

# Groton Daily Independent

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## Groton's Pumpkin Fest Postponed to Oct. 19

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

## Winter Weather Advisory URGENT - WINTER WEATHER MESSAGE National Weather Service Aberdeen SD 1105 AM CDT Sat Oct 12 2019

...WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY REMAINS IN EFFECT UNTIL 7 PM CDT THIS EVENING...

\* WHAT...Periods of snow, some moderate to heavy at times. Additional snow accumulations of 1 to 3 inches. Higher accumulations of 3 to 5 inches are possible over the Sisseton Hills. Winds gusting as high as 45 mph.

\* WHERE...Portions of central, north central and northeast South Dakota and west central Minnesota.

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

\* IMPACTS...Plan on slippery road conditions. Patchy blowing snow could significantly reduce visibility. PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS...

Slow down and use caution while traveling.

In Minnesota, the latest road conditions can be obtained at 511mn.org, or by calling 5 1 1.

In South Dakota, the latest road conditions can be obtained by calling 5 1 1.

## Noem Announces Avera Health Plans and Sanford Health Plan to Offer ABA Coverage in 2020

PIERRE, S.D. – Governor Kristi Noem, in conjunction with Avera Health Plans and Sanford Health Plan, is pleased to announce health insurance coverage options that include Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) therapy in the South Dakota insurance market for 2020.

“As governor and as a mom, I understand how important it is to get kids the kind of care they need,” said Noem. “After talking with parents of kids with autism and assessing the coverage options available, we recognized the need for an alternative option. I’m thrilled to announce Avera and Sanford have found a way to provide added coverage options for kids and families with autism.”

Earlier this year, South Dakota obtained approval under the federal review process to update the Essential Health Benefits benchmark plan. In 2021, all Affordable Care Act (ACA) individual and small group plans will be required to include coverage for ABA therapy for the treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorder. Federal deadlines and plan filing requirements set the implementation date for plan year 2021.

Governor Noem, Avera Health Plans and Sanford Health Plan recognized a delay in implementing coverage for ABA therapy could have a significant impact on the children the therapy is designed to help.

The result is a short-term solution where both carriers will offer at least one individual health insurance plan option for 2020. The plan(s) offered will include coverage for ABA therapy at the benchmark level approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid earlier this year. They will be offered directly through each carrier outside of the ACA Marketplace, meaning the plans will not be available on the exchange.

ABA therapy services will be subject to the individual carrier’s plan management programs, medical necessity reviews, and preauthorization requirements.

Open enrollment for plans offered in 2020 will begin on Nov. 1, 2019, with coverage effective Jan. 1, 2020.

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## THINKING ABOUT HEALTH

### Congress May Move to Lower Drug Prices Later this Year or Next

By Trudy Lieberman, Community Health News Service

Maybe – just maybe – Americans will get some relief from the relentlessly rising prices of pharmaceuticals. That, of course depends on Congress pushing back against the drug companies' formidable lobbying machine, their generous campaign contributions, and the industry's historical coziness with members of Congress. But this year seems different.

When you consider that the country's spending on prescription drugs increased by 28 percent from 2011 to 2016, it's easy to see why it's harder for politicians to ignore the public anger over prices of life-saving medicines they can't afford.

Iowa Sen. Charles Grassley, who heads the Senate Finance Committee and has co-sponsored a bipartisan bill to tackle drug prices, has said that passing a bill to control drug prices will be essential to Republicans' "keeping a majority in the Senate."

Grassley went further. "Eventually it will come down to this. There are 22 Republicans up for election this year, and if it's like in my state ... there is a great deal of disgust with the rapidly increasing prices of drugs."

Is a breakthrough really at hand?

I checked in with David Mitchell, a former public relations executive and now a cancer patient, who has been leading a grassroots effort to challenge Congressional thinking about drug prices. Mitchell's organization, Patients for Affordable Drugs, has heard from some 20,000 patients recounting the troubles they've had paying for their medicines. Many of these people have told their stories to Congress.

I've written about Mitchell in this space earlier and wanted to know how his organization was faring in its quest for cheaper drugs.

Mitchell was upbeat. "The fact we've gotten this far, and there's still talk of getting something meaningful done is remarkable," he said. "The anger is really boiling up, and elected officials know and feel this anger can cost them their jobs if they don't do something."

The issue is, he said, can a compromise be reached that will get to the president's desk?

Drug legislation is never easy to understand so I asked Mitchell to break down the main ideas for reform and the points of contention on Capitol Hill. Here are the main elements that could find their way into a final legislative package.

Changing the patent laws would encourage market competition and make it easier for generics and biosimilar drugs – similar versions of medicines made from living microorganisms found in plant or animal cells – to come to market.

Negotiating drug prices for Medicare beneficiaries would be a huge step toward helping seniors. Recall that the 2003 law that authorized Medicare's drug benefit prohibits Medicare from negotiating prices with pharmaceutical manufacturers.

A bill sponsored by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi would allow Medicare to negotiate prices for the top 250 brand name drugs that are usually the most expensive and would levy steep fines for manufacturers that refuse to negotiate.

A move to cap out-of-pocket costs for seniors might encounter the least opposition from the industry, and Pelosi's bill would limit those costs to \$2,000 a year. A Senate bill introduced by Grassley and Oregon Sen. Ron Wyden caps expenses at \$3,100.

"Everyone agrees that we need to fix the unlimited out-of-pocket expense under Medicare," Mitchell says.

Pricing drugs more in line with what people in other industrialized countries pay, using a system called reference pricing, is far more controversial. U.S. drug prices are two to three times higher than those in most other nations, and a reference pricing system would lower costs for patients and lower revenue for drug companies.

Injecting more transparency into the system of pharmacy benefit managers, the middlemen between insurers and drug makers who cut secret rebate deals that determine what patients ultimately pay, would shine a light on how prices get set.

While Congress considers which of those solutions might make it into law, the pharmaceutical industry is taking no chances that things might change. Although a recent Gallup poll shows drug companies are the most poorly regarded businesses in a list of 25 industries, their PR machine is in overdrive trying to convince Congress to preserve their customary path to profits.

An epic legislative battle is in the making.

How do you think drug prices should be controlled? Write to Trudy at [trudy.lieberman@gmail.com](mailto:trudy.lieberman@gmail.com).

## 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!

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**AGENDA  
REGULAR MEETING  
BROWN COUNTY COMMISSION  
COMMISSIONER'S CHAMBERS, COURTHOUSE ANNEX  
25 MARKET STREET, ABERDEEN SD**

**TUESDAY  
October 15, 2019**

8:45a.m. - 8:50a.m. – Brown County Comprehensive Plan  
8:50a.m. – 8:55a.m. – First Reading of Ord. 148 – Roger Gray Rezone & 149 – Randy Bacon Rezone  
8:55a.m. – 9:00a.m. – Scott Bader, Planning & Zoning Director – Office Update  
9:00a.m. - 9:05a.m. – Sheila Enderson, Treasurer - Personnel

- Approve General Meeting Minutes from October 8, 2019.
- Claims/Payroll
- HR Report
- Sheriff's Report for Sept.
- Lease
- Claim Assignment

Any other matters to come before the Commission for discussion

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## GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT #06-6 School Board Meeting October 14, 2019 – 7:00 PM – GHS Conference Room

### AGENDA:

1. Call to Order with members present. Approve agenda as proposed or amended.

### POTENTIAL CONFLICTS DISCLOSURE PURSUANT SDCL 23-3

### CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Approval of minutes of September 9, 2019 and September 23, 2019 school board meetings as drafted.
2. Approval of September District bills for payment.

### OLD/CONTINUING BUSINESS:

1. Open Forum for Public Participation in accordance with Board Policy & Guidelines.
2. Program Overview Presentations
  - a. **Grades JK, K, and 1...A.** Schuring, L. DeHoet, A. Gibbs, J. Milbrandt, E. Eichler
3. Approval of September 2020 Financial Report, Agency Accounts, and Investments.
4. Approval of September 2020 Transportation Report.
5. Approval of September 2020 School Lunch Report.
6. Administrative Reports: (a) Superintendent's Report; (b) Principal's Reports; (c) Business Manager Report

### NEW BUSINESS:

1. Music Department proposal for Spring 2020 Music Trip.
2. Overview of 2019 School, District, and State Report Cards.
3. Approve hiring Kyle Gerlach, Elementary Paraprofessional, at \$13.85/hour and Assistant HS Boys Basketball Coach at 8% of base salary.
4. Consider request from Rodney Freeman for District contribution toward 2019 Education Law Association annual meeting expense.
5. Review of Department of Health Food Service Inspections conducted 10/1/2019.
6. Consider request from St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church for use of school bus on November 9, 2020.

### ADJOURN

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**Winter Weather Advisory**

**Today**



Snow and Patchy Blowing Snow

**High: 35 °F**

**Tonight**



Wintry Mix Likely and Patchy Blowing Snow then Mostly Cloudy

**Low: 28 °F**

**Sunday**



Partly Sunny

**High: 35 °F**

**Sunday Night**



Mostly Cloudy

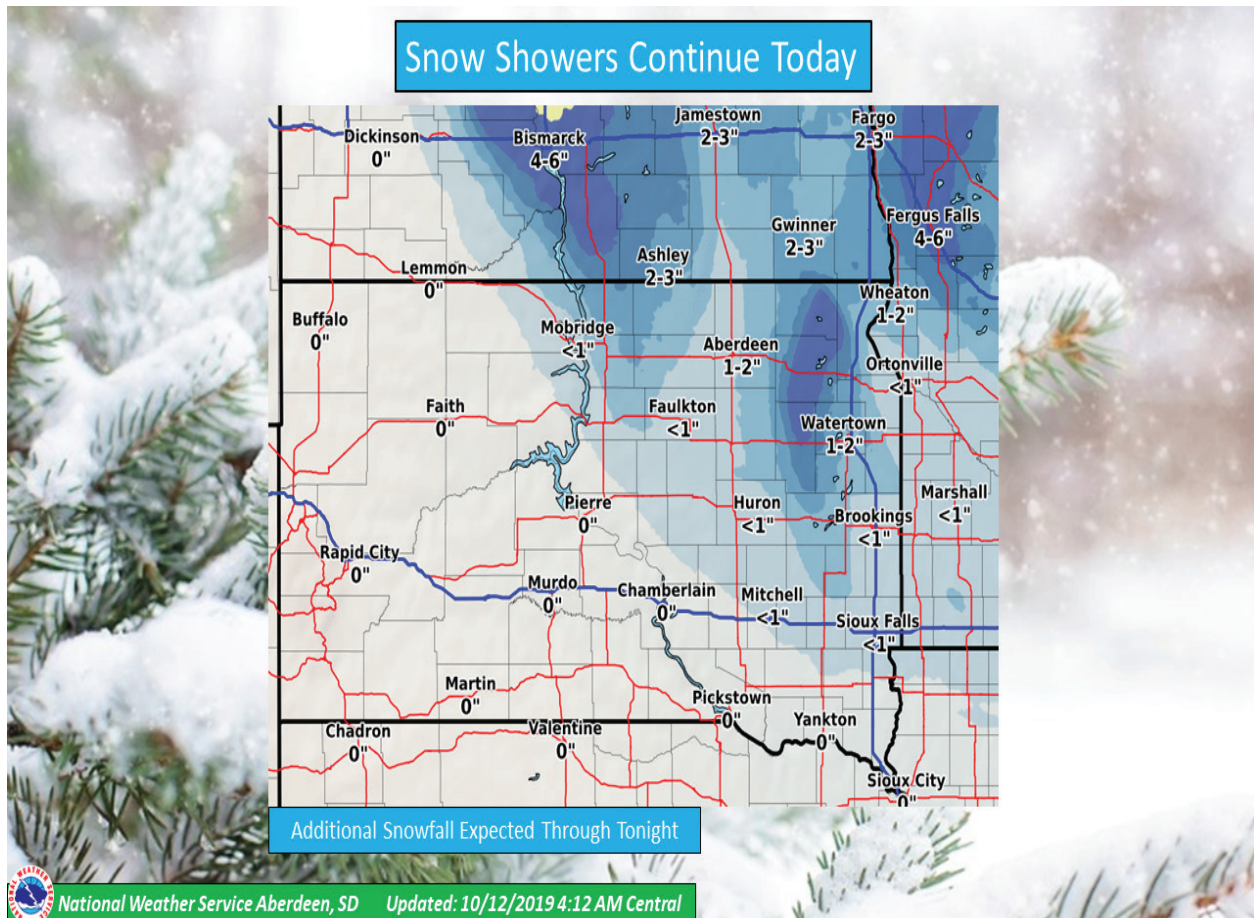
**Low: 19 °F**

**Columbus Day**



Partly Sunny

**High: 37 °F**



Published on: 10/12/2019 at 12:13AM

Low pressure over northwestern Minnesota will continue to create gusty winds up to 45 mph and wrap additional snow showers into the region today. Snow showers will linger into tonight before completely ending by Sunday morning. Expect greatly reduced visibility while snow is falling.

## Today in Weather History

October 12, 1997: High winds upward of 60 mph were recorded throughout western South Dakota.

1918: On October 10, 1918, two men working near a railroad siding northwest of Cloquet, Minnesota saw a passenger train pass by the siding, and soon after that discovered a fire burning through grass and piles of wood. The fire could not be contained, and by October 12, fires had spread through northern Minnesota. In total, 453 lives were lost, and 52,000 people were injured or displaced, 38 communities were destroyed, 250,000 acres were burned.

1962: The Columbus Day Storm of 1962 was a Pacific Northwest windstorm that struck the West Coast of Canada and the Pacific Northwest coast of the United States on this day. It is considered the benchmark of extratropical wind storms. The storm ranks among the most intense to strike the region since at least 1948, likely since the January 9, 1880 "Great Gale" and snowstorm. Click [HERE](#) for more information from the University of Washington.

1979: The lowest barometric pressure ever recorded occurs in the center of Typhoon Tip on this day. A fly reconnaissance mission recorded the low pressure of 870 hPa or 25.69 inHg. At its peak, Typhoon Tip was the most extensive tropical cyclone on record with a wind diameter of 1380 miles.

1836 - A third early season storm produced heavy snow in the northeastern U.S. Bridgewater NY received 18 inches, a foot of snow fell at Madison NY, and for the third time all the mountains of the northeastern U.S. were whitened. (David Ludlum)

1918 - Forest fires ravaged parts of Minnesota from the Duluth area northeastward, claiming the lives of 600 persons. Smoke with a smell of burnt wood spread to Albany NY and Washington D.C. in 24 hours. Smoke was noted at Charleston SC on the 14th, and by the 15th was reported in northeastern Texas. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1962 - The "Columbus Day Big Blow" occurred in the Pacific Northwest. It was probably the most damaging windstorm of record west of the Cascade Mountains. Winds reached hurricane force, with gusts above 100 mph. More than 3.5 billion board feet of timber were blown down, and communications were severely disrupted due to downed power lines. The storm claimed 48 lives, and caused 210 million dollars damage. (David Ludlum)

1987 - Floyd, the only hurricane to make landfall the entire season, moved across the Florida Keys. Floyd produced wind gusts to 59 mph at Duck Key, and up to nine inches of rain in southern Florida. Sixteen cities in the Ohio Valley and the Middle Mississippi Valley reported record low temperatures for the date. Record lows included 27 degrees at Paducah KY, and 24 degrees at Rockford IL and Springfield IL. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Twenty cities in the Upper Midwest reported record low temperatures for the date, including International Falls MN with a reading of 17 degrees. The town of Embarass MN reported a morning low of 8 degrees. Snow showers in the northeastern U.S. produced five inches at Corry PA. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Temperatures again warmed into the 80s in the Central Plains Region and the Middle Mississippi Valley, with 90s in the south central U.S. Six cities reported record high temperatures for the date, including Fort Smith AR with a reading of 92 degrees. Strong winds along a cold front crossing the Great Lakes Region and the Ohio Valley gusted to 61 mph at Johnstown PA. (The National Weather Summary)



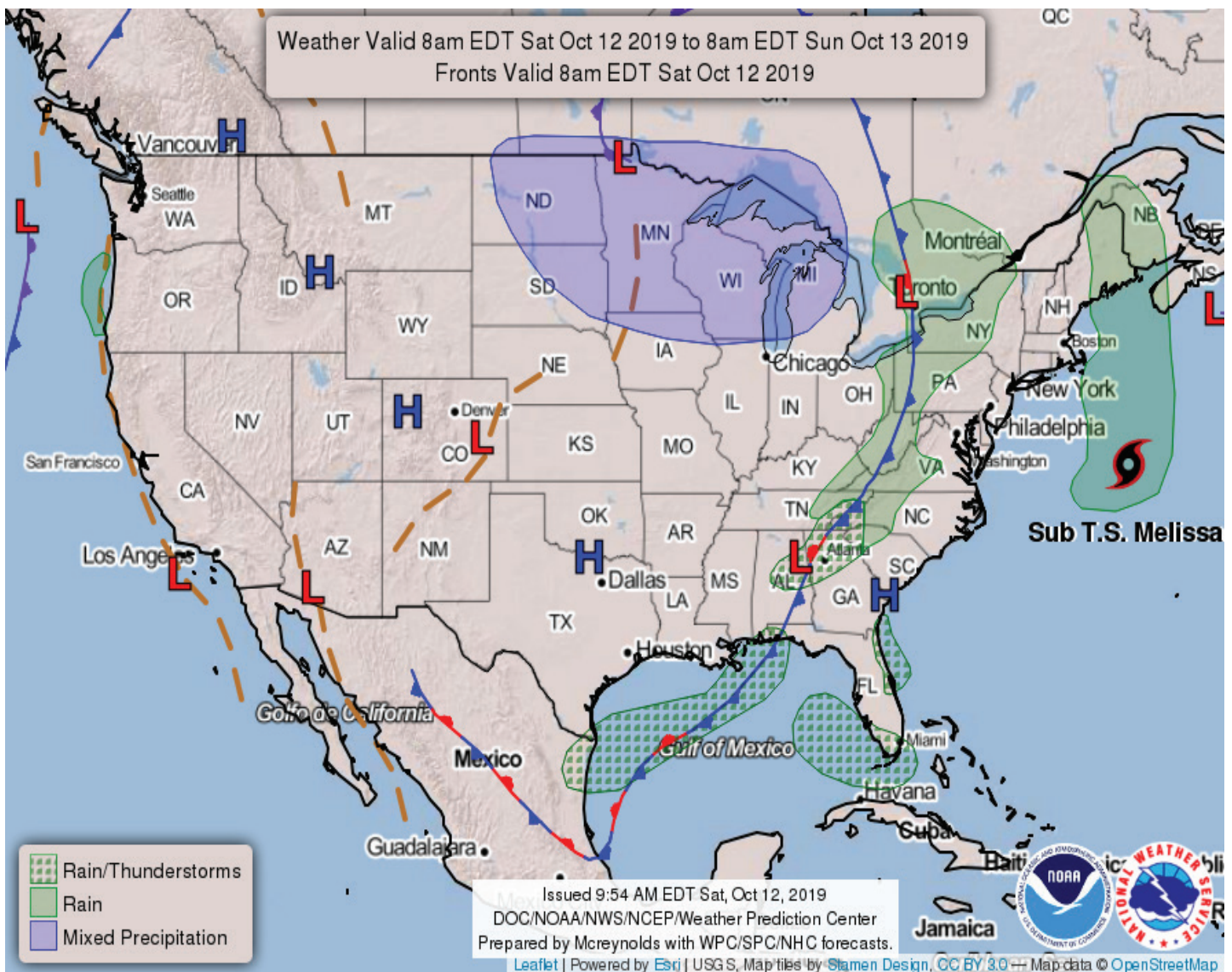
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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

**High Temp:** 34 °F at 8:47 PM  
**Low Temp:** 29 °F at 7:53 AM  
**Wind:** 30 mph at 2:28 AM  
**Day Rain:** Several inches of snow

**Record High:** 89° in 2010  
**Record Low:** 11° in 1917  
**Average High:** 60°F  
**Average Low:** 34°F  
**Average Precip in Oct.:** 0.50  
**Precip to date in Oct.:** 1.27  
**Average Precip to date:** 19.28  
**Precip Year to Date:** 26.29  
**Sunset Tonight:** 6:54 p.m.  
**Sunrise Tomorrow:** 7:47 a.m.



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## HIDDEN BY MASKS

Early in the history of Greek drama, the theaters had no scenery, and the actors wore no costumes. When they performed, the actors would carry a mask on stage, and when it was time for their part, they would hold the mask in front of their faces and speak.

The word "hypocrisy" came from Greek drama and refers to "one who is expressing feelings, beliefs and values that belong to someone else." In Scripture the hypocrite is a pretender: one who is acting a part, one who is false, tells lies or is godless. They are with us today – speaking, acting and expressing words they do not believe - and behaving differently from who they really are. Times have changed but hypocrites have not.

Jesus despised hypocrites with a passion. He spoke of the hypocrites who loved to pray publicly so others could see them and think that they were living a religious life. On another occasion, He told the hypocrites to get the log out of their own eyes and stop criticizing others for having a speck in theirs. He also spoke of the Pharisees and advised people to beware of their self-righteous, hypocritical, and spiritless behavior.

John wrote, "If someone says 'I belong to God' but does not obey His commands he is a liar." If what we do or say is not consistent with what God requires of us, we must ask God for forgiveness, repent, and change. There is no room for hypocrites in the Kingdom of God.

Prayer: Forgive us, Father, when we have disobeyed Your commands and professed what we did not possess. May our lives be as honest as was Your Son's life. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: 1 John 2:4 If someone says 'I belong to God' but does not obey His commands he is a liar.

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## 2019 Groton SD Community Events

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

## 2020 Groton SD Community Events

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

## News from the Associated Press

### **Superintendent apologizes after student denied breakfast**

HURON, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota superintendent is apologizing to parents after learning a staff member denied a student breakfast for misbehaving.

The Argus Leader reports Huron Superintendent Terry Nebelsick says the individual at Huron Middle School violated district policy by denying a child breakfast this week.

He says a complaint about the incident has been filed with the South Dakota Department of Education after the allegations about the incident were shared on social media.

Nebelsick says the correct protocol is that if a student is experiencing behavior issues, they should be directed to eat their meals in a vice principal's office or another designated area.

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

### **Science project revives old mine's tramway tunnel**

By **SETH TUPPER** Rapid City Journal

LEAD, S.D. (AP) — For the past 17 years, shovels, safety goggles, tramway cars and other remains of the defunct Homestake gold mine lingered in a closed-off tunnel under the city of Lead, growing brownish-orange and crusty with rust.

Now the tunnel is alive with activity again, thanks to preparations for an internationally coordinated science experiment that will be conducted deep underground.

To make room for the experiment, several expansive caverns will be excavated nearly a mile deep in the former mine, the Rapid City Journal reported.

The excavated rock will be hauled up a shaft, crushed into smaller pieces, and dumped onto a conveyor belt in the tunnel, which is 200 feet underground at its deepest point.

