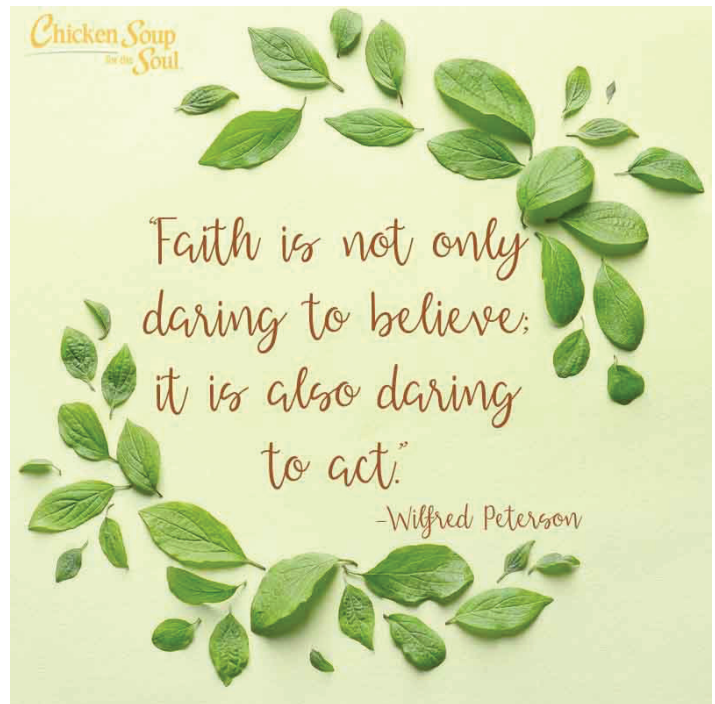


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Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

Tuesday, October 15, 2019

Oral Interp at Florence High School
Cancelled: Volleyball: Girls 7th/8th Match at Tiospa Zina
6:00pm: Volleyball: Girls Varsity Match @ Tiospa Zina High School

Wednesday, October 16, 2019

LifeTouch Pictures Groton Area Elementary School
12:30pm- 2:50pm: MathCounts at Warner High School

Thursday, October 17, 2019

LifeTouch Pictures Groton Area High School
1:30am- 8:30pm: Parent/Teacher Conferences
GHS Gymnasium, Groton Area Elementary School
3:30pm: Cross Country: Varsity Regions @ Webster Golf Course
6:00pm Financial Aid Night at Groton Area High School Computer Lab

Friday, October 18, 2019

Faculty Inservice Groton Area Elementary School, Groton Area High School
No School Groton Area Elementary School, Groton Area High School
7:00pm: Football: Boys Varsity Game @ Mobridge-Pollock High School

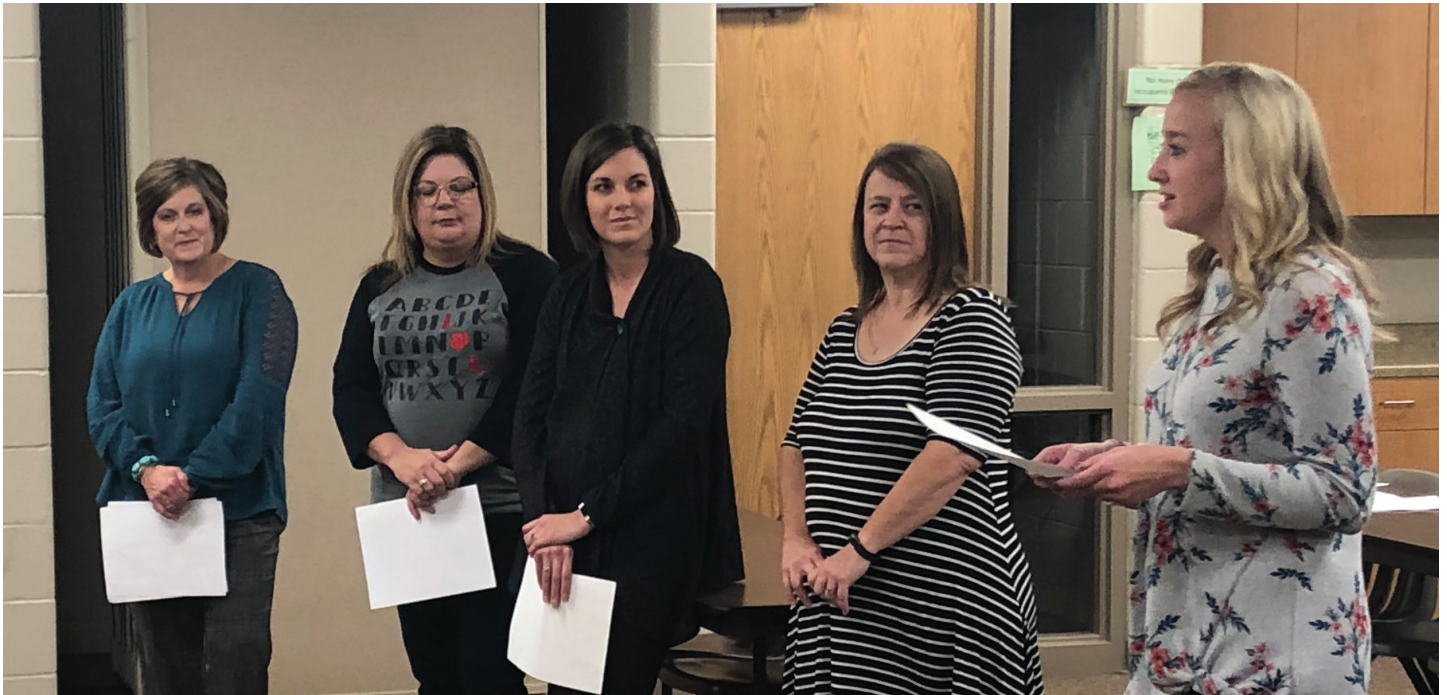
Saturday, October 19, 2019

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.: Groton Pumpkin Fest
Oral Interp at Florence High School
Robotics at GHS Gymnasium

Volleyball: Girls Varsity Tournament at Milbank High School
8 a.m.: Groton Area vs. Clark/Willow Lake at Milbank High School Armory (west court)
11 a.m.: Groton Area vs. Aberdeen Christian at Milbank High School Armory (west court)
Next match at 1:30 p.m. with the third place match at 3:30 p.m. and the championship match at 4:30 p.m.

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

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Program reviews for junior kindergarten, kindergarten and first grade were presented at the school board meeting Monday evening. Pictured are kindergarten teachers Ann Gibbs and Lindsey DeHoet, first grade teachers Emily Eichler and Julie Milbrandt, and junior kindergarten teacher Alexa Schuring. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Groton Area receives accreditation renewal through 2023-24

During the program review of the junior kindergarten, kindergarten and first grade, Alexa Schuring thanked the board for adding the extra 15 minutes to the school day for JK. "It has really helped with our program. Ann Gibbs and Lindsey DeHoet talked about the kindergarten program and Julie Milbrandt and Emily Eichler talked about the first grade program.

The tuck pointing work is complete at the elementary school. The boiler at the middle/high school was fired up on Oct. 9 and is providing heat to the building. Superintendent Joe Schwan reported on the official school enrollment of 582 which is up slightly from last year. Due to the nature of the school not qualifying for state aid, the enrollment number does not enter into the financial situation.

The Groton Area School District received approval of accreditation renewal through the 2023-24 school year from the S.D. Department of Education.

Groton Area will be hosting a school crisis response team with area schools on December 2-3. Schwan reported on the crisis response team that was recently formed in the Dell Rapids/Elkton/Flandreau area.

Elementary Principal Brett Schwan reported that the elementary enrollment is up two from the last meeting to 278. He also reported that over \$5,000 was raised with the coffee sales fundraiser for the OST program. Schwan said that he and Kim Weber are looking to improving the education centers, especially for the older students. When school is dismissed early or there is no school, OST will be closed. On days of late start, Superintendent Schwan said when there is a late start and they are confident that school will be held, OST will be opened. However, on days when there is a late start and they are just buying time to see if there will be school, OST will not be opened in that event.

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MS/HS Principal Kiersten Sombke talked about PSAT testing and about parent-teach conferences set for Thursday, Oct. 17, and they will be held in the high school gym instead of the teacher's classrooms.

The board gave the okay for the band and choir trip to Brandon, Mo., on April 16-19, 2020.

Superintendent Joe Schwan talked about the school's report card with the state. He said in all areas, Groton is trending up. He said that one area of concern is the middle school bottom quartile in mathematics is at 22.58 percent. "That is something we need to work on and we're going to talk about that on Friday at our in-service." The school's performance index for the elementary school is 81.13 while the high school is 91.25. "Our students and teachers are doing very well overall," Schwan said.

Kyle Gerlach was hired as an elementary paraprofessional at \$13.85 an hour and will also be the assistant high school boys basketball coach at 8 percent of base salary.

The district's attorney, Rodney Freeman, will attend the 2019 Education Law Association annual meeting at \$140 and the school can make free phone calls to him as long as there is no action needed. The board granted the approval.

The health service food service inspection was 100 percent at the high school and 97 percent at the elementary school because of a couple of screw holes in the wall.

The board approved for St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church to use the school bus on Nov. 9 with the church supplying the driver and paying expenses.

The board approved the resignation of Molly Ringgenberg as paraprofessional effective October 25.

It's Volleyball Action on GDILIVE.COM



**Tiospa Zina
Wambdi**

VS



Groton Area Tigers

**7:15 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2019
at Agency Village**

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ECAC Riders of the Week Ending September 29 include Townsend

DANBURY, Conn. – The Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) has announced the Equestrian Riders of the Week for the week ending September 29. They include Cassandra Townsend of Andover.

Freshman Cassandra Townsend is a freshman at South Dakota State University and she made her collegiate debut by winning points in both of her rides in reining. She defeated her TCU opponent 64-63 and won 74-71.5 against OSU.



Position Western

Class Fr.

Highschool Groton Area H.S.

Hometown Andover, S.D.

Before SDSU: Competed in the American Quarter Horse Association and South Dakota Quarter Horse Association (2011-2019), National Reining Horse Association (2013-2019), North Central Reining Horse Association (2015-2019) and Central Plains Reining Horse Association (2013-2019) ... rode in South Dakota 4-H (2009-2019) as well as Quarter Horse and 4-H in Halter, Showmanship, Horsemanship, Western Pleasure, Hunter Under Saddle, Hunt Seat Equitation, Trail, Ranch Riding, and Reining in youth, non-pro, derbies and futurities ... named Sunflower Slide Reserve Futurity Champion in 2017 ... has had multiple top-10 and finalist placings at the AQHA Novice Championship ... Central Plains Reining Horse Association Year End High Point in Youth 14-18 and Non-Pro (2017) ... has multiple championships and reserves at SD State 4-H Horse Show ... National Honor Society Member ... SD Regents Scholar Diploma ... earned Student of the Month each year from 2015-2019 ... also competed in track and field for three years ... Townsend's mother and several other family members attended SDSU.

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Superintendent's Report to the Groton Area School District 06-6 Board of Education

October 14, 2019

Elementary Tuck Pointing. The tuck pointing work is complete. A representative from JLG Architects is planning to be on site Thursday for a review of the work.

MS/HS Boiler. The boiler was started on Wednesday, October 9 for the first time and is providing heat to the building.

Enrollment. Our official fall child count (enrollment) from the last Friday in September for the 2019-2020 school year is 582.

DOE Accreditation. We've received approval of our accreditation renewal through the 2023-2024 school year.

2019 Special Education Review. We hosted our special education compliance review on Thursday, October 10. The review team spent just over half the day here reviewing special education student files with our special education staff. At our closing meeting, the review team indicated that they were impressed with what they saw. They will issue a written report within the next few weeks.

Paraprofessional Certification. We are going to be working with our paraprofessionals to obtain DOE paraprofessional "permits." The permits are similar in nature to a teaching certificate and are required for paras in a Title I school (e.g. Groton Area Elementary). Permits require the individual to hold an associate's degree or higher; OR complete 48 semester hours at an institution of higher education; OR holds a minimum of a high school diploma and passes the state-designated paraprofessional assessment.

School Crisis Response Team. At the NE Area Superintendent's meeting on October 2, the Superintendents from Dell Rapids and Elkton and the HS Principal from Flandreau talked about a crisis response team model that they've been trained in and implemented in their part of the state. The idea behind this training is that schools will be well positioned to support one another in the event of a crisis (e.g. Student death/suicide). The Superintendent from Northwestern, Ryan Bruns, had begun the process of securing training for this part of the state. We will be hosting this training in Groton on December 2 and December 3, and our mental health/administrative teams will be participating.

Needs Assessment Progress. Our comprehensive needs assessment team met for the 2nd time in Watertown on Friday, October 4. We are beginning to move into our data collection process. One of the differences between this process and those that we've undertaken previously is the emphasis on qualitative data analysis. We will be conducting parent and family surveys this week during conferences and student surveys following soon thereafter. There are also staff (certified and non-certified) surveys that will be used. Once collected, data will be categorized into the four primary aspects that we're analyzing: Effective Leadership, Curriculum and Instruction, Talent Development, and Family, Culture, and Climate.

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Principal's Report

Mrs. Sombke

MS/HS Building

October 14, 2019

- 1) PSAT
 - Students who paid to take the PSAT will meet in the Room 110 (Opportunities Classroom) to fill in the name/address information prior to taking the test on Monday and Tuesday of this week.
 - All students will test period 1-4 on Wednesday, October 16, 2019.
- 2) Book Drive-Xavier's Library
 - There is a box in the MS/HS Library to collect pre-school-3rd grade books
 - All books will be taken to Mrs. Zirbel, a teacher at Waubay who recently suffered the loss of her infant son
 - Collected books will start the beginning of a children's Library called, "Xavier's Library"
- 3) Parent Teacher Conference
 - Thursday October 17th, from 1:30-8:30pm
 - GHS Old Gym
 - Students dismissed at 1:15pm to allow teachers to prepare for conferences
 - Bonus points available for all students whose parent/guardian completes collecting signatures for all classes on a student's schedule
 - Classes with an "A" do not require a conference or signature
 - Parent/Teacher Conferences and would like to schedule a conference at a different time and date, or to conference by phone or email
- 4) Scholarships
 - Reminder to students and parents that all scholarship announcements can be found listed in the daily bulletin
 - All scholarship application forms can be found by going to the Groton Area Website- clicking on "Menu"- and then scrolling all the way down to the bottom of the list to click on "SCHOLARSHIPS"
 - Students may also see Mrs. Schwan for assistance in completing the applications or to request additional resources
- 5) Flu Shot Clinic
 - Thursday October 17th
 - 11:00am-5:30pm
 - Located at Groton Area Elementary
- 6) SD Comprehensive Needs Analysis Survey
 - Please help collect information to help our district during Parent Teacher Conferences
 - Parents will have the opportunity to complete a short survey during Parent Teacher Conferences

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Board Report

Elementary Principal

10/14/19

Enrollment:

- JK: 13 (+1)
- KG: 48
- 1st: 42 (+1)
- 2nd: 45
- 3rd: 39 (-1)
- 4th: 48 (+1)
- 5th: 43 (-1, +1)
- Total: 278
- PS: 8

OST: We were able to raise over \$5,000 from our coffee sales fundraiser. With this money we will continue to provide quality snacks after school and start to improve some of our center time inventory for all age levels.

OST will be open on Thursday from 1:00-6:00.

OST will be closed on Friday for in-service.

South Dakota Comprehensive Needs Assessment was held in Watertown on October 4. Anne Zoellner, Brooke Compton, Becky Erickson, Sue Fjeldheim, and Ashley Seeklander attended the 6 hour training. A majority of the conversations involved the 4 components: Effective Leadership, Curriculum and Instruction, Talent Development, and (Family, Culture, and Climate). We were also given a number of surveys that will be sent out in the upcoming weeks which include: student, parent/family, teacher, and non-certified staff.

We also learned that when doing our student and teacher observations an outside source would give us the most usable and nonbiased information.

Friday is Teacher In-Service. Our teachers who teach ELA and are using the new reading curriculum will have their second onsite training. Teachers not receiving training will be taking part in our data retreat.

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Today

Tonight

Wednesday

Wednesday
Night

Thursday



Mostly Cloudy
then Cloudy
and Breezy

Mostly Cloudy

Mostly Cloudy

Partly Cloudy

Mostly Sunny

High: 40 °F

Low: 28 °F

High: 45 °F

Low: 33 °F

High: 62 °F

TUESDAY

Cool, cloudy, breezy

Chance for light rain and/or light snow across the Glacial Lakes this mid-morning through mid-afternoon

WEDNESDAY

Dry, less cool

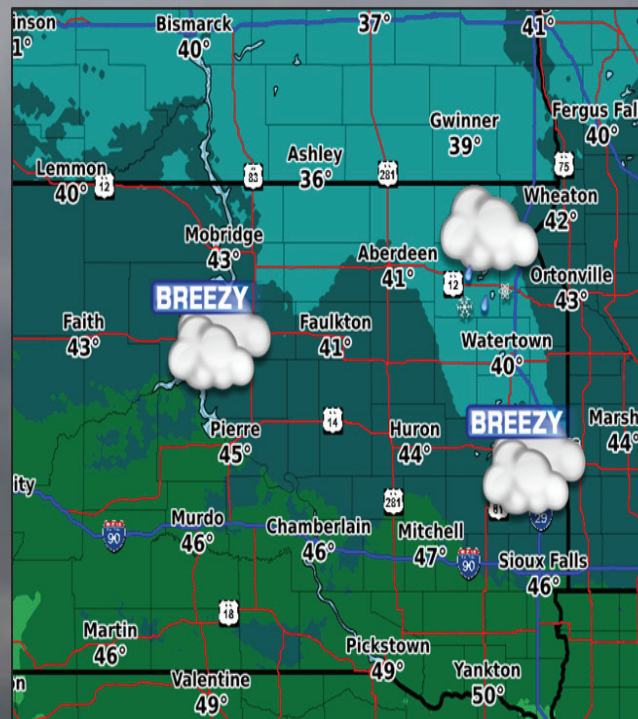
High pressure builds in, skies clear. Highs in the mid-40s to mid-50s

THURSDAY

Dry, warmer

Highs in the upper 50s to mid-60s across northeastern SD, mid-60s to mid-70s across central SD

Forecast High Temps Tuesday



Updated: 10/15/2019 4:48 AM Central

Published on: 10/15/2019 at 12:57AM

Clouds build today, with breezy northwest winds. Lows tonight into Wednesday morning will most likely be in the 20s. However, temperatures warm through Thursday with highs in the 60s for most.

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Today in Weather History

October 15, 1880: A violent early season blizzard devastated Minnesota and the Dakotas. Winds gusted to 70 mph at Yankton, SD, and snow drifts 10 to 15 feet high were reported in northwest Iowa and south-east South Dakota. Canby Minnesota reported 20 feet high snow drifts from this storm. Saint Paul, MN, reported a barometric pressure of 28.65 inches on the 16th. Piles of snow, which remained throughout the severe winter to follow, blocked railroads. The winter of 1880-81 is vividly portrayed in Laura Ingalls Wilder's Book: The Long Winter.

October 15, 1992: Snow fell throughout the day across the north-central and northwest part of the state with 2 to 6 inches occurring. There was a separate report of 7 inches near Harding in northwestern South Dakota.

1608: Evangelista Torricelli, the Italian physicist and mathematician who invented the barometer, was born on this day. In 1644, Evangelista Torricelli built the first barometer with mercury.

1984: The Monday Night Football game in Denver, Colorado, was played in a raging blizzard. 15 inches of snow fell with up to 34 inches reported in the nearby mountains. The Air Force Academy canceled classes for the first time in its' recorded history.

1987: Beginning on the night of October 15th, an unusually strong weather system caused extremely high winds in the United Kingdom. This storm became known as the Great Storm of 1987. It was the worst storm to hit the UK since the Great Storm in 1703.

