**  
**257 AM CDT Fri Oct 11 2019**

### **...MAJOR WINTER STORM AFFECTING THE REGION...**

...WINTER STORM WARNING REMAINS IN EFFECT UNTIL 7 PM CDT SATURDAY...

\* WHAT...Snow expected. Additional snow accumulations of 4 to 8 inches with locally higher amounts possible on the Sisseton Hills. Winds gusting as high as 50 mph.

\* WHERE...Marshall, Brown, Hyde, Day and Faulk Counties.

\* WHEN...Until 7 PM CDT Saturday.

\* IMPACTS...Travel could be very difficult to impossible. Areas of blowing snow could significantly reduce visibility. The hazardous conditions could impact the morning or evening commute. Gusty winds could bring down tree branches.

PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS...

If you must travel, keep an extra flashlight, food, and water in your vehicle in case of an emergency.

The latest road conditions can be obtained by calling 5 1 1.








## Plane is missing

The Brown County Sheriff's Office is looking for information regarding a missing 1979 Cessna Aircraft, blue and white in color. It left Aberdeen yesterday, 10/09/2019 at 2230 headed to Oakes, ND. If anyone has any information please contact Brown County Dispatch at (605) 626-7911 and ask to speak with a Deputy Sheriff.

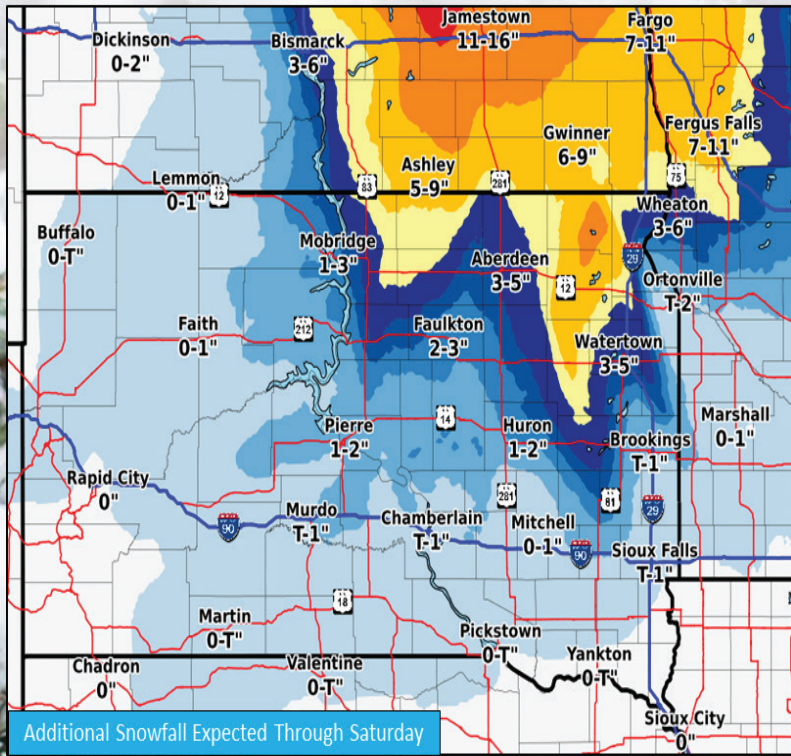
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Winter Storm Warning

Today	Tonight	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday
				
100%	50%	60%	10%	
Snow and Patchy Blowing Snow	Chance Snow and Patchy Blowing Snow	Snow Likely and Patchy Blowing Snow	Patchy Blowing Snow and Blustery then Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy
High: 31 °F	Low: 28 °F	High: 33 °F	Low: 28 °F	High: 35 °F

## Early Season Winter Storm Continues Through Saturday



National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD Updated: 10/11/2019 4:47 AM Central

Published on: 10/11/2019 at 12:48 AM

The winter storm affecting the region continues for today through Saturday. Along with any additional snowfall, winds will continue to gust up to 50 mph through the day Saturday.



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## Today in Weather History

October 11, 1997: High winds and hail caused nearly \$20,000 in damage to rural Meade County homes.

1846: A major hurricane, likely a Category 5, moved through the Caribbean Sea. This Great Havana Hurricane struck western Cuba on 10 October. It hit the Florida Keys on 11 October, destroying the old Key West Lighthouse and Fort Zachary Taylor.

1906: Games 1 and 2 of all Chicago World Series were played amid snow flurries. Snow would not happen again in a World Series until 1997. The high temperature for game 3 played on this day was 43 degrees.

1925 - Widespread early season snows fell in the northeastern U.S., with as much as two feet in New Hampshire and Vermont. The heavy snow blocked roads and cancelled football games. (David Ludlum)

1954 - A deluge of 6.72 inches of rain in 48 hours flooded the Chicago River, causing ten million dollars damage in the Chicago area. (9th-11th) (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - More than thirty cities in the Upper Midwest reported record low temperatures for the date, including Waterloo IA and Scottsbluff NE where the mercury dipped to 16 degrees. Tropical Storm Floyd brought heavy rain to southern Florida, moisture from Hurricane Ramon produced heavy rain in southern California, and heavy snow blanketed the mountains of New York State and Vermont. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Low pressure brought gale force winds to the Great Lakes Region, with snow and sleet reported in some areas. Unseasonably warm weather prevailed in the north central U.S. The mercury hit 84 degrees at Cutbank MT and Worland WY. The temperature at Gunnison CO soared from a morning low of 12 degrees to a high of 66 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Much of the nation enjoyed "Indian Summer" type weather. Nine cities in the central U.S. reported record highs for the date as temperatures warmed into the 80s and 90s. Record highs included 90 degrees at Grand Island NE and 97 degrees at Waco TX. Strong winds along a cold front crossing the Northern High Plains Region gusted to 80 mph at Ames Monument WY during the early morning. (The National Weather Summary)

2005: A tropical depression, formerly Hurricane Vince, became the first tropical cyclone make landfall in Spain since 1842.

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

**High Temp: 40 °F at 12:00 AM**

**Low Temp: 32 °F at 10:23 PM**

**Wind: 25 mph at 3:05 AM**

**Day Rain: 0.89**

**Record High: 93° in 2015**

**Record Low: 16° in 1935**

**Average High: 60°F**

**Average Low: 35°F**

**Average Precip in Oct.: 0.74**

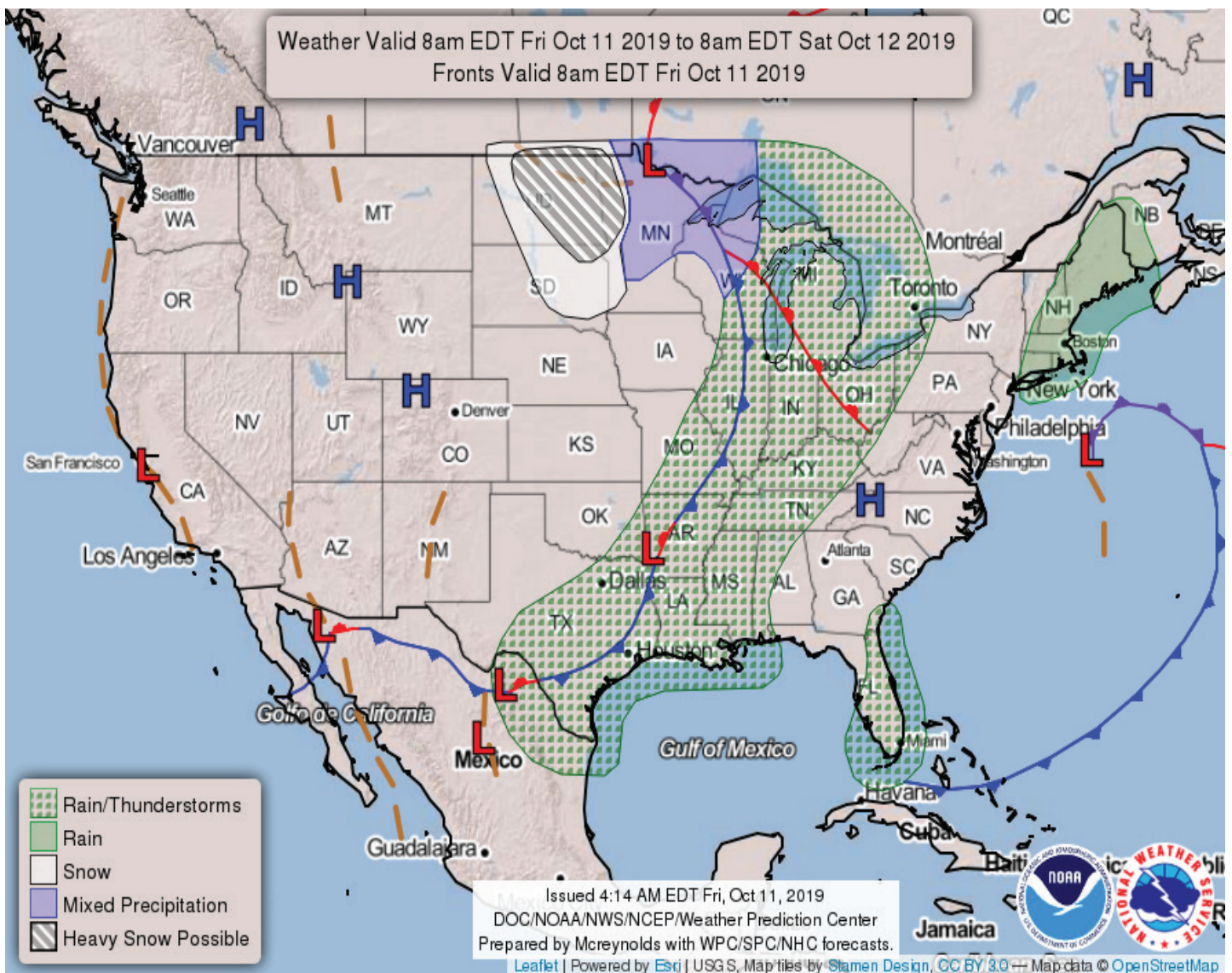
**Precip to date in Oct.: 1.27**

**Average Precip to date: 19.22**

**Precip Year to Date: 26.29**

**Sunset Tonight: 6:56 p.m.**

**Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:46 a.m.**



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## **GOD'S OUT TO GET YOU!**

In one of their cartoons, Hobbes and Calvin were having a serious discussion. Said Hobbes, "Is there a God?"

"Well," answered Calvin, "I'm not sure. But someone's out there trying to get me!"

He was absolutely right. God is out there, and He is trying to "get" everyone!

Jesus said, "I came to seek and to save the lost!" He initially made this statement in His meeting with Zacchaeus. And, if you recall, as a tax collector, he was in one of the most unpopular professions of his day. But, it didn't matter to Jesus: He was always searching out seeking to save the lost. This was His message and His mission. Zacchaeus was just as valuable to God as anyone and everyone else. In fact, Jesus was out to "get him."

No matter who we are or what we have done or are doing, Jesus wants us for His own. It is not what we know or who we know that will save us. Remember – Zacchaeus was a son of Abraham, the religious elite. But, that could not save him. Only his faith in the Savior, the Son of God, could. And, only one's personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ can save us from our sin.

We must never forget that God is "out to get" everyone to know, love, and accept His Son as their Savior. How can He do this? By abiding in us, being with us, and working through us.

Prayer: Dear Jesus, thank You for providing our salvation and the opportunity to work with You to reach others. May what You have done for us, help us to "get others." In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Luke 19:10 For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost.

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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

## Thursday's Scores By The Associated Press

### Volleyball

Arlington def. Dell Rapids St. Mary, 25-15, 23-25, 25-15, 25-17  
Beresford def. Alcester-Hudson, 25-19, 25-19, 25-13  
Bridgewater-Emery def. Avon, 23-25, 25-16, 25-22, 28-26  
Brookings def. Yankton, 25-21, 25-22, 25-23  
Castlewood def. Lake Preston, 25-16, 25-13, 25-12  
Dakota Valley def. Madison, 26-24, 26-28, 19-25, 25-16, 15-13  
Deubrook def. DeSmet, 22-25, 25-13, 25-18, 25-9  
Deuel def. Clark/Willow Lake, 25-22, 25-22, 18-25, 25-18  
Elkton-Lake Benton def. Oldham-Ramona/Rutland, 25-6, 25-21, 25-14  
Garretson def. Canton, 25-10, 25-12, 25-21  
Gayville-Volin def. Menno, 25-7, 25-8, 25-16  
Howard def. Canistota, 25-19, 18-25, 25-22, 19-25, 17-15  
Santee, Neb. def. Flandreau Indian, 25-14, 25-15, 25-18  
Scotland def. Centerville, 25-19, 25-18, 25-13  
Sioux County, Neb. def. Edgemont, 25-21, 17-25, 26-24, 27-25  
Sioux Falls Christian def. Southwest Minnesota Christian, Minn., 25-13, 25-12, 25-16  
Tri-Valley def. Elk Point-Jefferson, 25-15, 23-25, 27-25, 25-20  
Waverly-South Shore def. Florence/Henry, 25-23, 25-18, 25-21  
POSTPONEMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS

Sisseton vs. Aberdeen Roncalli, ppd. to Oct 21.  
Redfield vs. Milbank Area, ppd.  
Webster vs. Hamlin, ppd. to Oct 14.  
Bennett County vs. Gordon/Rushville, Neb., ppd.  
Great Plains Lutheran vs. Langford, ppd. to Oct 28.  
Platte-Geddes vs. Gregory, ppd. to Oct 12.