The conveyor will run 2,000 feet through the old tunnel, and then poke out of a hillside and run nearly another 2,000 feet through an above-ground tube that will pass over U.S. Highway 85 in Lead. At the edge of the half-mile-wide historical mining pit known as the Open Cut, the crushed rock will tumble out of the conveyor into the pit's 1,250-foot depths.

About 800,000 tons of rock will be excavated, which sounds like a lot, except when compared to the 170 million tons that was excavated to create the Open Cut. David Vardiman, a project engineer at the site, said the visual impact of the new pile of rocks in the massive pit will be negligible.

"You won't even hardly notice any difference whatsoever," Vardiman said. "As a matter of fact, you'll have to get pretty high on the high wall to even see that pile at the bottom."

A contractor, Kiewit-Alberici Joint Venture, has been rehabilitating the old tramway tunnel since April and is nearly finished with the work, which has included pouring a concrete floor and stabilizing the rock walls. The activity at the tunnel's opening — just south of Lead's Gold Run Park — is a visible sign of progress after several years of less-visible work toward the eventual installation of the Deep Underground Neutrino Experiment (known by the acronym "DUNE").

While the rehabilitation of the tunnel wraps up this fall, the conveyor system will be fabricated for installation next year.

After that, drilling and blasting to excavate the huge caverns underground will commence at a depth of 4,850 feet in the mine. The excavation is expected to take about four years. Three caverns will be carved, the biggest being about two football fields long, 70 feet wide and 95 feet tall.

During the excavation phase, the crushed rock tumbling out of the conveyor and into the Open Cut will be visible to the public from the nearby Sanford Homestake Lab Visitor Center. The conveyor will run only during weekdays, not during nights or weekends, and the design includes features to make the noise of

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the conveyor minimally noticeable to people nearby.

The use of the old tunnel to transport crushed rock will mimic its historical purpose. The tunnel was created by miners who drilled and blasted into the hard rock under Lead during the 1930s. Gold-bearing ore was hauled up from the depths of the Homestake Mine, crushed, and dumped into tramway cars in the tunnel. The tram carried the crushed ore on railroad tracks through the tunnel to a mill in Lead, where the ore was processed to extract the gold.

The rock that will be excavated from the mine in future years will be from a geologic unit known as the "Poorman Formation," for its lack of valuable minerals. Instead of producing gold, the excavation's purpose is the creation of space for DUNE, which will study little-understood but abundant subatomic particles called neutrinos.

Installation of DUNE's equipment will take several more years after the excavation. When the experiment begins, possibly around 2028, Fermilab in Chicago will shoot a beam of neutrinos through the earth toward a gargantuan set of liquid-argon containers that will be installed in the underground caverns at the old Homestake Mine (the caverns housing the experiment will be called the Long-Baseline Neutrino Facility, or LBNF), where the depth of the containers will protect them from cosmic rays and other kinds of interference. The argon will act as a neutrino detector, giving scientists their best-ever opportunity to gauge the mass of neutrinos, probe the role of neutrinos in the universe, and perhaps even detect neutrinos escaping an exploded star or black hole.

There is a lot of work to be done between now and then. A U.S. Department of Energy 2020 budget request to Congress cites a preliminary 2016 estimate saying that U.S. contributions to the LBNF/DUNE project could be up to \$1.86 billion by the time it's finished, with additional contributions expected from international partners. Congress is providing its share in phases, including up to \$175 million for the project in a pending 2020 spending bill.

The project has brought heightened economic activity to Lead, which was a town on life support after the closing of the Homestake Mine in 2002. Roughly 200 people are now buzzing around the state-run Sanford Underground Research Facility — the overall name of the former Homestake complex — on any given day, including facility staff, employees of Fermilab helping to prepare for DUNE, construction workers, and scientists working on multiple underground experiments and projects other than DUNE that are already in progress or being installed.

Activity at the old mine has coincided with rising sales tax collections in Lead. Compared to the same month of 2018, Lead's 2019 collections were up 23 percent in July and 20 percent in August, according to state sales-tax reports.

Patrick Weber is the head of the South Dakota Services Division for Chicago-based Fermilab, which is leading the DUNE project. Weber said the bustle of pre-excavation activity is a welcome sight in Lead, where the economy suffered greatly after Homestake's closure and the colossal neutrino experiment has been a subject of long anticipation.

"To see those guys doing that work, to see these yellow trucks driving around town, that's really encouraging and I think heartening to people that this is really happening," Weber said.

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

## Quilting guild pieces the past together

By KATHERINE GRANDSTAND American News

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — It's not unusual for quilters guilds to get donations of fabric.

People find stashes when they're cleaning out a deceased relative's home or just finally admit they're never going to get to that project they bought all that fabric for.

But the Aberdeen Area Quilt Guild, which meets monthly during fall, winter and spring, got a unique donation years ago.

The donation, which showed up at the Aberdeen Recreation and Cultural Center, included hundreds upon

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hundreds of hand cut-petals for a Dresden plate pattern, member Betty Dobberpuhl said.

"So years later, I just put one together. ... I took it to quilt guild and I said would you guys like — because this one lady wanted to do stitch and sew," Dobberpuhl said, interrupting herself.

The Dresden plate quilt the guild put together almost looks like daisies — each petal is sewn around a yellow circle piece, and then laid on a block. The blocks are then stitched together.

The petals are small, roughly 2 to 3 inches wide and 6 inches long and are in a variety of patterns. Guild member Jean Gerber said they were likely cut from scraps of fabric from bigger projects.

The pieces look like they're from the 1930s to maybe the 1960s, based on the patterns.

"You didn't throw out and waste back then," member Cindy Haglund told the American News.

"It looks like she'd been tracing and cutting out these things for years," Gerber said of the anonymous quilter of bygone years. "There's so many of them."

"They're all cut by hand, they're not the roto-cutter," Dobberpuhl said.

All of the plates have the same fabric in the middle, a yellow floral pattern. And they have the same background, white with tiny multi-colored fireworks exploding. It complements all the crazy colors in petal pieces.

"We tried to select something that was something (that would) go with what we had and not too modern looking," Gerber said.

All of the plates were hand sewn by members — some at home, some before meetings.

"When you're picking your pieces of fabric to sew into your Dresden plate, it's like, 'Oh, these are all so different, and they don't look good together,'" Gerber said. "But by the time you put all the different plates together, it looks just fine. It's one of those, go figure. The more the better kind of."

Four or five members pieced the squares and sashing all together, Gerber said. They covered it with a colorful green and pink back and had it long-arm quilted, Haglund said.

The guild has dozens of members, but about 20 worked on the Dresden plate quilt. Members come from about a 100-mile radius, although not every member attends every meeting.

The guild's been going for more than three decades, with the Candlelight guild started later as a way to accommodate quilters that couldn't meet during the day.

If anyone's interested in starting quilting, Gerber recommends starting simple — patchwork block quilts or similar patterns.

"If they wanted to ... they could do up a pretty simple quilt without too much trouble," she said.

The Dresden plate quilt was entered in the open class home arts competition at the Brown County Fair this year, and won people's choice. Part of the prize was having the quilt displayed at The Fabric Bin on South Main Street for the month of September. The quilt will stay there for a few more weeks.

Even though it was pieced together with scraps, the guild members didn't think the pieces were cut out for a utilitarian quilt, based on the complexity of a Dresden plate pattern.

"You know, you're kind of proud of it when you think of how long it took us," Dobberpuhl said.

It took guild members about a year from start to finish.

It's about the size that would fit well on a full-sized bed, Gerber said.

But what happens next with it, the guild doesn't yet know.

"We would like some suggestions on that," Haglund said.

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

## SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined

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

Mega Millions

14-22-30-37-60, Mega Ball: 8, Megaplier: 3

(fourteen, twenty-two, thirty, thirty-seven, sixty; Mega Ball: eight; Megaplier: three)

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Estimated jackpot: \$60 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$90 million

## Friday's Scores By The Associated Press

### PREP FOOTBALL=

Baltic 20, Parker 8

Belle Fourche 48, Spearfish 7

Bennett County 8, Pine Ridge 6

Brandon Valley 28, Sioux Falls Washington 7

Bridgewater-Emery 44, Garretson 0

Canistota-Freeman 32, Bon Homme 8

Canton 49, Tri-Valley 0

Castlewood 47, Great Plains Lutheran 14

Colman-Egan 44, Dell Rapids St. Mary 26

Corsica/Stickney 8, Tripp-Delmont/Armour/Andes Central/Dakota Christian 6

Custer 62, Lead-Deadwood 41

Dell Rapids 30, Milbank 0

Deuel 52, Deubrook 6

Gayville-Volin 40, Centerville 34, 2OT

Gregory 49, Platte-Geddes 8

Hamlin 33, Arlington/Lake Preston 12

Howard 47, Oldham-Ramona/Rutland 6

Huron 15, Yankton 12

Irene-Wakonda 50, Avon 0

Kimball/White Lake 12, Burke 6

Lemmon/McIntosh def. Dupree, forfeit

Lennox 32, Dakota Valley 14

Madison 25, West Central 12

McCook Central/Montrose 32, Elk Point-Jefferson 28

Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 38, Woonsocket/Wessington Springs/Sanborn Central 0

Parkston 32, Menno/Marion 0

Pierre 54, Brookings 6

Scotland 32, Alcester-Hudson 18

Sioux Falls Lincoln 18, Harrisburg 15

Sioux Falls O'Gorman 39, Watertown 13

Sioux Valley 34, Beresford 15

St. Thomas More 42, Douglas 6

Tea Area 40, Sioux Falls Christian 0

Vermillion 49, Todd County 14

Viborg-Hurley 38, Hanson 0

### POSTPONEMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS=

Britton-Hecla vs. Chester, ccd.

Colome vs. Wolsey-Wessington, ppd. to Oct 12th.

Dakota Hills vs. Clark/Willow Lake, ppd. to Oct 14th.

Kadoka Area vs. Philip, ppd. to Oct 12th.

Langford vs. Estelline/Hendricks, ppd. to Oct 14th.

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Miller/Highmore-Harrold vs. Winner, ppd. to Oct 14th.  
Sunshine Bible Academy vs. Hitchcock-Tulare, ppd. to Oct 14th.

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

## Volleyball

Belle Fourche def. Douglas, 25-23, 25-8, 25-19

Sioux Valley def. Beresford, 25-22, 23-25, 25-15, 26-24

Fargo ``Scheels'' Invitational

## Pool Play

Aberdeen Central def. Fargo South, N.D., 25-18, 25-21, 15-4

Fargo Davies, N.D. def. Aberdeen Central, 2-1

Fargo North, N.D. def. Aberdeen Central, 25-23, 25-14, 15-10

Lakeville North Tournament

## Pool Play

Pool 1

Northfield, Minn. def. Sioux Falls Roosevelt, 25-7, 25-15

Sioux Falls Roosevelt def. Moorhead, Minn., 17-25, 25-21, 19-17

## Emergency plan activated in North Dakota amid fall snowstorm

By JAMES MacPHERSON Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum on Friday activated the state's emergency plan due to what he called a crippling snowstorm that closed major highways and had farmers and ranchers bracing for huge crop and livestock losses.

"The extraordinary intensity of this early winter storm threatens to test the limits of local response capabilities across a large portion of our state," Burgum said of the plan that places on standby all agency resources, including the National Guard, to respond to weather-related emergencies.

Burgum said the state would "ensure our citizens have the resources necessary to respond and recover from this crippling event."

The National Weather Service issued a blizzard warning for northern North Dakota and winter storm warnings and watches elsewhere in the state and into parts of South Dakota and Minnesota through Saturday afternoon. One to 2 feet (0.3 to 0.6 meters) of snow was expected to accumulate Friday in parts of North Dakota with winds gusting up to 65 mph (105 kph).

The October storm already has dumped more than a foot of snow on Bismarck, the state capital. The National Weather Service reports 13.2 inches (33.5 centimeters) of snow fell in Bismarck as of late Friday morning. Jamestown has a report of 14 inches (35.6 centimeters). Weather Service meteorologist Bill Abel-ling said the snow was still falling late Friday afternoon and that Bismarck could see up to 4 more inches (10 centimeters) by Saturday afternoon.

The North Dakota Highway Patrol tweeted that over a dozen road rescues happened between Jamestown and Crystal Springs Friday morning. One was a bus with 42 people on board.

In western Nebraska, a Scottsbluff man died in a crash on an icy highway Thursday night. Adam Hawk, 20, was driving on U.S. Highway 20 when his vehicle rolled, killing Hawk and injuring two people, KNEB Radio reported.

Dozens of schools in the Dakotas were closed Friday because of deteriorating travel conditions. That follows school closures and travel headaches Thursday in the Great Plains.

Hundreds of miles of miles of Interstates 29 and 94 and U.S. Highway 2 in North Dakota were closed on Friday due to severe winter conditions and poor visibility.

Highway Patrol Sgt. Wade Kadrmaz said no traffic fatalities had been reported as of Friday morning.

Carl Jones, a weather service meteorologist in Grand Forks, said the storm likely is historic. He said up



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to a foot (0.3 meters) of snow already had fallen through much of the state by Friday to be topped by up to 3 feet (0.9 meters) more later in the day.

"These are unheard of amounts for any time of year," he said.

The north-central and northeastern part of the state was taking the brunt of the storm but Bismarck, in the central North Dakota, had nearly a foot of snow by Friday.

"I'm expecting massive crop losses — as devastating as we've even seen," said Jon Nelson, a state lawmaker who farms several hundred acres near Rugby in north-central North Dakota.

Unharvested wheat in the region probably will be a total loss, he said.

"A lot of the standing stuff is flattened to the ground," Nelson said. "It's shot and some guys are putting their combines away and won't bring them out again."

Erika Kenner, who ranches with her parents in Leeds, North Dakota, said she felt helpless Friday as she was unable to check on the family's herd of several hundred cows due to deep, drifting snow.

"I just hear the wind howling and think of those poor cows out there," she said. "Cattle are tough but this kind of weather just wears on them."

AP Explains: Columbus, once immigrant hero, now heel to some

By RUSSELL CONTRERAS Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — The image and story of Christopher Columbus, the 15th century navigator who began European incursions into the Americas, have changed in the U.S. over the decades. Columbus was an obscure figure until his adventures were revitalized in the 1800s. By the 1990s, a new generation of Native American activists blamed the navigator for launching centuries of indigenous genocide. With Columbus Day falling on Monday in the U.S. — and now being called Indigenous Peoples' Day in some states — here's a look at how views of Christopher Columbus have changed over the years:

## THE MAN

Born in the Republic of Genoa (now Italy), Columbus took part in several voyages in the Aegean and Mediterranean seas as a teenager and later participated in expeditions to Africa. Like Aristotle and others, Columbus believed that the world was round. He theorized that the distance between Spain's Canary Islands and Japan was only around 2,300 miles (3,701 kilometers) and felt he could sail west to reach Asia for a new sought-out route for spices.

It was really about 12,000 miles (19,321 kilometers). Columbus based his incorrect calculations on mystical texts, and ended up landing in the present-day Caribbean on Oct. 12, 1492.

Columbus convinced Spain's Queen Isabella to fund his voyage by promising that the riches he'd collect would be used to finance a crusade to "reclaim" Jerusalem for Christians. Instead, he found new foods, animals and indigenous people who, he wrote, were childlike and could be easily turned into slaves.

As indigenous populations revolted against brutal Spanish treatment, Columbus ordered a ruthless crackdown that included having dismembered bodies being paraded in public. Eventually, Columbus was arrested on mismanagement and brutality charges and died a broken man.

Around 60 years after Columbus' arrival, the Taino indigenous population of the Caribbean had been reduced from an estimated 250,000 people to a few hundred because of slavery and death from new diseases.

## RESURRECTION

Columbus remained a mostly unknown figure in the English-speaking world until Washington Irving released in 1828 his biographical account, "A History of the Life and Voyages of Christopher Columbus." The romanticized version became a best-seller in the United States and helped create the image of Columbus as a self-made man who overcame great odds.

Thanks to the book, Columbus grew popular and Irving's myth played into the frontier spirit of U.S. westward expansion at the expense of Native American tribes living there.

However, the book falsely claimed that it was Columbus who convinced Europeans of his time that the Earth wasn't flat. Others had made the same claim before.

## IMMIGRANT HERO

Beginning in the 1860s, Italian and Irish immigrants started celebrating Columbus in local parades. They claimed him as America's very first founding father and used his story to insert themselves into the U.S. narrative. From the mid-1800s to the early 1900s, Italian and Irish immigrants endured years of discrimination and exclusion from jobs and higher education.

Still, some white nationalists attacked Columbus. In 1874, for example, Norwegian American scholar Rasmus Bjorn Anderson published "America Not Discovered By Columbus." Anderson argued that the Vikings were the first Europeans to set foot in the Americas, not Columbus. The Vikings, Anderson explained, were the pure white race and Christians who started the U.S. narrative, not someone like Columbus or southern Europeans.

Nonetheless, Italian Americans convinced local and state authorities to adopt Columbus Day holidays. Annual Columbus Day parades celebrated Italian American heritage and transformed into vehicles of political influence as politicians raced to participate. Meanwhile, the Native American population shrunk to its lowest numbers, and many Native Americans were barred from voting.

## NATIVE AMERICAN BACKLASH

Howard Zinn's 1980 "A People's History of the United States" introduced the general public to the atrocities committed by Columbus and his crew against indigenous people. His book mirrored the findings of other historians and ethnic studies scholars.

By 1992, Columbus Day parades and holidays had transformed into an American holiday. Then a planned 500th-anniversary celebration in San Francisco of Columbus' arrival turned into mayhem.

About 4,000 protesters led by Native American activists blocked a parade of floats, marching bands and Columbus reenactors. They yelled "no to slavery and genocide" and denounced Columbus as a racist. Parade participants were hit with eggs. Authorities arrested 40 people.

Since then, a new generation of Native American advocates has pressed states to change Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day. They've sought to remove Columbus and other conquistador imagery from public spaces. Today, activists continue to protest Columbus Day celebrations, sparking tensions between older Italian Americans and Native American advocates.

Russell Contreras is a member of The Associated Press' race and ethnicity team. Follow him on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/russcontreras>

## Former Tyson attorney sues in Iowa for wrongful termination

By DAVID PITT Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — A former workers' compensation attorney for a Tyson Foods meatpacking division sued the company for wrongful termination, accusing company officials of making anti-gay slurs, filing false information in workers' compensation cases, and sex and age discrimination.

Todd Beresford filed the lawsuit in state district court in Des Moines on Oct. 1 seeking damages for his June 2018 firing.

Beresford, who says he primarily worked on Tyson's workers' compensation cases in Iowa, alleges he was fired partly because he complained to corporate officials that the company was providing inaccurate information in workers' compensation cases to deny employees payment for on-the-job injuries.

He also claims the company discriminated against employees on the basis of sex and age by firing four middle-age men in 2018 and replacing them with younger women. He claims his "age and/or sex, either individually or in combination, were motivating factors" in his firing.

Beresford, who now lives near Cleveland, was a witness in a recent lawsuit involving former Iowa Workers' Compensation Commissioner Chris Godfrey. In that case, Godfrey won a \$1.5 million verdict against former Republican Gov. Terry Branstad and the state of Iowa after the jury found that Branstad and a staff

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member discriminated against Godfrey in 2011 because he's gay. Branstad attempted to push Godfrey out of his job and cut his pay when Godfrey refused to resign.

Beresford said he was hired by Tyson as a litigation attorney in June 2000, replacing Godfrey, who was leaving the company to go into private practice and later became Iowa's Workers' Compensation Commissioner. The two worked together briefly at Tyson and remained friends after Godfrey's departure.

In 2005, Tyson promoted Beresford to a job overseeing Tyson's workers' compensation program for the Fresh Meats division.

Beresford said in his lawsuit that Tyson officials grew frustrated with Godfrey's decisions in workers' compensation cases shortly after he became Iowa commissioner and held numerous meetings to discuss how to deal with him. Beresford said he was asked to prepare a memo for Branstad outlining the company's belief that Godfrey had a bias against employers.

"Tyson thought Godfrey was too liberal, and Tyson management became upset that its workers compensation costs were increasing," Beresford said in court documents.

He said a former company vice president on more than one occasion referred to Godfrey as queer and used disparaging anti-gay slurs when talking about how he believed Godfrey's decisions were costing the company money.

Tyson Fresh Meats, based in South Dakota, is a meatpacking division of Arkansas-based Tyson Foods, the nation's second largest meat processor. The company has several locations in Iowa including processing plants in Perry, Waterloo and Storm Lake.

A Tyson spokesman said the company would not comment.

## Search under way for missing plane, pilot in Dakotas

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — Authorities are searching for a missing plane and its pilot between South Dakota and North Dakota.

The blue and white single-engine Cessna went missing Thursday between Aberdeen, South Dakota, and Oakes, North Dakota. The plane never arrived at its destination in Oakes.

Brown County Emergency Management Director Scott Meints tells the Aberdeen News that blizzard-like conditions have hampered an aerial search, but ground crews continue to search.

Meints says ground searches continued until dark Thursday and resumed Friday.

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

## Turkish forces capture center of key Syrian border town

By MEHMET GUZEL Associated Press

CEYLANPINAR, Turkey (AP) — Turkey's military said it captured a key Syrian border town under heavy bombardment Saturday in its most significant gain, as its offensive against Kurdish fighters pressed into its fourth day with little sign of relenting despite mounting international criticism.

Turkish troops entered central Ras al-Ayn, according to Turkey's Defense Ministry and a war monitor group. The ministry tweeted: "Ras al-Ayn's residential center has been taken under control through the successful operations in the east of Euphrates" river. It marked the biggest gain made by Turkey since the invasion began Wednesday.

The continued push by Turkey into Syria comes days after U.S. President Donald Trump cleared the way for Turkey's air and ground offensive, pulling back U.S. forces from the area and saying he wanted to stop getting involved with "endless wars." Trump's decision drew swift bipartisan criticism that he was endangering regional stability and risking the lives of Syrian Kurdish allies who brought down the Islamic State group in Syria. The Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces was the main U.S. ally in the fight against IS and lost 11,000 fighters in the nearly five-year battle against the extremists.

Turkish troops and allied Syrian opposition fighters have made gains recently capturing several northern villages in fighting and bombardment that left dozens of people killed or wounded. The invasion also has

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forced nearly 100,000 people to flee their homes amid concerns that IS might take advantage of the chaos and try to rise again after its defeat in Syria earlier this year.

The Syrian Democratic Forces, also known as the SDF, called on the United States to carry out its "moral responsibilities" and close northern Syrian airspace to Turkish warplanes. The group's statement did not directly name the U.S., referring to them only as "our allies."

"We don't want them to send their soldiers to the front lines and put their lives in danger," the statement said. "What we want is for them" to close the airspace for Turkish warplanes.

During a meeting Saturday in Cairo, the 22-member Arab League condemned what it described as "Turkey's aggression against Syria" and warned that Ankara will be responsible for the spread of terrorism following its invasion. The league said Arab states might take some measures against Ankara. It called on the U.N. Security Council to intervene and force Turkey to stop its military operations.

