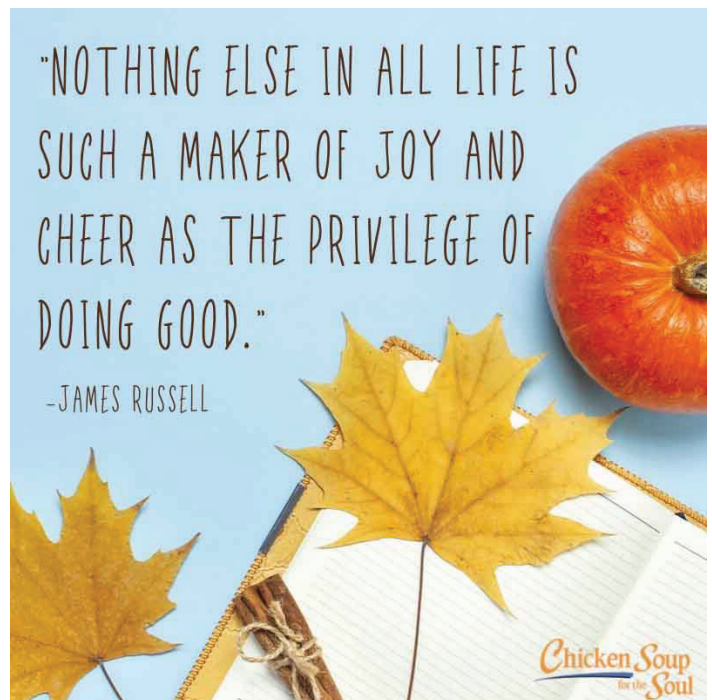


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Applications will be accepted for skating rink manager and attendants for the City of Groton. Contact City Hall 397-8422 for an application or print one online at <http://city.grotonsd.gov/>. EOE.

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

Upcoming
**COMMUNITY
EVENTS**

Saturday, Oct. 26

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



Head Coach Chelsea Hanson had to do double duty last night as she officiated part of the C match. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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Groton Area wins NEC Title outright

The Groton Area Tiger volleyball team is the 2019 Northeast Conference Champion. When the Tigers defeated Milbank Friday night in Groton, it clinched the outright title as everyone else has at least two losses and Groton Area only has Deuel left to play.

Groton Area won the title in 2017, but had to share the crown that year.

Thus far, the Tigers are undefeated in the conference with a 9-0 record. Aberdeen Roncalli will be the runner-up and they will be tied with either Redfield or Webster Area as those two teams will play Oct. 29.

Following are all of the game scores from the NEC games. This will get republished after the final set of games on Oct. 29th.

Groton Area	9-0
Aberdeen Roncalli	8-2
Redfield	7-2
Webster Area	7-2
Hamlin	5-3
Deuel.....	3-6
Milbank.....	3-6
Clark/Willow Lake	2-6
Sisseton	2-6
Tiospa Zina	2-7
Britton-Hecla	0-8

Groton Area 9-0

Won

Redfield (25-17) (18-25) (25-21) (25-15)
Britton-Hecla (25-4) (25-7) (25-11)
Webster Area (25-12) (25-18) (25-21)
Hamlin (25-18) (13-25) (25-13) (25-13)
Sisseton (25-8) (25-15) (25-12)
Roncalli (20-25) (25-22) (25-16) (27-25)
Clark/Willow Lake (25-19) (25-20) (25-14)
Tiospa Zina (25-10) (25-13) (25-22)
Milbank (23-25) (25-17) (25-14) (25-21)

Left: Oct. 28 Deuel

Aberdeen Roncalli 8-2

Won

Milbank (24-26) (25-13) (25-19) (25-18)
Deuel (25-13) (25-11) (25-10)
Hamlin (25-12) (25-21) (25-17)
Tiospa Zina (25-15) (25-13) (25-12)
Webster Area (10-25) (25-16) (22-25) (25-22) (15-8)
Clark/Willow Lake (25-12) (25-14) (25-10)
Sisseton (25-14) (25-17) (26-24)
Britton-Hecla (25-9) (25-14) (25-20)

Lost

Redfield (25-22) (23-25) (23-25) (26-24) (14-16)
Groton Area (25-20) (22-25) (16-25) (25-27)

Redfield 7-2

Won

Tiospa Zina (25-18) (25-15) (25-11)
Roncalli (22-25) (25-23) (25-23) (24-26) (16-14)
Deuel (25-18) (25-15) (25-18)
Sisseton (25-17) (25-22) (25-16)
Britton-Hecla (25-22) (25-13) (25-15)
Milbank (25-18) (25-20) (25-21)
Clark/Willow Lake (25-17) (25-22) (25-13)

Lost

Groton Area (17-25) (25-18) (21-25) (15-25)
Hamlin (21-25) (22-25) (14-25)

Left

Oct. 29 - Webster Area

Webster Area 7-2

Won

Milbank (17-25) (25-19) (25-21) (24-26) (15-9)
Deuel (25-11) (25-16) (25-6)
Britton-Hecla (25-13) (25-12) (25-8)
Clark/Willow Lake (25-4) (25-21) (25-7)
Hamlin (22-25) (25-21) (25-18) (25-20)
Sisseton (25-8) (25-14) (25-17)
Tiospa Zina (25-13) (25-18) (25-20)

Lost

Groton (12-25) (18-25) (21-25)
Roncalli (25-10) (16-25) (25-22) (22-25) (8-15)

Left: Oct. 29 Redfield

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Hamlin 5-3

Won

Tiospa Zina (25-13) (25-11) (25-13)
Sisseton (20-25) (28-26) (26-24) (31-29)
Redfield (25-21) (25-22) (25-14)
Deuel (25-17) (25-10) (25-18)
Milbank (25-21) (25-22) (25-11)

Lost

Groton Area (18-25) (25-13) (13-25) (13-25)
Roncalli (12-25) (21-25) (17-25)
Webster (25-22) (21-25) (18-25) (20-25)

Left

Oct. 28 Britton-Hecla
Oct. 29 Clark/Willow Lake

Deuel 3-6

Won

Britton-Hecla (25-22) (25-13) (25-20)
Sisseton (25-21) (25-17) (15-25) (25-22)
Clark (25-22) (25-22) (18-25) (25-18)

Lost

Milbank (15-25) (13-25) (11-25)
Roncalli (13-25) (11-25) (10-25)
Webster Area (11-25) (16-25) (6-25)
Tiospa Zina (23-25) (11-25) (21-25)
Redfield (18-25) (15-25) (18-25)
Hamlin (17-25) (10-25) (18-25)

Left: Oct. 28 Groton Area

Milbank 3-6

Won

Deuel (25-15) (25-13) (25-11)
Clark/Willow Lake (18-25) (25-17) (25-21) (25-20)
Britton-Hecla (25-15) (25-15) (25-11)

Lost

Roncalli (26-24) (13-25) (19-25) (18-25)
Webster Area (25-17) (19-25) (21-25) (26-24) (9-15)
Sisseton (17-25) (17-25) (17-25)
Hamlin (21-25) (22-25) (11-25)
Redfield (18-25) (20-25) (21-25)
Groton Area (25-23) (17-25) (14-25) (21-25)

Left: Oct. 28 Tiospa Zina

Clark/Willow Lake 2-6

Won

Britton-Hecla (25-21) (25-16) (25-13)
Tiospa Zina (23-25) (25-15) (25-23) (26-24)

Lost

Milbank (25-18) (17-25) (21-25) (20-25)

Webster Area (4-25) (21-25) (7-25)
Groton Area (19-25) (20-25) (14-25)
Deuel (22-25) (22-25) (25-18) (18-25)
Roncalli (12-25) (14-25) (10-25)
Redfield (17-25) (22-25) (13-25)

Left

Oct. 28 Sisseton
Oct. 29 Hamlin

Sisseton 2-6

Won

Tiospa Zina (25-12) (27-25) (25-21)
Milbank (25-17) (25-17) (25-17)

Lost

Groton Area (8-25) (15-25) (12-25)
Redfield (17-25) (22-25) (16-25)
Deuel (21-25) (17-25) (25-15) (22-25)
Webster Area (8-25) (14-25) (17-25)
Roncalli (14-25) (17-25) (24-26)
Hamlin (25-20) (26-28) (24-26) (29-31)

Left

Oct. 28 Clark/Willow Lake
Oct. 29 Britton-Hecla

Tiospa Zina 2-7

Won

Britton-Hecla (25-11) (25-14) (25-21)
Deuel (25-23) (25-11) (25-21)

Lost

Hamlin (13-25) (11-25) (13-25)
Sisseton (12-25) (25-27) (21-25)
Redfield (18-25) (15-25) (11-25)
Roncalli (15-25) (13-25) (12-25)
Groton Area (10-25) (13-25) (22-25)
Clark/Willow Lake (25-23) (15-25) (23-25) (24-26)
Webster Area (13-25) (18-25) (20-25)

Left: Oct. 28 Milbank

Britton-Hecla 0-8

Lost

Clark/Willow Lake (21-25) (16-25) (13-25)
Groton Area (4-25) (7-25) (11-25)
Tiospa Zina (11-25) (14-25) (21-25)
Webster Area (13-25) (12-25) (8-25)
Deuel (22-25) (13-25) (20-25)
Redfield (22-25) (13-25) (15-25)
Milbank (15-25) (15-25) (11-25)
Roncalli (9-25) (14-25) (20-25)

Left: Oct. 28 Hamlin, Oct. 29 Sisseton

Groton Area moves to 9-0 in the NEC with win over Milbank

Groton Area's volleyball team defeated Milbank Friday night in Groton, 3-0. The match was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Allied Climate Professionals with Kevin Nehls, Tyson DeHoet Trucking, Bahr Spray Foam, Professional Management Services located in downtown Groton, Hanlon Brothers, Milbrandt Enterprises Inc., BaseKamp Lodge, Groton Autoworks and the John Sieh Agency. Make sure you tell these sponsors thank you and patronize them as well. Without them, you would not be able to watch the game or have detailed stories with photos in the paper.

The win keeps the Tigers undefeated in the Northeast Conference and also gave the Tigers the conference championship trophy.

The Tigers were being challenged by Milbank in the first game. Groton Area had the early lead at 14-8, but then Milbank rallied and eventually tied the game at 21 and 23. The Bulldogs scored the last four points of the game to win, 25-23. Groton Area had two serving errors while Milbank had three. The Tigers earned 11 of their 23 points while Milbank earned 17 of their 25 points. Groton Area had eight kills in the first game with Indigo Rogers leading the way with four followed by Nicole Marzahn with three and Eliza Wanner and Madeline Fliehs each had one. Wanner also had two ace serves and Payton Colestock had an ace serve. Meanwhile, Jacey Engebretson had eight kills to lead Milbank with Madi Thue having five, Tracy Pillatzki two and Amy Nelson and Elsie Rogers each having one.

Groton Area jumped out to a 5-1 lead in the second game and the Tigers would not allow the Bulldogs to come back as the Tigers won, 25-17. Milbank had three serving errors while Groton Area had two. The Tigers earned 10 of its 25 points with 10 kills and one ace serve. Wanner had five kills, Rogers and Fliehs each had two and Marzahn had one kill and an ace serve. Milbank's earning power was reduced to nine in the second game with Engebretson having four kills, Thue had three and Rogers two.

Groton Area would earn 13 of its 25 points in the third game as the Tigers posted a 25-14 win. Milbank earned only six points. Marzahn had seven kills and an ace serve, Kenzie McInerney had three kills, Wanner had two kills, Rogers had one kill and Kaylin Kucker had one kill and an ace serve. Milbank was led by Engebret-



Senior Nicole Marzahn returns the ball to the Milbank side as Coach Chelsea Hanson watches. (Photo by Julianna Kosel)



Senior Tadyn Glover, Groton Area's Libero, serves the ball.

(Photo by Julianna Kosel)



Senior Eliza Wanner gives the ball a good spike.

(Photo by Julianna Kosel)

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son with three kills while Thue had two kills and an ace serve and Rogers had one kill.

The third game was tied three times and the lead changed hands three times as well before the Tigers got the upper hand. Groton Area's biggest lead was five points with the Bulldogs closing to within two late in the game, 21-19. Groton Area went on to win, 25-21 with Rogers scoring the game winning kill. Groton Area dominated the scoreboard, earning 24 of its 25 points while Milbank earned nine of its 21 points.



Senior Kaylin Kucker sets the with the Tiger bench in the background.

(Photo by Julianna Kosel)



Senior Indigo Rogers engages the ball at the net.

(Photo by Julianna Kosel)

Marzhan had five kills and an ace serve, Wanner had four kills, Rogers had three kills, an ace serve and a block, Flihs had two kills and a block, Colestock had two ace serves, McInerney had two kills and Tady Glover had a kill and an ace serve.

All six of Groton Area's seniors scored in the Milbank game. Marzahn led the Tigers with 15 kills, three ace serves and an assisted block. Wanner had 13 kills, two ace serves, two assists and 27 digs. Rogers had 10 kills, one ace serve and a block. Flihs had five kills and a block. McInerney had five kills and one block. Colestock had three ace serves. Kucker had an ace serve, one kill, 10 digs and 48 assists. Glover had a kill, one ace serve and 33 digs.

The seniors are Marzahn, Glover, Rog-



Senior Payton Colestock had three ace serves.

(Photo by Julianna Kosel)

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ers, Colestock, Wanner and Kucker.

Engebretson led the Bulldogs with 22 kills, 23 digs and two blocks and Thue had 13 kills and one ace serve.

The Tigers will conclude the regular season on Monday by hosting Deuel. JV/C matches will begin at 6 p.m.

Groton Area won the junior varsity match, 2-0, with identical game scores of 25-11. Milbank won the C match, 2-1, with game scores of 25-23, 18-25 and 13-15.

- Paul Kosel



Anna Fliehs Honored

Anna Fliehs was honored by the Groton Area faithful as there was a fund-raiser held Friday night for her and her family. Fliehs has been diagnosed with Leukemia. Her parents are Rich and Heather Fliehs of Groton. Anna is shown above in front with the Groton Area volleyball team pictured behind her. (Photo by Wade Marzahn)

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This
Afternoon



Sunny and
Breezy

High: 58 °F

Tonight



Mostly Cloudy
then Slight
Chance
Rain/Snow

Low: 29 °F

Sunday



Mostly Cloudy
then Mostly
Cloudy and
Breezy

High: 37 °F

Sunday
Night



Decreasing
Clouds

Low: 20 °F

Monday



Mostly Sunny

High: 37 °F

Turning Colder Tonight

Today: Increasing Clouds. Breezy. Highs 50-58°F.

Tonight: Rain and Snow. Lows 23-32°F.

Sunday: Mostly Cloudy. Much Colder.

A cold front will sweep through the region today. Breezy northwest winds are expected behind the front. Temperatures will turn much colder with highs falling from the 50s today to the 30s on Sunday. Areas along and south of I-90 could see up to 2 inches of snow late tonight. Most locations in the forecast area will only see very light precipitation before it exits early Sunday morning.

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Today in Weather History

October 26, 1919: Record cold occurred across the area on this day in 1919. Temperatures fell below zero at many locations across central and northeast South Dakota and into west-central Minnesota. The record lows were 3 degrees below zero at Aberdeen, 4 degrees below zero at Wheaton, 5 degrees below zero at Kennebec, 8 degrees below zero at McIntosh, and a much below average low of 10 degrees below zero at Miller.

October 26, 1996: A rare and significant late-season tornado outbreak took place as a low-pressure system trekked across the North-Central US. A series of low-topped supercells during the morning and afternoon hours produced a total of 26 tornadoes; 3 in Nebraska, 9 in northeastern South Dakota, and 14 across west-central and central Minnesota. Five of these were rated F2, and while no fatalities resulted, 15 people were injured, and there was a good deal of property damage. To help put the extraordinary timing of this event in perspective, in the 66 years of record-keeping from 1950-2015, Minnesota has only recorded 15 other October tornadoes, and South Dakota 9.

October 26, 2010: A record-breaking surface low-pressure area moved across the Northern Plains and brought high winds to all of central and northeast South Dakota from the early morning of the 26th into the early evening of the 27th. Big Fork, Minnesota, measured a surface low pressure of 955.2 millibars. Sustained northwest winds of 40 to 50 mph with gusts to 60 to 75 mph caused scattered property damage across the region along with blowing several vehicles off the road. Along with the high winds came snowfall of 1 to 5 inches, which resulted in treacherous driving conditions. Several schools started late on the 27th due to the slippery roads and strong winds. The high winds, combined with slick roads at times, blew several semis and other vehicles off the road on Interstate-29 and other locations across the region. Only minor injuries occurred with these incidents. The high winds damaged many traffic signs and signals, downed many power lines and poles, along with downing branches and several trees. As a result, several hundred customers were without power for a time across the area. The high winds caused roof and siding damage to many buildings along with damaging some fences. A shed was also destroyed near Sisseton.

1865: A hurricane sank the steamship USS Mobile off the Georgia coast. The wreck, laden with 20,000 gold coins, was found in 2003.

1952: There have been thousands of weather reconnaissance and research flights into hurricanes in the Atlantic and Pacific since the mid-1940s. There have been several close calls, but only four flights have been lost. A B-29 Super-fortress flight into Super Typhoon Wilma 350 miles east of Leyte in the Philippines disappeared on this date. No trace was ever found of the plane or crew. In the last report, the flight was in the Super typhoon's strongest winds, which were around 160 mph.

1997: An autumn snowstorm pummeled central and south-central Nebraska with record early season snows. Wind-driven snowfall amounts totaled as much as two feet by storms' end. Several highways were closed, including Interstate 80, as near-blizzard conditions developed. Once the snow subsided, the record early season snow totals were tallied. Guide Rock measured twenty-four inches of snow, Clay Center twenty-three inches, and Hastings seventeen inches. A fifty-mile wide swath of snow more than fifteen inches fell from near Alma to York. Amounts further north averaged from four to eight inches. The heavy, wet snow was responsible for many power outages in the area as tree limbs broke and fell on power lines. At one point, the town of Hardy had no power and could not be accessed by vehicles due to the snow. Numerous schools and businesses remained closed several days following the storm. Many highways, including Interstate 80, closed at the height of the storm. On Highway 136 east of Alma, road crews worked for ten hours carving through a ten-foot drift that covered the road. Record cold accompanied the snow as temperatures dropped to the single digits on the morning of the 26th.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 61 °F at 4:29 PM

Low Temp: 31 °F at 4:54 AM

Wind: 17 mph at 3:08 PM

Day Rain: 0.00

Record High: 83° in 1922

Record Low: -3° in 1919

Average High: 52°F

Average Low: 29°F

Average Precip in Oct.: 1.72

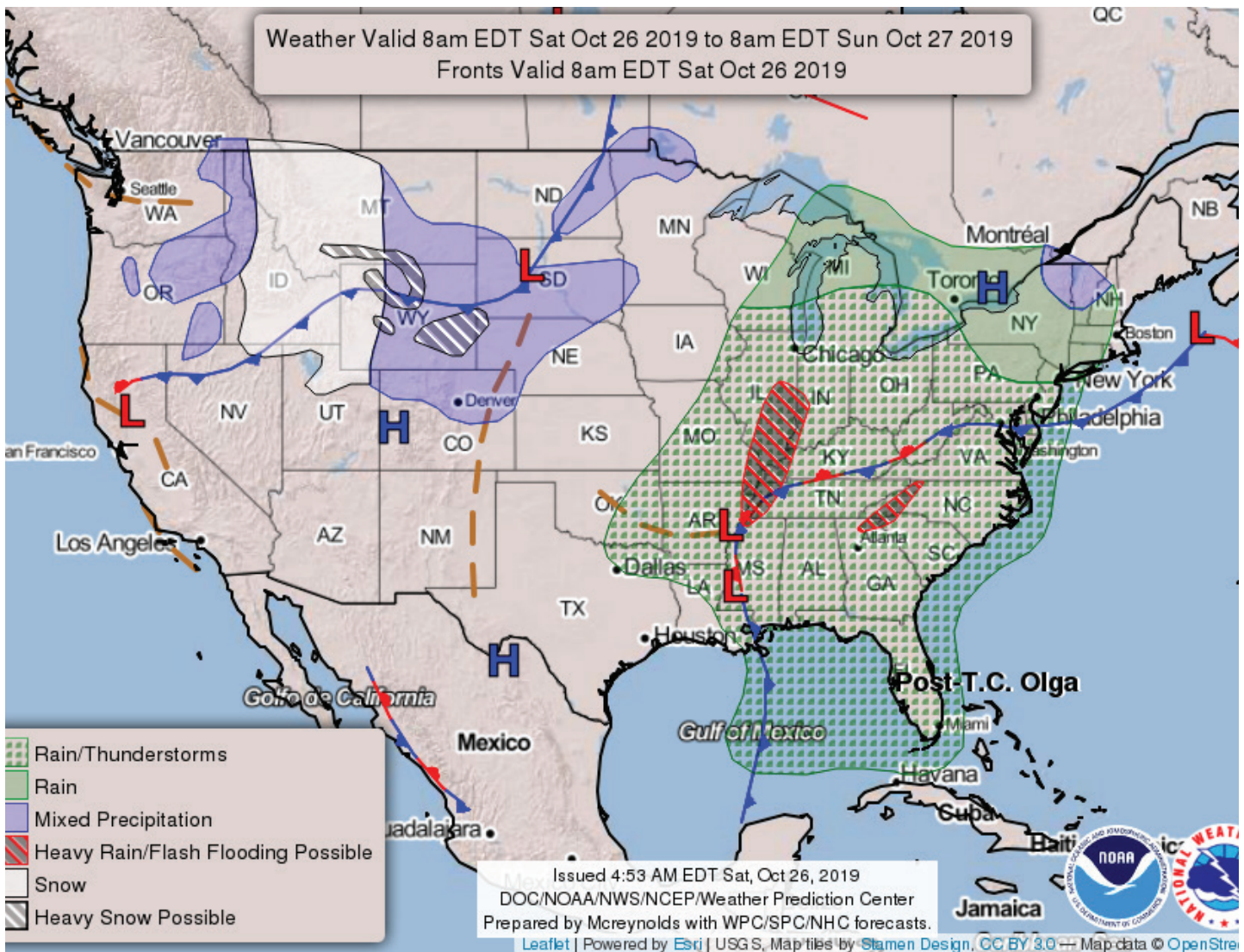
Precip to date in Oct.: 1.55

Average Precip to date: 20.20

Precip Year to Date: 26.57

Sunset Tonight: 6:30 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:06 a.m.