## South Dakota prosecutor apologizes for 'personal struggles'

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The prosecutor of South Dakota's most populous county is apologizing after a report raised issues about his behavior.

Minnehaha County State's Attorney Aaron McGowan was absent from work without explanation from mid-July through mid-September. Gov. Kristi Noem asked the attorney general to investigate, and the report made public Wednesday cited concerns about McGowan's drinking.

In a statement Thursday from his office, McGowan apologized "for allowing his personal struggles and medical issues" to rise to the point where law enforcement was called to check on him. But he also said he disagreed with some parts of the report, saying they were taken out of context or relied on anonymous sources.

Noem said she would take no action against McGowan, saying the attorney general concluded there wasn't evidence to pursue charges.

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## **Frigid storm buries parts of the Great Plains in snow**

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A frigid storm moving through the Great Plains on Thursday forced school closures, caused travel headaches and put farmers and ranchers on edge.

Winter storm warnings and watches stretched from Wyoming and Montana through western Nebraska and into the Dakotas and Minnesota. The storm was expected to blast the region with strong winds and dump at least 10 inches (25 centimeters) of snow in areas. Blizzardlike conditions could persist through Friday, forecasters said.

Blowing and drifting snow was making travel hazardous, with wind gusts approaching 40 mph (64 kph) in some areas.

The National Weather Service in Bismarck, North Dakota, said a “potentially historic October winter storm” was in the making.

Dozens of school districts canceled classes or started late in South Dakota and western Nebraska, including Chadron State College in Chadron, Nebraska.

North Dakota Agricultural Commissioner Doug Goehring said the snow on top of a wet autumn was causing “a great deal of anxiety” for farmers and ranchers. He urged those in emotional distress to reach out for help.

People in some communities had to put aside their rakes for snow shovels.

“The ground is warm underneath, so soon as you scoop it the sidewalks are clear,” said Drew Petersen, who owns a drugstore in Chadron, where more than 5 inches (13 centimeters) had fallen.

Petersen said his out-of-town employees made it to work, but they said the roads were snow-covered and slushy.

Forecasters predicted a foot (31 centimeters) of snow or more would fall in parts of the Dakotas through Friday and nearly that amount would fall in Nebraska.

In Fargo, North Dakota, the homecoming parade was cancelled a day ahead of time at North Dakota State University, where its top-ranked Football Championship Subdivision team was set to play Saturday inside the warm confines of the Fargodome. Police in North Dakota’s capital city of Bismarck responded to at least 35 traffic crashes on Thursday.

Snow fell in Colorado’s mountains through Thursday afternoon, which was a welcome sight for skiers and snowboarders waiting for resorts to open for the season. It turned into an ugly commute for drivers in Denver, where about 100 crashes were reported during rush hour and where police warned people on twitter to “keep your wits about you.”

Temperatures that reached the upper 70s (mid-20s Celsius) in Denver on Wednesday afternoon had plummeted into the 20s on Thursday. National Weather Service forecasters predicted 1 to 3 inches (2.5 to 7.6 centimeters) of snow in the Denver area Thursday and warned that freezing temperatures would persist along the Interstate 25 corridor and the Eastern Plains through Friday.

The storm had dropped 8 inches (20 centimeters) of snow on the west side of Rapid City, South Dakota, according to weather service forecasters, and up to 2 more inches were expected before the storm headed northeast.

Winter storms arriving just three weeks into fall aren’t unusual, but they can blow into howling blizzards. Hintz recalled an October 2013 storm in which hundreds of cattle perished. Snow reached 55 inches (1.4 meters) deep in the South Dakota community of Lead.

The storm left 32,000 customers without power in Washington state Wednesday.

## **Vaping-related illnesses nearly double in South Dakota**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota health officials say the number of vaping-related illnesses reported in the state has nearly doubled in the past two weeks.

The South Dakota Department of Health reports the number of cases jumped from six cases at the end of September to 11 cases as of Thursday. The Argus Leader reports the 11 patients range in age from 16 to 44 years old.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the number of vaping-related illnesses in the U.S. has now reached about 1,300 cases and at least 26 deaths.

Most who got sick said they vaped products containing THC, the marijuana ingredient that causes a high. Last month, Sioux Falls health director Jill Franken urged people to follow the CDC's recommendation to stop using e-cigarettes. The Oglala Sioux Tribal Council banned vaping on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

## South Dakota man injured in home furnace explosion

BUTLER, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say a South Dakota man was taken to a Minnesota burn center after he was injured in an explosion at his home.

Day County Sheriff Ryan Rucktaeschel says the Butler man was trying to light his furnace Thursday morning when something went wrong.

The unidentified man was the only one home at the time. The sheriff says the man was first taken to a hospital in Webster and then transported to a burn center in Minnesota. His injuries are not believed to be life-threatening.

The Aberdeen News reports the explosion caused extensive damage to the house, including blown-out windows. Area residents helped board up the house.

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

## 3 more tribes sign International Buffalo Treaty

LARAMIE, Wyo. (AP) — Leaders of three more tribes have signed a treaty guiding restoration of buffalo populations in the U.S. and Canada.

The International Buffalo Treaty was the first cross-border tribal treaty in more than 150 years when it was established in 2014.

The treaty now has over 30 signatories. This week, the Eastern Shoshone Tribe of Wyoming, Oglala Lakota Tribe of South Dakota and Frog Lake First Nation of Alberta, Canada, joined during a meeting in Chico Hot Springs, Montana.

Jason Baldes with the Eastern Shoshone tells Wyoming Public Radio the treaty reconnects buffalo to indigenous people and helps ensure buffalo are treated with "utmost respect."

An Eastern Shoshone herd established on Wyoming's Wind River Indian Reservation in 2016 has grown from 10 to 33 buffalo.

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Information from: Laramie Boomerang, <http://www.laramieboomerang.com>

## Turkey's refugee plan met with widespread skepticism

By DEREK GATOPOULOS Associated Press

In the face of widespread international criticism for his military foray into northern Syria, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan remains defiant, standing by his pledge to return as many refugees as possible to a border corridor that will be carved out by force.

"We will rebuild an area for 1 million people, for those who want to return to their country and don't have a home to go back to," he told members of his governing party on Thursday to widespread applause.

On Wednesday, Turkey sent its military into northern Syria after announcing plans to create a buffer zone which pushes back Kurdish militants and potentially allows some of the 3.6 million Syrian refugees settled in the country to return. The offensive was launched after U.S. President Donald Trump ordered the withdrawal of American forces in northern Syria, a decision that has been fiercely criticized around the world and within his Republican Party.

Opponents of Turkey's offensive into northern Syria argue that the assault is purely aimed at driving out Kurdish fighters and U.S. lawmakers have warned of potential sanctions. The word betrayal is doing the

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rounds as Kurdish fighters proved pivotal in the fight against the Islamic State group.

But Erdogan's stated reason, according to Turkey observers who spoke to The Associated Press, faces overwhelming financial, political and practical obstacles.

"Calculate it: A bus carries about 50 passengers. How many buses would it take to drive them into this area? And how many housing units would you need to make sure that they are not just dumped out in the cold?" Kemal Kirisci, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, said.

"These people have children in school, sick people in hospitals, jobs, some are married to Turkish nationals. All this complicates things. And where would the organizational and financial capacity all for this come from?"

According to the United Nations refugee agency, there 3.6 million Syrians registered in Turkey — a number that has risen steadily throughout the war — as well as more than 350,000 refugees from Afghanistan, Iraq, and elsewhere. Most are protected under Turkish law banning the forced return to a dangerous country.

The proposed security strip, 20 miles deep, would span across most of Syria's multi-ethnic northern border areas and rival administrations created by nearly nine years of civil war.

"Northeast Syria is a rural, underserved region that can barely meet the needs of its already existing 5 million people. Turkey's campaign could devastate large areas of northeast Syria, making the Turkish plan all the more impractical," said Nicholas A. Heras, a senior fellow at the Center for New American Security, a Washington-based think-tank.

"Turkey's timeline for resettling refugees is both ambitious and impractical. This would be a project that would require billions of dollars of support for infrastructure, security, and housing."

The European Union has urged Turkey to halt its offensive while the prime minister of neighboring Greece, Kyriakos Mitsotakis, has accused Ankara of trying to impose "a violent transformation of the demographic makeup of the region."

Turkish officials say the returns would be voluntary, insisting that the operation will provide the stability needed to create an environment for resettlement.

Erdogan has accused the EU of failing to fully honor a 6 billion-euro (\$6.6 billion) funding deal reached in 2016 to stop migrants from traveling westward to the Greek islands and European mainland. Erdogan angrily rejected international criticism of his military campaign.

"Hey, European Union!" he said Thursday. "Come to your senses. I repeat: Don't call this an invasion, it's not. If you persist, we will open the gates and send 3.6 million refugees your way."

It's a threat likely to have an impact, says Janroj Yilmaz Keles, senior research fellow in Politics at Middlesex University in London. "Because of the refugee crisis, Europe is soft with Turkey. To prevent the refugees from coming to Europe, the price is being paid by the Kurds, and Europe knows this very well," he said.

The Brookings Institution's Kirisci adds: "I hope I'm wrong but I have a sinking feeling: I think the European Union has a converging interest with (Erdogan). When it comes to refugees, the West may look the other way."

Follow Gatopoulos at <https://twitter.com/dgatopoulos>

## Typhoon may bring 31 inches of rain, strong winds to Tokyo

By MARI YAMAGUCHI Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — A powerful typhoon is forecast to bring up to 80 centimeters (31 inches) of rain and damaging winds to the Tokyo area and Japan's Pacific coast this weekend, and the government is warning residents to stockpile necessities and leave high-risk places before it's too dangerous.

Rugby World Cup matches and other events were canceled on Saturday, and flights and train services were halted. In the town of Kiho southwest of Tokyo, shops were boarded up, boats were anchored and authorities checked coastal levees. Residents of Tokyo were buying batteries, bottled water, instant noodles and other food.

Meteorological Agency official Yasushi Kajihara said Typhoon Hagibis resembled a typhoon that hit the



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Tokyo region in 1958 with heavy rains and left a half-million houses flooded. More than 1,200 people died in that storm.

"In order to protect your own life and your loved ones, please try to start evacuating early before it gets dark and the storm becomes powerful," Kajihara said at a news conference Friday.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's Cabinet held a disaster management meeting late Friday, vowing to do its utmost to protect people's lives. He said 17,000 police and military troops are ready if needed for rescue operations.

"The typhoon could cause power outages, damage to infrastructure and significantly affect people's lives," Abe said.

Economy Minister Isshu Sugawara urged hospitals and other public facilities to check their backup power supplies.

Hagibis, which means speed in Filipino, was advancing north-northwestward with winds of 180 kilometers per hour (110 mph) gusting to 250 kph (156 mph) on Friday afternoon, the weather agency said. It was expected to weaken as it hugs the Pacific coast of Japan's main island on Saturday, making landfall south of Tokyo and passing out to sea by Sunday afternoon.

The meteorological agency cautioned that the typhoon could trigger waves as high as 13 meters (41 feet) in coastal cities through Saturday.

Up to 80 centimeters (31 inches) of rain was forecast in the capital region.

An evacuation advisory was issued early to 7,568 people on Oshima island in the typhoon's projected path. Shimoda city, west of Tokyo, also issued an advisory to all of its 21,402 residents. Dozens of evacuation centers were opening in coastal towns in Chiba and Kanagawa prefectures.

The storm is expected to disrupt sports and holiday events on the three-day weekend, which includes Sports Day on Monday. Two Rugby World Cup matches — England vs. France and New Zealand vs. Italy — that were to be played Saturday were canceled. Qualifying for a Formula One auto race in Suzuka was pushed to Sunday. And the Defense Ministry cut a three-day annual navy review to a single day on Monday.