The Turkish offensive was widely criticized by Damascus and some Western countries who called on Turkey to cease its military operations.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Friday that Turkey won't stop until the Syrian Kurdish forces withdraw below a 32 kilometer (20 mile) deep line from the border.

During the capture of Ras al-Ayn's residential center, an Associated Press journalist across the border in Turkey heard sporadic clashes as Turkish howitzers struck the town and Turkish jets screeched overhead. Syrian Kurdish forces appeared to be holding out in some areas of the town.

The Syrian Democratic Forces, also called the SDF, released two videos said to be from inside Ras al-Ayn, showing fighters saying that it was Saturday and they were still there.

The fighting was ongoing as the Kurdish fighters sought to reverse the Turkish advance into Ras Al-Ayn, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

Ras al-Ayn is one of the biggest towns along the border and it is in the middle of the area that Turkey plans to set up its safe zone. The ethnically and religiously mixed town with a population of Arabs, Kurds, Armenians and Syriac Christians had been under the control of Kurdish fighters since 2013. IS members tried to enter Ras al-Ayn following their rise in Syria and Iraq in 2014 but failed.

Most of the town's residents have fled in recent days for fear of the invasion.

Earlier Saturday, Turkish troops moved to seize control of key highways in northeastern Syria, the Turkish military and the Syrian Observatory said. Turkey's state-run Anadolu news agency said that Turkey-backed Syrian opposition forces had taken control of the M-4 highway that connects the towns of Manbij and Qamishli. The SDF said that Turkish troops and their Syrian allies reached the highway briefly before being pushed back again.

Turkish troops also cut the route linking the northeastern city of Hassakeh with Aleppo, Syria's largest city and once commercial center, according to the Observatory.

Kurdish news agencies including Hawar and Rudaw said that Hevreen Khalaf, secretary general of the Future Syria Party, was killed Saturday as she was driving on the M-4 highway. Rudaw's correspondent blamed Turkish forces for targeting Khalaf's car, and Hawar blamed "Turkey's mercenaries."

The Turkish military aims to clear Syrian border towns of Kurdish fighters' presence, saying they are a national security threat. Since Wednesday, Turkish troops and Syrian opposition fighters backed by Ankara have been advancing under the cover of airstrikes and artillery shelling, reaching the Manbij-Qamishli road about 30 kilometers (19 miles) south of the Turkish border.

Turkey has said it aims to push back the Syrian Kurdish People's Protection Units, or YPG, which it considers terrorists for its links to a decadeslong Kurdish insurgency within its own borders. The YPG is a main component of the SDF.

The U.N. estimated the number of displaced at 100,000 since Wednesday, saying that markets, schools and clinics also were closed. Aid agencies have warned of a humanitarian crisis, with nearly a half-million people at risk in northeastern Syria.

A civilian wounded in a mortar strike from Syria on Friday in the Turkish border town of Suruc died, Anadolu news agency reported Saturday, bringing the civilian death toll to 18 in Turkey. Turkey's interior

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minister said hundreds of mortars, fired from Syria, have landed in Turkish border towns.

The Observatory that keeps track of Syria's civil war said 74 Kurdish-led SDF fighters have been killed since Wednesday as well as 49 Syrian opposition fighters backed by Turkey. That's in addition to 28 civilians on the Syrian side. It added that Turkish troops now control 23 villages in northeastern Syria.

Turkey's defense ministry said it "neutralized" 415 Syrian Kurdish fighters. The number could not be independently verified. Four Turkish soldiers have been killed since the beginning of the offensive, including two who were killed in Syria's northwest.

France's leader warned Trump in a phone call that Turkey's military action in northern Syria could lead to a resurgence of IS activity. President Emmanuel Macron "reiterated the need to make the Turkish offensive stop immediately," his office said in a statement Saturday.

A Kurdish police force in northern Syria said a car bomb exploded early Saturday outside a prison where IS members are being held, but it was not immediately clear if there were any serious injuries or deaths. The police force known as Asayesh said the blast occurred outside the central prison in the northeastern city of Hassakeh, much of which is controlled by Kurdish forces. The Observatory said after the blast, Kurdish fighters brought reinforcements to prevent prisoners from escaping.

No one claimed responsibility but IS sleeper cells have carried out such bombings.

Kurdish fighters are holding about 10,000 IS fighters including some 2,000 foreigners.

Associated Press writers Zeynep Bilginsoy in Istanbul and Bassem Mroue in Beirut contributed.

## AP FACT CHECK: Trump's shoddy info on Syria, impeachment

By HOPE YEN and CALVIN WOODWARD Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump spread shoddy information about Syria, the economy and matters at the heart of the impeachment inquiry against him in a week of caustic rhetoric.

Some examples:

TRUMP, on Hunter Biden, whose father is former Vice President Joe Biden, a Trump political rival: "Guy walks in, no experience, no nothing, walks out with \$1.5 billion. Gee, flies in on Air Force 2 with his father, the vice president. ... So China gives his son \$1.5 billion. How would you like to have Joe Biden take over negotiations right now with China? I don't think so." — Minneapolis rally Thursday.

THE FACTS: There's no evidence Hunter Biden pocketed \$1.5 billion from China. More generally, accusations of criminal wrongdoing by father or son are unsubstantiated.

In 2014, an investment fund started by Hunter Biden and other investors joined with foreign and Chinese private equity firms in an effort to raise \$1.5 billion to invest outside China. That's far from giving Hunter Biden such a sum, as Trump describes it.

Hunter Biden's lawyer, George Mesires, told the PolitiFact website that his client was an unpaid director of the fund at the time and it ended up raising less than one-third of its target.

Trump's attempt to press Ukraine to investigate the Bidens is at the center of the impeachment inquiry into the president's activities in office; Trump also has called for China to investigate them. Joe Biden is contending for the 2020 Democratic nomination to run against Trump.

### IMPEACHMENT

TRUMP: "Adam should be Impeached!" — tweet Tuesday.

TRUMP, on House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., and Democratic Rep. Adam Schiff of California, chairman of the House Intelligence Committee: "Nancy Pelosi knew of all of the many Shifty Adam Schiff lies and massive frauds perpetrated upon Congress and the American people, in the form of a fraudulent speech ... This makes Nervous Nancy every bit as guilty as Liddle' Adam Schiff for High Crimes and Misdemeanors ... I guess that means that they, along with all of those that evilly 'Colluded' with them, must all be immediately Impeached!" — tweet Sunday.

THE FACTS: There's no danger that either Schiff or Pelosi, who last month launched impeachment

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proceedings against Trump, will be impeached themselves. That's because House members cannot be impeached under the Constitution.

The House does have the power to expel one of its members by a two-thirds vote, but there are little grounds for it based on what Trump alleges.

Trump's reference to a "fraudulent speech" comes from remarks Schiff made last month at a committee hearing, when he mocked the president's pleas in his July call to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy.

Schiff said his remarks were a parody, reflecting the "essence" of what he believed Trump was conveying to Zelenskiy, "shorn of its rambling character."

Trump routinely mocks critics, as he did in this tweet, and invents dialogue that he attributes to them.

The House has expelled only five of its own, based on charges of members supporting the Confederacy during the Civil War or bribery and corruption.

## SYRIA and TURKEY

TRUMP, on removing U.S. troops from Syria: "I was elected on getting out of these ridiculous endless wars, where our great Military functions as a policing operation to the benefit of people who don't even like the USA. The two most unhappy countries at this move are Russia & China, because they love seeing us bogged...down." — tweets Monday.

THE FACTS: That's a dubious reading of Russia, in particular.

Both Russia and Iran stand to gain from a U.S. troop withdrawal and will probably bide their time until they can move in and retake the area. With their help, Syrian President Bashar Assad has recaptured most of the Syrian territory except for the north and east.

Iran and Russia are both key allies of Assad's government with troops on the ground in Syria. While they may publicly oppose a Turkish incursion into Syria, they probably don't mind an operation that diminishes the U.S.-allied Kurdish forces.

Some of Turkey's incursions into Syria appeared to have been coordinated with Russia and Iran.

TRUMP: "We defeated 100% of the ISIS Caliphate." — tweet Thursday.

TRUMP: "When I arrived in Washington, ISIS was running rampant in the area. We quickly defeated 100% of the ISIS Caliphate." — tweet Monday.

THE FACTS: His claim of a 100% defeat is misleading because the Islamic State group still poses a threat.

IS was defeated in Iraq in 2017, then lost the last of its land holdings in Syria in March, marking the end of the extremists' self-declared caliphate.

Still, extremist sleeper cells have continued to launch attacks in Iraq and Syria and are believed to be responsible for targeted killings against local officials and members of the Syrian Democratic Forces.

IS controlled large swathes of northern and eastern Syria, where they declared a caliphate in 2014 along with large parts of neighboring Iraq.

U.N. experts warned in August that IS leaders are aiming to consolidate and create conditions for an "eventual resurgence in its Iraqi and Syrian heartlands."

TRUMP: "So many people conveniently forget that Turkey is a big trading partner of the United States, in fact they make the structural steel frame for our F-35 Fighter Jet." — tweet Tuesday.

THE FACTS: Actually, Turkey won't be providing the steel for U.S. F-35 fighter jets much longer.

The Trump administration removed Turkey from the F-35 program in July because the Turks refused to cancel the purchase of a Russian S-400 air defense system that is incompatible with NATO forces. At the time, the White House said the S-400 would compromise the F-35 program and aid Russian intelligence.

As part of that process, the U.S. said it will stop using any Turkish supplies and parts by March.

TRUMP: "We quickly defeated 100% of the ISIS Caliphate, ...including capturing thousands of ISIS fighters, mostly from Europe. But Europe did not want them back, they said you keep them USA!" — tweet Monday.

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TRUMP: "Most of them came from Europe." — Minneapolis rally.

THE FACTS: Not true. The foreign fighters captured and being held by the U.S.-allied Kurds are not mostly from Europe, which Trump has argued could easily reclaim them.

Of the more than 12,000 IS fighters in custody in Kurdish areas, only 2,500 are from outside the region of the conflict, some from Europe, some from other parts of the world. But most of captured fighters — about 10,000 — are natives of Syria or Iraq.

Trump has said it will now be up to countries in the region to decide what to do with captured fighters.

## JUDGES

TRUMP, criticizing Barack Obama's struggle to win confirmation of federal judges as president, contends "they were unable to fill 142 important Federal Judgeships (a record by far), handing them all to me to choose." — tweet Wednesday.

THE FACTS: First, his number is false. So is his insinuation that Obama couldn't fill judicial vacancies due to complacency.

It's true that Trump has a stronger record than Obama so far in picking federal judges. But it was due to unprecedented lack of action by the Republican-controlled Senate on Democrat Obama's judicial nominees in his last two years in office. That left Trump more vacancies to fill.

Of the 71 people whom Obama nominated to the district courts and courts of appeals in 2015 and 2016, only 20 were voted on and confirmed, said Russell Wheeler, an expert on judicial nominees at the Brookings Institution. Trump entered office in January 2017 with under 110 vacancies on the federal bench — not 142 as he asserts — about double the number Obama had in 2009.

Trump has since been aided by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., who has pushed through Trump's nominations of appeals court judges in particular.

## ECONOMY

TRUMP: "If our opponent had won that election, you know what would have happened? Right now, China would be the No. 1 economy anywhere in the world. And right now, I can tell you, they're not even close." — Minneapolis rally.

TRUMP: "So I think China might have caught us if my opponent had gotten in. By now, they would have caught us. And now it's going to be a long time before they catch us, if they ever catch us. I don't think anybody is going to catch us." — remarks Monday on trade .

THE FACTS: No matter who got elected in 2016 — Trump or Democrat Hillary Clinton — there is no way China's economy would have caught up with America's by now.

Even if the U.S. economy hadn't grown at all since 2016, China's gross domestic product — the broadest measure of economic output — would have had to have surged a fantastical 79% in three years to have pulled even with America's. That comes to growth of more than 21% a year — something even China's super-charged economy has never approached.

Moreover, despite Trump's suggestion that China can't ever catch up, the Chinese economy continues to slowly narrow the gap because every year it grows much faster than America's. In 2019, for example, the International Monetary Fund expects Chinese GDP to increase 6.2%, more than double the 2.6% growth it expects for the United States.

RONNA MCDANIEL, Republican National Committee chair: "New data is out on median income growth: Under Barack Obama, incomes rose \$11 a month. Under @realDonaldTrump, incomes are rising at \$161 a month. That's huge!" — tweet Monday, retweeted by Trump.

THE FACTS: This comparison is misleading.

McDaniel didn't provide her data source. But her statement obscures the track records of both presidents and the economic conditions that their administrations inherited.

For the first two full years of Trump's presidency, the Census Bureau shows that median household

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income has been growing by a monthly average of \$58, to \$63,179 in 2018. That's almost one-third of what claimed in McDaniel's tweet.

Under Obama, incomes rose at a monthly average of only \$31. But that average includes Obama's first term, when the economy was dealing with the ravages from the Great Recession that began before he became president. Trump took office at a moment when the economy was relatively healthy.

Obama's track record improved sharply after 2012, as the recovery took hold. Median incomes during that period rose at a monthly average of \$122. That is more than double the income growth during Trump's first two years.

**TRUMP:** "As you know, in addition to what we're talking about today, they're building — Japan — many car plants in the United States, which they weren't doing for a long time. And they're building in Michigan, Ohio, lots of different states. And we just appreciate it very much. Been a tremendous investment." — remarks Monday on trade.

**THE FACTS:** Not true. Japanese automakers are not building "many" car plants in the U.S. No Japanese automakers are building assembly plants in Michigan, and Honda is making only a small investment at an existing facility in Anna, Ohio, near Dayton. Honda has announced it will build a hybrid SUV at a factory in Greensburg, Indiana, but that investment is \$4.2 million and will add 34 new jobs.

The only major assembly plant being built now by Japanese automakers in the U.S. is the Toyota-Mazda factory in Alabama, which is expected to employ 4,000 people and will start producing vehicles in 2021.

Normally, parts-making companies set up operations in or near the main assembly plant, and that's happening in Huntsville. Six companies are investing about \$491 million in the area, creating an expected 1,765 jobs, according to Toyota.

Earlier this year, Japanese truck maker Hino opened a new assembly plant in Mineral Wells, West Virginia, investing \$100 million and creating 250 jobs. It replaced an older facility that also was in West Virginia.

Trump is also wrong to suggest recent construction from Japanese car companies in the U.S. is somehow new. Japanese automakers have been building in the U.S. since the 1970s and have expanded manufacturing over the years. The companies have announced millions in investments to retool existing plants to make new models.

Associated Press writers Paul Wiseman, Josh Boak, Robert Burns, Christopher Rugaber and Stephen Braun in Washington, Tom Krisher in Detroit and Zeina Karam in Beirut contributed to this report.

Find AP Fact Checks at <http://apne.ws/2kx8bd>

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## Agency eyes big revamp of Wall Street whistleblower program

By **MARCY GORDON AP Business Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal agency is moving with little fanfare to revamp one of the most successful whistleblower programs in the government, alarming advocates who warn the changes will set back efforts to police Wall Street and punish corporate fraud.

Much like the whistleblower system for intelligence agencies that triggered the impeachment inquiry of President Donald Trump, the program grants anonymity to people who come forward with allegations of wrongdoing. But unlike that system, it deals with the private sector, offering cash payouts to people who provide information that helps the Securities and Exchange Commission identify fraud and wrongdoing.

The program was created in 2010 by the Democrats' Wall Street oversight law. Tips, and substantial cash payouts, have flowed since it started in 2011.

The SEC has collected some 26,000 tips and complaints, resulting in more than \$2 billion in penalties and restitution.

More than \$300 million has been distributed in roughly 50 awards to people who provided actionable



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information. And taxpayers don't foot the bill because the award money comes directly from funds the SEC collects in settlements.

The SEC's program has also provided a windfall for the FBI and Justice Department. The SEC, a regulatory agency with only civil authority, often sends them referrals for criminal action that have brought convictions and jail terms for serious violators.

Now, with the backing of the business community, the two Republicans on the five-member SEC and the one independent are looking to make changes to the program that Chairman Jay Clayton says will make it more effective. Final adoption of the plan is expected this month, with only a majority vote on the five-member agency needed for approval.

Critics are aghast.

"It would destroy the program," said Stephen Kohn, chairman of the National Whistleblower Center and a partner in the law firm Kohn, Kohn & Colapinto.

The proposed changes, Kohn said, are "counter to every whistleblower law, rule and policy."

It's just U.S. regulators' latest move to unwind the stricter financial rules that were put in place after the 2008 financial crisis. Through scores of rulemaking actions, administration officials and regulators appointed by Trump have worked to reverse components of the law, dismissing Democratic warnings about the possibility of another financial meltdown. Republicans say that the law has slowed economic growth and needlessly restricted lending.

Business groups support the SEC's plan to change the whistleblower program but downplay its likely impact. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the lead lobbying organization for corporate America, called the proposal "a small but nonetheless important step" toward improvement. It says the SEC "has found itself overwhelmed at times by a large number of low-quality complaints advanced by ... bounty seekers more concerned with enriching themselves than truly protecting investors."

Wall Street's biggest trade group, the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association, endorsed the proposal generally. It urged regulators to review the rules to encourage whistleblowers to report violations within their companies rather than going to the SEC.

The proposal would give the SEC discretion to set the smallest and largest cash awards to whistleblowers, among other changes. Critics say that change would likely discourage employees from reporting major frauds by lowering the chances of a huge payout. The payment for successful cases is now 10% to 30% of fines or restitution collected by the agency — which means the bigger the fraud, the larger the bounty.

The SEC also wants to impose new requirements for filing a whistleblower complaint. To receive legal protection from the SEC against retaliation — a core concern for people risking their careers and livelihoods — a whistleblower would have to report violations in writing, rather than the oral disclosures now permitted at the SEC and other federal agencies.

"Whistleblowers are the defenders of taxpayers, shareholders and consumers," Sen. Ron Wyden of Oregon, the senior Democrat on the Senate Finance Committee, told The Associated Press in a statement. "Whistleblowers shouldn't be punished because they don't file a specific form at a specific time when they are putting themselves at personal and financial risk by blowing the whistle. The SEC ought to be encouraging whistleblowers to come forward and not place requirements to fill out government paperwork in their way."

Asked about criticisms of the proposal, the SEC referred to statements by Clayton, the chairman. He has said that for awards below \$2 million, the current percentage range is too "rigid" and the agency "should have the authority to depart upward (but not downward) from the amount determined by the percentage formula." More than 60% of the awards paid out under the program have been below \$2 million, Clayton said.

In a small number of cases with \$100 million or more collected, the SEC would have discretion to limit the size of the payout to 10% or \$30 million, whichever is greater. The change is intended to ensure that the agency "is a responsible steward of the public trust while continuing to provide strong whistleblower incentives," the SEC says.

The agency also says requiring complaints to be put in writing to qualify for protection against retalia-

tion presents "a minimal burden" for people who want to report violations and would make it easier for agency staff to track its use of the information.

Supporters question why the changes are necessary, given the successes of the program.

Three whistleblowers shared \$83 million in awards in March 2018 for alerting the SEC to abuses by Merrill Lynch, accused by regulators of putting billions in customers' assets at risk to generate trading profits. Merrill, owned by Bank of America, paid \$415 million to settle the case in 2016. Similarly, a former finance executive at Monsanto exposed accounting violations related to one of the chemical giant's flagship products, the weed killer Roundup. The company paid an \$80 million SEC penalty in 2016, and the executive received a \$22 million award.

Then there's the impeachment investigation, which was spurred by a whistleblower in the intelligence community. That complaint, and a separate one filed at the IRS alleging improper efforts to interfere with the annual tax audit for Trump or Vice President Mike Pence, shows the value of whistleblowers to the country, advocates say.

"The latest developments demonstrate how fundamental whistleblowers are to holding government and corporations accountable, and how they should be protected," said Shanna Devine, the worker health and safety advocate at Public Citizen. The SEC proposal, she said, "would send the wrong message."

Follow Gordon on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/mgordonap> .

## Anatomy of the phone call now imperiling Trump's presidency

By DEB RIECHMANN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — There were dozens of ears listening to President Donald Trump's 30-minute phone call with the leader of Ukraine that is at the center of a House impeachment inquiry , and as many eyes that saw what he said.

White House staffers, working in the secure, soundproof Situation Room in the West Wing basement, listened in and chronicled the conversation . National Security Council personnel edited a memo written about the call. White House lawyers, according to a government whistleblower , directed that the memo be uploaded into a highly restricted classified computer network. And there were the staffers whose keystrokes on a computer made that happen.

They represent a universe of people, little known outside their vital circle of national security officials, who can either support or disavow the whistleblower's account. Their roles could well become more public as the impeachment investigation unfolds and Congress seeks additional witnesses.

Some staffers involved with the call still work at the White House; others have left. But what was thought to be a routine conversation with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy turned into anything but that, when Trump asked him to investigate Ukraine's involvement in the 2016 presidential election and the activities of Democratic political rival Joe Biden and his son Hunter.

### 30 MINUTES THAT CHANGED THE TRUMP PRESIDENCY

By the time staffers in the Situation Room got the president of Ukraine on the phone at 9:03 a.m., Trump had just finished firing off tweets claiming complete vindication from former special counsel Robert Mueller's congressional testimony the day before about the Russia investigation. On the call, Trump was first to speak. He showered the 41-year-old Ukrainian, a novice politician and former comedian, with praise following his party's victory in parliamentary elections. Zelenskyy chatted about how he wanted to "drain the swamp" in Kyiv and how he wished the European Union would provide more financial support. He told Trump that Ukraine was ready to buy more Javelin anti-tank missiles from the United States.

The next 10 words that came out of Trump's mouth — "I would like you to do us a favor, though" — are what triggered the House impeachment inquiry that has imperiled his presidency.

Trump asked Zelenskyy to work with Trump's personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani and Attorney General William Barr to look into Biden and his son, who served on the board of a Ukrainian gas company.

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Trump says it was an innocent, "perfect" call. But some White House staffers, worried that Trump seemed to be asking Ukraine for dirt on Biden, sounded alarms. They suggested the memorandum of the call — "telcon" for short — be transferred into a restricted server, usually reserved for documents about covert operations.

## BEFORE THE CALL

This call, as well as others Trump has had with foreign leaders, was unusual in other ways, too. In past administrations, top foreign policy officials routinely briefed a president in person right before a call and provided written materials as well.

A former U.S. ambassador to Russia, Michael McFaul worked at the NSC during the Obama administration and helped write briefs to prepare for dozens of calls with Russian leaders, including Vladimir Putin.

"Judging from the content of the Trump-Zelenskiy call, Trump was not reading talking points," McFaul said. "No one on our team ever would have prepared a call package prompting Obama to ask for a personal favor that would help him win reelection. I also doubt that Trump's NSC staff would have written or cleared such a talking point for their boss."