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WHAT A SURPRISE!

Two men had not seen each other for quite some time and were renewing their friendship.

"How's your wife, Fred?" asked Al.

"Haven't you heard? She's in heaven," said Fred.

"Oh, I'm sorry," replied Al. Catching himself, he apologized and said, "I mean, I'm glad."

But it still did not sound right, so he said, "What I really mean is that I'm surprised."

Seeing the confusion on Fred's face, Al tried once again. "What I'm trying to say is that I'm sure you are relieved."

Sometimes, no matter how hard we try, our words just do not come out right. We get them twisted or turned in the wrong direction. What we want to say is not what we actually say. Our words become quite discouraging or devastating to the person we are talking to.

The wise writer of Proverbs said, "We gather our thoughts, but the Lord gives us the right answer." When others come to us for help or counsel, we must always be thoughtful and ask the Lord to guide us as we talk. When we speak without thinking or give advice without carefully considering all of the possibilities or alternatives, we may do more harm than good. We must watch our words, put a "guard" on our lips, and speak after thinking.

Prayer: Help us Father, to be careful in all that we say. May our words encourage and enlighten. May we speak only after thinking, wanting to be helpful. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 16:1 We gather our thoughts, but the Lord gives us the right answer.

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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

Police investigate deadly shooting in downtown Sioux Falls

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Police are investigating a fatal early morning shooting in downtown Sioux Falls. The Argus Leader reports officers responded to a report of a shooting near 10th Street and Main Avenue around 1 a.m. on Saturday.

Sgt. Martin Hoffman says a 37-year-old man was found outside in the area and taken to a local hospital, where he died of his injuries.

Hoffman says no one is in custody but there isn't a danger to the public.

Police aren't releasing details since the investigation is on-going.

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

Friday's Scores By The Associated Press

Volleyball

Aberdeen Christian def. Florence/Henry, 25-21, 25-11, 25-19
Aberdeen Roncalli def. Britton-Hecla, 25-9, 25-14, 25-20
Alcester-Hudson def. Canton, 25-17, 25-22, 25-16
Andes Central/Dakota Christian def. Mitchell Christian, 25-14, 25-18, 25-17
Avon def. Menno, 25-14, 25-12, 25-19
Baltic def. Freeman Academy/Marion, 25-6, 25-19, 25-10
Bridgewater-Emery def. Sanborn Central/Woonsocket, 25-16, 23-25, 25-11, 25-13
Castlewood def. Oldham-Ramona/Rutland, 25-13, 25-6, 25-11
Colman-Egan def. Gayville-Volin, 25-15, 25-23, 25-15
Colome def. Centerville, 8-25, 25-12, 25-17, 26-24
Corsica/Stickney def. Scotland, 25-15, 25-21, 25-19
Dakota Valley def. Vermillion, 25-13, 25-16, 25-12
DeSmet def. Iroquois/Doland, 25-12, 25-8, 25-10
Deuel def. Flandreau, 25-23, 15-25, 25-20, 19-25, 17-15
Dupree def. Wakpala, 25-10, 25-11, 25-17
Faith def. Potter County, 25-19, 23-25, 25-23, 25-23
Groton Area def. Milbank Area, 23-25, 25-17, 25-14, 25-21
Hanson def. Viborg-Hurley, 25-23, 18-25, 28-26, 25-18
Herreid/Selby Area def. North Central, 25-14, 25-11, 25-22
Huron def. Sioux Falls Roosevelt, 18-25, 18-25, 25-22, 25-21, 15-13
Kimball/White Lake def. Wessington Springs, 25-12, 25-15, 25-21
Lead-Deadwood def. Belle Fourche, 26-28, 25-18, 25-23, 25-20
Leola/Frederick def. Ipswich, 25-10, 25-17, 25-14
Madison def. Elk Point-Jefferson, 25-23, 16-25, 25-18, 25-19
McCook Central/Montrose def. Canistota, 25-8, 25-8, 25-19
Miller def. Ethan, 25-14, 25-19, 25-21
Mt. Vernon/Plankinton def. Chamberlain, 25-15, 19-25, 27-25, 29-27
Rapid City Christian def. Jones County, 25-8, 25-15
Redfield def. Clark/Willow Lake, 25-17, 25-22, 25-13
Sioux Falls Lincoln def. Pierre, 25-11, 26-24, 25-14

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Sioux Falls O'Gorman def. Sioux Falls Christian, 25-20, 25-18, 25-16
Sioux Falls Washington def. Mitchell, 25-18, 25-18, 25-14
Sunshine Bible Academy def. Flandreau Indian, 25-11, 25-10, 25-15
Tri-Valley def. Tea Area, 25-22, 15-25, 26-24, 20-25, 15-7
Wagner def. Tripp-Delmont/Armour, 25-15, 25-12, 25-13
Warner def. Mobridge-Pollock, 25-16, 25-18, 25-16
Waverly-South Shore def. Waubay/Summit, 25-20, 25-20, 25-20
Webster def. Tiospa Zina Tribal, 25-13, 25-18, 25-20
East - West Invitational Tournament

Brandon Valley def. Douglas, 25-7, 25-19
Brandon Valley def. Rapid City Central, 25-18, 20-25, 25-17
Brandon Valley def. Sturgis Brown, 25-14, 25-20
Brookings def. Douglas, 25-12, 25-9
Brookings def. Sturgis Brown, 25-11, 25-19
Brookings def. Rapid City Central, 25-14, 25-14
Harrisburg def. Spearfish, 25-17, 25-20
Rapid City Stevens def. Yankton, 25-20, 25-12
Rapid City Stevens def. Harrisburg, 25-23, 25-23
Watertown def. Rapid City Central, 25-14, 25-16
Watertown def. Sturgis Brown, 25-13, 25-13
Watertown def. Douglas, 25-10, 25-9
Yankton def. Spearfish, 25-18, 25-23
New Underwood Triangular

New Underwood def. Wall, 25-13, 16-25, 25-18, 25-22
New Underwood def. Edgemont, 25-9, 25-17, 25-9
White River Triangular

Kadoka Area def. White River, 26-28, 25-23, 25-13, 17-25, 15-12
Pine Ridge def. White River, 17-25, 33-31, 25-12, 25-17
Pine Ridge def. Kadoka Area, 18-25, 14-25, 25-23, 27-25, 16-14

South Dakota prisoner hopes new DNA evidence frees him

By DANIELLE FERGUSON Argus Leader

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sitting at a table in gray prison garb during a recent interview at the South Dakota State Penitentiary, Stacy Larson pushed up his glasses and insisted he is innocent almost 30 years after a jury convicted him of a crime he says he didn't commit.

"I ain't giving up until I'm out," said Larson, who was 20 years old at the time he was accused of shooting and killing Ronald Hilgenberg on May 12, 1990, on Interstate 90 in McCook County.

Larson has been in prison on a life sentence without the possibility of parole since a jury convicted him of second-degree murder in the shooting.

Larson has maintained his innocence, and the South Dakota Supreme Court has noted inconsistencies in his case, though it upheld his sentence in 1994. There was no physical evidence linking Larson to the case, and a co-defendant was acquitted.

The Innocence Project of Minnesota began researching Larson's case around 2004. They determined he could not have fired the shot that killed Hilgenberg due to a lack of physical evidence and, most notably, a time-stamped receipt of Larson getting gas in Mitchell minutes before the shooting happened roughly 40 miles away.

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However, the organization's efforts to exonerate Larson came to a halt after the McCook County Sheriff's Office destroyed physical evidence from the case under the order of a McCook County judge in 2005.

That is, until untested DNA from the crime scene was later found in an evidence locker and tested by the Innocence Project.

Larson's DNA isn't on any of the most recently tested evidence, said Julie Jonas, legal director of the Minnesota Innocence Project, a nonprofit that takes cases when "newly discovered evidence is identifiable and can provide clear and convincing proof of actual innocence."

"We believe in his innocence," Jonas said. "Otherwise we wouldn't be representing him."

Larson, now 50, sat in the visitation room of the penitentiary's Jameson Annex for an interview with the Argus Leader last month, recalling the night he would later relive through what he called a "fishy" jury trial. He now has renewed hope that scientific evidence will breathe life into his case.

"I will prove I did not do it," Larson said.

Is DNA enough?

In recent years, DNA has been used more by law enforcement agencies nationwide to make arrests in unsolved crimes, but not without criticisms and concerns for privacy.

California authorities used DNA and genetic genealogy to find the man accused of more than 50 rapes and at least 12 murders as the Golden State Killer last year. A Pennsylvania man was indicted on rape charges from a 1993 Delaware incident when investigators tested old rape kits and connected his DNA through a genealogy website.

Earlier this year in Sioux Falls, police used DNA from a genealogy website and items found in the trash to connect Theresa Bentaas to a 1981 cold case.

It may be enough to bring forward charges, but can DNA be used to clear someone?

The law favors judgments remaining final, which can make it difficult to go back and reverse the result of a criminal trial, said University of Sioux Falls associate professor of criminal justice Mike Thompson.

"The statute is pretty narrow," Thompson said.

Under South Dakota law, for someone to submit a motion for DNA testing after they have been convicted of a felony, a few requirements must be met.

They first must have exhausted all other "relief" options, such as a writ of habeas corpus or a wrongful imprisonment suit. The DNA has to have not previously been tested, which is the case for Larson, as the evidence tested wasn't found until after a decade after the crime.

Requesting DNA testing doesn't come without its risks to the convicted. If results from DNA tests match the defendant after he or she pushed for DNA testing asserting innocence, the defendant could be charged with perjury.

Thompson, whose USF class had previously helped the Innocence Project with fact-gathering for Larson's case, recalled a client he represented who asserted his innocence and requested DNA testing.

Leander Clay Jr. was convicted by a jury in 1995 in the rape, kidnapping and robbery of a Sioux Falls woman.

"He always asserted he was not the perpetrator," Thompson said.

Clay requested DNA testing in 2013 through the help of the Innocence Project. The results showed proof of his guilt, not innocence. The Innocence Project has not exonerated anyone in South Dakota with DNA evidence. The results often return a proof of guilt.

If new evidence is found, the defendant can submit a motion for a new trial based on newly discovered evidence. Larson is hoping that will be the case for him, though he knows that would be a long and uncertain battle.

Jonas of the Innocence Project previously told the Argus Leader: "We'd hope that the prosecutor would agree to reopen the case" if the DNA matched a different suspect. She couldn't say if the results matched someone else and isn't sure today what the next steps will be.

The South Dakota Attorney General's Office, which is handling the case, did not respond to request for comment. Former South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley has previously said he respects the jury's

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verdict, but "didn't oppose" the Innocence Project's efforts.

Accused of murder

Larson isn't shy about his criminal past. At the time of the shooting, he was familiar to law enforcement, with a juvenile record of looting and burglaries. He spent time at the Juvenile Detention Center in Sioux Falls and the Aurora Plains Academy in Plankinton.

He had driven a car that was similar to the description given by women who say their car was shot at around the same time the Hilgenbergs' vehicle was shot. His physique matched the description given to police by someone whose vehicle was shot at the same night.

Larson's brother had told investigators that Stacy's vehicle matched the description in news reports and that he knew his brother had been in the area of the shootings that night, former McCook County Sheriff Eugene Taylor said in a March 2016 interview with the Argus Leader.

And when Larson and his friend walked into the Mitchell Police station two days after the shooting to report a missing wallet, authorities pulled them both aside for hours of questioning.

The night of the shooting, Larson, Elmer Pickner, and Louis Medicine Horn Sr. left Mitchell around 6:30 p.m. to go to Sioux Falls to look for marijuana. Larson and Pickner dropped off Medicine Horn at the Frontier Bar and went to a convenience store across from the police station at least twice between 9:32 p.m. and 10:43 p.m., according to a South Dakota Supreme Court document. Larson said they bought sandwiches.

Sometime between 9:45 p.m. and 2 a.m., a break-in was reported at a Hartford home where a Winchester 20-gauge shotgun was taken and a television set and waterbed were shot. In the initial investigation, none of the unidentified fingerprints, molds of footprints or tire prints gathered from the home were connected to Larson, Pickner or Medicine Horn.

The DNA that was found later and then tested by the Innocence Project came from this location.

Between 6:30 and 11:45 p.m., a Hartford home was shot with a shotgun. Shotshell wads and pellets found at this scene were similar to those found at the scene of the break-in.

Ron and Ruth Hilgenberg were returning to South Dakota, from Luverne, Minnesota, on Interstate 90.

A passing vehicle shot at the Hilgenber vehicle, killing Ron, near Montrose around 11:40 p.m.

The wad found at the scene and the pellets taken from the victim's body were determined to be like those found at the other scenes.

Between 11:30 p.m. and 11:50 p.m., Tanja Ishol and three passengers were pulling into Humboldt to call 911 because a separate shotgun firing had shattered their car window, injuring one of them. They called 911 at 12:02 a.m., the same time of Larson's receipt at a Mitchell gas station.

An attorney who represented Larson in his sentence appeal said Larson would have had to get his Ford LTD between 95 and 370 miles per hour to be at the scene of the shootings.

"There's no way it could've been me," Larson said.

A police officer took Larson's car for a ride as part of the investigation and determined it could reach over 110 mph, according to South Dakota Supreme Court documents. Prosecutors used that as evidence that Larson could have killed Hilgenberg near Montrose and bought beer in Mitchell half an hour later, according to South Dakota Supreme Court documents. Prosecutors also said Larson was drinking that night and could have been driving recklessly.

The state's case at trial was based largely on testimony from Ishol, the Argus Leader previously reported, along with one of Larson's friends who testified that Larson had "joked" about shooting at both vehicles. Charges were dropped against one co-defendant, while the other was acquitted.

The prosecutor alleged Larson and his friends were frustrated about not finding a marijuana dealer in Sioux Falls that evening, and that he took out his frustration by firing a shotgun from his vehicle on the drive back home to Mitchell, according to court documents referenced in a previous Argus Leader story.

In the meantime, Larson said he will continue to work at Pheasantland Industries in the penitentiary, welding, and learning new craft skills.

"I can't give up," Larson said. "Some day it's going to come through."

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

Therapy horse adds to options for veterans

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

WARNER, S.D. (AP) — Max is 18 and milk wash white with a cap, tail and four socks of brown. Chris Reder calls to him. Max's buddy, JJ, a miniature horse, keeps a watchful eye. "He's a bit feisty," Reder said of Max.

The two had just completed a therapy session with a veteran. It's a warm-in-the-sun, breezy September Wednesday at the DTOM/22 Ranch just north of Warner. Max shows his spirit as he nuzzles Reder and taste tests a harness lead and a fence panel. He's not shy and extends a salutation with his pink, peach stubble muzzle as a human would a fist for a bump.

Max is a large Medicine Hat paint and a therapist. He was trained at the Horseback Miracles Ranch in Perry Park, Colorado, to be used in equine-assisted Draper sensory method therapy by the method's founder, Terry Draper. Reder brought Max to South Dakota to add to the services he provides to veterans at the ranch, the Aberdeen American News reported.

"Mr. Draper has been perfecting this method for approximately 22 years and uses it daily at Horseback Miracles to help at-risk youth and autistic children. He just recently started looking into veteran uses, and that is when we met and became involved with them," Reder said. "This type of therapy helps our struggling heroes with PTS (post-traumatic stress), TBI (traumatic brain injuries), chemical dependency, all kinds of different types of neurological issues, and it neutralizes the stress hormones and resets the chemical imbalances in the brain."

A traumatic brain injury survivor, he shared brain scans from before and after sessions of horse therapy. Scans from before his therapy are lit with red, indicating stress and increased cortisol levels. Cortisol is a stress hormone, he explained. In later scans, green is the dominant color, showing reduced stress and cortisol levels. He also provided scans from a Vietnam War-era doctor. The before scans show red around both hemispheres of a brain and clear or blue in the same locations in the after images.

"We worked very hard to raise the money for the schooling to purchase Max and (to) build the arena and lean-to shelter to house him because we need a real sense of urgency. Veteran suicide is not going away, so we need to do more immediately," Reder said.

His efforts to help fellow veterans have culminated in a plot of land with large trees, a house, a new sheetmetal building and relics of past agricultural life. The land has been in Reder's family for five generations and he now leases it from his parents for nothing. An arena has been added, as well as Max's and JJ's shelter.

The place will eventually serve as a retreat for veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, brain injuries and other maladies. The facilities Reder is looking to add are long-term goals, but he also pushes for ways to serve veterans immediately, so Max was made a priority.

The way it works is Reder takes a rider around the arena on Max. First the rider sits forward on just a saddle pad so a physical connection to the movement of the horse is maintained. Then Reder instructs and assists the rider to turn around backward on the horse. Max takes this in stride and seems just a bit bored.

The backward motion is unfamiliar but was easier than anticipated for me.

Reder begins to walk Max again. Then with some clicks, the horse goes into a pleasure riding trot. I was instructed to close my eyes and focus on the movement of the horse.

The ride is not easily explained. The sense of well-being afterward could easily be attributed to Max, and getting outside for a bit didn't hurt.

Reder stops Max after a few rounds and instructs me to open my eyes. He asks about dizziness. He leads subsequent, similar jaunts. Max is settling into the rhythm. As I lean into the rhythm of the horse, both a disconnect and connection occur. It's too trite to say I became one with the horse. It was like I floated, and Max was the grounding — a bit like a balloon with Max being the string.

The next day, Reder asks for feedback after a night's sleep that he assured would be a good one. I didn't sleep any longer than usual, but upon waking I felt an alertness I had not felt in a while.

Done with his work, Max settles back into the lean-to where he begins to paw the ground and slowly

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spin in a circle.

"He's just like a dog," Reder said.

Max squats down, flips over takes a roll in the dirt. He gets up and saunters back to Reder and stares him down. The man's face brightens as he remembers it's treat time. He digs in a nearby bag, and Max accepts his payment for a job well done.

The DTOM/22 Ranch is named after the phrase Don't Tread On Me and the Department of Veterans Affairs statistic of years past that an average of 22 veterans or armed services personnel died each day from suicide. More recently, the number dropped to 20. And the latest number, using data through 2017, is 17.

At least a portion of that drop can be attributed to a change in calculation of the statistic, Reder said.

The VA removed troops who were not federally activated from its count, according to an article by Stars and Stripes. Reder thinks the data reflects an undercount of what is really happening. Whether the average is 17 or 22, it'll always be too high.

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

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Mega Millions

16-24-25-52-60, Mega Ball: 6, Megaplier: 3

(sixteen, twenty-four, twenty-five, fifty-two, sixty; Mega Ball: six; Megaplier: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$93 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$130 million

South Dakota inmate on death row loses 2 appeals in 1 day

By STEPHEN GROVES Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A convicted killer in South Dakota who is scheduled to be executed early next month for the fatal stabbing of a young doughnut shop worker lost two appeals on Friday.

The 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals dismissed a request by Charles Russell Rhines, 63, to meet with mental health experts to prepare a clemency application. The three-judge panel said the question of whether Rhines deserves clemency should be decided by the South Dakota governor.

"It still appears that Rhines still has an opportunity to seek and obtain relief by means of the state's statutory and/or constitutional framework," Circuit Judge Jane Kelly wrote of the court's decision.

Earlier Friday, the South Dakota Supreme Court rejected Rhines' request to delay his execution, which is scheduled to take place the week of Nov. 3-9.

Rhines had argued that the state's execution policies are invalid because they don't follow the rule-making requirements of South Dakota's Administrative Procedures Act, which governs how new policies are implemented. The high court agreed with the state's premise that the execution policy is exempt from those requirements.

"This dismissal by the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals further shows that Rhines has had his day in court at the state and federal levels and the hour of justice is rapidly approaching after 27 years of suffering by the Schaeffer family," the state attorney general, Jason Ravnsborg, said in a statement.