1954 - Hurricane Hazel struck the Carolina coastline. The hurricane demolished every pier along a 170 mile stretch from Myrtle Beach SC to Cedar Island NC, and obliterated entire lines of beach homes. Hurricane Hazel also destroyed 1500 homes as it moved inland with seventeen foot tides. Winds between Myrtle Beach SC and Cape Fear NC gusted to 150 mph. Hurricane Hazel caused 163 million dollars damage, and claimed the lives of 98 persons. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1966 - Iowa experienced its worst late season tornado of record. In just one minute a twister tore through the town of Belmont leveling 75 percent of the businesses, and 100 homes, causing more than eleven million dollars damage. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Unseasonably cold weather continued in the eastern U.S., with thirteen cities reporting record low temperatures for the date. The low of 34 degrees at Montgomery AL was their coldest reading of record for so early in the season. Lows of 32 degrees at Harrisburg PA and 34 degrees at Parkersburg WV marked their third straight morning of record cold. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - The cold high pressure system responsible for the record low temperatures in the eastern U.S. began to move out to sea, giving way to a trend toward "Indian Summer". Thunderstorms developing ahead of a cold front produced golf ball size hail at Altamont KS and hail two inches in diameter at Yates City IL. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Hurricane Jerry made landfall at Galveston, TX, at 6 30 PM (CDT). Winds at the Galveston Airport reached 75 mph, with gusts to 100 mph. Tides along the island were six to eight feet, and rainfall totals ranged up to slightly more than six inches north of Beaumont. Three persons were killed when their vehicle was blown off the Galveston seawall into the pounding surf. Total damage along the Upper Texas Coast was estimated at fifteen million dollars. Thunderstorms produced severe weather in Lower Michigan during the late morning. Two persons were injured when a tree fell on their camper at the Traverse City State park. While strong northerly winds ushered much colder air into the central U.S., unseasonably warm weather continued in the south central and eastern U.S. The afternoon high of 82 degrees at Bluefield WV was a record for October. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 52 °F at 5:28 PM

Low Temp: 26 °F at 5:49 AM

Wind: 13 mph at 3:18 PM

Day Rain: 0.00

Record High: 88° in 1958

Record Low: 15° in 2018

Average High: 58°F

Average Low: 33°F

Average Precip in Oct.: 1.01

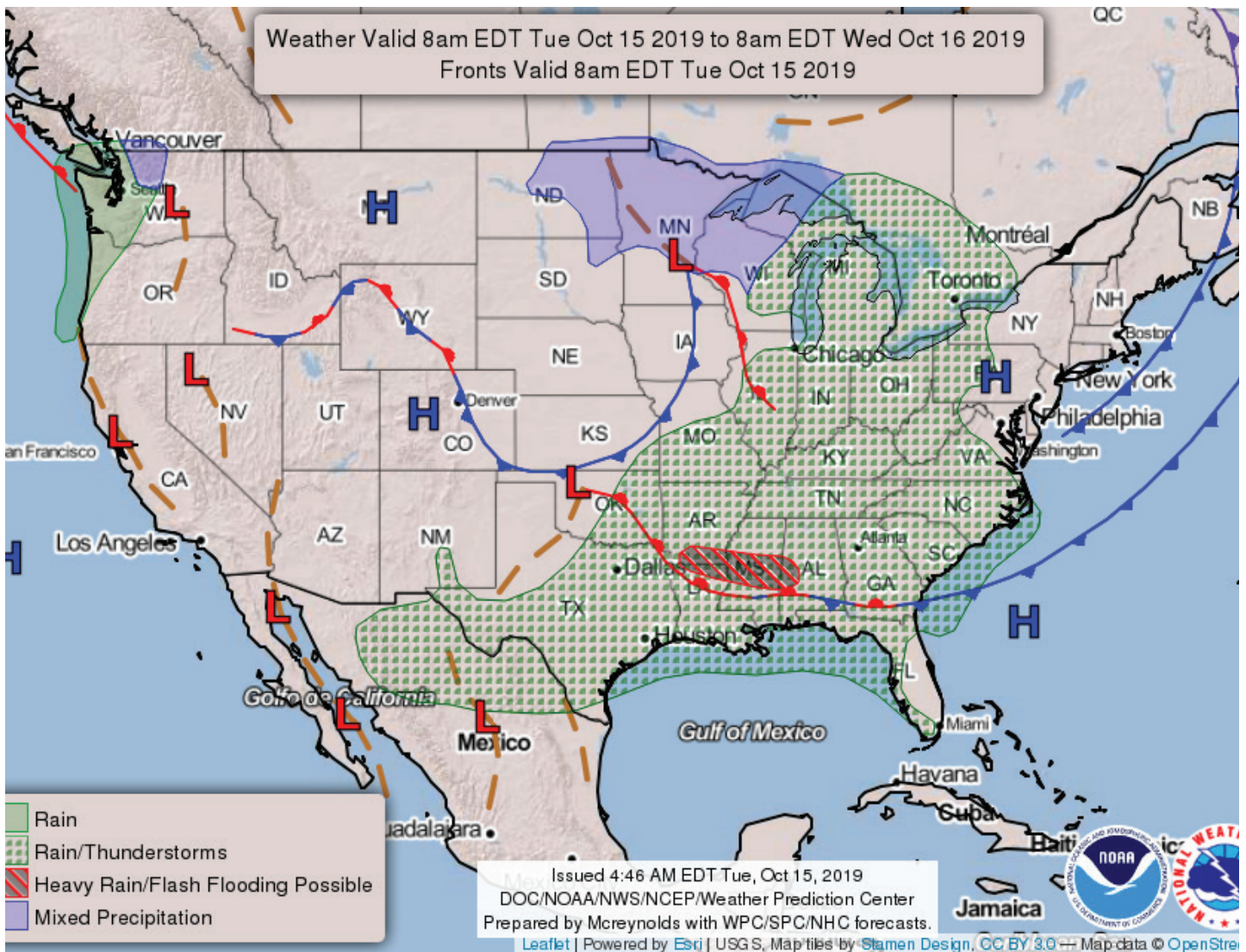
Precip to date in Oct.: 1.27

Average Precip to date: 19.49

Precip Year to Date: 26.29

Sunset Tonight: 6:49 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:51 a.m.



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KEEPING SCORE

In the great game of baseball, victory is not determined by hits – only by runs. It is not decided by double plays or even a no-hit performance by a pitcher – only by runs.

A player may hit the ball, slide safely into the third base but get no further and not score. He will be remembered as being “left stranded.” He will not be recognized for “three-quarters of a run.”

This is true of everything in life. Few people are ever recognized for how well they start. Normally, they are remembered for how well they finish. We may run hard, overcome obstacles, work our way through difficult situations, but unless we accomplish our goals and “score,” we are normally forgotten unless we finish well.

There is a sad verse in Paul’s letter to Timothy. He speaks of Demas, and writes that he “has deserted me because he loves the things of life...” A former co-worker of Paul’s, he exchanged his calling from God for worldly pleasures and values. Perhaps Demas never counted the cost of serving Christ. Maybe he became weary in well doing and lost his enthusiasm. We do not know the reason, but we see the results. And here is the lesson for each of us: Rather than condemn or criticize him, let’s look for the “Demas” that may be in each of us.

Prayer: Lord, never let us lose our love for You or the life You have called us to live. May we be faithful, fruitful, truthful, loyal, and never forsake or desert You. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: 2 Timothy 4:10 Demas has deserted me because he loves the things of this life and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus has gone to Dalmatia.

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2019 Groton SD Community Events

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

2020 Groton SD Community Events

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

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News from the Associated Press

Monday's Scores By The Associated Press

PREP FOOTBALL

Dakota Hills 28, Clark/Willow Lake 14
Florence/Henry 42, Waverly-South Shore 8
Ipswich/Edmunds Central 22, Herreid/Selby Area 0
Langford 44, Estelline/Hendricks 8
New Underwood 20, Lyman 0
North Border 52, Northwestern 6
Sioux Falls Roosevelt 71, Rapid City Central 20
Sunshine Bible Academy 36, Hitchcock-Tulare 14
Timber Lake 62, Bison 0
Wall 55, Jones County/White River 28
Webster 42, Flandreau 0
Winner 56, Miller/Highmore-Harrold 0

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

Volleyball

Baltic def. Dell Rapids, 25-18, 19-25, 25-19, 25-16
Cheyenne-Eagle Butte def. McIntosh, 25-22, 25-10, 23-25, 25-12
Elk Point-Jefferson def. South Sioux City, Neb., 3-1
Hankinson, N.D. def. Waubay/Summit, 25-21, 25-21, 23-25, 25-21
Highmore-Harrold def. Wessington Springs, 25-19, 25-23, 26-24
Hot Springs def. Bennett County, 25-13, 13-25, 25-19, 25-23
Ipswich def. Mobridge-Pollock, 25-18, 27-25, 25-19
Miller def. Kimball/White Lake, 25-7, 25-15, 25-13
Parker def. Beresford, 24-26, 25-12, 20-25, 25-20, 15-9
Platte-Geddes def. Centerville, 25-16, 25-13, 25-13
Sanborn Central/Woonsocket def. Howard, 25-22, 25-19, 25-17
Wagner def. Mt. Vernon/Plankinton, 25-14, 25-21, 25-13
Webster def. Hamlin, 22-25, 25-21, 25-18, 25-20
Winner def. White River, 25-17, 25-10, 25-12

'Nothing-burger': US-China truce leaves big issues for later

By PAUL WISEMAN, DAVE KOLPACK and DAVID PITT Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump heralded a breakthrough in U.S.-China trade talks, and markets rallied in relief over a de-escalation in tensions between the world's two biggest economies.

But closer inspection suggests there isn't much substance, at least not yet, to the temporary truce Trump announced Friday at the White House after the U.S. and China wrapped up their 13th round of trade talks.

Yes, Trump agreed to suspend a tariff hike scheduled for Tuesday on \$250 billion worth of Chinese imports. And the president said the Chinese agreed to buy \$40 billion to \$50 billion in U.S. farm products.

But nothing's on paper and details are scarce. China's state-run media hasn't even mentioned the promise

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to buy all those soybeans and other agricultural products.

And the negotiators have delayed dealing with the toughest issues for future talks. Meanwhile, the U.S. is still scheduled to target another \$160 billion in Chinese goods Dec. 15, a move that would extend Trump's tariffs to virtually everything China ships to the United States.

Friday's announcement was "a nothing-burger," said Scott Kennedy, who analyzes China's economy at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. "I call it the 'Invisible Deal.'... The only thing that happened Friday was that the U.S. delayed the tariff increase."

The Trump administration acknowledges that work remains to be done on what it calls "phase one" of ongoing talks with China.

"We made substantial progress last week in the negotiations," Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said Monday on CNBC. "We have a fundamental agreement. It is subject to documentation, and there's a lot of work to be done on that front."

Mnuchin said he expected that he and U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer will meet with China's lead negotiator, Vice Premier Liu He, before a November Asia-Pacific summit in Chile. At that gathering, Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping could officially sign off on a phase one agreement.

"It's curious that Washington and Beijing have not yet put this 'deal' in writing," said Wendy Cutler, a former U.S. trade negotiator now at the Asia Society Policy Institute. "That suggests that the details may not be worked out yet. If that's the case, we should expect more bumps in the road in the lead up to a mid-November meeting between Trump and Xi."

Trump emphasized the agricultural purchases he says China has agreed to. If China ultimately buys \$40 billion to \$50 billion a year, as Mnuchin said, it would mark a significant win for American farmers, who have been hit hard by the president's trade wars.

U.S. farm sales to China have never exceeded \$26 billion a year, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

China already is a major food importer as rising incomes boost its appetite for meat, vegetables and higher-quality grains. The communist government has tried to promote self-sufficiency in rice, wheat, dairy and some other commodities. But with a population of 1.4 billion, it cannot meet all its own needs.

Jeff Moon, a former U.S. diplomat and trade official specializing in China who is now president of the China Moon Strategies consultancy, noted that Trump had reason to delay Tuesday's planned tariff increase. Trade hostilities are weighing on the U.S. and world economies. Tariffs have pushed up costs for U.S. manufacturers and created uncertainty about when and how the trade wars will end.

"The bottom line is that both sides (on Friday) gave themselves permission to do what they wanted to do," Moon said. "China really needs the food, and Trump doesn't want to impose the (increase in) tariffs. That's the bottom line."

"It's in the two countries' interests to dial down the hostilities," agreed David Dollar, senior fellow at the Brookings Institution and a former official at the World Bank and U.S. Treasury.

The two countries are deadlocked primarily over U.S. allegations 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 Trump administration. Doing so would likely require scaling back China's aspirations for technological supremacy, which it sees as crucial to its prosperity. "I don't think China is willing to fundamentally change its system," Dollar said.

Resolving those issues is largely being pushed to future talks.

Over the past 15 months, the two countries have imposed tariffs on hundreds of billions of dollars' worth of each other's goods. Beijing has targeted farm products in a shot at Trump supporters in rural America.

It's taken a toll.

Tim Garrett, 63, shares a 5,000-acre farm with his brother in eastern North Dakota, where they grow mostly soybeans and corn. He voted for Trump and said he supports a better trade deal with China. But he's "not sure it's coming about."

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"I'm not a huge political guy to start with, but China has been ripping us off for years," Garrett said. "I believe something had to be done. I don't think it should all be on the backs of agriculture."

Bob Metz, a fifth-generation farmer from Peever, South Dakota, and a past president of the American Soybean Association, said he's hopeful for a deal but until that time "the American farmer is getting hurt."

"We've heard this before," Metz said. "I don't think anything has really changed with China, has it?"

The few times China has agreed to buy soybeans, they are getting them at up to \$2 a bushel cheaper than when the trade war started, Metz said.

"So who's the winner here?" he said. "It seems that China buys a few beans going into the talks, but is the goal to get rid of them or is the goal to sell them at a good price? The Chinese have done very well on this."

U.S. Sen. Chuck Grassley, Republican of Iowa, a state hard hit by loss of soybean and pork sales to China, said he welcomes news that progress may have been made in some areas of the trade dispute with China but he said a final deal must address the full scope of structural issues and include strong enforcement mechanisms.

"After so much has been sacrificed, Americans will settle for nothing less than a full, enforceable and fair deal with China," Grassley said.

Kolpack reported from Fargo, North Dakota, and Pitt from Des Moines, Iowa. AP Business Writer Joe McDonald in Beijing contributed to this story.

South Dakota Volleyball Polls By The Associated Press

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

Class AA

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs
1. Watertown	(16)	15-1	80	1
2. S.F. O'Gorman	-	14-3	63	2
3. Huron	-	11-4	45	3
4. S.F. Roosevelt	-	14-7	29	4
5. S.F. Washington	-	11-5	20	RV

Others receiving votes: : Aberdeen Central (10-6) 2, S.F. Lincoln (9-6) 1.

Class A

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs
1. Dakota Valley	(12)	22-2	76	1
2. Miller	(2)	20-2	59	2
3. S.F. Christian	(2)	18-8	56	3
4. McCook Central-Montrose	-	-	-	18-3 28 4
5. Hill City	-	22-0	19	5

Others receiving votes: Groton Area (17-4) 1, Winner (15-4) 1.

Class B

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs
1. Northwestern	(16)	27-0	80	1
2. Faulkton Area	-	16-3	63	2
3. Faith	-	16-2	38	4
4. Chester Area	-	17-7	30	3
5. Ethan	-	17-3	19	5

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Others receiving votes: Kadoka Area (20-2) 4, Burke (20-4) 3, Gayville-Volin (22-4) 2, Castlewood (15-2).

Police say Iowa slaying suspect arrested in Georgia

FORT DODGE, Iowa (AP) — Georgia authorities have found a man suspected in an Iowa slaying.

Fort Dodge police say in a news release that 19-year-old Damion Chavez was spotted by a sheriff's deputy in Lowndes County, Georgia, on Saturday in a vehicle on Interstate 75. The vehicle was pulled over and Chavez was arrested without incident. Two other people in the vehicle were released.

Arrangements are being made to have Chavez returned to Iowa. Iowa court records don't list the name of an attorney who could comment for him.

Fort Dodge police say Chavez has been charged with robbery and first-degree murder in the slaying of 28-year-old Mohammed Yaqoub, who lived in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Officers sent to check reports of a shooting found Yaqoub. He'd been shot several times.

A 16-year-old boy also has been arrested on suspicion of aiding and abetting a robbery.

10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

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

1. TURKEY, KURDS BATTLE FOR KEY SYRIAN BORDER TOWN

Turkey defies growing condemnation from its NATO allies to press ahead with its invasion of northern Syria, shelling suspected Kurdish positions near the border amid reports that Syrian Kurds had retaken a key town.

2. TRUMP TARGETS TURKEY'S ECONOMY

The president announces sanctions aimed at restraining the Turks' assault against Kurdish fighters and civilians in Syria and plans to dispatch top U.S. officials to Ankara in an attempt to begin negotiations.

3. 'I CANNOT MAKE SENSE OF WHY SHE HAD TO LOSE HER LIFE'

A white former Fort Worth, Texas, police officer is being held in jail on a murder charge after shooting a black woman through a window of her home, an incident that began with a call about an open front door.

4. WHO IS FACING SCRUTINY AT DEMOCRATIC DEBATE

Joe Biden is facing baseless — but persistent — allegations of wrongdoing overseas; Bernie Sanders is recovering from a heart attack; and Elizabeth Warren is fending off new scrutiny of her biography.

5. WIDE GAPS IN LEGAL PROTECTION OF LGBT WORKERS

An AP analysis finds that half of an estimated 8.1 million LGBT workers live in 28 U.S. states with no state laws prohibiting firing workers because they're gay or transgender.

6. WHAT HAS POSED A MORAL DILEMMA

In a last-ditch effort to save spotted owls, federal officials are killing hundreds of barred owls in the hopes they can stave off their spotted cousins' potential extinction, AP learns.

7. AP SOURCE: EX-TRUMP ADVISER OBJECTED TO AMBASSADOR'S FIRING

Fiona Hill, a former White House adviser on Russia, tells House impeachment investigators that she objected to the ouster of former ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch.

8. CALIFORNIA UTILITY CRITICIZED FOR BLACKOUTS

California's top utility regulator blasts Pacific Gas and Electric for what she calls "failures in execution" during the largest planned power outage in state history to avoid wildfires.

9. FARROW FOUND LITTLE APPETITE FOR WEINSTEIN STORY AT NBC

The journalist says the more evidence he gathered on the Hollywood mogul's alleged sexual misconduct, the less enthusiastic his bosses seemed to be.

10. NATIONALS ON VERGE OF NL PENNANT

Stephen Strasburg and Howie Kendrick lead Washington past St. Louis 8-1, moving one win from the city's first World Series appearance in 86 years.

6 questions that loom over the crowded Democratic debate

By **STEVE PEOPLES AP National Political Writer**

WESTERVILLE, Ohio (AP) — Just a month has passed since the last presidential debate, but the state of the Democrats' 2020 race has shifted.

The political world is suddenly consumed by an escalating impeachment inquiry, one of the leading Democratic presidential hopefuls is recovering from a heart attack and Joe Biden is no longer the only front-runner. The evolving storylines will play out on national television Tuesday night in battleground Ohio, where the largest debate group in modern history — 12 candidates — will share the stage less than four months before the first 2020 primary votes are cast.

Six big questions heading into the debate, to be carried on CNN:

CAN BERNIE'S HEART ATTACK BECOME A POLITICAL ASSET?

Less than two weeks after being rushed to the hospital, 78-year-old Bernie Sanders must convince voters that he's physically strong enough to survive the intense campaign ahead and, more importantly, one of the world's most demanding jobs. Supporters suggest the Vermont senator can use the health crisis to his advantage by refocusing the conversation on health care. Others are hopeful he can use the experience to open up to voters on a more personal level, something he tried to do early in the year with little sustained success. Health is a delicate issue, but Sanders was aware that his age was a political liability even before his recent health scare.

HOW WILL WARREN HANDLE THE FRONT-RUNNER FOCUS?

According to polls, Elizabeth Warren enters the night as a front-runner for the first time, essentially tied with Biden. If recent days are any indication, she could be in line for far more scrutiny than she received in the first three debates. She has an opportunity to stand up to her critics, which could help improve the perception that she's among the least electable Democrats in the race. It's no small task. On one side, she's getting hit for being too liberal. On the other, she's getting hit for being a capitalist. She's also facing new questions about her biography that strike at the core of any successful candidacy: authenticity.

HOW WILL BIDEN DEFEND HIMSELF AND HIS FAMILY?