One individual with firsthand knowledge of how the Trump calls with foreign leaders are handled said the president "hates" such "pre-briefs" and frequently has refused to do them. Trump doesn't like written background materials either, preferring to handle the calls himself, often in the morning from the residence. Occasionally, while on the phone with foreign heads of state, Trump has handed the receiver to his daughter, Ivanka Trump, so she can talk with the leader, according to this individual.

The person said a six-page pre-brief with attachments was once prepared for Trump before a call to a foreign leader. But that turned out to be too long, as did a single-page version. Preparing pre-brief note cards that offered about three talking points for Trump to make on a call was the norm, according to this person, who feared retribution for describing this process and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The individual said that when Trump is done with the note cards, he often rips them up and tosses them in a burn bag. Staff who handle records have had to retrieve the burn bags from the residence, put the papers out on a table and tape them back together to preserve them as official presidential records, this person said.

## RUN OF THE MILL

Calls between a president and a foreign leader typically start with U.S. intelligence officers detailed to the White House gathering in the Situation Room, a process that has been in place for decades, according to two people familiar with the operation in the Trump White House and past administrations. They spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss how Trump's calls with foreign heads of state are handled.

During the Ukraine call, several others listened in. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Keith Kellogg, national security adviser for Vice President Mike Pence, were on the call. It's unclear if they were at the White House or listened in on "drop" lines, secure hookups top officials can use from outside the White House.

Others who typically would have listened in would have been the president's national security adviser, John Bolton, or his deputy, Charles Kupperman, who have both left the White House; the NSC's director of Russia and Europe, who currently is Tim Morrison; the NSC's Ukraine expert; and possibly someone from White House chief of staff Mick Mulvaney's office.

Lawyers who handle NSC issues include John Eisenberg and his deputy, Michael Ellis. It's unclear what, if any, role Ellis played, but the former counsel for the House Intelligence Committee has been in the spotlight before.

The New York Times reported in March 2017 that he allowed his former boss, the then-committee chairman, Rep. Devin Nunes, R-Calif., to review classified material at the White House, seeking to bolster Trump's claim that he was wiretapped during the 2016 campaign on the orders of the Obama administration. The intelligence reports consisted primarily of ambassadors and other foreign officials talking about

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trying to develop contacts in the inner circle of then President-elect Trump. The report was not confirmed by The Associated Press.

The NSC declined to confirm who was on the call.

Down in the Situation Room, several others would have been listening. One person monitors the call to make sure the line is not interrupted. Others are tasked with documenting what is said. No audio recordings are made. The memorandum of the call, the telcon, which the White House has released, is the closest thing to a word-for-word transcript that is produced and is the official presidential record of the conversation.

"When I got to the Situation Room and my predecessor explained this incredibly inefficient process that we use, I had a lot of questions," said Larry Pfeiffer, a 30-year U.S. intelligence veteran who managed the Situation Room during the Obama years. "I said 'Why don't we just record the call and write a transcript based on that?'"

Pfeiffer said his predecessor told him that the White House stopped taping presidential calls in the 1970s when President Richard Nixon recorded 3,700 hours of conversations, transcripts of which were used by Watergate investigators and during impeachment hearings that followed.

Pfeiffer said White House lawyers finally approved the idea of having a duty officer, wearing a headset, sit in a separate room, and repeat what was said on the call into voice-to-text software — again without creating any audio recording.

Individuals familiar with Trump White House procedure say one Situation Room staffer, using voice-to-text software, repeats each word the president says and another listens and repeats what the foreign leader says. The software turns the words they repeat into text and a rough draft of the telcon is produced.

That draft is given to subject matter specialists on the NSC, who edit the draft for accuracy. Each draft is separately preserved. After it's finalized, it's turned over to the national security adviser — Bolton, at the time — or the deputy, who was Kupperman, for their approval. White House lawyers also play a role in approving NSC documents.

After that, the telcon is given back to staffers tasked with preserving the document as a presidential record.

## WHISTLEBLOWER SOUNDS OFF

Somewhere during this sequence, people privy to the call questioned whether Trump was pressuring the Ukrainian leader to investigate the Bidens. Trump has denied that he did and publicly released the telcon recounting what was said on the call.

He released it after a whistleblower, a CIA officer, filed a complaint about the call with the intelligence community's inspector general. "In the days following the phone call, I learned from multiple U.S. officials that senior White House officials had intervened to lock down" all records of the phone call, the whistleblower wrote. "This set of actions underscored to me that White House officials understood the gravity of what had transpired in the call."

The unidentified whistleblower — one of two who have come forward — said White House lawyers directed that the telcon be taken off a computer server where classified documents on foreign leader calls are normally kept. They directed it be transferred to a computer network with restricted access for documents about covert operations or other highly sensitive information. The telcon, which was classified as secret, did not contain anything remotely sensitive from a national security perspective.

One of the two people familiar with how foreign leader calls are handled in the Trump White House said putting a document classified only as "secret" into a server holding very highly classified information is not against any rule, but is a means of "leak prevention."

That person also said it wasn't common practice to put telcons into the more restrictive server, but that around the same time Bolton became national security adviser in the spring of 2018, it became standard not to share the telcons with the State Department, the national intelligence director and the Pentagon.

Those officials were told that if they wanted to see them, they could read them the next time they were at the White House, the individual said.

## Tokyo area shuts down as powerful typhoon lashes Japan

By YURI KAGEYAMA and JAE C. HONG Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — A heavy downpour and strong winds pounded Tokyo and surrounding areas on Saturday as a powerful typhoon forecast to be Japan's worst in six decades made landfall and passed over the capital, where streets, nearby beaches and train stations were long deserted.

Store shelves were bare after people stocked up on water and food ahead of Typhoon Hagibis. The Japan Meteorological Agency warned of dangerously heavy rainfall in Tokyo and surrounding prefectures, including Gunma, Saitama and Kanagawa, and later expanded the area to include Fukushima and Miyagi to the north. A coastal earthquake also rattled the area.

"Be ready for rainfall of the kind that you have never experienced," said meteorological agency official Yasushi Kajihara, adding that areas usually safe from disasters may prove vulnerable.

"Take all measures necessary to save your life," he said.

Kajihara said people who live near rivers should take shelter on the second floor or higher of any sturdy building if an officially designated evacuation center wasn't easily accessible.

Hagibis, which means "speed" in Filipino, was advancing north-northwestward with maximum sustained winds of 144 kilometers (90 miles) per hour, according to the meteorological agency. It was traveling northward at a speed of 40 kph (25 mph).

It reached Kawasaki, a western part of greater Tokyo, late Saturday and headed to Tsukuba city to the north about an hour later, before it was expected to swerve toward the sea, the agency said.

The storm brought heavy rainfall in wide areas of Japan all day ahead of its landfall, including in Shizuoka and Mie prefectures, southwest of Tokyo, as well as Chiba to the north, which saw power outages and damaged homes in a typhoon last month.

Under gloomy skies, a tornado ripped through Chiba on Saturday, overturning a car in the city of Ichihara and killing a man inside the vehicle, city official Tatsuya Sakamaki said. Five people were injured when the tornado ripped through a house. Their injuries were not life-threatening, Sakamaki said.

The heavy rain caused rivers to swell, and several had flooded by late Saturday. The wind flipped anchored boats and whipped up sea waters in a dangerous surge along the coast and areas near rivers, flooding some residential neighborhoods and leaving people to wade in ankle-deep waters and cars floating. Some roads were so flooded they looked like muddy ditches.

An earthquake shook the area drenched by the rainfall shortly before the typhoon made landfall in Shizuoka prefecture Saturday evening. but there were no immediate reports of damage. The U.S. Geological Survey said the magnitude 5.3 quake was centered in the ocean off the coast of Chiba, near Tokyo, and was fairly deep, at 59.5 kilometers (37 miles). Deep quakes tend to cause less damage than shallow ones.

In Shizuoka, one of two men who went missing in the Nishikawa River was rescued, Gotemba city official Fumihiko Katsumata said. Firefighters said the two men were working at a river canal to try to control overflowing when they were swept away.

The nationally circulated Yomiuri newspaper put the storm's casualty toll at two people dead, three missing and 62 injured. More than 170,000 people had evacuated, the paper said.

More than 370,000 homes suffered power outages as a result of the typhoon, according to Tokyo Electric Power Co.

Yusuke Ikegaya, a Shizuoka resident who evacuated ahead of the storm, said he was surprised that the nearby river was about to overflow in the morning, hours before the typhoon made landfall.

"In the 28 years of my life, this is the first time I've had to evacuate even before a typhoon has landed," he said.

Authorities also warned of mudslides, common in mountainous Japan.

Two dams began to release some of their waters and other dams in the area may take similar measures, as waters were nearing limits, public broadcaster NHK reported. An overflowed dam is likely to cause greater damage, and so releasing some water gradually is a standard emergency measure, but the released water added to the heavy rainfall could be dangerous, causing rivers to flood.

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Rugby World Cup matches, concerts and other events in the typhoon's path were canceled, while flights were grounded and train services halted. Authorities acted quickly, with warnings issued earlier in the week, including urging people to stay indoors.

Some 17,000 police and military troops were called up, standing ready for rescue operations.

Residents taped up their apartment windows to prevent them from shattering. TV talk shows showed footage of household items like a slipper bashing through glass when hurled by winds.

Evacuation centers were set up in coastal towns, and people rested on gymnasium floors, saying they hoped their homes were still there after the storm passed.

The typhoon disrupted a three-day weekend in Japan that includes Sports Day on Monday. Qualifying for a Formula One auto race in Suzuka was pushed to Sunday. The Defense Ministry cut a three-day annual navy review to a single day on Monday.

All Nippon Airways and Japan Airlines grounded most domestic and international flights at the Tokyo, Osaka and Nagoya airports, and some Sunday flights have also been canceled.

Central Japan Railway Co. canceled bullet-train service between Tokyo and Osaka except for several early Saturday trains connecting Nagoya and Osaka. Tokyo Disneyland was closed, while Ginza department stores and smaller shops throughout Tokyo were shuttered.

A typhoon that hit the Tokyo region in 1958 left more than 1,200 people dead and half a million houses flooded.

Hong reported from Fujisawa, Japan. Associated Press videojournalist Haruka Nuga in Tokyo contributed to this report.

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On Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/yurikageyama/?hl=en>

## Andrew Johnson back in spotlight for 1868 impeachment brush

By DAVID CRARY AP National Writer

The president traveled the country, fanning racial animus. He viewed the Congress with disdain. He also tried to undo some of the most important achievements of his predecessor, using executive power.

That was not Donald Trump, but another president who faced the ignominy of impeachment: Andrew Johnson.

As the impeachment inquiry of Trump unfolds, Johnson, never among America's most famous presidents, though widely considered one of the worst, is attracting renewed attention.

Johnson was the first president to be impeached, by the House of Representatives in 1868. He escaped removal from office by a single vote short of the required two-thirds after his trial in the Senate, but was so disgraced he was denied his party's nomination that year.

Trump and Johnson came from opposite ends of America's social spectrum — Johnson from deep poverty, Trump from great wealth. Yet they shared bellicose personalities, a disdain for political niceties, and a penchant for divisive, sometimes racist rhetoric.

Jon Meacham, a presidential historian who wrote a chapter on Johnson's case in a recent book on impeachment, has drawn a harsh comparison after Trump suggested that four activist Democratic congresswomen of color "go back" to countries "from which they came." Coupled with other statements by Trump, Meacham says Trump "now ranks with Andrew Johnson as perhaps the most racist of our presidents."

Meacham sees other parallels as well.

"Like Trump, Johnson was a temperamentally tumultuous man who defied norms of the era," Meacham said in an email. "In Johnson's case, he actively sought to undo the verdict of the Civil War as the Republicans of the day saw it; in Trump's case, he is actively seeking to nullify the constitutional order by using his powers to undo the sovereignty of our elections."

Johnson, a Democrat, became vice president under Republican Abraham Lincoln on a unity ticket dur-

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ing Lincoln's reelection campaign amid the Civil War in 1864. Johnson became president after Lincoln's assassination in April 1865.

Friction grew steadily between Johnson, who contended blacks were incapable of self-government, and many of the Republicans who controlled Congress and favored extending voting rights to blacks.

Tensions peaked in 1868 when the House voted to impeach Johnson after alleging he had illegally fired War Secretary Edwin Stanton. Johnson was narrowly acquitted in a trial in the Senate.

Mark Summers, a University of Kentucky history professor, noted that many historians in the past argued that Johnson's impeachment was a mistake and that it was fortunate he was able to stay in office. Summers, like many contemporary historians, takes a different view, depicting Johnson as "a very dangerous man."

"I would have convicted him with great enthusiasm," Summers said.

Summers says it's also dangerous to seek precise comparisons of the Johnson and Trump impeachment dramas.

"Definitions of what presidents are allowed to do have changed," he said. "Donald Trump is suggesting the whole process is illegitimate — Johnson made clear he'd abide by the Senate decision."

Keri Leigh Merritt, a historian and writer in Atlanta, learned about Johnson's personal background while researching her 2017 book, "Masterless Men: Poor Whites and Slavery in the Antebellum South."

She said Johnson emerged from deeper poverty than any other U.S. president, even working as an indentured servant for a master who occasionally beat him.

Yet despite that sharp contrast with Trump's wealth, Merritt sees a similarity between the two men that dismays her.

"You're dealing with someone who puts themselves above their country — puts their reputation and legacy first," she said.

In mid-September, Johnson was the subject of a "Worst President Ever?" presentation by University of Maryland history professor Michael Ross. It was part of a "Pints and Profs" series hosted by a tavern in Washington, D.C.

"I convinced a good portion of the room that Johnson was the worst president, though some were lobbying for Richard Nixon or Woodrow Wilson," said Ross.

Ross said he made clear at the outset of the event that Trump would not be a formal part of the presentation on the ground that his legacy remains to be determined. Yet Ross said Trump shares some key traits with Johnson, notably that he's "unpresidential in his conduct."

Johnson "was by every measure an awful president. He set back American race relations probably by 100 years," Ross said. Yet he said it was appropriate, on technical legal grounds, that the impeachment effort failed.

As for Trump, Ross doubts the Republican-controlled Senate will vote to remove him from office unless damning new evidence surfaces.

Among those intrigued by Trump-Johnson comparisons is author Brenda Wineapple. She has written several books about 19th century authors, but switched gears with her latest book, published in May — an account of Johnson's impeachment trial called "The Impeachers."

While Trump stands accused of improperly pressuring Ukraine to investigate his political rival Joe Biden, Johnson angered many on the Union side of the Civil War with his solicitous approach to the defeated Confederacy, Wineapple said.

"You can say he was courting a so-called foreign power," Wineapple said. "Johnson wanted to reintegrate that seceded group of states without any cognizance of the fact they were fighting for the perpetuation of slavery."

She also sees similarities in the harsh rhetoric used or encouraged by the two presidents.

In public speeches in 1866, Johnson would suggest the hanging of some of his political rivals. Trump has grinned when supporters at his rallies chant of Hillary Clinton, "Lock Her Up" and he recently suggested that a whistleblower in the Ukraine case is "close to a spy" — possibly meriting the death penalty.

Though the bid to oust Johnson eventually failed, Wineapple believes the dramatic events of 1868 vali-

dated the concept of the impeachment process.

"It was a stain on Johnson's reputation — he didn't get renominated," she said. "The country didn't fall apart. It was a very orderly, serious process of trying to remove a president without a war."

Professor Benjamin Railton, coordinator of American Studies at Fitchburg State University in Massachusetts, has studied Johnson's impeachment trial and he sees echoes in today's House inquiry of Trump.

He said there was broad concern about the two presidents due to their conduct and rhetoric, yet the impeachment proceedings took shape in regard to specific allegations of illegality — for Trump the Ukraine case, for Johnson his contested removal of Stanton.

Railton is curious what might lie ahead if Trump is impeached by the Democratic-controlled House but remains in office due to the Senate's refusal to convict him.

He says that Johnson, denied the presidential nomination by his Democratic Party in 1868, "became even more aggressive" as a lame duck, for example issuing a blanket amnesty to all former Confederates, including ex-President Jefferson Davis, in December 1868. In March 1869, Johnson refused to attend the inauguration of his successor, Ulysses S. Grant, after Grant refused to share a carriage with him en route to the ceremony.

## Former Ukraine envoy testifies Trump pushed to oust her

By MARY CLARE JALONICK, MATTHEW LEE and ALAN FRAM Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Testifying in defiance of President Donald Trump's ban, former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch told House impeachment investigators Friday that Trump himself pressured the State Department to oust her from her post and get her out of the country.

Yovanovitch told lawmakers investigating Trump's dealings with Ukraine that there was a "concerted campaign" against her based on "unfounded and false claims by people with clearly questionable motives."

The diplomat was recalled from Kyiv as Rudy Giuliani — who is Trump's personal attorney and has no official role in the U.S. government — pressed Ukrainian officials to investigate baseless corruption allegations against Democrat Joe Biden and his son Hunter, who was involved with a gas company there.

Yovanovitch testified behind closed doors Friday for more than nine hours as part of the House Democrats' impeachment investigation. Her prepared remarks were obtained by The Associated Press. She left without answering questions.

New York Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, a Democrat, said Yovanovitch occasionally had to leave the room because she was overcome with emotion as she was "recounting how she was thrown to the wolves" in Ukraine.

"It is clear to me that she was fired because she was a thorn in the side of those who sought to use the Ukrainian government for their own political and financial gain - and that includes President Trump," Maloney said.

Lawmakers leaving the meeting would not provide specifics from the confidential deposition. But they indicated that Yovanovitch provided information that would help with the impeachment inquiry.

"It was compelling, it was impactful, it was powerful, and I just feel grateful for the opportunity to have received that information," said Democratic Rep. Denny Heck, who flew in from Washington state for the interview. He said the eight hours he was there "went like a New York second."

Yovanovitch "set a very powerful, courageous example," said Democratic Rep. Tom Malinowski of New Jersey.

Republicans leaving the meeting focused their criticism on Democrats, arguing that the president's lawyers should be able to attend the hearings and cross-examine witnesses. "This process is a joke, and the consequences are huge," New York Rep. Lee Zeldin said.

Republican Rep. Jim Jordan of Ohio defended Yovanovitch's removal from Ukraine, saying the president is entitled to have the ambassador he wants.

The former ambassador said she was fired from her post after insisting that Giuliani's requests to Ukrainian officials for investigations be relayed through official channels, according to a former diplomat



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who has spoken with her. That former diplomat spoke on condition of anonymity to disclose the private conversation.

Trump, in a July 25 phone call, told Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy that Yovanovitch was “bad news,” according to a partial transcript released by the White House. Neither Giuliani nor Trump has publicly specified their objections to her.

She said in her statement Friday that she was abruptly told this spring to depart Ukraine “on the next plane.” She left her post in May and was later told the president had lost confidence in her and had been pressuring State Department officials for many months to remove her, she said.

Democrats leading the investigation said they subpoenaed Yovanovitch on Friday morning after learning late Thursday that the State Department had directed her not to appear. Trump has forbidden all government employees to cooperate, and Yovanovitch remains employed by the State Department. She is doing a fellowship at Georgetown University.

Her testimony in the face of Trump’s opposition won’t be the last as the congressional panels hold a flurry of depositions to investigate the president’s efforts to jump-start foreign investigations that could help his 2020 reelection campaign. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has said she wants the committees to move “expeditiously” as they decide whether to move forward with a formal impeachment vote.

Polls show the nation now generally split as to whether Trump should be impeached and removed from office.

On Monday, Fiona Hill, a former White House adviser who focused on Russia, is expected to appear, and three current State Department officials are tentatively scheduled next week. They include Gordon Sondland, who was blocked from appearing this week but whose attorney said he would testify next Thursday.

As for Yovanovitch’s dealing with pressure from Washington, the former diplomat who spoke with her said the ambassador refused to do “all this offline, personal, informal stuff” and made clear that the U.S. government had formal ways to request foreign governments’ help with investigations.

The State Department traditionally relies on mutual legal assistance treaties, under which U.S. and foreign officials agree to exchange evidence and information in criminal investigations.

In her statement to lawmakers, Yovanovitch said that “false narratives” had resulted from “an unfortunate alliance between Ukrainians who continue to operate within a corrupt system, and Americans who either did not understand that corrupt system, or who may have chosen, for their own purposes, to ignore it.”

She said she had only “minimal contacts” with Giuliani — three that she could recall — and none related to “the events at issue.” She speculated that “individuals who have been named in the press as contacts of Mr. Giuliani” may have believed their personal financial ambitions were stymied by U.S. anti-corruption policy.

Two Florida businessmen tied to Giuliani were arrested on Thursday and are facing federal charges of campaign finance violations. An indictment filed in the case alleges that the men, who were raising campaign funds for a U.S. congressman, asked him for help in removing Yovanovitch, at least partly at the request of Ukrainian government officials.

Yovanovitch also said in her statement that she had never met Hunter Biden and that Joe Biden, the former vice president, had never spoken to her about his son or the gas company with which he was involved.

State Department officials have said previously that Secretary of State Mike Pompeo had tried to protect her but was forced to concede when he realized the White House was intent on removing her. Four current and former officials said Pompeo arranged for her to have a “soft landing” after her recall from Kyiv. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to describe the confidential arrangement.

She met with the House Intelligence, Foreign Affairs and Oversight and Reform committees Friday despite Trump’s declaration earlier this week that he would block all officials from testifying in the impeachment probe. Trump lambastes the investigation daily and now contends it is illegitimate because the full House has not voted on it.

Despite the officials’ expected testimony next week, former Ambassador Sondland’s attorney said he would not be able to produce documents “concerning his official responsibilities,” as they are controlled by the State Department.

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Democrats want to ask Sondland about text messages released last week that show him and two other U.S. diplomats acting as intermediaries as Trump urged Ukraine to investigate Ukraine's involvement in the 2016 U.S. election and Hunter Biden's involvement with a gas company there.

Associated Press writers Adam Geller and Jocelyn Noveck in New York and Lisa Mascaro and Padmananda Rama in Washington contributed to this report.

## After static summer, Democratic race enters a chaotic fall

By JULIE PACE, THOMAS BEAUMONT and STEVE PEOPLES Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Democratic presidential race that had been largely static through the summer has tumbled into a chaotic fall, shaped by unpredictable events and the deepening impeachment crisis surrounding President Donald Trump.

Less than four months before voting begins, front-running candidates are facing urgent questions about their ability to challenge Trump, prompted by a health scare for Sen. Bernie Sanders, an uneven response by Joe Biden to the president's efforts to tie him to the impeachment inquiry and nagging questions about liberal Sen. Elizabeth Warren's electability. Lower-tier candidates are struggling just to be heard.

The uncertainty is heightening anxieties among Democrats desperate to defeat Trump in 2020. Although impeachment could imperil Trump's presidency, the process has also highlighted Trump's skill at discrediting his opponents, sometimes with baseless conspiracy theories. And Democrats appear no closer to sorting out what tactics, what ideology and what person is best-suited to overcome that.