Rhines' attorneys, who didn't immediately reply to requests for comment, are also challenging the use of pentobarbital in his execution. The drug is commonly used to euthanize animals and has been used in recent executions in South Dakota and in Georgia, Missouri and Texas.

The inmate's attorneys argued in a complaint filed this week that pentobarbital is not an ultra-short-acting barbiturate and that by using it, the state would be violating Rhines' right to choose his manner of execution and his right to due process. A circuit court is scheduled to hear that challenge Tuesday.

Rhines was sentenced to death for the 1992 killing of Donnivan Schaeffer, 22, who was stabbed in the

skull, stomach and back while Rhines was burglarizing the Rapid City doughnut shop where Schaeffer worked.

Commission sets rules for truck platooning in South Dakota

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Transportation Commission has passed rules for truck platooning. The practice links two or more trucks in a convoy, using connected technology and automated driving support systems. Drivers are still behind the wheel of the trucks, but when synced, the vehicles behind the leader adapt to changes in movement with little or no action from the drivers.

KELO-TV reports truck companies need special permits from the Department of Public Safety to platoon. The commission is allowing the practice only on South Dakota's interstates, except in certain weather conditions and during the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally.

The Legislature's Rules Review Committee will consider the rules Nov. 4. Twenty-nine states now allow truck platooning, including all of South Dakota's neighbors.

Information from: KELO-TV, <http://www.keloland.com>

Man shot by police in Sioux Falls sent to jail

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Police say a man shot by an officer in Sioux Falls earlier this month has been released from the hospital and taken to jail.

Authorities say 29-year-old Trent Wagner, of Baltic, threatened people with a gun at a home in Sioux Falls on Oct. 6. Officers found him at a nearby home and chased him on foot. Police say Wagner showed his gun and was shot by an officer.

He was released from the hospital Thursday and taken to the Minnehaha County Jail where he's being held for aggravated domestic assault.

South Dakota commission increases park fees

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Entrance and camping fees to South Dakota state parks will likely cost more next year.

The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission has approved fee increases for 2020. An annual state park pass will be \$36, an increase of \$6. A day pass will be \$8, a \$2 increase.

Camping fees for prime sites will increase \$5 to \$26 and preferred sites will increase from \$19 to \$23.

The commission says a wet spring made 10 percent of campsites temporarily unavailable this year and that revenue is down by \$1.9 million compared to last year. And it's estimated that repairs to campsites, roads and boat ramps damaged by flooding will cost \$8 million.

The Rapid City Journal says the fee increases still need approval from the Legislature's Interim Rules Committee.

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

Scandal brings election risk for rising Democratic star

By **MICHAEL R. BLOOD** Associated Press

AGUA DULCE, Calif. (AP) — California U.S. Rep. Katie Hill has apologized to friends and supporters for engaging in an affair with a campaign staffer, but Susan Slates still feels let down by the 32-year-old Democrat who arrived in Congress just this year.

Slates is a beauty salon owner in Hill's hometown of Agua Dulce, a lightly populated expanse of grassy hills and horse ranchettes north of Los Angeles. She tightens her lips when asked about Hill, who in addition to acknowledging the affair with the young female staffer now is under investigation by a congressional

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committee for an alleged intimate relationship with a male senior aide, which Hill denies.

"Disappointed," Slates, a Democrat, said flatly. But she quickly jumped to Hill's defense, saying anything she did pales in comparison to what's she's witnessed under President Donald Trump. "I still love her," she added.

Just across the street at the local liquor store, the reaction was far different, highlighting the deep political divide that cuts through California's 25th Congressional District, a long-standing Republican redoubt that has recently tilted Democratic.

"It's a bad role model for the children," said owner Danny Hawara, a registered independent who says he's a strong gun rights supporter who leans right on politics. He has a message for members of Congress who don't uphold the standards of conduct voters expect: "Leave office," he said.

Compromising photos of Hill and purported text messages from her to the campaign staffer, a recent college graduate when she joined Hill's campaign last year, surfaced online this week in a right-wing publication and a British tabloid. Among the photos, Hill is seen embracing and kissing the woman.

The scandal enveloping Hill comes at a time when there seem to be few hard rules about conduct and consequence for public officials. With the 2020 elections approaching, voters in her district will be asked to wrestle with basic questions about who was wronged, did it matter and whether any punishment is warranted.

Claremont McKenna College political scientist Jack Pitney said it's "not a good situation for her, to put it mildly." But added: "Perhaps the public will just shrug."

The risk for her, he said, is if the ethics panel finds any improper conduct with her legislative director. House rules prohibit members of Congress from engaging in sexual relationships with staff members.

"A story like this, by itself, is not necessarily fatal," Pitney added. "To anybody who thinks this is an automatic political death sentence, I have three words: President Donald Trump."

Hill, a first-term House member who identifies as bisexual, has been celebrated as the face of millennial change and is close to Speaker Nancy Pelosi, a fellow California Democrat. Hill claims she is the target of a political smear campaign. She's asked U.S. Capitol Police to investigate potential legal violations for posting and distributing the photos online without her consent.

"This coordinated effort to try to destroy me and the people close to me is despicable," she said in a statement issued just after the scandal broke.

Hill also is contending with a contentious divorce from a husband she calls abusive and blames for circulating the photographs that appeared online. While not providing any evidence of abuse by Kenneth Heslep, Hill says she turned elsewhere for companionship because of their turbulent relationship and lamented that "the deeply personal matter of my divorce has been brought into public view."

In court papers, Heslep sketches a different story, one in which he was rejected by an ambitious wife after agreeing to her request that he play the role of house-husband, while she pursued her career aspirations. He said she left him soon after being elected to Congress.

"Our agreement was that I would stay at home and take care of all the domestic duties and responsibilities while (Hill) worked," Heslep said in documents filed in July in Los Angeles Superior Court. He did not allege any extramarital affairs by his wife.

In 2018, Hill captured the last Republican-held House seat anchored in Los Angeles County, part of a rout that saw Republicans driven out of a string of U.S. House seats in Southern California. The party has a 46-7 edge over Republicans in U.S. House seats in the state.

In a swing district with a GOP pedigree, she highlighted her centrist beliefs and promised to end politics as usual. She's a gun owner and her Republican father is a police officer who had never voted for a Democrat before her 2018 primary. Her mother, a Democrat, is a nurse. Her election was followed by a rapid ascent in national Democratic politics — she is vice chair of the powerful Oversight Committee that investigates House members and a freshman liaison to Democratic leaders.

The March primary will test Hill's strength against several rivals lined up to challenge her. One Republican hopeful, Mike Garcia, a former Navy fighter pilot, has called the disclosures and allegations about Hill's personal life disturbing.

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In a sign of what's to come in the campaign, the Republican Party of Los Angeles County headlined a statement Friday, "Katie Hill is an embarrassment!!" The party asked for donations to turn LA County red and "start with Katie Hill."

Voters, not surprisingly in a country of deep political divisions, appear split.

At the salon in Agua Dulce, retired educator Peg Spry, a Democrat and Hill volunteer in 2018, blamed right-wing political interests for engineering the story.

"We all knew she was bisexual, so what is the difference?" she asked.

But outside a library in nearby Acton, independent Larry Weier, an Agua Dulce retiree, said the scandal has confirmed his judgment on Hill.

"I didn't think she had any depth," Weier said. "It's same old, same old."

Fire threat raises specter of more blackouts for California

By DAISY NGUYEN and STEFANIE DAZIO Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Millions of Californians prepared to live in the dark again as the state's largest utility warned it might cut power for the third time in as many weeks because of looming strong winds and high fire danger.

Pacific Gas & Electric said it would decide early Saturday whether to black out 850,000 homes and businesses in 36 counties for 48 hours or longer throughout the San Francisco Bay Area, wine country and Sierra foothills. The utility hadn't made an announcement by mid-morning.

The two previous shutdowns were done amid concern that gusty winds could disrupt or knock down power lines and spark devastating wildfires.

Weather forecasts called for strong winds to lash much of the region over the weekend, with some gusts hitting 85 mph (137 kph). It might be a record wind event, the National Weather Service warned.

PG&E's warning came as firefighters battled flames in Northern and Southern California.

A blaze Thursday destroyed at least six homes in the Santa Clarita area near Los Angeles and led to evacuation orders for up to 50,000 residents, although many were allowed back home after Santa Ana winds began to ease.

To the north, firefighters raced to make progress against a blaze near Geyserville in Sonoma County before ferocious "diablo winds" returned. The fire had burned 49 buildings, including 21 homes, and swept through nearly 40 square miles (104 square kilometers) of the wine-growing region. It was 10% contained by Saturday morning.

Several thousand people living in small communities in neighboring Lake County were warned to be ready to evacuate if an order is given. The area was the scene of a 2015 wildfire that killed four people and burned nearly 2,000 homes and other buildings.

High winds this weekend could ground water-dropping aircraft, disperse fire retardant and drive hot embers far ahead of the flames to set new blazes, Cal Fire Division Chief Jonathan Cox said.

"You can't fight a fire that's spotting ahead of itself a quarter of a mile, half a mile, in some cases a mile ahead of itself," he said.

No cause has been determined for any of the current fires, but PG&E said a 230,000-volt transmission line near Geyserville had malfunctioned minutes before that fire erupted Wednesday night.

The utility acknowledged that the discovery of the tower malfunction had prompted a change in its strategy.

"We have revisited and adjusted some of our standards and protocols in determining when we will de-energize high-voltage transmission lines," Andrew Vesey, CEO of Pacific Gas & Electric Co., said at a briefing Friday.

The weekend forecasts detail what could be the strongest winds of the year coupled with bone-dry humidity.

"These places we all love have effectively become tinderboxes," Vesey said. "Any spark, from any source,

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can lead to catastrophic results. We do not want to become one of those sources.”

The possible link between the wine country fire and a PG&E transmission line contained grim parallels to a catastrophic fire last year that tore through the town of Paradise, killing 85 people and destroying thousands of homes in the deadliest U.S. fire in a century.

State officials concluded that fire was sparked by a PG&E transmission line.

Asherah Davidown, 17, of Magalia and her family lost their house, two dogs and a car in the Paradise fire. She said her family was preparing for another power outage by filling the gas tank of their car and buying non-perishable foods and batteries for their flashlights.

The outages reminded her of her family’s vulnerable position as they struggle to get back on their feet.

“My house doesn’t have a generator so that means another weekend of sitting in the dark with no Wi-Fi, no food in the fridge and shopping in increments since we don’t know how long the power may be out,” Davidown said.

The continuing round of power outages made her feel somewhat vulnerable as her family tries to get back on its feet, she said.

“For the most part a lot of people feel really helpless. Their livelihoods are at the fingertips of a corporation,” she said. “There’s still a lot of hurt and emotional recovery. Having our basic needs repeatedly taken away is really unfortunate.”

Dazio reported from Los Angeles. Associated Press writers Jocelyn Gecker and Juliet Williams in San Francisco and Don Thompson in Sacramento contributed.

Anti-government protests rage in Iraq, 7 killed

By QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — At least seven more Iraqi protesters were killed Saturday in clashes with security forces in Baghdad and the southern town of Nasiriyah, as thousands took part in nationwide anti-government protests, officials said.

Thousands of protesters tried to reach Baghdad’s heavily fortified Green Zone, home to embassies and government offices. Security forces fired tear gas as protesters tried to remove blast walls from a main bridge leading to the government district. By nightfall, the security forces had chased the protesters back to Tahrir Square, a central roundabout.

Four people were killed when they were struck by tear gas canisters, security and medical officials said.

A second medical official said three protesters were shot dead by security guards when they attacked the office of a provincial official in the southern town of Nasiriyah. The town in the mainly Shiite south has seen especially violent protests in recent weeks and was placed under a 24-hour curfew on Friday along with the southern city of Basra.

At least 48 people have been killed since the protests resumed this week, after 149 were killed in a wave of demonstrations earlier this month. The spontaneous, leaderless protests are directed at the political establishment that came to power after the 2003 U.S.-led invasion, which many blame for spiraling corruption and poor public services.

The Interior Ministry and the military issued statements Saturday saying some protesters have exploited the rallies to attack government buildings and political party offices. The protests against the Shiite-dominated government have been largely concentrated in Shiite-majority areas.

The ministry said some of its members were killed as police battled violent protesters but did not give a number. The military warned that it would take necessary and legal measures to deal with those it called saboteurs.

Iraqi officials said 12 of those killed Friday died in a fire they had set when they stormed the office of a government-backed militia in the southern town of Diwaniyah. A security official said protesters torched the offices of at least three militias in southern Maysan province.

All officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to reporters.

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In Baghdad, Iraqi police had fired tear gas, rubber bullets and live shots on Friday to break up protesters who gathered in the central Tahrir Square and later tried to cross the bridge leading to the Green Zone. The protesters returned in Saturday, clashing with security forces throughout the day.

The rallies have mainly been by young, unemployed men who are demanding jobs and better services. Young women appeared among the crowd in Baghdad for the first time Saturday, some handing out water to the protesters.

Some protesters had set up tents in Tahrir Square. Mukhaled Fares, 19, sat on the ground barefoot, carrying a backpack with the Iraqi flag over it. He said his family has migrated to Germany but he refuses to leave Iraq.

"I want change. I want to remove those corrupt people who sleep in the Green Zone and who fired tear gas and rubber bullets at us," Fares said.

A widow who identified herself as Um Layth, or the mother of Layth, said she had asked her son and daughter to stay home because she feared for their safety. But the 60-year-old from outside of Baghdad said she came to protest, wanting a better future for her children. Her husband died in Iraq's eight-year war with Iran in the 1980s.

"I am not afraid if I die, but I want a better future for my children," she said. "If these parties and this government stay, they will have no future."

Iran emerged as a major power broker in Iraq after the 2003 invasion and has close ties to many of its most powerful political parties. Iran also backs a number of state-sanctioned militias that were mobilized in 2014 to battle the Islamic State group.

"Iraq is free. Iran out, out!" some protesters chanted in Tahrir Square.

'I'm dying': Relatives await answers in smuggling case

By GIAP NGUYEN, HAU DINH and DANICA KIRKA Associated Press

DO THANH, Vietnam (AP) — One family received a final text from their daughter saying she couldn't breathe and was dying. Another grieving family set up a makeshift altar for their missing daughter who paid \$10,000 in hopes of pursuing a career as a nail technician in Britain. A desperate father is searching for his son, who frequently calls home but hasn't since last week.

They are some of the dozens of families looking for any information about their loved ones following the discovery earlier this week of 39 bodies in the back of a sealed truck in southeastern England. The investigation into the gruesome case is still in the early stages, but British officials have deemed it one of the deadliest cases of people smuggling ever reported in the country.

British police charged the 25-year-old truck driver Saturday with 39 counts of manslaughter and conspiracy to traffic people. Five people are being questioned by police, including the truck driver and three people who were arrested Friday on suspicion on manslaughter and conspiracy to traffic people. Irish police said another man was arrested Saturday in connection with the case.

British police said Saturday they have removed all the bodies from the truck and are awaiting autopsies. Identifying the victims is expected to be difficult and officials said very few documents were found with the bodies. Smugglers normally take the passports of their passengers to obscure their identities, stripping them of their names and giving them new documents when they arrive at their destinations.

Police initially believed the victims were Chinese but later acknowledged that the details were still evolving. The Vietnamese government also announced Sunday its own investigation into the deaths and set up a hotline for families.

That comes after attention shifted to Vietnam Friday, when the family of a 26-year-old Vietnamese woman released text messages suggesting she had suffocated in the truck. Relatives of Pham Tra My told the BBC they had been unable to contact the 26-year-old since receiving a text Tuesday night saying she was suffocating.

"I'm so sorry mom and dad. ... My journey abroad doesn't succeed," she wrote. "Mom, I love you and dad very much. I'm dying because I can't breathe. ... Mom, I'm so sorry."

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In the village of Yen Thanh in north-central Vietnam, the mother and a sister of Bui Thi Nhung mourned Saturday as they set up an altar for the 19-year-old woman. A family friend in the U.K. told them their relative had died in the tragedy.

Nhung paid an agent thousands of dollars in hopes of finding work at a nail parlor in Britain.

"Many families in Yen Thanh got rich from money sent back by their children working abroad," said Le Dinh Tuan, a neighbor who had gone to her house to check on her mother.

The father of 20-year-old Nguyen Dinh Luong fears his son is among the dead. He told The Associated Press he hadn't been able to reach his son since last week, when the young man told his father he planned to join a group in Paris that was trying to reach England.

"He often called home, but I haven't been able to reach him since the last time we talked last week," Nguyen Dinh Gia said. "I told him that he could go to anywhere he wants as long as it's safe. He shouldn't be worried about money, I'll take care of it."

His older brother, Pham Dinh Hai, said Luong had a tattoo of praying hands on a cross on his right shoulder. The family said they shared the information with local authorities.

Desperate families are now reaching out to the media, community organizations and acquaintances in the U.K., hoping for any scrap of news. A representative for VietHome, which serves Vietnamese people in the U.K., said it had forwarded to police the pictures of almost 20 people who have been reported missing.

Bernie Gravett, a former Metropolitan Police officer who now advises the European Union on human trafficking, told the BBC that the use of false identification and the sheer numbers of people traveling to Europe make such efforts difficult.

"It's a cruel stage for the families, because hundreds if not thousands are currently on those routes, so I appreciate we are getting calls from Vietnam saying my loved one is missing and my loved one may be on that lorry (truck), but they could be on another lorry," he said.

The investigation stretches across Europe and authorities are trying to track the movements of the truck before the victims were discovered early Wednesday morning at an industrial park in Graves, England, a town 25 miles (40 kilometers) east of London.

This is just the latest smuggling tragedy as tens of thousands of people move across Europe in search of security and economic opportunity.

Groups of migrants have repeatedly landed on English shores in small boats after making the risky Channel crossing, and migrants are often found in the back of cars and trucks that disembark from the massive ferries that link France and England.

Dinh reported from Hanoi. Danica Kirka in London contributed.

AP FACT CHECK: Trump's takes on impeachment, Syria, climate

By HOPE YEN and CALVIN WOODWARD Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is persisting in a claim that goes to the heart of the U.S. military withdrawal from Syria — that he's bringing the troops home. He isn't.

This deception has surfaced repeatedly, in the face of contrary words from his military people and sometimes from his own statements acknowledging that bringing the soldiers back doesn't mean right now, or on any schedule that he's disclosed.

Trump has spread problematic information on the impeachment process, the economy and the environment over the past week as well.

A look at some of the recent rhetoric from the political arena:

CROWD SIZE

TRUMP, on his Oct. 17 rally in Dallas: "I had 25,000 people — close — in that arena. A record crowd." — Cabinet meeting.

THE FACTS: No record crowd at the arena, said the Dallas Police Department.

A spokeswoman, Tamika Dameron, said the Dallas Fire-Rescue Department and American Airlines Center

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calculated the number inside at 18,500, less than capacity for basketball games.

During the Mavericks 2011 NBA Finals series, the highest attendance at the American Airlines Center was 20,433.

IMPEACHMENT

TRUMP, regarding the phone call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy that is at the center of the impeachment investigation: "They never thought that I'd do this — I released a transcription, done by stenographers, of the exact conversation I had." — Cabinet meeting Monday.

THE FACTS: Not true. The memorandum of Trump's July 25 phone call with Zelenskiy itself makes clear that it does not capture the exact words between the leaders.

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

NSC refers to the National Security Council.

TRUMP, on Democrats' impeachment inquiry into his phone call with Ukraine's president: "Now they have what should be extremely easy to beat, because I have a perfect phone call. I made a perfect call — not a good call; a perfect call. In fact, a friend of mine, who's a great lawyer, said, 'Did you know this would be the subject of all of this scrutiny? Because the way you expressed yourself, this is like a perfect call.'" — Cabinet meeting.

THE FACTS: Although Trump is entitled to see perfection in his words and deeds, he appears to use the term to suggest that his conduct in the phone call was by the book and validated as such by an anonymous lawyer-friend. That's a hard argument to sustain.

In his phone call, Trump told Zelenskiy "I would like for you to do us a favor" and investigate Joe Biden, his businessman son and Democrats going back to the 2016 U.S. election. Diplomat William Taylor testified this past week that Trump directly linked his request for that favor to military aid that he had abruptly suspended to Ukraine.

As for the call being "perfect," it was actually worrisome enough so that White House lawyers moved a rough transcript of it to a highly secure system where fewer officials would have access to it than is normally the case for conversations between Trump and world leaders.

Trump often points to other people describing his phone call as perfect even if they didn't. This month, Trump claimed that Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., had told him the call was "the most innocent" he's read, but McConnell said he never discussed the Ukraine phone call with Trump.

SYRIA

TRUMP: "When these pundit fools who have called the Middle East wrong for 20 years ask what we are getting out of the deal, I simply say, THE OIL, AND WE ARE BRINGING OUR SOLDIERS BACK HOME, ISIS SECURED!" — tweet Friday.

THE FACTS: The troops aren't coming back despite the tweet shouting.

Most of the roughly 1,000 troops leaving Syria are going to Iraq or other locations in the Middle East such as Jordan. And some will stay in Syria.

Trump has acknowledged as much at times, though he reserves the all-caps tweeting to emphasize troop repatriation.

