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Webster Area beats Groton Area in football playoff game

It was a first quarter marathon as Webster Area took a 21-6 lead at the end of the first quarter. But from then on, it was pretty even as Webster only scored a field goal the rest of the game and Groton Area came just inches short of scoring a safety.

The Bearcats won the game, 25-6.



Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

Friday, Oct. 25

Volleyball hosting Milbank (C/JV matches start at 6 p.m. followed by the varsity match)

Saturday, Oct. 26

State Cross Country Meet at Huron
ACT Testing at GHS, 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Applications will be accepted for skating rink manager and attendants for the City of Groton. Contact City Hall 397-8422 for an application or print one online at <http://city.grotonsd.gov/>. EOE.

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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It's Volleyball Action on GDILIVE.COM



**Milbank
Bulldogs** VS



Groton Area Tigers

7:15 p.m., Friday, Oct. 25, 2019
at Groton Area Arena

The Broadcast of this event is made possible by these sponsors:

Hanlon Brothers
Bahr Spray Foam
DeHoet Trucking
Allied Climate Professionals
Milbrandt Enterprises
Professional Management Services
BaseKamp Lodge
John Sieh Agency
Groton Auto Works

Make sure you tell them "THANK YOU!" and Patronize them as well!

Johnson Concerned with VA Decision to Reduce Hours at Hot Springs

Washington, D.C. - U.S. Representative Dusty Johnson (R-S.D.) today sent a letter to the Veterans Affairs' (VA) Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) 23 Director Robert McDivitt, voicing his concern with the VA decision to scale back urgent care hours at the VA Hot Springs Campus in the Black Hills Health Care System. Johnson said the following:

"This morning I was surprised and discouraged to hear of the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) decision to reduce urgent care services at the VA Hot Springs Campus in the Black Hills Health Care System. Additionally, I was disappointed by the lack of dialogue with the Congressional delegation on this important state interest.

As you know, it is common practice for urgent care centers to operate seven days a week. I respectfully request a meeting with your office on the VA's efforts to recruit health care staff in the Black Hills Health Care System and urge the VA to work expeditiously to restore this important service to the local veteran community."

This morning the Director of the Black Hills Health Care System Sandra Horsman informed the public of the upcoming change to the urgent care hours of operation to the Hot Springs campus.

South Dakota Cattle Producers Call for Fair Prices to Save Future of State & Nation's Cattle Industry

By Lura Roti for SDFU

Every year, Aberdeen cow/calf producers Jeff and Rachel Kippley visit their local Kessler's grocery store and pick up prime rib for Christmas dinner.

Since they began the tradition four years ago, the couple has paid the same price per pound for this holiday delicacy – \$10.99. However, the price they receive for the 1,000-pound calves they raise, who eventually become someone's prime rib dinner, has dropped considerably since 2014.

"In 2014, we averaged \$2,000 a head. This fall we're looking at \$850. And it costs roughly \$800 to raise a calf," explains Jeff Kippley, 40, a fourth-generation cattle producer.

So, what happened in the last five years to trigger a nearly 60 percent decrease in the price U.S. cattle producers receive? The 2015 repeal of Country of Origin Labeling (COOL).

"COOL is the only way I can compete with foreign meat. It's the only way," says Brett Kenzy, a fourth-generation Gregory cattle producer. Kenzy explains that when the House and Senate repealed COOL, they made it easy for processors to blend lower-quality, lower-priced meat from other countries with U.S. raised beef because without labeling regulations, the consumer is none the wiser.

In fact, without labeling regulations, meat processors began applying "Product of the U.S.A." labels to meat packaged in the U.S., whether the steak came from a cow raised in the U.S., Canada, Mexico, Brazil or Australia – or the burger was a blended mix of meat from all five countries.

"One excuse we were given was that no one cares where their meat comes from," Kenzy, 47, says. "But if that were true, then why do the processors label it Product of the U.S.A? God bless America. If a consumer wants to support me and my rural community by buying U.S. raised beef, they should be able to. But without COOL, there is no one to enforce true labeling."

Beyond supporting U.S. cattle producers, there's also the safety factor. Not all bovines are treated equally. "Foreign meat is cheaper because their producers can grow it cheaper because they are not required to follow the same safety standards U.S. cattle producers are required by law to follow," Kenzy says.



Courtesy photo

Aberdeen cow/calf producers Jeff and Rachel Kippley are among many U.S. cattle producers asking Congressional leaders and to support U.S. cattle producers and make COOL a part of U.S. Mexico-Canada-Agreement. The Kippley's are pictured here in a 2014 photo with their children: Noah, Titus, Aaron and Moriah.

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For example, laws require all U.S. cattle producers to get a prescription from their veterinarian before purchasing or giving antibiotics. And if medications are given to cattle, stringent regulations are in place to ensure withdrawal periods are followed prior to slaughter.

"I'm happy to comply. I want to comply. In fact, my brother and I go above and beyond requirements, and implement management practices to ensure our feedlot does not have a negative impact on our land or our neighbors' land," Kenzy says. "But it all costs."

And this year, while the Big Four processors are bringing in \$1.2 billion a month, Kenzy and his brother, George, say they are just trying to pencil out feed and equipment costs so they can reach \$0. "We just hope we can break even."

Then what is left over? What profit is available to cattle producers and their families to cover typical living expenses? What is the motivation for U.S. cattle producers to continue raising cattle?

These questions keep 42-year-old Hecla cow/calf and feedlot producer, BJ Richter up at night.

"In the last two-to-three years, I've lost my faith in our industry. When we lost COOL, we lost our ability to differentiate our product," explains the second-generation cattle producer.

Richter is not a pessimist. He grew up with and understands traditional cattle market cycles – good prices encourage producers to breed more cows, flooded markets result in lower prices.

But what Richter's witnessed since the 2015 repeal of COOL, is not traditional cattle market cycles. He says its market manipulation by four packers who are not required to price report on formula cattle and are not held accountable by consumers who are unaware there is an issue because of the Product of the U.S.A. label.

COOL was enforced when Richter returned home to farm fulltime with his parents, Bill and Linda in 2008.

"We bought in to what Country of Origin Labeling meant – the consumer wanted to know where their food came from. Simple as this. So, what did we do as cattlemen? We improved our genetic base, investing more in our genetics because we knew our product would be labeled," Richter says.

Improved genetics resulted in higher quality meat cuts at harvest. And because retailers paid more for premium cuts, the processors paid premiums to producers, like Richter, who could raise uniform truckloads of cattle that would quality grade Choice and higher.

"You would make an additional \$28 to \$38 dollars for every hundred pounds," says Richter, of the premium that could yield about \$280-\$380 extra per head.

Summer 2018 was the last time Richter sold a load of cattle on the grid. He sold a load of heifers and 100 percent of them graded Choice, with 40 percent grading Prime. He received an \$8-per-hundredweight or \$80-per-head premium.



Courtesy photo

BJ Richter is a 42-year-old Hecla cow/calf and feedlot producer.

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"That's what you get for raising a premium product? The fact is, that perfect load of cattle still brings a premium from the retailer – but as the producer I'm not seeing this," Richter says. "The packer is keeping that for themselves."

And the packer is blending Choice and Prime burger harvested from U.S. cattle with lower quality burger from cattle from foreign countries. "American beef exceeds the grades. To make the product go further, they buy cheap meat from other countries and blend it down. That's why they were lobbying Congress so hard to repeal COOL," explains Doug Sombke, S.D. Farmers Union President. "And even though we're hoping Trump will make COOL part of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada-Agreement (USMCA), the packer's powerful lobby may be the reason it hasn't happened yet."

Where There's Smoke...

Since 2015, many organizations, like Farmers Union, have separately lobbied Congress to reinstate COOL. But a recent fire at a Tyson packing plant in Holcomb, Kansas and the resulting markets ignited a movement, uniting cattle producers from across the country asking for COOL to be reinstated. The fire also shed light on the urgent need for transparency in packer price reporting.

Following the August 9 fire, amid fears that existing processing capacity would not be able to handle the supply, finished cattle prices plummeted from \$107.95 per hundredweight (Aug. 8) to \$100.55 per hundredweight (Aug. 13) a drop of \$7.40 per hundredweight. While boxed beef prices shot up to \$240 for every 100 pounds.

"Despite the plant fire, Tyson was able to use logistics to move inventory around and slaughter was actually higher the following week," DuWayne Bosse, Britton farmer and commodities broker with Bolt Marketing.

In fact, a week later, according to federal data, 9,000 more cattle were processed than the week before the fire.

"If there is one thing about tough times, they do bring us together," says Kenzy, who was among roughly 350 cattle producers from across the nation, who met in Omaha October 2, 2019 to call on the Administration to bring fair prices to the cattle industry and make COOL part of the USMCA. "This fire was the catalyst for the Omaha meeting. All we are asking for is a fair deal. And if you are going to get a fair deal, you need to have a good umpire on the field."

In 2018, cattle producers lost their umpire when Secretary of Agriculture, Sonny Purdue, eliminated Grain Inspection, Packers, and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA).



Courtesy photo

Gregory cow/calf and feedlot producer, Brett Kenzy, was among roughly 350 cattle producers from across the nation, who met in Omaha early October to call on the Administration to bring fair prices to the cattle industry and make COOL part of the USMCA.

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Enforcement of antitrust law in the meatpacking industry was among the duties of this standalone agency. Today, a few producer advocacy organizations are trying to pick up GIPSA's role in holding packers accountable. But this is a difficult task, explains Amherst cow/calf and feedlot producer, Paul Symens, 76.

"The whole issue comes down to competition. Because most meat is handled by just a few Big Boys, they don't even have to collude, because the buying power is in so few hands," explains Symens, who continues to be involved in the farm's management decisions, but leaves the day-to-day responsibilities to his son, Warren, nephew, Brad and younger brother, John. "After that fire, the price dropped an additional \$5-\$10 for us, but not the retailers. The packers' just pocketed that money. I once asked a packer, 'when are you going to start paying us what our cattle are worth?' his response was, 'not until we have to.' Well, without competition, they don't have to. It is as simple as that."

Symens agrees with Kippley, Kenzy and Sombke and many of the nation's cattle producers, that COOL will bring about fair prices U.S. cattle producers to compete. With passage of USMCA looming, cattle producers continue to urge leadership to add COOL to the document. "I believe in the ability of U.S. cattle producers to feed the world, but we need to be able to feed our families as well," Sombke says. "COOL gives us the fair markets we need to do both."

Ask Congress for fair prices

Like most fathers, providing for his family is a top priority for Richter. If the current trend continues, he doesn't see a future for him, or other producers. "Guys like me will be forced to leave and I don't know who else they will find to replace us. Who else is willing to spend 70 hours a week caring for cattle? When the weather is bad, we work harder to make sure our cattle are protected and survive. It's not about the money, we do this work because animals are depending on us. But we do need to earn a living."

Richter and the other cattle producers urge all to reach out to Congressional leaders and ask them to support U.S. cattle producers and make COOL a part of USMCA. To contact Senator Mike Rounds, call 202-224-5842 or logan_penfield@rounds.senate.gov. To contact Senator John Thune, call 202-224-2321 or Ryan_Donnelly@thune.senate.gov



Courtesy photo

Amherst cow/calf and feedlot producer, Paul Symens, 76, continues to be involved in the farm's management decisions, but leaves the day-to-day responsibilities to his son, Warren, nephew, Brad and younger brother, John.

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Today



Sunny

High: 57 °F

Tonight



Clear

Low: 38 °F

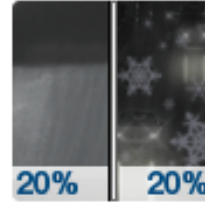
Saturday



Sunny then
Partly Sunny
and Breezy

High: 53 °F

Saturday
Night



Slight Chance
Showers then
Slight Chance
Rain/Snow

Low: 29 °F

Sunday



Mostly Cloudy

High: 37 °F

Mild Today

Frontal Passage Saturday – Gusty Winds & Falling Temps

Today	Saturday	Sunday
50s & 60s	40s & 50s	30s
Breezy	Windy	

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD
Updated: 10/25/2019 2:55 AM Central

Published on: 10/24/2019 at 11:05PM

Mild air in place today will lead to temperatures a few degrees above average, but a front will cross the Dakotas Saturday and while there won't be much for precipitation, it will bring gusty winds and falling temperatures. Readings for the better part of next week will be 10 to 20 degrees below average

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Today in Weather History

October 25, 1954: A storm dumped snow over the region with the highest snowfall amounts at Devils Tower with sixteen inches. Other snowfall totals from the area included four inches in Colony and Faith, eight inches in Custer and Lead, and eleven inches in Spearfish.

1918: The Canadian steamship Princess Sophia carrying miners from the Yukon and Alaska becomes stranded on Vanderbilt Reef. A strong northerly gale hampers rescue attempts the day before. The ship sinks on this day, killing the 268 passengers and 75 crewmen on board.

2008: A storm packing winds of more than 60 mph hits central Alberta. In Edmonton, the strongest October wind ever recorded reaches 64 mph, cutting power to 4,000. The winds blow free sheet metal, parts of billboards, garbage cans and pieces of trees around the city.

1921 - A hurricane with 100 mph winds hit Tampa, FL, causing several million dollars damage. (David Ludlum)

1977 - Dutch Harbor in Alaska reported a barometric pressure reading of 27.31 inches (925 millibars) to establish an all-time record for the state. (The Weather Channel)

1981 - A northbound tornado caused two million dollars damage to Bountstown, FL, in less than five minutes. Fortunately no deaths occurred along its six mile path, which was 30 to 100 yards in width. Radar at Apalachicola had no indication of a tornado or severe weather. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - A storm system moving across the Saint Lawrence Valley produced 40 to 50 mph winds east of Lake Ontario. High winds downed some trees around Watertown NY, and produced waves seven feet high between Henderson Harbor and Alexandria Bay. Mason City IA and Waterloo IA tied for honors as cold spot in the nation with record lows for the date of 19 degrees. Severe thunderstorms in Oklahoma and northern Texas produced golf ball size hail and wind gusts to 65 mph. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Severe thunderstorms erupted over northeastern Texas during the late evening producing softball size hail at Newcastle and Jonesboro. Low pressure over James Bay in Canada continued to produced showers and gale force winds in the Great Lakes Region. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Low pressure over Nevada produced high winds in the southwestern U.S., and spread heavy snow into Utah. Winds gusted to 63 mph at the Mojave Airport in southern California. Snowfall totals in Utah ranged up to 12 inches at Snowbird, with 11 inches at Alta. "Indian Summer" type weather continued in the central and eastern U.S. Twenty cities in the north central U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. Highs of 77 degrees at Alpena MI and 81 degrees at Saint Cloud MN were the warmest of record for so late in the season. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