Progressive candidates like Sanders and Warren are surging in fundraising and drawing support from a wide swath of voters, according to polls, but face opposition from moderates who question whether now is the time to start the kind of sweeping — and divisive — economic and societal reforms they are pushing. It's a concern some moderates say has only increased against the backdrop of impeachment.

"The divisions we have in the country threaten the health and stability of our democracy. President Trump has fractured so many norms," former Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack said in an interview. "Like a patient getting over an illness or injury, we have to first heal the nation's divisions and reestablish our norms before we have the needed strength to successfully embrace and implement an array of big ideas."

Vilsack, a longtime friend of Biden's, has not endorsed anyone in the 2020 race. He's been courted by, and consulted with, numerous candidates, and has spoken regularly with Warren.

The Massachusetts senator has energized voters with a menu of detailed policy proposals, a folksy, relatable way of explaining them and a swell of small-dollar donations that brought in more than \$24.6 million in the most recent quarter. That's increasingly turning her into a target for candidates who see her calls for overhauling health care and rebalancing wealth in America as outside the mainstream.

Pete Buttigieg, the mayor of South Bend, Indiana, who is trying to break into the upper rung, has focused in particular on Warren's health care plan, the Sanders'-authored "Medicare for All" single-payer system that Buttigieg describes as a "my-way-or-the-highway approach."

But it's more than the policy Buttigieg is arguing against.

"We have to be able not only to thrill a debate audience or a Twitter following but actually make something happen, which tells us that having the smartest policy is only half the battle when it comes to what will actually make a difference," Buttigieg said in an interview.

For now, Warren supporters are happy to have Sanders still in the race to help absorb those blows rather than becoming the sole target of the attacks.

"Politically, it's good for Warren and Sanders to have each other in the race," said Adam Green, co-founder of the Progressive Change Campaign Committee. "They bolster each other's ideas."

The confidence Sanders' campaign felt last week after announcing a \$25.3 million haul in the third quarter — the highest in the race — was lessened after the 78-year-old senator suffered a heart attack. He told reporters this week that he planned to scale back his campaign, then said he had misspoken. He'll return to the campaign on Tuesday for a debate in Ohio.

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His advisers privately acknowledge that the timing of the heart attack — which came just as the impeachment inquiry was escalating — may have helped limit the political fallout because attention was focused elsewhere. But they also understand that he will have to more directly address lingering health concerns.

Jeff Weaver, Sanders' chief strategist, dismissed any long-term concerns, noting that the 2020 contest includes several older candidates, including the 73-year-old Trump.

"There are a number of older candidates in the race, including the sitting president of the United States, and I can tell you with confidence, there's only one we can say with assurance whose arteries are completely open," Weaver said, referencing the stent procedure designed to clear Sanders' clogged arteries.

Biden, 76, stands as the strongest obstacle to Warren and Sanders, fundamentally opposed on policy and pitching a more conciliatory approach to governing.

The former vice president was already facing questions about whether he was out of step with the party's activist liberal base and up for the challenge of taking on Trump before he got pulled into the impeachment inquiry, which centers on Trump's push for Ukraine to investigate the former vice president and his son.

Although Trump's allegations against Biden are so far without foundation, the president and his allies have aggressively pressed the charges. Biden responded forcefully this week, but only after days of hand-wringing among supporters and advisers who worried he appeared ill-prepared for combatting the kind of asymmetrical political warfare at which Trump excels.

Still, Biden backers contend that the mere fact that Trump has appeared focused on trying to take down Biden allows the former vice president to strengthen his electability argument by previewing what a one-on-one race with the president would look like.

"He's able to go out there every day and make this Biden vs. Trump argument," said John Anzalone, a pollster for Biden.

That's the fear for some lower-tier candidates — that the head-to-head fight between Trump and Biden, and the grassroots support of Warren and Sanders, block out their opportunities for a late surge.

Everyone is at risk, including those who have had flashes of success in recent months but are now languishing in the single digits in many polls, including California Sen. Kamala Harris, former Rep. Beto O'Rourke and New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker.

Buttigieg said there is no secret strategy for those candidates seeking to break out during this intense fall stride toward the first votes other than engaging in a "respectful and robust" debate of ideas.

"Where there's an important difference, people need to understand that," he said.

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Associated Press Writer Will Weissert contributed to this report.

## Kipchoge first under 2 hours for marathon but no record

By ERIC WILLEMSSEN Associated Press

VIENNA (AP) — Eliud Kipchoge sent shockwaves through the world of sport by becoming the first athlete to break the two-hour barrier for a marathon, although it will not count as a record.

The Olympic champion and world record holder from Kenya clocked 1 hour, 59 minutes and 40.2 seconds at the INEOS 1:59 Challenge on Saturday, an event set up for the attempt.

Kipchoge, who compared his attempt earlier to a man landing on the moon, twice punched his chest in celebration and smiled when he finished.

"That was the best moment of my life," he said before adding that he trained four-and-a-half months for his extraordinary race against the clock. "The pressure was very big on my shoulders. I got a phone call from the President of Kenya."

Starting at 8:15 a.m., Kipchoge was supported by 36 pacemakers who accompanied him in alternating groups, one of the reasons the IAAF governing body will not ratify the time as a world record.

The groups were also helped by a pace car with a laser beam, projecting the ideal position on the road, and they received drinks handed over by cyclists and other runners to prevent them from having to slow down.

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"It is a great feeling to make history in sport after Sir Roger Bannister," Kipchoge said in reference to the late Briton's first sub four-minute mile in 1954. "I am the happiest man in the world to be the first human to run under two hours and I can tell people that no human is limited. I expect more people all over the world to run under two hours after today."

Kipchoge pointed out his mission went beyond athletics.

"We can make this world a beautiful world and a peaceful world," he said. "The positivity of sport. I want to make it a clean sport and an interesting sport."

Kipchoge was cheered by spectators along the course in Prater Park and there were celebrations in his home country before he had even finished.

"Hearty congratulations, Eliud Kipchoge," President Uhuru Kenyatta said in a statement. "You've done it, you've made history and made Kenya proud. Your win today will inspire future generations to dream big and aspire to greatness. We celebrate you and wish you God's blessings."

Hundreds of joyous Kenyans brought traffic to a standstill in the middle of the capital, Nairobi, as they gathered to watch the end of the run on a large screen. People pumped their fists, clapped and fell to their knees as Kipchoge cruised to the finish line.

In Kenya's running mecca of Eldoret, called the home of champions, hundreds of people burst on to the streets in celebration.

"We should line up the entire road from the airport to Nairobi. Receive him like the hero he is," prominent activist Boniface Mwangi said on Twitter.

Running at an average pace of 2:50 minutes per kilometer (4:33.5 minutes per mile), Kipchoge was 11 seconds ahead of schedule halfway through his run. He then maintained his tempo until the pacemakers left him for the final 500 meters, where he sped up.

"I was really calm, I was just trying to maintain the pace," said Kipchoge, adding he was never in doubt about breaking the barrier. "For me it was not 50-50, it was 90 percent."

Jim Ratcliffe, founder of the chemicals company backing the attempt, exchanged high-fives with Kipchoge after the finish.

"He even accelerated in the final kilometer, he is a super human," Ratcliffe said. "I can't believe he's done it. He did the first half in less than an hour and then he's just done that again."

Organizers said normal anti-doping regulations were in place and that Kipchoge and all the pacemakers were being tested in and out of competition by the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU).

The team behind the event "has ensured all athletes involved in the project are undergoing extensive intelligence-led testing that has been pioneered by the partnership between Abbott World Marathon Majors and the AIU," they said in a statement to The Associated Press.

The Prater Park in the Austrian capital offered long straights, protected from the wind by high trees, for most of the 9.6-kilometer course, which Kipchoge completed more than 4 times.

It was his second attempt at breaking the two-hour barrier, after missing out by 26 seconds at a similar event on the Formula One track in Monza, Italy, in May 2017.

Kipchoge, who took Olympic gold in Rio de Janeiro in 2016 and has won 10 of his 11 marathons, holds the official world record of 2:01:39 since shattering the previous best mark by 78 seconds in Berlin last year.

In near-perfect circumstances at the meticulously planned attempt, Kipchoge shaved almost two minutes off that time.

Long-time coach and mentor, Patrick Sang, a former Olympic and world steeplechase silver medalist, said it was "really exciting."

"I am happy for him and what he has achieved. He has inspired all of us that we can stretch our limits and that we can do more than we think we can do," Sang added.

Under Sang's guidance, Kipchoge won gold in the 5,000 meters at the world championship in 2003, the start of a distinguished track career which includes Olympic bronze and silver medals from 2004 and 2008.

After missing out on qualification for the 2012 London Olympics on the track, Kipchoge switched to the marathon and has since been pushing the boundaries of the discipline.

Associated Press writer Tom Odula in Nairobi, Kenya contributed.

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## Fierce battle over rare Democratic governorship in South

By MELINDA DESLATTE Associated Press

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards fought Saturday to hang on to a rare Democratic governorship in Deep South Trump territory against a national GOP offensive aimed at forcing him into a runoff.

Republicans were trying to hold Edwards under the 50% benchmark the region's only Democratic governor needed to win outright over five others in the field. President Donald Trump made a last-minute appeal to Louisiana's voters to reject Edwards.

Edwards, Louisiana's only Democratic statewide elected official, faced two main GOP challengers, U.S. Rep. Ralph Abraham and businessman Eddie Rispone. But three lesser-known contenders also could peel off a few percentage points to tip the balance and push Edwards into a Nov. 16 runoff election.

Also on the ballot were six Republican statewide elected officials running for reelection to new four-year terms, and voters were deciding four proposed constitutional changes.

Polls were scheduled to close at 8 p.m.

Republicans sought to prove that Edwards' longshot victory in 2015 was a fluke, aided by a flawed GOP opponent, David Vitter, who was hobbled by a prostitution scandal and attacks on his moral character from fellow Republicans in the primary.

Democrats want an Edwards reelection win to show they can compete even in a ruby red state that Trump won by 20 points.

But the 53-year-old Edwards isn't exactly a Democrat in the national mold.

The West Point graduate and former Army Ranger opposes abortion and gun restrictions, talks of working well with the Trump administration and calls the U.S. House Democrats' impeachment inquiry a distraction to governing in Washington. He signed one of the nation's strictest abortion bans.

Throughout his campaign, Edwards sought to make the election a referendum on his performance rather than a commentary on Louisiana views on national politics.

The Democratic incumbent contrasted three recent years of budget surpluses with the deficit-riddled terms of his predecessor, Republican Bobby Jindal. Edwards and the majority-GOP state Legislature passed a tax deal that stabilized state finances and allowed for new investments in public colleges and the first statewide teacher raise in a decade.

"When I took office, the state of Louisiana had the largest budget deficit in our history," Edwards said. "We did the hard, bipartisan work necessary to right the ship, to strengthen our economy."

Edwards expanded Louisiana's Medicaid program, adding nearly a half-million new people to government-financed health care and lowering the state's uninsured rate below the national average. A bipartisan criminal sentencing law rewrite he championed ended Louisiana's tenure as the nation's top jailer.

Dana Johnson voted for Edwards during early voting in the New Orleans area.

"He did a lot for the state. He turned the economy around after Jindal destroyed it," she said. "He looks like he's for everybody. He got jobs."

Republicans panned the governor's performance, saying Edwards raised taxes too high, stifling economic development and chasing people from Louisiana.

"It's not a surplus. He overtaxed you. It's your money," Abraham said. "We are taxed, taxed, taxed to death."

The GOP contenders said the Medicaid expansion was rife with abuse, wasting millions of taxpayer dollars. They sought to nationalize the race, tying Edwards to national Democratic leaders, while Abraham and Rispone bickered over which one had tighter ties to Trump.

Abraham, 65, a third-term congressman from rural Richland Parish in northeast Louisiana, touted his

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background as a doctor. He pledged tax cuts while promising new spending on early childhood education, roads and public safety. He didn't explain how he would balance the budget with less revenue.

Rispono, 70, founder of a Baton Rouge industrial contracting company, is a long-time GOP political donor running for his first elected office. He largely self-financed his campaign, pouring \$11 million in the race. He presented himself in the mold of Trump, describing himself as a conservative outsider who would upend the traditional political system of Baton Rouge.

"We need a CEO, someone with serious business experience," Rispono told supporters. "Both sides of the aisle have failed you. It's time to do something different."

Voter Barbie Edwards said she supported Rispono when she cast her early vote in the New Orleans area.

"He's a good businessman. He'd be a good businessman for the state like Trump is for the country," she said.

Neither GOP candidate was among the top-tier contenders Republicans had hoped would get in the race. But other, more well-known possibilities passed. With Republicans unable to rally behind one clear choice, they worried that fighting between Abraham and Rispono risked helping Edwards to victory.

In the final week of the campaign, GOP groups reminded voters of Edwards' former deputy chief of staff, Johnny Anderson, who resigned in 2017 amid allegations of sexual harassment. Anderson's accuser was prominently featured in one ad, noting that Edwards hired Anderson even though Anderson had previously been accused of sexual misconduct.

Follow Melinda Deslatte on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/melindadeslatte>

## Winds dying as crews fight flames in Southern California

By **STEFANIE DAZIO** and **BRIAN MELLE** Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Edwin Bernard, 73, is no stranger to flames that have frequently menaced his sunburnt corner of Los Angeles, but they never arrived as quickly or came as close to his home before.

Fire swept down the hill across the street and spit embers over his home of 30 years, sizzling through dry grass and igniting trees and bushes. He and his wife scrambled to go, leaving behind medication, photo albums and their four cats.

"It was a whole curtain of fire," Bernard said. "There was fire on all sides. We had to leave."

Bernard's home and the cats left inside survived — barely. His backyard was charred.

Bernard and his wife were among some 100,000 residents ordered out of their homes because of a wind-driven wildfire that broke out Thursday evening in the San Fernando Valley. It spread westward through tinder-dry brush in hilly subdivisions on the outskirts of the nation's second-largest city and was only 13% contained Friday night.

Fire officials said 13 buildings were destroyed, many probably homes. Another 18 were damaged. A middle-aged man who was near the fire went into cardiac arrest and died after apparently trying to fight the fire himself, authorities said.

Those under mandatory evacuation orders packed shelters. On Friday, police allowed some to return to their homes for five minutes to gather precious items.

They won't be allowed to return permanently until the danger had passed.

"It's not the fire itself but the danger of wind taking an ember, blowing it someplace, and seeing entire neighborhoods overnight get lit," Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti said Friday.

Los Angeles Fire Chief Ralph M. Terrazas said he flew over the fire Friday and saw "hundreds, if not thousands of homes" with charred backyards where firefighters had just managed to halt the flames.

"Be patient with us," he urged evacuees. "We want to make sure you're safe."

About 450 police were deployed in the area, and Police Chief Michel Moore said there would be "no tolerance" for looters.

Smoke belching from the burning chaparral covered some neighborhoods in gray haze. Interstate 5, the main north-to-south corridor in the state, was shut down for much of the day, choking traffic until finally

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reopening.

The region has been on high alert as notoriously powerful Santa Ana winds brought dry desert air to a desiccated landscape that only needed a spark to erupt. Fire officials have warned that they expect more intense and devastating California wildfires due, in part, to climate change.

By late Friday, the winds had subsided but the National Weather Service still warned of extreme fire danger in some Southern California areas because of very low humidity.

The fire burned as power was restored to most of the nearly 2 million residents in the northern part of the state who lost electricity after Pacific Gas & Electric Co. switched it off Wednesday to prevent a repeat of the past two years when its equipment sparked deadly, destructive wildfires during windy weather.

The cause of the Los Angeles blaze wasn't immediately known, though arson investigators said a witness reported seeing sparks or flames coming from a power line near where the fire is believed to have started, said Peter Sanders, a spokesman for the Los Angeles Fire Department.

A Sylmar man, Robert Delgado, said he saw flames under a high-voltage electrical transmission tower near his home at around the time the fire broke out.

"We had just finished praying the rosary, like we do every night" when his wife looked out a window and saw fire at the bottom of the tower, Delgado told KABC-TV.

"We immediately ran downstairs, went to the backyard, pulled out the hoses," he said, but the wind-whipped flames moved with terrifying speed.

"There were flames and embers flying over those bushes at the back of our house and over our house," Delgado said. "I was overwhelmed at the sight." He called it a miracle that his home survived.

Southern California Edison said it owns the transmission tower shown on KABC-TV, but a spokeswoman would not confirm that was where the fire began. The utility said it could take a long time to determine the cause and origin of the fire.

Jonathan Stahl was driving home to Valencia when he saw the smoke and immediately diverted to a mobile home park in Sylmar where his grandmother and aunt live together.

The park had been nearly wiped out in 2008 when one of the city's most destructive fires leveled 500 homes.

"Oh my God, it's coming this way," his aunt said when Stahl called to alert them and she looked out the window, he said.

Stahl helped his grandmother, Beverly Stahl, 91, who was in her pajamas, and his aunt to pack clothing, medication and take their two dogs. They saw flames in the distance as they drove away.

"We just packed up what we could as fast as we could," Stahl said at an evacuation center at the Sylmar Recreation Center, massaging his grandmother's shoulders as she sat in a wheelchair with a Red Cross blanket on her lap. "If we'd stuck around, we would have been in trouble. Real big trouble."

The Los Angeles fire broke out hours after flaming garbage in a trash truck sparked another blaze when the driver dumped his load to keep the rig from catching fire. But the dry grass quickly ignited and powerful winds blew the flames into a mobile park in Calimesa, about 75 miles (120 kilometers) east of downtown Los Angeles.

Seventy-four buildings were destroyed and 16 others were damaged. Several residents of the park were unaccounted for.

The family of 89-year-old Lois Arvickson feared she died in the blaze that destroyed her home.

Arvickson had called her son to say she was evacuating.

"She said she's getting her purse and she's getting out, and the line went dead," Don Turner said.

He said neighbors saw his mother in her garage as flames approached. They later saw the garage on fire. Her car was still parked in the driveway.

## Sánchez shines as Nationals beat Cards 2-0 in NLCS opener

By JAY COHEN AP Sports Writer

ST. LOUIS (AP) — It turns out Washington's Big Three is a Big Four.

Don't forget about Aníbal Sánchez.

The right-hander carried a no-hit bid into the eighth inning, Howie Kendrick had two more big swings and the Nationals beat the St. Louis Cardinals 2-0 on Friday night in the NL Championship Series opener.

"Tonight was obviously vintage Aníbal," first baseman Ryan Zimmerman said.

Sánchez had allowed just three runners when he took the mound for the eighth. Zimmerman robbed Tommy Edman with an outstanding diving grab at full stretch for the first out, but pinch-hitter José Martínez cleanly singled to center with two down for the Cardinals' first hit.

"I just tried to keep focused on every pitch that I'm going to throw," Sánchez said. "I don't want to miss any kind of pitch in the middle in the zone against those guys."

Sánchez thought he was going to finish the no-hitter after the big grab.

"When Zimmerman caught the ball I said, 'OK, I've got it,'" the pitcher recalled.

Sean Doolittle relieved and got four straight outs to finish the one-hitter for his first postseason save in two years.

Sánchez and Doolittle made life easy on manager Dave Martinez after the Nationals placed closer Daniel Hudson on the paternity list before the franchise's first appearance in the NLCS since the Montreal Expos moved to Washington ahead of the 2005 season.

"I think the mood of the guys in the bullpen, we really wanted to find a way to pick him up and allow him to enjoy a really special moment with his wife and his family," Doolittle said.

Game 2 is back at Busch Stadium on Saturday. Washington ace Max Scherzer starts in his hometown, and Adam Wainwright gets the ball for St. Louis. Stephen Strasburg and Patrick Corbin will follow when the series moves to Nationals Park.

"People were talking about the Big Three," Cardinals manager Mike Shildt said, "but we got a guy tonight that we got to contend with and not overlook him."

St. Louis wasted a solid performance by Miles Mikolas, who pitched six innings of one-run ball in his second career playoff start.

Washington scored each of its runs with two outs. Kendrick doubled and came home on Yan Gomes' double in the second. Kendrick then singled in Adam Eaton in the seventh after Eaton reached on a one-out triple against Giovanny Gallegos.

Kendrick also had the big blow in Washington's Game 5 victory at Los Angeles on Wednesday night, a 10th-inning grand slam.

"It's going to be a fun series," Kendrick said. "Hopefully we can continue to play really good baseball and put up runs and get some wins."

Gomes finished with two hits while subbing for catcher Kurt Suzuki, who left the Nationals' clinching victory against the Dodgers with a head injury.

Sánchez became the first pitcher to start two postseason games with six hitless innings. Facing Boston for Detroit in the 2013 AL Championship Series opener, he was replaced by Al Alburquerque at the start of the seventh. The Tigers won 1-0, allowing their only hit when Daniel Nava singled off Joaquin Benoit with one out in the ninth.

Sánchez got his first playoff win since he struck out 12 in that game. He threw a no-hitter for the Florida Marlins in his 13th big league start as a rookie in 2006 and also has pitched four one-hitters.

He started this year 0-6 in his first nine starts but went 11-2 in his final 19.

For a while, it looked as if he might be headed to the third no-hitter in postseason history.

"He was good," Edman said. "He was just hitting his spots and keeping us off balance all night, and we just didn't execute our plan very well."

Sánchez retired his first 10 batters before Kolten Wong walked in the fourth on a chilly, breezy evening. Wong stole second and took third on Gomes' throwing error, but Marcell Ozuna hit an inning-ending



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foulout.

Pinch-hitter Randy Arozarena was hit by a pitch with one out in the sixth, but the 35-year-old Sánchez retired Dexter Fowler and Wong. He plunked Yadier Molina in the seventh before Matt Carpenter bounced out.

"He was spot on with everything he threw today," Gomes said.

Sánchez struck out five in his ninth career postseason start. He threw 67 of 103 pitches for strikes.

WORTH REMEMBERING

Mikolas retired Juan Soto on a bouncer to second for the final out of the fifth, leaving the bases loaded. The pitcher then grabbed his crotch briefly in the direction of the slugger.

"To me it's not good," Soto said. "I don't care. He can do whatever he wants. We're going to keep going."

TRAINER'S ROOM

Nationals: Suzuki and OF Victor Robles (strained right hamstring) were out of the starting lineup after they got hurt in the Division Series. Dave Martinez said Robles is about 80 to 85 percent. "To me it's worth him missing another day or two to get him fully back, hopefully," he said.

UP NEXT

Scherzer struck out 10 while pitching eight innings of one-run ball against the Dodgers. Wainwright threw 7 2/3 scoreless innings in Game 3 of the NLDS against the Braves.

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## Nationalism over NBA fandom: Fans support 'motherland' China

By YANAN WANG Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — When Wu Xintong's favorite team, the Los Angeles Lakers, played the Brooklyn Nets in Shanghai this Thursday, she broke a viewing streak of more than 10 years and deliberately missed the game.

Until recently, the 20-year-old student in northern Hebei province had followed her idol, Kobe Bryant, religiously. She meticulously recorded in a notebook the details of every Lakers performance, down to the time stamps of certain players' moves. By her own accounting, two-thirds of her closet is filled with Lakers jerseys and other purple and gold apparel, not to mention the Lakers mugs, stickers and cellphone cases she keeps in a box.