All Nippon Airways grounded all of its domestic flights scheduled on Saturday at Tokyo's Haneda and Narita international airports, while Japan Airlines canceled all but its early morning flights at Tokyo airports.

Central Japan Railway Co. said it will cancel all bullet train service between Tokyo and Osaka except for several early Saturday trains connecting Nagoya and Osaka.

The typhoon is spreading fear especially in Chiba, near Tokyo, which was hit by Typhoon Faxai last month and where homes still are damaged. That typhoon knocked down about 2,000 power poles, at one point leaving more than 900,000 homes without power, triggering concerns about the country's aging infrastructure system built decades ago.

Chiba city distributed sandbags to shield against flooding and urged residents to make sure they have enough food and water and that their phones are charged. Workers placed huge protective nets over debris



**Men look at fishing boats as surging waves hit against the breakwater while Typhoon Hagibis approaches at a port in town of Kiho, Mie Prefecture, Japan Friday, Oct. 11, 2019. A powerful typhoon is advancing toward the Tokyo area, where torrential rains are expected this weekend.**

(AP Photo/Toru Hanai)

from the earlier storm still piled in parts of the city to keep it from being blown away by the new typhoon.

Follow Mari Yamaguchi on Twitter at <https://www.twitter.com/mariyamaguchi>

## EU, UK find the will to get a Brexit deal, work on the way

By RAF CASERT Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — The European Union said Friday that talks with the U.K. to find an amicable divorce deal were back on track, despite huge challenges and a looming end-of-month deadline for Britain to leave the bloc.

EU Council President Donald Tusk said he has “received promising signals” from Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar that a Brexit deal is still possible, so he has extended a deadline to continue the Brexit talks.

Tusk, speaking in Nicosia, said “for the first time” Varadkar and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson saw a pathway toward a deal, adding that “even the slightest chance must be used” to avoid a no-deal Brexit.

Immediately, the wheels of the negotiating machinery started churning again. Johnson’s Brexit Secretary, Stephen Barclay, got a warm welcome from EU negotiator Michel Barnier before they started almost two hours of talks around breakfast.

“If there is a will, there is, of course, a way. Otherwise people would not be working on this,” said EU Commission spokeswoman Mina Andreeva.

Originally, Tusk said he was planning to pull the plug Friday on the Brexit talks, but because of the breakthrough he can now see talks going through the weekend, ahead of the EU’s two-day summit, which starts next Thursday.

Tusk said “there is no guarantee of success and the time is practically up” but insisted both sides should use every opportunity available ahead of Britain’s scheduled Oct. 31 departure date.

“A no-deal Brexit will never be the choice of the EU,” Tusk said.

Johnson said late Thursday there was a “pathway” to a belated agreement to stave off a chaotic, costly no-deal Brexit on Oct. 31, while Varadkar said the meeting was “very positive.”

After meeting with Barclay, Barnier said it was essential to keep focus.

“Brexit is like climbing a mountain. We need vigilance, determination and patience,” said the man who once organized the 1992 Winter Olympics in his Savoie region of France.

The main stumbling block remains how to handle the U.K.’s only land border with the EU, which is on the border between Northern Ireland and Ireland.

The challenge of keeping this border invisible — something that has underpinned both the local economy and the region’s peace deal — has dominated Brexit discussions for three years, ever since U.K. voters



**European Union chief Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier, front, rides an escalator surrounded by the media on his way to a meeting at the Europa building in Brussels, Friday, Oct. 11, 2019. EU negotiator Michel Barnier says that he had a “constructive meeting” with British Brexit envoy Stephen Barclay and underscored the cautious optimism since Thursday’s meeting between British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and his Irish counterpart Leo Varadkar. (AP**

Photo/Francisco Seco)

chose in 2016 to leave the EU.

Tusk insisted "even the slightest chance must be used" to avoid an acrimonious split since both the EU and the U.K. would be hit hard economically.

One way to do that could be to extend the Oct. 31 deadline so that negotiators have more time to work things out in legally-binding detail. But Johnson has insisted that Britain is leaving on Oct. 31 "do or die" — with or without a divorce deal.

France has also long said that deadlines cannot be extended forever, since Britain was originally slated to leave the bloc on March 31.

In Paris, France's European affairs minister, Amelie de Montchalin, had another take on the debate, saying that a no-deal Brexit "is probable, at this stage."

De Montchalin told France Inter radio that she does not see an obvious reason to grant a further extension to the U.K.

"I have a fundamental question: why give more time. If it is time for the sake of time? It has taken one year, even three years, and we don't really get it," she said.

Menelaos Hadjicostis contributed from Nicosia.

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

## Turkey's offensive into Syria: More casualties, displacement

By MEHMET GUZEL undefined

AKCAKALE, Turkey (AP) — Turkish forces pushed deeper into north-eastern Syria on Friday, the third day of Ankara's cross-border offensive against Syrian Kurdish fighters that has set off another mass displacement of civilians and met with widespread criticism from the international community.

There were casualties on both sides and Turkey reported its first military fatality, saying a soldier was "martyred" in the fighting.

Earlier, at least six civilians were reported killed in Turkey and seven civilians have been killed in Syria since Ankara this week launched the air and ground operation into Syria's northeast. The invasion came after President Donald Trump opened the way by pulling American troops from their positions near the border and abandoning U.S.-allied Syrian Kurdish fighters.

Trump's unexpected decision came as he faces an impeachment inquiry at home. It drew swift criticism from Republicans and Democrats in Congress, along with many national defense experts who say it's endangered not only the Syrian Kurds and regional stability but U.S. credibility as well. The Syrian Kurdish militia was the only U.S. ally in the



**In this photo taken from the Turkish side of the border between Turkey and Syria, in Akcakale, Sanliurfa province, southeastern Turkey, smoke billows from targets in Tel Abyad, Syria, during bombardment by Turkish forces, Friday, Oct. 11, 2019.** (AP Photo/Lefteris Pitarakis)

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campaign that brought down the Islamic State group in Syria.

Trump warned Turkey to act with moderation and safeguard civilians. But the barrages of the invasion so far showed little sign of holding back.

In Syria, residents fled with their belongings loaded into cars, pickup trucks and motorcycle rickshaws, while others escaped on foot. The U.N. refugee agency said tens of thousands were on the move, and aid agencies warned that nearly a half-million people near the border were at risk — in scenes similar to those from a few years ago, when civilians fled the Islamic State group militants.

On Friday morning, plumes of black smoke billowed from the Syrian border town of Tel Abyad as Turkey continued bombarding the area.

The Turkish ministry statement that reported the death of a soldier also said three soldiers were wounded in the action but didn't provide details. Turkish Defense Minister Hulusi Akar said a total of 342 "terrorists" — Ankara's parlance for Syrian Kurdish militiamen — were killed in the incursion so far. Those figures could not be independently verified.

Turkey considers the Syrian Kurdish fighters terrorists linked to a Kurdish insurgency within Turkey and says the offensive is necessary for its own national security.

Turkish officials said the Kurdish militia has fired dozens of mortars into Turkish border towns the past two days, including Akcakale, killing at least six civilians, including a 9-month-old boy and three girls under 15. On the Syrian side, seven civilians and eight Kurdish fighters have been killed since the operation began, according to activists in Syria.

The Turkish Defense Ministry said the offensive was progressing "successfully as planned." Turkey's official Anadolu news agency said four Turkey-allied Syrian opposition fighters were killed Thursday in a village near the Syrian town of Tal Abyad after an ambush by Syrian Kurdish fighters. The village, Dedat, was later captured by the Turkey-backed rebels, according to the agency.

A Kurdish-led group and Syrian activists said that despite the bombardment, Turkish troops had not made much progress on several fronts they had opened. But their claims could not be independently verified.

On Friday, Russian President Vladimir Putin said he's worried the Turkish invasion in Syria could unleash the Islamic State group again.

Speaking during a visit to Turkmenistan, Putin said he doubts that the Turkish army has enough resources to promptly take control of the IS prison camps, saying that he fears that the captured IS fighters who have been until now held by the Syrian Kurdish militia "could just run away."

"We have to be aware of this and mobilize the resources of our intelligence to undercut this emerging tangible threat," Putin said.

U.S.-allied Syrian Kurdish forces had been holding more than 10,000 IS members captured during the war against the extremists in camps and detention centers in this part of Syria. But this week they said they are being forced to abandon some of those positions to fight the Turkish invasion.

Separately, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg urged Ankara to exercise restraint in its incursion though he acknowledged what he said was Turkey's legitimate security concern about the Syrian Kurdish fighters.

In a joint news conference with Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu, Stoltenberg also expressed worry that the Turkish offensive may "jeopardize" gains made against the Islamic State group in the war in Syria. Cavusoglu said Turkey expected solidarity from its allies.

"It is not enough to say you understand Turkey's legitimate concerns, we want to see this solidarity in a clear way," he said.

As the incursion drew widespread criticism, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan warned the European Union not to call Ankara's incursion into Syria an "invasion." He threatened, as he has in the past, to "open the gates" and let Syrian refugees flood into Europe.

Cavusoglu has said the military intends to move 30 kilometers (19 miles) into northern Syria and that its operation will last until all "terrorists are neutralized."

Meanwhile, a French official said Friday that sanctions against Turkey will be "on the table" at next week's European Union summit, over Ankara's incursion into Syria.

Amélie de Montchalin, the French secretary for European affairs, told France Inter radio that Europe rejected any idea that it was powerless to respond to what she described as a shocking situation against civilians and Europe's Kurdish allies against the Islamic State group.

European diplomats in Brussels have responded cautiously to the idea of sanctions on Ankara though the invasion — which began Wednesday and was dubbed by Turkey "Operation Peace Spring" — has met with unanimous criticism.

The Turkish assault aims to create a corridor of control along the length of Turkey's border — a so-called "safe zone" — clearing out the Syrian Kurdish fighters. Such a zone would end the Kurds' autonomy in the area and put much of their population under Turkish control. Ankara wants to settle 2 million Syrian refugees, mainly Arabs, in the zone.

The U.N. refugee agency said tens of thousands of people have fled their homes since Wednesday, while the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a war monitoring group, put the figure at more than 60,000.

Associated Press writers Suzan Fraser in Ankara, Turkey, and Zeynep Bilginsoy in Istanbul contributed to this report.

## Florida men tied to Giuliani, Ukraine probe arrested

By MICHAEL BIESECKER, MICHAEL BALSAMO, DESMOND BUTLER

and ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Two Florida businessmen tied to President Donald Trump's lawyer and the Ukraine impeachment investigation were charged with federal campaign finance violations.

The charges Thursday relate to a \$325,000 donation to a group supporting Trump's reelection.

Lev Parnas and Igor Fruman, associates of Rudy Giuliani, were arrested Wednesday trying to board an international flight with one-way tickets at Dulles International Airport in Virginia, according to Geoffrey Berman, the U.S. attorney in Manhattan.

Parnas and Fruman were arrested on a four-count indictment that includes charges of conspiracy, making false statements to the Federal Election Commission and falsification of records. The men had key roles in Giuliani's efforts to launch a Ukrainian corruption investigation against Democratic presidential contender Joe Biden and his son Hunter.

The indictments mark the first criminal charges related to the Ukraine controversy. While they do not suggest wrongdoing by the Republican president, they raise additional questions about how those close to Trump and Giuliani sought to use their influence.

Trump has dismissed the impeachment inquiry as baseless and politically motivated. As he was leaving the White House for a political rally in Minneapolis, Trump said he didn't know Parnas or Fruman and hadn't spoken with Giuliani about them.



**This Facebook screen shot provided by The Campaign Legal Center shows, from left, Donald Trump Jr., Tommy Hicks Jr., Lev Parnas and Igor Fruman, posted on May 21, 2018. Parnas and Fruman were arrested on Thursday, Oct. 10, 2019, on campaign finance violations resulting from a donation to a political action committee supporting President Donald Trump's reelection.** (The

Campaign Legal Center via AP)

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"We have nothing to do with it," Trump said.

Giuliani said he couldn't comment and that he didn't represent the men in campaign finance matters.

Records show that Parnas and Fruman used wire transfers from a corporate entity to make the \$325,000 donation to the America First Action committee in May 2018. But wire transfer records that became public through a lawsuit show that the corporate entity reported as making the transaction was not the source of the money.

The big donation to the Trump-allied PAC was part of a flurry of political spending tied to Parnas and Fruman, with at least \$478,000 in donations flowing to GOP campaigns and PACs in little more than two months.

The money enabled the relatively unknown entrepreneurs to quickly gain access to the highest levels of the Republican Party, including meetings with Trump at the White House and Mar-a-Lago in Florida.