Biden enters the night already on his heels, having lost his sole claim to front-runner status thanks to Warren's rise. At a pivotal point, he must now execute an effective strategy to move past baseless allegations fueled by President Donald Trump about Biden's son's business dealings abroad. Should Biden fail to navigate the delicate issue, he risks being haunted by the controversy into the general election should he be the nominee. In Biden's way is his own temperament. The 76-year-old Democrat is well known for being defensive when challenged. Look for him to get some help from fellow Democrats, like Julián Castro or Beto O'Rourke, who have lashed out at Trump's tactics against Biden recently. But there are also wildcards onstage who may lean into questions about the younger Biden's work for a Ukrainian energy company while his father was vice president. If he loses his cool onstage, Biden could win the argument and still walk out a loser.

WHAT IS THEIR FOREIGN POLICY?

Foreign policy has often been an afterthought in the previous debates, which has allowed candidates with little experience on the world's stage to breeze past a hugely consequential subject. Recent events in the Middle East will almost force that dynamic to change Tuesday night. The Turkish invasion of Syria, a move apparently blessed and then condemned by Trump, is still ongoing. Democrats and Republicans alike have condemned Trump's uneven leadership on the issue, but there will be new pressure on the Democratic presidential contenders to outline their own plans for the region and beyond. A lack of foreign policy experience took a toll on Sanders in his first presidential bid, while Warren has devoted the vast majority of her detailed plans to domestic issues. Biden's team sees foreign policy as a strength given his

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extensive experience on the world's stage, but he's also hobbled by several foreign policy missteps — not the least of which is his 2002 vote to authorize the use of force against Iraq.

IS 12 TOO MANY?

Even with only 10 on the stage in past debates, moderators have been challenged to foster meaningful exchanges that help voters navigate differences among the candidates. Will two more make it even worse? Some candidates certainly think so. So far, the crowded stages have largely produced status-quo debates in which few candidates have enough time to help or hurt themselves significantly. That's been good news for the top-tier candidates and not-so-good news for those struggling near the bottom. Given that this could be the last opportunity for several lower-tier candidates on the debate stage because of tougher qualification thresholds, those in the bottom of the pack must find enough oxygen to break out any way they can.

IT HAS CONSUMED WASHINGTON, BUT WILL IMPEACHMENT CONSUME THE DEBATE?

All the candidates onstage have endorsed the impeachment inquiry into Trump, which has consumed much of the political world in recent weeks. But some Democrats have embraced the divisive process more reluctantly than others. Warren, for example, called for Trump to be impeached nearly six months ago, while Biden announced his support for impeachment only last week. Hawaii Rep. Tulsi Gabbard was also late to sign on, warning that the impeachment process would further split an already divided nation. It's unclear how impeachment may shape the debate on Tuesday, but what Democrats say or don't say about removing a sitting president less than a year before the election could come back to haunt the party when Democrats eventually take back the White House.

More victims, more damage found in Japan typhoon aftermath

By HARUKA NUGA and MARI YAMAGUCHI Associated Press

NAGANO, Japan (AP) — The toll of death and destruction from a typhoon that tore through central and northern Japan climbed Tuesday, as the government said it was considering approving a special budget for the disaster response and eventual reconstruction.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told a parliamentary session that the number of deaths tied to Typhoon Hagibis had climbed to 53 and was expected to rise, as at least another nine people are presumed dead. Kyodo News agency, citing its own tally, put the death toll at 69.

Abe pledged to do the utmost for the safety and rescue of those missing or those who had to evacuate. "We put the people's lives first," he said.

Hagibis hit Japan's main island on Saturday with strong winds and historic rainfall that caused more than 200 rivers to overflow, leaving thousands of homes flooded, damaged or without power. Rescue crews on Tuesday were still searching for those missing, thought to number about 20.

Some 34,000 homes were without power and 110,000 lacked running water. More than 30,000 people were still at shelters as of late Monday, according to the Cabinet Office's latest tally.

Business appeared nearly back to normal in central Tokyo, and residents in areas where floodwater subsided started cleaning up. Lives, however, remained paralyzed in Nagano, Fukushima and other hard-hit areas that were still inundated.

Some residents in Nagano returned to their homes, only to find they not be habitable.

Retired carpenter Toshitaka Yoshimura, who grew up in the Tsuno district of Nagano, was stunned when he returned to his home after staying at an evacuation center during the storm. His house was a mess. Doors were knocked out, his handmade furniture was tossed around and damaged, and everything from a futon to electronics were broken and covered with mud.

"I put a lot of effort in this house. I made all the furniture with my wife. Now look what happened in one day," he said, with his voice trembling with emotion. "Now this makes me want to cry."

At least some of his memorable photos with his family and relatives were intact, along with toys and

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games that his younger relatives played when they gathered at his house.

"I'm glad they survived at least," said his nephew Kazuki Yoshimura. "Perhaps we can still do something about the house, but nothing can be more precious than life."

In Fukushima, 11 bags containing possibly radioactive soil and debris removed as part of decontamination efforts from the 2011 meltdown of the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant, were washed from two outdoor temporary storage sites and found downstream, the Environment Ministry said. Most of the remaining 5,000 bags stacked up at the two sites — one in Tamura City and another Iitate — remained in place.

There was no risk to the environment because the waterproof bags were intact and hadn't leaked, the ministry said. It said, however, officials will take preventive measures ahead of future rainstorms.

A massive number of such bags are still being kept at 760 similar sites across Fukushima. Their transfer to a longer-term storage facility near the plant is expected to be completed by March 2022.

Speaking in parliament, Abe said there are concerns of lasting effects of the storm in hard-hit areas. He pledged speedy support for residents.

Abe said the government is funding the disaster response from the 500-billion yen (\$4.6 billion) special reserve from the fiscal 2019 budget and may compile a supplementary budget if needed.

West Japan Railway Co. said its Hokuriku Shinkansen bullet train services connecting Tokyo and Kanazawa in the central north were reduced because of flooding of six trains at its railyard in Nagano. The trains sat in a pool of muddy water that was up to their windows.

Questions have been raised about the site of the railyard, which sits in an area noted on a prefectural hazard map as a flood area. Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said the operator's preparedness should be investigated later but the priority is to get the trains out of the water. Some water has been pumped out, but more than half of the railyard is still underwater.

Yamaguchi reported from Tokyo. Follow her on Twitter at <https://www.twitter.com/mariyamaguchi>

AP analysis: Wide gaps in legal protection of LGBT workers

By **RUSS BYNUM** and **ANGELIKI KASTANIS** Associated Press

Rumors started circulating around the fire station in Byron, Georgia, within a year after the medical treatments began. The fire chief's once-crewcut hair was growing longer, and other physical changes were becoming noticeable. Keeping quiet was no longer an option.

The chief said that once members of the tiny Fire Department were told, word spread "faster than a nuclear explosion" through Byron — a city of about 4,500 in a farming region outside Macon known for growing Georgia's famous peaches. The fire chief was undergoing a gender transition and would continue to run the department as Rachel Mosby. A City Hall staffer told Mosby many were stunned because "I was the manliest man anyone had met in their lives."

"They initially took it very well, much to my surprise," Mosby said. "I heard a lot of comments like, 'Chief, you don't have anything to worry about. We've got your back.'"

It didn't last. As a man, Mosby served as Byron's fire chief for a decade until the beginning of 2018. Then Mosby started coming to work as a woman, and the city fired her less than 18 months later. Her June 4 termination letter cited "lack of performance." Mosby insists the only thing that changed was her gender.

"They didn't want somebody like me in that position," she said, "or any position with the city."

It's not illegal under Georgia state law to fire someone for being gay or transgender. Twenty-eight U.S. states have adopted no laws that prohibit workplace discrimination targeting LGBT employees. Only a small percentage of cities and counties offer protection at the local level. So Mosby, like thousands of other LGBT Americans, has sought recourse under the federal law that makes sex discrimination illegal at work.

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has treated LGBT-based job discrimination cases as sex discrimination since 2013. But that could soon end, depending on how the U.S. Supreme Court rules in cases it heard Oct. 8 that deal with the firings of gay men in Georgia and New York state and a transgender woman in Michigan.

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The key question: Do firings and harassment based on a worker's sexual orientation or gender identity qualify as sex discrimination under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act?

A ruling that says the federal law doesn't protect workers targeted because they're gay or transgender could leave millions vulnerable in more than half of U.S. states, an Associated Press analysis found.

Only 21 states have their own laws prohibiting job discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. Wisconsin outlaws discrimination because of sexual orientation but doesn't protect transgender workers. And fewer than 300 cities and counties have local ordinances protecting LGBT workers, according to an advocacy group.

That patchwork of state and local laws leaves large gaps where LGBT workers have no job protection beyond federal claims under Title VII. About half of the nation's estimated 8.1 million LGBT employees live in states where job discrimination laws don't cover them, according to the UCLA School of Law's Williams Institute.

"If the Supreme Court sides against LGBT employees, it means they have to be really cautious and careful about living their lives openly and proudly," said Jillian Weiss, a New York attorney who focuses on LGBT discrimination cases. "They may encounter a lot of discrimination, and there may not be anything they can do about it."

The AP found workers are particularly vulnerable in the South, home to an estimated 35% of LGBT adults. Out of 16 states the U.S. Census Bureau defines as the South, only Maryland and Delaware prohibit discrimination against gay and transgender workers. Protection at the local level is sparse, with most Southern states having five or fewer cities or counties that shield private-sector LGBT workers.

South Carolina offers no protection at the state or local level. And Arkansas, North Carolina and Tennessee each passed laws blocking local governments from having their own anti-discrimination ordinances that cover LGBT workers.

Those large gaps mean only about 18% of adults in the South are protected against LGBT-based job discrimination, compared with about 89% in the Northeast, according to Naomi Goldberg of the Movement Advancement Project, an LGBT-rights think tank that tracks anti-discrimination laws.

The Supreme Court's upcoming decision, not expected until next year, could make or break Lonnie Billard's discrimination lawsuit in North Carolina against the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and an affiliated high school. A federal judge put Billard's case on hold until the high court rules.

Billard, a substitute teacher and longtime employee at Charlotte Catholic High School, was fired after announcing on Facebook in 2014 that he was marrying his male partner.

Attorneys for the diocese said Billard was let go for "advocacy in favor of same-sex marriage in violation of the Catholic Church's fundamental beliefs." They said the school could legally fire him in part because of its religious affiliation.

Billard's case illustrates a dilemma that advocates say more gay couples could face if the Supreme Court, which declared same-sex marriage legal in 2015, decides federal law doesn't protect them from harassment at work for being openly married.

"You get married on Saturday and fired on Monday, and there's no protection," said Luke Largess, one of Billard's attorneys.

Advocates say the EEOC's involvement is making a difference. The commission reports it received more than 8,600 LGBT-based discrimination complaints in the six-year period through September 2018. More than 1,300 cases ended with the workers who filed claims receiving some benefit.

Brandi Branson, a transgender woman who was fired by a Florida eye clinic in 2011, got a \$150,000 settlement from her former employer after the EEOC sued on her behalf.

"It meant a lot. It meant somebody heard me," Branson said. "I felt validated in myself as a person and also in my claims that I was wronged."

Critics say the EEOC overreached by extending Title VII protections to LGBT workers. The federal law doesn't mention sexual orientation or gender identity. While it prohibits job discrimination based on sex, Congress didn't consider that to include LGBT discrimination when the law was passed in 1964, said attorney John Bursch of the Alliance Defending Freedom.

Bursch represents a Michigan funeral home that fired transgender woman Aimee Stephens in 2013 in one of the cases before the Supreme Court. Bursch argues Congress would need to change the law for it to cover LGBT discrimination.

"No matter what you feel about the substantive issue of LGBT employment protections, everyone should be upset that a government agency ... could punish someone based on a change in law they could not have anticipated based on its plain text and its interpretation for 50 years," Bursch said.

In Georgia, Mosby is still waiting to hear whether the EEOC will pursue her case against the city of Byron — and whether the Supreme Court's ruling might upend it.

After making her transition public last year, Mosby said, she was ordered to start wearing a uniform the first day she came to work in a skirt. Previously, Mosby often wore suits and ties. When Mosby fired a reserve firefighter who called the chief a slur to her face, the firefighter appealed and was reinstated by the city.

Meanwhile, Byron's City Council in January changed its personnel policy to eliminate appeals for any department heads the city fires. Still, Mosby said she was surprised when Derick Hayes, Byron's city administrator, fired her months later.

Hayes cited three reasons for Mosby's firing in her termination letter: that she was responsible for a backlog of business licenses awaiting approval; that she attended only five classes at a recent fire chief's conference, wasting the city's money; and that she failed to maintain certification as an arson investigator.

Hayes didn't return a phone message seeking comment. Byron Mayor Lawrence Collins denied Mosby was fired because she's transgender.

"The quick answer on that is no. I think the records reflect that," Collins said, declining to comment further.

Mosby said being jobless left her in financial straits. The public humiliation of her firing further strained relationships with her family, already stressed following her transition.

"I've lost my family, I've lost my house," Mosby said. "Now I'm living with friends that keep a roof over my head and food in my stomach, so I'm not having to live in my car. It's been utterly devastating."

Bynum reported from Savannah, Georgia. Kastanis reported from Los Angeles.

Trump threatens Turkey's economy and imposes sanctions

By ROBERT BURNS AP National Security Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Targeting Turkey's economy, President Donald Trump announced sanctions aimed at restraining the Turks' assault against Kurdish fighters and civilians in Syria — an assault Turkey began after Trump announced he was moving U.S. troops out of the way.

The United States on Monday also called on Turkey to stop the invasion and declare a cease-fire, and Trump is sending Vice President Mike Pence and national security adviser Robert O'Brien to Ankara as soon as possible in an attempt to begin negotiations. Pence said Trump spoke directly to Turkish leader Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who promised not to attack the border town of Kobani, which in 2015 witnessed the Islamic State group's first defeat in a battle by U.S.-backed Kurdish fighters.

"President Trump communicated to him very clearly that the United States of America wants Turkey to stop the invasion, implement an immediate cease-fire and to begin to negotiate with Kurdish forces in Syria to bring an end to the violence," Pence said.

The Americans were scrambling for Syria's exits, a move criticized at home and abroad as opening the door to a resurgence of the Islamic State group, whose violent takeover of Syrian and Iraqi lands five years ago was the reason American forces went in the first place.

Trump said the approximately 1,000 U.S. troops who had been partnering with local Kurdish fighters to battle the Islamic State in northern Syria are leaving the country. They will remain in the Middle East, he said, to "monitor the situation" and to prevent a revival of IS — a goal that even Trump's allies say has become much more difficult as a result of the U.S. pullout.

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The Turks began attacks in Syria last week against the Syrian Kurdish fighters, whom the Turks see as terrorists. On Monday, Syrian government troops moved north toward the border region, setting up a potential clash with Turkish-led forces.

Trump said Turkey's invasion is "precipitating a humanitarian crisis and setting conditions for possible war crimes," a reference to reports of Turkish-backed fighters executing Kurdish fighters on the battlefield.

The Kurdish forces previously allied with the U.S. said they had reached a deal with President Bashar Assad's government to help them fend off Turkey's invasion, a move that brings Russian forces deeper into the conflict.

In his sanctions announcement, Trump said he was halting negotiations on a \$100 billion trade deal with Turkey and raising steel tariffs back up to 50%. Trump also imposed sanctions on three senior Turkish officials and Turkey's defense and energy ministries.

"I am fully prepared to swiftly destroy Turkey's economy if Turkish leaders continue down this dangerous and destructive path," Trump said.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said the sanctions will hurt an already weak Turkish economy. Pence said the U.S. will continue to ramp up the sanctions "unless Turkey is willing to embrace a cease-fire, come to the negotiating table and end the violence."

American troops consolidated their positions in northern Syria on Monday and prepared to evacuate equipment in advance of a full withdrawal, a U.S. defense official said.

The official, who was not authorized to be quoted by name, said U.S. officials were weighing options for a potential future counter-IS campaign, including the possibility of waging it with a combination of air power and special operations forces based outside Syria, perhaps in Iraq.

The hurried preparations for a U.S. exit were triggered by Trump's decision Saturday to expand a limited troop pullout into a complete withdrawal.

Defense Secretary Mark Esper said Monday he would travel to NATO headquarters in Brussels next week to urge European allies to impose "diplomatic and economic measures" against Turkey — a fellow NATO ally — for what Esper called Ankara's "egregious" actions.

Esper said Turkey's incursion had created unacceptable risk to U.S. forces in northern Syria and "we also are at risk of being engulfed in a broader conflict."

The only exception to the U.S. withdrawal from Syria is a group of perhaps 200 troops who will remain at a base called Tanf in southern Syria near the Jordanian border along the strategically important Baghdad-to-Damascus highway. Those troops work with Syrian opposition forces unrelated to the Kurdish-led fighters in northern Syria.

Esper said the U.S. withdrawal would be done carefully to protect the troops and to ensure no U.S. equipment was left behind. He declined to say how long that might take.

In a series of tweets Monday, Trump defended his gamble that pulling U.S. forces out of Syria would not weaken U.S. security and credibility. He took sarcastic swipes at critics who say his Syria withdrawal amounts to a betrayal of the Kurds and plays into the hands of Russia.

"Anyone who wants to assist Syria in protecting the Kurds is good with me, whether it is Russia, China, or Napoleon Bonaparte," he wrote. "I hope they all do great, we are 7,000 miles away!"

Trump has dug in on his decision to pull out the troops, believing it fulfills a key campaign promise and will be a winning issue in the 2020 election, according to White House officials.

This has effectively ended a five-year effort to partner with Syrian Kurdish and Arab fighters to ensure a lasting defeat of the Islamic State group. Hundreds of IS supporters escaped a holding camp amid clashes between invading Turkish-led forces and Kurdish fighters, and analysts said an IS resurgence seemed more likely, just months after Trump declared the extremists defeated.

Trump spoke about the IS detainees in a phone call Monday with Kurdish General Mazloum Kobani. Pence said Mazloum assured the president that Kurdish forces would continue to support the prisons holding IS fighters.

Republican Senate leader Mitch McConnell, normally a staunch Trump supporter, said he was "gravely concerned" by events in Syria and Trump's response so far.

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Withdrawing U.S. forces from Syria "would re-create the very conditions that we have worked hard to destroy and invite the resurgence of ISIS," he said in a statement. "And such a withdrawal would also create a broader power vacuum in Syria that will be exploited by Iran and Russia, a catastrophic outcome for the United States' strategic interests."

New Jersey Sen. Bob Menendez, the top Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said Trump is weakening America. "To be clear, this administration's chaotic and haphazard approach to policy by tweet is endangering the lives of U.S. troops and civilians," Menendez said in a statement.

However, Trump got quick support from Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, who earlier had lambasted his withdrawal decision as "shortsighted," "irresponsible" and "unnerving to its core." Graham said he was asked to join the president and his team for phone calls with the key leaders in the conflict.

"President Trump made it clear to President Erdogan this incursion is widely unpopular in the United States, greatly destabilizing to the region, is putting in jeopardy our successes against ISIS, and will eventually benefit Iran," Graham said.

The Kurds have turned to the Syrian government and Russia for military assistance, further complicating the battlefield.

The prospect of enhancing the Syrian government's position on the battlefield and inviting Russia to get more directly involved is seen by Trump's critics as a major mistake. But he tweeted that it shouldn't matter.

"Others may want to come in and fight for one side or the other," he wrote. "Let them!"

Associated Press writer Jonathan Lemire contributed to this report.

AP source: Former Trump adviser opposed ambassador's firing

By MARY CLARE JALONICK and MICHAEL BALSAMO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Fiona Hill, a former White House adviser on Russia, told House impeachment investigators behind closed doors that she had strongly and repeatedly objected to the ouster earlier this year of former ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch, according to a person familiar with the testimony.

Yovanovitch previously testified that President Donald Trump pressured the State Department to fire her.

Hill made the remarks on Monday as she testified for more than 10 hours in the Democratic inquiry, which is probing Trump's pleas to Ukrainian officials for investigations into political rival Joe Biden's family and into the country's involvement in the 2016 presidential election. The person requested anonymity to discuss the confidential interview.

The interview is one of what could eventually become dozens of closed-door depositions in the impeachment probe. There are five more scheduled this week, mostly with State Department officials, though it is unclear if they will all appear after Trump declared he wouldn't cooperate with the probe.

While interviews have focused on the interactions with Ukraine, the probe could broaden as soon as next week to include interviews with White House budget officials who may be able to shed light on whether military aid was withheld from Ukraine as Trump and his lawyer Rudy Giuliani pushed for the investigations.