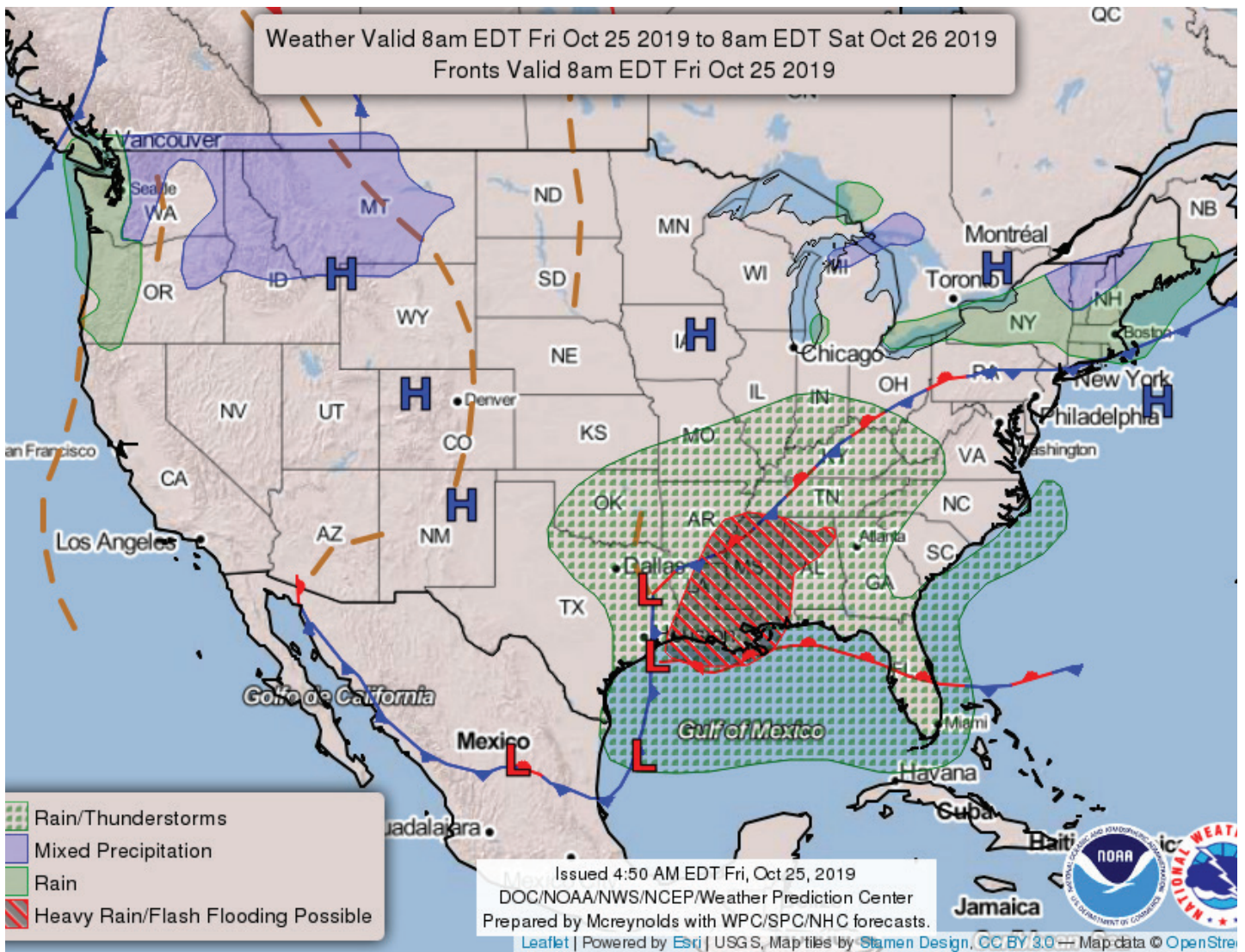
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Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 48 °F at 4:01 PM
Low Temp: 25 °F at 8:04 AM
Wind: 16 mph at 2:59 PM
Day Rain: 0.00

Record High: 81° in 1989
Record Low: 10° in 1942
Average High: 53°F
Average Low: 29°F
Average Precip in Oct.: 1.66
Precip to date in Oct.: 1.55
Average Precip to date: 20.14
Precip Year to Date: 26.57
Sunset Tonight: 6:33 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:03 a.m.



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TIME TO ASK

It was one of those days that every mother tries to avoid. First, the washing machine stopped in the middle of the spin cycle. Then she discovered that the toaster was not working. When she opened the door to the refrigerator, she discovered that it had been on "defrost" all night, and everything in the freezer was thawed. The last straw was a raging migraine headache.

She reached down, picked up her small son, placed him on her lap, held him tightly, and began to weep softly as the tears ran down her cheeks.

Without saying a word, Ronnie took the pacifier out of his mouth and placed it in hers.

Some days just seem to unravel. We awaken to a shining sun only to have dark clouds appear from nowhere. What we thought would be a day of joy suddenly turned into a night of despair. Bad days come into each of our lives, and we end up feeling alone and abandoned, overwhelmed and oppressed. Problems pile up like flakes of snow in a blizzard.

When days do not unfold as we want them to, what is our option? We can be grateful for the grace of God. In the midst of the most draining and demanding experiences that life has to offer, He is with us. He has promised that He will never leave us nor forsake us. Even though God seems far away, He is always close at hand offering His help. "Ask anything in My name," He offered, "and I will do it!" It's His promise to each of us! So, ask for the "Son" to appear!

Prayer: Heavenly Father, how thankful we ought to be that Your power exceeds our problems! Help us to believe that You are with us and willing to rescue us. Always! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: John 14:13 You can ask for anything in my name, and I will do it, so that the Son can bring glory to the Father.

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2019 Groton SD Community Events

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

2020 Groton SD Community Events

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

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News from the  Associated Press

Thursday's Scores By The Associated Press

PREP FOOTBALL

Belle Fourche 65, Todd County 28
Brandon Valley 28, Rapid City Stevens 7
Brookings 44, Yankton 14
Canton 28, West Central 7
Custer 70, Pine Ridge 6
Dakota Valley 7, Tri-Valley 6
Dell Rapids 22, Tea Area 21
Huron 51, Mitchell, Colo. 17
Lennox 55, Vermillion 27
Madison 27, Sioux Falls Christian 0
Pierre 61, Douglas 0
Sioux Falls Lincoln 59, Rapid City Central 50
Sioux Falls O'Gorman 37, Harrisburg 15
Sioux Falls Roosevelt 38, Sioux Falls Washington 7
Sturgis Brown 47, Spearfish 0
Watertown 44, Aberdeen Central 41, 2OT
Class 11B(equals)
First Round(equals)
Bridgewater-Emery 36, Hot Springs 0
McCook Central/Montrose 47, Stanley County 19
Mobridge-Pollock 40, Garretson 13
Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 34, Chamberlain 7
Sioux Valley 60, Sisseton 8
St. Thomas More 23, Elk Point-Jefferson 3
Webster 24, Groton Area 6
Winner 60, Lead-Deadwood 7
Class 9AA(equals)
First Round(equals)
Baltic 26, Parker 20
Bon Homme 54, Parkston 0
Deuel 45, Florence/Henry 0
Hamlin 48, Dakota Hills 34
Jones County/White River 50, Menno/Marion 29
Lemmon/McIntosh 80, Rapid City Christian 8
Platte-Geddes 26, Hanson 22
Viborg-Hurley 56, Arlington/Lake Preston 8
Class 9A(equals)
First Round(equals)
Britton-Hecla 74, Ipswich/Edmunds Central 20
Burke 50, Kimball/White Lake 14
Canistota-Freeman 64, Oldham-Ramona/Rutland 16
Gregory 47, Lyman 12

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Howard 35, DeSmet 0
Sully Buttes 64, New Underwood 14
Wall 28, Philip 20
Warner 50, Timber Lake 0
Class 9B(equals)
First Round(equals)
Colman-Egan 58, Estelline/Hendricks 0
Dell Rapids St. Mary 70, Alcester-Hudson 30
Harding County 52, Dupree 0
Herreid/Selby Area 44, Langford 20
Irene-Wakonda 60, Corsica/Stickney 30
Kadoka Area 42, Faith 22
Scotland 28, Hitchcock-Tulare 6
Wolsey-Wessington 34, Faulkton 28
All Nations Conference(equals)
Quarterfinal(equals)
Crow Creek 54, Flandreau Indian 0
Lower Brule 58, Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 6

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

Volleyball

Moorcroft, Wyo. def. Edgemont, 25-14, 25-10, 25-14
Redfield def. Milbank Area, 25-18, 25-20, 25-21

South Dakota, ACLU settle lawsuit over 'riot-boosting' laws

By **STEPHEN R. GROVES** Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's governor said Thursday that the state has agreed not to enforce aspects of laws that critics say were meant to suppress expected protests against the Keystone XL pipeline, under a settlement with a group that challenged the laws as unconstitutional.

Republican Gov. Kristi Noem said in a statement that as part of the state's settlement with the American Civil Liberties Union, she agreed not to enforce the parts of the laws that made it a crime to direct or encourage others to "riot."

The ACLU sued over the laws, saying they infringed on free speech rights. And a federal judge last month granted the group's request for a temporary injunction that blocked enforcement of aspects of the laws that allowed the state to pursue criminal or civil penalties against demonstrators who engage in so-called riot boosting, which the laws defined in part as encouraging violence during a riot. The settlement agreement makes that injunction permanent.

Stephen Pevar, the ACLU's lead attorney for the lawsuit, lauded the agreement, saying the state had clearly overstepped when passing the laws.

"They went way further than just preventing violence, they sought to inhibit speech," he said.

In her statement, Noem emphasized that rioting is still a crime and said she is "focused on preserving law and order while protecting the rights to free speech and peaceful assembly."

The Republican-led Legislature passed the laws this year after neighboring North Dakota dealt with months of sometimes disruptive protests over the Dakota Access oil pipeline. Noem has said the law is meant to address problems caused by "out-of-state rioters funded by out-of-state interests."

As construction plans for the Keystone XL pipeline move forward, environmental and Native American groups have pledged to protest and challenge the construction in court. There are already legal battles in several states.

"We will celebrate this win but remain vigilant against further government attempts to outlaw our right to peacefully assemble," said Dallas Goldtooth, who is an organizer with the Indigenous Environmental Network.

The Canadian company building the pipeline plans to prepare the construction sites this year and begin construction next year. The final pipeline will stretch 1,184-miles (1,900 kilometers) and will be able to ship up to 830,000 barrels a day of Canadian crude through Montana and South Dakota to Nebraska, where it would connect with lines that can carry oil to Gulf Coast refineries. President Donald Trump has supported the \$8 billion project.

Follow Stephen Groves on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/stephengroves>

North Dakota Gov. Burgum says he'll seek second term

By JAMES MacPHERSON Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Tech executive-turned-governor Doug Burgum announced Thursday that he's seeking a second term, highlighting anew his themes of "reinventing" government and running North Dakota state government like a business.

In a video announcement posted on YouTube, the 63-year-old Republican highlights accomplishments since he took office three years ago against a backdrop of state revenue shortfall and the contentious protest over the Dakota Access oil pipeline.

Burgum said they are "reinventing government with modern business efficiencies" and have "turned a budget shortfall into a budget surplus and cut government spending without raising taxes."

Burgum won in 2016 by running as an outsider, bucking what he called the "good old boy" party establishment and hitting the innovation theme.

He infuriated the GOP-controlled Legislature at the time with television ads that claimed lawmakers squandered the state's oil bounty. He portrayed himself as a proven job-creator uniquely qualified to help diversify the state economy. And he beat the GOP's preferred candidate, longtime state Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem, in a primary before easily winning the general election.

At a press conference announcing his re-election bid, Burgum promised "teamwork and collaboration" with lawmakers and called any perception of friction between him and the GOP-controlled Legislature an untrue and "outdated storyline."

Prior to taking office, Burgum had been critical of the Legislature's stance on social issues, including its failure to pass a bill that would have banned discrimination based on sexual orientation. His perceived liberal leanings on some social issues likely appealed to many Democrats, who crossed party lines to cast votes for him in the primary.

After taking office, Burgum walked a fine line on abortion in the highly conservative state until this year, when he signed two anti-abortion bills last session that were hailed as a victory by anti-abortion advocates.

Burgum who has long vowed to rein in "runaway" state spending, surprised many this year by supporting a record \$14.7 billion, two-year budget that includes federal aid.

The current budget represents about \$4.9 billion in state general fund spending, up about 12.5% from what was approved by lawmakers two years ago. But was \$2 billion less than in 2013-2015.

Democrats haven't held the governor's office for more than a quarter-century and have no declared challenger yet. Former Democratic U.S. Senator Heidi Heitkamp, the state party's star, has said she won't run.

Former U.S. Rep. Rick Berg, the state GOP chairman and a former legislator, said he expects Burgum to cruise to a victorious second term.

"Anyone facing him has a tremendous uphill challenge," Berg said. "The economy is going well because people have confidence in our government."

Burgum also personally funded much of his campaign in his first bid, but will not say by how much. State law does not require candidates to disclose their own contributions.

During his first term, Burgum has pushed to transform downtown areas throughout the state into vibrant

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social and economic hubs that are attractive to live in, while finding ways to diversify the state's economy. Burgum also has made a proposed presidential library for Theodore Roosevelt in western North Dakota a top priority.

The Legislature has clashed with Burgum over the governor's veto powers in the past two legislative sessions, and the issue still remains largely unresolved.

Burgum was criticized from within his own party for watching the Super Bowl with first lady Kathryn Helgaas Burgum last year in Minnesota in a stadium suite sponsored by Xcel Energy. Burgum later said he reimbursed Xcel Energy for all costs related the weekend trip — almost \$40,000.

The trip spurred the North Dakota state auditor to inspect travel-related spending in Burgum's office. The audit found Burgum used state airplanes at least seven times for "inappropriate" commutes to or from his Fargo residence.

Burgum's office defended the use of state planes as being within policy, a prudent use of taxpayer dollars, and a means of increasing efficiency and productivity.

Convict in South Dakota wants to pick drug for his execution

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A convict scheduled to be executed next month in South Dakota for a 1992 fatal stabbing is taking issue with the state's choice of the drug that will take his life.

Charles Russell Rhines, 63, has asked a judge to force the state to follow the law on lethal injections at the time he was sentenced to death in 1993, when a protocol of an ultra-short-acting lethal drug and a chemical paralytic were used.

The state has said it intends to use pentobarbital, commonly used to euthanize animals and a drug that has been used in recent executions in South Dakota and in Georgia, Missouri and Texas. The federal government said it plans to use pentobarbital when it resumes executing death-row inmates for the first time since 2003. It replaces the three-drug mixture previously used in federal executions.

In a complaint filed this week, attorneys for Rhines argued that pentobarbital is not an ultra-short-acting barbiturate and that by using it, the state is violating Rhines' right to choose his manner of execution and his right to due process. Rhines has asked a judge to stop his November execution until his request is decided, the Argus Leader reported.

Rhines wants to be injected with an ultra-short-acting barbiturate, such as sodium methohexital, sodium thiamylal or sodium thiopental, along with a chemical paralytic, rather than pentobarbital, according to the complaint.

State law changed in 2007, when the legislature approved a bill to allow prison officials to select the type and amount of drugs used based on the best availability at the time of the execution.

Barbiturates are a drug group that depress the central nervous system and are divided into four classes: ultra-short-acting, short-acting, intermediate-acting and long-acting.

The South Dakota Attorney General's office will file its written response to the request in a "timely manner," according chief of staff Tim Bormann. A hearing has been scheduled for Tuesday in Sioux Falls.

Rhines was sentenced to death for killing Donnivan Schaeffer, 22, who was stabbed in the skull, stomach and back when Rhines was burglarizing a Rapid City doughnut shop where Schaeffer was an employee.

Rhines is scheduled to be executed the week of Nov. 3 to Nov. 9. The exact date will be announced two days prior to the decided day.

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

After withdrawal, Trump shifts focus to Syria's oil fields

BY AAMER MADHANI and SARAH EL DEEB Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — As Russian and Turkish leaders divvy up security roles in northeast Syria following an abrupt U.S. troop withdrawal, President Donald Trump is focused on oil fields elsewhere in the

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war-torn country.