But then Houston Rockets general manager Daryl Morey tweeted last week in support of anti-government protests in Hong Kong, and everything changed for fans like Wu. A new chant flooded Chinese sports forums: "I can live without basketball, but I can't live without my motherland."

The burst of patriotic fervor — buoyed by Chinese companies swiftly suspending their NBA partnerships — came on the heels of a grand celebration marking 70 years of Communist Party rule in China. President Xi Jinping, the country's most powerful leader in decades, has rallied the populace around the promise of a Chinese Dream and national rejuvenation, a stronger domestic economy paired with global influence to rival that of the U.S. It is a vision increasingly trumpeted by ordinary Chinese people, who have found solidarity amid a protracted trade war and Hong Kong democracy movement, crises that the government has portrayed as deliberate bids to contain China's inevitable development.

On China's National Day, as audiences across the country tuned in for a military parade that showed off long-range missiles and a nuclear-armed glider, black-clad demonstrators in Hong Kong were burning the national flag and defacing photographs of Xi.

The government has depicted the mass pro-democracy protests, which began peacefully in June but have grown increasingly violent, as fringe riots led by foreign-influenced separatists bent on destroying the semi-autonomous Chinese city. This narrative has largely succeeded on the mainland, where internet memes deride the protesters as "trash youth" and refer to Hong Kong as China's "high-maintenance girl-

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friend." After NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said he supported Morey's right to free speech, angry online nationalists set their targets on the basketball league.

"You eat at our house and then spit in our food," said commenters on the Twitter-like Weibo platform, referring to the NBA's multibillion-dollar ties to China.

The NBA controversy may have been the most high-profile, but it was far from the only debacle to involve an American corporation offending the ruling Communist Party's political sensibilities within the same span of days. Apple and jeweler Tiffany & Co. suffered immediate censure for appearing to support the Hong Kong protests, video game giant Activision Blizzard punished a high-ranked gamer for shouting Hong Kong protest slogans during a webcast, and "South Park" published a tongue-in-cheek apology for an episode about U.S. corporations succumbing to Chinese censorship.

On online forums and Weibo, web users reveled in the power of the Chinese consumer. One circulated image depicted Morey as a cartoon character lying awake at night, sleepless after squandering the Chinese market.

"The outpouring of anger from Chinese internet users appears to be real rather than manufactured, with hardly any sign of dissent," said Jessica Chen Weiss, a Cornell University professor who studies Chinese nationalism. "But this chorus of outrage also reflects how effective the Chinese government's messaging and propaganda have been at fanning popular nationalism, depicting the Hong Kong protests as an illegitimate separatist movement and framing the ongoing trade and tech war as a national struggle against foreign aggression."

The outrage coincides with a swell of patriotism from the National Holiday at the start of this month. Nationwide, flags handed out by the government festooned shop entrances and residential buildings. As homework for the weeklong holiday, elementary schoolchildren were assigned to take a photo of themselves standing beside a flag, as well as to write poems about their feelings toward the motherland.

A film called "My People, My Country" depicted seven pivotal moments in the history of the People's Republic, featuring major stars as a fighter jet pilot, an atom bomb scientist, a taxi driver and others who have played roles in China's development. Many Chinese people said they couldn't stop humming the movie's theme, sung by pop idol Faye Wong and played on a loop in many public venues.

Historical events covered in "My People, My Country" included the 2008 Beijing Olympics, the anniversary of the end of the Second Sino-Japanese War, and the 1997 handover, when Hong Kong was returned to China from British rule.

"No force can stop the progress of the Chinese people," Xi said in a televised speech on National Day.

In a country where criticizing the Communist Party invites censorship and even arrest, expressions of love for the nation are a safer and more straightforward bet.

"Online nationalism is an outcome of patriotic education efforts: identification with the Chinese nation has become part of many people's identities, as have the stories of national humiliation at the hands of foreign imperialists and the recent rise to glory," said Florian Schneider, director of the Leiden Asia Centre in the Netherlands.

Schneider added, however, that much like angry online commentary elsewhere in the world, Chinese nationalist sentiments can rapidly fade as people lose steam or other topics vie for their attention.

Fans and companies' eagerness to attack and dismiss the NBA has not gone unquestioned in China. Some online commentators, including the editor-in-chief of the nationalistic Global Times, challenged the fruitfulness of completely disassociating from the NBA.

"Ending cooperation with the NBA does not have to become a kind of trend," said Hu Xijin, who in a separate commentary called patriotism one of China's greatest resources.

J.C. Wang, a 23-year-old sports microblogger in central Henan province, said he hopes young people won't blindly harass Chinese fans and NBA players in the name of patriotism, though he also feels that Morey and the NBA should apologize.

"For a large number of Chinese basketball fans, NBA is already an indispensable part of life," Wang said.

Then he echoed a conviction expressed by many online: "I love basketball and the NBA, but I also know

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why I can comfortably lie in bed at home and watch the NBA in the first place.”

In other words, without China’s economic progress, opportunities to enjoy such leisure activities wouldn’t even be available. This week, the Communist Party has proven that it can just as swiftly take these luxuries away.

While the pre-season Shanghai game between the Lakers and Nets went ahead as scheduled, it was not broadcast online or aired on state television. No Chinese media outlets reported on the game.

“If no one else around me is watching, (NBA fandom) may just become something that never happened,” Wang said.

Associated Press researchers Shanshan Wang and Yu Bing in Beijing contributed to this report.

## California outages ease after wind, fire danger move south

By **OLGA R. RODRIGUEZ** Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The lights were back on Friday for most of the nearly 2 million Northern California residents who lost electricity when the state’s largest utility switched it off this week in an effort to prevent wildfires.

The threat of widespread outages loomed in Southern California after the winds moved to the Los Angeles area, where a wildfire fueled by strong Santa Ana winds prompted officials to order the evacuation of 100,000 people from their homes in the foothills of the San Fernando Valley in Los Angeles County.

In that fire, one man went into cardiac arrest and died at the scene.

Pacific Gas & Electric Co. restored power in Northern California after workers inspected power lines to make sure it was safe. The winds had increased the possibility of transmission lines toppling to the ground or being hit by tree branches and starting wildfires.

The utility said it found 30 instances of weather-related damage to its equipment during the shutdown.

By Friday evening, PG&E said it had restored power to 97% of the 738,000 homes and businesses affected by the deliberate blackout that began Wednesday. About 21,000 customers remained without power.

Experts have said there are between two and three people for every electrical customer.

More than 6,000 ground workers and 44 helicopters were making safety inspections, which could only take place in daylight and were expected to resume at daybreak Saturday, PG&E said.

The El Dorado County Sheriff’s office said Friday that an autopsy determined that the death of 67-year-old Robert Mardis minutes after the blackout was due to severe coronary disease, not the loss of electricity. The office said the investigation has closed.

Marie Aldea of Pollock Pines had previously said Mardis, her 67-year-old father, was asleep when the electricity went out around 3:30 a.m. Wednesday and likely couldn’t wake up in time to get his back up machine, which ran on battery.

“We were all asleep, we heard my mom scream. She was crying,” she told KTXL-TV in Sacramento. “My dad went down in her arms, he was going for this oxygen machine.”

Aldea said her father’s health was poor, but she doesn’t understand why the utility turned off the power.

“No winds at all. And because of that, my father is gone,” she said.

Some people in the largely rural Butte, Plumas and Yuba counties and in Northern California’s wine country counties were in their third day without electricity.

Butte County is where a fire started by PG&E equipment last year decimated the town of Paradise and killed 85 people. In Napa and Sonoma counties north of San Francisco, the outages began on the two-year anniversary of deadly wildfires that killed 44 and destroyed thousands of homes.

PG&E faced hostility and second-guessing over the shut-offs, which prompted runs on supplies like coolers and generators and forced institutions to shut down.

Ryan Fisher, a partner in consumer goods and retail practice at global consultancy A.T. Kearney estimated \$100 million in \$200 million in fresh food was likely lost because of the outages along with \$30 million a day in consumer spending.

PG&E cast the blackouts as a matter of public safety to prevent 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.

The utility suggested it was already seeing the wisdom of its decision borne out as gusts topping 77 mph (122 kph) raked some hilltops where wildfire risk was extremely high.

Utility CEO Bill Johnson promised if future wind events require similar shut-offs, the utility will "do better" at communicating with customers. It's unacceptable that its website crashed, maps were inconsistent and call centers were overloaded, Johnson said.

"We were not adequately prepared," he said.

Associated Press writers Anne D'Innocenzio in New York City and Janie Har in San Francisco contributed to this report.

## **McAleenan, acting Homeland Security secretary, stepping down**

**By COLLEEN LONG Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Kevin McAleenan, a career civil servant who became the unlikely point man for President Donald Trump's hardline immigration policies, is stepping down as acting Homeland Security secretary after six months on the job.

McAleenan told The Associated Press he was leaving on his own terms — a contrast to other top administration officials pushed out during Trump's tenure. But his departure ends an awkward period of leadership — one in which McAleenan delighted Trump by getting border crossing numbers to fall yet remained an outsider in an administration where top figures — including in his own department — were brash Trump supporters popular on conservative media.

A White House official with knowledge of the decision confirmed that it was McAleenan's decision. The official wasn't authorized to speak publicly and spoke to AP on condition of anonymity. Trump tweeted that McAleenan was leaving to spend more time with his family and go to the private sector.

No replacement was yet named at the department, which has seen its ranks decimated through firings and resignations. The acting DHS deputy secretary is the head of the Transportation Security Administration.

And it creates yet another top-level vacancy in Trump's Cabinet — at the department responsible not only for immigration enforcement but also for helping states secure elections.

"We have worked well together with Border Crossings being Way down," Trump tweeted of McAleenan.

McAleenan tweeted that he had worked — with the president's support — to help stem the border crisis and that he would help ensure a smooth transition at DHS.

"I want to thank the President for the opportunity to serve the men and women of the Department of Homeland Security," McAleenan wrote.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi called McAleenan's departure "the latest sign of this Administration's failed leadership, which has worsened the humanitarian situation at the border, and injected pain and tragedy into countless lives."

McAleenan took over in April after Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen quit. Trump said he'd name a replacement in the coming week, the fifth leader of DHS in two years.

The 240,000-person department is tasked with election security and cybersecurity, disaster response and even the Secret Service. But in Trump's world, Homeland Security means one thing: immigration. The president's signature issue makes the department his focus and his ire. Balancing a White House eager to push major changes with the reality on the ground is a constant challenge.

McAleenan, who has years of experience with border issues, was seen in Trump's circle as someone who could get control over the crisis, despite his stance as a moderate Democrat who pushed for aid to be restored to Central American nations.

He was among those behind the administration's widely maligned practice of separating families at the border last year, though McAleenan later said he regretted the policy because it lost the public trust.

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He also expanded a program where asylum seekers are forced to wait their claims out in Mexico; more than 42,000 migrants have been subjected to it. And most recently, the administration made migrants ineligible for asylum if they crossed through a third country on their way to the U.S.

And he brokered major agreements with Central American countries on asylum and border security — something others were unable to do.

Alan Bersin, who worked closely with McAleenan in the Obama administration, said he did his job effectively in three administrations, Republican and Democrat, but was done in by a polarizing environment and lack of White House support.

“He did his best as a professional public servant but those qualities are not prized in this administration,” said Bersin, an assistant Homeland Security secretary for international affairs and Customs and Border Protection commissioner under Obama.

Bersin credited McAleenan’s close work with Mexico for helping lower border arrests from May peaks.

Earlier this spring, shortly before McAleenan took over, he stood in El Paso as U.S. Customs and Border Protection commissioner and warned that the border had reached a breaking point, with tens of thousands of Central American families crossing and border facilities unable to keep up.

It got worse — reports of children being held in squalid conditions for weeks at border facilities, young mothers with no medical care for their infants, and child deaths.

McAleenan went before Congress to ask for more than \$1 billion in emergency funding that eventually passed and some of the pressures eased; the last month of the budget year saw major declines in crossings.

But his tenure at the helm of DHS was marked by internal squabbling and jockeying by others in his department vying for top jobs. The sparring is likely to continue as Trump decides who will lead the department now.

And he didn’t always agree with White House-pushed policies. McAleenan, like others in the job before him, was opposed to an enforcement operation targeting families here illegally who were in the interior of the U.S., saying it was not worth the resource drain given the crisis at the border.

Trump, the head of Immigration and Customs Enforcement and others said it would be a show of force that could help deter people from coming in. Details of the operation were leaked to the media. Some, like former ICE director Tom Homan, seemed to point a finger at McAleenan during an appearance on Fox News. He later said he wasn’t accusing him.

McAleenan weathered the storm, but Mark Morgan, acting head of CBP, and Ken Cuccinelli, acting head of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, vocal supporters of Trump’s immigration policies, have since then become the face and mouth of the department, while McAleenan took a public back seat.

Christopher Wilson, deputy director of the Wilson Center’s Mexico Institute in Washington said people are questioning what McAleenan stands for, “questioning why he went along with the Trump administration and some of the things they did, but I believe he was a professional,” he said.

“He attempted to do his job in a nonpartisan, nonpolitical way. That may not be possible. That may be why he’s no longer there,” he said.

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Associated Press writers Zeke Miller in Washington and Elliot Spagat in San Diego contributed to this report.

## Esper: US is not abandoning Kurds in face of Turkish attack

By **ROBERT BURNS** and **LOLITA C. BALDOR** Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Top Pentagon officials on Friday denied the U.S. is abandoning its Syrian Kurdish allies in the face of a Turkish military offensive, although the future of a counterterrorism partnership with the Kurds was in grave doubt.

“We have not abandoned the Kurds. Let me be clear about that,” Defense Secretary Mark Esper told reporters. “We have not abandoned them. Nobody green-lighted this operation by Turkey — just the opposite. We pushed back very hard at all levels for the Turks not to commence this operation.”

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He spoke shortly before American forces came under Turkish artillery fire at a small outpost in north-eastern Syria. No Americans were hurt, and the Turks insist the Americans were not targeted. But the strike shows how swiftly the conflict is descending into turmoil.

Esper's remarks appeared aimed at strengthening the Trump administration's argument that it did all it could to stop the Turks and, failing that, was left with no reasonable option but to pull some U.S. troops away from the border. It's unclear how far the Turks will take their offensive, how badly the Kurds will be hit and whether U.S. forces will be compelled to withdraw entirely in coming days.

Many have called the limited U.S. pullback a grave mistake. Even some of President Donald Trump's staunchest Republican supporters have sharply criticized it as a decision that opened the door for the Turkish invasion. Some regard Trump's move as a betrayal of the U.S.-armed Kurdish fighters who have, at great cost, partnered with American forces against the Islamic State group since 2015.

Esper told a Pentagon news conference that Washington is "greatly disappointed" by the Turkish incursion. He said it has badly damaged already frayed relations with Turkey, a NATO ally ousted from a Pentagon fighter program in July for refusing to drop its purchase of a Russian air defense system that is incompatible with NATO.

Esper insisted the Kurds remain a viable partner, although the U.S. has said it will not step between them and the Turks.

"To be clear, we are not abandoning our Kurdish partner forces, and U.S. troops remain with them in other parts of Syria. The impulsive action of President (Recep Tayyip) Erdogan to invade northern Syria has put the United States in a tough situation," Esper said.

The Turkish incursion has complicated U.S. military efforts in the region, even as Washington seeks to deter Iran from further attacks on Saudi Arabia following a drone and cruise missile assault in September that damaged key Saudi oil facilities. Esper announced Friday that he was sending dozens more fighter jets and additional air defenses to Saudi Arabia, beefing up efforts to defend against Iran.

At the White House, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin put Turkey on notice that it could face "powerful sanctions" for its military incursion, and that the U.S. will "shut down the Turkish economy" if Ankara goes too far.

Mnuchin said the U.S. hopes it will not have to use new, expanded sanctions authority that Trump has authorized. The administration threatened sanctions against Turkey earlier this year for its purchase of the Russian S-400 air defense system, but never followed through.

The Turkish invasion also has raised the prospect of losing control of thousands of captured Islamic State fighters who are in detention facilities under the Kurds' control.

Esper called on the Turks to halt their offensive, but he told reporters that he has no indication they will. He lamented "the dramatic harm" done to the two nations' relationship.

Speaking alongside Esper, Army Gen. Mark Milley said the U.S.-backed Syrian Kurdish military known as the Syrian Democratic Forces, is still guarding camps holding IS prisoners.

Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the Turkish military operations across the border into Syria are still "relatively limited."

He said the air and ground operations, including strikes by fighters and drones, have been carried out near two Syrian villages by about 1,000 members of the Turkish-backed Free Syrian Army and hundreds of Turkish commando forces. The distance they have penetrated into Syria ranges from a kilometer or two (about 1 mile) in one area to about 10 kilometers (6.2 miles) in another.

Milley emphasized that U.S. forces are still working with Kurdish forces. He said U.S. policy is to continue with a counter-IS campaign except in one area of the incursion, but the Kurds themselves said earlier this week that they suspended their counter-IS efforts.

Milley said leaders of the Kurdish force have told some of their fighters to move north to defend what they consider to be their territory. But he said the U.S. is "encouraging them to not overreact at this point and to try to tamp things down in order to allow some sort of diplomatic resolution."

Esper's remarks were the Pentagon's most explicit criticism of the Turkish operation, which began

Wednesday as a campaign against the Syrian Kurd-led militia that has partnered with U.S. forces over the past five years to fight the Islamic State.

Trump has called the invasion a "bad idea" and held out the possibility of the U.S. mediating a settlement. A senior Turkish official in Washington suggested that the U.S. mediation offer would not be welcomed in Ankara due to Turkey's opposition to negotiating with terrorists. The official, who was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity, said previous efforts to broker deals with the Kurds had failed because negotiating "will not change their basic motivation and will not change their tactics."

The official reiterated that Turkey would halt the operation and withdraw its forces only after the border area is cleared of the Kurdish fighters it considers "terrorists" but would not stay in Syria "one more day than is necessary."

The Pentagon had said before the operation began that the U.S. military would not support it, but it had not openly criticized the invasion. The U.S. pulled about 30 special operations troops out of observation posts along the invasion route on the Syrian border.

Turkey views elements of the U.S.-backed Syrian militia as terrorists and a border threat.

The U.S. has about 1,000 troops in Syria.

International aid agencies have warned of a humanitarian crisis, with nearly a half-million people at risk near the border.

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Associated Press writers Matthew Lee and Kevin Freking contributed to this story

## **Boeing, FAA both faulted in certification of the 737 Max**

**By DAVID KOENIG AP Airlines Writer**

A panel of international aviation regulators found that Boeing withheld key information about the 737 Max from pilots and regulators, and the Federal Aviation Administration lacked the expertise to understand an automated flight system implicated in two deadly crashes of Max jets.

In its report issued Friday, the panel made 12 recommendations for improving the FAA's certification of new aircraft, including more emphasis on understanding how pilots will handle the increasing amount of automation driving modern planes.

The report, called a joint authorities technical review, focused on FAA approval of a new flight-control system called MCAS that automatically pushed the noses of Max jets down — based on faulty readings from a single sensor — before crashes in Indonesia and Ethiopia that killed 346 people.

During the certification process, Boeing changed the design of MCAS, making it more powerful, but key people at the FAA were not always told. The review committee said it believed that if FAA technical staff knew more about how MCAS worked, they likely would have seen the possibility that it could overpower pilots' efforts to stop the nose-down pitch.

MCAS evolved "from a relatively benign system to a not-so-benign system without adequate knowledge by the FAA," the panel's chief, former National Transportation Safety Board chairman Christopher Hart, told reporters. He faulted poor communication and said there was no indication of intentional wrongdoing.

Within hours after the release of the report, Boeing announced that CEO Dennis Muilenburg would lose his title as chairman of the aircraft maker. The move will allow Muilenburg to better focus on running the company, according to Boeing's board of directors, which named one their own, David L. Calhoun, to serve as non-executive chairman.

The Max has been grounded since March. The five-month international review was separate from the FAA's consideration of whether to recertify the plane once Boeing finishes updates to software and computers on the plane. Boeing hopes to win FAA approval before year end, although several previous Boeing forecasts have turned out to be wrong.

FAA Administrator Steve Dickson said in a prepared statement that the agency would review all recommendations from the panel and take appropriate action.

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Boeing said it would work with the FAA to review the panel's recommendations and "continuously improve the process and approach used to validate and certify airplanes going forward."

The international panel included members from U.S. agencies, and aviation regulators from Europe, Canada, China and six other countries.

Hart, the chairman, said the U.S. aviation-safety system "has worked very well for decades" — he noted there has been just one accident-related death on a U.S. airliner in the past 10 years — "but this is a system that has room for improvement."

The panel's report is likely to increase questions around the FAA's use of aircraft manufacturers' own employees in the certification of parts and systems. The report found signs that Boeing put "undue pressures" on employees who worked on Max certification, "which further erodes the level of assurance" in the cooperative approach.

Congressional committees are already looking into the FAA's use of designated company employees. An FAA critic, Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., called the report an indictment of "a failed, broken system of aviation safety scrutiny" that will add pressure to reform the program.

FAA officials have pointed to the safety record of American aviation as evidence that the program works. They add that it would require vast new staffing and cost billions for FAA employees to perform all necessary certification work. Hart said the FAA lacks the industry's technological expertise and has trouble hiring top engineers.

The report could also prompt a re-examination of automation, which experts say has led to erosion of flying skills among many pilots.

"As automation becomes more and more complex, pilots are less likely to fully understand it and more likely to have problems," Hart said. Most pilots can handle problems that occur in automated systems, he said, but "when some don't, that's a crash."

The panel said the FAA should use scientific studies to reconsider its assumptions about how quickly pilots can react to malfunctions.

Pilot unions, which criticized Boeing for not telling them about MCAS until after the first crash, praised the report.

"The first step toward ensuring this never happens again is recognizing where the failures were," said Dennis Tajer, a pilot for American Airlines and a spokesman for its pilot union. He said the findings should be incorporated into the FAA's current review of Boeing changes to the Max "because it will make a safer airplane and more highly trained pilots."

Jon Weeks, president of the pilot union at Southwest Airlines, said in a statement that the issues raised by the task force echo complaints by his union.

"As pilots, we have to be able to trust that Boeing will provide all the information we need to safely operate our aircraft," Weeks said. "In the case of the 737 Max, that absolutely did not happen."

Boeing expects FAA re-approval of the Max this year, and airlines would need one to two months more to resume flights. American, Southwest and United have all removed the Max from their schedules until January, after the Christmas travel rush.

Boeing is eager to resume delivering finished Max jets to customers. The company could be frustrated if regulators in other countries take longer than the FAA to review Boeing's changes to the plane.

Even if the FAA re-certifies the Max in December, "how much after that are the Europeans and the Chinese?" said Ken Herbert, an analyst who covers Boeing for Canaccord Genuity. "And what are the other potential issues that come out of those reviews? That's where the risk is."