In a prior tweet, he declared: "Our soldiers have left and are leaving Syria for other places" before "COMING HOME" at a time he doesn't specify.

He said earlier in the week some forces may remain in Syria to keep oilfields secure and make sure they don't fall into the hands of a resurgent Islamic State group.

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The Pentagon says it is still working on plans for how to continue the anti-IS campaign in Syria and Iraq. In addition, the U.S. is sending more troops to Saudi Arabia.

TRUMP: "We were supposed to be there for 30 days; that was almost 10 years ago. So we're there for 30 days, and now we're leaving." — remarks on Syria.

THE FACTS: He's misrepresenting the intended scope of U.S. involvement in Syria. Previous administrations never set a one-month timeline for completion.

The U.S.-led coalition began airstrikes on IS militants in Syria in September 2014. About a year later, the Pentagon said teams of special operations forces began going into Syria to conduct raids and start efforts to partner with the Kurdish forces.

Then-Defense Secretary Ash Carter made it clear to Congress at that time that the Pentagon was ready to expand operations with the Kurds and would continue to do so as needed to battle IS, without setting a specific deadline.

At an Oct. 30, 2015, press conference, White House press secretary Josh Earnest said when asked how long troops would stay that "this is not a short-term proposition" in terms of America's counter-IS strategy.

TRUMP: "American forces defeated 100% of the ISIS caliphate during the last two years." — remarks on Syria.

THE FACTS: His claim of a 100% defeat is misleading because IS still poses a threat.

No one disputes that IS has lost its caliphate — the large swath of territory it once controlled in parts of Syria and Iraq. But the group remains a threat to reemerge if the conditions that allowed its rise, like civil war in Syria and a lack of effective governance in Iraq, are not corrected.

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

Another concern is that the chaos triggered by the Oct. 9 Turkish incursion, which followed Trump's decision to have about two dozen American troops step away from the attack zone, could allow larger numbers of Islamic State fighters to escape from prisons that have been operated by the Kurds now under attack.

DORAL

TRUMP: "I give away my salary. It's, I guess, close to \$450,000. ...They say that no other president has done it. I'm surprised, to be honest with you. They actually say that George Washington may have been the only other President that did." — Cabinet meeting.

THE FACTS: His presidential history is wrong.

He's not the only president since Washington to give away his salary: Herbert Hoover and John F. Kennedy gave theirs to charity.

And Washington didn't give his away. He initially tried to decline his pay but agreed to take it after Congress insisted.

The presidential salary is \$400,000, plus \$50,000 to cover expenses.

TRUMP, explaining one reason he wanted to host a Group of Seven summit at his Doral resort in Florida before he backtracked under criticism: "Best location. Right next to the airport, Miami International — one of the biggest airports in the world. Some people say it's the biggest." — Cabinet meeting.

THE FACTS: Miami International Airport is nowhere close to being the world's largest airport; it's not even in the top 20 as measured by passenger volume.

According to data on the airport's own website, Miami's airport ranks 42nd in the world based on passengers.

NORTH KOREA

TRUMP, on North Korean leader Kim Jong Un: "You could end up in a war. President Obama told me that. He said, 'The biggest problem — I don't know how to solve it.' He told me doesn't know how to solve

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it. I said, 'Did you ever call him?' 'No.' Actually, he tried 11 times. But the man on the other side — the gentleman on the side did not take his call. OK? Lack of respect. But he takes my call." — Cabinet meeting.

THE FACTS: This story of Kim ghosting Obama appears to be pure fiction.

Ben Rhodes, who was on Obama's national security team for both terms, said Obama never tried to call or meet Kim.

"I honestly don't even remember being in a single meeting my entire time in the White House where anyone even suggested the idea of a Kim call or meeting," Rhodes told The Associated Press.

Obama came into his presidency saying he'd be willing to meet Kim and other U.S. adversaries "without preconditions," but never publicly pursued such contact with the North Korean leader.

He met Cuba's President Raul Castro and spoke to Iranian President Hassan Rouhani by phone but took an icy stance with Kim in 2009 as North Korea was escalating missile and nuclear tests.

"Since I came into office, the one thing I was clear about was, we're not going to reward this kind of provocative behavior," he said in 2013. "You don't get to bang your — your spoon on the table and somehow you get your way."

Trump has portrayed his diplomacy with Kim as happening due to a special personal chemistry and friendship, saying he's in "no rush" to get Kim to commit fully to denuclearization.

BIDEN

JOE BIDEN, responding to Trump's tweet referring to impeachment proceedings led by House Democrats as a "lynching": "Impeachment is not 'lynching,' it is part of our Constitution. Our country has a dark, shameful history with lynching, and to even think about making this comparison is abhorrent. It's despicable." — tweet Tuesday.

THE FACTS: Biden may want to heed his own words about using the word loosely.

An October 1998 clip of him in a CNN interview shows him using the same word to refer to the impeachment process against Democratic President Bill Clinton.

"Even if the president should be impeached, history is going to question whether or not this was just a partisan lynching or whether or not it was something that in fact met the standard, the very high bar, that was set by the founders as to what constituted an impeachable offense," Biden said in that interview.

In a tweet later Tuesday, Biden apologized for making a similar reference two decades ago while arguing Trump's offense was more extreme.

CLIMATE

TRUMP: "I withdrew the United States from the terrible, one-sided Paris Climate Accord. It was a total disaster for our country. ... So, we did away with that one." — remarks Wednesday in Pittsburgh.

THE FACTS: The U.S. hasn't withdrawn from the accord and it won't be out before the next election, at the earliest.

According to the terms of the agreement, the first day Trump can begin the formal process of withdrawing from the 2015 landmark deal is Nov. 4, when the U.S. can submit a letter of notice to the United Nations. Withdrawing takes a year, meaning the U.S. could officially leave the day after the Nov. 3, 2020, presidential election.

Under the agreement, every country created and chose its own goals to reduce carbon pollution.

TRUMP: "We canceled the last administration's so-called Clean Power Plan. Sounds nice, but it wasn't so nice. It was a disaster, which would have cost Americans nearly \$40 billion a year and caused electricity prices to soar to double digits, while cutting coal production by almost 250 million tons." — Pittsburgh remarks.

THE FACTS: He's exaggerating the cost savings from ditching the Obama-era power plan.

Trump's own Environmental Protection Agency, in 2017, estimated cost-savings starting as low as \$2.6 billion a year and increasing to as much as \$33 billion a year by 2030. That's well short of \$40 billion a year.

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And it's only half the ledger. The \$33 billion does not include an estimation of how much the benefits of Obama's plan would be worth.

The nonpartisan Congressional Research Service in 2018 calculated that repeated analyses by the EPA showed that benefits of the clean power plan — fewer illnesses and deaths turned into dollar amounts based on a formula on the value of each life — usually outweighed the costs, at times by a lot.

The research service noted that the EPA's 2017 report essentially says that the decision to shelve Obama's rules could end up saving taxpayers as much as \$14 billion a year — far from Trump's claim of \$40 billion — or costing them as much as \$28 billion a year. Neither extreme in that analysis supports Trump's statement.

TRUMP: "Our air right now and our water right now is as clean as it's been in decades. ... I'm proud that, today, the United States has among the very cleanest air and drinking water on Earth — anywhere on Earth ... It's really incredible. But we're at a very, very good point environmentally right now." — Pittsburgh remarks.

THE FACTS: Trump is incorrect. Air quality hasn't improved under the Trump administration.

And it's a stretch to say the U.S. is among the countries with the cleanest air. Dozens of nations have less smoggy air.

As to water quality, one measure, Yale University's global Environmental Performance Index, finds the U.S. tied with nine other countries as having the cleanest drinking water.

But after decades of improvement, progress in air quality has stalled. Over the last two years the U.S. had more polluted air days than just a few years earlier, federal data show.

There were 15% more days with unhealthy air in America both last year and the year before than there were on average from 2013 through 2016, the four years when the U.S. had its fewest number of those days since at least 1980, according to an AP analysis of EPA data.

A new study this month by researchers at Carnegie Mellon University found that deadly air particle pollution increased 5.5% in the United States between 2016 and 2018 after declining by 24.2% from 2009 to 2016.

"The increase was associated with 9,700 premature deaths in 2018," the study by Karen Clay and Nicholas Muller said. "At conventional valuations, these deaths represent damages of \$89 billion."

The Obama administration set records for the fewest air-polluted days.

ECONOMY

TRUMP: "When I took office, everybody said that China would be the largest economy in the world within the first two years." — remarks Wednesday to reporters.

THE FACTS: Not everyone said that because the chances of it happening are none to slim.

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

TRUMP: "The Federal Reserve is derelict in its duties if it doesn't lower the Rate and even, ideally, stimulate. Take a look around the World at our competitors. Germany and others are actually GETTING PAID to borrow money. Fed was way too fast to raise, and way too slow to cut!" — tweet Thursday.

THE FACTS: He's misrepresenting the impact of Federal Reserve policies and is mistaken about Germany's economy, suggesting that it enjoys some kind of advantage. In fact, negative yields are a sign of that economy's weakness.

By having even slightly positive interest rates compared with the rest of the world, the United States is in a better position to attract global investment.

Like Germany, Japan and much of Europe are also struggling with interest rates on government debt

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that are negative or close to negative.

TRUMP: "We are now an economic powerhouse like never before ... Our economic might is stronger than it's ever been." — remarks Wednesday on Syria.

THE FACTS: The U.S. economy isn't at its strongest ever.

In the late 1990s, growth topped 4% for four straight years, a level it has not reached on an annual basis under Trump. Growth reached 7.2% in 1984. The economy grew 2.9% in 2018 — the same pace it reached in 2015 under President Barack Obama — and hasn't hit historically high growth rates.

The unemployment rate is near a 50-year low of 3.7%, but the proportion of Americans with a job was higher in the 1990s. Wages were rising at a faster pace back then, too.

Associated Press writers Seth Borenstein, Josh Boak, Paul Wiseman, Robert Burns, Zeke Miller and Jill Colvin contributed to this report.

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Russian agent Butina returns to Moscow, wants no part of US

By JIM HEINTZ Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — The Russian woman convicted in the United States of being a Russian agent returned to Moscow on Saturday and declared that she has no desire to go back to America.

Maria Butina was deported Friday by the United States after serving a prison sentence, arriving the next day at the Russian capital's Sheremetyevo airport. Carrying a bouquet of flowers, she rested her head on the shoulder of her father, Valery, who had come from their Siberian hometown of Barnaul to meet her.

Butina, a gun rights activist, sought to infiltrate conservative U.S. political groups and promote Russia's agenda around the time that Donald Trump rose to power. She had been in custody since her arrest in July 2018.

In brief comments to journalists at the airport after arriving on an Aeroflot flight from Miami, Butina thanked her supporters.

"I am very, very, very happy to be back home. I am very grateful to everyone who supported me — all the Russian citizens who helped and wrote me letters and donated money for my defense," she said.

Later she told the Kremlin-funded satellite TV station RT that she was not concerned that she had been banned from the US.

"I don't want to go back there in the near future, because if you are a Russian in the United States, you have to worry," she said.

The former American University graduate student pleaded guilty last December to conspiring to act as an unregistered agent for Russia. She admitted that she and a former Russian lawmaker worked to leverage contacts in the National Rifle Association to pursue back channels to American conservatives.

Russia's foreign ministry spokeswoman, who also met Butina at the airport, said the 30-year-old is a victim of entrenched anti-Russian attitudes in the United States.

"This is what, unfortunately, the previous U.S. administration started — trying to destroy the bilateral relationship," spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said. Since the election of President Donald Trump in 2016, Russian officials have consistently blamed the two nations' troubled relations on alleged "Russophobia" carried over from the administration of Trump's predecessor, President Barack Obama.

"She really did no harm to anybody. She's just a girl, she's just a young woman. She tried to invest her youth, if you wish, her gift, her talent, into people-to-people contacts," Zakharova said.

Butina's case was highly criticized in Russia and the foreign ministry underlined that position by using her face as the avatar on its Facebook page. That was changed to the Russian double-eagle symbol after her return.

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Butina violated U.S. law because she did not report her efforts to the Justice Department, which requires the registration of lobbyists and others in the U.S. who do the bidding of foreign governments. She was sentenced to 18 months in prison but received credit for time already served.

Her lawyers said Friday that she was not a spy and that the case had nothing to do with espionage or election interference. They cast the crime as more technical than substantive.

The Butina case captivated public attention in the U.S. because it unfolded around the same time as special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into Russian election interference, even though the two probes were entirely separate.

It also led to scrutiny of the political dealings of the powerful NRA.

Alexander Roslyakov in Moscow contributed to this story.

Venezuelans buy gas with cigarettes to battle inflation

By SCOTT SMITH Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Motorists in socialist Venezuela have long enjoyed the world's cheapest gasoline, with fuel so heavily subsidized that a full tank these days costs a tiny fraction of a U.S. penny. But the economy is in such shambles that drivers are now paying for fill-ups with a little food, a candy bar or just a cigarette.

Bartering at the pump has taken off as hyperinflation makes Venezuela's paper currency, the bolivar, hard to find and renders some denominations all but worthless, so that nobody will accept them.

Without cash in their wallets, drivers often hand gas station attendants a bag of rice, cooking oil or whatever is within reach.

"You can pay with a cigarette," said Orlando Molina, filling up his subcompact Ford Ka in Caracas. "Heck, it's no secret to anyone that it goes for nothing."

Gas is so dirt-cheap that station attendants don't even know the price. Emptyhanded drivers get waved through, paying nothing at all.

This barter system, while perhaps the envy of cash-strapped drivers outside the country, is just another symptom of bedlam in Venezuela.

The South American nation of roughly 30 million people is gripped by a deepening political and economic crisis. People live with a nagging feeling that anything from violent street protests to a massive power failure could throw their lives into chaos at any moment.

More than 4 million Venezuelans have fled the country in recent years, escaping low wages, broken hospitals, failing basic services and lack of security.

The International Monetary Fund says inflation is expected to hit a staggering 200,000% this year. Venezuela dropped five zeros from its currency last year in a futile attempt to keep up with inflation. Soaring prices quickly devoured the new denominations.

The smallest bill in circulation, 50 bolivars, is worth about quarter of a U.S. penny. City buses and even banks don't accept it, arguing it would take such a thick wad of bills to pay for even the most modest items that it wouldn't be worth the trouble. The largest bill, 50,000 bolivars, equals \$2.50.

Venezuela, which sits atop the world's largest oil reserves, was once rich. But the economy has fallen into ruin because of what critics say has been two decades of corruption and mismanagement under socialist rule.

President Nicolás Maduro's hold on power is under challenge from opposition politician Juan Guaidó, who has the backing of the United States and more than 50 other countries that contend Maduro's re-election in 2018 was crooked.

Gasoline prices are a deadly serious matter in Venezuela. Roughly 300 people died in 1989 during riots that erupted after the country's president at the time ordered a modest rise in fuel prices.

Amid the economic crash, Maduro has not substantially raised gas prices, a strategy that was probably reinforced after violent protests recently forced the president of Ecuador to back off plans to end fuel

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subsidies there.

Maduro has acknowledged that the state-run oil company, PDVSA, loses billions of dollars a year because of the discrepancy between the price of gasoline and the costs of production.

At the most, a tank of Venezuelan gasoline has historically cost the equivalent of a few U.S. pennies. Because of inflation and devaluation of the currency, that has plunged even further.

Caracas resident Maria Perez filled up one day recently, handing the attendant the equivalent of one penny, the smallest bill she had. Most drivers would gladly pay the true price of gas if the government would use the proceeds to invest in services, she said.

"Our roads are unbearable," she said while running errands on her day off with her mother in the passenger seat. "There are huge holes — craters — that not only damage our cars but also put our own lives at risk."

Gasoline in Venezuela's capital of Caracas, the seat of power and largest population center, has so far been immune from the shortages and mile-long lines that plague other parts of the country and can leave drivers waiting for days to reach the pump. Officials blame the shortages on U.S. sanctions against PDVSA.

Service station attendant Orlando Godoy stacked the food and drinks he received from drivers on top of the pumps — a bag of cooking flour, cooking oil, a bottle of mango juice. He earns minimum wage, which amounts to a few dollars a month, so the food helps feed his family.

"A lot of people show up saying they don't have cash to pay," he said. "The idea is to help people because Venezuelans are going through a rough situation."

Associated Press writer Jorge Rueda and videographers Ricardo Nunes and Clbyburn Saint John contributed to this report.

From Beirut to Hong Kong, protests evoke global frustration

By JOSEPH KRAUSS Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — In Hong Kong, it was a complicated extradition dispute involving a murder suspect. In Beirut, it was a proposed tax on the popular WhatsApp messenger service. In Chile, it was a 4-cent hike in subway fares.

Recent weeks have seen mass protests and clashes erupt in far-flung places triggered by seemingly minor actions that each came to be seen as the final straw. The demonstrations are fueled by local grievances, but reflect worldwide frustration at growing inequality, corrupt elites and broken promises.

Where past waves of protests, like the 2011 Arab Spring or the rallies that accelerated the breakup of the Soviet Union, took aim at dictatorships, the latest demonstrations are rattling elected governments. The unrest on three continents, coupled with the toxic dysfunction in Washington and London, raises fresh concerns over whether the liberal international order, with free elections and free markets, can still deliver on its promises.

THE PEOPLE STILL WANT THE FALL OF THE REGIME

Hundreds of thousands of Lebanese poured into the streets after the government floated a new tax on WhatsApp on the heels of an austerity package that came in response to an increasingly severe fiscal crisis.

The protests rapidly escalated into an indictment of the entire post-civil war order, in which a sectarian power-sharing arrangement has transformed former warlords and other elites into a permanent political class. In the three decades since the war ended, the same leaders have used patronage networks to get themselves re-elected again and again even as the government has failed to reliably provide basic services like electricity, water and trash collection.

A similar story has unfolded in Iraq since the 2003 U.S.-led invasion, where a government that distributes power and top offices among Shiites and minority Sunnis and Kurds has calcified into a corrupt stasis, with parties haggling over ministries as services and infrastructure fall into further ruin despite the country's considerable oil wealth.

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"Thieves! Thieves!" protesters in both countries chanted this week.

"Massive economic mismanagement coupled with spiraling corruption have pauperized large segments of the Arab people," said Fawaz Gerges, a professor of international relations at the London School of Economics. "It is no wonder then that millions of Arabs are fed up."

The protests in both countries target governments that are close to Iran and backed by its heavily armed local allies, raising fears of a violent backlash. Nearly 200 Iraqis have been killed in recent clashes with security forces, and supporters of the Iran-backed Hezbollah militant group have brawled with protesters in Beirut.

"There is no magical bullet or easy answer to the severe crisis of governance in Arab lands," Gerges said. "The struggle will be fierce and long and costly, but there is no turning back."

RISING UP AGAINST A RISING CHINA

Hong Kong's protests erupted in early June after the semiautonomous city passed an extradition bill that put residents at risk of being sent to China's judicial system. At one point, protesters said they had brought 2 million people into the streets.

Authorities were forced to drop the extradition proposal, which was triggered by the need to resolve the status of a murder suspect wanted for killing his pregnant girlfriend in Taiwan. But by then, the movement had snowballed to include demands for full democracy in the form of direct elections for the city's top leader.

Since China took control of Hong Kong from Britain in 1997, the city's leaders have been selected by an elite committee made up mostly of pro-Beijing tycoons. Local councillors and half of the Asian financial center's legislature are directly elected, but the other half are chosen by representatives from the finance, tourism, catering, accounting and other industries, which adds to the public discontent over stifled promises of democracy.

Underlying the Hong Kong protest movement are rising fears about China's tightening grip on the city and worries that Beijing is renegeing on promises not to meddle with Hong Kong's Western-style civil liberties, such as freedom of speech and an independent judiciary.

Protesters also fear China's technology-powered authoritarianism. Wearing masks to conceal their identities, they have cut down "smart lampposts" and smashed surveillance cameras. They worry about artificial intelligence-powered facial recognition surveillance systems capturing their biometric data and sending it for processing by Chinese technology giants to track and identify them.

UNREST IN WEALTHY, DEMOCRATIC CHILE

On Friday, an estimated 1 million Chileans filled the streets of the capital Santiago, more than ever took to the streets during the dictatorship of Gen. Augusto Pinochet or the democratic governments that came after him.

The protests were sparked by the subway fare hike but soon morphed into a mass movement against inequality in one of Latin America's wealthiest countries. At least 19 people have been killed as protesters have clashed with police in recent days.

Protesters tried to force their way onto the grounds of Chile's legislature Friday, provoking an evacuation of the building. Police fired tear gas to fend off hundreds of demonstrators on the perimeter as some lawmakers and administrative staff hurried out of the legislative building, which is in the port city of Valparaiso.

Marta Lagos, head of Latinobarometro, a nonprofit survey group in Chile, said the protests have exposed the shortcomings of the country's political system. "There is a failure of the system of political parties in its ability to represent society," Lagos said.

Struggling to contain the strife, President Sebastián Piñera's administration announced increases in the minimum wage, raised minimum pensions by 20% and rolled back the subway fare increase.

He put a 9.2% increase in electricity prices on hold until the end of next year, but with analysts predicting his resignation and fresh elections, the consequences of that move could fall to his successor.