Prosecutors allege that Parnas urged a congressman to seek the ouster of the U.S. ambassador to Ukraine, at the behest of Ukrainian government officials. That happened about the same time that Parnas and Fruman committed to raising more than \$20,000 for the politician.

The congressman wasn't identified in court papers, but the donations match campaign finance reports for former Rep. Pete Sessions, a Texas Republican who lost his reelection bid in November. In May 2018, Parnas posted a photo of himself and his business partner David Correia with Sessions in his Capitol Hill office, with the caption "Hard at work!!"

Parnas and Fruman appeared in court Thursday and were ordered to remain jailed as a bail package was worked out. They are due in court in New York next week. Kevin Downing, the lawyer who represented former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort on charges that he hid millions of dollars that he earned in Ukraine advising politicians there, was representing the men for their initial appearance and declined to comment.

Correia and Andrey Kukushkin, a Ukrainian-born U.S. citizen, were also charged in the case. A federal judge in San Francisco ordered Kukushkin held on Thursday pending a bail hearing to determine whether he is considered a flight risk.

Parnas and Fruman were arrested as they attempted to get on a flight to Frankfurt, Germany, according to a person familiar with the investigation. U.S. authorities are looking at whether that was a first stop en route to Ukraine, said the person, who wasn't authorized to discuss the probe and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Attorney General William Barr had been briefed on the investigation soon after he was confirmed in February, was updated in recent weeks and was made aware Wednesday night that the men were being arrested, a person familiar with the matter told The Associated Press. The person spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss an ongoing investigation.

The indictment says Parnas and Fruman "sought to advance their personal financial interests and the political interests of at least one Ukrainian government official with whom they were working" and took steps to conceal it from third parties, including creditors. They created a limited liability corporation, Global Energy Producers, and "intentionally caused certain large contributions to be reported in the name of GEP instead of in their own names."

Prosecutors charge that the two men falsely claimed the contributions came from GEP, which was described as a liquefied natural gas business. At that point, the company had no income or significant assets, the indictment said.

Prosecutors allege that Parnas and Fruman conspired to make illegal contributions to try to skirt the limit on federal campaign contributions. The men are also accused of making contributions to candidates for state and federal office, joint fundraising committees and independent expenditure committees in the names of other people.

The commitment to raise more than \$20,000 for the congressman was made in May and June 2018. The lawmaker had also received about \$3 million in independent expenditures from a super political action committee that Parnas and Fruman had been funding.

As a result of the donations, Parnas and Fruman had meetings with the congressman and Parnas lobbied

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him to advocate for removing the ambassador to Ukraine, Berman said.

Trump referred to Ambassador Marie Yovanovitch, who was indeed recalled to the U.S., as "bad news" in his July phone call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy.

Sessions said in a statement tweeted by a spokesman that he "could not have had any knowledge of the scheme described in the indictment." Sessions wasn't asked to take any action during the meetings with Parnas and Fruman and wrote a letter to the secretary of state about Yovanovitch after colleagues in Congress said she was "disparaging" the president, he said.

The indictment also charges that Kukushkin conspired with the three other defendants to make political contributions, funded by a foreign national, to politicians seeking state and federal office "to gain influence with candidates as to policies that would benefit a future business venture."

An unnamed foreigner wired \$500,000 from a bank account overseas through New York to the defendants for contributions to two candidates for state office in Nevada, the indictment alleges. Foreigners are not permitted to contribute to U.S. elections.

The indictment accuses the four men of also participating in a scheme to acquire retail marijuana licenses through donations to local and federal politicians in New York, Nevada and other states.

America First Action said the \$325,000 contribution will remain in a separate account while the court cases play out. A spokeswoman, Kelly Sadler, said the committee will "scrupulously comply with the law."

The AP reported last week that Parnas and Fruman helped arrange a January meeting in New York between Ukraine's former top prosecutor, Yuri Lutsenko, and Giuliani, as well as other meetings with top government officials.

Giuliani's efforts to launch a Ukrainian corruption investigation were echoed by Trump in the July 25 call with Zelenskiy. That conversation is now at the heart of the impeachment inquiry.

House Democrats subpoenaed Parnas and Fruman on Thursday for documents they have refused to produce to three House committees. The panels have also subpoenaed Giuliani.

A whistleblower complaint by an unnamed intelligence official makes reference to "associates" of Giuliani in Ukraine who were attempting to make contact with Zelenskiy's team, though it's not clear that refers to Parnas and Fruman.

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Associated Press writers Colleen Long and Brian Slodysko in Washington, Larry Neumeister, Tom Hays and Jonathan Lemire in New York and Matthew Barakat in Alexandria, Virginia contributed to this report.

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## Ethiopian PM Abiy Ahmed wins Nobel peace prize

By CARA ANNA, ELIAS MESERET and GEIR MOULSON Associated Press

OSLO, Norway (AP) — Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for 2019 in recognition of his efforts to end his country's two-decade border conflict with Eritrea.

The Norwegian Nobel Institute on Friday also praised the "important reforms" that Abiy, Ethiopia's leader since April 2018, has launched at home. The prize comes as Abiy faces pressure to uphold the sweeping freedoms he introduced, and critics warn that his ability to deal with rising domestic unrest may be slipping.

The Nobel committee some people may consider it too early to give him the prize, but "it is now that Abiy Ahmed's efforts need recognition and deserve encouragement."

The award reflects the committee's taste for trying to encourage works in progress.

"We are proud as a nation!!!" Abiy's office said in a tweet.

Nobel Institute director Olav Njoelstad, said he had been in touch by phone with Abiy, who "showed great humility and was overwhelmed."

Abiy, 43, took office after widespread protests pressured the longtime ruling coalition and hurt one of

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the world's fastest growing economies. Africa's youngest leader quickly announced dramatic reforms and "Abiymania" began.

On taking office, Abiy surprised people by fully accepting a peace deal ending a 20-year border war between the two East African nations that saw tens of thousands of people killed. Ethiopia and Eritrea had not had diplomatic ties since the war began in 1998, with Abiy himself once fighting in a town that remained contested at the time of his announcement last year.

Within weeks, the visibly moved Eritrean president, Isaias Afwerki, visited Addis Ababa and communications and transport links were restored. For the first time in two decades, long-divided families made tearful reunions.

The improving relations led to the lifting of United Nations sanctions on Eritrea, one of the world's most reclusive nations. But Ethiopia's reforms do not appear to have inspired any in Eritrea, which has since closed border posts with its neighbor.

The Nobel committee also pointed to Abiy's other efforts toward reconciliation in the region — between Eritrea and Djibouti, between Kenya and Somalia, and in Sudan.

The Nobel committee acknowledged that "peace does not arise from the actions of one party alone." It said that when Abiy "reached out his hand, President Afwerki grasped it, and helped to formalize the peace process between the two countries."

It added that it "hopes the peace agreement will help to bring about positive change for the entire populations of Ethiopia and Eritrea."

There was no immediate comment on the award from Eritrea, which under its longtime ruler remains one of the world's most closed-off nations.

At home, Abiy offered one political surprise after another. He released tens of thousands of prisoners, welcomed home once-banned opposition groups and acknowledged past abuses. People expressed themselves freely on social media, and he announced that Ethiopia would hold free and fair elections in 2020. The country has one of the world's few "gender-balanced" Cabinets and a female president, a rarity in Africa.

And for the first time Ethiopia had no journalists in prison, media groups noted last year.

The new prime minister also announced the opening-up of Ethiopia's tightly controlled economy, saying private investment would be welcome in major state-owned sectors — a process that continues slowly.

But while Abiy became a global darling, speaking at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, troubles arose at home.

A grenade was thrown at him during an appearance in the capital. A large group of soldiers confronted him in his office in what he called an attempt to derail his reforms. In a display of the brio that has won Abiy widespread admiration, the former military officer defused the situation by dropping to the floor and



**FILE - In this Thursday, Jan. 24, 2019 file photo, Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed at the European Council headquarters in Brussels. The 2019 Nobel Peace Prize was given to Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed on Friday Oct. 11, 2019.** (AP Photo/Francisco Seco, file)



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joining the troops in pushups.

More troubling these days are Ethiopia's rising ethnic tensions, as people once stifled by repression now act on long-held grievances. Some 1,200 people have been killed and some 1.2 million displaced in the greatest challenge yet to Abiy's rule. Some observers warn that the unrest will grow ahead of next year's election.

The Nobel committee acknowledged that "many challenges remain unresolved."

Abiy had been among the favorites for this year's prize in the run-up to Friday's announcement, though winners are notoriously hard to predict. The Nobel committee doesn't reveal the names of candidates or nominations for 50 years.

The committee has in the past used its prestigious award to nudge a peace process forward and Friday's recognition of Abiy falls into that line of thinking.

"The committee want to be actors. They want to make decisive interventions because the world listens to their opinion, Nobel historian Oeivind Stenersen said. "There have been laureates such as (Jose Ramos) Horta in East Timor who have said that the prize was crucial in the process. The committee will hope to emulate that."

Since 1901, 99 Nobel Peace Prizes have been handed out, to individuals and 24 organizations. While the other prizes are announced in Stockholm, the peace prize is awarded in the Norwegian capital, Oslo.

So far this week, 11 Nobel laureates have been named. The others received their awards for their achievements in medicine , physics , chemistry and literature .

With the glory comes a 9-million kronor (\$918,000) cash award, a gold medal and a diploma. Even though the peace prize is awarded in Norway, the amount is denominated in Swedish kronor.

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Read more stories on the 2019 Nobel Prizes by The Associated Press at <https://www.apnews.com/NobelPrizes>

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Meseret reported from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Anna reported from Johannesburg and Moulson reported from Berlin. Jan M. Olsen in Copenhagen, Denmark, and Mark Lewis from Oslo, also contributed.

## Trump attacks Biden, slams impeachment probe at Minn. rally

By **ZEKE MILLER, STEVE KARNOWSKI and JONATHAN LEMIRE** Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — President Donald Trump was defiant in the face of an impeachment probe as he sought to convert the threat to his presidency into a weapon on the campaign trail, with biting and unsupported attacks on potential Democratic challenger Joe Biden.

Confronting an investigation provoked by his unprecedented calls for Ukraine and then China to assist in digging up dirt on his political rivals, Trump continued to lay into Biden and his son Hunter, whom he and his allies have accused, without evidence, of illegally profiting off his father's office.

"The Bidens got rich, and that is substantiated, while America got robbed," Trump said. While the young Biden did have business interest overseas while he father was in office, there is no evidence of misconduct. Trump's adult children have faced congressional scrutiny for their foreign business dealings while their father is serving as president, and Trump still maintains ownership stakes in his family's businesses.

The rally in Minneapolis, the first since Democrats began proceedings two weeks ago to remove him from office, served as a proving ground for the president as he tries to use the impeachment inquiry to energize supporters for his 2020 campaign by casting himself — and his supporters — as victims of Washington Democrats.

The performance revealed a defense strategy largely detached from the allegations Trump faces. Trump spent little time defending his attempt to pressure the Ukrainian president to investigate the Bidens. Instead, he cast the impeachment fight in simpler basic terms — a battle between him and the "swamp."

"They want to erase your vote like it never existed," Trump said. "They want to erase your voice, and they want to erase your future."

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He added, "The Democrats' brazen attempt to overthrow our government will produce a backlash at the ballot box the likes of which they have never ever seen before in the history of this country."

Trump was by his own admission fired up and off script as he spoke for more than 90 minutes. Few of his political opponents were spared from insults. He said Biden "was only a good vice president because he knew how to kiss Barack Obama's ass." He called Minnesota Rep. Ilhan Omar "a disgrace" and an "America-hating socialist." He said House Speaker Nancy Pelosi was "really stupid."

Omar responded on Twitter, "His hate is no match for our movement."

Trump turned his cuts to the nation's refugee resettlement programs into an applause line and defended his decision to "bring our soldiers back home" from Syria, as he faces criticism for abandoning the U.S.'s Kurdish allies to an attack by Turkey.

Before Trump took the stage, his son Eric warmed up the crowd with an attack on the Bidens.

The younger Trump asked the crowd for an assessment of how Hunter Biden is feeling and suggested that the familiar Trump rally chant of "Lock her up" — directed at Hillary Clinton — become "Lock him up" instead. The crowd then chanted, "Lock him up, lock him up."

Trump fell about 45,000 votes short of beating Democrat Hillary Clinton in Minnesota in 2016. He has had staff in the state since June building a network to turn out supporters next November, and the well-funded Trump campaign says it will spend tens of millions of dollars to try to win the state.

"We are going to win this state," Trump said Thursday.