Trump spurred a fresh wave of criticism Thursday with a tweet noting that he had spoken with Syrian Kurdish military chief Mazloun Abdi and observing that perhaps "it is time for Kurds to start heading to the Oil Region," an apparent reference to oil fields in Deir el-Zour province of Syria. That's an area that U.S. military commanders see as critical to holding off an Islamic State resurgence in the region.

But even as Trump heralded his move to pull nearly all U.S. troops out of what he derided as the "blood-stained sands" of Syria, he's repeatedly referred to the country's oil fields as prized land that he's intent on protecting.

"We've secured the oil, and, therefore, a small number of U.S. troops will remain in the area where they have the oil," Trump said Wednesday while discussing the pullout of all but 200 to 300 U.S. troops in Syria. "And we're going to be protecting it, and we'll be deciding what we're going to do with it in the future."

White House officials did not respond to requests for greater clarity about Trump's tweet suggesting Kurds head to the oil region.

The Pentagon released a statement Thursday saying it is committed to sending additional military forces to eastern Syria to "reinforce" control of the oil fields and prevent them from "falling back to into the hands of ISIS or other destabilizing actors."

No details were provided on how many or what kind of forces would be sent, or whether decisions on those details have been made.

Trump's decision to withdraw the bulk of roughly 1,000 American troops from Syria drew bipartisan condemnation. The decision came after Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan told Trump earlier this month that he intended to carry out an operation to clear the Turkey-Syria border of Kurdish fighters who fought side-by-side with U.S. troops in beating back IS fighters in northeast Syria.

The Republican president's comments this week raised fresh concerns that he has an incomplete understanding, or is indifferent to, the fragile dynamics of the region, his critics say.

"The President of the United States of America appears to be calling for a mass migration of Kurds to the desert where they can resettle atop a tiny oil field," Brett McGurk, Trump's former special envoy to the global coalition to defeat IS, wrote on Twitter.

But the idea of keeping troops in eastern Syria to guard the oil fields resonated with Trump and presented military commanders with a way to keep at least a residual force inside the country. Besides a presence near the oil fields in eastern Syria, some U.S. forces will remain in southern Syria.

Defense Secretary Mark Esper said that the main goal of the American troop presence is to make sure the Islamic State is contained and unable to gain control of the oil fields and the revenue they generate. The administration also sees some benefit to Kurds being in control of the oil, according to a senior administration official, who briefed reporters on the administration's deliberations on the Syria withdrawal.

"The Oil Fields discussed in my speech on Turkey/Kurds yesterday were held by ISIS until the United States took them over with the help of the Kurds," Trump said in another tweet Thursday. "We will NEVER let a reconstituted ISIS have those fields!"

Eastern Syria is the center for what remains of Syria's oil industry, which although in shambles, remains one of the main sources of revenues for the Kurdish-led administration there.

The Kurdish forces seized control of small oil fields in northeastern Hassakeh province after the government pulled out of most of the Kurdish-majority regions in 2012 to fight rebels elsewhere.

After expelling Islamic State militants from southeastern Syria in 2018, the Kurds seized control of the more profitable oil fields in Deir el-Zour province.

A quiet arrangement has existed between the Kurds and the Syrian government, whereby Damascus buys the surplus through middlemen in a profitable smuggling operation that has continued despite political differences. The Kurdish-led administration sells crude oil to private refiners, who use primitive homemade refineries to process fuel and diesel and sell it back to the administration.

The oil was expected to be a bargaining chip for the Kurds to negotiate a deal with the Syrian government, which unsuccessfully tried to reach the oil fields to retake them from IS. With Trump saying he

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plans to keep forces to secure the oil, it seems the oil will continue to be used for leverage— with Moscow and Damascus.

Before the war, Syria produced around 350,000 barrels per day, exporting more than half of it. Most of that oil came from eastern Syria. Foreign companies, including Total, Shell, and Conoco, all left Syria after the war began more than eight years ago.

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., said after meeting with Trump on Thursday that he urged him to stay engaged in Syria.

“If you can find a way to secure the oil fields from Iran and ISIS, that’s in our national security interest,” Graham said.

AP National Security Writer Robert Burns contributed to this report.

Facebook launches a news section - and will pay publishers

By BARBARA ORTUTAY and TALI ARBEL AP Technology Writers

Over the course of its 15 year history, Facebook has variously ignored news organizations while eating their advertising revenue, courted them for video projects it subsequently abandoned, and then largely cut their stories out of its newsfeeds .

Now it plans to pay them for news headlines — reportedly millions of dollars in some cases.

Enter the “News Tab,” a new section in the Facebook mobile app that will display headlines — and nothing else — from the Wall Street Journal, the Washington Post, BuzzFeed News, Business Insider, NBC, USA Today and the Los Angeles Times, among others. Local stories from several of the largest U.S. cities will also make the grade; headlines from smaller towns are on their way, Facebook says.

Tapping on those headlines will take you directly to publisher websites or apps, if you have any installed. Which is more or less what publishers have been requesting from Facebook for years.

It’s potentially a big step for a platform that has long struggled with both stamping out misinformation and making nice with struggling purveyors of news. Though media watchers remain skeptical that Facebook is really committed to helping sustain the news industry.

Facebook declined to say who is getting paid and how much, saying only that it will be paying “a range of publishers for access to all of their content.” Just last year, CEO Mark Zuckerberg said he wasn’t sure it “makes sense ” to pay news outlets for their material.

But now, as Zuckerberg told The Associated Press in an interview, “there’s an opportunity to set up new long term, stable financial relationships with publishers.”

News executives have long been unhappy about the extent to which digital giants like Facebook make use of their stories — mostly by displaying headlines and short summaries when users post news links. A bipartisan bill introduced in Congress this year would grant an antitrust exemption to news companies, letting them band together to negotiate payments from the big tech platforms.

“It’s a good direction that they’re willing for the first time to value and pay for news content,” said David Chavern, head of the News Media Alliance, a publisher trade group. “The trouble is that most publishers aren’t included.”

Zuckerberg said Facebook aims to set up partnerships with a “wide range” of publishers.

“We think that this is an opportunity to build something quite meaningful here,” he said. “We’re going to have journalists curating this, we are really focused on provenance and branding and where the stories come from.”

In a statement, the Los Angeles Times said it expects the Facebook effort will help expand its readership and digital subscribers.

Facebook killed its previous effort to curate news, the ill-fated Trending topics, in 2018. Conservatives complained about political bias, leading Facebook to fire its human editors and automate the section until it began recycling false stories, after which the social giant shut it down entirely.

But what happens when the sprawling social network plays news editor? An approach that sends people news based on what they’ve liked before could over time elevate stories with greater “emotional resonance”

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over news that "allows public discourse to take place," said Edward Wasserman, dean of the graduate journalism program at the University of California-Berkeley.

"It deepens my concern that they'll be applying Facebook logic to news judgment," he added.

The social network has come under criticism for its news judgment recently. In September, it removed a fact-check from Science Feedback that called out an anti-abortion activist's video for claiming that abortion is never medically necessary. Republican senators had complained about the fact check.

Facebook says a small team of "seasoned" journalists it employs will choose the headlines for the "Today's Story" section of the tab, designed to "catch you up" on the day's news. The rest of the news section will be populated with stories algorithmically based on users' interests.

That sounds similar to the approach taken by Apple News, a free iPhone app. But Apple's effort to contract with news organizations has been slow to take off. Apple News Plus, a \$10-a-month paid version, remains primarily a hub for magazines; other news publishers have largely sat it out.

Apple's service reportedly offered publishers only half the revenue it pulled in from subscriptions, divided according to how popular publishers were with readers.

10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press undefined

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

1. DOJ REVIEW OF RUSSIA PROBE NOW A CRIMINAL INQUIRY

The move is likely to raise concerns that Trump and his allies may be using the powers of the government to go after their opponents.

2. WIND-WHIPPED BLAZES BREAK OUT IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Winds that pushed fires into Los Angeles area neighborhoods, prompting orders for as many as 50,000 people to evacuate, could lead to power shutoffs to hundreds of thousands more.

3. WHERE TRUMP IS SHIFTING HIS FOCUS IN SYRIA

Even as the president heralds his push to pull nearly all U.S. troops out of what he derided as "blood-stained sands," he's repeatedly referred to the country's oil fields in Deir el-Zour as prized land that he's intent on protecting.

4. CHINA URGES JOINT FIGHT ON HUMAN SMUGGLING

Beijing makes the call after the discovery in Britain of 39 dead people believed to be Chinese who stowed away in a shipping container.

5. ACLU: TALLY OF CHILDREN SPLIT AT BORDER RISES

U.S. immigration authorities separated more than 1,500 children from their parents at the Mexico border early in the Trump administration, bringing the total number of separations to more than 5,400.

6. INVESTIGATORS ISSUE LION AIR CRASH REPORT

Indonesian authorities found that the flight that killed 189 people a year ago was doomed by a combination of aircraft design flaws, inadequate training and maintenance problems.

7. HOW WHITE HOUSE HOPEFULS ARE LURING DONORS

Democratic presidential candidates are offering free trips, raffles and tickets as they work to stay afloat in the crowded field.

8. WHAT DRUG IS LEADING OVERDOSE DEATHS

Fentanyl is driving drug overdose deaths in the U.S. overall, but in nearly half of the country, it's a different story: Meth is the bigger killer.

9. FACEBOOK INTRODUCES 'NEWS TAB'

A new section in the mobile app will display headlines from the Wall Street Journal, the Washington Post, BuzzFeed News and Business Insider, among others.

10. AMERICA'S PASTIME UNIFIES WASHINGTON

The Nationals' surprising run to the World Series has brought a city normally defined by its divisions together.

Inequalities in China drive many to seek better life abroad

BEIJING (AP) — Weeks prior to the discovery in England of the bodies of 39 people believed to be from China, Beijing was holding lavish National Day celebrations congratulating itself on its rise from an impoverished Asian giant to the world's second largest economy.

The tragedy lays bare some crucial but sometimes overlooked facts about China's development as it revels in its new-found status as a global power that has elevated hundreds of millions of its citizens to the middle classes.

Despite the flashy wealth of metropolises such as Beijing and Shanghai, much of China remains relatively poor and economic growth has created vast wealth disparities, especially between cities and the rural hinterland.

The income gap has fueled the desire among many to seek a better life abroad — some out of choice, others coerced or manipulated into undertaking a hazardous journey. Though illegal migration appears to have fallen with improved ease of obtaining passports and visas, it remains the best — or only — option for some.

China's government says it has yet to confirm that the bodies found are those of its citizens, as reported by British police. Most Chinese migrants come from the country's southeast, specifically a handful of counties in the coastal province of Fujian that have a long history of sending people abroad to work in restaurants, factories and agriculture.

On Friday, Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying called for redoubled cooperation to combat human smuggling and said Chinese diplomats were in close contact with police in Britain and Belgium, from where the shipping container was transported to England.

"I think the international community should further strengthen cooperation in this area, strengthen sharing of information and intelligence in this regard, and conduct early intervention in these activities so as to prevent such tragedies from happening again in the future," she said.

The issue is a difficult one to confront for China's ruling Communist Party, which is intensely sensitive about the country's international image and has staked much of its legitimacy on improving living standards for the bulk of the 1.4 billion people.

In an editorial Friday, the party newspaper Global Times sought to lay blame elsewhere, saying European governments hadn't done enough to crack down on such crimes and the networks that profit from them.

"Such a serious humanitarian disaster occurred under the eyes of the British and Europeans," the paper said. "Britain and the related European countries have not met their responsibility for protecting these people from dying in such a manner."

The timing of the incident is particularly awkward for the party, which under its authoritarian leader Xi Jinping made rich use of the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic on Oct. 1 to highlight economic improvements it says have lifted hundreds of millions out of poverty since the launch of economic reforms in 1978.

A massive Oct. 1 parade through the heart of Beijing featured advanced weaponry such as intercontinental ballistic missiles and hyper-glide vehicles that can reportedly travel more than five times the speed of sound. That underscored China's vast spending on its military that has given the country the world's second-largest defense budget after the United States.

Recent years have also seen increased social spending to extend health care and higher education beyond the urban elites. China says it has reduced the number of those living below the poverty line from 770 million in 1978 to around 15 million, while almost half of young Chinese go on to higher education.

Yet millions of Chinese still work in factories far from home and are forced by internal residency rules to leave their children behind. Hourly wages have risen but remain low by Western standards, just a few hundred dollars a month depending on the region.

While an aging population and the move to higher technology industries is boosting demand for workers, those without the skills to compete for more demanding jobs often find themselves shut out of the

labor market.

China's appetite for labor should eliminate the need for illegal migration, and human smuggling has fallen of "drastically" in recent years, said Chu Yin, professor at Department of Public Administration of Renmin University. Still, some are drawn by the possibility of striking it rich abroad, said Chu.

"We often say if you are middle class, you will have more opportunities in cities such as Beijing, but if you are from a lower class, you can earn more money in European and North American countries," said Chu.

A "cultural habit of smuggling" has also formed among some, he said, and "people envy those who have made big money abroad and that will make more people want to follow suit."

Another Renmin professor, Wang Yiwei, said the case may be more about the opportunities afforded to sneak into England amid uncertainty over its withdrawal from the European Union.

The facts surrounding the case were likely "very complicated," Wang said.

Recent years have seen a massive increase in the numbers of Chinese citizens traveling abroad for work, study or tourism as it becomes easier to obtain travel documents.

At the same time, people smuggling networks have grown much more sophisticated from the days when would-be migrants often traveled in the holds of rusty freighters.

Migrants will often now travel first to a third country before moving on to their final destinations in North America or Europe.

Even so, this week's tragedy harkens back to previous deaths of Chinese migrants, mainly from Fujian, including 58 people who suffocated in a truck in Dover, England, in 2000, after a perilous, months-long journey from Fujian.

In February 2004, 21 Chinese migrants — also from Fujian — who were working as cockle-pickers in Britain drowned when they were caught by rushing tides in Morecambe Bay in northwest England.

Trump confronts limits of his impeachment defense strategy

By ZEKE MILLER, JILL COLVIN and JONATHAN LEMIRE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is confronting the limits of his main impeachment defense.

As the probe hits the one-month mark, Trump and his aides have largely ignored the details of the Ukraine allegations against him. Instead, they're loudly objecting to the House Democrats' investigation process, using that as justification for ordering administration officials not to cooperate and complaining about what they deem prejudicial, even unconstitutional, secrecy.

But as a near-daily drip of derogatory evidence emerges from closed-door testimony on Capitol Hill, the White House assertion that the proceedings are unfair is proving to be a less-than-compelling counter to the mounting threat to Trump's presidency. Some senior officials have complied with congressional subpoenas to assist House Democratic investigators, defying White House orders.

Asked about criticism that the White House lacks a coordinated pushback effort and could do a better job delivering its message, spokeswoman Stephanie Grisham said, "It's hard to message anything that's going on behind closed doors and in secret."

"It's like you're fighting a ghost, you're fighting against the air. So we're doing the best we can," she said on Fox News Channel.

It was a rare public admission from the White House that despite the Republican president's bravado, real risks remain.

White House officials, who have been treating unified Republican support for Trump as a given, have grown increasingly fearful of GOP defections in a House impeachment vote and a potential Senate trial. While they do not believe there will be enough votes to remove the president, as Democrats hope, the West Wing believes more must be done to shore up Republican support to avoid embarrassment and genuine political peril.