The three committees leading the probe are seeking interviews next week with Russell Vought, acting director of the Office of Management and Budget, and Michael Duffey, another OMB official who leads national security programs, according to a person familiar with those requests. That person wasn't authorized to discuss the invitations and requested anonymity.

The packed schedule of interviews comes as Democrats are methodically working to pin down the details of Trump's pressure on Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. Once Democrats have completed the probe and followed any other threads it produces, they will use their findings to help determine whether to vote on articles of impeachment. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said she wants the committees to move "expeditiously."

Democrats have already obtained documents and testimony that verify parts of an original whistleblower's complaint that launched the probe. A cache of text messages between three diplomats provided by one of the inquiry's first witnesses, former Ukrainian envoy Kurt Volker, detailed attempts by the diplomats to

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serve as intermediaries around the time Trump urged Zelenskiy to start the investigations into a company linked to Biden's son. Yovanovitch told lawmakers on Friday that there was a "concerted campaign" against her based on "unfounded and false claims by people with clearly questionable motives."

One of the diplomats in the text exchanges, U.S. ambassador Gordon Sondland, is expected to appear for a deposition under subpoena Thursday. He's expected to tell Congress that his text message reassuring another envoy that there was no quid pro quo in their interactions with Ukraine was based solely on what Trump told him, according to a person familiar with his coming testimony.

Also up this week: Michael McKinley, a former top aide to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo who resigned last week. McKinley, a career foreign service officer and Pompeo's de facto chief of staff, resigned Friday, ending a 37-year career. He is scheduled to testify behind closed doors Wednesday.

The committees are also scheduled to talk to Deputy Assistant Secretary of State George Kent on Tuesday and Ulrich Brechbuhl, a State Department counselor, on Thursday. On Friday, the lawmakers have scheduled an interview with Laura Cooper, who is the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Russia, Ukraine and Eurasia. It is unclear if any of those officials will show up after Trump's vow of non-cooperation.

Because of the Trump administration's edict, the Democrats have been subpoenaing witnesses as they arrived for their interviews — a move sometimes known as a "friendly" subpoena that could give the witnesses additional legal protection as they testify. Both Yovanovitch and Hill received subpoenas the mornings of their testimony.

One witness who may not be called before Congress is the still-anonymous government whistleblower who touched off the impeachment inquiry.

Top Democrats say testimony and evidence coming in from other witnesses, and even the Republican president himself, are backing up the whistleblower's account of what transpired during Trump's July 25 phone call with Zelenskiy. Lawmakers have grown deeply concerned about protecting the person from Trump's threats and may not wish to risk exposing the whistleblower's identity.

House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff, D-Calif., said Sunday it "may not be necessary" to reveal the whistleblower's identity as the House gathers evidence. He said Democrats "don't need the whistleblower, who wasn't on the call, to tell us what took place on the call."

Schiff said the "primary interest right now is making sure that that person is protected."

Trump showed no signs of backing down.

"Adam Schiff now doesn't seem to want the Whistleblower to testify. NO!" the Republican president tweeted Monday. "We must determine the Whistleblower's identity to determine WHY this was done to the USA."

Republican lawmakers have aimed their ire at Democrats and the process, saying Pelosi should hold a vote to begin the inquiry and hold the meetings out in the open, not behind closed doors.

"The tragedy here and the crime here is that the American people don't get to see what's going on in these sessions," said Ohio Rep. Jim Jordan, the top Republican on the House Oversight and Reform panel.

Associated Press writers Eric Tucker and Lisa Mascaro contributed to this report.

Turkish, Kurdish forces battle for key Syrian border town

By **LEFTERIS PITARAKIS** and **BASSEM MROUE** undefined

CEYLANPINAR, Turkey (AP) — Turkey defied growing condemnation from its NATO allies to press ahead with its invasion of northern Syria on Tuesday, shelling suspected Kurdish positions near the border amid reports that Syrian Kurds had retaken a key town.

Targeting Turkey's economy, U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday announced sanctions aimed at restraining the Turks' assault against Kurdish fighters and civilians in Syria — an assault Turkey began after Trump announced he was moving U.S. troops out of the way.

The United States also called on Turkey to stop the offensive and declare a cease-fire, while European Union countries moved to broaden an arms sale embargo against their easternmost ally.

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Now in its seventh day, Turkey's offensive has sowed fear and chaos in an already war-weary region — and upended alliances amid Syria's eight-year conflict.

An Associated Press journalist reported heavy bombardment of targets in the countryside of Ras al-Ayn early on Tuesday, days after Turkey announced that it had captured the border town. Turkish jets also carried out at least one airstrike.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a war monitoring group, reported that Syrian Kurdish fighters had retaken the town.

Turkish media reports said Turkey's military was responding to attempts by the Kurdish fighters to infiltrate Ras al-Ayn.

The renewed battle for the border town follows the deployment of Syria's army near the Turkish border, after Syrian Kurdish forces — saying they had been abandoned by their U.S. ally — reached a deal with President Bashar Assad's government to help them fend off Turkey's invasion.

Assad's return to the region his troops abandoned in 2012 at the height of the Syrian civil war is a turning point in the conflict, giving yet another major boost to his government and its Russian backers and is like to endanger, if not altogether crush, the brief experiment in self-rule set up by Syria's Kurds since the conflict began.

Washington said Trump was sending Vice President Mike Pence and national security adviser Robert O'Brien to Ankara as soon as possible in an attempt to begin negotiations over a stop to the fighting. Pence said Trump spoke directly to Turkish leader Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who promised not to attack the border town of Kobani, which in 2015 witnessed the Islamic State group's first defeat in a battle by U.S.-backed Kurdish fighters.

A Turkish military official, meanwhile denied reports that Turkey had begun an assault on the Kurdish-held town of Manbij, without giving further detail.

The Manbij region is home to U.S. outposts that were set up in 2017 to patrol the tense frontiers between Turkish-controlled areas and the Kurdish-held side of northern Syria. A U.S. official said troops are still in the town, preparing to leave.

On Monday Syrian fighters backed by Turkey had said they had started an offensive to capture Manbij, which is on the western flank of the Euphrates River, broadening their campaign east of the river.

Erdogan for his part defended Turkey's offensive in an op-ed in the Wall Street Journal, calling on the international community to support Turkey's effort to create what it calls a resettlement "safe zone" for refugees in northeast Syria, or "begin admitting refugees."

"Turkey reached its limit," Erdogan wrote in reference to 3.6 million Syrian refugees in his country. He said Turkey's warnings that it would not be able to stop refugee floods into the West without international support "fell on deaf ears."

Mroue reported from Beirut. Associated Press writer Suzan Fraser contributed from Ankara, Turkey.

Money, hatred for the Kurds drives Turkey's Syrian fighters

By SARAH EL DEEB and JOSEPH KRAUSS Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — The Syrian fighters vowed to kill "pigs" and "infidels," paraded their Kurdish captives in front of cameras and, in one graphic video, fired several rounds into a man lying on the side of a highway with his hands bound behind his back.

They are part of the self-styled Syrian National Army, the shock troops in Turkey's offensive against U.S.-allied Kurdish forces who were abandoned last week after President Donald Trump ordered the withdrawal of American troops from northern Syria.

The Syrian fighters, trained and funded by Turkey, present themselves as heirs to the uprising against Syrian President Bashar Assad. But while they include some Islamic extremists and past members of some Syrian rebel factions, many are Arab and Turkmen fighters from northern and eastern Syria who have an ax to grind against the Kurds and a reputation for violence and looting.

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"The main problem with these forces is their criminality," said Elizabeth Tsurkov, a fellow at the U.S.-based Foreign Policy Research Institute who has interviewed dozens of the fighters and said they appear to be driven by a desire for power and money rather than by any specific ideology.

"Hatred of Kurds, a sense of Arab chauvinism, complete intolerance for any dissent, and just a desire to make a profit is what's driving most of the abuses," she said.

Since Turkey began funding the force in 2016, its fighters have yet to battle Assad's troops.

Instead, they have mostly fought in Turkey's cross-border offensives against the Islamic State group and the Syrian Democratic Forces, a Kurdish-led militia that had partnered with the United States and battled IS extremists with far greater success.

In the latest offensive, the Turkish-led Syrian forces have pushed deep into northeastern Syria, an ethnically and religiously mixed region, raising fears of ethnic conflict and human rights abuses. Some of the factions allied with Turkey have been accused of banditry, and others include hard-line Islamic militants in their ranks.

Turkey views the Kurdish militia that forms the core of the SDF as a terrorist group because of its links to Kurdish fighters who have waged a decades-long insurgency inside Turkey. After threatening for months to invade northeastern Syria and carve out a "safe zone" along the border, Turkey launched an offensive last week after Trump cleared the way for it by moving U.S. troops out of the way.

As the situation on the ground descends into chaos and Syrian government troops move north to lend support to their former foes, the Kurds, Turkey's Syrian fighters are pouring across the border from Turkey, posting videos in which they threaten Kurdish "pigs" and "atheists."

Backed by Turkish airstrikes and artillery, the fighters have provided the bulk of the ground forces and taken the most casualties. At least 16 Syrian fighters have been killed compared to four Turkish soldiers since the operation began last week.

Over the weekend they captured a major highway that runs across northern Syria. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based war monitor, said the Turkey-backed fighters shot and killed six civilians along the road, including Hevreen Khalaf, a woman who led a Kurdish political party.

In a video circulated online, fighters can be seen rushing toward a bullet-ridden armored vehicle, saying they have captured a "pig." A woman's faint voice can be heard from within, saying she is the head of a political party. The video indicates Khalaf was captured alive and later died or was killed.

A U.S. military official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss operational details, said "extremist Turkish proxies" had advanced along the highway, setting up checkpoints where they posed as Kurdish fighters and killed civilians.

In a series of tweets, one of the Turkey-backed groups, known as Ahrar al-Sharqiya, posted pictures of two supposed Kurdish fighters it said it had captured. Another video posted online showed the Syrian fighters screaming "God is greatest!" as they fired several rounds into a bound prisoner who resembled one of the captured men in the previous video.

A spokesman for Ahrar al-Sharqiya, Al-Harith Rabah, said his force had set up a checkpoint on the highway and fired at those who refused to stop. He said the man killed in the video was a Kurdish fighter in civilian clothes who had fought until he ran out of ammunition. He said the Turkey-backed force is investigating the shooting and had summoned the gunmen for questioning.

"We provided proof they were armed men," Rabah told The Associated Press. "Anyone on the battlefield, when there is resistance, one is obligated to react and deal with those who resist."

Turkish officials did not respond to a request for comment on the Syrian forces, some of whom are heard using religious language in some of the videos, even borrowing slogans from the IS group.

At least some of the factions include Islamic extremists. The Rojava Information Center, an activist collective in the Kurdish-held areas, has identified at least 40 former IS militants among the Turkey-backed fighters. Tsurkov said one faction is made up of fighters from Idlib, a stronghold for an al-Qaida-linked group, who are "less prone to criminality and just straight-up extremists."

That bodes ill for northeastern Syria, home to a patchwork of Kurdish, Christian and other minority communities that have already suffered throughout the rise of IS and the devastating war that dismantled its

self-styled caliphate.

The U.N. said more than 130,000 people have fled since the Turkish operation began. As Syrian Kurdish forces fall back, there are fears that those who remain will end up like the residents of Afrin, a Kurdish enclave in northwestern Syria seized by Turkey and its Syrian allies early last year.

Rights groups say the Turkish-backed fighters looted and destroyed the property of Kurdish civilians in Afrin. Last month, a U.N. commission said the overall security situation in and around Afrin "remained dire" as armed groups carved out their own fiefdoms. The Rojava Information Center said some factions have imposed a strict form of Islamic law.

"There is a general absence of rule of law and repeated incidents of kidnappings, torture, extortion and assassination," the U.N. commission said, adding that victims were "often of Kurdish origin as well as civilians perceived as being prosperous, including doctors, businessmen and merchants."

Krauss reported from Jerusalem.

Fort Worth officer charged with murder, jailed on \$200K bond

By JAKE BLEIBERG and JILL BLEED Associated Press

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — A white former Fort Worth police officer was being held in jail on a murder charge after shooting a black woman through a window of her home, and the department told a grieving community that investigators would ensure "no stone is left unturned" in the search for answers.

Aaron Dean, 34, was jailed Monday night on \$200,000 bond after being charged with murder in an incident that began with a call about an open front door. Earlier in the day he resigned from the force, and the police chief said he would have been fired if he hadn't.

Police bodycam video showed Dean approaching the door of the home where Atatiana Jefferson, 28, was caring for her 8-year-old nephew early Saturday. He then walked around the side of the house, pushed through a gate into the fenced-off backyard and fired through the glass a split-second after shouting at Jefferson to show her hands.

Dean was not heard identifying himself as police on the video, and Interim Police Chief Ed Kraus said there was no sign Dean or the other officer who responded even knocked on the front door.

"Nobody looked at this video and said that there's any doubt that this officer acted inappropriately," Kraus said.

Sgt. Chris Daniels read a statement Monday night after Dean's arrest in which he pledged that the department's major case and internal affairs units were working "around the clock" for justice in the case.

"To the citizens and residents of our city: We feel and understand your anger and disappointment and we stand by you as we work together to make Fort Worth a better place for all of us," Daniels said.

Earlier in the day, Jefferson's family had demanded that Dean, a member of the force for 1½ years, be fired and arrested.

"Why this man is not in handcuffs is a source of continued agitation for this family and for this community," family attorney Lee Merritt said, hours before Dean was booked into jail.

Police went to Jefferson's home about 2:25 a.m. after a neighbor called a non-emergency line to report a door ajar. In a statement over the weekend, the department said officers saw someone near a window inside the home and that one of them drew his gun and fired after "perceiving a threat."

The video showed Dean shouting, "Put your hands up! Show me your hands!" and immediately firing.

Jefferson was staying up late, playing video games with her nephew, when she was killed, according to the family's attorney.

As for what, exactly, led Dean to open fire, the police chief said: "I cannot make sense of why she had to lose her life." The chief said Dean resigned without talking to internal affairs investigators.

The video included images of a gun inside a bedroom. Kraus said he did not know whether Jefferson was holding the weapon. But he said the mere fact she had a gun shouldn't be considered unusual in Texas.

"We're homeowners in Texas," the police chief said. "Most of us, if we thought we had somebody outside

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our house that shouldn't be and we had access to a firearm, we would be acting very similarly to how she was acting." Kraus said that, in hindsight, releasing the images of the weapon was "a bad thing to do."

Mayor Betsy Price called the gun "irrelevant."

"Atatiana was in her own home, caring for her 8-year-old nephew. She was a victim," Price said.

Texas has had a "castle doctrine" law on the books since 2007 that gives people a stronger legal defense to use deadly force in their homes. The law was backed at the time by the National Rifle Association and is similar to "stand your ground" measures across the U.S. that say a person has no duty to retreat from an intruder.

Fort Worth is about 30 miles (50 kilometers) west of Dallas, where another high-profile police shooting occurred last year.

In that case, white Dallas officer Amber Guyger shot and killed her black neighbor Botham Jean inside his own apartment after Guyger said she mistook his place for her own. Guyger, 31, was sentenced this month to 10 years in prison.

A large crowd gathered outside Jefferson's home Sunday night for a vigil after demonstrations briefly stopped traffic on Interstate 35. A single bullet hole was visible in the window of the single-story, freshly painted purple home, and floral tributes and stuffed animals piled up in the street.

The police chief said Dean could face state charges and that he had submitted a case to the FBI to review for possible federal civil rights charges.

Dean has not yet hired an attorney but will have one provided with financial support from the state's largest police union, the Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas, according to Charley Wilkison, executive director.

Relations with the public have been strained after other recent Fort Worth police shootings. In June, the department released footage of officers killing a man who ignored repeated orders to drop his handgun. He was the fourth person Fort Worth police had fired upon in 10 days.

Of the nine officer-involved shootings so far this year in Fort Worth, five targeted African Americans and six resulted in death, according to department data.

Nearly two-thirds of the department's 1,100 officers are white, just over 20% are Hispanic, and about 10% are black. The city of nearly 900,000 people is about 40% white, 35% Hispanic and 19% black.

Calling the shooting "a pivotal moment in our city," the mayor said she was ordering a top-to-bottom review of the police force and vowed to "rebuild a sense of trust within the city and with our police department."

Jefferson was a 2014 graduate of Xavier University in New Orleans and earned a bachelor's degree in biology. She was working in pharmaceutical equipment sales and was considering going to medical school, according to the family's lawyer.

Bleed reported from Little Rock, Arkansas.

Associated Press writers Nomaan Merchant in Houston and Adam Kealoha Causey in Oklahoma City contributed to this report.

For the latest updates: <https://apnews.com/2dc677322c7f4d1fb7d1b94f119e1806>

Flooded bullet trains show Japan's risks from disasters

By YURI KAGEYAMA AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — The typhoon that ravaged Japan last week hit with unusual speed and ferocity, leaving homes buried in mud and people stranded on rooftops.

But nothing spoke more of the powerlessness of modernization against natural disasters than rows of bullet trains deluged in floodwaters in Nagano, a mountainous region to the northwest of Tokyo.

Japan's technological prowess and meticulous attention to detail are sometimes no match for rising risks in a precarious era of climate change.

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Experts say they also instill a false sense of security in a country inured to danger by the constant threat of calamitous earthquakes, tsunami and volcanos.

"Weather conditions in Japan up to now have been relatively moderate," said Toshitaka Katada, a disaster expert and professor at the University of Tokyo.

Those days are over, and Japan's readiness for disasters, still based on data collected decades ago, hasn't kept up with the times, he said.

"Damage gets multiplied when people are overly confident about their safety," Katada said.

With increasingly extreme weather, the government, businesses and individuals need to rethink their preparedness.

Rescue efforts continued Tuesday, three days after the typhoon made landfall near Tokyo and then swerved northward before moving over the Pacific as a tropical storm. The casualty counts were climbing, with dozens dead, more missing and some 100 people injured in Nagano, Fukushima, Miyagi and other central and northern prefectures.

At least 10 Shinkansen trains, each consisting of 12 cars, were damaged by the flooding at a depot in Nagano, said East Japan Railway Co. spokesman Yuji Ishikawa.

Evacuation orders were still in effect, so details were still unclear. But electronic equipment underneath the carriages was likely totally wrecked, he said.

The scientific community has been warning about the trend toward more extreme weather for years, including intensifying cyclones.

Many of the casualties from natural disasters, especially landslides and flooding, reflect the vulnerability of Japanese communities, businesses and public infrastructure to torrential rains and other conditions that were not considered when homes and other facilities were built.

Despite increasingly accurate forecasts, it's still difficult to predict the exact track of storms and the potential damage they may bring, said Chris Field, director at the Woods Institute for the Environment at Stanford University.

"The message for typhoon-prone areas is that all should prepare for a future of stronger storms," Field said.

"It is important to understand and respond to the evidence that storms are getting stronger as a result of climate change and that investments in disaster prevention need to rise, now more than ever," he said.

Japan already is in crisis over its aging and inadequately maintained infrastructure. Governments lack the funding and manpower to refurbish and replace tunnels, bridges and other structures to meet improved standards for resistance to earthquakes and other disasters.

On top of that, there's an urgent need to improve early warning systems, build bigger seawalls and help people relocate out of vulnerable areas, Field and other experts said.

In Nagano and other areas, homes and fields that normally would be protected were inundated when swollen rivers breached dikes and levees build for the less severe flooding of earlier times.

The authorities issued clear and early warnings about the perils of the approaching typhoon, holding an emergency news conference several days before the expected landfall.

"Please take measures to save your own life," public broadcaster NHK announced, again and again.

In Miyagi, trucks circulated in neighborhoods urging people to evacuate, sirens wailed and smartphones were bombarded with emails urging evacuations.

But while evacuation advisories were issued to areas affecting as many as several million people, far fewer, in the tens of thousands, heeded those warnings.

Japanese need to be more aware of disaster risks and do more to prepare on their own instead of counting on the government to take care of them, experts said.

Hiroaki Maruya, a disaster expert and professor at Tohoku University in Sendai, Miyagi Prefecture, said Japan built many dams and embankments after World War II to reduce disasters.

But fortifying such infrastructure is costly and will take time, maybe decades.

That means it's better to escape even if you find out later that you didn't need to flee.