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CATALAN PROTESTS TAKE A VIOLENT TURN

For years, Catalan separatists have held peaceful, festive marches, but the movement took a violent turn last week when protests erupted over the imprisonment of nine leaders who led a bid for independence from Spain in 2017.

That failed attempt left the separatist movement rudderless, with 12 of its leaders arrested and most of the rest fleeing the country, including former Catalan regional president Carles Puigdemont.

New activist collectives have emerged in their place, including one calling itself the Tsunami Democratic, which uses its own app and encrypted messages to call for "civil disobedience."

But one of its first calls to protest, after the Oct. 31 Supreme Court ruling jailing the leaders, turned into a massive siege of Barcelona's international airport, with rioters clashing with police late into the night.

The group has borrowed some of its tactics and rhetoric from the Hong Kong protesters, and protesters in both places have staged demonstrations in support of one another, though most Hong Kong protesters have been careful not to push for independence from China — one of President Xi Jinping's "red lines."

That one movement is struggling against domination by one-party China while the other is rising up against a European democracy is a distinction that has been lost in the tear gas.

Associated Press writers Kelvin Chan in Hong Kong and Aritz Parra in Madrid contributed.

Boxed in? Warren confronts tough politics of health care

By WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — For Elizabeth Warren, it was supposed to be one more big idea in a campaign built around them: a promise that everyone could get government-funded health care, following the lead of her friend and fellow White House hopeful Bernie Sanders. Instead, "Medicare for All" is posing one of the biggest challenges to the Massachusetts senator's candidacy.

Persistent questions about whether she would raise taxes on the middle class to pay for universal health coverage have dominated her campaign in recent weeks. Warren has refused to answer, arguing that it's more important to note that overall costs would fall for nearly everyone but large corporations and the wealthy.

That hasn't quelled the criticism and, recognizing the push for specifics isn't going away, Warren is promising to soon unveil details about how she would cover the costs of what would be a massive new federal entitlement. The release will test Warren's ability to navigate the Democratic primary as she balances the demands of progressives who are open to new taxes against skepticism from moderates who say such levies would doom her in a general election.

"She's trying to thread the needle between the electorate that wants a simple answer and the facts that she knows and that she has to live with at some point down the road," said Jim McDermott, a former Democratic congressman from Washington state who spent most of his career trying to move a "single-payer" plan.

With the first votes just over three months away, Warren could leave many disappointed.

If she aligns with Sanders, who acknowledges taxes will have to go up, she could further alarm Democrats worried she's pushing the party too far to the left. If she doesn't, that could alienate progressives who may accuse her plan of not going far enough. And any combination of the two might leave virtually everyone else still confused — wondering how to make the program's eye-popping math work.

That Warren is having to address health care questions on such starkly political terms may recall another, early campaign test she flunked: releasing the results of a DNA test last fall. Meant to quiet critics who questioned her past claims to Native American heritage, the move angered tribal leaders and energized critics like President Donald Trump who still gleefully deride Warren as "Pocahontas."

Warren says that, far from having boxed herself in politically, she's been working on her health care plan for months and still sees it as a winning issue. Her campaign has consulted experts, is reviewing

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Sanders' funding options on universal coverage going back to his 2016 presidential run and says it will always stay true to Warren's promises that health care costs rise for the rich and big firms while falling for "hard-working families."

One expert Warren's team has consulted is Robert Pollin, a University of Massachusetts Amherst economist who supports Medicare for All and has called for partially helping to pay for it using a sales tax.

"We should all pay something," said Pollin, who is a past donor to both Warren and Sanders but declined to discuss the specifics of his conversations with Warren's campaign. "You're going to get health care with no premiums, no deductibles, no fear of bankruptcy if you have a health emergency."

Warren has refused to commit to the idea of everyone paying a little. But presenting the payment specifics she's promised means necessarily grappling with the possibility of higher overall costs for the program, since making health care free for the patient would encourage people to use more services.

Sara Collins, vice president for coverage and access with the nonpartisan Commonwealth Club, said the key involves changing how the health care tab is divided up among employers, government and individuals.

"The overall growth in spending isn't that great, but it's the 'Who pays for it?' that really changes," said Collins, adding that costs would shift to the federal government, meaning "taxes will likely have to go up."

More pitfalls may emerge as the Warren campaign tries to estimate Medicare for All's cost. Since the final product would have to be approved by Congress, its contents are impossible to predict. A study released last week nonetheless estimated the government would need \$2.7 trillion for Medicare for All to be fully implemented next year — more than half the current federal budget.

Sanders' campaign estimated that the universal health coverage plan he first introduced in 2016 would cost \$14 trillion over the next decade. His estimates for the current race are far higher, though he now wants to offer more coverage.

Unlike Warren, Sanders has already released payment options, including higher taxes on wealthy Americans and an employee payroll tax of 7.5%. But he's also suggested a 4% "premium" on income that kicks in after the first \$29,000 for a family of four — very much affecting the middle class.

Warren could possibly avoid that by imposing co-pay rules or limiting what's covered. Her plan may institute payroll taxes to transfer what employers already spend on employee health care through private insurance to government-run Medicare for All. But that would give federal authorities more control over employee health costs than employers, potentially affecting jobs.

"If your plan for health care involves the perception, even if it's not reality, that you're going to take away something that people have worked very hard to maintain — then it would be very problematic," said Brandon Dillon, former chairman of the Michigan Democratic Party.

Warren's predicament is striking since she emerged as a front-runner alongside former Vice President Joe Biden by proudly "having a plan" for everything but arguably the 2020 race's top issue. She's also spent months deftly floating above questions about paying for her other ambitious proposals, including offering universal child care and tuition-free education at public universities while canceling existing student debt, by proposing a wealth tax on the ultra-rich. That proposal effectively became a piggy bank to cover the costs of her other promises.

The wealth tax won't be enough to pay for Medicare for All, though. Warren's avoidance of the middle-class tax question has helped the issue linger as a political liability — and not just in Washington political circles.

Peter Schweyer, a Democrat in Pennsylvania's House of Representatives who is undecided in the presidential race, called pointed questions of Warren over Medicare for All during last week's presidential debate "really good."

"She'll need to figure out how to respond," Schweyer said.

Associated Press writers David Eggert in Lansing, Mich., and Marc Levy in Harrisburg, Pa., contributed to this report.

'It's a fine target': Census bureau to fight misinformation

By AMANDA SEITZ and RACHEL LERMAN Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Worried about internet trolls and foreign powers spreading false news, census officials are preparing to battle misinformation campaigns for the first time in the count's 230-year history.

The stakes are huge. Who participates in the 2020 census count could influence how U.S. congressional seats and billions of federal tax dollars to educate children, help low-income families and pave new roads are divvied up.

"It's a fine target," former U.S. Census Bureau director John Thompson said of the form, which is sent every decade to households in America to count the population. "If you want to disrupt a democracy, you can certainly go about it by disrupting a census."

Already, false and inaccurate social media posts about the census have begun to appear online, where they have been viewed thousands of times. Foremost on everyone's mind are the misinformation wars waged during the last presidential election to confuse U.S. voters.

Fake posts about the census began popping up days after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in June that the Trump administration could not ask about citizenship status on the 2020 census: Conservative bloggers, Twitter users and pundits falsely blamed former President Barack Obama for scrubbing the question from the form in 2010. In fact, the main census form hasn't included a citizenship question since 1950, and the bureau's own analysis found it would discourage people from participating, possibly skewing results.

And last month, sham posts popped up warning online neighborhood chat groups that robbers were scamming their way into people's homes by asking to check residents' identification for the upcoming census. The online hoax left Census Bureau officials scrambling to get the post removed from Facebook, concerned that census workers who were knocking doors to verify addresses could face trouble.

Cyber and census experts worry that trolls and foreign governments will sow more confusion to discourage people from participating in the census, either for political reasons or to game the allocation of resources.

Their main targets? Major U.S. internet platforms such as Google, Twitter and Facebook, according to Dipayan Ghosh, the co-director of Harvard Kennedy School's digital platforms and democracy project.

"In terms of the bad actors that are pushing this type of content — absolutely, foreign parties, particularly Russia and China, are concerns in the case of the census, as well as domestic operators," Ghosh added.

Government officials spend years preparing for each census, but the extent of Russia's misinformation campaign during the last presidential elections — inaccurate and divisive images, posts and stories on social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter that often went viral — wasn't really understood until 2017.

That's when Census Bureau leaders began to wonder if the 2020 census could be the next target, Thompson said.

"We were aware of the potential by the time I left," said Thompson, who resigned from his post in June 2017. "We hadn't gotten much further than that."

As a first line of defense, census officials have spent months forging relationships with dozens of technology companies that keep close guard on their massive datasets and proprietary information.

The bureau now works directly with all major platforms — Facebook, Twitter and Google — to help inform people about the mechanics of the census and to stamp out inaccurate information that's swirling around.

"We can communicate with them quickly and try to resolve, whether it's on public forums or in closed groups," said Zack Schwartz, the deputy division chief for the Census Bureau's Center for New Media & Promotion.

Both Facebook and Google have told The Associated Press they will set up teams dedicated to stopping misinformation about the census.

Facebook will use a mix of people and artificial intelligence to spot, review and remove troublesome posts. CEO Mark Zuckerberg told Congress on Wednesday that the company would soon release a new census policy similar to its election rules, which prohibit false content about voting hours, location and registration on its site.

"We recognize this is important and this rises above normal hoaxes or misinformation," Zuckerberg said.

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Similarly, Twitter will use artificial intelligence and employees to spot and remove misleading posts about the census. It will also rely on users to report census misinformation.

The bureau is also working with technology companies to create automated answers to questions about the census on voice-assisted devices such as Amazon's Alexa and Apple's Siri, Schwartz said. Bureau officials have consulted with Google to identify terms that will help guide internet searchers to official census sites.

There are precedents for such partnerships. Many Silicon Valley companies have worked with governments to manage emergency preparedness, anti-vaccine misinformation and protect voter registration rights.

At the same time, a team of more than a dozen census employees are monitoring social media, scanning for bad tweets and Facebook posts. The bureau will publish its own fact checks on a dedicated "rumors" page .

Still, challenges remain.

Debunking misinformation is harder when it's spread through closed sites, such as private Facebook groups.

Such was the case with the warnings of robbers posing as census officials, which spread widely on Facebook and Nextdoor, a social networking site where residents can share messages with neighbors privately.

"Send this on your neighborhood group chat," claimed the posts, which the Census Bureau believes are fabricated. "They are everywhere and they look presentable. Please alert your family and friends."

In Missouri, people continued to share the post even after a local police department declared on Facebook and Nextdoor that no such crimes had been reported.

Stopping people from sharing fake information on social media sites even after it's been debunked is a never-ending battle, said Clifford Lampe, a professor in the School of Information at the University of Michigan.

Just as tech companies and government agencies find new ways of fighting misinformation, trolls find new ways of spreading it, he said.

"There's no process by which we can wage a sustained campaign around fighting disinformation," he said, "because it keeps changing."

Trump intends to uphold tradition of presidents and baseball

By JONATHAN LEMIRE Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — President Donald Trump's plan to attend Game 5 of the World Series on Sunday will continue a rich tradition of intertwining the American presidency with America's pastime.

Franklin D. Roosevelt's limousine drove onto to the field ahead of the 1933 World Series, the last time the nation's capital hosted the Fall Classic. Congressional hearings on the stock market collapse were postponed so senators could attend the game.

Harry S. Truman tossed out a first pitch from the stands of a regular season game in August 1945, just days after the end of World War II, giving Americans a sense that normalcy was returning after years of global conflict.

George W. Bush wore a bulletproof vest under his jacket when he threw a perfect strike from the Yankee Stadium mound during the 2001 World Series, not 10 miles from where the World Trade Center was attacked a month earlier.

Trump, who has yet to throw out a ceremonial first pitch since taking office, plans to arrive after the Washington Nationals and Houston Astros are underway and leave before the final out, in hopes of making his visit less disruptive to fans, according to Rob Manfred, baseball's commissioner.

While it will be Trump's first time attending a major league game as president, he has deep ties to the sport.

A longtime New York Yankees fan who was spotted regularly at games in the Bronx, he was also a high school player with enough talent that, he has said, he drew the attention of big-league scouts.

Presidential attendance at baseball games has "become an institution and a unifying influence in a nation that is losing both," said Curt Smith, a former Bush speechwriter and author of "The Presidents and

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the Pastime.”

“It is part of the job description, irrespective of whether the president is a Republican or a Democrat or a liberal or a conservative. Bush found it a joy, he understood the symbolism of the moment. And he was the rule, not the exception,” Smith said.

Trump mentioned his World Series plan to reporters in the Oval Office on Thursday. But when asked whether he might throw out the first pitch, he said, “I don’t know. They’re going to have to dress me up in a lot of heavy armor,” apparently referring to a bulletproof vest. “I’ll look too heavy. I don’t like that.”

But the Nationals, who decide on ceremonial first pitches, made clear that the president was not asked to take the mound. That honor instead will go to a notable Trump critic, celebrity chef Jose Andres, whose humanitarian work has been widely acclaimed.

Andres, a naturalized U.S. citizen from Spain, has been a longtime critic of the president’s views on immigrants and he halted plans to open a restaurant at the Trump International Hotel in downtown Washington. The Trump Organization then sued Andres, who also denounced the administration for failing to do enough to help the people of Puerto Rico in the wake of Hurricane Maria in 2017.

There’s some suspense around how Trump might be greeted at the game.

Though the fans at the high-priced event are likely to skew more corporate than at a regular season Nationals contest, Trump is extremely unpopular in the city he now calls home. In the 2016 election, Trump won just 4 percent of the vote from the District of Columbia.

Trump’s White House staff has long tried to shield him from events where he might be loudly booed or heckled, and he rarely ventures out into the heavily Democratic city. (With the exception of his hotel, a Republican-friendly oasis a few blocks from the White House.)

“It’ll be loud for Trump but every president gets booed: both Bushes, Reagan, Nixon. When Americans pay for their ticket, most of them buy into the great American tradition to boo whomever they want,” says Smith. “He should embrace it: So what if the elites boo you? Think of how it plays with your voters elsewhere in the country, thinking ‘There they go again, booing our guy.’ Use it!”

Trump has long been a baseball fan, especially of his hometown Yankees. Before he became president, he would be spotted at games, sometimes along the first-base line with then-Fox News host Bill O’Reilly. Trump was also memorably photographed behind home plate across town in the moments after the final outs of the 2006 NLCS when the New York Mets lost to the St. Louis Cardinals.

Trump played high school baseball at New York Military Academy, where he was a star first baseman. His coach, Col. Ted Dobias, told Rolling Stone in 2015 that Trump “thought he was Mr. America and the world revolved around him.”

“He was good-hit and good-field,” Dobias said. “We had scouts from the Phillies to watch him, but he wanted to go to college and make real money.”

Phillies spokesman Greg Casterioto said Friday that the team’s scouting records do not go back that far and there is no way to verify that claim. But Trump, when honoring the 2018 World Series champion Boston Red Sox at the White House in May, fondly remembered his time playing the sport.

“I played at a slightly different level,” Trump said, “but every spring I loved it. The smell in the air.”

That event also underscored Trump’s tumultuous relationship with professional sports. Several Red Sox stars, including Mookie Betts, and the team’s manager, Alex Cora, declined to attend the White House ceremony. Trump has disinvited other championship teams, including the Golden State Warriors and Philadelphia Eagles, from attending after some of their players criticized him.

Trump is, so far, the only president since William Howard Taft in 1910 not to have thrown a first pitch at a major league game. (The first president known to attend a game was Benjamin Harrison in 1892). Calvin Coolidge, nearly a decade before Roosevelt, was the only other president to attend a World Series game in Washington.

Trump will sit with league officials and likely watch from a luxury box, behind security and away from much of the crowd. That would be very different from some of his predecessors, including John F. Kennedy and Richard Nixon, who sat by the field for their ceremonial duties.

“In the old days, they would throw from the presidential box,” said baseball historian Fred Frommer,

who has written several baseball books, including a pair of histories about Washington baseball. "Players from both teams would line up on the first base line and would fight for it, like a mosh bit. And whoever emerged with it would take it to the president for a signature."

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Labour Party says Johnson can't be trusted on workers rights

LONDON (AP) — Britain's main opposition party says Prime Minister Boris Johnson can't be trusted to protect workers' rights and environmental standards after a leaked report suggested the government would seek to weaken existing rules after the country leaves the European Union.

The Financial Times reported Saturday that Johnson's Conservative government plans to diverge from EU regulations, saying a leaked government document says rules on workers' rights and environmental protection leave "room for interpretation."

Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn said "Johnson's sell-out Brexit is a blueprint for a deregulated economy, where vital rights and protections are torn up. He has no intention of upholding our high standards after we leave the EU. You can't trust a word Boris Johnson says."

Johnson last week pledged to keep work and environmental rules in line with EU standards.

Medication lockers help Miami's homeless living with HIV

By ELLIS RUA Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — Ivette Naida says keeping tabs on her HIV medication can be a daunting task.

Naida lives underneath a Miami highway overpass with several other homeless men and women. She has no safe place to keep her belongings.

HIV-positive people who live on the streets are less likely to be successful in suppressing the virus with medication, according to a 2017 National Institute of Health study and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. One reason, health experts say, is that they usually carry all their belongings with them every day, and their medicine, valued at hundreds of dollars per prescription bottle, is often lost or stolen as they navigate life on the streets.

"The main thing that you worry about out here is people stealing your stuff," says Nadia, 33, who was diagnosed with the virus more than a decade ago; she says she contracted it as the result of using illegal injected drugs.

A University of Miami-sponsored program called the IDEA Exchange has begun providing infected homeless people with medication lockers: secure locations where participants' prescriptions are stored. They can pick up their medicine from the lockers at a converted shipping container office in Miami, or have social workers deliver a few days' worth of the medicine to them. Smaller quantities are easier to safeguard. Prescriptions are paid for by Medicaid or a federal drug assistance program for low-income people living with HIV.

Storing medication for the homeless has long been encouraged by public health experts: Washington, D.C., New York, Boston and other cities offer similar services.

The Miami initiative began in 2018 after an HIV outbreak among the city's homeless, says Dr. Hansel Tookes, a University of Miami physician who leads the program. An unprecedented number of homeless people were entering the health system, and a key problem for them was losing track of their possessions, Tookes says. Medication lockers help "avoid hiccups" as health professionals attempt to stabilize the situation, he says.

Elisha Ekowo, a social worker who leads the program's outreach team, says preventing the spread of HIV is a top priority. She notes that if those infected are able to suppress it, there is less of a chance they'll give it to someone else.

The program claims a 100% viral suppression rate among its 13 participants, an accomplishment con-

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sidering Florida has the highest rate of new HIV diagnoses in the nation, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Of the nearly 28,000 people living with HIV in Miami-Dade County, 58% are virally suppressed, Florida Department Health data shows.

Another benefit of the program is that participants, who often have low self-confidence or little emotional support from their families, can develop self-reliance skills while staying on top of their health, Ekowo says.

Michael Ferraro says the IDEA Exchange has been vital to his recovery, and he calls staff members his "angels." Although he is no longer homeless, the 52-year-old former heroin addict still uses his medication locker. Not long ago he was sleeping behind a Taco Bell, where Exchange staff hand-delivered his prescription once a week.

"It was unheard of," says Ferraro, who was estranged from his family at the time. "I was still running around getting high, but they made sure I got my meds." They stuck by him, and he eventually agreed to enter rehabilitation. He now has permanent housing.

On a recent afternoon, Ferraro picked up a three-day supply of his medication, gave Ekowo a hug and rode off on his bicycle.

In an interview at her "home" under a shadowy overpass, Naida says the ability to consistently take her pills with the program's support has given her a new sense of pride. She had previously gone 10 years without taking her meds.

Ekowo and her partner, Chevel Collington, drive here once a week to deliver Naida's pills, along with other supplies. The gregarious social workers also remind Naida of upcoming medical appointments and offer sincere words of encouragement.

The program "gives me something to be responsible for," Naida says.

Snow jobs: In tight labor market, ski areas up the ante

By LISA RATHKE Associated Press

WARREN, Vt. (AP) — It used to be that a free ski pass was enough to lure workers to seasonal jobs at mountain resorts. No longer.

In the current tight labor market, ski areas across the country are having a tough time filling jobs, so they're upping the ante by boosting wages, providing more housing and offering other perks to fill those jobs before the snow flies.

New Hampshire's Wildcat is offering a \$1,000 bonus for new snowmakers to come on board, and Sunday River in Maine last year increased its hourly wage from \$13 to \$20 for that job. Utah's Snowbird is expanding its pool van service to get employees to the mountain, and Sugarbush in Vermont, which has among the lowest unemployment rates in the country, is hiring more foreign college students.

"It's an enormous challenge for us," Dave Byrd of the National Ski Areas Association said of the labor issue.

Because ski resorts are by their nature in mountainous areas, they are often far from cities from which to draw workers. And with the national unemployment rate recently hitting the lowest level in 50 years, potential workers would rather have full-time jobs with benefits, said Byrd, director of risk and regulatory affairs for the Colorado-based association.