Protesters converged on Target Center, Minneapolis' basketball arena, hours before Trump's appearance, eventually packing the streets surrounding it. Many blew brightly colored whistles handed out by fellow protesters, adding to the din of frequent chants like, "Lock him up! Lock him up! Lock him up!" — referring to Trump himself. Some clutched helium-filled balloons depicting Trump as a baby, similar to the famed Baby Trump balloon that flew above a nearby building.

Lora Torgerson of suburban Inver Grove Heights clutched a sign that read "Liar Liar Diaper on fire."

"I'm a registered GOP member, and I've never been more ashamed of our party," she said. "I didn't vote for him."

Inside the arena, Lori Glass, a longtime Republican from White Bear Lake, a Twin Cities suburb, dismissed the talking of impeachment with one word: "Ridiculous."

"He's done so much for the country," she said, citing the economy as Trump's top accomplishment. Democrats are pressing for impeachment because "they don't have a good candidate," she said.

On Friday, Trump planned a rally in Louisiana against Democratic Gov. John Bel Edwards. Aides said Trump is not endorsing one of the GOP candidates in the race before Saturday's election to maximize the chances that Edwards falls below the 50% threshold needed to avoid a runoff.

Next week Trump is set to hold a rally in Dallas, a GOP stronghold in a state that has grown more competitive for Democrats in recent cycles.



**President Donald Trump speaks at a campaign rally at the Target Center, Thursday, Oct. 10, 2019, in Minneapolis.**

(AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

Lemire reported from New York. Darlene Superville contributed from Washington and Doug Glass and Kathleen Hennessey contributed from Minneapolis.

## Iran says oil tanker struck by missiles off Saudi Arabia

By **NASSER KARIMI** and **JON GAMBRELL** Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Two missiles struck an Iranian tanker traveling through the Red Sea off the coast of Saudi Arabia on Friday, Iranian officials said, the latest incident in the region amid months of heightened tensions between Tehran and the U.S.

There was no word from Saudi Arabia on the reported attack and Saudi officials did not immediately respond to requests for comment. Oil prices spiked by 2% on the news.

"This latest incident, if confirmed to be an act of aggression, is highly likely to be part of the wider narrative of deteriorating relations between Saudi and the U.S. and Iran," private maritime security firm Dryad Maritime warned.

"It is likely that the region, have being stable for the last month, will face another period of increasing maritime threats, as the Iranian and Saudi geopolitical stand-off continues," it added.

Iranian state television said the explosion damaged two storerooms aboard the oil tanker and caused an oil leak into the Red Sea near the Saudi port city of Jiddah. The leak was later stopped, IRNA reported.

The state-run IRNA news agency, quoting Iran's National Iranian Tanker Co., identified the stricken vessel as the Sabiti. It turned on its tracking devices late Friday morning in the Red Sea, putting its location some 130 kilometers (80 miles) southwest of Jiddah, according to data from MarineTraffic.com. The ship is carrying some 1 million barrels of crude oil, according to an analysis from data firm Refinitiv.

Images released by Iran's Petroleum Ministry appeared to show no visible damage to the Sabiti visible from its bridge, though they did not show the ship's sides. Satellite images of the area showed no visible smoke.

The ministry's SHANA news agency said no ship nor any authority in the area responded to its distress messages.

The Sabiti last turned on its tracking devices in August near the Iranian port city of Bandar Abbas. Iranian tankers routinely turn off their trackers as U.S. sanctions target the sale of Iran's crude oil.

"The oil tanker ... sustained damages to the body when it was hit by missiles 60 miles (96 kilometers) from the Saudi port city of Jiddah," IRNA said.

The agency did not say whom Iranian officials suspect of launching the missiles.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi described the incident as an "attack" carried out by those



**This photo released by the official news agency of the Iranian Oil Ministry, SHANA, shows Iranian oil tanker Sabiti traveling through the Red Sea Friday, Oct. 11, 2019. Two missiles struck the Iranian tanker Sabiti traveling through the Red Sea off the coast of Saudi Arabia on Friday, Iranian officials said, the latest incident in the region amid months of heightened tensions between Tehran and the U.S. (SHANA via AP)**

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committing "dangerous adventurism." In a statement, Mousavi said the Sabiti was struck twice in the span of a half hour and an investigation was underway.

Lt. Pete Pagano, a spokesman for the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet overseeing the Mideast, said authorities there were "aware of reports of this incident," but declined to comment further.

Benchmark Brent crude oil rose over 2% in trading Friday to reach some \$60.40 a barrel.

The reported attack comes after the U.S. has alleged that in past months Iran attacked oil tankers near the Strait of Hormuz, at the mouth of the Persian Gulf, something denied by Tehran.

Friday's incident could push tensions between Iran and the U.S. even higher, more than a year after President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew America from the nuclear deal and imposed sanctions now crushing Iran's economy.

The mysterious attacks on oil tankers near the Strait of Hormuz, Iran shooting down a U.S. military surveillance drone and other incidents across the wider Middle East followed Trump's decision.

The latest assault saw Saudi Arabia's vital oil industry come under a drone-and-cruise-missile attack, halving the kingdom's output. The U.S. has blamed Iran for the attack, something denied by Tehran. Yemen's Houthi rebels, whom the kingdom is fighting in a yearslong war, claimed that assault, though analysts say the missiles used in the attack wouldn't have the range to reach the sites from Yemen.

Mousavi also said that Iranian tankers have been targeted by "damaging activities" over recent months in the Red Sea. He did not elaborate.

In May, an Iranian oil tanker carrying more than 1 million barrels of fuel oil suffered a reported malfunction in the same area as the Sabiti came under attack. The kingdom helped the Happiness 1 reach anchorage off Jiddah, where it was repaired and later left.

In its analysis Friday, Dryad Maritime said the incident involving the Happiness 1 bore "the hallmarks of a potential explosive incident."

Iran said in August another oil tanker, the Helm, faced a technical failure while passing through the Red Sea, without elaborating.

Gambrell reported from Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

## Analysis: In impeachment fight, it's Trump vs. Constitution

By JONATHAN LEMIRE Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Donald Trump has spent his time in office trying to bend the conventions of the American presidency to his will. Now he appears to be trying to override a core principle of democracy: that no one is above the law.

Faced with an impeachment inquiry, Trump has openly defied the core constructs of the Constitution. He chafes at the idea of co-equal branches of government and rejects the House's right to investigate him.

He has deployed a convoluted logic in which he has declared that the courts can't investigate him because as president he cannot be charged with a crime but also that Congress cannot impeach him because its inquiry is politically illegitimate.

It's a "heads he wins, tails you lose" formulation.

"It's anathema to his character and his life story to be checked and balanced by anything," said presidential historian Jon Meacham, a professor at Vanderbilt University. "The Constitution was formed to contain appetite. And we now have the president who is driven entirely by appetite."

In a scathing eight-page letter this week, the Republican president's lawyers served notice there will be no cooperation with the impeachment inquiry.

Trump's White House has ignored document requests and subpoenas. It readily invokes executive privilege — going so far as to argue that the privilege extends to informal presidential advisers who never held White House jobs. And his team all but dares Democrats to hold them in contempt.

The impeachment standoff follows a pattern Trump has established throughout his presidency as he has jettisoned experienced advisers and flouted conventions.

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The fact that he survived the special counsel's Russia investigation without paying much of a political penalty left him all the more emboldened.

One day after Robert Mueller's faltering testimony brought an end to that threat, Trump unleashed a new one by asking Ukraine's president to investigate his political foe Joe Biden. That prompted the fast-moving impeachment inquiry that Trump now resists.

After two weeks of a listless and unfocused response to the impeachment probe, the White House letter to Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi this week was a declaration of war.

While it was filled with dubious legal arguments, its intent was clear: Trump would not play ball, claiming that the game was rigged against him.

As for all the subpoenas flying from House Democrats, an exasperated Trump said Thursday, "You're running a country, I just don't think that you can have all of these people testifying about every conversation you've had."

And as for the Democrats, Trump claimed Wednesday they're the ones playing dirty "because they have a tiny margin in the House."

"They have eviscerated the rules," he said. "They don't give us any — any fair play. It's the most unfair situation people have seen."

The Constitution gives the House "the sole power of impeachment." But it confers that authority without providing any guidelines, which the White House has seized upon in demanding that Pelosi call for a vote to authorize the inquiry as happened in the last two impeachment inquiries.

No vote is required, and Trump's strategy risks further provoking Democrats in the impeachment probe, setting up court challenges and the potential for lawmakers to draw up an article of impeachment for obstructing their investigations.

"The president does not have all-consuming power," said Nick Ackerman, a member of the Watergate prosecution team that investigated President Richard Nixon. "We play by certain rules, and we expect the rule of law to apply. We don't have checks and balances if he ignores them. That itself is an impeachable defense, which is what Nixon faced."

It is unclear whether Democrats would wade into a lengthy legal fight with the administration over documents and testimony or if they would just move straight to considering articles of impeachment.

Trump, for his part, has never been one to rely on legality or logic in making his arguments.

In the last week alone, he called for the impeachment of Sen. Mitt Romney and Rep. Adam Schiff — events that can't occur — and in part justified his decision to withdraw U.S. troops from Syria, leaving the Kurds vulnerable to Turkish attacks, by saying the Kurds did not assist at Normandy during World War II.

Since taking office, he has taken repeatedly taken unilateral action to defy Congress and push the limits of his own power, declaring a national emergency so he could divert funds for a border wall and taking executive action to try to halt immigration from several Muslim-majority nations.

Trump on Thursday punctuated a tweet about unfair media coverage with four words that seemed to sum up his entire viewpoint of the American system: "Oh well, I'm President!"



**President Donald Trump arrives at a campaign rally Thursday, Oct. 10, 2019, in Minneapolis.** (AP Photo/Jim Mone)

The Constitution was built to withstand tests like this.

"Both the strength of the American system and one of its most frustrating aspects is that it's incredibly difficult to do anything quickly, particularly bad things, which the founders believed would happen more often than good things," Meacham said. "Checks and balances were created so one bad actor could not dominate the proceedings. We now have that bad actor."

EDITOR'S NOTE — Jonathan Lemire has covered politics and the White House for The Associated Press since 2013.

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

## Trump administration ramps up deportations to Cuba

By ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON and GISELA SALOMON Associated Press



**In this Aug. 6, 2019, photo, Barbara Rodriguez poses for a photo outside of her home in Hialeah, Fla. Her husband, Pablo Sanchez, is seeking asylum in the U.S., but was placed in detention and is now facing deportation to Cuba.**

(AP Photo/Brynn Anderson)

MIAMI (AP) — After seeking asylum in the United States at the Mexican border, Pablo Sanchez was placed in a detention center and is now facing what has become an increasingly common scenario under President Donald Trump: deportation to Cuba.

Since the end of the Obama administration, the number of Cubans deported from the U.S. has increased more than tenfold to more than 800 in the past year as the Trump administration enforces a new policy inked just days before it took over. It is also imposing its own sharp limits on who is eligible for asylum. That's an unwelcome development for growing numbers of asylum-seeking Cubans who had long benefited from a generous U.S. approach and their government's unwillingness to take its people back.

For decades, Cubans fleeing the communist-governed island had for the most part enjoyed unique privileges. Even after the cold war ended,

they were given a certain path to legal residence once they touched U.S. soil through the policy known as "wet foot, dry foot."

But an agreement reached during the final days of the Obama administration ended that and required Cuba to take back citizens who receive deportation orders going forward and consider on a case-by-case basis the return of the thousands of other Cubans who had received such orders over the decades but remained in the U.S. because their country wouldn't take them back.

Since Trump took office, more Cubans arriving at the U.S.-Mexico border have encountered new limits, including a policy introduced last month that denies protection to asylum seekers who have passed through another country before reaching Mexico and have not sought asylum there.

Despite the new agreement, Cuba remains reluctant to take its people back, and is one of 10 countries that the U.S. government labels "recalcitrant." That makes it difficult for the administration to enforce its

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aggressive measures against asylum — and leaves many Cubans in limbo.

Many, like Sanchez, are baffled by their predicament.

Sanchez is married to Barbara Rodriguez, a naturalized U.S. citizen who lives in Miami, but was unable to apply for a visa in Cuba to join his wife in the U.S. because the Trump administration pulled most of its embassy staff out, outsourcing family-related visa petitions to consular services in Colombia or Guyana. Rodriguez claims Sanchez was facing increasing political persecution after having brushes with local authorities over such episodes as damaging a referendum ballot as a sign of protest.