"These days, we are having one big typhoon after another, and places that haven't flooded in decades

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are now at risk," he said.

"This is a serious problem. And so, to stay alive, you just have to get out."

Follow Yuri Kageyama on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/yurikageyama>

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

Strasburg Ks 12, Nats top Cards 8-1; 1 win from World Series

By HOWARD FENDRICH AP Sports Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — More than 100 pitches in, Stephen Strasburg was adamant he wasn't quite ready to leave the latest superb start by a Nationals pitcher against the St. Louis Cardinals in the NL Championship Series — a win that put Washington on the verge of the city's first World Series in 86 years.

It was the seventh inning, and manager Dave Martinez noticed Strasburg had flexed his right leg and reached for that hamstring. So the skipper and a trainer went to the mound to check on their guy.

"I was trying to explain to him, 'Hey, you just grabbed your hamstring, so there's a little concern,'" Martinez recalled. "He said, 'No, I cramped up. It's fine. I always cramp up.' He said, 'I'm staying in the game. I want to finish this inning.' I said, 'You sure you're all right?' He said, 'I'm in the game!'"

The right-hander did, indeed, stay in. Even struck out the next two batters to raise his total to 12 Ks, each finished with an off-speed pitch. Strasburg took his turn silencing the Cardinals' struggling bats, Nationals postseason star Howie Kendrick doubled three times and drove in three more runs, and Washington took a 3-0 lead in the best-of-seven NLCS by beating St. Louis 8-1 Monday night.

"It's a little surreal," reliever Sean Doolittle said about being one win from the World Series, "and I think that's why it's important that we don't look too far ahead."

After Nationals starters Aníbal Sánchez and Max Scherzer flirted with no-hitters in the first two games against the Cardinals, Strasburg wasn't quite that untouchable: He allowed a double in the second inning, six later singles and one unearned run.

Still, the Cardinals, quite simply, can't score in this NLCS: They have a grand total of two runs and 11 hits through three games. Washington's three starters have a combined ERA — no calculator necessary for this one — of 0.00.

Yes, that's zero-point-zero-zero.

"We expected better," said Kolten Wong, who went 0 for 4 on Monday and is 0 for 10 in the series for St. Louis.

Now it's Patrick Corbin's chance to see if he can match his rotation-mates. The \$140 million lefty will start for the Nationals in Game 4 on Tuesday night, when they can close out a sweep at home. Rookie right-hander Dakota Hudson will be on the mound for the Cardinals.

"We've got to get a lead at some point in this series. Hard to win a game if you can't get a lead," St. Louis manager Mike Shildt said. "We've got to figure out a way to create some offense early in the game and be able to hold it there."

Washington hasn't put a baseball team in the World Series since 1933, when the Senators lost to the New York Giants in five games. The nation's capital owns only one MLB championship; the Senators won all the way back in 1924. There wasn't even a baseball team at all in Washington for more than three decades until the Montreal Expos franchise moved to town before the 2005 season and was renamed the Nationals.

Until this season, the Nationals hadn't won a playoff series, going 0-4 since 2012, but they sure look as if they're making up for lost time.

"Shoot, maybe we're finally coming around," third baseman Anthony Rendon said.

How about this current run? The Nationals, who found themselves at 19-31 in late May, have won 15 of their past 17 games, stretching back to the last week of the regular season.

It all starts with the pitching.

"That's what our team is built around. You have those guys, those horses, that take the ball every fifth day," said Ryan Zimmerman, who drove in two runs. "They haven't disappointed, obviously, in the post-

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season, but they've kind of been the backbone of this team all year."

Against Sánchez in Game 1, the first hit for the Cardinals arrived with their 27th batter. Against Scherzer in Game 2, it was their 21st batter. But even when the Cardinals did something right against Strasburg, they erased it by doing something wrong.

Their fourth batter, Marcell Ozuna, doubled to the left field corner in the second, then quickly erased himself with some poor baserunning, going too far toward third on a comebacker and getting tagged out by Strasburg, who is enjoying a postseason to remember.

He was the No. 1 overall pick in the 2009 amateur draft, then was infamously shut down before the playoffs three years later to protect his surgically repaired right elbow. Strasburg is now hale and hearty, throwing 117 pitches Monday, his most since totaling 118 in a May 2017 game.

And this sort of October excellence is what the Nationals were hoping for: Strasburg has a 3-0 record and 1.64 ERA, with 33 strikeouts and one walk — he didn't issue a free pass Monday — in 22 innings this postseason.

Much to the delight of a red towel-twirling crowd of 43,675, Washington's batters kept delivering, led by Kendrick, who has eight RBIs in the past four games.

The Nationals roughed up Jack Flaherty for four runs, all in the third inning; he hadn't allowed that many in a game since July 2, a span of 18 appearances.

Seven of Washington's eight runs came with two outs, and there were contributions from up and down the lineup: Victor Robles homered in his return from a hamstring injury, and Rendon heard "MVP!" chants after a slick defensive play and an RBI double.

"We haven't been able to play our brand of baseball in full," Shildt said. "We haven't been able to get in rhythm or sync, but we still have more baseball to play."

TRAINER'S ROOM

Nationals: Robles, the Nationals' center fielder, missed five postseason games with a strained right hamstring he hurt in Game 2 of the NLDS.

UP NEXT

Corbin took the loss in each of Washington's two defeats this postseason. One was a start — in Game 1 of the NLDS, when he allowed just one unearned run with nine strikeouts — and one came in relief. Corbin also came out of the bullpen to retire one Cardinals batter in Game 2 of the NLCS on Saturday.

In his only postseason start, in Game 4 of the Cardinals' NLDS against Atlanta, Hudson allowed one earned run in 4 2/3 innings and did not factor in the decision as St. Louis won 5-4 in 10 innings.

More AP baseball: <https://apnews.com/MLB> and https://twitter.com/AP_Sports

Woman killed by Texas officer was devoted to family

By JAMIE STENGLE Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — Atatiana Jefferson was devoted to her family and had moved into her mother's Fort Worth home earlier this year to help as her mom's health declined, relatives said.

With her mother in the hospital, Jefferson and her 8-year-old nephew were the only two people home early Saturday when a police officer fired a gunshot through a back window, killing Jefferson.

The 28-year-old Jefferson, who family members sometimes called "Tay," and her nephew had devoted their night to Call of Duty and were still up playing the video game when the officer shot. They had the front door of the home open to let the cool breeze in, said Lee Merritt, an attorney for Jefferson's family.

"They did that all night — from sunset until the time that they lost track of time ... when they heard someone prowling around in the bushes," Merritt said during news conference with her family Monday.

"He and his Auntie Tay experienced the fear of someone prowling in the backyard," Merritt said. "His Auntie Tay did not allow him to check the window, she checked herself."

The white Fort Worth officer, responding to a call from a neighbor who was concerned about the open door, fired a split-second after shouting at the black woman to show her hands. Police bodycam video

shows the officer didn't identify himself as police.

He resigned Monday and was later charged with murder.

Amber Carr said her sister, Jefferson, loved spending time with her nephews.

"My sister, the relationship she has with my sons is undescrivable. Sometimes people think that they are her kids and not mine," said Carr, who also has a 4-year-old son.

She said the last time she spoke to her sister was a week before she was killed.

"She came to the hospital in Plano where I was recovering from a major heart surgery. She came and brought me food, she brought me a new cellphone," Carr said at the news conference.

Jefferson loved playing basketball and video games with the 8-year-old, but she also helped him understand he had to be responsible for getting himself ready for school each morning and wrote out a schedule so he could be organized, Carr said.

"She helped him become more independent and self-sufficient," she said.

Jefferson grew up in the Dallas area. She graduated from Xavier University of Louisiana in 2014 with a bachelor's degree of science in biology, and her family said she worked from home selling medical equipment.

Another sister, Ashley Carr, who read from a statement prepared by the family, described Jefferson as "a smart, ambitious, kind person with an adventurous spirit." She also called her a hard worker.

She was good about saving money, the family said after the news conference. They had been paying someone to cut the grass at the mother's home, but Jefferson bought a lawn mower and weed eater when she moved in and even taught her nephew how to mow.

When Carr picked the 8-year-old up at a facility where police had taken him after Jefferson was killed, it was the boy who told his mother about the shooting.

In the days since, the child has been the one comforting his mother. Carr said she can see Jefferson's loving influence in the boy's actions.

"In the middle of the night when I'm crying, he wakes up and tells me to breathe in my nose and out my mouth," Carr said at the news conference. "He holds me, he hugs me."

Owl killings spur moral questions about human intervention

By PHUONG LE Associated Press

CORVALLIS, Ore. (AP) — As he stood amid the thick old-growth forests in the coastal range of Oregon, Dave Wiens was nervous. Before he trained to shoot his first barred owl, he had never fired a gun.

He eyed the big female owl, her feathers streaked brown and white, perched on a branch at just the right distance. Then he squeezed the trigger and the owl fell to the forest floor, its carcass adding to a running tally of more than 2,400 barred owls killed so far in a controversial experiment by the U.S. government to test whether the northern spotted owl's rapid decline in the Pacific Northwest can be stopped by killing its aggressive East Coast cousin.

Wiens is the son of a well-known ornithologist and grew up fascinated by birds, and his graduate research in owl interactions helped lay the groundwork for this tense moment.

"It's a little distasteful, I think, to go out killing owls to save another owl species," said Wiens, a biologist who still views each shooting as "gut-wrenching" as the first. "Nonetheless, I also feel like from a conservation standpoint, our back was up against the wall. We knew that barred owls were outcompeting spotted owls and their populations were going haywire."

The federal government has been trying for decades to save the northern spotted owl, a native bird that sparked an intense battle over logging across Washington, Oregon and California decades ago.

After the owl was listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act in 1990, earning it a cover on Time Magazine, federal officials halted logging on millions of acres of old-growth forests on federal lands to protect the bird's habitat. But the birds' population continued to decline.

Meanwhile, researchers, including Wiens, began documenting another threat — larger, more aggressive

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barred owls competing with spotted owls for food and space and displacing them in some areas.

In almost all ways, the barred owl is the spotted owl's worst enemy: They reproduce more often, have more babies per year and eat the same prey, like squirrels and wood rats. And they now outnumber spotted owls in many areas of the native bird's historic range.

So in a last-ditch effort to see whether they can save spotted owls, federal officials are resorting to killing hundreds of federally protected barred owls.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service experiment, which began in 2015, has raised thorny questions: To what extent can we reverse declines that have unfolded over decades, often due partially to actions by humans? And as climate change continues to shake up the landscape, displacing species and altering how and where plants and animals live and thrive, how should we intervene?

The experimental killing of barred owls raised such moral dilemmas when it first was proposed in 2012 that the Fish and Wildlife Service took the unusual step of hiring an ethicist to help work through whether it was acceptable and could be done humanely.

Just as with other conservation measures that involve killing one creature to save another, the program also prompted litigation and debate.

Federal and state officials, for example, have broken the necks of thousands of cowbirds to save the warbler, a songbird once on the brink of extinction. To preserve salmon runs in the Pacific Northwest and perch and other fish in the Midwest, federal and state agencies kill thousands of large seabirds called double-crested cormorants. And last year, Congress passed a law making it easier for Oregon, Washington, Idaho and American Indian tribes to kill sea lions that gobble imperiled salmon runs in the Columbia River.

The owl experiment is unusual because it involves killing one species of owl to save another owl species — and it may well be the largest killing program involving raptors.

In four small study areas in Washington, Oregon and Northern California, Wiens and his trained team have been picking off invasive barred owls with 12-gauge shotguns to see whether the native birds return to their nesting habitat once their competitors are gone. Small efforts to remove barred owls in British Columbia and northern California already showed promising results.

The Fish and Wildlife Service has a permit to kill up to 3,600 owls and, if the \$5 million program works, could decide to expand its efforts.

Wiens, who works for the U.S. Geological Survey, now views his gun as "a research tool" in humankind's attempts to maintain biodiversity and rebalance the forest ecosystem. Because the barred owl has few predators in Northwest forests, he sees his team's role as apex predator, acting as a cap on a population that doesn't have one.

"Humans, by stepping in and taking that role in nature, we may be able to achieve more biodiversity in the environment, rather than just having barred owls take over and wipe out all the prey species," he said.

Marc Bekoff, professor emeritus of ecology and evolutionary biology at the University of Colorado, Boulder, finds the practice abhorrent and said humans should find another way to help owls.

"There's no way to couch it as a good thing if you're killing one species to save another," Bekoff said.

And Michael Harris, who directs the wildlife law program for Friends of Animals, thinks the government should focus on what humans are doing to the environment and protect habitats rather than scapegoating barred owls.

"Things were put into motion a century ago. We really have to let these things work themselves out," said Harris, whose group unsuccessfully sued to stop the killing and is now contesting an Endangered Species Act provision called an "incidental take" permit that exempts landowners who kill spotted owls during activities considered lawful, such as logging.

"It's going to be very common with climate change," Harris said. "What are we going to do — pick and choose the winners?"

Some see a responsibility to intervene, however, noting that humans are partly to blame for the underlying conditions with activities like logging, which helped lead to the spotted owl's decline. And others just see a no-win situation.

"A decision not to kill the barred owl is a decision to let the spotted owl go extinct," said Bob Sallinger,

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conservation director with the Audubon Society of Portland. "That's what we have to wrestle with."

Barred owls are native to eastern North America but began moving West at the turn of the 20th century. Scientists believe they migrated to western Canada across the Great Plains in the early 1900s, using forests that popped up as people learned to manage wildfires and planted trees around farms. They arrived in Washington in 1973 and then moved south into Oregon and California.

If the experimental removal of barred owls improves the spotted owl populations, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife may consider killing more owls as part of a larger, long-term management strategy. Enough success has been noted that the experiment already has been extended to August 2021.

"What we're trying to do is find a way to manage barred owls — not to get rid of them completely — ... so that spotted owls can still survive on the landscape while we look for opportunities to help the spotted owl recover," said Robin Bown, who leads the agency's owl experiment.

At the study site, Washington's Central Cascades, only a few pairs of spotted owls remain and Wiens questions whether they can be saved there. But in Oregon and Northern California, they're at least more robust, while still dwindling.

"We're seeing a pattern with removals that the spotted owls that were there when we began are still there, yet the area where we're not doing removals, they're vanishing very quickly," Wiens said. "But we're not seeing new spotted owls move into these areas. New owls moving in is really the key sign of success."

"I certainly don't see northern spotted owls going extinct completely," he said, adding that "extinction in this case will be much longer process and from what we've seen from doing these removal experiments, we may be able to slow some of those declines."

Wiens has established a routine: It is pitch black when he parks his truck on an isolated road west of the central Oregon town of Corvallis, the town where he grew up. The forest reverberates as rain pelts towering stands of Douglas firs and cedars.

Wiens is 6 feet, 6 inches tall, but the trees dwarfs him as he approaches a clearing, the ground squeezing like a sponge at his every step. He sets a digital bird caller on the ground, steps back and waits as the first of several vocalizations penetrates the night, sounding a lot like: "Who? Who? Who cooks for you?"

Barred owls can't stand intruders in their territory so they will swoop in to chase another owl out. Sometimes, they attack.

Wiens ramps up the pre-recorded calls until he hits one that sounds a lot like screeching monkeys. Somewhere in the darkness comes the muffled call of a male owl. "You hear that?" he says, his headlamp scanning high branches. "He's way up there." He plays a few more calls, but the male bird never shows.

That same night, at another remote location, Wiens' colleague Jordan Hazan has better luck.

Just after midnight, after spending several hours in the woods, Hazan carries a dead male owl in a white plastic bag into the lab in Corvallis. Inside the tight space, he weighs it, lays it on the counter and spreads the wings to measure its wingspan, revealing streaks of white and dark brown feathers on the bird's chest.

The owl appears intact, an effort taken so specimens can be shipped out for research at museums and universities across the country. Several dozen had been shipped earlier that day to the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago.

"They're beautiful birds. It's a little sad to have to kill them," said Hazan, a wildlife technician who took the job in 2015 after spending two years surveying for increasingly scarce spotted owls.

His hands still shake every time he pulls the trigger.

"You're taught all of your life that owls and raptors are to be protected," he said. "People ask me how it is killing the owls. As a hunter, it's fun going out and bagging your ducks and geese. With the owls, you don't get any kind of pleasure out of it. It's just something you have to do."

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Farrow details lack of enthusiasm at NBC for Weinstein story

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By DAVID BAUDER AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — In reporter Ronan Farrow's account of his contentious divorce from NBC News, the more evidence he gathered on Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein's alleged sexual misconduct, the less enthusiastic his bosses seemed to be.

NBC's decision to let Farrow take his work to the New Yorker magazine is widely regarded as one of the biggest mistakes in journalism in the past few years. The detailed stories on Weinstein published by The New York Times and New Yorker in 2017 shared a Pulitzer Prize and are credited with igniting the #MeToo movement.

"For six months, the only support I'd had was (NBC News President) Noah Oppenheim scrunching his nose and holding journalism at arm's length, afraid it might get on him," Farrow wrote.

His former employers call Farrow's book, "Catch and Kill," a smear. It's being published Tuesday.

NBC remains adamant that its hand was forced by Farrow's enthusiasm for a story that — at the time he was working there — didn't meet its standards.

"Farrow's effort to defame NBC News is clearly motivated not by a pursuit of truth, but an axe to grind," NBC News President Noah Oppenheim wrote in a detailed memo to NBC News staff on Monday. "It is built on a series of distortions, confused timelines and outright inaccuracies."

Two years later, the reasons why NBC let Farrow and his explosive reporting leave are murky. Farrow suggests fear of Weinstein, fear of having Matt Lauer's secrets exposed, journalistic timidity or simple misjudgment all may play a role. Farrow's former producer, Rich McHugh, wrote in Vanity Fair that NBC abdicated its responsibility to relentlessly pursue and tell the truth.

One thing they do agree on: it was Oppenheim's idea in the first place, when he pointed out a tweet by actress Rose McGowan about being abused by an unnamed figure in the movie business.

Farrow, a former MSNBC host who segued into investigative journalism at NBC, scored an interview with McGowan, where she told her story but didn't name Weinstein on camera. Off-camera, she said it was him (Weinstein, who faces a sexual assault trial in New York in January regarding allegations not relating to McGowan, has denied any criminal wrongdoing). Farrow and McHugh pursued other sources and, they soon learned, so was the Times.

Yet he wrote about hurdles placed in his way that made him question NBC's desire to do the story.

Farrow wrote of doubts by Oppenheim that Weinstein was a figure many viewers knew or even cared about. When he told a supervisor that the Times was also onto a story, that person said that sometimes it was better to let someone else go first. He and McHugh were told lawyers were worried about whether NBC could get in trouble for talking to victims who had signed non-disclosure agreements, and of a concern that Farrow might be accused of a conflict of interest because his estranged father, Woody Allen, was once in business with Weinstein.

He and his producer were told at least a dozen times to pause or stop reporting, he wrote.

Eventually, the reporting team said they kept working on the story despite a lack of enthusiasm from above, with McHugh quickly switching a side screen on his computer to hide what he was doing when a supervisor was near.

NBC said Farrow mischaracterized conversations; that Oppenheim wondered not about the story's importance but about the news value of one element that had been reported on before — an audio tape from a woman fending off Weinstein. NBC wasn't satisfied coming in second but had noted if one victim came forward elsewhere it might open a floodgate of others who followed.

As the story moved along, NBC said it asked Farrow to prepare a script and assigned some of its top producers to vet the material.

The verdict was unanimous: Farrow needed more proof to sustain the claim that Weinstein was a sexual predator, Oppenheim said in an interview on Monday.

"He refused to accept that decision," Oppenheim said. "He was frustrated by the standards we were upholding."

The book details aggressive efforts by Weinstein to stop the story through the use of lawyers, public

relations experts and a shadowy security firm, along with multiple calls to NBC executives.

After word got out that Farrow had left NBC, he reports that the mogul bragged to others that he got the network to "kill" the story. Weinstein even sent Oppenheim a bottle of expensive vodka (which NBC said he gave away because he doesn't drink).

Weinstein played no role in NBC's decision to hold off on what Farrow had reported, Oppenheim said.

A more sinister theory for NBC's inaction revolved around Matt Lauer, the "Today" show host who was fired in November 2017 for "inappropriate sexual contact" with a fellow employee. That colleague told Farrow that Lauer raped her in a Sochi hotel room in 2014; Lauer described the sex as consensual.