## Shepard Smith leaves Fox News Channel

By DAVID BAUDER AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Shepard Smith, whose newscast on Fox News Channel seemed increasingly an outlier on a network dominated by supporters of President Donald Trump, abruptly quit after signing off his final newscast on Friday.



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Smith, who had signed a contract extension last spring, said that he had asked the network to let him out of his deal and it had agreed.

"Even in our currently polarized nation, it's my hope that the facts will win the day, that the truth will always matter, that journalism and journalists will thrive," he said.

His departure comes one day after Attorney General William Barr met privately with media mogul Rupert Murdoch, founder of Fox News, although Smith's representatives cautioned against conflating the two events.

Trump has been increasingly critical of personalities on Fox News that he views as disloyal. On Thursday, the president cited Smith and Fox analysts Andrew Napolitano and Donna Brazile in a tweet that said, "Fox News doesn't deliver for US anymore. It is so different than it used to be."

Asked about it later, Trump said, "Is he leaving? Oh, that's a shame. Is he leaving because he had bad ratings?"

Smith's show averaged nearly 1.3 million viewers the last three months, the Nielsen company said. That beats CNN and MSNBC. Fox's prime-time lineup, with more viewers available, generally gets around 3 million viewers.

Neil Cavuto, who anchors the broadcast following Smith's, looked shocked after his colleague made the announcement.

"Whoa," Cavuto said. "Like you, I'm a little stunned."

Smith was one of Fox News Channel's original hires in 1996, and was a particular favorite of Roger Ailes, the former Fox chairman who was ousted in 2016 following misconduct charges and died the following spring. While he often angered many of Fox's conservative viewers, Smith's work was most prominently cited by the network when it received criticism for being too partisan.

On his afternoon newscast, Smith had frequently given tough reports debunking statements made by Trump and his supporters — even the Fox News opinion hosts that rule the network's prime-time lineup.

Two weeks ago, Smith clashed with Tucker Carlson that started when Napolitano, speaking on Smith's program, said that it was a crime for Trump to solicit aid for his campaign from a foreign government, in this case Ukraine. Later that night, Carlson asked his own analyst, Joseph diGenova, about that and he called Napolitano a fool.

The next day, Smith said that "attacking our colleague who is here to offer legal assessments, on our air, in our work home, is repugnant."

In an interview with Time magazine in March 2018, Smith said that "they don't really have any rules on the opinion side.

"They can say whatever they want," he said. "Some of our opinion programming is there strictly to be entertaining. I get that. I don't work there. I wouldn't work there."

On a broadcast in July, Smith called out Trump over his "misleading and xenophobic eruption" of criticism aimed at a group of Democratic congresswoman who are minorities, saying the president's remarks were part of a pattern of distraction and division.

"The news department (at Fox) has just taken a huge hit with the loss of Shep," said Carl Cameron, a longtime former reporter at Fox. "For journalists like Chris Wallace and Bret Baier, it's going to get even harder."

Smith, 55, said he is not retiring, although his agreement with Fox will forbid him from working elsewhere "at least in the near future."

Fox said that a news broadcast would continue in its 3 p.m. ET hour with rotating substitute anchors.

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Associated Press correspondents Mark Kennedy, Alicia Rancilio and Jake Coyle in New York and Ashraf Khalil in Washington contributed to this report.

## US-China issues of dispute remain vast despite trade truce

By PAUL WISEMAN and KEVIN FREKING Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration and China declared a temporary truce Friday in their 15-month trade war. Yet the grievances that led them to impose tariffs on hundreds of billions of dollars of each other's goods remain largely unresolved.

The administration agreed to suspend a tariff hike on \$250 billion worth of Chinese imports that was set to take effect Tuesday. And China agreed to buy up to \$50 billion in U.S. farm products.

The de-escalation in tension between the world's two largest economies was welcomed by financial markets. The U.S.-China hostilities have alarmed investors and escalated costs and uncertainties for many businesses.

President Donald Trump announced the cease-fire in a White House meeting with the top Chinese negotiator, Vice Premier Liu He. The news followed two days of talks in Washington, the 13th round of negotiations between the two countries' delegations.

"It took us a long time to get here, but it's something that's going to be great for China and great for the USA," Trump said.

Many of the details, though, remained to be worked out. And some of the thorniest issues — such as U.S. allegations that China forces foreign companies to hand over trade secrets — were dealt with only partially, or not at all, and will require further talks.

"The president is acting as if a lot of Chinese concessions have been nailed down, and they just haven't," said Derek Scissors, a China specialist at the conservative American Enterprise Institute.

The negotiators have so far reached their tentative agreement only in principle. No documents have been signed.

And the threat of escalation still hangs over the two countries: Trump has yet to drop plans to impose tariffs that are set to take effect Dec. 15 on an additional \$160 billion in Chinese products — a move that would extend the sanctions to just about everything China ships to the United States.

While providing scant details of what was agreed to Friday, the White House said Beijing pledged to be more transparent about how it sets the value of its currency, the yuan. The administration has long accused China of manipulating the yuan lower to give its exporters a competitive edge in foreign markets.

China has also agreed to open its markets to U.S. banks and other financial services providers, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said.

The trade war has inflicted an economic toll on both countries. U.S. manufacturers have been deeply hurt by rising costs from the tariffs and by uncertainty over when and how the trade hostilities may end. Friday's truce at least opens the door to progress.

"They're trying to de-escalate," said Timothy Keeler, a former chief of staff at the Office of the U.S. Trade Representatives. "I think it serves both sides' interests because both sides were feeling pain."

Stock prices had been up substantially all day, mainly in anticipation of a significant trade agreement. But once the White House announced the contours of the tentative accord, the market shed some of its gains. The Dow Jones industrial average, which had risen more than 500 points at its high, closed up 319.

"This is an encouraging first phase," said Craig Allen, president of the U.S.-China Business Council. "We await word on how implementation will be measured and in what timeframe, as well as details on scheduling subsequent phases."

The U.S. and Chinese negotiators didn't deal this week with a major dispute over the Chinese telecommunications giant Huawei. The U.S. has imposed sanctions on Huawei, saying it poses a threat to national security because its equipment can be used for espionage. Trump has said he was willing to use Huawei as a bargaining chip in the trade talks.

The administration still has in place tariffs on more than \$360 billion worth of Chinese imports. What changed Friday was that Trump suspended plans to raise existing tariffs on \$250 billion in Chinese products from 25% to 30% next week.

Beijing has lashed back by taxing about \$120 billion in U.S. goods, focusing on soybeans and other

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agricultural products in a shot at Trump supporters in rural America.

Last year, U.S. farm exports to China plummeted 53% to less than \$9.2 billion. The additional Chinese purchases that were promised Friday could provide an economic boost to hard-hit U.S. farmers. Mnuchin said the \$40 billion to \$50 billion in agricultural sales cited by Trump is an annual amount that would be ramped up to "within the second year" of the agreement.

The two sides were close to a more comprehensive deal in early May. But talks stalled after the administration accused China of reneging on earlier commitments. Trump acknowledged that Friday's deal has yet to be put down on paper but said that wouldn't be a problem.

"China wants it badly, and we want it also," the president said. "We should be able to get that done over the next four weeks."

Myron Brilliant, executive vice president of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, drew encouragement from Friday's developments.

"Finally, a ray of hope for the U.S.-China trade relationship," he said. "While there remains significant work ahead to address many of the most important U.S. trade and investment priorities, we will continue to lend our full support."

Still, Gregory Daco, an economist at Oxford Economics, suggested that the partial nature of the deal won't relieve much of the uncertainty surrounding trade policy that has discouraged many American companies from investing in new equipment and expanding.

"For businesses this will mean less damage, not greater certainty ... "Beyond the promises and niceties, the deal doesn't address key underlying issues," Daco said in a research note.

The two countries are deadlocked primarily over the Trump administration's assertions that China deploys predatory tactics — including outright theft — in a sharp-elbowed drive to become the global leader in robotics, self-driving cars and other advanced technology.

Beijing has been reluctant to make the kind of substantive policy reforms that would satisfy the administration. Doing so would likely require scaling back China's aspirations for technological supremacy, which it sees as crucial to its prosperity.

AP Business Writers Christopher Rugaber and Bani Sapiro contributed to this report.

## Judge will halt lawsuits against Purdue Pharma, its owners

By GEOFF MULVIHILL Associated Press

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. (AP) — A judge is pushing for a settlement of more than 2,600 lawsuits facing OxyContin maker Purdue Pharma with a decision Friday to pause litigation against the company and members of the wealthy Sackler family that owns the company.

In a hearing Friday, U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Roberts Drain contemplated stopping the suits for six months before ending up with a shorter injunction until Nov. 6 to allow the parties time to work out what would be needed to keep the litigation on hold so negotiations can continue.

Purdue filed for bankruptcy last month as part of a tentative settlement. But half the states and hundreds of local governments have refused to sign on, leading to uncertainty about the deal.

Twenty-five state governments asked the judge to let suits against Sackler family members move ahead. But the judge said that would wipe out the company's assets.

"A trial here will simply be an autopsy," Drain said.

The question of allowing suits to continue is not settled, but it got a boost Friday.

Just before the hearing, a committee of unsecured creditors that includes opioid crisis victims said it would support pausing the lawsuits.

That deal came at a price. The company agreed it would put \$200 million into a fund in the next six months to pay for emergency relief of a crisis that has been linked to the deaths of more than 400,000 people in the U.S. since 2000.

The deal with the unsecured creditors also calls for the Sackler family members to provide financial

information.

But the committee has not accepted the company's overall settlement offer.

"We hope to be getting things that will help us decide whether we support the settlement," the committee's lawyer, Arik Preis, said in court Friday.

Some of the lawsuits accuse Sackler family members of fraudulently transferring money from Purdue.

Drain said states should try to resolve their suits through the negotiations in bankruptcy court because they could potentially get key Sackler information more quickly this way than through separate suits.

He also said that he can bind the parties to a deal to use any money in a settlement to deal with a crisis. He noted that when states settled with tobacco companies in the late 1990s, they ended up putting the money toward other projects.

Drain said that lawyers should not assume that the settlement proposal Purdue made last month will be the final one. That offer includes handing over the entire company plus at least \$3 billion from Sackler relatives over seven years. In time, the proposed settlement could be worth up to \$12 billion over time.

Drain said there was another feature of it: Handing over control of the company to a trust that would contribute future profits to the settlement also means the trustees could make all the company documents public.

Some officials have been pushing for a way to examine fully the company's role in the opioid crisis.

But those benefits did not immediately sell all states on Drain's decision. In a statement, Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey said she would continue "advocating for accountability and justice."

After the hearing, Lauren Clinton, an assistant attorney general for the state of Washington, said, "we continue to believe what we said I court" about wanting to move ahead with a lawsuit against Purdue scheduled to be tried next year in state court.

For Purdue, though, the pause was a significant development.

"The Court's decision is an essential next step in preserving Purdue's assets for the ultimate benefit of the American public. The company will work tirelessly and collaboratively during this pause in the litigation to continue to build support for the settlement structure," the company said in a statement.

To work out a longer pause in suits against the company, lawyers said they would work out ways to monitor the company's activities and which parties could receive more Purdue and Sackler financial information.

While the judge said he would order the litigation pause, several states agreed voluntarily to adhere to its terms.

Follow Geoff Mulvihill at <http://www.twitter.com/geoffmulvihill>

## With warming, get used to blackouts to prevent wildfires

By **SETH BORENSTEIN AP Science Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Expect more preventative power blackouts in California as the climate gets hotter and drier and the wildfire season gets nastier and longer, scientists say.

The Golden State already is fire-prone with lots of dry plants and woodlands — but add high winds that can knock down power lines or cause them to spark, then watch out, wildfire experts say.

The darker outlook hits close to home for Stanford University climate scientist Chris Field, who like so many others had his electricity cut off Thursday by Pacific Gas & Electric Co.

"At this point we don't have a better option for reducing risk than shutting electricity off," Field said. "It's better than having a whole community burn down."

Mike Flannigan, a professor of wildland fire at the University of Alberta in Canada, said "the new reality" is that there will be more fires with drier and hotter weather from man-made global warming. So he said power shutdowns like those by California utilities are more likely to happen to try to avoid catastrophic fires with losses of lives and property like those that plunged PG&E into bankruptcy.

"Power shutdowns, that's pretty dramatic. It's very effective. It's overkill," Flannigan said. "It's a trend." Flannigan said there is some build-up of certain trees and plants as fuel, but that's usually not a big

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problem. "It's just fire weather is getting more severe," he said. "Fuels are drier, which means more fuel to burn. The more fuel to burn means more intense" fires.

The area burned in California wildfires has increased fivefold from 1972 to 2018 and that's been "driven by drying of fuels promoted by human-induced warming," according to a June study in the scientific journal *Earth's Future*.

Summer "warm season" days in California have increased in temperature by 2.5 degrees (1.4 degrees Celsius) in the past century, the study said.

"Mostly we see a strong summertime effect," study co-author Jennifer Balch, a fire scientist at the University of Colorado, said in an email. "But warmer temperatures in the fall also dry out fuels and make big, wind-driven wildfires more likely."

"Power outages are just a Band-Aid on the problem of human ignitions," Balch said. "People provide the ignitions for 84% of our nation's wildfires. And it's not just downed power lines that cause sparks. Campfires, burning debris, driving off the side of the road, electrical equipment, and fireworks are all ways that we start fires."

California's fire season traditionally started in fall but the higher temperatures and long stretches of little precipitation have led to wildfires becoming more common throughout the year. It's especially dangerous in fall, when high winds can knock down power lines and spark fires that feed on the vegetation that dried out during the hot summer months.

The key, said Field of Stanford, is the time between the start of the high winds and the start of winter rainstorms. If it takes too long, the fire potential worsens.

These types of winds — called Santa Ana in Southern California but more properly called downsloping because they also occur in Northern California — historically have caused power lines to arc and start fires, said Robyn Heffernan, the fire weather science meteorologist for the National Weather Service.

The winds that come down mountains warm and dry out and the speed increases, Heffernan said.

They are common regular and natural weather phenomenon, but scientists will likely be looking to see if there are increasing or decreasing trends that can be connected to man-made climate change, Heffernan said.

A January 2019 study predicts that the downslope winds in Southern California should be less frequent, but just as strong, as climate change progresses.

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Follow Seth Borenstein on Twitter: @borenbears

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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.

## **NOT REAL NEWS: A look at what didn't happen this week**

**By BEATRICE DUPUY and ARIJETA LAJKA Associated Press**

A roundup of some of the most popular but completely untrue stories and visuals of the week. None of these is legit, even though they were shared widely on social media. The Associated Press checked them out. Here are the real facts:

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**CLAIM:** Following a ban on face masks, protesters in Hong Kong use wearable face projectors that trick the facial recognition system used by the government.

**THE FACTS:** A video circulating on social media that shows a wearable projector is conceptual. It doesn't work. Artist Jing-cai Liu designed the head piece along with a group of students at the University of Arts Utrecht. Liu told The Associated Press in an email that the artwork was designed to show how privacy might be protected in public places. "It was made to be a thought provoking art piece," she said. Liu's website features a video of a woman wearing the head gear as images are beamed onto her face to simulate how it would work. The video, labeled as showing a working face projector, began circulating widely on social

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media after Hong Kong instituted an emergency ordinance to ban masks at rallies. Liu said her piece was not intended to be political. She found out that people were sharing her video in relation to the protests when her friends began tagging her in posts with the false caption.

**CLAIM:** Video shows a banner stating "Betrayed and murdered the Kurdish people" hanging from Trump International Hotel in Las Vegas.

**THE FACTS:** The video posted on Twitter on Oct. 9 was digitally altered to add a massive yellow and black banner stating "Betrayed and murdered the Kurdish people! Greenpeace" under the Trump name. The video circulated widely on social media platforms, receiving more than 3.3 million views on Twitter alone by midday Friday. The video was created by @Paullidicul in response to President Donald Trump's decision earlier this week to pull U.S. troops out of northeast Syria, which opened the way to attacks by Turkey on U.S.-allied Kurdish forces. Trump's decision was criticized for abandoning Kurdish allies who helped drive the Islamic State group from the region. Some users criticized @Paullidicul, a play on the word political, for posting a fake video, but other responded as if it were authentic. "Thank you VEGAS...!! #KurdsBetrayedByTrump," stated one tweet that shared the video. The same video was used by @PaulLeeTicks, a now suspended Twitter account, to create a similar post, which showed a banner on the hotel stating "ConcentrationCamps! Greenpeace." Greenpeace USA responded to the @Paullidicul post tweeting, "We want to make clear that this is a computer generated animation and not executed by Greenpeace." Travis Nichols, media director for Greenpeace USA, told the AP that the group does not know why their name was included on the banner. "We do real action in real places, and take real risks," Nichols said. In July 2017, Greenpeace activists hung a banner off the Trump tower in Chicago. Trump hotel officials did not respond to requests for comment.

**CLAIM:** Photo shows a massive crowd in Baghdad demonstrating in early October against corruption.

**THE FACTS:** The photo was taken in 2017, not during recent protests. Social media users began sharing the falsely captioned photo during recent protests in Iraq. The country has been embroiled in anti-government clashes as protesters demand jobs, improved services and an end to corruption. The photo, which shows flags being waved in a tightly packed crowd in Baghdad's Tahrir Square, was taken on March 24, 2017, by Reuters photographer Alaa Al-Marjani. The caption on the photo says it shows "supporters of the Iraqi Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr" gathering in Tahrir Square to demonstrate against corruption. Recent violent protests against government corruption have left more than 100 people dead and thousands wounded, the AP reported Wednesday. Security forces have used live ammunition and tear gas to quell the protests.

**CLAIM:** Video shows migrant children attacking a teacher and vandalizing a classroom in Europe.

**THE FACTS:** A video showing students rampaging in a classroom circulated on Facebook in early October with a false caption that stated in French: "migrant children at school." The incident actually occurred in May 2019 at a school in Brazil. In the video, students throw books and push desks toward the teacher. The teacher confronts some of the students and then leaves the room while the students continue the disruption. "Now you understand why our teachers are not doing well anymore and why there are so many who are looking for another job," wrote the Facebook user who identified the students as migrants. The post, which appeared to be from Belgium, received more than 950,000 views. The incident occurred in May at the Maria de Lourdes Teixeira School in Carapicuíba, a municipality in São Paulo. Multiple news outlets in Brazil reported on the incident at the time. São Paulo's Governor João Doria also tweeted about the attack in early June. According to the online news site G1, the Carapicuíba Regional Board of Education said in a statement that the students were suspended.

This is part of The Associated Press' ongoing effort to fact-check misinformation that is shared widely online, including work with Facebook to identify and reduce the circulation of false stories on the platform.

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## Arrest of Giuliani associates ensnares 'Congressman 1'

By **MICHAEL BIESECKER, DESMOND BUTLER and BRIAN SLODYSKO** Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Businessmen with ties to Rudy Giuliani lobbied a U.S. congressman in 2018 for help ousting the American ambassador to Ukraine around the same time they committed to raising money for the lawmaker.

An indictment unsealed Thursday identified the lawmaker only as "Congressman 1." But the donations described in the indictment match campaign finance reports for former Rep. Pete Sessions, a Texas Republican who lost his re-election bid in November 2018.

Sessions, 64, has denied wrongdoing. But the federal indictment alleges "Congressman 1" was part of what prosecutors described as a coordinated effort to remove Ambassador Marie Yovanovitch at the behest of an unnamed Ukrainian official.

Sessions, who has been weighing a political comeback, now finds himself entangled in the impeachment investigation centered on President Donald Trump's dealings with Ukraine as well as Giuliani's relationships in the former Soviet republic.

The indictment was made public Thursday following the arrest of two Florida businessmen with ties to Giuliani. It alleges that Lev Parnas and Igor Fruman leveraged a flurry of GOP political donations in a campaign to force Yovanovitch's removal, an effort prosecutors say was aided by laundered foreign money.

By Friday, other GOP candidates who received money pledged to donate or return contributions from Parnas and Fruman, including Kentucky Rep. Andy Barr and Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, whose spokeswoman said he would return \$50,000.

Parnas and Fruman's outsized political giving allowed the two relatively unknown entrepreneurs to quickly win access to the highest levels of the Republican Party — including face-to-face meetings with Trump at the White House and Mar-a-Lago.

On May 9, 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 !!"

Later that same day, Sessions sent a letter to U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo seeking Yovanovitch's dismissal because he had "notice of concrete evidence" that she had "spoken privately and repeatedly about her disdain for the current Administration."

Campaign finance records show Parnas and Fruman later contributed \$2,700 apiece to Session's campaign, the maximum allowed individual contribution.

Sessions said Thursday that he will vigorously defend himself against any allegations of wrongdoing.

"I was first approached by these individuals for a meeting about the strategic need for Ukraine to become energy independent," Sessions said, according to a written statement. "There was no request in that meeting and I took no action."

Sessions added that "several congressional colleagues" were the source of the allegations in his letter claiming that Yovanovitch had disparaged Trump, not Parnas and Fruman. He also sought to distance himself from Giuliani, who he described as a friend of more than 30 years.

"I do not know what his business or legal activities in Ukraine have been," the ex-congressman said of the president's personal lawyer.

Parnas and Fruman were arrested Wednesday evening as they attempted to board an overseas flight at Dulles International Airport in Washington. Correia and another man, a Ukrainian-born U.S. citizen named Andrey Kukushkin, are also charged in the case.

Though Parnas posted a May 2018 photo of himself with a smiling Trump during a private dinner at the White House also attended by Fruman, the president denied having any idea who the two arrested men are.

"I don't know those gentlemen," said Trump, speaking on the South Lawn of the White House. "Now it's possible that I have a picture with them, because I have a picture with everybody ... I don't know them."

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I don't know about them. I don't know what they do. ... Maybe they were clients of Rudy. You have to ask Rudy."

A week after Parnas and Fruman visited Sessions in Washington, a company controlled by the pair, Global Energy Producers, gave \$325,000 to a political action committee supporting President Donald Trump's reelection bid, according to the committee's financial disclosure reports.

The pair obtained the money for the contribution through a private loan and then funneled it through a complex series of wire transfers through multiple bank accounts. Prosecutors alleged the transactions were intended to illegally conceal the true source of the funds.

Tax documents filed by a nonprofit wing of America First Action in November 2018 show a handful of Trump allies held key positions at the group, including Texas GOP fundraiser Roy Bailey, a longtime Sessions political supporter who was the finance co-chairman of Trump's inaugural committee. Bailey, a lobbyist, is also a longtime business partner of Giuliani's.

Also serving in leadership roles at the Trump-aligned PAC were Tommy Hicks Jr., a Dallas investor and the current Republican National Committee co-chairman, as well as Nick Ayers, the former chief of staff to Vice President Mike Pence.

Four days after the \$325,000 donation, Parnas posted a photo of himself and Fruman at an intimate "Power Breakfast!!!" with Hicks and Donald Trump Jr., the president's eldest son, at the Beverly Hills Polo Lounge.