"We don't have a lot of ski areas that are in close proximity to major metropolitan areas. And even when we do, like the ski areas in Salt Lake ... they're still struggling to find people," he said.

The country's roughly 460 ski resorts hire about 100,000 seasonal workers each fall, he said. Many rely on foreign guest workers for 5% to 10% of their labor, he said.

"We are not able to fill 100% of the jobs we have available," he said, adding that the J-1 visa program is critical for the ski industry.

The program is intended to give foreign workers who can be scholars, teachers, camp counselors and au pairs training and experience in those fields in the United States. The ski industry uses about 8,000 J-1 visas, Byrd said.

This year, Vermont's Sugarbush is bringing on more than 100 foreign college students through the program because of the difficulty in filling jobs. A few years ago, it had no one on J-1 visas, spokesman

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John Bleh said by email. Sugarbush has also been increasing its employee housing over the past several years, according to Bleh.

Housing can be scarce, expensive or both in the remote mountainous areas or resort towns, and on-line vacation rental services have added pressure to the market by gobbling up a chunk of the available property, Byrd said.

The housing crunch makes it difficult to be ski bum nowadays.

"If you wanted to be ski bum and you want to take a gap year after you graduate college before you go on to getting a real job, that notion of the ski bum in the 1980s and 1990s, those are hard to find, those people, because housing is so enormously challenging for us in the industry," Bryd said.

And the free mountain pass that comes with the job is no longer enough of an incentive in the era of competitive pass programs that allow skiers and snowboarders to get a bargain without working at the resort, he said.

On top of that, potential workers can now be choosy and opt for a year-round job with benefits.

"When Home Depot and Target are paying \$13 an hour, and the ski area 20 minutes out of town — they've got to match that," Byrd said. "They've got to compete for that labor pool."

Altuve, Astros show up in World Series, win Game 3 in DC 4-1

By HOWARD FENDRICH AP Sports Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — From the moment George Springer jumped on the game's third pitch for a single, then quickly swiped a base, to the way he and his teammates sprinted off the field after the final out a little past midnight Saturday, the Houston Astros were suddenly aggressive and energetic.

And suddenly right back in the thick of this World Series.

Yes, the Fall Classic finally showed up back in Washington, 86 years later — and, sparked by Springer and José Altuve, the Astros finally showed up in the Fall Classic.

Springer had two of Houston's four steals, Altuve doubled twice before scoring each time, Zack Greinke repeatedly worked out of trouble, and the Astros made sure they wouldn't go quietly despite looking listless twice at home, beating the Nationals 4-1 on Friday night to cut their Series deficit to 2-1.

"We're pretty good, too," Astros manager AJ Hinch said. "It kind of re-establishes us."

Houston can even things up in Game 4 on Saturday night at Nationals Park. Washington will start \$140 million lefty Patrick Corbin, while Hinch said he'll go with rookie José Urquidy.

"We didn't panic," Altuve said.

Washington's eight-game winning streak, tied for the longest in a single postseason, ended with a sloppy performance in the first Series game hosted by the nation's capital since the Senators lost to the New York Giants in 1933.

A sellout crowd of 43,867, dressed mostly in red for the occasion, soaked it all in, standing in unison at key moments, booing ball-strike calls that hurt their team, chanting "Let's go, Nats!" often and even getting to do their "Baby Shark" sing-and-clap-along when that children's tune blared as a walk-up song in the sixth.

"It was electric," Nationals manager Dave Martinez said. "The boys in the dugout, they were fired up."

But the wild-card Nationals were unable to move one win from a championship, undone by an inability to come through in the clutch: Birthday boy Juan Soto, MVP candidate Anthony Rendon and Co. were 0 for 10 with runners in scoring position, leaving 12 runners on base.

"Tonight we were a little bit aggressive outside the strike zone," Martinez said. "We took balls I thought we should hit, uncharacteristic of what we've been doing."

How big was this win for Houston?

No team ever has come back after dropping the first three games of a World Series.

"Not the script you'd want to write to start out a World Series," said reliever Will Harris, who retired all five batters he faced Friday. "We believe in each other in there. We know we have obviously a very talented, capable team."

That's why several Astros players gathered for a private meeting following their 12-3 loss Wednesday.

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"Some guys said some things that a lot of us maybe were thinking in our head, but it's sometimes nice to hear them out loud," Harris said. "And the biggest thing was we didn't want anybody feeling sorry for themselves coming here, because that's not going to accomplish anything."

After playing what might have been their worst baseball of 2019, the Astros played like the club that led the majors with 107 regular-season wins.

And, not surprisingly, Altuve was in the middle of a lot of it. He doubled in the third and fifth, coming home on singles by Michael Brantley.

"José's the heart and soul of what we do," Hinch said. "It was his turn to be a catalyst."

Greinke, the 2009 AL Cy Young Award winner, allowed seven hits and three walks in 4 2/3 innings, but managed to yield just one run. He was followed by five relievers who combined to give up two hits and zero runs the rest of the way.

Josh James earned the win, striking out Ryan Zimmerman with two aboard to end the fifth.

"Huge," Hinch said.

Roberto Osuna heard boos when he entered in the ninth, then got three outs for a save.

Josh Reddick delivered an RBI single in the second, Robinson Chirinos homered off the foul-pole screen in the sixth and Houston scored four runs in 5 1/3 innings off Aníbal Sánchez. The 35-year-old righty had taken a no-hitter into the eighth inning of his previous start; Springer got to him right away.

Sánchez went sprawling off the mound to try to make a play, but couldn't. All part of a rough night in which he got so upset by a couple of ball calls that he asked plate umpire Gary Cederstrom, "Where was that one?"

Sánchez also barely avoided taking a ball to the face, getting his glove in the way just in time. Another Houston hit came when Springer sent a comebacker off reliever Joe Ross' foot.

In sum: After the Nationals could do no wrong for so long, things went awry.

They made two errors and at least three other misplays on what were ruled hits. Washington catcher Kurt Suzuki left in the sixth with a right hip flexor problem. Soto, serenaded by fans in left field to celebrate his 21st birthday, was charged with an error for a wild throw home, let another ball trickle past his glove and went 0 for 4 with three strikeouts at the plate.

He went down looking to end the game.

"Nobody," Washington outfielder Adam Eaton said, "thought this was going to be easy."

UP NEXT

Astros: Urquidy found out after Game 3 that he will start Saturday; he only threw 41 innings during the regular season. Hinch is prepared to rely heavily on his relievers, saying: "Every World Series game is a bullpen game, mostly, at some point."

Nationals: Corbin will be making his seventh appearance of this postseason, a third start to go along with four outings out of the bullpen. He is 1-2 with a 6.91 ERA, including one scoreless inning in relief during Game 1 of the World Series.

Follow Howard Fendrich on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/HowardFendrich>

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

Esper: US troops, armored vehicles going to Syria oil fields

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

BRUSSELS (AP) — The United States will send armored vehicles and combat troops into eastern Syria to keep oil fields from potentially falling into the hands of Islamic State militants, U.S. Defense Secretary Mark Esper said.

It was the latest sign that extracting the military from Syria is more uncertain and complicated than President Donald Trump is making it out to be. Though Trump repeatedly says he is pulling out of Syria, the reality on the ground is different.

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Adding armored reinforcements in the oil-producing area of Syria could mean sending several hundred U.S. troops -- even as a similar number are being withdrawn from a separate mission closer to the border with Turkey where Russian forces have been filling the vacuum.

On Friday, Esper described the added force as "mechanized," which means it likely will include armored vehicles such as Bradley armored infantry carriers and possibly tanks, although details were still be worked out. This reinforcement would introduce a new dimension to the U.S. military presence, which largely has been comprised of special operations forces not equipped with tanks or other armored vehicles.

Esper spoke at a news conference at NATO headquarters in Brussels, where he consulted with American allies.

Sending an armored force to eastern Syria would partially reverse the ongoing shrinkage of the U.S. troop presence in Syria. Trump has ordered the withdrawal of nearly all 1,000 U.S. troops who had been partnering with a Syrian Kurdish-led militia against the Islamic State group. That withdrawal is proceeding even as Esper announced the plan to put reinforcements in the oil-producing area.

Speaking to reporters Friday at the White House, Trump said the U.S.-brokered agreement with Turkey to halt its offensive against U.S.-supporting Syrian Kurdish fighters was a win for his administration. That offensive began after Trump announced U.S. troops would not stand in the way, though he also said the U.S. would punish Turkey's economy if the country acted inhumanely.

He also said anew on Friday that "we're getting our troops out" of Syria, without mentioning Esper's announcement.

"We are doing well in Syria, with Turkey and everybody else that we're dealing with," Trump said. "We have secured the oil. ... We have a couple of people that came knocking, we said don't knock. And I think I would say that things are going very well."

White House officials would not clarify whom he was referring to as "knocking."

The U.S. special envoy for Syria, James Jeffrey, said in Geneva on Friday he had talked to a Russian official about an unspecified issue in Syria's oil region.

"We are currently very concerned about certain developments in the south, in the Deir el-Zour area," Jeffrey said. "I've talked to my Russian colleague about that and we're having other contacts with the Russians concerning that situation. We think it is under control now."

Although Esper did not mention the size of the U.S. reinforcements, it could total several hundred troops because fuel-guzzling tanks and other armored vehicles depend on a large supply and logistical support group. One official, who discussed the planning on condition of anonymity because some details remained to be agreed, cautioned that tanks might eventually be eliminated from the mix because of logistical challenges, including air transport.

Russian and Turkish leaders have now divided up security roles in northeast Syria following Trump's abrupt troop withdrawal from the Turkey-Syrian border region. The American move triggered widespread criticism that the U.S. administration had abandoned the Syrian Kurdish fighters who fought alongside the U.S. against IS for several years.

Esper's announcement came even as Trump again indicated in tweets that the U.S. military mission in Syria is complete. He previously has acknowledged a willingness to help protect the oil fields in eastern Syria, suggesting they could benefit the Kurds as well as the United States, although those resources belong to the Syrian government.

"Oil is secured," Trump tweeted Friday. "Our soldiers have left and are leaving Syria for other places, then.... COMING HOME! ... When these pundit fools who have called the Middle East wrong for 20 years ask what we are getting out of the deal, I simply say, THE OIL, AND WE ARE BRINGING OUR SOLDIERS BACK HOME, ISIS SECURED!"

Asked about America's shifting Syria strategy, Esper said the U.S. mission has always been to prevent the resurgence of IS. "That mission remains unchanged," he said.

But Esper said at NATO that the U.S. is "considering how we might reposition forces in the area in order to ensure we secure the oil field." He added: "We are reinforcing that position. It will include some

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mechanized forces.”

He made clear the main purpose is to prevent IS from regaining access to Syrian oil, which prior to 2017 was a major source of its revenue.

Starting in late 2015 and continuing for many months, the U.S. conducted airstrikes against a range of oil resources in the Deir el-Zour province that had been taken over by IS. The attacks damaged or knocked out oil tanker convoys, oil processing plants, storage facilities, pumping stations, pipelines and refineries. It was called Operation Tidal Wave II, after a World War II air campaign to hit Romania’s oil industry.

Esper said IS must not be allowed to again threaten the oil.

“If ISIS has access to the resources, and therefore the means to procure arms or to buy fighters or whatever else they do, then it means it makes it more difficult to defeat ISIS,” he said.

Just last week, Trump insisted that all American forces in Syria would come home. Then he said the 1,000 in the north would return home and that American troops in the south, numbering about 200 at the Al-Tanf garrison in the south, would stay.

Trump in the past days has turned a greater focus on the Syrian oil facilities in the eastern part of the country, saying U.S. will stay in Syria to protect them.

According to officials, top military leaders have pushed for the U.S. to leave forces in Syria to guard against an IS resurgence. While the group’s physical zone of control was largely destroyed by U.S. and Syrian Kurdish forces, insurgents remain in small pockets throughout the country and in Iraq.

AP National Security Writer Robert Burns reported from Washington. AP writer Aamer Madhani contributed.

This story has been corrected to say Trump threatened Turkey’s economy, not Syria’s.

House Democrats get a legal victory in impeachment inquiry

By ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A judge has ordered the Justice Department to give the House secret grand jury testimony from special counsel Robert Mueller’s Russia investigation, handing a victory to Democrats as they gather evidence for the impeachment inquiry against President Donald Trump.

In a Friday ruling that also affirmed the legality of the impeachment inquiry itself, U.S. District Judge Beryl Howell ordered the department to turn over the materials by Oct. 30. A Justice Department spokeswoman said it was reviewing the decision. The administration can appeal.

The ruling in favor of the House Judiciary Committee comes as Democrats gather closed-door testimony from current and former government officials about the Trump administration’s efforts to get Ukraine to investigate political rival Joe Biden. The Mueller materials could reveal previously hidden details to lawmakers about Trump’s actions during the 2016 election and become part of the impeachment push.

The material covered by Howell’s order consists of redacted grand jury testimony mentioned in Mueller’s report. The Justice Department says that information is the only piece of the document that key lawmakers have not had access to.

Democrats believe the still-redacted information could shed new light on key episodes of the investigation, including discussions Trump is reported to have had with associates about the release of stolen emails during the campaign and conversations about a 2016 Trump Tower meeting at which Trump’s eldest son expected to receive damaging information about Hillary Clinton. The judge said the materials could help lawmakers as they decide which witnesses to call for an impeachment inquiry and what additional lines of investigation should be pursued.

In a 75-page ruling accompanying the order, Howell slashed through many of the administration’s arguments for withholding materials from Congress, including the need for continued secrecy.

“The reality is that DOJ and the White House have been openly stonewalling the House’s efforts to get information by subpoena and by agreement, and the White House has flatly stated that the Administration will not cooperate with congressional requests for information,” Howell wrote.

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While the Justice Department said it could not provide grand jury material under existing law, "DOJ is wrong," she wrote. And though the White House and its Republican allies argued impeachment is illegitimate without a formal vote, the judge said: "A House resolution has never, in fact, been required."

The judge also rejected the Justice Department's argument that impeachment does not qualify as a "judicial proceeding." That distinction matters because, though grand jury testimony is ordinarily secret, one exemption that allows it to be legally disclosed is in connection with a judicial proceeding.

"To the extent the House's role in the impeachment context is to investigate misconduct by the President and ascertain whether that conduct amounts to an impeachable offense warranting removal from office, the House performs a function somewhat akin to a grand jury," the judge wrote.

Rep. Jerrold Nadler, the Democratic chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, said he was pleased by the ruling.

"The court's thoughtful ruling recognizes that our impeachment inquiry fully comports with the Constitution and thoroughly rejects the spurious White House claims to the contrary," Nadler said in a statement. "This grand jury information that the Administration has tried to block the House from seeing will be critical to our work."

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said the ruling was "another blow to President Trump's attempt to put himself above the law."

"This critical court ruling affirms Congress's authority to expose the truth for the American people. Most importantly, the Court recognized the House's right to obtain grand jury information pursuant to its impeachment inquiry," Pelosi said.

Justice Department lawyers argued against providing the materials at a hearing earlier this month. They pointed out that House Democrats already had significant evidence from Mueller's investigation, including copies of summaries of FBI witness interviews. But the judge said that information is no substitute for the actual grand jury testimony.

"To insure most effectively against being misled, HJC must have access to all essential pieces of testimony by witnesses, including testimony given under oath to the grand jury," Howell said, referring to the House Judiciary Committee.

"Additionally, for purposes of assessing and following up on the Mueller Report's conclusions, the full Report is needed: the grand jury material may offer unique insights, insights not contained in the rest of the Report, congressional testimony" or FBI reports, she added.

The Mueller report found insufficient evidence to establish a criminal conspiracy between Russia and the 2016 Trump campaign. It also examined multiple episodes in which Trump sought to thwart the investigation and pointedly determined that he could not be exonerated on obstruction of justice allegations.

Associated Press writer Michael Balsamo contributed to this report.

Trump critic gets 1st pitch at Series game Trump to attend

WASHINGTON (AP) — A day after President Donald Trump said he plans to attend Game 5 of the World Series, the Washington Nationals announced the ceremonial first pitch at that game will be thrown by chef José Andrés, a vocal critic of Trump.

Andrés, a prominent local restaurant owner and humanitarian, has repeatedly opposed Trump's immigration policies and his administration's response to Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico. He has also tangled with Trump in court.

"The name came from the Nationals, and it seemed like a good choice," baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred said Friday. "So it's sort of a joint decision."

Four years ago, Andrés withdrew from plans to open a restaurant in the Trump International Hotel in Washington following Trump's controversial comments about Mexican immigrants during the presidential campaign.

Trump Old Post Office, which runs the hotel as the landlord under a lease with the General Services

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Administration, sued Andrés' companies, Think Food Group and Topo Atrio, in July 2015 for breach of contract and claimed damages in excess of \$10 million.

"The landlord allowed Mr. Trump to saddle us with the burden of his inflammatory statements, such that operating a high-end Spanish restaurant is no longer viable for us at this location," Andrés' companies said in a statement the following month.

Andrés' companies filed a counterclaim, and the case in D.C. Superior Court was settled in 2017.

Manfred spoke with Trump about whether the president wanted to throw out the ceremonial first pitch.

"His view was that in order to make the fan experience as positive as possible, he would arrive at Game 5 sometime after the game began, so that wouldn't interfere with fans getting into the stadium. Quite frankly, we were very grateful for that," Manfred said. "His sole focus was if I do something like a first pitch or arrive in that timeframe, is it going to be disruptive to the everyday fan getting into the ballpark and enjoying the game, and he didn't want that kind of disruption."

Washington leads Houston 2-1 in the best-of-seven series after the Astros' 4-1 win on Saturday morning, so a Game 5 on Sunday is assured.

On Friday, Andrés tweeted that he was "humbled" to be chosen.

Trump would be the first sitting president to attend a World Series game since George W. Bush threw out the ceremonial first pitch at New York's Yankee Stadium before Game 3 in 2001.

Other presidents who attended a World Series game were Woodrow Wilson (1915), Calvin Coolidge (1924), Herbert Hoover (1929, 1930, 1931), Franklin Roosevelt (1933, 1936), Dwight Eisenhower (1956), Jimmy Carter (1979) and Ronald Reagan (1983).

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

GM workers ratify contract, ending contentious 40-day strike

By TOM KRISHER AP Auto Writer

ROMULUS, Mich. (AP) — A contentious 40-day strike that crippled General Motors' U.S. production came to an end Friday as workers approved a new contract with the company.

The four-year deal will now be used as a template in bargaining with crosstown rival Ford Motor Co., the union's choice for the next round of bargaining, followed by Fiat Chrysler.

GM workers voted 57.2% in favor of the pact, passing it with a vote of 23,389 to 17,501, the union said in a statement.

Picket lines came down almost immediately after the vote was announced, and some of the 49,000 striking workers were expected to return to their jobs as early as Friday night. Some skilled trades employees such as electricians and machinists were to enter the plants to get machinery restarted in preparation for production workers to return as early as Saturday.

"It was a good vacation, but I guess I've got to go back," joked Paul Daru, a 42-year worker at GM's engine and transmission plant in Romulus, Michigan, near Detroit. "I miss the socializing and stuff like that, seeing the guys, going out on the job and figuring out what the problem is."

Although workers at his factory approved the deal, Daru said he voted against it because it still has several different pay scales for workers doing the same jobs. "Somebody who is working next to you for 17 bucks per hour, you're doing the same thing," said Daru, an electrician who may go back to work Saturday.

Temporary workers can get permanent jobs after two or three years depending on their start dates, but they start at the bottom of a pay scale, so people doing the same work can end up at different pay rates.

The deal also includes a mix of wage increases and lump-sum payments and an \$11,000 signing bonus. But it allows GM to close three U.S. factories, a point of contention for many of the 42.8% of workers who voted no.

The five-week walkout was big enough to help push down September U.S. durable goods orders by 1.1%, the largest drop in four months.

"We delivered a contract that recognizes our employees for the important contributions they make to

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the overall success of the company, with a strong wage and benefit package and additional investment and job growth in our U.S. operations," GM CEO Mary Barra said in a statement.

Tricia Pruitt, another worker in Romulus, said the wage gains were worth staying off the job for more than five weeks, but she's ready to return to work.

Pruitt, a 15-year GM employee, was happy that the contract brings workers hired after 2007 up to the same wage as older workers in four years.

Although GM dealers had stocked up on vehicles before the strike and many still have decent supplies, analysts say GM won't be able to make up for the lost production. Had the strike been shorter, GM could have increased assembly line speeds and worked the plants on overtime to catch up and refill its stock. But many of the plants that make popular SUVs and pickup trucks already were working around the clock to keep up with demand before the strike began.

Also, companies that supply parts to the factories and halted production during the strike will need time to restart, although GM has some parts in stock.

Jeff Schuster, senior vice president of the consulting firm LMC Automotive, estimates that GM has lost production of 300,000 vehicles, and he said maybe only a quarter of it can be made up.

Some production losses will help thin inventory, especially of cars, Schuster said. But in late October and early November, GM will likely run short of colors and models of trucks and SUVs that are in high demand until stocks are replenished, he said. Although truck and SUV buyers generally are loyal to a brand, customers in a hurry for a new vehicle could go elsewhere, Schuster said.