The couple agreed he had to get out of Cuba, saying they had learned he was being investigated and could face jail time. Feeling they had no time to waste — and with no visa services available in Cuba — Sanchez traveled to Nicaragua and through Mexico to seek asylum in the U.S., at a port of entry where authorities detained him and later sent him to Immigration and Customs Enforcement for long-term custody.

"This is plain cruel, despite arriving in this country and demonstrating that you are persecuted and that you have credible fear. After all, this gets thrown away," said his wife, Rodriguez, who talks to Sanchez on the phone daily. "The worse thing is that now I feel all that is left for him is deportation."

It is unclear how the Cuban government treats people who are deported from the U.S., but rights advocates and lawyers say they could face retaliation for claiming asylum, especially those who claimed they were being persecuted. By contrast, deportees to Mexico and Central American countries typically get a warm welcome home.

Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla told The Associated Press the increase in deportations stems from the country "diligently fulfilling its commitments" outlined in the accord with the Obama administration, but at the same time he blasted the U.S. for cutting consular services in Havana.

"It is a shame to politicize the human bond between people and between nations," he said.

A chartered U.S. government flight landed in Havana on Sept. 27 with 96 Cubans aboard, and another with 120 arrived Aug. 30. U.S. officials say Cuba's acceptance of this limited number of deportees is a small step, but they believe the nation is still largely unwilling to work with the U.S. on repatriations. They note 39,243 Cubans living in the U.S. with deportation orders.

"Cuba is kind of a thorn in their side in this area," said Julia Gelatt, senior policy analyst at the nonpartisan Migration Policy Institute.

Cuba remains on a U.S. government list of "recalcitrant" nations with nine other countries: China, Vietnam, Iran, Bhutan, Cambodia, Eritrea, Hong Kong, Laos and Pakistan.

About 21,000 Cubans have presented themselves to officials at U.S.-Mexico crossings since last October, triple the number seen the previous 12 months, according to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection statistics.

Thousands more Cubans have been stranded in northern Mexico cities on wait lists to request asylum and through a program that forces migrants to wait south of the border for their asylum cases to play out.

Of the Cubans who have been allowed into the U.S., many have been released from custody while they await court dates for their asylum cases, but hundreds have been turned over to ICE custody.

About 5,000 Cubans have received deportation orders since the new U.S.-Cuba agreement, and 1,300 of them have been deported, according to ICE data.

Luis Dayan Palmero left Cuba in April, traveling from Guyana to Brazil and Colombia, before passing through Central America and arriving in northern Mexico in August.

He crossed the Rio Grande and surrendered to Border Patrol agents, who sent him to Matamoros, Mexico. He now has a U.S. court appearing set this month.

"I plan to ask for asylum, and whatever happens is what God wants," Palmero said.

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Associated Press writer Michael Weissenstein contributed to this story from Havana.

## Documentary highlights rape allegations at Louisiana jail

By JIM MUSTIAN Associated Press

At least a half-dozen women told authorities that deputies raped and trafficked them to male inmates inside a long-troubled jail in southwestern Louisiana, according to newly unearthed state and FBI records.

The records offer a harrowing account of sexual assault being traded as currency in a contraband ring that pervaded the Jefferson Davis Parish jail. Three deputies were charged in the 2002 corruption case. One of them remains a small-town police officer in Louisiana, The Associated Press found.

The little-known case has drawn new attention and is highlighted in a Showtime docuseries examining the so-called Jeff Davis 8, a series of eight possibly related killings that remain unsolved despite the decade-long efforts of a local, state and federal task force.

The victims, ranging in age from 17 to 30, were killed between 2005 and 2009 in and around Jennings, Louisiana, a small town in Louisiana's Cajun country.

The records show the last Jeff Davis 8 victim, Necole Jean Guillory, had been a witness in the 2002 jail case. The five-part documentary, "Murder in the Bayou," features footage of Guillory telling investigators about rampant misconduct inside the lockup.

The series finale, which airs Friday, reveals that Guillory told her mother shortly before her death that she believed local law enforcement had a hand in the slayings.

The Jefferson Davis Parish jail has seen more recent cases of misconduct, including this summer when two deputies were fired there for their role in a brutal beating that reportedly left an inmate with black eyes and second-degree burns.

Chief Deputy Chris Ivey said authorities recently transferred local inmates into a new facility that is more secure than the old parish jail, which was poorly lit and had spotty surveillance cameras. He told The AP none of the deputies accused of misconduct would be given badges by the current administration. "They wouldn't be working for us," he said.

The newly released records, obtained by Showtime and reviewed by The AP, show "a pattern and practice of sexual assault by guards at the Jefferson Davis Parish Jail stretching back nearly two decades," said Ethan Brown, an executive producer of the series.

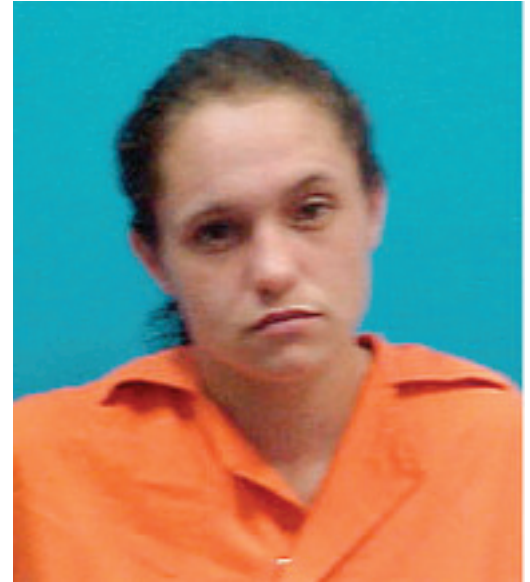
Guillory had been "aware of significant law enforcement misconduct" before she was found dead years later in a patch of grass along Interstate 10 in Acadia Parish, Brown said.

"She was the most insistent of the victims that the police were behind the killings," Brown told the AP.

Brown, in his book about the Jeff Davis 8, wrote that Guillory knew most of the other slain women through their involvement in sex work and long feared for her safety.

Guillory's death remains a mystery. But the records show that she and several other women made detailed allegations about sexual misconduct involving deputies and inmates at the parish jail. The FBI interviewed at least one woman who said she had been raped, the records show, but no federal charges were filed.

Former Jefferson Davis Parish Sheriff Ricky Edwards said at the time that two deputies had been ar-



**This undated booking photo provided by Jefferson Davis Parish shows Necole Jean Guillory. Newly released records show a half-dozen women told authorities they were raped and trafficked to male inmates inside a rural Louisiana jail. The 2002 case is featured in a Showtime documentary, "Murder in the Bayou" examines the unsolved killings of eight women known as the Jeff Davis 8. The five-part documentary features newly discovered footage of Necole Jean Guillory describing misconduct and contraband flowing into the parish jail.** (Jefferson Davis Parish/The Advocate

via AP)



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rested for taking bribes to arrange sex between inmates. He said one had sex with a female inmate, while a third deputy was fired for smuggling contraband into the jail.

What the sheriff did not say was that at least a half-dozen women had accused deputies of running a jailhouse sex-trafficking ring in which female inmates were repeatedly coerced into having sex with male inmates and trustees.

One woman told authorities she was forced to have sex with a deputy, Eric M. Phillips, and that nothing came of her repeated complaints to jail staff, the records show. The Associated Press does not identify people who may have been sexually assaulted unless they have come forward and voluntarily identify themselves.

"I just want it stopped because it's not right," the woman told sheriff's investigators.

Detectives took similar statements from several other women, including one who spent just a week in the jail. She told authorities she had been wrested from her bunk one night by an "unidentified assailant" who covered her mouth and, while removing her pants, told her to "give it up," the records show.

She said she noticed Phillips, the jailer, watching the assault from the hallway.

Still another woman said Phillips raped her after removing her from her cell under the pretense that she needed to see the jail nurse about her medicine.

"I wrote a letter to my mother describing what had happened to me," she wrote in a statement to authorities, "but for some reason my mother never received the letter."

Investigators also interviewed Guillory, then 19, who described a state of near anarchy in the jail. She told investigators she also had sex with Phillips, according to the records. Deputies are forbidden under state and federal law from having sexual contact with inmates.

"You can't get out of your cell, but you're still doing everything you're doing when you're at home," Guillory told authorities. She added that deputies routinely sold cigarettes, drugs and other contraband to inmates.

Phillips later pleaded no contest to malfeasance in office, a felony, and was sentenced to a year in prison. He was not charged with sexual assault.

Phillips this week said he knew nothing about the rape allegations. His brother later telephoned the AP to say Phillips, despite having served in law enforcement, was "ignorant when it comes to the law." He said Phillips regrets pleading no contest in the case and did so only at the advice of his attorney.

Another deputy fired in the scandal, Allarate "A.J." Frank, pleaded no contest to a misdemeanor count of criminal mischief. He later worked more than 10 years for the Eunice Police Department despite his conviction and recently ran for police chief of that city. He remains a police officer in the neighboring town of Basile.

Frank declined to comment. His attorney, former Louisiana lawmaker Elbert Guillory, said the misconduct that could be proved against Frank amounted to a "very, very minor matter."

Edwards, the former sheriff, did not return messages seeking comment. His lawyers suggested in a 2004 court filing that the female inmates may have "willingly" participated in some of the crimes in his jail.

The Sheriff's Office later settled at least two federal lawsuits stemming from the alleged rapes.

## Judge to hear arguments on stopping suits against Sacklers

By GEOFF MULVIHILL Associated Press

How much members of the Sackler family should be held accountable for the role their company, Purdue Pharma, played in the nation's opioid crisis will be at the center of a hearing Friday in federal bankruptcy court.

State attorneys general are evenly divided over whether to accept terms offered by Purdue to settle some 2,600 claims against it. About half of them say the proposed deal is too lenient to family members who siphoned billions out of their privately held company and stashed much of it overseas.

Those attorneys general are pressing separate state claims against the Sacklers and want those cases to continue even as Purdue's bankruptcy case plays out. They will make that argument before a bankruptcy judge in White Plains, New York.

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"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 attorneys general who oppose the settlement terms said in a filing last week.

Its signature painkiller, OxyContin, made Purdue the biggest name in a case that consolidated the hundreds of lawsuits by local governments, Native American tribes and other entities under a federal judge in Cleveland. The company's bankruptcy filing in New York last month came after it negotiated a tentative deal in that litigation with a group of attorneys general, although only half the states have agreed to it.

No longer part of the Cleveland case, Purdue and the Sackler family are hoping to resolve all lawsuits against them through the bankruptcy process; Sackler family members face hundreds of lawsuits in state courts, including about two dozen brought by state attorneys general. The biggest immediate question looming over the bankruptcy case is whether the judge will allow those cases to proceed.

A ruling in favor of the attorneys general who want to push forward with their lawsuits could imperil the tentative settlement.

Under that proposal, members of the Sackler family would give up control of Purdue, which would continue to operate as a trust with all profits going into the settlement. The deal would include the value of overdose antidotes and a treatment drug under development, and the Sackler family would kick in at least \$3 billion. The exact amount above that depends on what the family would make by selling its Mundipharma international drug businesses. In all, the deal could be worth as much as \$12 billion over time.

Twenty-four states and lawyers representing local governments have agreed to the proposed deal, while another 24 states and more than 500 local and tribal governments oppose it. Two states, Kentucky and Oklahoma, settled lawsuits previously with Purdue.

Purdue has said in court filings that if the separate lawsuits against members of the Sackler family are allowed to go ahead, it could mean the family would not be willing or able to pay the money it has committed to the settlement.

The objecting states say the Sacklers have plenty of money. In sworn testimony, a restructuring consultant for Purdue said family members had received between \$12 billion and \$13 billion over time from the company.

Those states say the federal bankruptcy judge cannot stop their lawsuits against the Sacklers because doing so would interfere with states' constitutional powers to enforce laws to protect the public's health, safety and welfare. Marc Hamroff, a lawyer who has represented creditors in several high-profile bankruptcy cases, said the judge's decision could turn on that argument.



**FILE - In this Sept. 12, 2019, file photo, cars pass Purdue Pharma headquarters in Stamford, Conn. How much members of the Sackler family should be held accountable for the role their company, Purdue Pharma, played in the nation's opioid crisis will be at the center of a hearing in federal bankruptcy court. State attorneys general who are pressing separate state claims against the Sacklers want their cases to continue even as Purdue's bankruptcy case plays out. They will make that argument on Friday, Oct. 11, 2019 before a bankruptcy judge in White Plains, New York.** (AP Photo/Frank Franklin II, File)

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## Cole, Astros beat Rays 6-1 in ALDS Game 5; Yankees next

By KRISTIE RIEKEN AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON (AP) — All season long, it seemed inevitable.

Yankees-Astros for the American League pennant.