America First Action would go on to spend \$3.1 million supporting Sessions' failed reelection effort.

U.S. laws allow unlimited donations by corporate entities to so-called super PACS, political action committees that are required to act independently from candidates.

Columbia University Law professor Richard Briffault told the AP that loopholes in U.S. law make it harder to detect foreign actors trying to influence the U.S. political system by funneling money through shell companies to super PACS. In this case, the money trail was revealed through a lawsuit against Parnas that forced the release of transfers and banking records earlier this year.

"What makes this so dramatic is who these people are, their connection to Giuliani," said Briffault, who studies campaign finance. "I think it's a bombshell because of its connection to Ukraine and Trump."

AP reported on Sunday that Parnas told associates at two meetings in March that Trump planned to oust Yovanovitch, a career diplomat with a reputation for fighting corruption, with someone more amenable to their business plans, according to four people, three of whom spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity over concerns of retaliation. At the time, Parnas and Fruman were pursuing a potentially lucrative deal to sell shiploads of liquefied natural gas from the United States to Naftogaz, Ukraine's state-owned gas giant.

In what appeared to be a coordinated media campaign early this year, conservative outlets blitzed Yovanovitch with stories claiming she had protected Joe Biden and his son Hunter Biden from Ukrainian prosecutors.

Copies of some of these stories were later sent to the State Department stuffed in a manila envelope. Giuliani told The New York Times last week that the documents, which were recently provided to Congress by the State Department's inspector general, were produced by a "professional investigator who works for my company."

Yovanovitch was recalled to Washington in May, months before she had been scheduled to leave her post in Kyiv.

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Associated Press writers Matthew Lee in Washington and Larry Neumeister in New York City contributed.

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## Religious right sticks by Trump as political heat rises

By ELANA SCHOR Associated Press

As the threat of impeachment looms, President Donald Trump is digging in and taking solace in the base that helped him get elected: conservative evangelical Christians who laud his commitment to enacting their agenda.

Trump told reporters last week that “the biggest pastors” have assured him that Christians are “electrified” by his clash with Democrats who are probing his pushes for Ukraine to launch an investigation into a political rival, former Democratic Vice President Joe Biden.

And the prominent evangelicals who have proven Trump’s most stalwart allies are staying in his corner for the impeachment fight, even as some push back against his withdrawal of U.S. troops from northern Syria — a move that imperils scores of Kurdish Muslims and Christians in the region. Although Trump’s Syria pullback is alarming conservative Christians whose support he needs to win reelection, their rallying against his impeachment indicates a bond that appears strong enough to withstand the current foreign policy rift as 2020 balloting nears.

South Carolina pastor and televangelist Rev. Mark Burns, a backer since the early days of Trump’s 2016 campaign, said in an interview that “it’s important that religious leaders reach out to the president.” Burns contended that Trump’s struggles are partly connected to his Christian faith, adding that “Satan wants to remove a vessel that God has installed to again be a blessing to the religious community.”

Burns said he spoke with Trump briefly last week, when the president met with black conservatives at the White House, and recalled hearing the Holy Spirit “as I crossed the street to walk into Trump Tower” for their first meeting in 2015. Maryland-based Pentecostal Bishop Harry Jackson, who has met with Trump at the White House, said that he plans to hold a large prayer gathering this year for “healing in the nation.”

But it’s not clear whether Trump is seeking or receiving the religious solace that former President Bill Clinton sought as his own impeachment plight intensified two decades ago. Clinton named two progressive pastors to provide spiritual reprieve in 1998, as an extramarital affair earlier in his presidency metastasized into national scandal.

The current president has no religious leaders in such a defined role, though he gets frequent backup from Southern Baptist megachurch pastor Robert Jeffress — who warned of “a civil war like fracture” from removing Trump — and Rev. Franklin Graham. The son of the late Rev. Billy Graham has denounced the impeachment investigation but this week asked followers to “pray w/me” that Trump would reconsider his ceding of Syrian territory to Turkey.

Another evangelical Trump ally who has defended Trump’s Syria withdrawal, Liberty University President Jerry Falwell Jr., said in an interview that he and the president are in regular communication but described himself as “not a spiritual adviser, not a counselor. I’m just his friend.” Falwell Jr.’s wife Becki said she also maintains a friendly, mutually supportive text-message conversation with First Lady Melania Trump.

Rev. Tony Suarez, who joined Trump’s evangelical advisory board during the 2016 campaign, said that he and the president did not talk impeachment when he last visited the White House two weeks ago. If he’d had the chance, Suarez said, he would offer to pray with Trump, just as “I would offer to pray with anyone who was going through a trying period in their life.”

The Democratic impeachment inquiry deals with Trump’s bid to get Ukrainian authorities looking into unfounded corruption allegations against Joe Biden, a top rival in the 2020 election, and his son, Hunter. Biden’s son served on the board of a Ukrainian gas company while the former vice president steered U.S. policy toward Kyiv.

No evidence has emerged to support Trump’s charges of improper behavior by the Bidens. But Suarez, the executive vice president of the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference, and other pro-Trump evangelicals dismissed the impeachment investigation as a politically motivated effort by Democrats to undercut the president.

As Trump celebrates their support, with plans to address religious conservatives on Saturday at the Values Voter Summit in Washington, dozens of other pastors are aligning to support the impeachment

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inquiry with a day of prayer on Sunday.

"We welcome the light of truth, honesty, and transparency that this moment affords our country, whatever may be revealed," wrote members of the group Red Letter Christians, many of them progressives, who signed a statement supporting Democrats' investigation. "This is not a matter of partisanship, but of deepest principle."

One signatory on the Red Letter group's call for prayer is Rev. Tony Campolo, who counseled and prayed with Clinton during the nation's last impeachment crisis.

Campolo recalled concerns about appearing to have been "used" for cover by the former president. Nonetheless, Campolo described his role as helping Clinton "acknowledge he had sinned and publicly repent." He challenged religious conservatives close to the current president to seek repentance from him.

"I would like religious leaders who surround the president to raise questions about his honesty," Campolo, a professor emeritus at Pennsylvania's Eastern University, said in an interview. "There are so many things he says that are blatantly untrue."

The religious leaders are representative of Trump's unwavering support from the evangelical community. No degree of skepticism about Trump's character has shaken his support from white evangelicals, an overwhelming majority of whom have consistently registered approval of the president in polls. A Pew Research Center survey in August found 77% of white evangelical Protestants approving of Trump's job performance.

One potential vulnerability for Trump may be the geopolitical fallout from his administration's Syria withdrawal, which already has alienated congressional Republicans.

If the situation in Syria "affects Israel's independence in any way, then that would put people in a really tough spot," Sam Rohrer, a former Pennsylvania state lawmaker and president of the conservative American Pastors Network, said in an interview. But Rohrer also made clear that "the president will get the benefit of the doubt" from his evangelical backers.

Indeed, while Trump's use of profane language and the multiple sexual assault allegations against him have sparked debate about why the religious right's support is so enduring, Suarez says most backers never expected the president to be "the model of Christianity."

Noting that "as the Bible says, all of us have fallen short," Suarez said Trump's close ties to his evangelical base stem from his success achieving its policy goals, from restricting abortion to defending Israel.

Evangelical strategist Ralph Reed sounded a similar note this week, telling Fox News that "whatever you think of Trump personally, it is undeniable" that he has succeeded in enacting conservative Christians' agenda. Reed is set to publish a book next year marshaling Christians on the president's behalf, and his Faith and Freedom Coalition group plans to spend millions of dollars mobilizing voters.

Johnnie Moore, another member of Trump's evangelical advisory board, lauded the "substantive relationship" and access his community has to the White House.

"When evangelicals disagree with the administration, they have an opportunity to have a dialogue about those disagreements," Moore said in an interview. "And very often, those discussions have led to a change of policy."

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Associated Press religion coverage receives support from the Lilly Endowment through the Religion News Foundation. The AP is solely responsible for this content.

## Alexei Leonov, 1st human to walk in space, dies in Moscow

By NATALIYA VASILYEVA Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Alexei Leonov, the legendary Soviet cosmonaut who became the first human to walk in space 54 years ago — and who nearly didn't make it back into his space capsule — has died in Moscow at 85.

The Russian space agency Roscosmos made the announcement on its website Friday but gave no cause for his death. Leonov had health issues for several years, according to Russia media.

Showing just how much of a space pioneer Leonov was, NASA broke into its live televised coverage of

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a spacewalk by two Americans outside the International Space Station to report Leonov's death.

"A tribute to Leonov as today is a spacewalk," Mission Control in Houston said.

Leonov — described by the Russian Space Agency as Cosmonaut No. 11 — was an icon both in his country as well as in the U.S. He was such a legend that the late science fiction writer Arthur C. Clarke named a Soviet spaceship after him in his "2010" sequel to "2001: A Space Odyssey."

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday sent his condolences to Leonov's family, calling him a "true pioneer, a strong and heroic person."

"Infinitely committed to his vocation, he left a truly legendary mark in the history of space exploration and in the history of our country," Putin said on the Kremlin's website.

Leonov was born in 1934 into a large peasant family in western Siberia. Like countless Soviet peasants, his father was arrested and shipped off to Gulag prison camps under Soviet dictator Josef Stalin, but he managed to survive and reunite with his family.

The future cosmonaut had a strong artistic bent and even thought about going to art school before he enrolled in a pilot training course and, later, an aviation college. Leonov did not give up sketching even when he flew into space, and took colored pencils with him on the Apollo-Soyuz flight in 1975 to draw.

That mission was the first one between the Soviet Union and the United States and was carried out at the height of the Cold War. Apollo-Soyuz 19 was a prelude to the international cooperation seen aboard the current International Space Station.

But Leonov staked his place in space history ten years earlier, on March 18, 1965, when he exited his Voskhod 2 space capsule secured by a tether.

"I stepped into that void and I didn't fall in," the cosmonaut recalled years later. "I was mesmerized by the stars. They were everywhere — up above, down below, to the left, to the right. I can still hear my breath and my heartbeat in that silence."

Spacewalking always carries a high risk but Leonov's pioneering venture was particularly nerve-wracking, according to details of the exploit that only became public decades later.

His spacesuit had inflated so much in the vacuum of space that he could not get back into the spacecraft. He had to open a valve to vent oxygen from his suit to be able to fit through the hatch.

Leonov's 12-minute spacewalk preceded the first U.S. spacewalk, by Ed White, by less than three months.

Leonov might have become the Soviet Union's first moonwalker, in fact, had his country's lunar-landing effort not been canceled in the wake of Apollo 11's triumphant moon landing by Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin on July 20, 1969.

On his second trip into space ten years later, Leonov commanded the Soviet half of Apollo-Soyuz 19.

The cosmonaut was well known for his humor. Once the U.S. Apollo and Soviet Soyuz capsules docked in orbit around Earth on July 17, 1975, Leonov and his Russian crewmate, Valeri Kubasov, welcomed the three U.S. astronauts — their Cold War rivals — with canned borscht disguised as Stolichnaya vodka and suggested a toast.

"When we sat at the table, they said: 'Why, that's not possible,'" Leonov recalled in 2005. "We insisted, saying that according to our tradition, we must drink before work. That worked, they opened it and drank (the borscht) and were caught by surprise."

The cosmonaut turned 85 in May. Several days before that, two Russian crewmembers on the International Space Station ventured into open space on a planned spacewalk, carrying Leonov's picture with them to pay tribute to the space legend. They said "Happy Birthday!" to Leonov before opening the hatch and venturing out.

Leonov's modern-day successor, Oleg Kononenko, who was one of the two Russians on that spacewalk, told Rossiya-24 television on Friday that Leonov had tuned in to hear their congratulations from space.

"We were going to stop by Alexei Arhipovich (Leonov) after our return and give him our space souvenirs, but you see it wasn't meant to be," Kononenko said.

When his crew returned to earth at the end of June, Leonov was already unwell.

Kononenko spoke fondly of the Soviet space pioneer, saying he was a frequent guest at send-off ceremonies for space crews in Star City and at the cosmodrome in Baikonur, Kazakhstan.

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"We had this tradition that he would give cosmonauts pep talks before they board the spacecraft," Koonencko said. "We all looked forward to that, always thought about it and always wanted Leonov to be the one to send us off into space."

Messages of condolences poured from around the globe.

NASA on Friday offered its sympathies to Leonov's family, saying it was saddened by his death.

"His venture into the vacuum of space began the history of extra-vehicular activity that makes today's Space Station maintenance possible," NASA said on Twitter.

"One of the finest people I have ever known," former Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield tweeted on Friday. "Alexei Arkhipovich Leonov, artist, leader, spacewalker and friend, I salute you."

Russian space fans were bringing flowers to his monument Friday on the memorial alley in honor of Russia's cosmonauts in Moscow.

Leonov, who will be buried on Tuesday at a military memorial cemetery outside Moscow, is survived by his wife, a daughter and two grandchildren.

Marcia Dunn contributed to this report from Cape Canaveral, Florida.

## Stocks rise on trade progress, S&P 500 notches weekly gain

By ALEX VEIGA and STAN CHOE AP Business Writers

The S&P 500 finished with its first weekly gain in four weeks Friday as investors welcomed a thaw in the punishing trade war between the U.S. and China.

After two days of negotiations in Washington, the U.S. agreed to suspend a planned hike in tariffs on \$250 billion of Chinese goods that had been set to kick in Tuesday. Beijing, meanwhile, agreed to buy \$40 billion to \$50 billion in U.S. farm products.

Word of the trade concessions filtered out in the last half-hour of trading and pushed the Dow Jones Industrial Average 517 points higher, though the momentum faded near the close.

"The market is welcoming any progress here, because (trade) has been the biggest overhang on growth," said Ben Phillips, chief investment officer at EventShares. "Any sort of deal, even if it's a super light, mini-deal, still gets the market constructive and saying, 'OK, we're moving in the right direction.'"

The S&P 500 index closed higher for the third-straight day, adding 32.14 points, or 1.1%, to 2,970.27. Earlier it had been up 1.9%. The Dow rose 319.92 points, or 1.2%, to 26,816.59.

The Nasdaq gained 106.26 points, or 1.3%, to 8,057.04. The Russell 2000 index of smaller company stocks outpaced the broader market, climbing 26.54, or 1.8%, to 1,511.90. The indexes all notched gains for the week.

Treasury yields rose as investors felt less need for safety and dumped bonds. The yield on the 10-year Treasury, a benchmark for mortgages and many other kinds of loans, jumped to 1.73% from 1.65% late Thursday.

The rally got going early, reflecting optimism among investors that Washington and Beijing would reach at least a limited deal on trade. The U.S.-China trade dispute has been a drag on economic growth and slowed manufacturing around the world.

Investors got encouragement from President Donald Trump, who said "Good things are happening," before meeting with Chinese Vice Premier Liu He for trade talks at the White House.

Later in the day, after emerging from the meeting to announce the partial trade deal, Trump told the Chinese delegation "You're very tough negotiators."

The White House said the two sides made some progress on the thornier issues, including China's lax protection of foreign intellectual property. But more progress will have to be made on key differences in later negotiations, including U.S. allegations that China forces foreign countries to hand over trade secrets in return for access to the Chinese market.

Markets around the world have swung sharply on every morsel of progress or dissonance dribbling out about the U.S.-China trade war.

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The concessions agreed upon by the U.S. and China Friday mark a sharp turnaround after expectations were lowered earlier in the week when the U.S. blacklisted a group of Chinese technology companies over alleged human rights violations.

The Trump administration has already raised tariffs on more than \$360 billion worth of Chinese imports, but the stakes were set to rise. The U.S. had planned to raise tariffs on \$250 billion in Chinese imports from 25% to 30% Tuesday. Those are now suspended. But the two sides did not mention tariffs on \$160 billion of goods scheduled for Dec. 15.

Technology stocks, which often do lots of business with China, helped power the indexes higher Friday. Apple climbed 2.7%, and edged ahead of Microsoft as the most valuable company in the S&P 500. Broadcom added 2.4%.

Industrial stocks also notched solid gains. Caterpillar climbed 4.7% and farm equipment maker Deere gain 1.9%.

The jump in bond yields helped send bank stocks higher on expectations of bigger profits for making loans. JPMorgan Chase rose 1.7%, and Bank of America gained 1.6%.

Stocks jumped across Europe on hopes that the United Kingdom and European Union can reach a trade deal ahead of London's pending exit from the bloc. The German DAX surged 2.9%, while the CAC 40 in France jumped 1.7%. The FTSE 100 in London rose 0.8%, held back in part by a stronger British pound, which adds pressure on British exporters.

A missile strike on an Iranian tanker revived concerns about oil supplies and pushed energy prices higher. The explosion follows other attacks earlier this year on tankers in the Persian Gulf, through which about 20% of all oil traded worldwide passes.

Benchmark crude oil rose \$1.15 to settle at \$54.70 a barrel. Brent crude oil, the international standard, gained \$1.41 to close at \$60.51 a barrel. The rise in energy prices lifted oil and energy services companies. Exxon rose 1.1% and Schlumberger climbed 4.5%.

Fastenal surged 17.2% after the maker of fasteners and other industrial products reported surprisingly good first quarter profit and revenue. The company reported solid growth from its industrial vending and onsite services businesses.

Newmont Goldcorp was among the biggest decliners in the S&P 500 after gold prices fell \$12.10, or 0.8%, to \$1,482.70 per ounce, as investors shifted to more risky holdings. Newmont shares slid 3.4%.

Investors will be focusing on the health of Corporate America next week as companies begin reporting their results for the third quarter. Expectations are generally low, with analysts forecasting a drop of 4.1% from a year ago. The results, plus what CEOs say about their spending and revenue forecasts, should give a better picture of the economy's potential direction.

"You're going to see a little soft earnings (results) this quarter, is our expectation, largely on the manufacturing and global companies, but also a little softness on services," Phillips said.

In other commodities trading Friday, wholesale gasoline rose 2 cents to \$1.64 per gallon. Heating oil climbed 4 cents to \$1.96 per gallon. Natural gas fell 1 cent to \$2.21 per 1,000 cubic feet.

Silver fell 6 cents to \$17.46 per ounce and copper rose 1 cent to \$2.62 per pound.

The dollar rose to 108.52 Japanese yen from 107.91 yen on Thursday. The euro strengthened to \$1.1041 from \$1.1006.

AP Business Writer Damian J. Troise contributed.

## Today in History By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Saturday, Oct. 12, the 285th day of 2019. There are 80 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 12, 1984, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher escaped an attempt on her life when an Irish

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Republican Army bomb exploded at a hotel in Brighton, England, killing five people.

On this date:

In 1492 (according to the Old Style calendar), Christopher Columbus' expedition arrived in the present-day Bahamas.

In 1810, the German festival Oktoberfest was first held in Munich to celebrate the wedding of Bavarian Crown Prince Ludwig and Princess Therese of Saxe-Hildburghausen.

In 1870, General Robert E. Lee died in Lexington, Va., at age 63.

In 1942, during World War II, American naval forces defeated the Japanese in the Battle of Cape Esperance. Attorney General Francis Biddle announced during a Columbus Day celebration at Carnegie Hall in New York that Italian nationals in the United States would no longer be considered enemy aliens.

In 1973, President Richard Nixon nominated House minority leader Gerald R. Ford of Michigan to succeed Spiro T. Agnew as vice president.

In 1976, it was announced in China that Hua Guofeng had been named to succeed the late Mao Zedong as chairman of the Communist Party; it was also announced that Mao's widow and three others, known as the "Gang of Four," had been arrested.

In 1984, Actor Jon-Erik Hexum was mortally wounded on the set of his TV show "Cover Up" when he jokingly shot himself in the head with a prop pistol loaded with a blank cartridge; he was declared dead six days later.

In 1997, singer John Denver was killed in the crash of his privately built aircraft in Monterey Bay, California; he was 53.

In 2000, 17 sailors were killed in a suicide bomb attack on the destroyer USS Cole in Yemen.

In 2001, NBC announced that an assistant to anchorman Tom Brokaw had contracted the skin form of anthrax after opening a "threatening" letter to her boss containing powder.

In 2002, bombs blamed on al-Qaida-linked militants destroyed a nightclub on the Indonesian island of Bali, killing 202 people, including 88 Australians and seven Americans.

In 2007, Former Vice President Al Gore and the U.N.'s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change won the Nobel Peace Prize for sounding the alarm over global warming.

Ten years ago: A suicide car bombing near a market in northwestern Pakistan killed 41. Addressing the Northern Ireland Assembly, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton urged rival leaders of the power-sharing government to keep making their coalition work for the sake of lasting peace. Americans Elinor Ostrom and Oliver Williamson won the Nobel economics prize.

Five years ago: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention confirmed that a health care worker at the Texas hospital where Ebola victim Thomas Eric Duncan was treated before his death had tested positive for the illness in the first known case of Ebola being contracted or transmitted in the U.S. (The worker, later identified as nurse Nina Pham, was treated and declared free of Ebola.) Mississippi State was the new No. 1 in The Associated Press college football poll, replacing Florida State and making the fastest rise to the top spot in the history of the poll. (The Bulldogs were the first team in the poll's 78-year history to go from unranked to No. 1 in five weeks.)

One year ago: Search and rescue teams found the body of a hurricane victim in Mexico Beach, the Florida panhandle town that was nearly obliterated by Hurricane Michael; the death toll across the South reached at least 14. Pope Francis accepted the resignation of the archbishop of Washington, Cardinal Donald Wuerl, after he became entangled in two major sexual abuse and cover-up scandals. American pastor Andrew Brunson flew out of Turkey after a Turkish court convicted him of terror links but freed him from house arrest; he'd already spent nearly two years in detention. Roelof "Pik" Boetha, the last foreign minister of South Africa's apartheid era, died at the age of 86.

Today's Birthdays: Former Sen. Jake Garn, R-Utah, is 87. Singer Sam Moore (formerly of Sam and Dave) is 84. Broadcast journalist Chris Wallace is 72. Actress-singer Susan Anton is 69. Pop/rock singer/songwriter Jane Siberry is 64. Actor Hiroyuki Sanada is 59. Actor Carlos Bernard is 57. Jazz musician Chris Botti (BOH'-tee) is 57. Rhythm-and-blues singer Claude McKnight (Take 6) is 57. Rock singer Bob Schneider is

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54. Actor Hugh Jackman is 51. Actor Adam Rich is 51. Rhythm-and-blues singer Garfield Bright (Shai) is 50. Country musician Martie Maguire (Courtyard Hounds, The Dixie Chicks) is 50. Actor Kirk Cameron is 49. Olympic gold medal skier Bode Miller is 42. Rock singer Jordan Pundik (New Found Glory) is 40. Actor Brian J. Smith is 38. Actor Tyler Blackburn is 33. Actor Marcus T. Paulk is 33. Actress Ito Aghayere is 32. Actor Josh Hutcherson is 27.

Thought for Today: "The want of logic annoys. Too much logic bores. Life eludes logic, and everything that logic alone constructs remains artificial and forced." — Andre Gide, French author and critic (1869-1951).

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