Trump has been upset with his own top aides — including Grisham and acting chief of staff Mick Mulvaney — for not sufficiently changing the story line. Instead he relies on his Twitter account and Q&A

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sessions with reporters to launch daily attacks on the probe. And while Trump's personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani has added to the smoke screen, much as he did during the Russia probe, the former New York City mayor has dramatically scaled back his media appearances since several of his associates were arrested in connection with Ukraine.

Complaining privately and publicly that Democrats "stick together" better than the GOP, Trump has leaned on Republican congressional allies to do more, according to White House officials and Republicans close to the West Wing. They spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to publicly discuss private conversations.

At first, Trump was angry that his surrogates failed to defend him effectively. Those included House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, who stumbled through a "60 Minutes" interview. Trump urged the GOP earlier this week to fight back, a lesson that was taken to heart by a group of conservative Republicans, including members of the Freedom Caucus, who stormed a Capitol Hill hearing room on Wednesday to disrupt testimony in the probe.

Trump allies cheered that maneuver, believing it showed that Republicans throughout Washington were coming to grips with the severity of the situation.

But the GOP complaints still are largely about process and may have limited potency: Trump's defenders are complaining that the interviews are being conducted in secret, which may soon change, and that Republicans are not involved, though GOP members can ask questions right alongside the Democrats.

The contradictions are telling.

On Thursday, GOP Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, a top ally of Trump, introduced a resolution condemning the Democratic-controlled House for pursuing a "closed door, illegitimate impeachment inquiry." Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell is a co-sponsor of that measure.

But Graham also said he's talked to Mulvaney about what seems to be a lackluster White House pushback.

During President Bill Clinton's impeachment, Graham said, "he had a team that was organized, had legal minds that could understand what was being said versus the legal proceedings in question. And they were on message every day." Republicans have been complaining for weeks that the Trump White House has no such defense system in place — partly a result of the inability to identify qualified talent but also Trump's own qualms about projecting concern in the face of the investigation.

"I think they're working on getting a messaging team together," Graham said.

Democrats reject Trump arguments that the House interview process is unfair, and White House officials privately acknowledge their legal objections may not win the day. But they believe it's a political argument that will hold sway with the American people.

However, the White House strategy comes with an expiration date: In coming weeks, the closed-door testimony will give way to public hearings. Democrats are expected to call a narrow group of witnesses to testify that Trump encouraged Ukraine to conduct investigations that could benefit him politically in 2020 and to address whether those requests were tied to conditions for giving Ukraine military aid and a White House meeting.

Some Trump allies believe the White House can't afford not to directly address what's already been revealed. They note that as more Trump appointees offer disparaging information to Congress, and as it is corroborated by official sources, the president will have increasing difficulty simply complaining he is the target of a new "witch hunt."

The president continues to insist he has done nothing wrong, a contention that can be difficult to square with the testimony coming on a nearly daily basis from the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue.

Tuesday's testimony by the top U.S. envoy to Ukraine, William Taylor, only raised the stakes as he gave House impeachment investigators a detailed roadmap of Trump's efforts to squeeze that country's leaders for damaging information about his Democratic political rivals. Taylor, who read a lengthy opening statement, is expected to be a star witness at the Democrats' planned public hearings.

Though the White House derided Taylor's testimony as third-hand information, he vividly described, with the help of contemporaneous notes, his concerns about a parallel foreign policy apparatus run by Giuliani that involved American military aid being withheld unless Ukraine's newly elected president announced an

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investigation into the Democrat Joe Biden and his son.

Wary of any erosion of GOP support, White House aides are stepping up their outreach to Republican lawmakers, through meetings, conference calls and informal retreats like the one hosted by Mulvaney last weekend at Camp David.

While the White House operation plays catch-up, Trump's outside allies have also been bolstering their own anti-impeachment messaging.

Former White House strategist Steve Bannon launched a new daily radio show and podcast this week titled "War Room: Impeachment."

And things are getting better in the White House and on Capitol Hill, said Trump 2016 campaign adviser Jason Miller, who is a co-host of the Bannon effort. "The uptick in energy and focus that we've seen from all parties this week, I think has been a welcome sign for Trump allies."

AP writers Mary Clare Jalonick, Lisa Mascaro and Alan Fram contributed to this report.

Britain, EU look to each other for next step on Brexit

By **DANICA KIRKA** and **SAMUEL PETREQUIN** Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Politicians in Britain and the European Union are looking to each other to break the Brexit deadlock after U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson called for an early election.

EU officials are meeting Friday in Brussels to decide whether to grant an extension to the Oct. 31 Brexit deadline, but the French government says Britain must present "a clear scenario" for progress before another delay is granted.

"Our position is that simply giving more time, without political change, without ratification, without an election, would be useless," Amelie de Montchalin, France's European Affairs minister, told RTL radio Thursday night.

Those comments follow Johnson's decision Thursday to push for early elections to break the stalemate in Parliament that has blocked a Brexit deal. Johnson said he would ask lawmakers to vote Monday on a motion calling a national poll on Dec. 12.

To call an election Johnson, who leads a minority government, must win support from two-thirds of the House of Commons. But opposition parties say they won't vote for early elections until the government secures an extension of the Brexit deadline.

Britain's biggest opposition party has gone a step further, saying it will block plans for an early election unless Johnson eliminates the possibility of leaving the EU without an agreement.

Diane Abbott, the Labour Party's spokeswoman on domestic affairs, told the BBC her party wants an "explicit commitment" that there won't be a no-deal Brexit, "because we don't trust Boris Johnson."

"We want to know that by some mischance we won't crash out of the EU without a deal, because we've said for some time that coming out of the EU without a deal would be absolutely disastrous," she said.

Until recently Johnson promised that Britain would leave the EU on Oct. 31 with or without a deal, saying this was the only way to put pressure on European officials to make concessions on a withdrawal deal.

Johnson last week secured a new deal with EU leaders, but British lawmakers refused to approve it before an Oct. 19 deadline imposed by Parliament. That forced him to ask the EU to extend the Brexit deadline to the end of January.

There is a consensus among the 27 EU ambassadors meeting Friday in Brussels to grant a delay, but they have yet to agree on the length of the extension. It remains unclear whether an announcement will be made before next week.

Sajid Javid, Britain's treasury chief, said he believes the EU will ultimately approve a three-month extension.

British voters decided to leave the EU in a June 2016 referendum. Parliament rejected former Prime Minister Theresa May's Brexit deal three times, forcing her to step down in July. Johnson renegotiated that deal, but lawmakers on Saturday rejected his plans to fast-track the approval process and ensure Britain's departure on Oct. 31.

Javid said the only way to break the logjam is to call new elections and get rid of the current "zombie Parliament."

"Three-and-a-half years ago this decision was made and there's been delay after delay after delay," he told the BBC. "And we have to end this, end this uncertainty."

Petrequin reported from Brussels.

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

China urges joint fight on smuggling after deaths in Britain

BEIJING (AP) — China called Friday for joint efforts to counter human smuggling after the discovery in Britain of 39 dead people believed to be Chinese who stowed away in a shipping container.

Foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying told reporters at a daily briefing that China could not yet confirm the victims' nationalities or identities but was working in cooperation with local authorities.

"The British police are still in the intensive process of verification and are still unable to confirm at the moment," Hua said.

"But I think that no matter where these victims come from, this is a great tragedy which drew the attention of the international community to the issue of illegal immigration," she said.

"I think the international community should further strengthen cooperation in this area, strengthen sharing of information and intelligence in this regard, and conduct early intervention in these activities so as to prevent such tragedies from happening again in the future."

Hua said Chinese authorities were also seeking information from police in Belgium, from where the shipping container in which the bodies were found was transported to England.

Human smuggling from China is believed to have fallen drastically in recent years amid a rapidly growing domestic economy. However, some Chinese, particularly those with lower education levels, continue to be drawn to Europe and North America by the promise of much higher wages than they can earn at home, despite the considerable risks involved.

Parts of China, especially the southeastern province of Fujian, have long histories of sending migrants abroad.

The issue is a difficult one to confront for China's ruling Communist Party, which is intensely sensitive about China's international image and has staked much of its legitimacy to rule on improving living standards for the bulk of China's 1.4 billion people.

In an editorial Friday, the party newspaper Global Times said authorities in Britain and elsewhere hadn't done enough to crack down on people smuggling.

"Such a serious humanitarian disaster occurred under the eyes of the British and Europeans," the newspaper said. "Britain and the related European countries have not met their responsibility for protecting these people from dying in such a manner."

Lion Air crash report points to Boeing, pilots, maintenance

By NINIEK KARMINI and MARGIE MASON Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — An Indonesian investigation found a Lion Air flight that crashed and killed 189 people a year ago was doomed by a combination of aircraft design flaws, inadequate training and maintenance problems.

A summary of the final accident report released Friday said Lion Air flight 610, from Indonesia's capital Jakarta to the island of Sumatra, crashed partly because the pilots were never told how to quickly respond to malfunctions of the Boeing 737 Max 8 jet's automated flight-control system. But during a press conference, investigators highlighted nine critical points that, combined, led to the tragedy.

The jet vanished from radar after air traffic control was informed the plane had altitude and air speed

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issues. It plunged into the Java Sea just 13 minutes after takeoff on Oct. 29, 2018.

Just five months after the Indonesian crash, the same kind of malfunction caused a Max jet to crash in Ethiopia, killing all 157 people on board.

That led to the grounding of all 737 Max jets and put Boeing under intense pressure to explain problems associated with the flight control system, known as MCAS. The aircraft still has not resumed flying.

Indonesia's National Transportation Safety Committee said the MCAS on the Lion Air flight relied on a single "angle of attack" sensor that provided erroneous information, automatically shoving the nose of the Max jet down.

So far, Indonesia has not released the full report.

The summary presented Friday identified various missteps prior to the crash. The aircraft, only in use for two months, began having problems on Oct. 26. A new angle of attack sensor was installed the day before the crash on the Indonesian resort island of Bali, but it was mis-calibrated, resulting in it being 21 degrees out of alignment. The problem was not detected when it was installed.

On a flight later that day from Bali to Jakarta, the aircraft experienced similar problems shortly after takeoff. Airspeed and altitude warnings went off and the captain's stick shaker activated, signaling an impending stall. A third Lion Air pilot who was hitching a ride in the cockpit jump seat helped the captain and co-pilot regain control of the aircraft by manually overriding the automated system.

Instead of turning around, the plane continued to Jakarta and landed safely. The pilot did not report fully about the problems including the activation of the stick shaker and how the crew resolved the issue, the report said.

The report noted that the crew had no way of knowing the entire situation because a warning function that should have told the pilots the two angle of attack sensors were out of sync was not installed on the aircraft.

"The investigation considered that the design and certification of this feature was inadequate," the committee's summary said. "The aircraft flight manual and flight crew training did not include information about MCAS."

"Let's just say, that flight from Bali to Jakarta was very lucky," said Indonesian aviation expert Gerry Soejatman, who says most of the blame for the crash goes to Boeing.

"How Boeing could allow the MCAS to rely on a single source of data and act upon that single source without cross checking the other angle of attack indicator is anyone's guess," he said in an interview.

The latest news left relatives of the victims fuming.

"We are very angry (at Boeing) because their negligence has caused our loved ones to die," said Muhammad Asdori, 55, whose brother and nephew were killed in the Lion Air crash.

"They should have anticipated any kind of problems with adequate training for pilots who fly their planes. We were even more angry when we learned that they had only admitted their mistake when the second MAX-8 plane crashed in Ethiopia."

The Indonesian report followed another last month from U.S. federal accident investigators who concluded that Boeing and the Federal Aviation Administration underestimated how a blizzard of visual and auditory warnings would slow pilots' ability to respond quickly enough to avert crashes.

Boeing issued a statement Friday saying it was working to address all of the safety recommendations to prevent similar flight control problems from recurring.

It said the 737 Max and its software were subject to "an unprecedented level of global regulatory oversight, testing and analysis," including hundreds of simulator sessions and test flights, regulatory analysis of thousands of documents, reviews by regulators and independent experts and extensive certification requirements.

Boeing said it has redesigned the flight control system to activate only with input from both angle of attack sensors. The MCAS also will be subject to a "maximum limit" that can be overridden by the pilot's controls.

"These software changes will prevent the flight control conditions that occurred in this accident from

ever happening again," it said.

Boeing said it's also updating crew manuals and pilot training.

"Safety is an enduring value for everyone at Boeing," it said.

Boeing recently reported its third-quarter earnings dropped by half, partly because of \$900 million extra in costs for the Max.

AP source: DOJ review of Russia probe now a criminal inquiry

By MICHAEL BALSAMO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Justice Department has shifted its review of the Russia probe to a criminal investigation, a person familiar with the matter says. It's a move that is likely to raise concerns that President Donald Trump and his allies may be using the powers of the government to go after their opponents.

The revelation comes as Trump is already facing scrutiny about a potential abuse of power, including a House impeachment inquiry examining whether he withheld military aid to pressure the president of Ukraine to launch an investigation of former Vice President Joe Biden and his son Hunter.

The person who confirmed the criminal investigation Thursday was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity.

It is unclear what potential crimes are being investigated, but the designation as a formal criminal investigation gives prosecutors the ability to issue subpoenas, potentially empanel a grand jury and compel witnesses to give testimony and bring federal criminal charges.

The Justice Department had previously considered it to be an administrative review, and Attorney General William Barr appointed John Durham, the U.S. attorney in Connecticut, to lead the inquiry into the origins of special counsel Robert Mueller's probe into Russian interference in the 2016 election. It's unclear when Durham's inquiry shifted to a criminal investigation.

Durham is examining what led the U.S. to open a counterintelligence investigation into the Trump campaign and the roles that various countries played in the U.S. probe. He is also investigating whether the surveillance methods and intelligence gathering methods used during the investigation were legal and appropriate.

Mueller's investigation shadowed Trump's presidency for nearly two years and outraged the Republican president, who cast it as a politically motivated "witch hunt." Mueller determined that the Russian government interfered in the 2016 election, but his investigation didn't find sufficient evidence to establish a criminal conspiracy between Trump's campaign and Russia. Mueller also examined 10 possible instances of obstruction of justice and has pointedly said he could not exonerate the president.

The New York Times first reported that Durham's inquiry had become a criminal investigation.

The chairmen of the House Judiciary and Intelligence committees, which are leading the impeachment inquiry, said in a statement late Thursday that the reports "raise profound new concerns" that Barr's DOJ "has lost its independence and become a vehicle for President Trump's political revenge.

"If the Department of Justice may be used as a tool of political retribution, or to help the President with a political narrative for the next election, the rule of law will suffer new and irreparable damage," Democratic Reps. Jerrold Nadler and Adam Schiff said.

The Justice Department has said Trump recently made several calls at Barr's request to foreign leaders, including Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison, to help the attorney general with the Durham investigation.

Barr also traveled with Durham to Italy in August and September, and the two met with Italian intelligence officials to seek information about the activities of FBI agents assigned there, Italian Premier Giuseppe Conte said Wednesday.

The White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment Thursday.

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Essay: What is America's game? 3 sports, 3 American eras

By TED ANTHONY AP National Writer

What is America's game?

Is it the quirky and cerebral sport that, in its highest form, is unfolding this week in the World Series between the Houston Astros and the Washington Nationals? Baseball is, after all, still called the national pastime.

Is it the gladiatorial battle that unfolds on any given Sunday (and Monday and Thursday), the one that channels raw male power into accomplishments measured in yards and completions and high-octane collisions? Former star wide receiver Jerry Rice thinks so; a new book about the NFL that he co-authored, out next week, is called "America's Game."