"There are definitely going to be some limitations on choice, and that is a risk," Schuster said. "Consumers can opt to wait, or they can go down the street to their competitor."

With bargaining shifting to Ford, it's not clear whether there will be another strike, but it's unlikely Ford or Fiat Chrysler will like the terms of the GM contract.

GM traded the ability to close the three factories in Lordstown, Ohio; Warren, Michigan; and near Baltimore for higher labor costs, David Kudla, chief investment strategist for Mainstay Capital Management of Grand Blanc, Michigan, wrote in a note to investors. The contract maintains worker health benefits with low premiums, something that both Ford and FCA wanted to change when negotiations began.

"Ford and FCA didn't have three factories that they wanted to close, but will have to work around this new framework for higher wages and unchanged health care that the UAW and GM have set," wrote Kudla.

Workers from the closed factories campaigned against the contract, with several plants voting against it. But in the end, economic gains and a \$7.7 billion GM investment pledge for U.S. factories were too much to turn down.

Tim O'Hara, president of the UAW local in Lordstown, said workers there overwhelmingly voted down the deal, disappointed that they didn't get a new vehicle to keep the plant open. Many Lordstown workers were transferred to other factories, and they campaigned against the contract at their new jobs, he said.

Thousands of ex-Lordstown workers were hoping they could someday return to their homes, he said. "A lot of our people did have plans that they could come back in possibly a year or even three years," O'Hara said. "Now that's gone. They have to draw up a whole new game plan."

Associated Press reporter Heather Hollingsworth contributed to this report from Kansas City, Missouri.

'Just too darn old:' Sanders, Biden confront age concerns

By STEVE PEOPLES and ALEXANDRA JAFFE Associated Press

MARSHALLTOWN, Iowa (AP) — Bernie Sanders insists he feels better than ever less than a month after heart surgery, but his return to the campaign trail this week sparked new questions about the unusually old age of the Democratic Party's leading 2020 presidential candidates.

Both Sanders, 78, and Joe Biden, 76, suggest their age isn't a major issue, but voters, particularly older voters, aren't so sure.

Gordon Lundberg, a 71-year-old retired Lutheran pastor from Ames, said candidates' health is a key

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issue for him because he understands how it feels to age. He's leaning toward Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts because, even though she's 70, "she's the most liberal and she's not got one foot in the grave yet."

"Bernie's just too darn old. And so is Biden," Lundberg said. "They look old, they sound old, they are old. They fall in the shower, and they get heart attacks!"

Lundberg is not alone.

Polling has suggested that a significant number of Americans believe a candidate in his or her late 70s is too old to be president. If elected, Sanders would take office having already exceeded the average U.S. life expectancy of 78.6 years, according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Health Statistics. Biden would be just a few months away.

Warren would be the oldest new president in history, eclipsing Trump, who himself eclipsed Ronald Reagan. Biden and Sanders would be older on their first day in office than Reagan, a two-term president, was on his last.

While Biden, the former vice president, has often laughed off questions about his age, the issue is one that Sanders has been forced to confront more directly as he returned to Iowa this week. Sanders, a senator from Vermont, is traveling with his wife and campaign manager, whose responsibilities include ensuring that he take modest precautions not to over-exert himself, takes daily walks of at least half an hour with no phone calls and sticks to a healthier diet.

"He wants to run," said campaign manager Faiz Shakir, who said he would likely accompany Sanders on the campaign trail for the next month. "Our job is to make sure he knows he's in a marathon, not a sprint."

Sanders opened up about his health during an interview at a coffee shop in Des Moines, one of several he conducted this week as he works to convince voters in the first states on the 2020 presidential primary calendar that he's physically able to beat President Donald Trump next fall and assume the demands of the presidency.

Sanders told The Associated Press that he was looking forward to "a 100 percent recovery — full recovery."

"Now I got three good arteries," he said. "And three good arteries are better than two good arteries. So, I'm feeling pretty good."

At a subsequent campaign appearance in Marshalltown, he confronted the age question directly without being asked.

"I've been criticized for being old. I plead guilty. I am old," Sanders said, sparking laughter and applause in the audience.

And at a Friday event in Newton, Iowa, he insisted that his advanced age offered some advantages. Specifically, people have had decades to study him and his policies. He has supported Medicare for All, for example, for three decades.

"Having a long record gives people the understanding that these ideas that I'm talking about, they're in my guts, they're in my heart," he charged. "This is who I am as a human being."

Many in the audience applauded the message. But after the Marshalltown event, not everyone was cheering.

Retired Marshalltown resident Ed Canade, 72, described himself as "somewhat concerned" about Sanders' age.

"I know as I age, everything isn't quite as sharp. That's the reality of age. I can feel it in my own body," Canade said. "I think Bernie's doing well for his age."

Meanwhile, Biden called his age "a legitimate question" in an interview days after entering the presidential race in April and said it's up to voters to "watch me" and decide for themselves.

Since then, Biden has not been forced to confront the age question as often as Sanders, despite frequent gaffes on the campaign trail. The former vice president has frequently appeared to mix up dates, offer outdated pop culture references and forget his words.

In a new CBS interview, Biden dismissed questions about his age, saying, if anything, it was an advantage.

"With age comes experience, with experience comes wisdom, and with wisdom comes judgment," Biden

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said in the "60 Minutes" interview, set to air Sunday.

He promised earlier in the month to release his health records to help demonstrate his physical readiness for the nation's top job.

While national polls suggest Biden is doing well among older voters, on the ground in the state that will hold the nation's first presidential primary contest, Democrats see age as an issue for Biden and Sanders.

Kathy Judge, a 58-year-old nurse from Ames, went so far as to call Sanders and Biden "very self-centered and very selfish by staying in the race" when, she said, there are questions over whether they're "physically capable" of finishing the run.

As an older individual herself, she said, she sees their ages wearing on them.

"Bernie Sanders has already had a heart attack! Joe Biden can't remember what day it is! Now, I can't either some days, I will admit that, but we need someone who is sharp and thinks on their feet and doesn't fumble words," said Judge, who supports 50-year-old Cory Booker, the New Jersey senator.

At a Biden event over the summer in Manning, Donna Forman, a 72-year-old retiree, said the former vice president is in her top three, along with Booker and 59-year-old Sen. Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota. But the one major concern she has about Biden is his age.

"Because I know people that are old — including myself," she said. "I'm getting there. And I think Donald Trump is a perfect example of why nobody over 70 should run for anything."

Associated Press writer Bill Barrow contributed to this report.

This story has been corrected to delete a quote mistakenly attributed to Joe Biden when it was actually stated by his wife, Jill.

Pentagon hands Microsoft \$10B 'war cloud' deal, snubs Amazon

By RACHEL LERMAN AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The Pentagon awarded Microsoft a \$10 billion cloud computing contract, snubbing early front-runner Amazon, whose competitive bid drew criticism from President Donald Trump and its business rivals.

Bidding for the huge project, known as Joint Enterprise Defense Infrastructure, or JEDI, pitted leading tech titans Microsoft, Amazon, Oracle and IBM against one another.

The giant contract has attracted more attention than most, sparked by speculation early in the process that Amazon would be the sole winner of the deal. Tech giants Oracle and IBM pushed back with their own bids and also formally protested the bidding process last year.

Oracle later challenged the process in federal court, but lost.

Trump waded into the fray in July, saying that the administration would "take a very long look" at the process, saying he had heard complaints. Trump has frequently expressed his ire for Amazon and founder Jeff Bezos, who also owns the Washington Post. At the time, he said other companies told him that the contract "wasn't competitively bid."

Defense Secretary Mark Esper recused himself from the controversial bidding process earlier this week, citing a conflict of interest because his son works for one of the companies that originally bid.

The JEDI system will store and process vast amounts of classified data, allowing the U.S. military to use artificial intelligence to speed up its war planning and fighting capabilities.

A cloud strategy document unveiled by the Defense Department last year called for replacing the military's "disjointed and stove-piped information systems" with a commercial cloud service "that will empower the warfighter with data and is critical to maintaining our military's technological advantage."

The Pentagon emphasized in an announcement that the process was fair and followed procurement guidelines. It noted that over the past two years, it has awarded more than \$11 billion in ten separate cloud-computing contracts, and said the JEDI award "continues our strategy of a multi-vendor, multi-cloud environment."

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The latter statement appeared designed to address previous criticism about awarding such a large deal to one company.

The deal is a major win for Microsoft's cloud business Azure, which has long been playing catch-up to Amazon's market leading Amazon Web Services. Microsoft said it was preparing a statement.

Amazon said Friday it was surprised by the decision.

"AWS is the clear leader in cloud computing, and a detailed assessment purely on the comparative offerings clearly lead to a different conclusion," Amazon spokesman Drew Herdener said in a statement. "We remain deeply committed to continuing to innovate for the new digital battlefield where security, efficiency, resiliency, and scalability of resources can be the difference between success and failure."

According to a July report from the research firm Gartner, Amazon holds almost 48% of the market for public cloud computing, followed by Microsoft in second place with close to 16%.

Over the last year, Microsoft has positioned itself as a friend to the U.S. military. President Brad Smith wrote last fall that Microsoft has long supplied technology to the military and would continue to do so, despite pushback from employees.

Oracle and IBM were eliminated earlier in the process, leaving Microsoft and Amazon to battle it out at the end.

Google decided last year not to compete for the contract, saying it would conflict with its AI ethics principles. Google employees have been especially vocal in protesting the company's involvement with government contracts.

"It's a paradigm changer for Microsoft to win JEDI," said Dan Ives, managing director of Wedbush Securities. "And it's a huge black eye for Amazon and Bezos."

Microsoft, Amazon, Google and other tech giants have faced criticism from their own employees about doing business with the government, especially on military and immigration related projects.

US deficit hits nearly \$1 trillion. When will it matter?

By **MARTIN CRUTSINGER AP Economics Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration reported a river of red ink Friday.

The federal deficit for the 2019 budget year surged 26% from 2018 to \$984.4 billion — its highest point in seven years. The gap is widely expected to top \$1 trillion in the current budget year and likely remain there for the next decade.

The year-over-year widening in the deficit reflected such factors as revenue lost from the 2017 Trump tax cut and a budget deal that added billions in spending for military and domestic programs.

Forecasts by the Trump administration and the Congressional Budget Office project that the deficit will top \$1 trillion in the 2020 budget year, which began Oct. 1. And the CBO estimates that the deficit will stay above \$1 trillion over the next decade.

Those projections stand in contrast to President Donald Trump's campaign promises that even with revenue lost initially from his tax cuts, he could eliminate the budget deficit with cuts in spending and increased growth generated by the tax cuts.

Here are some questions and answers about the current state of the government's finances.

WHAT HAPPENED?

The deficit has been rising every year for the past four years. It's a stretch of widening deficits not seen since the early 1980s, when the deficit exploded with President Ronald Reagan's big tax cut.

For 2019, revenues grew 4%. But spending jumped at twice that rate, reflecting a deal that Trump reached with Congress in early 2018 to boost spending.

WHY DOESN'T WASHINGTON DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT?

Fiscal hawks have long warned of the economic dangers of running big government deficits. Yet the apocalypse they fear never seems to happen, and the government just keeps on spending.

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There have been numerous attempts by presidents after Reagan to control spending. President George H.W. Bush actually agreed to a tax increase to control deficits when he was in office, breaking his "Read my lips" pledge not to raise taxes.

And a standoff between President Bill Clinton and House Speaker Newt Gingrich did produce a rare string of four years of budget surpluses from 1998 through 2001. In fact, the budget picture was so bright when George W. Bush took office in 2001 that the Congressional Budget Office projected that the government would run surpluses of \$5.6 trillion over the next decade.

That didn't happen. The economy slid into a mild recession, Bush pushed through a big tax cut and the war on terrorism sent military spending surging. Then the 2008 financial crisis erupted and triggered a devastating recession. The downturn produced the economy's first round of trillion-dollar deficits under President Barack Obama and is expected to do so again under Trump.

SHOULD WE WORRY?

As far as most of us can tell, the huge deficits don't seem to threaten the economy or elevate the interest rates we pay on credit cards, mortgages and car loans. And in fact, the huge deficits are coinciding with a period of ultra-low rates rather than the surging borrowing costs that economists had warned would likely occur if government deficits got this high.

There is even a new school of economic theory known as the "modern monetary theory." It argues that such major economies as the United States and Japan don't need to worry about running deficits because their central banks can print as much money as they need.

Yet this remains a distinctly minority view among economists. Most still believe that while the huge deficits are not an immediate threat, at some point they will become a big problem. They will crowd out borrowing by consumers and businesses and elevate interest rates to levels that ignite a recession.

What's more, the interest payments on the deficits become part of a mounting government debt that must be repaid and could depress economic growth in coming years. In fact, even with low rates this year, the government's interest payments on the debt were one of the fastest growing items in the budget, rising nearly 16% to \$375.6 billion.

HAVEN'T ECONOMISTS BEEN MAKING THESE WARNING FOR DECADES?

Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell says the day of reckoning is still coming but isn't here yet. Most analysts think any real solution will involve a combination of higher taxes and cost savings in the government's huge benefit programs of Social Security and Medicare.

ANY SIGN THAT WASHINGTON MAY TAKE THE POLITICALLY PAINFUL STEPS TO CUT THE DEFICIT?

In short, no. There has been a major change since the first round of trillion-dollar deficits prompted the Tea Party revolt. This shift brought Republicans back into power in the House and incited a round of fighting between GOP congressional leaders and the Obama administration. A result was government shutdowns and near-defaults on the national debt.

But once Trump took office, things changed: The president focused on his biggest legislative achievement, the \$1.5 trillion tax cut passed in 2017. This appeared to satisfy Republican lawmakers and quelled concerns about rising deficits.

Democratic presidential candidates have for the most part pledged to roll back Trump's tax cuts for corporations and wealthy individuals. But they would use the money not to lower the deficits but for increased spending on expensive programs such as Medicare for All.

SO THE DEFICITS WON'T ANIMATE THE PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN?

It doesn't seem likely, though former Rep. Mark Sanford, who has mounted a long-shot Republican campaign against Trump, is urging Republican voters to return to their historic concerns about the high deficits. And economists note that today's huge deficits are occurring when the economy is in a record-long

economic expansion. This is unlike the previous stretch of trillion-dollar deficits, which coincided with the worst recession since the 1930s.

But analysts warn that if the economy does go into a recession, the huge deficits projected now will expand significantly — possibly to a size that would send interest rates surging. Such a development, if it sparked worries about the stability of the U.S. financial system, might produce the type of deficit crisis they have been warning about for so long.

Trump's company exploring sale of landmark Washington hotel

By **BERNARD CONDON** and **JONATHAN LEMIRE** Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's company said Friday it is exploring the sale of its landmark Washington hotel after nearly three years of ethics complaints and lawsuits accusing him of trying to profit off the presidency.

The Trump Organization says it will consider offers to buy out the 60-year lease on the Trump International Hotel, which since opening in late 2016 has become a magnet for lobbyists and diplomats looking to gain favor with the administration.

"People are objecting to us making so much money on the hotel and therefore we may be willing to sell," said Eric Trump, an executive vice president of the Trump Organization. "Since we opened our doors, we have received tremendous interest in this hotel and as real-estate developers, we are always willing to explore our options."

The opulent, 263-room hotel built in the Old Post Office down the street from the White House has hosted parties thrown by diplomats from the Philippines, Kuwait and other countries, and has been among Trump's biggest money makers. It is at the center of two lawsuits accusing the president of violating the emoluments clause of the U.S. Constitution, which bars presidents from receiving gifts or payments from foreign governments.

According to Trump's most recent financial disclosure, the hotel took in \$41 million in revenue last year, up less than half a million dollars from the previous year.

In his statement, Eric Trump said the Trump Organization agreed to not actively solicit foreign government business for the hotel when his father took office, and its success has been all the more remarkable given that voluntary restraint.

But Kathleen Clark, a government ethics expert and Trump critic, said the idea that the hotel has made sacrifices to avoid conflicts is "nonsense" and the Trump Organization may be selling now because it fears the profits will fall if the president is not re-elected.

"There is no reason to think that Republican Party operatives or a trade association that wants to curry favor with the next president will choose this hotel," said Clark, a law professor at Washington University in St. Louis. "It will just be another fancy hotel."

Other government watchdogs saw danger with the sale itself: Will the buyer pay more than the hotel is worth in attempt to get in good with the administration? And what if the buyer is from overseas?

"If the Trump Organization puts out a 'For Sale' sign on the Trump International Hotel and seeks and takes bids, it will create massive conflicts of interests with the deep-pocketed individuals, foreign governments, investment funds or corporations that could afford to make such a purchase," said Robert Weissman, president of Public Citizen, a liberal-leaning consumer advocacy group.

The possible sale comes at a fraught time for the Trump real estate empire.

Several residential buildings and hotels paying to brand themselves with the Trump name have removed it because of his politics. And the president earlier this month pulled plans to hold a Group of Seven summit at his Doral resort near Miami amid criticism it would be a brazen violation of the emoluments clause. Trump later lashed out about the reversal, saying, "You people with this phony emoluments clause."

After winning a contract from the federal government to lease the 121-year-old, Romanesque Revival-style post office in 2013, Trump spent \$200 million renovating it into a hotel.

The Wall Street Journal reported that the Trump Organization is hoping to get more than \$500 million in

the sale. But Sean Hennessey, CEO of consultancy Lodging Advisors, said that while he has no idea what the sale could actually bring in, it is rare to get more than \$1 million for each guest room, which would translate into \$263 million.

Any sale would have to be approved by the agency overseeing the lease, the General Services Administration, as well as a lawyer hired by the Trump Organization to vet such deals for conflicts of interest.

In his statement, Eric Trump addressed concerns about conflicts of interest by noting the company cuts a check to the U.S. Treasury each year for what it calculates as "profit" from foreign government business at its hotels and other properties. That amounted to \$191,538 last year, up from \$151,470 the previous year.

Condon reported from New York.

Lion Air crash report points to Boeing, pilots, maintenance

By NINIEK KARMINI, MARGIE MASON and DAVID KOENIG Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — Indonesian investigators found plenty of blame to go around for a Boeing 737 Max crash that killed 189 people a year ago.

They faulted design decisions by Boeing that made the plane vulnerable to failure of a single sensor. They criticized U.S. safety regulators who certified the plane. And they pointed fingers at one of their country's own airlines, Lion Air, for inadequate pilot training and maintenance lapses.

Investigators said in a report issued Friday that a combination of nine main factors doomed the brand-new Boeing jet that plunged into the Java Sea shortly after takeoff on Oct. 29, 2018.

"If one of the nine hadn't occurred, maybe the accident wouldn't have happened," chief investigator Nurcahyo Utomo said at a news conference.

Many of the problems had been previously disclosed in a preliminary report that Indonesian authorities issued last year and in recent findings by U.S. and global safety experts who were privy to the investigation.

Still, release of the final report is likely to put more pressure on Boeing, which is under investigation by the Justice Department and Congress. Boeing Co. is still working to fix its best-selling plane seven months after all Max jets were grounded following a second crash on March 10 in Ethiopia, which killed 157 people. The final report on that accident is several months away, but preliminary findings highlighted remarkable similarities to the disaster in Indonesia.

Some key takeaways from the Indonesian report:

— Boeing's design of a critical flight-control system was a key factor in the crash, repeatedly pushing the plane's nose down. The system, called MCAS, relied on a single sensor to measure direction of air flow, making it vulnerable if the sensor misfired — which it did. Boeing also made incorrect assumptions about how quickly pilots could respond to a malfunction and didn't inform pilots of the existence of MCAS until after the Lion Air crash, making it harder for Lion Air's pilots to save the plane and its passengers.

— Lion Air pilots who experienced problems on a previous flight failed to properly note it in the plane's log, so maintenance crews couldn't make necessary repairs. Pilots on the fatal flight failed to perform the correct emergency procedure for a nose-down pitch of the plane. The co-pilot failed to understand the situation and was preoccupied running the wrong emergency checklist.

— Oversight by safety regulators who certified the plane could have been much better. A malfunction of MCAS was considered a "major" safety issue but not "hazardous" or "catastrophic" — classifications that would have prompted a deeper review. Boeing assumptions about how quickly pilots would respond to a problem proved too optimistic, but they met Federal Aviation Administration guidance.

Budget carrier Lion Air's flight 610 vanished from radar after air traffic control was told the plane had altitude and air speed troubles. It plunged into the sea just 13 minutes after takeoff.

The plane had only been flying for two months but began having problems a few days before the crash. A new "angle-of-attack" sensor, which measures the plane's direction relative to oncoming air, was installed while the aircraft was on the Indonesian island of Bali a day before the crash. The sensor wasn't properly calibrated during an earlier repair, leaving it out of alignment, and might not have been tested correctly.

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The FAA on Friday revoked the license of the company that repaired the sensor, Xtra Aerospace of Miramar, Florida. The FAA said the company handled parts that it was not authorized to repair and had record-keeping problems. The company said the revocation was separate from the Lion Air investigation.

On a flight the day before the crash, pilots were bombarded by warnings about airspeed, altitude and an impending stall. The captain and co-pilot regained control of the plane by manually overriding the automated system with help from a third Lion Air pilot who was hitching a ride in the cockpit jump seat.