Farrow wrote that Weinstein "had made it known to the network that he was aware of Lauer's behavior and was capable of revealing it." At the time, Lauer was NBC News' highest-paid news employee, a fixture on the morning show.

But NBC denies Farrow's claim that its executives were aware, or should have been aware, that Lauer had a sexual misconduct problem.

Only one person from NBC's hierarchy approached him after the New Yorker piece ran to express regrets about what had happened, Farrow wrote. It was Brian Roberts, chairman of NBC's parent company Comcast.

The bad blood between Farrow and NBC News has led to a laundry list of he said-he said claims. They don't even agree on whose idea it was to take the reporting elsewhere.

That is, ultimately, the decision that most befuddled people who weren't directly involved. If the story wasn't ready, why didn't NBC just let Farrow and McHugh keep working on it?

Oppenheim said NBC agreed to let him leave because their working relationship had irretrievably broken down.

Farrow "has refused to even consider the possibility that (NBC employees) were all acting with integrity and good faith and has instead chosen to pursue this conspiracy theory that is completely unfounded," he said.

Do California power shutoffs work? Hard to know, experts say

By JONATHAN J. COOPER and JOCELYN GECKER Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Millions of Californians spent part of the week in the dark in an unprecedented effort by the state's large electrical utilities to prevent another devastating wildfire. It was the fifth time Pacific Gas & Electric Co. has preemptively cut the power but by far the largest to date in the utility's effort to prevent a deadly wildfire sparked by its power lines.

But do the power shut-offs actually prevent fires?

Experts say it's hard to know what might have happened had the power stayed on, or if the utility's proactive shutoffs are to thank for California's mild fire season this year.

"It's like trying to prove a negative," said Alan Scheller-Wolf, professor of operations management and an energy expert at Carnegie Mellon's Tepper School of Business. "They can't prove they prevented a disaster because there's no alternative universe where they didn't try this."

The winds that prompted the mass outage that affected about 2 million people in northern and central parts of the state shifted southward by Thursday, where a wind-driven wildfire led officials to order the evacuation of 100,000 people from their homes in foothills of the San Fernando Valley.

California is experiencing the first major fire activity of the season after two years that brought some of the most devastating fires on record, many of them caused by utility equipment. Until Monday, fires had covered only about 5% of the acreage burned by that date last year, and only about 13% of the average for the last five years.

But it's too early — and maybe impossible — to tell if that can be attributed to increased measures to cut power.

"We have good reason to be skeptical, and the reason is that PG&E bears the costs of starting a fire, but they don't bear the costs of shutting off power," said Severin Borenstein, faculty director of the Energy Institute at University of California, Berkeley's Haas School of Business.

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He noted that weather forecasting is notoriously difficult, "so even if PG&E were doing the best possible job, it would not get it right sometimes."

Marybel Batjer, president of the California Public Utilities Commission, which regulates PG&E, blasted the company Monday for "failures in execution" during the outage. She ordered a series of corrective actions, such as setting a goal of restoring power within 12 hours instead of its current 48 hours, minimizing the scale of outages and improving communication.

PG&E said in a statement Monday that employees found more than 100 spots where parts of its systems were damaged during the strong winds, including downed power lines and places where trees had hit the lines. Repairs were either completed or underway at those sites.

Gov. Gavin Newsom blasted PG&E for what he called decades of mismanagement, underinvestment and lousy communication with the public. In a letter sent Monday to Bill Johnson, PG&E's president and CEO, Newsom urged the utility to compensate affected customers with a bill credit or rebate worth \$100 for residential customers or \$250 for small businesses.

Newsom said the shutoffs affected too many customers for too long, and it's clear PG&E implemented them "with astounding neglect and lack of preparation."

Johnson responded with a statement that didn't address Newsom's request for customers to be compensated, but which said the power was cut to keep customers safe, and "that was the right decision."

In a sharp rebuke of PG&E delivered in the midst of the shutoff last week, Newsom pointed to San Diego Gas & Electric, which pioneered proactive power shutoffs following a devastating 2007 fire sparked by its equipment, as a model for responsibly shutting off power in bad weather.

"Specifically as it relates to their predictive analysis, their weather station, I had a chance to visit it a few months ago," Newsom said. "It's exceptional. It's at another level."

SDG&E, which serves 3.6 million people, has spent about \$1.5 billion to better predict bad weather and update its equipment, said Chief Operating Officer Caroline Winn. The company hired meteorologists, data scientists and fire experts and deployed an extensive array of weather monitors, she said.

It replaced about 18,000 wooden poles with steel, installed new conductors and increased the wind tolerance in remote areas, using data from weather sensors to know which equipment was most at risk. The company also sectionalized electrical circuits so power managers could target outages more precisely to the lines facing danger.

"We didn't have all the answers then, but what we did know was we had to change and we had to do things differently," Winn said.

A decade of data and the refined grid have helped SDG&E to narrowly target outages when they're necessary, she said. Of its 14 outages since 2013, only two affected more than 20,000 customers and most have been significantly fewer.

Outside California, other large Western utilities in Nevada and Utah said they, too, are considering proactively shutting off power to avoid sparking fires.

"We want to make sure our system isn't the cause of one of these devastating fires," said Tiffany Erickson, a spokeswoman for Rocky Mountain Power in Utah, which has notified 5,000 households and businesses that shutoffs are possible during dangerous weather.

Last month, Southern California Edison shut off electricity to 14,000 customers in the remote Mammoth Lakes area along the eastern side of the Sierra Nevada because of forecasts of extreme winds and extremely dry vegetation.

Winds reached 88 mph (141 kph), and the California Highway Patrol banned trucks and campers from traveling along a highway after gusts blew over big rigs, the utility said. The winds toppled power poles and damaged electric circuits.

"It's abundantly clear that the conditions that were in place up there were so severe that they could likely have caused a spark to occur," said Don Daigler, a company spokesman. "We're not going to do this willy-nilly."

Stephen Pyne, a retired Arizona State University professor and fire historian, likened the power line problem to challenges posed by railroads until the early 1900s, when steam engines and train wheels

regularly threw sparks that ignited deadly fires.

"Think about the railroads then," Pyne said. "They were enormously powerful — economically, politically, socially. And we took it on. Railroads ceased to be a source of regular or lethal emissions (of sparks)."

Cooper reported from Phoenix. Contributing to this report were Associated Press writers Olga R. Rodriguez in San Francisco; Keith Ridler in Boise, Idaho; Brady McCombs in Salt Lake City; and Brian Melley in Los Angeles.

This story has been corrected to show that winds moved south by Thursday, not Friday.

Texas officer charged with murder, resigns after shooting

By JAKE BLEIBERG and JILL BLEED Associated Press

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — A white Fort Worth police officer who shot and killed a black woman through a back window of her home while responding to a call about an open front door was charged with murder on Monday evening after resigning from the force.

Aaron Dean, 34, was jailed on \$200,000 bond after the police chief said he acted without justification and would have been fired if he hadn't quit.

Police bodycam video showed Dean approaching the door of the home where Atatiana Jefferson, 28, was caring for her 8-year-old nephew early Saturday. He then walked around the side of the house, pushed through a gate into the fenced-off backyard and fired through the glass a split-second after shouting at Jefferson to show her hands.

Dean was not heard identifying himself as police on the video, and Interim Police Chief Ed Kraus said there was no sign Dean or the other officer who responded even knocked on the front door.

"Nobody looked at this video and said that there's any doubt that this officer acted inappropriately," Kraus said.

Earlier in the day, Jefferson's family had demanded that Dean, a member of the force for 1½ years, be fired and arrested.

"Why this man is not in handcuffs is a source of continued agitation for this family and for this community," family attorney Lee Merritt said, hours before Dean was booked into jail.

Police went to Jefferson's home about 2:25 a.m. after a neighbor called a non-emergency line to report a door ajar. In a statement over the weekend, the department said officers saw someone near a window inside the home and that one of them drew his gun and fired after "perceiving a threat."

The video showed Dean shouting, "Put your hands up! Show me your hands!" and immediately firing.

Jefferson was staying up late, playing video games with her nephew, when she was killed, according to the family's attorney.

As for what, exactly, led Dean to open fire, the police chief said: "I cannot make sense of why she had to lose her life." The chief said Dean resigned without talking to internal affairs investigators.

The video included images of a gun inside a bedroom. Kraus said he did not know whether Jefferson was holding the weapon. But he said the mere fact she had a gun shouldn't be considered unusual in Texas.

"We're homeowners in Texas," the police chief said. "Most of us, if we thought we had somebody outside our house that shouldn't be and we had access to a firearm, we would be acting very similarly to how she was acting." Kraus said that, in hindsight, releasing the images of the weapon was "a bad thing to do."

Mayor Betsy Price called the gun "irrelevant."

"Atatiana was in her own home, caring for her 8-year-old nephew. She was a victim," Price said.

Texas has had a "castle doctrine" law on the books since 2007 that gives people a stronger legal defense to use deadly force in their homes. The law was backed at the time by the National Rifle Association and is similar to "stand your ground" measures across the U.S. that say a person has no duty to retreat from an intruder.

Fort Worth is about 30 miles (50 kilometers) west of Dallas, where another high-profile police shooting

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occurred last year.

In that case, white Dallas officer Amber Guyger shot and killed her black neighbor Botham Jean inside his own apartment after Guyger said she mistook his place for her own. Guyger, 31, was sentenced this month to 10 years in prison.

A large crowd gathered outside Jefferson's home Sunday night for a vigil after demonstrations briefly stopped traffic on Interstate 35. A single bullet hole was visible in the window of the single-story, freshly painted purple home, and floral tributes and stuffed animals piled up in the street.

The police chief said Dean could face state charges and that he had submitted a case to the FBI to review for possible federal civil rights charges.

Dean has not yet hired an attorney but will have one provided with financial support from the state's largest police union, the Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas, according to Charley Wilkison, executive director.

Relations with the public have been strained after other recent Fort Worth police shootings. In June, the department released footage of officers killing a man who ignored repeated orders to drop his handgun. He was the fourth person Fort Worth police had fired upon in 10 days.

Of the nine officer-involved shootings so far this year in Fort Worth, five targeted African Americans and six resulted in death, according to department data.

Nearly two-thirds of the department's 1,100 officers are white, just over 20% are Hispanic, and about 10% are black. The city of nearly 900,000 people is about 40% white, 35% Hispanic and 19% black.

Calling the shooting "a pivotal moment in our city," the mayor said she was ordering a top-to-bottom review of the police force and vowed to "rebuild a sense of trust within the city and with our police department."

Jefferson was a 2014 graduate of Xavier University in New Orleans and earned a bachelor's degree in biology. She was working in pharmaceutical equipment sales and was considering going to medical school, according to the family's lawyer.

Bleed reported from Little Rock, Arkansas.

Associated Press writers Nomaan Merchant in Houston and Adam Kealoha Causey in Oklahoma City contributed to this report.

For the latest updates: <https://apnews.com/2dc677322c7f4d1fb7d1b94f119e1806>

Trump orders Turkey sanctions; US scrambles for Syria exit

By **ROBERT BURNS AP National Security Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Targeting Turkey's economy, President Donald Trump announced sanctions Monday aimed at restraining the Turks' assault against Kurdish fighters and civilians in Syria — an assault Turkey began after Trump announced he was moving U.S. troops out of the way.

The United States also called on Turkey to stop the invasion and declare a ceasefire, and Trump is sending Vice President Mike Pence and national security adviser Robert O'Brien to Ankara as soon as possible in an attempt to begin negotiations. Pence said Trump spoke directly to Turkish leader Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who promised not attack the border town of Kobani, which in 2015 witnessed the Islamic State group's first defeat in a battle by U.S.-backed Kurdish fighters.

"President Trump communicated to him very clearly that the United States of American wants Turkey to stop the invasion, implement an immediate ceasefire and to begin to negotiate with Kurdish forces in Syria to bring an end to the violence," Pence said.

The Americans were scrambling for Syria's exits, a move criticized at home and abroad as opening the door to a resurgence of the Islamic State group, whose violent takeover of Syrian and Iraqi lands five years ago was the reason American forces came in the first place.

Trump said the approximately 1,000 U.S. troops who had been partnering with local Kurdish fighters to

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battle IS in northern Syria are leaving the country. They will remain in the Middle East, he said, to "monitor the situation" and to prevent a revival of IS — a goal that even Trump's allies say has become much harder as a result of the U.S. pullout.

The Turks began attacks in Syria last week against the Syrian Kurdish fighters, whom the Turks see as terrorists. On Monday, Syrian government troops moved north toward the border region, setting up a potential clash with Turkish-led forces.

Trump said Turkey's invasion is "precipitating a humanitarian crisis and setting conditions for possible war crimes," a reference to reports of Turkish-backed fighters executing Kurdish fighters on the battlefield.

The Kurdish forces previously allied with the U.S. said they had reached a deal with President Bashar Assad's government to help them fend off Turkey's invasion, a move that brings Russian forces deeper into the conflict.

In his sanctions announcement, Trump said he was halting negotiations on a \$100 billion trade deal with Turkey and raising steel tariffs back up to 50%. Trump also imposed sanctions on three senior Turkish officials and Turkey's defense and energy ministries.

"I am fully prepared to swiftly destroy Turkey's economy if Turkish leaders continue down this dangerous and destructive path," Trump said.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said the sanctions will hurt an already weak Turkish economy. Pence said the U.S. will continue to ramp up the sanctions "unless Turkey is willing to embrace a ceasefire, come to the negotiating table and end the violence."

American troops consolidated their positions in northern Syria on Monday and prepared to evacuate equipment in advance of a full withdrawal, a U.S. defense official said.

The official, who was not authorized to be quoted by name, said U.S. officials were weighing options for a potential future counter-IS campaign, including the possibility of waging it with a combination of air power and special operations forces based outside Syria, perhaps in Iraq.

The hurried preparations for a U.S. exit were triggered by Trump's decision Saturday to expand a limited troop pullout into a complete withdrawal.

Defense Secretary Mark Esper said Monday he would travel to NATO headquarters in Brussels next week to urge European allies to impose "diplomatic and economic measures" against Turkey — a fellow NATO ally — for what Esper called Ankara's "egregious" actions.

Esper said Turkey's incursion had created unacceptable risk to U.S. forces in northern Syria and "we also are at risk of being engulfed in a broader conflict."

The only exception to the U.S. withdrawal from Syria is a group of perhaps 200 troops who will remain at a base called Tanf in southern Syria near the Jordanian border along the strategically important Baghdad-to-Damascus highway. Those troops work with Syrian opposition forces unrelated to the Kurdish-led fighters in northern Syria.

Esper said the U.S. withdrawal would be done carefully to protect the troops and to ensure no U.S. equipment was left behind. He declined to say how long that might take.

In a series of tweets Monday, Trump defended his gamble that pulling U.S. forces out of Syria would not weaken U.S. security and credibility. He took sarcastic swipes at critics who say his Syria withdrawal amounts to a betrayal of the Kurds and plays into the hands of Russia.

"Anyone who wants to assist Syria in protecting the Kurds is good with me, whether it is Russia, China, or Napoleon Bonaparte," he wrote. "I hope they all do great, we are 7,000 miles away!"

Trump has dug in on his decision to pull out the troops, believing it fulfills a key campaign promise and will be a winning issue in the 2020 election, according to White House officials.

This has effectively ended a five-year effort to partner with Syrian Kurdish and Arab fighters to ensure a lasting defeat of the Islamic State group. Hundreds of IS supporters escaped a holding camp amid clashes between invading Turkish-led forces and Kurdish fighters, and analysts said an IS resurgence seemed more likely, just months after Trump declared the extremists defeated.

Trump spoke about the IS detainees in a phone call Monday with Kurdish General Mazloun Kobani.

Pence said Mazloum assured the president that Kurdish forces would continue to support the prisons holding IS fighters.

Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said late Monday that the House will vote this week on bipartisan legislation aimed at blocking military sales to Turkey and clamping sanctions on its leaders' assets. She said Trump's sanctions package was insufficient, adding, "His erratic decision-making is threatening lives, risking regional security and undermining America's credibility in the world."

Republican Senate leader Mitch McConnell, normally a staunch Trump supporter, said he was "gravely concerned" by events in Syria and Trump's response so far.

Withdrawing U.S. forces from Syria "would re-create the very conditions that we have worked hard to destroy and invite the resurgence of ISIS," he said in a statement. "And such a withdrawal would also create a broader power vacuum in Syria that will be exploited by Iran and Russia, a catastrophic outcome for the United States' strategic interests."

However, Trump got quick support from Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, who earlier had lambasted his withdrawal decision as "shortsighted," "irresponsible" and "unnerving to its core." Graham said he was asked to join the president and his team for phone calls with the key leaders in the conflict.

"President Trump made it clear to President Erdogan this incursion is widely unpopular in the United States, greatly destabilizing to the region, is putting in jeopardy our successes against ISIS, and will eventually benefit Iran," Graham said.

The Kurds have turned to the Syrian government and Russia for military assistance, further complicating the battlefield.

The prospect of enhancing the Syrian government's position on the battlefield and inviting Russia to get more directly involved is seen by Trump's critics as a major mistake. But he tweeted that it shouldn't matter. "Others may want to come in and fight for one side or the other," he wrote. "Let them!"

Associated Press writer Jonathan Lemire contributed to this story.

Ecuador crisis weakens president, strengthens indigenous

By GONZALO SOLANO and MICHAEL WEISSENSTEIN Associated Press

QUITO, Ecuador (AP) — Thousands of indigenous demonstrators, student volunteers and local residents launched a mass cleanup Monday of a Quito park where anti-austerity protesters fought police for days, leaving piles of burning tires, trees and construction material.

President Lenín Moreno signed a new decree returning gas prices to traditionally low, subsidized levels a day after striking a deal to cancel a disputed austerity package and end nearly two weeks of protests that paralyzed the Ecuadorian economy and left seven dead.

While Ecuadorians welcomed the calm and praised both sides for striking a deal, analysts said Moreno appeared to have been significantly weakened halfway through his four-year term by days of protests that forced him to reverse a policy he called necessary for the country's future.

"I think the government has suffered a serious blow," said Santiago Basabe, an analyst at the Latin American Institute of Social Sciences in Quito. "Its only economic reform proposal in the last two years has been reversed, and that reduces the little credibility and room for maneuver that it had."

Moreno severely miscalculated by reducing fuel subsidies without plans in place to cushion the blow for poor Ecuadorians, Basabe said.

Ecuador's well-organized indigenous nationalities have regularly launched mass protests to win government concessions since 1990 but saw their rights sharply reduced under the decade-long rule of Moreno's predecessor, Rafael Correa. Correa prohibited protests, jailed indigenous leaders and launched swift crackdowns on any demonstration.

After swarming streets and public areas for nearly two weeks without a large-scale reaction by Moreno, who has promised to respect the right to protest, indigenous groups have emerged with new strength, Basabe said.

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"I think they've taken back a political space that had practically disappeared under Correa," he said. "They've shown the country that they're here and they're a force to be reckoned with."

Leonidas Iza, one of the country's main indigenous leaders, told The Associated Press that he saw an indigenous president as a real possibility in the near future, even though indigenous people are less than a tenth of Ecuador's population.

"It's not a dream, it's a reality that we can take on," said Iza, a member of the Panzaleo Quichua group from the Andean sierra. "What we have proposed to the Ecuadorian people, even though we're not government officials, is that we need to construct a new economic model that's really decided on by the Ecuadorians."

As protesters left the epicenter of the protests, a park and cultural center in Quito where Iza and his followers had camped out for days, they carried out a "minga," an indigenous term for a communal labor project.

City workers shoveled burned debris into dump trucks and swept the streets clean. Young protesters took down improvised barricades of paving stones, which they piled back on the construction sites they had been taken from, or on city cargo trucks. Indigenous people who spent a week protesting in the park loaded bundles of clothes onto yellow buses to head back to their homes in the sierra. Crowds waved goodbye and chanted, "We did it!"

Under the agreement, Moreno will withdraw the International Monetary Fund-backed package known as Decree 883 that included a sharp rise in fuel costs. Indigenous leaders, in turn, called on their followers to end protests and street blockades.

The government and indigenous leaders were working together to develop a new package of measures to cut government spending, increase revenue and reduce Ecuador's unsustainable budget deficits and public debt.