"It's the matchup that we wanted," Houston shortstop Carlos Correa said. "It's the matchup that everybody wants to watch. It's must-see TV right there. So everybody is going to be tuning in. It's going to be fun."

Houston made it happen Thursday night as Gerrit Cole pitched another playoff masterpiece and the Astros jumped to a quick lead, turning back the Tampa Bay Rays 6-1 in the deciding Game 5 of their AL Division Series.

On deck, the heavyweight matchup so many fans were anticipating: Jose Altuve and the 107-win Astros against Aaron Judge and the 103-win Yankees. Game 1 is Saturday night in Houston — the Astros won four of seven meetings this season.

"This is two incredible powerhouse teams," Houston ace Justin Verlander said. "We'll find ourselves in the middle of the ring here in a couple of days and we'll be going at it."

After fellow aces Zack Greinke and Verlander were unable to close out the scrappy Rays on the road, Cole made sure Houston moved on. Given a 4-0 cushion in the first inning, he dominated through the eighth, striking out 10 and allowing just two hits.

"I'm just going to treat it like it's the next game, man," said Cole, who grew up a Yankees fan. "I mean, we know that they're obviously very talented, and it's going to be a dogfight."

Michael Brantley and Altuve put the finishing touches on this victory, hitting back-to-back home runs in the eighth. The Astros advanced to their third straight ALCS, and are aiming for their second World Series crown in that span.

Houston beat the Yankees in a seven-game ALCS on the way to its first championship in 2017. The Astros also won the 2015 AL wild-card game at Yankee Stadium.

The Rays beat Oakland in the AL wild-card game, then won Games 3 and 4 against the Astros to extend their first playoff run since 2013.

But facing Cole, the Rays were in trouble — especially after Altuve, Alex Bregman and the Astros scored four times in the first against Tyler Glasnow, who said afterward it was pretty obvious he was tipping pitches.

"You get a taste of this, you want to keep going," Rays manager Kevin Cash said. "Today we kind of got outpowered. Outpowered on the mound and obviously at the plate."

Cole followed his 15-strikeout gem in a Game 2 win with another overpowering effort. The right-hander, who was drafted by the Yankees out of high school but didn't sign, improved to 18-0 in his last 24 starts.

"This team is special, and the reason that we're special is because different guys step up every single night," Bregman said. "Yeah, if one guy goes off we're probably going to win. Gerrit went off twice this series."



**Houston Astros designated hitter Yordan Alvarez, left, and pitcher Hector Rondon, right, celebrate their win over the Tampa Bay Rays in Game 5 of a baseball American League Division Series in Houston, Thursday, Oct. 10, 2019.**

(AP Photo/Eric Christian Smith)

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Cole topped the majors with 326 strikeouts this season, led the AL with a 2.50 ERA and posted 20 wins, one behind Verlander for most in the big leagues. He tried to stick to what got him this far and not alter his approach on Thursday night even though the stakes were so much higher.

"You're not naive to the situation you're in, but you can't afford to treat it any different," he said.

The 29-year-old struck out the first two batters in the eighth before Willy Adames grounded out to end Cole's night.

"I don't know if anybody can get better than that," Adames said. "He was unbelievable last start, and today was still the same."

Cole beat his chest once before walking to the dugout to a huge ovation from the rowdy sellout crowd of 43,418 at Minute Maid Park.

"Energy was so great all night," Cole said. "They deserved a hat tip."

After winning an MLB-best and franchise-record 107 games in the regular season, the Astros were determined not to suffer the same fate as the Dodgers, winners of 106 games, who were ousted from the playoffs by the wild-card Nationals on Wednesday night.

Houston had been outscored 14-4 in the last two games, but looked sharp at home, where it went 60-21 in the regular season.

A day after the Cardinals scored a postseason-record 10 runs in the first inning of a 13-1 win over the Braves, the Astros scored four runs fast. Now it wasn't nearly as big as what St. Louis did, but after the Astros were shut down at Tropicana Field, it was just as huge for them.

"It shows a lot of character," Houston general manager Jeff Luhnow said. "Because if we hadn't gotten up early I think it would have been a different ballgame the way they have their relievers lined up and ready to go. I'm glad it wasn't a one-run game. Getting four early mattered a lot."

The Astros will make their seventh appearance in an LCS and are the first team to reach the ALCS three seasons in a row since the Detroit Tigers did it from 2011-13.

Altuve's shot gave him 11 postseason homers to pass Chase Utley for most all-time by a second baseman.

Cole extended his major league record by striking out at least 10 batters for the 11th straight game, a stretch where he's fanned 135.

Cole pitched a 1-2-3 third but didn't strike anyone out in the frame, ending a streak of 73 consecutive innings with at least one strikeout. The streak, which dated back to Aug. 1, was the longest such streak since 1961, besting the second-best stretch by 33 innings.

George Springer and Brantley hit back-to-back singles and Altuve's single made it 1-0. Bregman's double, which landed just in front of the bullpen in right-center, scored two more to push the lead to 3-0.

Yuli Gurriel's groundball single to left field added another. Houston's five hits and four runs set franchise playoff records for most hits and runs in the first inning.

Eric Sogard hit a solo homer in the Tampa Bay second in his first start in almost a month while dealing with a foot injury. But Tampa Bay managed only a single by Ji-Man Choi in the fourth and a walk by Travis d'Arnaud to start the seventh against Cole.

Roberto Osuna pitched a hitless ninth to finish off the win.

Cash had said he thought Glasnow could throw about 90 pitches in this one, but he'd seen enough of the big right-hander after 40 pitches and lifted him with two outs in the third for Blake Snell.

Snell, the 2018 AL Cy Young Award winner, got the next four outs in his second career relief appearance after getting the save in Game 4. The Rays wound up using nine pitchers.

UP NEXT

Greinke, who took the loss in Game 3, is likely to start for Houston in Game 1 of the ALCS.

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

## California utility faces gripes over deliberate blackouts

By BRIAN MELLEY and JONATHAN J. COOPER Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Even as the winds gusted dangerously as forecast, California's biggest utility faced hostility and second-guessing Thursday for shutting off electricity to millions of people to prevent its equipment from sparking wildfires.

Gov. Gavin Newsom criticized Pacific Gas & Electric and ordinary customers complained about the inconveniences caused by the unprecedented blackouts that began Wednesday, with many wondering: Did PG&E go too far in its attempt to ward off more deadly fires? Could the utility have been more targeted in deciding whose electricity was turned off and when?

PG&E, though, suggested it was already seeing the wisdom of its decision borne out as gusts topping 77 mph (122 kph) raked the San Francisco Bay Area amid a bout of dry, windy weather.

"We have found multiple cases of damage or hazards" caused by heavy winds, including fallen branches that came in contact with overhead lines, energized, they could've ignited."

Because of the dangerous weather in the forecast, PG&E cut power Wednesday to an estimated 2 million people in an area that spanned the San Francisco Bay Area, the wine country north of San Francisco, the agricultural Central Valley and the Sierra Nevada foothills. By Thursday evening, the weather had calmed and the number of customers in the dark was down to about 510,000.

Inspections and repairs were expected to resume at daybreak and power could be restored Friday to many more customers, Singh said.

PG&E cast the blackouts as a matter of public safety, aimed at preventing the kind of blazes that have killed scores of people over the past couple of years, destroyed thousands of homes, and ran up tens of billions of dollars in claims that drove the company into bankruptcy.

CEO Bill Johnson didn't respond to Newsom's criticisms but promised if future wind events require similar shutoffs, the utility will "do better" when it comes to communicating with customers. It's unacceptable that its websites crashed, maps were inconsistent and call centers were overloaded, Johnson said.

"We were not adequately prepared," he said.

The fire danger spread to Southern California on Thursday as raging winds moved down the state. Southern California Edison shut off electricity to about 12,000 people just outside Los Angeles, with wider blackouts possible.

A blaze ripped through a mobile home park in Calimesa, a city about 65 miles (104 kilometers) east of Los Angeles, destroying dozens of residences. The fire was started when trash being hauled caught fire and the driver dumped the load aside a road, according to Riverside County officials.

Many of those affected by the outages, which could last as long as five days, were not so sure about



**Strong Santa Ana winds in Chatsworth, Calif., blew across power lines causing them to arc and transformers to explode. Power was out for street signs, businesses and residents along Devonshire St. from Topanga Canyon Blvd. to Variel Ave. on Thursday, Oct. 10, 2019.** (Dean Musgrove/

The Orange County Register via AP)

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the move.

Sergio Vergara, owner of Stinson Beach Market, situated on scenic Highway 1, on the Pacific Coast just north of San Francisco, operated the store with a propane generator so his customers could have coffee, milk, meat and frozen meals.

"I'm telling you as a plain human being, there is no wind, there is no heat," he said. "We never saw something like this where they just decide to shut off the power, but on the other side — preventing is a good thing, but it's creating a lot of frustration."

But in powered-down Oakland, Tianna Pasche said: "If it saves a life, I'm not going to complain about it."

Faced with customer anger, PG&E put up barricades around its San Francisco headquarters. A customer threw eggs at a PG&E office in Oroville. And a PG&E truck was hit by a bullet, though authorities could not immediately say whether it was targeted.

Singh, PG&E's vice president of community wildfire safety, urged people to be kind to workers out in the field, saying the employees and contractors "have families that live in your communities."

"Let's just ensure their safety as well, as they are doing this work in the interest of your safety," Singh said.

The governor said PG&E was to blame for poor management and should have been working on making its power system sturdier and more weatherproof.

"It's decisions that were not made that is leading to this moment in PG&E history," Newsom said. "This is not from my perspective a climate change story so much as it is a story of greed and mismanagement over the course of decades."

Marybel Batjer, president of the California Public Utilities Commission, blasted PG&E's communication and said the situation was unacceptable.

Experts say the big shut-off will yield important lessons for the next time.

Deliberate blackouts are likely to become less disruptive as PG&E gets experience managing them and rebuilds sections of the grid so that outages can be more targeted, said Michael Wara, a researcher on energy and climate policy at Stanford University.

Grids are built and operators are trained to keep the power on at all times, so the company and its employees have little experience with intentionally turning the electricity off in response to rapidly changing weather, he said.

"That's a skill that has to be learned, and PG&E is learning it at a mass scale right now," Wara said.

After a June shut-off in the Sierra foothills, PG&E workers reported repairing numerous areas of wind damage, including power lines hit by tree branches.

"That was worth it," Wara said of the deliberate blackout. "That could have prevented a catastrophe."

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Cooper reported from Phoenix. Associated Press writers Terry Chea, Haven Daley, Janie Har, Daisy Nguyen and Olga R. Rodriguez in San Francisco and John Antczak in Los Angeles contributed to this story.

## NASA launches satellite to explore where air meets space

By **MARCIA DUNN AP Aerospace Writer**

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — NASA launched a satellite on Thursday night to explore the mysterious, dynamic region where air meets space.

The satellite — called Icon, short for Ionospheric Connection Explorer — rocketed into orbit following a two-year delay. It was dropped from a plane flying over the Atlantic off the Florida coast.

Five seconds after the satellite's release, the attached Pegasus rocket ignited, sending Icon on its way.

The ionosphere is the charged part of the upper atmosphere extending several hundred miles (kilometers) up. It's in constant flux as space weather bombards it from above and Earth weather from below, sometimes disrupting radio communications.

"This protected layer, it's the top of our atmosphere. It's our frontier with space," said NASA's heliophysics division director, Nicola Fox.

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Fox said there's too much going on in this region to be caused by just the sun. Hurricanes, tornadoes and other extreme weather conditions on Earth are also adding energy, she noted.

The more scientists know, the better spacecraft and astronauts can be protected in orbit through improved forecasting.

The refrigerator-size Icon satellite will study the airglow formed from gases in the ionosphere and also measure the charged environment right around the 360-mile-high (580-kilometer-high) spacecraft.

"It's a remarkable physics laboratory," said principal scientist Thomas Immel of the University of California, Berkeley, which is overseeing the two-year mission. He added: "Icon goes where the action is."

A NASA satellite launched last year, Gold, is also studying the upper atmosphere, but from much higher up. More missions are planned in coming years to study the ionosphere, including from the International Space Station.

Icon should have soared in 2017, but problems with Northrop Grumman's air-launched Pegasus rocket interfered. Despite the long delay, NASA said the

\$252 million mission did not exceed its price cap. Northrop Grumman also built the satellite.

During a news conference earlier this week, NASA launch director Omar Baez apologized for the delay.

"We wanted to get things right on this rocket," Baez said. "We have no second chances on these type of missions."

He called the launch "an awesome and great one; this one's been a long time in coming." Baez said in the end, everything went well. "This is about as good as it gets," he said.