Or is it the acrobatic contest with the big orange ball, the one in which players dwarfed only by their global online star power hurtle through rare air, putting on nightly clinics to demonstrate what the human body can do? There's a strong case to be made there, too.

Our history is contained in our games. Big league baseball, NFL football and NBA basketball — the holy trinity of American athletics — each grew to maturity during different periods in the nation's history. And each emerged in an era that reflects the place it came to occupy in the culture.

In a season when the NFL turns 100, and in a week when the World Series has claimed the national spotlight and the latest NBA season is being born, let's ask the question: What is America's game, anyway?

In sport, it is often said, we can find ourselves. To that, add this corollary: Sometimes we can find our country, too.

BASEBALL: AMERICA STITCHED TOGETHER

Baseball is America's game: the America that was stitching itself together in the first half of the 20th century and becoming a national mass culture.

In that century's first decade, the people who ran the game called baseball put together a commission to determine its origins. In retrospect, though, at a time when being American was more of a thing than ever before, it ended up being an exercise in candy-coating baseball with myth — Abner Doubleday, Cooperstown, 1839 — to prove it was an American game.

It wasn't entirely, of course; it evolved from many things, from multiple places, and the musty "Doubleday Myth" was upended decades ago. But whatever its origins, baseball became indomitably American as it grew with the nation throughout the first half of the 1900s.

Like the country at the time, it was riding a wave of the emergence of more leisure time among the working class. Like the country at the time, it was transitioning from islands of influence into a truly national mindset, amplified and made immediate by the dawn of commercial radio in 1920.

Like the country at the time — that time being 100 years ago this month, the time of the Chicago "Black Sox" gambling scandal — baseball was trying to figure out the intersection between the profit motive and the pure.

And like the country at the time, it was increasingly urban and complex but explicitly framed itself as pastoral and simpler — a potent draw to the millions of immigrants and migrants who were transitioning from rural life to an industrialized society where everything (except baseball) was marked by a ticking clock.

"The only green they're going to see is on the baseball field," says Jerald Podair, a historian at Lawrence University in Wisconsin and author of "City of Dreams: Dodger Stadium and the Birth of Modern Los Angeles."

Today, though baseball has the strongest of anchors in Latin America and is the stuff of obsession in Japan and Taiwan and South Korea, it is America, still, where the "World" Series is the pinnacle of the sport — even though it has only busted out of America's borders two times, each with the Toronto Blue Jays.

And it is still America where a constant refrain about "the integrity of the game," which rises each time a change is made, reveals a purism that some say is pushing baseball toward irrelevance.

"Baseball has to shoulder a heavy burden," says Patricia O'Hara, who for years taught a course at Franklin

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& Marshall College in Pennsylvania on baseball in American literature and culture, and more recently wrote a play called "Banned from Baseball," about Pete Rose.

"Why do we project impossible ideals onto a sport?" she wonders. "Maybe that's the question."

FOOTBALL: SUBURBIA, TELEVISION AND VIETNAM

Football is America's game: the America that roared out of World War II and into countless suburbs, armed with TV sets, ready to engage, flush with the confidence that comes with realizing you are the most powerful nation in the world.

Football is battlefield poetry, the civilian made military, an American aesthetic if there ever was one. It is John Facenda narrating NFL Films episodes like 1978's "Mighty Men and Magic Moments" in a stentorian voice that spoke to American men ravenous for vicarious weekend glory. It's a made-for-TV experience that many people think is better on a screen than live — to the point that, in 1966, an advertising company started distributing, in American hardware stores, a 64-page booklet called "How to Watch Pro Football on TV."

It is the sport of the height of the "American Century," that postwar, Cold War moment when TV grew up, propelled in notable part by two giants — the "Living Room War" in Vietnam, and the rise of the NFL to dominance. The league colonized Sundays, then used its video Manifest Destiny to grab the next day as well with its crowning, prime-time achievement: Monday Night Football.

"It was the perfect sport for the Cold War. It created the American male as a heroic figure. 'Look at our men. Look at how tough they are,'" says Rich Hanley, who co-directs the sports studies program at Quinnipiac University in Connecticut and teaches courses about the history of football.

"It's football as an American projection of its strength," he says. "NFL Films is showing this violence in slow motion, and people are loving it. The violence is appealing to people. It's controlled, it's rules-based. So, it fits the American ideal — we're free, but we're free within a certain set of rules."

Football is the notion that power, used in the right measure in the right places, can break through and triumph. Football is the acceleration from the early 20th century — the Red Grange years — to the NFL's explosive young adulthood in the 1960s and 1970s. It's Johnny U leading the Colts across the field with a brush cut straight from Floyd's in Mayberry, then giving way to Broadway Joe and O.J. Simpson deploying commercials and movies to plant the seeds of modern athlete-celebrity culture.

Football is the recliner and the remote and the canned beer, all of which came of age in postwar America.

"It carries a very American philosophy of getting up again and again after being knocked down," former NFL player and coach Raymond Berry once said. "It is a very physical sport that not many other nations have really anything similar. So, I think it is a very good reflection of the American mentality."

BASKETBALL: 21st-CENTURY CELEBRITY AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Basketball (yeah, yeah, invented by a Canadian-American) is America's game: an America gone 21st-century global, powered by messages from invisible sources that instantly carry its acrobatics and outsized personalities to the planet's every corner.

Basketball is a fast-paced, airborne conversation about race, about commercialism, about globalization (Exhibit A: China) — but all, still, from a very American perspective.

Basketball is America's penchant for improvisation and workarounds — Kareem inventing the sky hook when the NCAA outlawed the dunk for a decade. Basketball is generations of players — African American men in particular — passing ideas and skills down, person by person.

"It's anybody's game," says Frederick Gooding, an assistant professor of African American studies in the honors college at Texas Christian University (and a baller). "You have a Michael Jordan inspired by Dr. J. And you have a Kobe inspired by Jordan. Who knows who's next?"

Basketball, as the NBA saw early on, is selfie culture personified, with spectators able to see not baggy uniforms or helmets and pads but shorts and tank tops and earrings and tattoos and sinew and unremitting bursts of individuality.

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"The people who have the temerity to even take these risks are those who come from mostly impoverished conditions where they are under resourced," Gooding says. "So, their whole mindset is, 'I'm gonna do what it takes — this is me, and you're going to have to deal with it.'"

Basketball manages to be kinetic and chaotic but also finely tuned and portable. Pickup baseball takes at least eight or 10 for a decent game, football needs four or six even in your backyard. But basketball? Two people, a ball and a makeshift hoop: From West Africa to China, Bolivia to Samoa, that's all you need. Basketball is about riches and fame, but it's within the reach of anyone in any economic stratum.

And basketball is, at least in its NBA incarnation, vigorous and unabashed individualism — for better and worse, perhaps the most American trait of all.

"Basketball is a team sport that can be controlled by one athlete, by one individual, in a way that most other team sports don't allow," says Chad Carlson, who teaches kinesiology at Hope College in Michigan and is the author of "Making March Madness: The Early Years of the NCAA, NIT and College Basketball Championships."

"Basketball," he says, "has this individualized element to it that I think fits with stardom, the way in which we're infatuated with superstars."

Thus, basketball is the perfect sport for the 21st-century mandate of virtual fame — of personal branding and social media, of Instagram and Snapchat and Nike marketing power. Thanks in part to the prescience of NBA officials who saw opportunities years ago in players' personal branding, the top five NBA player Instagram accounts — LeBron and Steph and Kyrie, Dwyane Wade and Russell Westbrook — claim more than 100 million worldwide followers among them.

That means they're being watched around the world by more than the entire populations of Florida, Texas and California combined.

OK, GO AHEAD AND YELL NOW

Wait, you're saying. These are sweeping generalizations. Of course they are. Each sport has such nuance, such detail, such elegance — that's why its adulators can never get quite enough.

The numbers, according to Gallup, say this: Football, while slipping, is still Americans' favorite sport to watch. Basketball comes in a distant second, while baseball — coming in third, and often criticized for being outmoded in today's world — is looking over its shoulder at soccer, according to polling from last year.

Baseball has been about restraint, and the occasional breaking of it. Football has been about collision and controlled violence made into ballet. Basketball has been, and is now more than ever, about flying — about the sky, and the virtual universe, being the limit.

W.P. Kinsella, in his novel "Shoeless Joe," said this about baseball: "America has been erased like a blackboard, only to be rebuilt and then erased again. But baseball has marked time while America has rolled by like a procession of steamrollers."

The funny thing is, that could easily be said about football — and, in recent years, about basketball. We have all three, and they're not going away anytime soon. World Series? Tune in tonight. NBA? Same deal. NFL? Enjoy its centenary and get ready for more.

"Humanity has a seemingly unquenchable thirst for consuming sports," Carlson says, and "America is the place that popularizes sports in the way that other countries don't."

Tell that to the planet's Manchester United fans and you might get an argument. But as with Hollywood, as with Madison Avenue, as with the saga of the frontier, even, sports in America have become an epic tale so sewn into the culture that it's sometimes hard to discern where the games end and other things begin.

Which is America's game? All of them, of course: America's game reflects a swath of who the nation is — at the time. The answer was obvious from the beginning. But you knew that already, didn't you?

Ted Anthony, director of digital innovation for The Associated Press, writes about American culture. Follow him on Twitter at @anthonyted.

Australia's iconic rock Uluru scaled by final climbers

ULURU, Australia (AP) — Nature seemed to be siding with indigenous Australians' demand for Uluru to be respected as a sacred site on Friday when high winds threatened to prematurely end the generations-old tradition of climbing the sandstone monolith.

Rangers warned hundreds of anxious tourists who gathered at the base of the iconic rock before dawn that they would miss their last opportunity to ever scale its 348-meter (1,140-foot) summit unless blustery conditions subsided.

But the winds calmed and the first of around 1,000 climbers began their ascent at a chain handhold up the steep western face three hours later than scheduled. An indigenous onlooker booed them.

The ascent was permanently closed to climbers late in the afternoon, while those already on the rock had until sunset to find their way down. A potential medical problem was reported with a climber but authorities could not immediately provide details.

Janet Ishikawa flew from her Hawaiian home to central Australia to make the climb on the final possible day. She likened the Uluru controversy to a furor over plans to build a giant telescope on Hawaii's highest peak, which protesters consider sacred.

"It's a total overreaction. All of a sudden they want to take ownership of all this stuff," Ishikawa said. "They say you shouldn't climb because of all this sacred stuff. I can still respect it and climb it."

The ban was a unanimous decision made two years ago by 12 members of the Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park Board of Management. But it's an outcome that has divided both indigenous Australians as well as the wider world.

The polarity of opinions has been highlighted in recent months as thousands of visitors converged on one of Australia's most famous landmarks to make a final trek to the top. Tourists have been illegally camping on roadsides for miles (kilometers) because the local camping ground and accommodation were booked.

Sammy Wilson, who chaired the board that banned the climb, described the prohibition as a cause for celebration. Wilson is member of the Anangu tribe who are Uluru's traditional owners.

"If I travel to another country and there is a sacred site, an area of restricted access, I don't enter or climb it, I respect it," Wilson said. "It is the same here for Anangu. We welcome tourists here. We are not stopping tourism, just this activity."

There has long been tension within the indigenous population around the money that climbers bring and the rock's significance as a sacred site.

"I am happy and sad, two ways," said Kevin Cooley, a resident of the Mutitjulu indigenous community in the rock's shadow who collects the Uluru tourists' garbage. He fears that tourist numbers and the local economy will decline.

The biggest drop in foreign visitors could be the Japanese who have proven to be the most committed climbers. Signs around the rock have long discouraged climbing, describing Uluru as a "place of great knowledge" and noting that Anangu traditional law prohibits climbing.

The proportion of visitors who climb has been steadily declining, with more than four in five respecting the Anangu's wishes in recent years.

The Anangu refer to tourists as "munga," or ants. The analogy was clearest in recent weeks with queues forming long before the climb opens at 7 a.m. each day at the base of the rock's steep western face. From there, an eclectic mix of climbers begin their ascents in narrow columns.

Prominent indigenous academic Marcia Langton reacted to the stream of climbers with a tweet: "A curse will fall on all of them."

"They will remember how they defiled this sacred place until they die & history will record their contempt for Aboriginal culture," Langton added.

Minister for Indigenous Australians Ken Wyatt said he was disappointed by the final rush to climb the rock, which is renowned for its changing colors with the seasons and the time of day.

"It would be equivalent to having a rush of people climbing over the Australian War Memorial, if I can be so brazen in that regard, because sacred objects, community by community, are absolutely important

in the story of that nation of people," said Wyatt, who is indigenous.

Reaching the rock doesn't guarantee the summit is attainable. Climbing is often canceled at short notice because of high winds or heat.

At least 37 climbers have died, mostly from medical events, since 1948, when the first road was built in the hope of attracting tourists. Every death causes the Anangu anguish.

Denying climbers access to the World Heritage-listed landform is part of an evolution of the Australian narrative since British colonization that has traditionally edited out the original inhabitants.

While the rock had been known as Uluru for thousands of years, British-born explorer William Gosse was credited with discovering it in 1873 and named it Ayers Rock after the then-premier of the British colony of South Australia, Sir Henry Ayers.

In 1993, it became the first official dual-named feature in the Northern Territory when it was renamed "Ayers Rock / Uluru." The order of the names was reversed a decade later at the request of regional tourism operators.

But the tourist accommodation nearest Uluru retains the name Ayers Rock Resort, in deference to the monetary value of the international brand recognition that has built up around it.

The date of the closure is also significant in the history of restored indigenous influence in the region. Saturday — the day from when climbing becomes punishable by a 6,300 Australian dollar (\$4,300) fine — marks 34 years since the federal government gave the Anangu the land title to the national park in which Uluru stands.

The traditional owners immediately returned the park to the government under a 99-year lease on condition that the park is jointly run by a board with a majority of Anangu members.

Grant Hunt, chief executive of Ayres Rock Resort operator Voyages Indigenous Tourism Australia, dismissed predictions of a significant decline in tourism. He said bookings in November after the climb's closure were at a record high, with around 95% occupancy booked for the first three weeks.

"The traveling public have become much more culturally mature than they were 20 years ago," Hunt said. "Most people expect this and in fact want it to happen."

"There's a minority who still don't, of course, and you always get that with any decision, but certainly our research and feedback says about 80% of people are supportive of the climb closing," he added.

In a divided Washington, Nationals' World Series run unites

By ASHRAF KHALIL Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Washington is normally a city defined by its divisions, be they political, racial or economic.

But the unlikely World Series run of the Washington Nationals has become something truly unexpected: a unifying force in a city that hasn't known much unity recently.

Nationals red and the trademark swirling W have become common sights across the District of Columbia. On the night of Game 1 in Houston against the Astros, a racially diverse crowd of thousands turned out in the midst of a cold rainstorm to watch the game on television together in Nationals Park.

"There's no politics in baseball," said Beth Leeth, a Virginia resident who came to the park with her husband and four children. She continued the "League of Their Own" analogy by adding, "There IS crying sometimes. We've been Nats fans long enough that there's been some tears over the Nationals. But not this year."

Judith Gilbert, a 25-year DC resident, said, "You can feel it. It's palpable in the community. It doesn't matter what your political persuasion is at the moment. It's helping us deal with the other stuff that's really terribly frightening that's going on politically. This is something that's an antidote to that."

As the nation's capital, Washington is split by the passions and anger surrounding Donald Trump's presidency and the impeachment inquiry in the Democratic-led House. As a city of 700,000 people, Washington is overwhelmingly Democratic. Still, a fast-moving gentrification wave has produced a host of racial and economic tensions with longtime black residents fearing that DC's "Chocolate City" identity is being erased.