"We reached our objective," Fabricio Molina, a farmer and rancher, said as he sat on a bus waiting to leave Quito. "Now we hope they sign a deal, and if they don't we'll be back on the streets again."

The decree signed Monday vows to reduce gas prices while working to find a different subsidy arrangement that doesn't benefit, "people with wealth nor gas smugglers."

Ecuador, a former OPEC member, was left deeply in debt by a decade of high spending by Correa's government and the international decline in oil prices. Moreno is raising taxes, liberalizing labor laws and cutting public spending in order to get more than \$4 billion in emergency financing from the IMF.

As part of the cancelled plan, Moreno's elimination of subsidies drove the most popular variety of gasoline from \$1.85 to \$2.39 a gallon and diesel from \$1.03 to \$2.30. Panic and speculation sent prices soaring, with costs of some products doubling or more.

Protests over the austerity package were led by indigenous groups but drew thousands of Ecuadorians from outside that minority. Protesters blocked roads, shuttered businesses from dairies to flower farms and halved Ecuador's oil production, forcing a temporary halt to the country's most important export.

In the country's Amazon oil fields, protests at installations, described by some government officials as attacks, halted or slowed production.

Ecuador had been producing 430,000 barrels a day, but that had dropped to 176,029 barrels by Sunday, said an official at state oil producer Petroamazonas, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to release the information. The drop in output has led to a loss of about \$14 million a day, the official said.

The public ombudsman's office said Sunday that seven people had died in the protests, 1,340 had been hurt and 1,152 arrested.

Moreno has blamed the violence on drug traffickers, organized crime and followers of Correa, who has denied allegations that he is trying to topple Moreno's government.

"These days should teach us to value peace, stability and security," Moreno said Monday. "Applying the weight of the law when necessary and dialogue when possible."

Moreno served Correa as vice president before he become president and the two men went through a

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bitter split as Moreno pushed to curb public debt amassed on Correa's watch.

The national prosecutor's office said Paola Pabón, a Correa ally and governor of the province surrounding Quito, Pichincha, had been arrested on suspicion of ties to acts of vandalism committed around the capital during the protests. It was the first arrest of a Correa ally in connection with the protests.

Foreign Minister José Valencia told The Associated Press on Sunday that the Moreno administration believed Correa, Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro and Colombia's far-left FARC and ELN guerrillas are working to destabilize Ecuador. He offered no proof beyond the fact that a handful of Correa loyalists and some Venezuelan nationals had been detained during the protests.

"They have a political agenda and the violence and chaos that they sowed yesterday in the city, a coordinated chaos, lets us see this political agenda," Valencia said.

Correa and Maduro have denied involvement in the protests.

Associated Press writer Raisa Avila contributed to this report.

Pacific Northwest tribes: Remove Columbia River dams

By GILLIAN FLACCUS Associated Press

THE DALLES, Ore. (AP) — Two Pacific Northwest tribes on Monday demanded the removal of three major hydroelectric dams on the Columbia River to save migrating salmon and starving orcas and restore fishing sites that were guaranteed to the tribes in a treaty more than 150 years ago.

The Yakama and Lummi nations made the demand of the U.S. government on Indigenous Peoples Day, a designation that's part of a trend to move away from a holiday honoring Christopher Columbus.

For decades, people have debated whether to remove four big dams on the Lower Snake River, a tributary of the Columbia, but breaching the Columbia dams, which are a much more significant source of power, has never been seriously discussed.

Proposals to merely curtail operations, let alone remove the structures, are controversial, and the prospects of the Columbia dams being demolished any time soon appear nonexistent.

Tribal leaders said at a news conference along the Columbia River that the Treaty of 1855, in which 14 tribes and bands ceded 11.5 million acres to the United States, was based on the inaccurate belief that the U.S. had a right to take the land.

Under the treaty, the Yakama Tribe retained the right to fish at all their traditional sites. But construction of the massive concrete dams decades later along the lower Columbia River destroyed critical fishing spots and made it impossible for salmon to complete their migration.

After a song of prayer, Yakama Nation Chairman JoDe Goudy spoke Monday at the site of now-vanished Celilo Falls near The Dalles, Oregon, and said the placid Columbia River behind him looked "like a lake where we once saw a free-flowing river."

"We have a choice and it's one or the other: dams or salmon," he said. "Our ancestors tell us to look as far into the future as we can. Will we be the generation that forgot those who are coming behind us, those yet unborn?"

Celilo Falls was a traditional salmon-fishing site for the Yakama for centuries, but it was swallowed by the river in 1957 after the construction of The Dalles Dam.

The three dams operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are a critical part of a complex hydroelectric network strung along the Columbia and Snake rivers in Oregon, Washington and Idaho that powers the entire region.

Government officials were unavailable for further comment Monday due to the holiday.

Supporters of dams along the Columbia and Snake rivers note the vast amount of clean energy they produce and their usefulness for irrigation and transportation. For example, they allow farmers to ship about half of U.S. wheat exports by barge instead of by truck or rail. According to the Pacific Northwest Waterways Association, about 40,000 local jobs are dependent on shipping on the Columbia and Snake rivers.

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The Lummi Nation is in northwestern Washington state, far from the Columbia River, but it has also been touched by construction of the dams, said Jeremiah Julius, Lummi Nation chairman.

Chinook salmon are the preferred prey of endangered orcas but just 73 resident orcas remain in the Pacific Northwest — the lowest number in three decades — because of a lack of chinook, as well as toxic contamination and vessel noise. The orcas were hunted for food for generations by the Lummi Nation in the Salish Sea, he said.

"We are in a constant battle ... to leave future generations a lifeway promised our ancestors 164 years ago, he said. "Our people understand that the salmon, like the orca, are the miner's canary for the health of the Salish Sea and for all its children.

"I choose salmon," he added. "I will always choose salmon."

Fish ladders built into the dams allow for the passage of migrating salmon, and migrating fish are hand-counted as they pass through. But the number of salmon making the arduous journey to the Pacific Ocean and back to their natal streams has declined steeply in recent decades.

The Columbia River Basin once produced between 10 million and 16 million salmon a year. Now there are about 1 million a year.

The Bonneville Dam was constructed in the mid-1930s and generates enough electricity to power about 900,000 homes — roughly the size of Portland, Oregon. The Dalles Dam followed in the 1950s and John Day Dam was completed in 1972.

Environmental groups applauded the tribes' demand and said efforts to save salmon without removing the dams aren't working because without the free flow of the Columbia, the entire river ecosystem is out of balance.

"The stagnant reservoirs behind the dams create dangerously hot water, and climate change is pushing the river over the edge. Year after year, the river gets hotter," said Brett VandenHeuvel, executive director for the nonprofit group Columbia Riverkeeper. "The system is broken, but we can fix it."

AP writer Gene Johnson contributed from Seattle.

Follow Gillian Flaccus on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/gflaccus>

Harold Bloom, author of 'Anxiety of Influence,' dies at 89

By HILLEL ITALIE AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Harold Bloom, the eminent critic and Yale professor whose seminal "The Anxiety of Influence" and melancholy regard for literature's old masters made him a popular author and standard-bearer of Western civilization amid modern trends, died Monday at age 89.

Bloom's wife, Jeanne, said that he had been failing health, although he continued to write books and was teaching as recently as last week. Yale says Bloom died at a New Haven, Connecticut, hospital.

Bloom wrote more than 20 books and prided himself on making scholarly topics accessible to the general reader. Although he frequently bemoaned the decline of literary standards, he was as well placed as a contemporary critic could hope to be. He appeared on best-seller lists with such works as "The Western Canon" and "The Book of J," was a guest on "Good Morning America" and other programs and was a National Book Award finalist and a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters. A readers' poll commissioned by the Modern Library ranked "The Western Canon" at No. 58 on a list of the 20th century's best nonfiction English-language books.

His greatest legacy could well outlive his own name: the title of his breakthrough book, "The Anxiety of Influence." Bloom argued that creativity was not a grateful bow to the past, but a Freudian wrestle in which artists denied and distorted their literary ancestors while producing work that revealed an unmistakable debt.

He was referring to poetry in his 1973 publication, but "anxiety of influence" has come to mean how artists of any kind respond to their inspirations. Bloom's theory has been endlessly debated, parodied

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and challenged, including by Bloom. The book's title has entered the culture in ways Bloom likely never imagined or desired, such as The New York Times headline that read "Jay-Z Confronts the Anxiety of Being Influential" or the Canadian rock band that named itself "Anxiety of Influence."

Bloom openly acknowledged his own heroes, among them Shakespeare, Samuel Johnson and the 19th century critic Walter Pater. He honored no boundaries between the life of the mind and life itself and absorbed the printed word to the point of fashioning himself after a favorite literary character, Shakespeare's betrayed, but life-affirming Falstaff. Bloom's affinity began at age 12, when Falstaff rescued him from "debilitating self-consciousness," and he more than lived up to his hero's oversized aura in person. For decades he ranged about the Yale campus, with untamed hair and an anguished, theatrical voice, given to soliloquies over the present's plight.

News of his death received a mixed response from former Yale students. Some praised his extraordinary erudition and ability to recite verse from memory, while others noted allegations of sexual harassment. In 2004, the author Naomi Wolf wrote that he made unwanted advances while she was attending Yale. Bloom denied the allegations.

The youngest of five children, he was born in 1930 in New York's East Bronx to Orthodox Jewish immigrants from Russia, neither of whom ever learned to read English. Bloom's literary journey began with Yiddish poetry, but he soon discovered the works of Hart Crane, T.S. Eliot, William Blake and other poets. He would allege that as a young man he could absorb 1,000 pages at a time.

"The sense of freedom they conferred," he wrote of his favorite books, "liberated me into a primal exuberance."

He graduated in 1951 from Cornell University, where he studied under the celebrated critic M.H. Abrams, and lived abroad as a Fulbright Scholar at Pembroke College, Cambridge. After earning his doctorate degree from Yale in 1955, he joined the school's English faculty. Bloom married Jeanne Gould in 1958 and had two sons.

In the '50s, he opposed the rigid classicism of Eliot. But over the following decades, Bloom condemned Afrocentrism, feminism, Marxism and other movements he placed in the "School of Resentment." A proud elitist, he disliked the "Harry Potter" books and slam poetry and was angered by Stephen King's receiving an honorary National Book Award. He dismissed as "pure political correctness" the awarding of the Nobel Prize for literature to Doris Lessing, author of the feminist classic "The Golden Notebook."

"I am your true Marxist critic," he once wrote, "following Groucho rather than Karl, and take as my motto Groucho's grand admonition, 'Whatever it is, I'm against it.'"

In "The Western Canon," published in 1994, Bloom named the 26 crucial writers in Western literature, from Dante to Samuel Beckett, and declared Philip Roth, Thomas Pynchon and Don DeLillo among the contemporary greats. Shakespeare reigned at the canon's center, the inventor of our modern, self-conscious selves, a patriarch so mighty that Freud, Tolstoy and other latter-day masters nearly drove themselves mad rejecting him.

"Freud is essentially prosified Shakespeare," Bloom observed.

The "lemmings", as Bloom called them, had their own harsh criticism of Bloom. Observers noted that "The Western Canon" featured a good number of Yale-affiliated poets on its list of important living American authors. He was mocked as out of touch and accused of recycling a small number of themes. "Bloom had an idea; now the idea has him," British critic Christopher Ricks once observed.

Bloom's praises were not reserved for white men. In "The Book of J," released in 1990, Bloom stated that some parts of the Bible were written by a woman. (He often praised the God of the Old Testament as one of the greatest fictional characters). He also admired Virginia Woolf, Jane Austen, George Eliot and Emily Dickinson and the hundreds of critical editions he edited include works on Toni Morrison, Maya Angelou and Amy Tan.

Bloom did write a novel, "The Flight to Lucifer," but was no more effective than most critics attempting fiction and later disowned the book. In "The Anatomy of Influence," a summation released in 2011, Bloom called himself an Epicurean who acknowledged no higher power other than art, living for "moments raised

in quality by aesthetic appreciation.”

His resistance to popular culture was emphatic, but not absolute. He was fond of the rock group The Band and fascinated by the Rev. Jimmy Swaggart and other televangelists. He even confessed to watching MTV, telling *The Paris Review* in 1990 that “what is going on there, not just in the lyrics but in its whole ambience, is the real vision of what the country needs and desires. It’s the image of reality that it sees, and it’s quite weird and wonderful.”

3 EU nations say Brexit talks likely to go beyond summit

By JILL LAWLESS and RAF CASERT Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Brexit divorce talks in Brussels are making such slow progress that three European Union nations predicted Monday the negotiations could spill beyond this week’s crucial Brexit summit.

Belying the need for speed across the Channel, Britain trotted out a horse-drawn carriage and a diamond-encrusted crown so the queen could read out the government’s post-Brexit plans to Parliament.

In terms of historical importance, the painstaking paragraph-by-paragraph talks at the EU’s glass-and-steel Berlaymont headquarters seriously outweighed the regal ritual in which an ermine-draped monarch delivered a speech on the priorities of a Conservative Party government that could be out of office within weeks.

Britain is scheduled to leave the EU on Oct. 31, and an EU summit on Thursday or Friday was long considered one of the last possible chances to approve a divorce agreement to accommodate that timeframe.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson insists the country will leave at the end of the month with or without a deal, something the queen reiterated Monday.

“My government’s priority has always been to secure the United Kingdom’s departure from the European Union on the 31st of October,” the 93-year-old queen said in a speech to Parliament that was written for her by the government.

It remains to be seen whether Johnson will achieve that goal.

Ireland, Finland and Spain all said the Brexit negotiations could well go beyond this week and go right down to the wire at the end of the month.

Irish Foreign Minister Simon Coveney said late Monday it was “too early to say if it is possible to get a breakthrough this week or whether it will move into next week.”

Antti Rinne, prime minister of Finland, which currently holds the EU presidency, said in Helsinki that he had given up hope for a quick breakthrough ahead of the Brexit summit.

“There is no time in a practical way, and in legal base, to reach an agreement before the meeting,” Rinne said. “We need to have more time.”

At the EU foreign ministers meeting in Luxembourg, Spanish Foreign Minister Josep Borrell told The Associated Press that the Brexit talks were following a well-traveled path.

“You know, in Europe, we always take decisions on the edge of the precipice, on the edge of the cliff,” he said. “Even when the last minute comes, then we stop the watch and say that we need technically more time to fulfill all the requirements, all the last-minute requirements.”

Technical teams from Britain and the EU worked through the weekend and Monday, but both sides said significant gaps remained between their positions.

The discussions centered on future border arrangements between EU member Ireland and Northern Ireland, which is part of the U.K. Johnson has put forward a complex proposal to eliminate the need for customs checks, but EU officials say more work is needed.

An EU diplomat familiar with the talks said there probably needed to be a three-month extension for the Brexit deadline to turn the British proposals into a legally binding deal.

“There are big problems remaining to counter smuggling and fraud because the British outlines are still that vague,” said the diplomat, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the talks are still in progress.

In London, the queen delivered a speech outlining an ambitious — and critics say undeliverable — legislative program for Johnson’s government. The 10-minute speech, read by the monarch from a gilded

throne in the House of Lords, included more than 20 bills, including a law to implement an EU withdrawal agreement, should one be reached.

It also contained plans for post-Brexit reforms to agriculture, fishing and immigration that will include the ending in 2021 the automatic right of EU citizens to live and work in Britain.

Government's critics called the speech a stunt, because Johnson's Conservative administration lacks a majority in Parliament and an early general election looks likely within the next few months, whether or not Britain leaves the EU as scheduled Oct. 31.

"The Queen's Speech was an election broadcast for the Tory Party more than anything else," tweeted Scottish National Party leader in Parliament Ian Blackford.

The speech was part of the State Opening of Parliament, a ceremony steeped in centuries-old symbolism of the power struggle between Parliament and the British monarchy.

The state opening is usually an annual event, but amid the country's Brexit chaos there had been no queen's speech for more than two years — the longest gap for more than three centuries.

Lawmakers will hold several days of debate on the speech, culminating in a vote, which the government could well lose. That would heap even more pressure on Johnson's embattled administration.

The challenge of maintaining an invisible border on the island of Ireland — something that underpins both the local economy and the region's peace deal — has dominated Brexit discussions for three years since U.K. voters chose in 2016 to leave the EU.

Britain's Parliament is due to sit on Saturday this week, for the first time since the Falklands War of 1982, to decide on the next steps after the EU summit.

If a Brexit deal is reached, it still needs to be approved by both the British and European parliaments. Many British lawmakers — on both pro-Brexit and pro-EU sides of the debate — remain unconvinced.

Opposition Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn says his party is unlikely to support any Brexit deal agreed upon by Johnson.

Whether or not he secures a Brexit deal, Johnson is likely to face a move by lawmakers to hold a new referendum on whether to leave the EU or remain. If there is no Brexit deal, lawmakers will try to make sure Johnson's government seeks to delay Brexit rather than crashing out without an agreement.

Associated Press writer Jill Lawless reported this story in London and AP writer Raf Casert reported from Luxembourg.

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'Glory to Ukraine': Nationalist groups protest president

By YURAS KARMANAU and ANGELA CHARLTON Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Brandishing red flares and shouting "glory to Ukraine," thousands of far-right and nationalist activists marched Monday through Kyiv, protesting President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's leadership and his long-awaited peace plan for eastern Ukraine.

Zelenskyy sought to prove his patriotic credentials by visiting Ukrainian troops on the front line of the five-year conflict with Moscow-backed separatists, which has killed at least 13,000 people. Earlier Monday, he held a moment of silence at a monument to its Ukrainian victims.

Police deployed around key sites in the Ukrainian capital as more than 10,000 people marched under a blanket of yellow-and-blue Ukrainian flags, in one of several nationalist gatherings Monday to mark Defense of the Homeland Day. Zelenskyy urged participants to avoid violence and warned of potential "provocations" from those who want to stoke chaos.

Black-clad men holding up red flares like torches led the procession, some in white masks to conceal their identity.

"Glory to Ukraine!" they chanted. "No capitulation!"

The crowd included uniformed veterans of the conflict who are urging Zelenskyy not to allow a troop

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withdrawal, local elections or amnesty for separatists. All are elements of a long-stalled peace plan that the Ukrainian president is trying to revive.

"What price is Zelenskiy ready to pay? He's ready to sell all of us out to make peace with Russia. And we will not be silent," said 46-year-old veteran Taras Volochko.

"Withdrawing troops is a catastrophe for the country. Russia is using the situation to seize the territories we withdraw from," Andriy Biletsky, head of the far-right group National Corps, told The Associated Press.

Zelenskiy, a comedian who rose to the presidency this year on promises to end the conflict, thanked Ukrainian troops for defending the country from outside influence — and urged them to "come back alive."

"Ukraine is an independent, sovereign, unified and democratic state," he told them, concluding his speech with his own "Glory to Ukraine!"

Ukraine, Russia and the separatists signed a preliminary agreement earlier this month to pull back heavy weaponry and to hold an election in the area at a later date. The pullback has not occurred because of shelling from both sides and threats from Ukrainian hardliners to hamper the disengagement.

Zelenskiy is sticking to the accord, insisting that it's the only way for his country to move forward.

He still enjoys the support of most Ukrainians, who argue he needs to be given time to fulfil his promises to revive the economy. Ukrainians have also shrugged off his embarrassing phone call with U.S. President Donald Trump that unleashed an impeachment inquiry in the United States.

"I love my country but I'm not like those nationalists, I don't have time for protests. And what good does that bring?" asked Nadiya Kuzmenko, 68, a former arms factory worker who cleans houses to supplement her \$125 monthly pension.

The marchers in Kyiv rallied at the Maidan square, a symbol of Ukrainian uprisings against Russian influence. Thousands continued on to the presidential headquarters overlooking the capital. Kyiv authorities said the main march ended peacefully.

A crowd in front of the president's administration accused Zelenskiy of being a "servant of the Kremlin" and is trying to "strike a deal with the devil."

Critics call the accord a "capitulation" to Russia and fear it will lead to Russia having the upper hand in deciding the future for the conflict-torn region. "Peace after Victory" read one huge banner.

The head of one of the protesting groups, Veterans' Brotherhood, said Zelenskiy held a closed-door meeting with nationalist groups last week to try to explain his position and calm tensions, but claimed the president said he has "no plan."