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



**In this Oct. 1, 2019 photo made available by NASA, a Northrop Grumman L-1011 Stargazer aircraft takes off from Vandenberg Air Force Base in Calif. The company's Pegasus XL rocket, containing NASA's Ionospheric Connection Explorer (ICON), is attached beneath the aircraft. The explorer is targeted to launch on Oct. 9, 2019, from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida. ICON will study the frontier of space - the dynamic zone high in Earth's atmosphere where terrestrial weather from below meets space weather above.** (Randy Beaudoin/NASA via AP)

## Trump says US-China trade talks are 'going very well'

By PAUL WISEMAN AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump offered an upbeat assessment of U.S.-China trade talks and said he would meet at the White House on Friday with the leader of the Chinese negotiating team.

Expectations were low that the negotiations would do much to resolve a 15-month trade battle that is weighing on the global economy.

But as the first of an expected two days of talks wrapped up Thursday, Trump told reporters at the White House, "We're doing very well ... We're going to see them tomorrow, right here, and it's going very well."

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Chinese Vice Premier Liu He is leading the delegation in the 13th round of negotiations with U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin.

The world's two biggest economies are deadlocked over U.S. allegations that China steals technology and pressures foreign companies to hand over trade secrets as part of a sharp-elbowed drive to become a world leader in advanced industries such as robotics and self-driving cars.

Under Trump, the United States has slapped tariffs on more than \$360 billion worth of Chinese imports and is planning to hit another \$160 billion Dec. 15. That would extend import taxes to virtually everything China ships to the United States. China has hit back by targeting about \$120 billion in U.S. goods, focusing on farm products.

The high cost of the tariffs and uncertainty over when and how the trade war will end have taken an economic toll, especially on manufacturing companies. A private survey last week found that U.S. factory output had dropped to its lowest level since 2009, when the economy was in the grips of a deep recession.

"Both sides have been losing, and so has the global economy," said Myron Brilliant, head of international affairs at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Brilliant, who spoke with both delegations before the meetings, sounded optimistic about the chances of progress, noting that Beijing has stepped up purchases of U.S. soybeans in a goodwill gesture. He said he hoped a productive meeting would persuade the Trump administration to call off or postpone plans next Tuesday to raise tariffs on \$250 billion of Chinese imports from 25% to 30%.

"We all know we can't afford a further escalation of the trade war," Brilliant said.

Still, Beijing has been reluctant to make the kind of substantive policy reforms that would satisfy Washington. Doing so likely would require scaling back the Chinese leaders' aspirations to technological dominance they see as crucial to their country's future prosperity.

Associated Press Writer Darlene Superville contributed to this story.



**Chinese Vice Premier Liu He accompanied by U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer, left, and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, greets the media before a minister-level trade meetings at the Office of the United States Trade Representative in Washington, Thursday, Oct. 10, 2019.** (AP Photo/Jose Luis Magana)

## UAW letter to GM indicates that strike won't end quickly

By TOM KRISHER AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — General Motors Chief Executive Mary Barra has stepped into contract talks with striking auto workers, asking the union to wrap up outstanding issues and respond to a company offer made this week.

But in a letter to GM's top bargainer Thursday, United Auto Workers Vice President Terry Dittes wrote that there won't be a response to Monday's offer until committees working issues are finished. He didn't



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know how long that would take.

Details of the Wednesday meeting between Barra and top union bargainers were disclosed in the letter, which was obtained by The Associated Press. It's an indication that there won't be a quick end to the nearly monthlong strike by 49,000 workers that has halted production at all of GM's U.S. factories.

Both sides are separated on major economic issues such as wages and lump-sum payments and better pensions that will be bargained at the "main table" by top negotiators.

Committees are working on issues such as products for factories that GM wants to close, investments in other U.S. factories, and training for union workers to handle future technology, according to Dittes' letter. They're also haggling over company-paid legal services for union members and the future of a joint UAW-GM training center in Detroit, the letter said.

But the company, in a Thursday letter to Dittes, said that GM expected the union to move more quickly and respond to the larger offer before the committee work is done.

"At the meeting, Mary Barra emphasized the need to get a comprehensive response from the union as soon as possible," wrote Scott Sandefur, GM's top bargainer.

Dittes wrote that when the committees finish, the union will turn in a comprehensive proposal in response to the company's offer.

"The completion of those committees is not known at this point," Dittes wrote, adding that committees have been meeting since 3:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Workers walked off their jobs on Sept. 16 after their four-year contract expired. The strike will be a month old on Monday.

An analyst estimates that GM is losing \$82 million per day, while workers are having to live on \$250 per week in strike pay.

The strike has forced parts supply companies to lay off workers and has made GM close some of its factories in Canada and Mexico.

## Asian stocks follow Wall Street higher on trade optimism

By JOE McDONALD AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP) — Asian stock markets followed Wall Street higher Friday on optimism about U.S.-Chinese talks on ending a tariff war.

Benchmarks in Tokyo, Hong Kong and Seoul advanced, while Shanghai edged lower following a week of gains.

Traders were encouraged by President Donald Trump's plan to meet Beijing's chief trade envoy. Economists say a final settlement to the sprawling dispute is unlikely this year, but some traders are hoping for a cease-fire on further tariff hikes or other issues.

Markets have soared and fallen during 12 previous rounds of talks that produced scant progress toward ending the costly fight over Beijing's trade surplus and technology ambitions.

"It looks like investors are positioning themselves for a potentially favorable outcome," said Fawad Razaqzada of Forex.com in a report. "Are investors setting themselves up for disappointment?"

Tokyo's Nikkei 225 gained 1% to 21,761.25 and Hong Kong's Hang Seng advanced 1.4% to 26,059.67. Seoul's Kospi rose 0.9% to 2,046.94 and Sydney's S&P-ASX 200 added 0.6% to 6,589.00.

The Shanghai Composite Index declined to 2,945.50 as traders took profits.

On Wall Street, tech stocks and banks led a rally Thursday as the trade talks began in Washington.

Trump said he would meet Friday with Vice Premier Liu He, head of the Chinese delegation. Trump said China wants to make a deal.

The benchmark Standard & Poor's 500 Index rose 0.6% to 2,938.13. The Dow Jones Industrial Average gained 0.6% to 26,496.67. The Nasdaq added 0.6% to 7,950.78.

The trade war has dragged on for 15 months, damaging both economies and raising fears of a global recession. Markets have been jittery this week as U.S.-Chinese tensions escalated.

The U.S. blacklisted a group of Chinese technology companies over alleged human rights violations

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earlier this week.

Beijing lashed out at American companies including Apple Inc. and the National Basketball Association over protests in Hong Kong.

The Trump administration has slapped tariffs on more than \$360 billion worth of Chinese imports. Tariffs on \$250 billion worth of goods are set to increase to 30% from 25% on Oct. 15, and new tariffs will kick in on another \$160 billion on Dec. 15. That would extend import taxes to virtually everything China ships to the United States.

China has hit back by targeting about \$120 billion in U.S. goods.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude rose 20 cents to \$53.75 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose 96 cents on Thursday to close at \$53.55. Brent crude, used to price international oils, advanced 21 cents to \$59.31 per barrel in London. It added 88 cents the previous session to \$59.10.

CURRENCY: The dollar declined to 107.96 yen from Thursday's 107.97 yen. The euro gained to \$1.1017 from \$1.1006.

## Today in History By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Friday, Oct. 11, the 284th day of 2019. There are 81 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 11, 1986, President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev opened two days of talks concerning arms control and human rights in Reykjavik, Iceland.

On this date:

In 1809, just over three years after the famous Lewis and Clark expedition ended, Meriwether Lewis was found dead in a Tennessee inn, an apparent suicide; he was 35.

In 1906, the San Francisco Board of Education ordered the city's Asian students segregated in a purely "Oriental" school. (The order was later rescinded at the behest of President Theodore Roosevelt, who promised to curb future Japanese immigration to the United States.)

In 1910, Theodore Roosevelt became the first former U.S. president to fly in an airplane during a visit to St. Louis.

In 1958, the lunar probe Pioneer 1 was launched; it failed to go as far out as planned, fell back to Earth, and burned up in the atmosphere.

In 1968, Apollo 7, the first manned Apollo mission, was launched with astronauts Wally Schirra (shih-RAH'), Donn Fulton Eisele and R. Walter Cunningham aboard. The government of Panama was overthrown in a military coup.

In 1975, Bill Clinton and Hillary Diane Rodham were married in Fayetteville, Arkansas. "NBC Saturday Night" (later "Saturday Night Live") made its debut with guest host George Carlin.

In 1983, the last full-fledged hand-cranked telephone system in the United States went out of service as 440 telephone customers in Bryant Pond, Maine, were switched over to direct-dial service.

In 1991, testifying before the Senate Judiciary Committee, Anita Hill accused Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas of sexually harassing her; Thomas re-appeared before the panel to denounce the proceedings as a "high-tech lynching."

In 1992, in the first of three presidential debates, three candidates faced off against each other in St. Louis: President George H.W. Bush, Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton and businessman Ross Perot.

In 2001, in his first prime-time news conference since taking office, President George W. Bush said "it may take a year or two" to track down Osama bin Laden and his terrorist network in Afghanistan, but he asserted that after a five-day aerial bombardment, "we've got them on the run."

In 2002, former President Jimmy Carter was named the recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize.

In 2006, a single-engine plane carrying New York Yankees pitcher Cory Lidle (LY'-dul) and flight instructor

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Tyler Stanger crashed into a high-rise apartment building in New York City, killing both men.

Ten years ago: Thousands of gay rights supporters marched from the White House to the U.S. Capitol. A 22-hour attack on Pakistan's army headquarters in Rawalpindi ended with nine militants and 14 others dead. A Russian Soyuz capsule carrying Cirque du Soleil founder Guy Laliberte (gee lah-lee-behr-TAY') and two other space travelers landed safely in Kazakhstan.

Five years ago: The International Monetary Fund's policy-setting committee promised "bold and ambitious" action to boost a global recovery that was showing signs of weakness. Customs and health officials began taking the temperatures of passengers arriving at New York's Kennedy International Airport from three West African countries in a stepped-up screening effort meant to prevent the spread of the Ebola virus.

One year ago: As residents in the Florida Panhandle emerged from shelters and hotels to find homes and businesses torn to pieces by Hurricane Michael, the remnants of the hurricane brought flash flooding to North Carolina and Virginia. A rocket carrying an American and a Russian to the International Space Station failed two minutes into the flight, sending the capsule into a steep, harrowing fall back to Earth; the crew landed safely in Kazakhstan. Rapper Kanye West, seated across from President Donald Trump in the Oval Office, delivered a rambling and sometimes profane monologue that touched on social issues, hydrogen planes and mental health. The Supreme Court in Washington state unanimously struck down the state's death penalty as arbitrary and racially-biased, making Washington the 20th state to do away with capital punishment.

Today's Birthdays: Former U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry is 92. Actor Ron Leibman is 82. Actor Amitabh Bachchan is 77. Country singer Gene Watson is 76. Singer Daryl Hall (Hall and Oates) is 73. Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., is 69. Rhythm-and-blues musician Andrew Woolfolk is 69. Actress-director Catlin Adams is 69. Country singer Paulette Carlson is 68. Original MTV VJ Mark Goodman is 67. Actor David Morse is 66. Actor Stephen Spinella is 63. Actress-writer-comedian Dawn French is 62. Pro and College Football Hall of Famer Steve Young is 58. Actress Joan Cusack is 57. Rock musician Scott Johnson (Gin Blossoms) is 57. Comedy writer and TV host Michael J. Nelson is 55. Actor Sean Patrick Flanery is 54. Actor Lennie James is 54. College Football Hall of Famer and former NFL player Chris Spielman is 54. Country singer-songwriter Todd Snider is 53. Actor-comedian Artie Lange is 52. Actress Jane Krakowski is 51. Actress Andrea Navedo is 50. Actress Constance Zimmer is 49. Bluegrass musician Leigh Gibson (The Gibson Brothers) is 48. Rapper MC Lyte is 48. Figure skater Kyoko Ina is 47. Actor Darien Sills-Evans is 45. Actor/writer Nat Faxon is 44. Singer NeeNa Lee is 44. Actress Emily Deschanel is 43. Actor Matt Bomer is 42. Actor Trevor Donovan is 41. Actor Robert Christopher Riley is 39. Actress Michelle Trachtenberg is 34. Actress Lucy Griffiths is 33. Golfer Michelle Wie is 30. Rapper Cardi B is 27.

Thought for Today: "Modesty is the highest form of arrogance." — German saying.

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