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Nationals fever has even popped up inside Trump's White House. Trump said Thursday he planned to attend Game 5 on Sunday if there is one.

On Oct. 17, at the start of what would become a disastrous press conference that may have strengthened the impeachment case against his boss, acting White House Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney started off with a Nationals reference.

"I did want to come out here with my Nationals hat on but they told that would violate some type of rule," he joked.

Washington is a city filled with transplants, many of whom bring their hometown sports loyalties with them. There also isn't much of a local history of baseball success. Two separate incarnations of the Washington Senators have left town, becoming the Minnesota Twins and the Texas Rangers. From 1972 until 2005, when the Montreal Expos relocated here, a generation of local fans was forced to either live without a hometown favorite or unnaturally root for the Baltimore Orioles.

But Nationals fever has become undeniable. That was evident last week when the fourth Democratic presidential debate went head-to-head with the Nationals' game 4 against the St. Louis Cardinals. Normally the bars of Capitol Hill would have been packed with debate-watching parties, but instead baseball seemed to decisively dominate politics.

"We need this. We really do need this," said Rowena De Leon of Rockville, Maryland. "With the country so divided, this is just something that's good and something to cheer for."

Part of the charm of this year's team is their underdog story. After the Nationals lost their best player, Bryce Harper to free agency, very little was expected of this year's squad. Even squeaking into the playoffs as a wild card was considered a pleasant surprise. From there the team has somehow morphed into a juggernaut. After winning the first two games in Houston, the Nationals return home Friday for Game 3 with an eight-game playoff winning streak and in the unlikely role of World Series favorite.

A Nationals victory would also continue the recent championship streak for a city largely accustomed to sports futility. The Capitals won hockey's Stanley Cup in 2018 after years of near-misses, and the Washington Mystics won their first WNBA title in September.

"I'm getting the same vibe as 2018 when the Capitals won the Stanley Cup and everybody just embraced everybody" said Ted Peters, a Nats superfan who comes to games dressed like a cruise ship captain and goes by the name Captain Obvious. "It's a feeling of oneness. It's us against the world. It's a fantastic feeling and you can feel it throughout the city."

The Wizards and the Redskins remain mired in long-term mediocrity, but Washingtonians will absolutely take what they can get.

Tally of children split at border tops 5,400 in new count

By ELLIOT SPAGAT Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — U.S. immigration authorities separated more than 1,500 children from their parents at the Mexico border early in the Trump administration, the American Civil Liberties Union said Thursday, bringing the total number of children separated since July 2017 to more than 5,400.

The ACLU said the administration told its attorneys that 1,556 children were separated from July 1, 2017, to June 26, 2018, when a federal judge in San Diego ordered that children in government custody be reunited with their parents.

Children from that period can be difficult to find because the government had inadequate tracking systems. Volunteers working with the ACLU are searching for some of them and their parents by going door-to-door in Guatemala and Honduras.

Of those separated during the 12-month period, 207 were under 5, said attorney Lee Gelernt of the ACLU, which sued to stop family separation. Five were under a year old, 26 were a year old, 40 were 2 years old, 76 were 3, and 60 were 4.

"It is shocking that 1,556 more families, including babies and toddlers, join the thousands of others al-

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ready torn apart by this inhumane and illegal policy," said Gelernt. "Families have suffered tremendously, and some may never recover."

The Justice Department declined to comment.

The count is a milestone in accounting for families who have been touched by Trump's widely maligned effort against illegal immigration. The government identified 2,814 separated children who were in government custody on June 26, 2018, nearly all of whom have been reunited.

The U.S. Health and Human Services Department's internal watchdog said in January that potentially thousands more had been separated since July 2017, prompting U.S. District Judge Dana Sabraw to give the administration six months to identify them. The ACLU said it received the last batch of 1,556 names one day ahead of Friday's deadline.

The administration has also separated 1,090 children since the judge ordered a halt to the practice in June 2018 except in limited circumstances, like threats to child safety or doubts about whether the adult is really the parent.

The ACLU said the authorities have abused their discretion by separating families over dubious allegations and minor transgressions including traffic offenses. It has asked Sabraw to more narrowly define circumstances that would justify separation, which the administration has opposed.

With Thursday's disclosure, the number of children separated since July 2017 reached 5,460.

The government lacked tracking systems when the administration formally launched a "zero tolerance" policy in the spring of 2018 to criminally prosecute every adult who entered the country illegally from Mexico, sparking an international outcry when parents couldn't find their children.

Poor tracking before the spring of 2018 complicates the task of accounting for children who were separated early on. As of Oct. 16, the ACLU said, volunteers couldn't reach 362 families by phone because numbers didn't work or the sponsor who took custody was unable or unwilling to provide contact information for the parent, prompting the door-to-door searches in Central America.

Since retreating on family separation, the administration has tried other ways to reverse a major surge in asylum seekers, many of them Central American families.

Tens of thousands of Central Americans and Cubans have been returned to Mexico this year to wait for immigration court hearings, instead of being released in the United States with notices to appear in court.

Last month, the administration introduced a policy to deny asylum to anyone who passes through another country on the way to the U.S. border with Mexico without seeking protection there first.

Israel, Jordan mark 25 years of imperfect peace

By JOSEF FEDERMAN and OMAR AKOUR Associated Press

NAHARAYIM PARK, Israel (AP) — The Naharayim park was established 25 years ago as a symbol of the landmark peace agreement between Israel and Jordan. Now, as the two countries mark a quarter century of official relations, the park and its "Island of Peace" are being shuttered.

It is a fitting reflection of the Israeli-Jordanian relationship — one that began with great promise, but which has been plagued by mistrust, disappointment and missed opportunities. While the peace agreement remains intact, there is a sense on both sides that it should have delivered much bigger dividends.

"I am not certain that we gave it our full attention," said retired Supreme Court Justice Elyakim Rubinstein, who was Israel's chief negotiator for the peace deal.

Speaking on Israeli public radio, Rubinstein said there were things Israel could do "to lend a better atmosphere" and suggested Israel show more "respect" for its eastern neighbor. He declined to elaborate.

It is a far cry from the heady times of the peace agreement, signed at an emotional ceremony on Oct. 26, 1994, attended by Israel's then-prime minister, Yitzhak Rabin, the late King Hussein and President Bill Clinton.

Following up on a historic interim peace deal between Israel and the Palestinians a year earlier, all three leaders delivered moving speeches promising warm relations and a better future.

"This is our gift to our peoples and the generations to come," said Hussein, who died in 1999. "It will

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not be simply a piece of paper ratified by those responsible, blessed by the world. It will be real, as we open our hearts and minds to each other."

Twenty-five years later, the peace agreement remains a vital strategic asset for both countries.

The deal has brought Israel much-needed quiet and a valuable partner along its longest border, while buttressing Jordan's position as a crucial ally of the West in one of the world's most volatile areas.

The two countries maintain close, covert security relations. Israel, a world leader in desalination, provides large quantities of water to Jordan, one of the driest countries on earth, and has agreed to sell natural gas to Jordan as well.

But the warm relations envisioned at that signing ceremony remain elusive, and in Jordan there is little public support for the agreement.

Jordan has a long list of complaints — beginning with the deep freeze in the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

Israel captured the West Bank and east Jerusalem from Jordan in the 1967 Mideast war. Although Jordan has renounced any claims to these territories, which the Palestinians seek as parts of a future state, it retains deep connections.

A majority of Jordan's population is believed to have Palestinian roots, and Jordan's King Abdullah II is a strong supporter of the Palestinian cause. Without progress on the Palestinian front, Abdullah is unable — and unwilling — to warmly embrace Israel.

Israel's policies at Jerusalem's most sensitive holy site — a hilltop compound known to Jews as the Temple Mount and to Muslims as the Noble Sanctuary — have also put pressure on the king.

Jordan serves as custodian of the site's Muslim shrines. During Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's term, visits to the compound by right-wing Jewish groups that want to alter its status have increased, igniting clashes with Muslim worshippers and straining relations with Jordan.

Jordan also remains bitter over a 2017 incident in which an Israeli guard at the Israeli Embassy in Amman shot and killed two Jordanians, saying one had tried to attack him with a screwdriver.

Netanyahu gave the guard a hero's welcome, infuriating the Jordanians. Diplomatic relations were repaired only months later after Israel expressed "deep regret" and replaced its ambassador.

More recently, Netanyahu angered Jordan by vowing to annex the Jordan Valley — a strategic area of the West Bank along the Jordanian border.

"There is no real social and popular peace between Jordan and Israel," said Amer Sabaileh, an independent Jordanian analyst.

He said Jordan needs "more understanding from the Israeli side" and that Israel's approach to various issues has "put Jordan in a very difficult situation."

Speaking at a Tel Aviv conference last month, Israel's ambassador to Jordan, Amir Weissbrod, acknowledged that relations aren't perfect.

But he listed a long line of successes, including the water and energy cooperation, Jordan's use of Israel's Haifa port and an expanding program that allows hundreds of Jordanians to enter Israeli border towns to work.

Describing Jordan as a "strategic partner" and gateway to the broader Arab world, Weissbrod said: "We must try to make the utmost effort to ensure the stability and success of Jordan."

Yet he also said there is more that Jordanian leaders could do, particularly in terms of building support among the Jordanian public.

"They can't hide the degree of the relationship, and there are achievements to talk about," he said.

Jordanian officials did not respond to a request for comment.

Against this backdrop, Jordan last year announced that it was ending a special lease agreement under the 1994 treaty that returned two farming areas — Naharayim and Tzofar — to Jordanian sovereignty while allowing Israel continued use of the lands. Without Jordanian objections, the leases for the areas, known in Arabic as Baqura and Ghamr, would have automatically renewed.

Naharayim, located along the Jordan River in northern Israel, has become a popular tourist site. It includes a small park and picnic area, the ruins of a historic power station and the "Island of Peace," where

Israelis can briefly enter Jordanian territory without having to show their passports.

"We regard this place as part of a normalization and relationship with our neighbors from the other side of the border," said Idan Grinbaum, head of the local regional council. He said he has sent a letter to Abdullah asking the king to reconsider but has not heard back.

The site has a painful history. In 1997, a Jordanian soldier opened fire at an Israeli crowd, killing seven schoolgirls on a class trip.

After the shooting, King Hussein traveled to Israel to ask forgiveness from the girls' families. Twenty years after his death, Hussein remains a beloved figure in Israel for what was seen as a courageous act.

With the site set to revert to full Jordanian control in early November, Grinbaum said he still hopes that leaders can find a way to preserve Naharayim as a symbol of peace.

"We still think that joint projects can happen here for both countries, for the benefit of citizens in both countries," he said. "Unfortunately, in reality things are not that simple."

Akour reported from Amman, Jordan.

Cook, Vikings wear down Redskins 19-9 for 4th straight win

By DAVE CAMPBELL AP Pro Football Writer

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Near the end of this methodical victory for the Minnesota Vikings, the crowd directed a loud cheer toward a player on the visiting team.

When Adrian Peterson appeared on the giant video screens during the 2-minute warning with an announcement of his latest climb up the NFL's all-time rushing list, the Washington Redskins running back took off his helmet, kissed two of his fingers and waved them to the fans who rooted for him in purple not that long ago.

The star of the show, though, was Peterson's successor. Dalvin Cook gave the Vikings yet another stellar performance.

Cook had 171 total yards and the game's only touchdown, helping Kirk Cousins beat his old team on the first try and carrying the Vikings to a 19-9 victory over the Redskins on Thursday night.

"It just shows how we can pull a win out. We've got a team that can go out and keep battling and keep fighting," Cook said. "That shows you the toughness that's in this group."

Cook, the NFL leader in yards from scrimmage, rushed 23 times for 98 yards and caught five passes for 73 yards for the Vikings (6-2) in their fourth straight win. Cousins went 23 for 26 for 285 yards without a turnover against the Redskins (1-7), who drafted him in 2012 and made him the full-time starter in 2015 before he became a free agent and signed with the Vikings in 2018.

"We talked during the week. You always have a little extra motivation when you're playing your old team. You're always trying to prove that they were wrong for letting you go or whatever the reason was, so I thought he handled it really well," Vikings coach Mike Zimmer said. "He's playing outstanding right now."

Nobody on the Redskins lately warrants that assessment. Case Keenum, the quarterback Cousins replaced, had his return to Minnesota spoiled by a concussion that kept him out of the second half and thrust rookie Dwayne Haskins back into action. Two plays after Daron Payne and Landon Collins stuffed Cousins for no gain on a fourth-and-1 quarterback sneak at the Minnesota 34, Haskins overthrew Terry McLaurin, and Anthony Harris intercepted.

Keenum's last time in the stadium was nearly two years ago, when his last-play touchdown pass to Stefon Diggs gave the Vikings a victory over New Orleans in a divisional round playoff game, but there was little reason to make this game a memory. Keenum went 12 for 16 for 130 yards.

Diggs caught all seven passes that came his way from Cousins, racking up 143 yards in his own tribute of sorts to the "Minneapolis Miracle." This game was for the guys in the ground game, though. Alexander Mattison added 61 yards on 13 rushes, and Minnesota more than doubled Washington's total yardage, 434-216.

Peterson had 14 carries for 76 yards and in the process moved up to sixth place on the NFL's career

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rushing list with 13,701 yards by passing Jerome Bettis and LaDainian Tomlinson.

"It was bittersweet because you come here to win a game," said Peterson, who played for the Vikings for 10 seasons from 2007-16. "Just coming back and seeing the love that they still have for me and they showed, it felt good. It was definitely a great home welcome. They welcomed me with open arms and just showed the love that they have and have for over a decade. So, it was a special moment. I had to hold tears back, to be honest with you."

Cook hugged Peterson on the field after the game.

"He was one of the guys that I watched," Cook said. "He's a special talent."

The same goes for Cook, who was drafted in the second round in 2017.

"If we keep him healthy, I hope one day he is in the Hall of Fame just because he's a talented guy," Diggs said. "He's a blessing."

CHEF'S SPECIAL

The screen pass to Cook was the favored weapon, highlighted by a zigzagging 31-yard gain late in the second quarter that set up his 4-yard run for a score with 11 seconds left on third down. Offensive coordinator Kevin Stefanski made a bold inside zone call for Cook, who rewarded the confidence by powering his way through safety Troy Apke and cornerback Fabian Moreau at the goal line.

The Vikings ran a third-and-15 draw play to Cook from the 25 early in the fourth quarter before settling Dan Bailey's fourth field goal of the night, another conservative decision that even drew some boos from a crowd that was probably a bit bored at that point by a game bogged down by penalties and ball-control play.

"I think good teams can win a variety of ways," Cousins said. "I think we've been doing that the last few weeks."

STEFON NEEDS STICK-UM

Diggs went without a fumble over each of the last three seasons, and the Vikings recovered the two he had as a rookie in 2015. This year, he has already fumbled four times, the most in the league among non-quarterbacks, and the Vikings have lost three of them. Diggs also dropped what would have been a touchdown pass last week at Detroit, a catchable ball that slipped through his hands on third down in the fourth quarter.

INJURY REPORT

Redskins: CB Josh Norman (thigh/hand) returned from a one-game absence, but he didn't play until CB Quinton Dunbar hurt his hamstring in the second quarter. Moreau started ahead of Norman. FS Montae Nicholson (ankle) was inactive, too, with Apke taking his place in the lineup. ... Backup SS Jeremy Reaves left the game with a concussion in the third quarter after a head-first hit on Diggs that also drew him an unnecessary roughness penalty.