While the nationalist groups gathered at key sites in Kyiv, at other spots in the city families with strollers just enjoyed the holiday, eating ice cream and basking in an unusually warm autumn day.

Lynn Berry in Kyiv contributed to this report.

Has tech made moving nukes safe enough?

Depends whom you ask

By SCOTT SONNER Associated Press

RENO, Nev. (AP) — The plutonium core for the first atomic weapon detonated in 1945 was taken from Los Alamos National Laboratory to a test site in the New Mexico desert in the backseat of a U.S. Army sedan.

Officials put other bomb parts inside a metal container, packed it into a wooden crate and secured it in the steel bed of a truck under a tarp, the U.S. Energy Department's National Nuclear Security Administration says in a historical account.

Grainy black-and-white photos show special agents and armed military police accompanying the shipment nearly 75 years ago.

"Nuclear materials transportation has evolved since then," the department posted online last year.

Today, radioactive shipments are hauled in double-walled steel containers inside specialized trailers that undergo extensive testing and are tracked by GPS and real-time apps.

But whether shipping technology has evolved enough to be deemed safe depends on whom you ask.

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The Trump administration's revival of a decades-old plan to move the nation's most dangerous radioactive waste to a remote spot in the Nevada desert has reignited a long-running fight in the courts and Congress over how to safely get the hazardous remnants of decades of bomb-making and power generation to a permanent resting place.

"It seems to me, that part of the gist of the government's argument is that, 'We've been doing this a long time. We know what we are doing. You have to trust us,'" noted U.S. District Judge Miranda Du, who is considering a lawsuit Nevada filed against the Energy Department over weapons-grade plutonium secretly being sent there.

For its part, the government says there are no safety concerns.

The Nuclear Regulatory Agency in charge of regulating the commercial nuclear power industry says more than 1,300 shipments of spent fuel from nuclear power plants have been completed safely over the past 35 years. Four were involved in accidents, but none resulted in a release of radioactive material or a fatality due to radiation exposure.

The Energy Department's Office of Secure Transportation has moved radioactive material more than 7 million miles (11 million kilometers) "without incident, with no recordable accident," said Phil Calbos, assistant deputy administrator for defense programs at the agency's National Nuclear Security Administration.

"Over time we've continued to improve techniques, procedures, equipment to make sure these are as hard of a target ... and as safe of a vehicle as you can imagine," he said.

But there have been close calls, said Robert Halstead, an analyst who has studied the dangers of transporting radioactive waste for 35 years and is head of Nevada's Agency for Nuclear Projects.

A truck crash in 1971 killed a driver and propelled a cask full of nuclear waste into a ditch in Tennessee. The container was damaged, but no radioactive material leaked.

More recently a Tennessee contractor revealed earlier this year it may have mislabeled low-level nuclear waste — items such as contaminated equipment or workers' clothing — that potentially was sent to Nevada over six years without the proper safeguards.

The Energy Department responded by announcing in July it will review all radioactive waste packaging and shipping.

Perhaps the greatest point of disagreement is whether the "rigorous testing" is rigorous enough. It would be dangerous and expensive to run tests involving explosions, fire or other hazards on a real cask of spent nuclear fuel. So it's never been done in the United States.

"What isn't clear is: 'What are the conditions under which the package would fail?'" said Edwin Lyman, head of the nuclear safety project at the Union of Concerned Scientists, who has studied the hazards of nuclear shipments for 25 years.

There's enough high-level nuclear waste awaiting disposal in the U.S. to fill a football field 65 feet (20 meters) deep. Few states want to house it within their borders.

To solve the long-time problem, the Trump Administration has revived a decades-old plan to move the nation's most dangerous radioactive waste from around the country to a site 90 miles (145 kilometers) northwest of Las Vegas, the Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Repository. It was proposed to hold 77,000 tons (70,000 metric tons) of highly radioactive spent nuclear fuel in a maze of tunnels bored into an ancient volcanic ridge.

Nevada doesn't want it. The state and its congressional delegation have been fighting the project and other attempts to store nuclear waste in Nevada for decades, and the Yucca Mountain project was shelved in 2010 under pressure from then-Senate Democratic Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada and President Barack Obama.

U.S. Rep. Dina Titus, a Nevada Democrat who helped defeat a GOP-led effort to restore funding to Yucca Mountain last May, called it "the latest attempt to force nuclear waste down Nevada's throats."

Meanwhile, the state has sued the federal government over the half metric ton of plutonium secretly shipped from South Carolina to the Nevada National Security Site. That site is separate from but close to

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the Yucca Mountain site.

While U.S. leaders battle over where to ship the nuclear waste, the government says it has upgraded transportation containers and the way it hauls the material.

The original design for a nuclear waste container was a single-walled barrel, with a top crimp-sealed like a soup can. Now, containers are individually welded and double walled, with an outer wall designed to regulate pressure and prevent release of radioactivity and an inner wall with another pressure indicator.

They also use new communication systems to track shipments and their armed escorts in real time.

The Transportation Emergency Control Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico, tracks shipments round the clock with GPS and real-time apps like those used to find cellphones.

"When a shipment is on the road, we know exactly where they are, how fast they are going and what the future route is going to be," said Phil Calbos, assistant deputy administrator for defense programs at the Energy Department's National Nuclear Security Administration.

The requirements for those who handle nuclear material have also dramatically changed over the years, especially in the years since the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks. They undergo frequent background checks and stringent licensing, and licensed contractors to identify security resources, equipment and technology to store and transport waste and provide local authorities with more information about shipments.

The biggest change has been better technology to analyze the risks of potential accidents, according to Energy Department researchers.

Officials previously were forced to assume transportation containers, called casks, would break and release dangerous waste because they had no proof they wouldn't.

A spent nuclear fuel cask must survive — intact — a sequence including a 30-foot (9-meter) drop to a hard, flat surface; a 3-foot (1-meter) fall onto a vertical steel bar; a 30-minute fire at 1,475 degrees (802 Celsius); and immersion in 650 feet (198 meters) of water.

But containers with real fuel inside don't actually go through those rigors.

Using 3D computer models for the first time in 2014, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission determined no radioactive material would be released if a fuel tanker crashed with a truck hauling a container of spent nuclear fuel from a power plant.

Emergency personnel cleaning up the accident scene would likely be exposed to radiation, but there wouldn't be a wider threat, Kevin Connolly at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee and Ronald Pope at Argonne National Laboratory in Illinois said in a report two years later.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission, which sets testing standards and certifies containers, said the computer models provide "reasonable assurance of adequate protection of public health and safety" and that science shows scale-model testing can be relied on to make regulations.

The General Accounting Office, an independent, nonpartisan arm of Congress that examines how taxpayer money is spent, "has no concerns that casks and rail cars can be built to an acceptably high safety standard," said Frank Rusco, GAO's chief of environment and natural resources.

But "getting societal acceptance of train loads of that stuff going from all these places is a bigger challenge," he said.

The Western Interstate Energy Board, overseen by the 11 governors in the Western Governors Association and leaders of three western Canadian provinces, advocates full-scale testing. The association said last year that none of the 17 types of casks certified to transport spent nuclear fuel has been tested to failure.

Cost is the biggest obstacle to full-scale testing that would destroy containers, Halstead said. His 2012 report estimated tests for truck containers carrying spent nuclear fuel at \$9 million and rail casks at \$20 million. It might cost \$15 million just to build a facility that could lift and drop a 170-ton (154-metric-ton) rail cask, his report said.

"The public defines 'safe' as zero risk," said Halstead, whose Agency for Nuclear Projects is fighting plutonium shipments to Nevada and spent nuclear fuel transfers to the proposed Yucca Mountain dump. "The technical community defines 'safe' as complying with regulatory standards."

Associated Press writer Ken Ritter in Las Vegas contributed to this report

Eds: This story corrects an earlier version to show that the Judge was referring to a lawsuit over weapons-grade plutonium, not waste.

Census Bureau seeks state data, including citizenship info

By MIKE SCHNEIDER Associated Press

The U.S. Census Bureau is asking states for drivers' license records that typically include citizenship data and has made a new request for information on recipients of government assistance, alarming some civil rights advocates.

The two approaches, documented by The Associated Press, come amid President Donald Trump's efforts to make citizenship a key aspect of federal information-gathering in the run-up to the 2020 Census, despite this year's U.S. Supreme Court ruling that a specific citizenship question can't be included in the 2020 Census questionnaire.

Civil rights advocates worry that the wider net being cast by the Trump administration for such information could chill Latino participation in the population count, which will determine how many congressional seats each state gets and guide the allocation of hundreds of billions of dollars of federal funding. The results of the 2020 Census also will be used to redraw state and local electoral maps.

Experts caution that inaccuracies in state motor vehicle records also make them a poor choice for tracking citizenship, if that is the bureau's goal.

After the Supreme Court ruling, President Donald Trump signed an executive order in July requiring the Commerce Department, which oversees the Census Bureau, to collect records on citizenship from federal agencies and increase efforts "to obtain State administrative records concerning citizenship."

The American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators told The AP that most, if not all, states recently received requests for information including citizenship status, race, birthdates and addresses. The association has advised members to consult their privacy officers, and "each state is making their own determination how to respond," spokeswoman Claire Jeffrey said in an email.

In Illinois, Secretary of State Jesse White denied the request.

"We, as a general rule, are not comfortable with giving out our data, certainly not in such a huge amount. That was the overriding concern," said spokesman Dave Drucker.

Other states are weighing what to do. The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles has received the request but hasn't responded, spokeswoman Beth Frady said.

Motor vehicle agency records are notoriously inaccurate and "bad at determining when someone is not a citizen," said Andrea Senteno, a lawyer for the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, which is challenging Trump's executive order.

"The Census Bureau usually plans for these types of big changes in their operations many, many years in advance, but they don't have enough time right now to actually plan and provide clear information to the public about how they are going to use these administrative records," Senteno said. "They're flying by the seat of their pants right now."

The bureau also is seeking more state records on individual recipients of public programs. A new request published last month in the Federal Register said the records would be used for the 2020 Census and other research, and they're needed to "improve efficiency and accuracy in our data collections, and to improve measures of the population and economy."

The records request doesn't explicitly ask for citizenship information, but some demographers who work with the bureau on state-level data suspect it's responsive to the president's executive order.

"The timing of it, and noticing in the executive order, it's well-stated that this is going to be a push directing the Census Bureau to work on gathering these state inputs; it would lead me to believe that the two are probably connected," said Susan Strate, senior manager of Population Estimates Program at the

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University of Massachusetts Donahue Institute.

States already share records on food assistance and other programs to help the bureau track traditionally undercounted populations and pinpoint vacant houses. The states' administrative records could cover a host of topics, including citizenship, said John Thompson, a former Census Bureau director in the Obama administration.

"Here's the confusing thing about it," Thompson said: "They've already been reaching out to states. They've got a number of ongoing programs where they reach out to states for various data."

States typically don't do a good job of tracking citizenship information, said Kenneth Prewitt, a former Census Bureau director in the Clinton administration.

"People move, divorce, buy homes, pay state taxes, and these behaviors are not tied to any citizenship records," Prewitt said.

In a statement last Thursday, the Census Bureau said it started requesting state administrative records in 2016 to help with the 2020 Census and ongoing surveys. The records include birthdates, addresses, race, Hispanic origin and citizenship status. The bureau didn't answer why it was requesting drivers' license information or why it had made the new request last month for state administrative records when it already receives records from states.

The bureau said the records it receives are stripped of identifiable information and used for statistical purposes only.

"Responses to all Census Bureau surveys and administrative records obtained by the Census Bureau are safe, secure and protected by law," its statement said.

When it comes to the citizenship question, there has been a tension between Trump appointees pushing the president's agenda and career Census Bureau workers who worried that adding a citizenship question would reduce participation and make for a less accurate 2020 headcount.

Bureau officials have said they will decide by March 31 on a methodology for tracking citizenship. The 2020 Census count officially begins the next day, on April 1.

Several civil rights organizations filed a new challenge in federal court in Maryland last month, claiming Trump's executive order is "motivated by a racially discriminatory scheme to reduce Latino political representation" and gives an advantage to white voters at the expense of Latino voters.

Follow Mike Schneider on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/MikeSchneiderAP>

Asia shares mixed as optimism over China-US trade deal fades

By ELAINE KURTENBACH AP Business Writer

BANGKOK (AP) — Shares were mixed in Asia on Tuesday after a wobbly day of trading on Wall Street. Japan's Nikkei 225 index jumped 1.8% to 22,194.94 as Tokyo reopened from a public holiday and investors caught up on the news of a preliminary trade deal between China and the U.S. struck Friday in Washington.

But optimism over the agreement appeared to be fading and markets in Hong Kong and Shanghai fell back.

The Shanghai Composite index lost 0.5% to 2,991.90 while the Hang Seng in Hong Kong edged 0.1% lower to 26,506.18. South Korea's Kospi gained 0.1% to 2,069.62 and the S&P ASX 200 added 0.2% to 6,652.30.

Shares rose in Taiwan and most of Southeast Asia but fell in Singapore.

Wall Street ended a choppy day of trading on Monday with modest losses. Losses for consumer goods makers, utilities and technology stocks helped outweigh gains in banks and real estate companies. A 2% drop in crude oil prices also hurt energy stocks.

Stocks had rallied Friday as investors welcomed the signs of progress in the latest round of trade negotiations between the U.S. and China, but some of that enthusiasm already had faded by Monday morning.

Washington and Beijing agreed to a truce Friday, with the U.S. agreeing to suspend a planned hike in tariffs on \$250 billion of Chinese goods that had been set to kick in Tuesday. Beijing, meanwhile, agreed

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to buy \$40 billion to \$50 billion in U.S. farm products.

"That said, the abovementioned items are no doubt the lower hanging fruits in attempting a deal between the two sides. Few are likely ruling out the possibility that there could be more twists and turns in this matter of U.S.-China trade conflict," Jingyi Pan of IG said in a commentary.

The U.S. did not, however, cancel plans for more tariffs in December and the sticking points of intellectual property and trade secrets still hang over the dispute. And the overall picture hasn't changed for companies, which are still holding off on forecasts and investments because of the uncertain trade situation.

"We kind of peeled back the layers and said, 'Hey, was this really a significant trade deal, or was it just a little bit of window dressing to make everybody feel like there was actually a trade deal?'" said Karyn Cavanaugh, senior markets strategist at Voya Investment Management. "The market is digesting that."

The S&P 500 index slipped 0.1% to 2,966.15. The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 0.1%, to 26,787.36. The Nasdaq gave up 0.1% to 8,048.65.

Small-company stocks did worse than the rest of the market. The Russell 2000 index lost 0.4% to 1,505.43.

Bond markets and the U.S. government were closed for the Columbus Day holiday.

The modest pullback followed last week's market rally, when the S&P 500 and the Dow had their first gains in four weeks.

Benchmark crude oil fell 38 cents to \$53.21 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It lost \$1.11 to settle at \$53.59 a barrel on Monday. Brent crude oil, the international standard, lost 47 cents to \$58.88 per barrel. It dropped \$1.16 to close at \$59.35 a barrel in London.

The dollar fell to 108.32 Japanese yen from 108.40 yen on Monday. The euro rose to \$1.1031 from \$1.1027.

AP Business writers Alex Veiga and Damian J. Troise contributed.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Oct. 15, the 288th day of 2019. There are 77 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 15, 1991, despite sexual harassment allegations by Anita Hill, the Senate narrowly confirmed the nomination of Clarence Thomas to the U.S. Supreme Court, 52-48.

On this date:

In 1783, the first manned balloon flight took place in Paris as Jean-Francois Pilatre de Rozier ascended in a basket attached to a tethered Montgolfier hot-air balloon, rising to about 75 feet.

In 1917, Dutch exotic dancer Mata Hari (Margaretha ZelleGeertruida MacLeod), 41, convicted by a French military court of spying for the Germans, was executed by a firing squad outside Paris. (Maintaining her innocence to the end, Mata Hari refused a blindfold and blew a kiss to her executioners.)

In 1940, Charles Chaplin's first all-talking comedy, "The Great Dictator," a lampoon of Adolf Hitler, opened in New York.

In 1945, the former premier of Vichy France, Pierre Laval, was executed for treason.

In 1946, Nazi war criminal Hermann Goering (GEH'-reeng) fatally poisoned himself hours before he was to have been executed.

In 1954, Hurricane Hazel made landfall on the Carolina coast as a Category 4 storm; Hazel was blamed for some 1,000 deaths in the Caribbean, 95 in the U.S. and 81 in Canada.

In 1976, in the first debate of its kind between vice-presidential nominees, Democrat Walter F. Mondale and Republican Bob Dole faced off in Houston.

In 1989, South African officials released eight prominent political prisoners, including Walter Sisulu (sih-SOO'-loo).

In 2001, Bethlehem Steel Corp. filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy.

In 2003, eleven people were killed when a Staten Island ferry slammed into a maintenance pier. (The

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ferry's pilot, who'd blacked out at the controls, later pleaded guilty to eleven counts of manslaughter.)

In 2006, three members of Duke University's lacrosse team appeared on CBS' "60 Minutes" to deny raping a woman who'd been hired to perform as a stripper (Collin Finnerty, Reade Seligmann and David Evans were later exonerated).

In 2017, actress and activist Alyssa Milano tweeted that women who had been sexually harassed or assaulted should write "Me too" as a status; within hours, tens of thousands had taken up the #MeToo hashtag (using a phrase that had been introduced 10 years earlier by social activist Tarana Burke.)

Ten years ago: A report of a 6-year-old Colorado boy trapped inside a runaway helium balloon engrossed the nation before the boy, Falcon Heene (HEE'-nee), was found safe at home in what turned out to be a hoax. (Falcon's parents served up to a month in jail.)

Five years ago: Fresh signs of slow global economic growth and the Ebola crisis sent stocks on Wall Street tumbling as much as 460 points in the most turbulent day since 2011 before partially recovering; European shares slid as well. The Kansas City Royals advanced to their first World Series since 1985 after finishing a four-game sweep in the AL Championship Series with a 2-1 victory over the Baltimore Orioles. The San Francisco Giants came within one game of winning the NL Championship Series with a 6-4 win over the St. Louis Cardinals.

One year ago: Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen died in Seattle at the age of 65 from complications of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma; he had used the billions from the company he founded with childhood friend Bill Gates to invest in conservation, space travel, arts and culture and professional sports. Massachusetts Democratic Sen. Elizabeth Warren released a DNA analysis that she said indicated that she has some Native American heritage; the move was intended as a rebuttal to President Donald Trump, who had mocked those claims. (A Stanford University expert concluded that Warren had a Native American ancestor who probably lived six to 10 generations ago.) Sears filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection, with plans to shutter 142 unprofitable stores. Kensington Palace announced that Britain's Prince Harry and his wife, the former Meghan Markle, were expecting their first child in the spring. (The baby boy, born May 6, was named Archie.)

Today's Birthdays: Jazz musician Freddy Cole is 88. Singer Barry McGuire is 84. Actress Linda Lavin is 82. Rock musician Don Stevenson (Moby Grape) is 77. Baseball Hall of Famer Jim Palmer is 74. Singer-musician Richard Carpenter is 73. Actor Victor Banerjee is 73. Former tennis player Roscoe Tanner is 68. Singer Tito Jackson is 66. Actor-comedian Larry Miller is 66. Actor Jere Burns is 65. Movie director Mira Nair is 62. Britain's Duchess of York, Sarah Ferguson, is 60. Chef Emeril Lagasse (EM'-ur-ul leh-GAH'-see) is 60. Actress Tanya Roberts is 60. Rock musician Mark Reznicek (REHZ'-nih-chehk) is 57. Singer Eric Benet (beh-NAY') is 53. Actress Vanessa Marcil is 51. Singer-actress-TV host Paige Davis is 50. Country singer Kimberly Schlapman (Little Big Town) is 50. Actor Dominic West is 50. Rhythm-and-blues singer Ginuwine (JIHN'-yoo-wyn) is 49. Actor Devon Gummersall is 41. Actor Chris Olivero is 40. Christian singer-actress Jaci (JAK'-ee) Velasquez is 40. Actor Brandon Jay McLaren is 39. Rhythm-and-blues singer Keyshia Cole is 38. Actor Vincent Martella is 27. Actress Bailee Madison is 20.

Thought for Today: "A friend to all is a friend to none." — Aristotle, Greek philosopher (384 B.C.-322 B.C.).
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