Vikings: With WR Adam Thielen (hamstring) out, rookie WR Olabisi Johnson got his first start. ... CB Xavier Rhodes entered the concussion protocol in the third quarter but was cleared to return.

UP NEXT

Redskins: Play at Buffalo on Nov. 3.

Vikings: Play at Kansas City on Nov. 3.

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

Congregations, community to commemorate synagogue shooting

By RAMESH SANTANAM Associated Press

PITTSBURGH (AP) — A virtual remembrance, an overseas concert and community service projects highlight the many plans for commemorating the deadliest attack on Jews in U.S. history on the shooting's one-year anniversary Sunday.

The attack killed 11 worshippers and wounded seven at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh's Squirrel Hill neighborhood.

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"The key to the day is to remember those who were lost — innocent, beloved, sorely missed pillars of the community," said Stephen Cohen, co-president of New Light, one of three congregations present the day of the attack.

The Tree of Life building has remained closed since the shooting. The three congregations now worship at two nearby synagogues. Last week, Tree of Life leaders unveiled their vision for the damaged building: a rebuilt space for places of worship; memorial, education and social events; and classrooms and exhibitions.

The commemoration's theme is "Remember. Repair. Together." It includes a private Jewish service, studying the portion of the Torah that was to be read when the shooting happened, opportunities to do community service, and a public memorial service.

Several hundred people have registered to volunteer at various community organizations on Sunday, said Adam Hertzman, marketing director of the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh.

The Clarion Quartet, comprised of Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra musicians, will perform at a special event in Germany that day. Violist Tatjana Mead Chamis, cellist Bronwyn Banerdt, and violinists Marta Krechkovsky and Jennifer Orchard were invited to play at the American Academy in Berlin during the orchestra's European tour.

Thousands are expected to participate in Sunday's remembrance through Pause With Pittsburgh, a virtual memorial event created by the Jewish Federations of North America.

People who register on the event's website will receive a text message or email at 5 p.m. EDT on Sunday. They will see a two-minute video of the names of the 11 victims, followed by a Jewish prayer of mourning recorded by a cantor in Israel specifically for this commemoration. There also will be a link to a live stream of the public memorial service in Pittsburgh.

Authorities charged Robert Bowers, 47, a truck driver from Baldwin, Pennsylvania, in the massacre. Investigators say he used an AR-15 rifle and other weapons, and posted criticism of an immigrant aid society on social media before the attack, claiming the Jewish charity "likes to bring invaders that kill our people." Police said Bowers also raged against Jews as he gunned down his victims.

Federal prosecutors are seeking the death penalty. Bowers' attorneys said this month that the case would be over by now if the prosecutors had accepted his offer to plead guilty in return for a sentence of life in prison without parole. Some congregation members oppose making it a capital punishment case.

Augie Siriano, the Tree of Life's long-time custodian, survived the shooting after seeking shelter. He visited the building a few weeks ago and said he was heartbroken at what he saw: bullet holes, doors off their hinges or shattered, and broken glass.

"They were looking at me, asking, 'Are you OK?' I was in shock," he said. "It's really a shame for some reason he targeted that specific synagogue. It is just something I will never forget."

Texas GOP leaders enter parents' battle over child's gender

By JAMIE STENGLE and CLARICE SILBER Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — Top Republican leaders in Texas this week weighed in on two parents' battle over their 7-year-old child's gender identity after the case was shared widely on social media and conservative news sites.

Former spouses Anne Georgulas and Jeffrey Younger, who live in the Dallas area, have been embroiled in a legal dispute over their divorce and the care of their children since 2015. Georgulas says the couple's 7-year-old who was born a boy now identifies as a girl and prefers to be called a female name. Younger, who says the child acts like a boy around him, asked to be the sole decision-maker and launched a website in which he pleads for help to "save" his child.

Inaccurate and misleading stories about the 7-year-old have since circulated in blogs, Facebook posts, YouTube videos and petitions, bringing attention to a usually private matter.

The Associated Press is not naming the 7-year-old to protect the child's privacy.

Gov. Greg Abbott tweeted Wednesday evening that the attorney general's office and Texas Department of Family and Protective Services were looking into "the matter" of the child. And on Thursday, Attorney

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General Ken Paxton said he was asking Family and Protective Services to investigate the mother for possible child abuse, citing "public reports" in a letter that alleges she is "forcing" the child to transition to a girl.

However, Judge Kim Cooks in Dallas said Thursday during a hearing that the court noted no abuse, neglect or family violence in the case. Cooks ruled that the parents would make joint decisions about the child.

The judge scolded the father, who she noted was unemployed, for seeking publicity on the case and raising money on his website, but she also pointed out how the mother testified that her encouragement of the child being transgender may have been excessive.

"The father finds comfort in public controversy and attention surrounded by his use of unfounded facts and is thus motivated by financial gain," Cooks said, adding that the gain came "at the cost of the protection and privacy of his children."

Much of the public reaction to the case has focused on backing the narrative laid out on the father's website, which features a headline saying he's fighting "chemical castration and sex-change of his son."

A post of a woman holding a baby shared widely on Facebook targets the mother, saying she "always wanted a girl."

Cooks said Thursday that no Texas court or judge has ordered "the chemical castration, puberty blockers, hormone blockers or any transgender reassignment surgery on this child to become a female."

Attorneys for Georgulas, who is a pediatrician, said before the hearing that she was "being viciously attacked and threatened by complete strangers based on false and untrue statements." Cooks said she limited spectators to only the media at the hearing because of safety concerns.

Earlier this month, Georgulas filed a proposed parenting plan that said the child isn't yet at an age where treatment with hormonal suppression, puberty blockers or gender reassignment surgery is considered. And she asked the court to not allow any such treatment without the consent of both parents.

Dr. Stephen Rosenthal, medical director for the University of California San Francisco's Child and Adolescent Gender Center, says that often when parents disagree about potential medical treatment it's "likely because there's a possibility that they may be misinformed about what the treatment actually is" or if it would even be considered at the child's age.

He said a puberty blocker temporarily puts puberty on pause and is a safe medication that has most commonly been given to kids who go into puberty much too early. He said that before the onset of puberty, there's "no role" for medical intervention in a person who might be transgender.

Cooks said the court found that both parents love their children, and she noted the 7-year-old appears comfortable as a male or female.

Younger told the AP before Thursday's hearing that the child identifies as a boy when at his house.

Asked after the hearing if he was happy with the outcome, Younger didn't comment and only smiled and nodded.

Silber reported from Austin, Texas. Associated Press writer Amanda Seitz in Chicago contributed.

Meth is most common drug in overdose deaths in chunk of US

By MIKE STOBBE AP Medical Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Fentanyl is driving drug overdose deaths in the U.S. overall, but in nearly half of the country, it's a different story. Meth is the bigger killer, a new government report shows.

Nationwide, most deaths still involve opioid drugs like fentanyl and heroin. But in 2017, the stimulant meth was the drug most frequently involved in deaths in four regions that include 19 states west of the Mississippi.

The report released Friday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is the agency's first geographic breakdown of deaths by drug. It's based on 2017 figures when there were more than 70,000 overdose deaths in the U.S., two-thirds of them involving opioids.

Fentanyl was involved in 39% of the deaths that year, followed by heroin, 23%, and cocaine, 21%. Those drugs top the list in the eastern part of the country.

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Methamphetamine was No. 4 nationwide, cited in 13% of overdose deaths. But in the four western regions, it was No. 1, at 21% to 38%.

Previous CDC reports have charted meth's increasing toll, noting that it rose from eighth to fourth in just four years.

The new report found dramatic differences in the 10 regions. For example, In New England, fentanyl had the highest adjusted overdose death rate and meth was a distant 10th on the list. In the region that includes the mountain states and the Dakotas, meth was No. 1 and fentanyl was sixth.

Most of the meth in the U.S. is made in Mexico and smuggled across the border — U.S. production has actually been declining in recent years, according to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency. Its availability has held at high levels in recent years in areas of the Southwest, and has increased in some areas of the Midwest, the agency's field offices report.

Final 2018 data has not yet been released, but preliminary figures suggest that overdose deaths involving meth increased.

The CDC report is based on a search of overdose death certificates for the name of drugs. In many cases, a person was taking multiple drugs.

Since the report is the first of its kind, how meth factored into overdose deaths regionally in the past isn't known.

New Mexico has seen a shift. For years, black tar heroin was the biggest problem, then prescription painkillers, said Dr. Michael Landen of the state's health department. State meth deaths went from 150 in 2017 to 194 last year, vaulting meth to the top.

"It's really been the first time we've seen that," said Landen.

He attributed the surge in meth to its wide availability and low cost, and said he worried it could get worse. While there are programs to deal with fentanyl and heroin overdoses, there's not much in place to prevent meth deaths, he said.

"I think we're potentially going to be caught off guard with methamphetamine deaths, and we have to get our act together," he said.

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Carol Burnett among panelists for discussion about memoirs

By HILLEL ITALIE AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — For at least one night, Carol Burnett was a writer among writers.

The beloved entertainer was among three panelists Thursday for "An Evening of Memoir," presented at the MacDowell artist colony's intimate event space in Manhattan. With some 50 people in attendance, many MacDowell officials and supporters, she was joined by the retired Princeton University historian Nell Painter and the author and literary event host Amanda Stern. Their backgrounds differ greatly, but they identified with each other as memoir writers and through more common life experiences, whether conflicts with their parents or the struggles of writing itself.

The 86-year-old Burnett's presence was, understandably, a matter of interest in itself. MacDowell is a century-old institution, with its colony based in Peterborough, New Hampshire — home at various times to artists ranging from James Baldwin to Leonard Bernstein. Burnett has never been a MacDowell fellow, unlike Stern and Painter. But she is a longtime friend of the colony's executive director, Philip Himberg, who served as moderator Thursday, and her fellow speakers showed obvious pleasure in being with her.

Stern, who also has a background in comedy, tweeted last month about the event: "I don't know how this happened, but I'm glad I did. Come meet your icon, and I don't mean me!"

All three read from their work: Burnett from "One More Time" and "Carrie and Me"; Painter from "Old In Art School: A Memoir of Starting Over," about her late-in-life decision to take up visual art; and Stern "Little Panic," what she calls the autobiography of an emotion she knows too well.

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Memoirs in themselves can be an education. Painter, whose books include "The History of White People" and "Creating Black Americans," said she had to unlearn a lifetime of scholarly writing for "Old in Art School." Stern said that only through conversations with her editor did she realize that much of her life had been a search for comfort and security.

Stern also noted that another reward of memoirs is how they make you feel less alone. Burnett and Painter both acknowledged feelings of being "misfits," as Himberg described them, and the pleasure in defeating the low expectations of others. For Painter, that was the art teacher who doubted her talents, for Burnett the manager who badgered her and eventually fired her when as a teenager she worked at the now-defunct Warner Brothers movie theater in Hollywood.

"A few years later, the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce asked me where I would want my star on Hollywood Boulevard," she said, adding the obvious answer: "Right in front of the old Warner Brothers theater."

When Stern spoke of overwhelming and crippling feelings of attachment to her mother growing up, Burnett remembered being so tied to her grandmother that she feared leaving her sight, wondering if her grandmother would die once she was away. Both also found that writing about their families help bring them closer.

Burnett said that her parents were both alcoholics and that writing about them became a "catharsis," a process of forgiveness.

Stern recalled her mother reading the book and for a day sending texts that were variations of "Amanda I never said this." But at the end of the day, her mother texted, "Well, that was just wonderful."

Asian shares mixed after US gains amid global uncertainties

By YURI KAGEYAMA AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Asian shares were mixed Friday, after Wall Street indexes posted modest gains, cheered by solid profits and forecasts from U.S. technology companies.

Global uncertainties over the U.S.-China trade war and Brexit weighed on investor sentiments.

Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 inched up less than 0.1% in morning trading to 22,747.98. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 gained 0.6% to 6,734.40. South Korea's Kospi was little changed, inching down to 2,085.45. Hong Kong's Hang Seng dipped 0.5% to 26,674.40, while the Shanghai Composite slipped 0.5% to 2,925.55.

Traders have braced for weaker results this earnings season amid concerns about the costly trade war between the U.S. and China, and increased signs of slowing economic growth worldwide. Earnings reports in the last couple of weeks have mostly exceeded Wall Street analysts' modest expectations.

After moving sideways for much of the day, the S&P 500 added 5.77 points, or 0.2%, to 3,010.29. The index is now within 0.6% of its all-time high set July 26.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 28.42 points, or 0.1%, to 26,805.53. The Nasdaq, which is heavily weighted with technology stocks, climbed 66 points, or 0.8%, to 8,185.80.

The Russell 2000 index of smaller stocks slipped 2.67 points, or 0.2%, to 1,550.18.

"The past week saw most major share markets push higher helped by generally good U.S. earnings reports, benign geopolitical news and optimism that global recession will be avoided," said Shane Oliver, chief economist at AMP Capital.

ENERGY:

Benchmark crude oil dipped 35 cents to \$55.88 a barrel. It rose 26 cents to \$56.23 a barrel Thursday. Brent crude oil, the international standard, lost 37 cents to \$61.30 a barrel.

CURRENCIES:

The dollar was little changed, including up to 108.65 Japanese yen from 108.64 yen on Thursday. The euro weakened to \$1.1103 from \$1.1127.

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

Morales declares victory in Bolivia as foes keep protesting

By CARLOS VALDEZ Associated Press

LA PAZ, Bolivia (AP) — President Evo Morales on Thursday declared himself victor of the weekend election, stirring more anger among his opponents who have protested for days claiming fraud in the vote count, while the U.S., Brazil, Argentina and Colombia joined in calling for Bolivia to hold a runoff between the incumbent and his top challenger.

Electoral authorities, meanwhile, announced late in the day that voting would have to be held again in five spots in the Amazonian Beni region because of irregularities in Sunday's vote. They said the re-votes to be held Nov. 3 wouldn't change the outcome, but the development still added to the unrest over a long, contentious tally of ballots.

With 99.99% of votes counted, Morales had 47.07% to 36.51% for former President Carlos Mesa, who finished second in the nine-candidate field. That gave Morales a 10.56-point lead, a little more than a half point over the threshold he needed to win an outright victory and avoid a second-round ballot in December probably against a united opposition.

"We won in the first round," Morales declared at news conference early in the day, after he first edged over the threshold during the night. The president, the region's longest-serving leader who is seeking a fourth consecutive term, said he was bolstered by the rural vote.

Morales later backtracked a bit, saying he would be open to a runoff if he fell short of the 10-point lead when official totals were announced.

A communique issued by Colombia's foreign ministry on behalf of the U.S., Brazil and Argentina said the governments of the four nations "will only recognize results that reflect the will of the Bolivian people."

The European Union took a similar stand, saying it backed a call by the Organization of American States for a second-round election that could help Bolivia regain its footing after days of sometimes violent protests by opposition supporters angered by the slow vote count and an unexplained 24-hour halt in the release of results.

"The European Union shares the OAS' assessment that the best option would be to make a runoff to restore trust and ensure full respect for the democratic elections of the Bolivian people," the EU said in a statement that also called for the parties to refrain from further violence.

There was no comment from Morales about the outsiders' questions on the fairness of the election's opening round.

Opposition leaders were united in rejecting Morales' victory claim as the president's supporters were out celebrating. Analysts have said a united opposition might stand a chance in a second round of defeating Morales, a leftist former coca-growers union leader who has governed the Andean nation for 14 years.

Flanked by other opposition leaders, Mesa read a statement calling for "citizens and social groups to remain peacefully mobilized until they obtain respect for the will of the people."

Morales, in turn, urged his supporters to defend his win and denied electoral fraud, demanding his detractors show proof.

"We are at the start of a crisis that could affect the social, political and economic stability of the country," said political analyst Jorge Dulón at Bolivian Catholic University.

The Andean nation has been on a knife-edge since the bitterly disputed vote.

Opposition backers have stage rowdy protests since Monday and burned Supreme Electoral Tribunal offices in three cities. The opposition bastion of Santa Cruz has seen two days of a partial strike "in defense of the vote and democracy."

On Thursday, Morales supporters announced marches in the coca-growing region of Chapare, a bastion of support for the president.

International vote monitors have questioned the early daylong gap in reporting results before a sudden spurt in Morales' vote percentage. An OAS observer mission released a statement expressing its "concern and surprise over the drastic change and difficult to justify tendency in the preliminary results."

Morales had repeatedly said since late Sunday that he won the vote outright and that his opponents are

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conspiring to oust him.

Suspensions of electoral fraud rose when officials abruptly stopped releasing results from the quick count of votes hours after the polls closed Sunday. Morales was leading at the time, but also falling several percentage points short of the 10-point edge he needed to avoid being forced into a runoff for the first time in his four election contests.

Twenty-four hours later, the electoral body suddenly released an updated figure, with 95% of votes counted, showing Morales just 0.7 percentage point short of the 10-point advantage. Since then, results have slowly been updated.

Morales, 59, a native Aymara from Bolivia's highlands, became the country's first indigenous president in 2006 and easily won the two following elections amid more than a decade of a commodities-fed economic boom in South America's poorest country. He paved roads, sent Bolivia's first satellite to space and curbed inflation.

But he has faced growing dissatisfaction, especially over his refusal to accept the results of a 2016 referendum to keep limits on presidential terms. The country's top court, considered by critics as friendly to the president, ruled that limits would violate Morales' political rights as a citizen.

Pence takes swipe at NBA, Nike in critical speech on China

By DEB RIECHMANN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Vice President Mike Pence took a swipe at Nike and the NBA on Thursday in a speech criticizing communist China's record on trade and human rights, saying American corporations have been too willing to ignore censorship and repression in pursuit of profits.

Pence singled out the shoe company for removing Houston Rockets merchandise from stores in China after the team's general manager angered the Chinese government with a tweet supporting anti-government protesters in Hong Kong.

The NBA was acting like a "wholly owned subsidiary" of China's "authoritarian regime" for failing to stand up to the government's criticism of Rockets General Manager Daryl Morey, he said.

"Nike promotes itself as a so-called 'social-justice champion,' but when it comes to Hong Kong, it prefers checking its social conscience at the door," the vice president said in a speech laying out the Trump administration's approach to China.

The speech was delivered as President Donald Trump seeks to close a new trade deal with China, with Pence cast in a hard-line role. He criticized past administrations for tolerating unfair economic and trade practices and repressing Chinese citizens.

"The political establishment was not only silent in the faces of China's economic aggression and human rights abuses, but enabled them," Pence said.

Trump has done business in several countries with poor human rights records. He received as much as \$1 million last year for soaring twin towers bearing his name in Turkey, where the president has imprisoned more than 150 journalists since a failed coup three years ago. And before he ended the venture three years ago, Trump earned millions for licensing his name for a building in Azerbaijan, whose government has imprisoned dozens of critics, journalists and activists, according to Human Rights Watch.

Trump has planted the seeds for possible future business in China, too. Since he took over as president, Trump and his daughter Ivanka have won dozens of trademarks from the Chinese government for exclusive use of various names for restaurants, bars, hotels, clothing and shoes, and other products and services in the country.

Trump's administration has also escalated pressure on Chinese trade, foreign and economic policies, including a tit-for-tat exchange of trade tariffs on billions of products.

On Oct. 11, the United States and China reached a tentative cease-fire in their trade dispute. The Trump administration agreed to suspend plans to raise tariffs on \$250 billion in Chinese imports from 25% to 30% on Oct. 15, and China agreed to buy more U.S. farm products.

Negotiators are still working out details of the modest "phase one" deal in time for Trump and his Chi-

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nese counterpart, Xi Jinping, to sign it at an Asia-Pacific summit next month in Santiago, Chile. But the big issues dividing the world's two biggest economies — most involving China's aggressive push to challenge U.S. technological dominance — remain unresolved.

Pence said the FBI has 1,000 active investigations into intellectual property theft, the majority involving China. In March, Tesla sued a former engineer accused of stealing 300,000 files related to an autopilot system before bolting for a job at a Chinese self-driving car company, he said.

Last December, the Justice Department announced it had broken up a hacking operation in which Chinese officials stole the names and data of 100,000 U.S. Navy personnel as well as ship maintenance information "with grave implications for our national security," Pence said.

At a separate cybersecurity event in Washington, the Justice Department's top national security official, John Demers, said any progress in trade talks would have no bearing on future prosecutions involving Chinese espionage or intellectual property theft. Only a change in behavior by the Chinese would affect those decisions, he said.

The Justice Department has focused attention on the problem, creating a "China initiative" to devote resources to it. As part of that effort, the FBI has been reaching out to universities across the country to warn them that their research is vulnerable to being stolen by China.

"We're going to stop doing cases about Chinese intellectual property theft when the Chinese stop doing intellectual property theft," Demers said.

Pence also chided China for its repression of religious minorities and its aggressive territorial disputes with smaller neighbors. He said the U.S. stands with the pro-democracy protesters in Hong Kong.

Many of the protesters fly American flags. Trump has said he would "like to see a very humane solution" to the demonstrations.

"I hope that's going to happen," he said Oct. 7 at the White House. "And, you know, Hong Kong is very important as a world hub — not just for China, but for the world."

Trump said he is hopeful that a deal can be worked out. "I think President Xi has the ability to do it," he added.

China took control of Hong Kong from Britain in 1997 under an agreement in which Beijing promised to let the city maintain its own legal and financial system and preserve civil liberties unseen on the mainland. The protesters fear Beijing is renegeing on those promises.

Associated Press writers Eric Tucker and Paul Wiseman in Washington and Bernard Condon in New York contributed to this report.

Massive American Dream mall to open but will shoppers come?

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO and DAVE PORTER AP Writers

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — More than two decades ago when a mega entertainment and shopping complex was being conceived on a vast swath of swamp land in New Jersey, the iPhone didn't exist, Amazon was only selling books online and malls were where you went for all your shopping needs.

Now, after endless fits and starts and billions of dollars spent, American Dream is officially opening its doors to the public as the second largest mall in the country, and third largest in North America. It will showcase 3 million square feet of leasable space dedicated to more than a dozen entertainment attractions like a 16-story indoor ski slope, rollercoaster, waterpark and eventually 450 retail, food and specialty shops.

The big question is: Who will come?

In today's retail landscape, consumers are glued to their iPhones and smartphones, where they can do their shopping without ever leaving their couch. Amazon has morphed into the biggest online retailer in the world. And overall traffic at malls, which had been on the rise in the late 1990s, has declined 10% since, according to Coresight Research.

A report from Credit Suisse published two years ago predicted that up to a quarter of the shopping malls will close by 2022 given the increasing popularity of online shopping and a rash of store closings. Since

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2015, only nine malls have been built, a dramatic fall from their peak construction in 1973 of 43, according to CoStar Group, a real estate research firm.

Amid that new reality, American Dream is looking to draw 40 million visitors in its first year, with entertainment accounting for more than half of its space. Attractions include a bunny field and an aviary. There will also be such amenities as a doggy day care and a luxury wing, where shoppers can sip champagne and sample caviar as they wait to have their designer handbags wrapped. Two hotels with a total of 3,500 rooms are being planned next to the complex.

"You can make it your backyard playground if you live in Manhattan or even if you're in New Jersey," said Ken Downing, chief creative officer for Triple Five Group, the mall's developer. "It's a staycation. So, it's a little bit of competing with mindset and emotion, far more than a property or even Disneyland."

Downing says American Dream was designed to adapt to different events and trends. A grand court's fountain, for example, can convert into a catwalk for a runway show. The ice rink can be transformed into a concert venue.

Canada-based mall and entertainment conglomerate Triple Five in 2011 took over the massive project originally dubbed Xanadu from two developers, whose plans included building the world's largest Ferris wheel. The project broke ground in 2004 but it languished during the early years, with its multi-colored, checkerboard exterior — since removed — drawing derision, including from then-New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie who called it "an offense to the eyes" and "the ugliest damn building in New Jersey and maybe America."

The project was suspended in 2009 during the financial crisis after a Lehmann Bros. affiliate failed to fund its share of the construction. Creditors seized the project in 2010, and Triple Five came on board a year later, renaming it American Dream.

Triple Five reimagined American Dream as a community hub for tourists and locals, taking a page from two other malls it had developed, West Edmonton Mall in Alberta, Canada and Mall of America in Bloomington, Minnesota — the two largest malls in North America. Entertainment was a big selling point for both, accounting for 20% of the West Edmonton Mall's space and 30% of Mall of America's. That compares with the 6% average for U.S. malls, according to CoStar.

American Dream has its fair share of skeptics who wonder about its chances of success, especially given its proximity to New York City less than 10 miles away.

"This development will either sink or swim," said Jason Goldberg, chief commerce strategy officer of Publicis Communications. "It's going to be tough to get a lot of attention when you are next to a much bigger amusement park — Manhattan."

Goldberg believes the complex could work if the amusement park entices enough families in New Jersey to get into their cars and drive out there. But he's not sure about how stores will fare since many of the tenants like Zara and Uniqlo can be found elsewhere. Another thorny situation: The mall will abide by the blue laws, meaning retail will be closed Sundays even though the restaurants and theme parks will be open, says James Cassella, the East Rutherford, N.J. mayor.

Still, there's reason for hope. While vacancy rates on average at the nation's malls are currently at 4%, top malls have been the industry's bright spot, boasting strong traffic and currently averaging a 2% vacancy rate, says CoStar. That's compared with the bottom rung of malls, which are wrestling with a 7% average vacancy rate.

David Smiley, assistant director of urban design at Columbia University, predicts American Dream "will do quite well."

"There's a lot of uncertainty in the retail world," Smiley said. "But American Dream is unusual. It is not a typical mall."

Today in History
By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

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Today is Friday, Oct. 25, the 298th day of 2019. There are 67 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 25, 1971, the U.N. General Assembly voted to admit mainland China and expel Taiwan.

On this date:

In 1760, Britain's King George III succeeded his late grandfather, George II.

In 1812, the frigate USS United States, commanded by Stephen Decatur, captured the British vessel HMS Macedonian during the War of 1812.

In 1854, the "Charge of the Light Brigade" took place during the Crimean War as an English brigade of more than 600 men charged the Russian army, suffering heavy losses.

In 1910, "America the Beautiful," with words by Katharine Lee Bates and music by Samuel A. Ward, was first published.

In 1954, a meeting of President Dwight D. Eisenhower's Cabinet was carried live on radio and television.

In 1962, during a meeting of the U.N. Security Council, U.S. Ambassador Adlai E. Stevenson II demanded that Soviet Ambassador Valerian Zorin confirm or deny the existence of Soviet-built missile bases in Cuba; Stevenson then presented photographic evidence of the bases to the Council.

In 1964, The Rolling Stones made the first of six appearances on "The Ed Sullivan Show."

In 1983, a U.S.-led force invaded Grenada (greh-NAY'-duh) at the order of President Ronald Reagan, who said the action was needed to protect U.S. citizens there.

In 1994, Susan Smith of Union, South Carolina, claimed that a black carjacker had driven off with her two young sons (Smith later confessed to drowning the children in John D. Long Lake, and was convicted of murder). Three defendants were convicted in South Africa of murdering American exchange student Amy Biehl. (In 1998, all three were granted amnesty by South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission.)

In 1999, golfer Payne Stewart and five others were killed when their Learjet flew uncontrolled for four hours before crashing in South Dakota; Stewart was 42.

In 2001, a day after the House signed on, the Senate sent President Bush the U-S-A Patriot Act, a package of anti-terror measures giving police sweeping new powers to search people's homes and business records secretly and to eavesdrop on telephone and computer conversations.

In 2002, U.S. Sen. Paul Wellstone, D-Minn., was killed in a plane crash in northern Minnesota along with his wife, daughter and five others, a week and a-half before the election. Actor Richard Harris died in London at age 72.

Ten years ago: A pair of suicide car bombings devastated the heart of Iraq's capital, Baghdad, killing 155 people, including 24 children. Philanthropist Jeffrey Picower, accused of making more than \$7 billion from the investment schemes of his longtime friend Bernard Madoff, drowned after suffering a heart attack in the swimming pool of his Palm Beach, Florida, mansion; he was 67. The New York Yankees won their first pennant in six years, beating the Los Angeles Angels 5-2 in Game 6 of the AL championship series.

Five years ago: The World Health Organization said more than 10,000 people had been infected with Ebola and that nearly half of them had died as the outbreak continued to spread. Jack Bruce, 71, the bassist and lead vocalist of the 1960s power trio Cream, died in London. The San Francisco Giants defeated the Kansas City Royals, 11-4, to even the World Series at two games each.

One year ago: Investigators searched coast-to-coast for the culprit behind the mail-bomb plot aimed at critics of President Donald Trump as three more devices were linked to the plot - two addressed to former Vice President Joe Biden and one to actor Robert De Niro.

Today's Birthdays: Former American League president Dr. Bobby Brown is 95. Actress Marion Ross is 91. Basketball Hall of Famer Bob Knight is 79. Pop singer Helen Reddy is 78. Author Anne Tyler is 78. Rock singer Jon Anderson (Yes) is 75. Political strategist James Carville is 75. Singer Taffy Nivert (Starland Vocal Band) is 75. Rock musician Glenn Tipton (Judas Priest) is 72. Actor Brian Kerwin is 70. Actor Mark L. Taylor is 69. Movie director Julian Schnabel is 68. Rock musician Matthias Jabs is 63. Actress Nancy Cartwright (TV: "The Simpsons") is 62. Country singer Mark Miller (Sawyer Brown) is 61. Rock musician Chad Smith (Red Hot Chili Peppers; Chickenfoot) is 58. Actress Tracy Nelson is 56. Actor Michael Boatman is 55. Actor

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Kevin Michael Richardson is 55. Actor Mathieu Amalric is 54. Singer Speech is 51. Actress-comedian-TV host Samantha Bee is 50. Actor Adam Goldberg is 49. Actor-singer Adam Pascal is 49. Rock musician Ed Robertson (Barenaked Ladies) is 49. Actress Persia White is 49. Country singer Chely (SHEL'-ee) Wright is 49. Actress Leslie Grossman is 48. Violinist Midori is 48. Actor Craig Robinson is 48. Actor Michael Weston is 46. Actor Zachary Knighton is 41. Actress Mariana Klaveno is 40. Actor Mehcad (muh-KAD') Brooks is 39. Actor Ben Gould is 39. Actor Josh Henderson is 38. Rhythm-and-blues singer Young Rome is 38. Pop singer Katy Perry is 35. Rock singer Austin Winkler is 35. Singer Ciara is 34. Actress Krista Marie Yu (TV: "Dr. Ken") is 31. Actress Conchita Campbell is 24.

Thought for Today: Is it really so difficult to tell a good action from a bad one? I think one usually knows right away or a moment afterward, in a horrid flash of regret." — Mary McCarthy, American author and critic (born in 1912, died this day in 1989).

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