"Let's just say, that flight from Bali to Jakarta was very lucky," said Indonesian aviation expert Gerry Soejatman.

After the plane landed safely in Jakarta, the pilots did not fully report the problems they had experienced, which prevented maintenance crews from investigating, according to the report.

"That airplane never should have been in the air," said John Goglia, a former member of the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board. He said the report showed flaws in Lion Air's maintenance operation and a series of mistakes by pilots of the fatal flight. Soejatman, however, put most of the blame for the crash on Boeing.

With the report, relatives of those who were on Flight 610 grieved all over again.

Muhammad Asdori, whose brother and nephew were killed, accused Boeing of negligence in failing to anticipate how pilots would react in an emergency.

"We are very angry," he said. "We were even more angry when we learned that they had only admitted their mistake when the second Max 8 plane crashed in Ethiopia."

Boeing said it was taking Indonesia's findings into account as it makes changes to the Max. It is re-designing MCAS to take readings from both angle-of-attack sensors on the plane, not just one. MCAS will only push the plane's nose down once based on an erroneous sensor reading, and it will push down with less force. The company is also updating crew manuals and pilot training.

Boeing aims to return the Max to service before year-end. The Chicago company took out advertisements in major U.S. newspapers Friday again offering its apologies and detailing steps it is taking to compensate victims' families, update the Max, and improve its safety culture.

"As we continue to make steady progress in safely returning the 737 MAX to service, we will never forget these losses, and our commitment to safety, quality and integrity is unwavering," Boeing said in the ad.

The FAA said it would consider the investigators' recommendations as it reviews Boeing's proposed changes to the Max. The FAA promised that it will let the plane fly again only when it is certain it's safe.

Air travel in Indonesia, the world's fourth most populous country with nearly 270 million people, has surged and budget carriers such as Lion Air have sprung up to accommodate demand. But the industry has struggled to keep pace and faces a shortage of pilots, antiquated infrastructure and poor regulatory oversight. The country has been plagued by a string of deadly accidents in recent years.

AP Airlines Writer David Koenig reported from Dallas.

Doctor who kept fetuses is vilified in life and death

By MICHAEL TARM Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Dr. Ulrich Klopfer competed so avidly in the 1970s to perform the most abortions each day at a Chicago clinic that it was said he would set his coffee aside, jump to his feet in the break room and rush to the operating table whenever his chief rival in the macabre derby walked by.

That early emphasis on speed helped him go on to perform at least 50,000 abortions over the next 40 years, making him one of the Midwest's most prolific abortion doctors and a target of weekly protests at his primary clinics in Gary, South Bend and Fort Wayne, Indiana.

The rancor he generated in life only deepened after his death at 79 last month, when 2,246 sets of preserved fetal remains were discovered stacked floor to ceiling in a garage at his suburban Chicago home.

Weeks later, 165 more sets were found in the trunk of a Mercedes-Benz at a business where Klopfer kept several cars.

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One Indiana lawmaker pronounced Klopfer a "monster." Anti-abortion legislators in Congress promptly introduced the Dignity for Aborted Children Act, which would require burial of aborted fetuses nationwide. The White House called for a thorough investigation.

There is no indication Klopfer told others about his grim collection, including his wife. Investigators and others have been scrutinizing his past for clues and have been left to speculate.

Was it a hoarding disorder? Was he trying to save disposal costs as he racked up legal bills suing and being sued by abortion opponents? Was he hoping to torment his enemies from beyond the grave?

Some who knew him recall the German-born Klopfer as a lonely, enigmatic figure. Unprompted, he would often tell how he took shelter as a 4-year-old when Allied planes bombed his hometown of Dresden during World War II. He would describe emerging three days later with buildings smoldering around him, bodies in the rubble.

When anti-abortion physician Geoffrey Cly met Klopfer in 2008 to discuss concerns that Klopfer's procedures were endangering patients' health, Klopfer immediately brought up the 1945 raids on Dresden, in which some 25,000 people died.

"How is the suffering from the bombing by the Americans in Dresden any different than the suffering of women by unwanted babies?" Cly recalled Klopfer saying.

Cly added: "I thought his abortions, how he kept the fetuses, might be unconscious revenge for the bombings."

News reports about Klopfer going back decades portray him as combative, quick to give the finger to protesters. He spoke emphatically about ensuring women had access to abortion in Indiana, which has some of the nation's toughest restrictions on the procedure.

He once told a reporter about the abortion debate: "If men got pregnant and women didn't, this wouldn't be a discussion."

For long stretches, Klopfer was the only abortion doctor in the Indiana cities where he had clinics.

Klopfer began performing abortions months after the landmark Roe v. Wade ruling legalizing abortion. He was doing 3,500 annually by 1993, he told the Chicago Tribune that year.

Other abortion doctors kept low profiles. Not Klopfer.

During protests at his clinics in 1993, police admonished him for shoving protesters. News reports at the time said officers rejected his suggestion they pour acid in protesters' eyes.

He was constantly embattled.

Allen County Right to Life went so far as to move its headquarters next door to Klopfer's clinic in Fort Wayne to turn up the pressure on him.

Protesters once hacked holes in the roof of the South Bend clinic and poked a water hose through a mail slot, flooding an entry room. They sometimes convened outside Klopfer's home in Crete, a mile from the Indiana line.

One night in 1995, someone shot at his car in Indiana as he drove home, he told police. An armed guard started accompanying him to and from his clinics.

"Am I concerned? Yes. Am I going to change? No," Klopfer told The Associated Press.

He was in continuous legal disputes, sometimes with the backing of abortion rights advocates, including the ACLU. He joined a 1999 lawsuit that argued Indiana's ban on Medicaid funding for abortions discriminated against the poor. It also hurt Klopfer's business.

It was a 1978 Chicago Sun-Times story that first raised questions publicly about Klopfer, recounting the competition between him and another doctor. A nurse told the newspaper that the other doctor tallied each abortion in pencil on his pant leg. If Klopfer saw lots of marks, he would go "like wildfire to catch up," she said.

Klopfer's career started unraveling in the 2000s with a flurry of complaints, including that he performed an abortion on a 10-year-old raped by her uncle and did not notify law enforcement.

Cly testified in front of Indiana lawmakers that he treated a patient who had a life-threatening uterine infection after Klopfer left parts of a fetus in her womb.

Klopfer complained that conservative state officials were in cahoots with anti-abortion groups to close

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him down. But citing shoddy record-keeping and substandard patient monitoring, Indiana regulators took away his license in 2016.

After his Fort Wayne clinic was closed in 2013 as regulators' scrutiny intensified, Klopfer kept making the three-hour drive from Illinois each week until shortly before his death, sleeping overnight in its empty, disheveled offices, said Mark Archer, an anti-abortion filmmaker who met Klopfer at the shuttered clinic last year.

"He believed he would one day resume his practice," Archer said.

Klopfer had been displaying signs of being a hoarder for years by then.

Kevin Bolger, his widow's lawyer, went to the Klopfer home after the discovery of the fetuses and said it was impossible to enter some rooms because Klopfer had packed them wall to wall with newspapers, old TVs and other appliances. But Bolger wasn't convinced hoarding accounted for the collection of fetal remains.

"What kind of a hoarder collects body parts?" he said.

Most of the remains were from abortions Klopfer did in the early 2000s. They were in airtight plastic bags, inside scores of cardboard boxes. Each bag was labeled with some information, such as the year of the abortion, but Illinois officials would not say whether other detail was included, such as the name of the woman who underwent the procedure.

At the time Klopfer was practicing, in Indiana, as in most states still, clinics routinely sent fetal remains to processors that incinerated them along with medical waste. Cly said disposing of a fetus in the early 2000s would have cost around \$10.

Whether Klopfer committed a crime in keeping the fetuses is unclear.

A 2016 Indiana law requires that fetuses be treated as human remains and buried or cremated. It also prohibits the transfer of fetuses across state lines. But the law wasn't in effect yet when Klopfer practiced.

Some anti-abortion groups in recent weeks likened Klopfer to Kermit Gosnell, an abortion doctor who stored fetal remains in bags, milk jugs and orange juice cartons at a Philadelphia clinic prosecutors called "a house of horrors."

Klopfer seemed more meticulous in how he stored remains. And he was never accused of performing the illegal late-term abortions Gosnell sought to conceal. Gosnell was convicted of murder and sent to prison in 2013 for the deaths of three babies who had been born alive. Some had their spines cut with scissors.

In 1982, employees at a storage center in Los Angeles found over 15,000 fetal remains in a container linked to a pathologist. Authorities concluded he kept them to avoid having to pay a medical waste company to dispose of them.

Investigators haven't said if Klopfer may have had a financial motive.

Klopfer's wife is as dumbfounded as anyone about why her husband did what he did and is still getting over the shock, said Bolger, her lawyer. He said he doubts there will ever be a definitive answer: "He took the answer to his grave."

Cly speculated that keeping the fetal remains and knowing they would be discovered after his death might have been Klopfer's way of irritating his critics one last time.

His foes may get the last word. The fetuses from the garage have been returned to Indiana, where state officials promised they will receive what anti-abortion groups said they deserved all along: a proper burial. The Roman Catholic Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend said it will make its cemeteries available.

AP news researcher Jennifer Farrar contributed to this report.

Follow Michael Tarm on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/mtarm>

In Apple TV's 'Morning Show,' women rebel, men misbehave

By LYNN ELBER AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "The Morning Show" started life as a behind-the-scenes peek at a slice of network TV as familiar and routine as a wake-up cup of coffee. Then shocking revelations of sexual misconduct engulfed NBC's "Today" and beyond, and the story changed.

The 10-part drama series, part of the first wave of shows launching the Apple TV Plus streaming service Nov. 1, expanded its original focus on women's role in media to include the repercussions of workplace bad behavior. It all plays out in the lucrative, hypercompetitive world of A.M. news-and-fluff programming.

"When the Me Too movement happened it was really hard to ignore, nor would we want to ignore it. We would be negligent," said Mimi Leder, an executive producer and director for "The Morning Show."

While Hollywood has paid glancing attention to the sexual abuse and harassment scandals that have roiled it and other industries, with accusations derailing the careers of actors, executives and journalists, "The Morning Show" is among the few major projects to delve more deeply.

Jennifer Aniston and Reese Witherspoon lead the cast that includes Steve Carell, Billy Crudup, Gugu Mbatha-Raw, Mark Duplass, Nestor Carbonell and Desean Terry. Aniston plays Alex, the long-reigning queen of the now-slumping "Morning Show," and Witherspoon is Bradley, an outspoken TV reporter with a shaky job history who lands hard on Alex's turf.

But Alex's longtime co-anchor Mitch (Carell) has already wreaked havoc. The drama opens with him fired by network UBA for multiple instances of alleged misconduct, evoking Matt Lauer's dismissal from "Today." Mitch's banishment creates career and psychological upheaval for Alex and opportunity for those waiting in the wings for their shot at network glory.

Among them is Daniel (Terry), an African-American co-anchor who chafes at what he considers pressure to downplay his ethnicity and hopes the top anchor job will be his reward. There are impressive displays of ambition and plot twists galore in the three episodes Apple made available of the glossy, expensive-looking drama that's debuting three episodes on Nov. 1. Remaining episodes will be released consecutively on Fridays.

Apple TV Plus costs \$4.99 a month after a seven-day free trial, and a subscription can be shared with up to six family members. The streaming service is free for a year to buyers of a new iPhone, iPad, Mac or Apple TV box.

Alex's somber on-air response to the scandal evokes memories of Samantha Guthrie and Hoda Kotb telling "Today" viewers about Lauer's November 2017 firing for what NBC called "inappropriate sexual behavior in the workplace." The fallout has yet to subside: co-anchors Guthrie and Kotb returned to the subject of Lauer earlier this month after further allegations against him emerged in Ronan Farrow's new book, "Catch and Kill."

"Morning television is where the women in television were left to pick up the pieces," observed Mary Murphy, an associate professor at the University of Southern California's Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism.

Series executive producer Michael Ellenberg began work on what became "The Morning Show" before #MeToo, saying he was intrigued by "what it means to be a woman in media" and specifically a woman with power in the morning network realm. He found the "authentic, precise" details he needed in journalist Brian Stelter's 2013 nonfiction book, "Top of the Morning: Inside the Cutthroat World of Morning TV."

Ellenberg optioned the book, Aniston and Witherspoon were attached and Kerry Ehrin ("Friday Night Lights," "Bates Motel") was brought in as writer and showrunner (Stelter, a former reporter with The New York Times and now with CNN, is a consulting producer). Leder said the drama from a nearly all-female slate of executive producers — including Aniston and Reese — is at its core about the relationship between Alex and Bradley.

The two are "colliding at a certain point in their lives," Leder said, with Alex at "a plateau where ageism is starting to hit, and Bradley being this character who's trying to make her mark, and what can these two women give each other?"

From Aniston and Witherspoon's takeaway on what women in TV endure, they need all the friends they

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can find.

Women face more scrutiny on "how they're allowed to dress, what jewelry they can and cannot wear," Aniston said. "You never see a man being told you have to ... get that gray out of your hair. You also never really see a gray-haired female newscaster."

Added Witherspoon: "There's just great disparity, gender disparity for sure" among on-air talent.

While viewers may play a guessing game about the fictional duo's possible real-life counterparts, comparisons between Mitch and Lauer are inevitable. But Leder said the character and his actions were woven from many strands.

"We're not just telling one story. Our stories are inspired by every story we've heard about, read about, witnessed or experienced in our personal lives," said the veteran movie and TV director whose credits include "On the Basis of Sex" and "The Leftovers."

Carell said he found the script "very honest" and with a layered depiction of his character.

"I thought, that's what my approach is: That he was a guy who was at the top of his game, very popular, very liked, a narcissist, an egomaniac, but charming. And within his power, he had this enormous blind spot" to his failings, said Carell. In one notable scene with a friend (played by Martin Short) who's also accused of sexual wrongdoing, the men spout off about their anger and frustration — until Mitch gets an eye-opening lesson in culpability.

"We're so right in the middle of this process, in this moment of history, in the midst of this reckoning," Leder said. "I think it's exciting to explore all the gray and all the nuances of misconduct."

Katie Campione for The Associated Press contributed to this report.

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NOT REAL NEWS: A look at what didn't happen this week

By **ARIJETA LAJKA** and **AMANDA SEITZ** Associated Press

A roundup of some of the most popular but completely untrue stories and visuals of the week. None of these is legit, even though they were shared widely on social media. The Associated Press checked them out. Here are the real facts:

CLAIM: Hunter Biden got \$1.76 million from taxpayer-funded Amtrak

THE FACTS: Articles and tweets circulating online wrongly suggest that Biden was paid \$1.76 million by Amtrak, a passenger rail service that has received billions of dollars in federal subsidies. They also suggest that Amtrak paid Biden's lobbying firm for work. Hunter Biden, son of Democratic presidential candidate and former Vice President Joe Biden, was in fact paid \$32,850 during a 31-month tenure on Amtrak's board of directors. President George W. Bush nominated Biden to Amtrak's board and he was confirmed by the Senate in July 2006, according to congressional records. He served on the board until February 2009. During that time, Amtrak paid Biden a total of \$32,850, which represents per diem fees paid for attending 43 board meetings, according to Amtrak records. Amtrak said in an email that it has "no record of any contract" with Biden's former lobbying firm, Oldaker, Biden and Belair. Biden, who mainly represented colleges while working with the firm, resigned as a federal lobbyist in 2008, when his father ran for vice president on the ticket with Barack Obama, the AP reported at the time.

CLAIM: Former President Barack Obama has signed a \$90 million deal with Netflix to produce a documentary about the impeachment inquiry of President Donald Trump.

THE FACTS: The false claim began circulating on social media in September following publication of a satirical article in The New Yorker magazine. A Netflix spokesperson confirmed to The Associated Press on Wednesday that no such deal has been made or is under consideration. A spokeswoman for Obama also confirmed there is no truth to such a deal. The false posts followed the Sept. 27 edition of the Borowitz

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Report , a satire column published by The New Yorker. According to the satirical item, Obama told reporters production on the series could begin as early as October, in Washington and Kyiv. The article includes a smirking picture of Obama and a fabricated quote that credits him as saying, "We've already hit the ground running on the script." Tweets and Facebook posts have passed around the satirical item, which set the deal at \$90 million, as a real report. "How long exactly has Obama been working on this film?" one Twitter user asked. The truth about Obama and Netflix: In 2018, he and his wife, former first lady Michelle Obama, signed a deal with the streaming video provider. Their production company, Higher Ground Productions, unveiled in April a total of seven films and series that would be developed under the deal. Their first documentary , about a glass factory in Ohio owned by a Chinese investor, debuted in August.

CLAIM: Photo shows protesters carrying a banner that states "Assassinate Republicans that defeat Democrats. Make America Great."

THE FACTS: The photo circulating on social media was altered to change the wording on the banner. In the original photo the poster says, "Trump makes America hate, our students make America great." The manipulated photo with the altered wording has circulated on Facebook accompanied by text that states, "Openly calling for assassination. Guess what comes next...war." The original photo, published by The Associated Press, was taken by Matt Marton during a March 11, 2016, protest at the University of Illinois-Chicago. At the time, Donald Trump, a Republican presidential candidate, was planning a rally at the university. Trump's team canceled the rally citing security concerns after protesters and his supporters clashed. The altered photo with the "assassinate" wording has been shared before on social media with claims that Democrats are inciting violence.

CLAIM: Video shows a garbage-filled river in India.

THE FACTS: A Twitter user uploaded a video showing a river in Lebanon overflowing with trash, falsely claiming it was in India. The video, which had 31,000 views by midweek, was accompanied by a statement that falsely claimed, "This is a River in India. Ask yourself. Why aren't Greta and the rest of the wack jobs protesting in India, China and Africa? It's all about money and power with them." "Greta" refers to teen climate activist Greta Thunberg, who addressed world leaders at the United Nations climate summit in September. The video shows a river overflowing with a variety of items, trash, plastic bottles, even a mattress. According to local journalists and multiple media reports, including Lebanese Al-Jadeed TV, the video shows the Ghadir River as it passes through Hay el-Sellom, a suburb in southern Beirut, in early September 2018. According to reports at the time, heavy rains picked up trash that had been thrown into the river, making it appear like a flood of garbage. The issue of Trash has been an ongoing issue in Beirut since at least 2015, when infrastructure challenges led garbage to go uncollected for a period of time, sparking massive protests.

This is part of The Associated Press' ongoing effort to fact-check misinformation that is shared widely online, including work with Facebook to identify and reduce the circulation of false stories on the platform.

Find all AP Fact Checks here: <https://apnews.com/APFactCheck>

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Pope asks forgiveness for theft of Amazon statues

By NICOLE WINFIELD Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Francis asked forgiveness Friday from Amazonian bishops and tribal leaders after thieves stole indigenous statues from a Vatican-area church and tossed them into the Tiber River in a bold show of conservative opposition to history's first Latin American pope.

Francis insisted that the carved wooden statues of naked pregnant women were brought to the Vatican

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for display during his Amazon synod "without any intention of idolatry," undercutting conservative claims that they were symbols of pagan, idolatrous worship.

He said carabinieri police had found the so-called Pachamama statues unharmed in the Tiber, and would consider letting the Vatican display them during a final Mass on Sunday wrapping up the Amazon meeting, but that no decision had been made.

"Above all, this happened in Rome and as the bishop of this diocese I ask forgiveness of the people who were offended by this gesture," Francis told the synod hall.

Francis' apology came as the three-week Amazon synod wraps up Saturday when more than 180 bishops and cardinals from nine Amazonian countries vote on a final document synthesizing proposals to better protect the Amazon rainforest and minister to its indigenous peoples.

The most controversial proposals include whether married men can be ordained priests to address the acute shortage of clergy in the Amazon region, where isolated communities can go months without having a proper Mass.

Also debated were whether women — who already carry out the lion's share of the church's work — could be ordained deacons in a new Amazonian rite that takes into account the unique spirituality of Amazonian faithful and their relationship with nature.

Several Amazonian bishops expressed support for both proposals, which would represent a dramatic shift from centuries of Catholic tradition. But Vatican cardinals who are also voting members of the synod expressed caution and insisted on the gift and value of a celibate priesthood.

While those theological debates raged in the synod hall, the more significant debate concerned the videotaped theft early Monday of the indigenous statues from the Santa Maria in Traspontina church, just down the block from St. Peter's Square.

The church has been the headquarters of parallel synod events featuring indigenous, environmental and Catholic groups from the region, and the statues were featured prominently in some of the indigenous services.

According to video of the theft that was widely circulated on conservative Catholic media, at least two men entered the church before dawn, took the statues from the altar of a side chapel and threw them from a bridge into the Tiber.

The theft was celebrated by conservative and traditionalist Catholics who considered the statues pagan idols that had no business being placed at the altar of a Catholic Church, much less used in official Vatican ceremonies.

The statues had actually sparked outrage at the start of the synod, when one was featured at an indigenous tree-planting ceremony in the Vatican gardens attended by Francis.

Cardinal Gerhard Mueller, the conservative German sacked by Francis in 2017 as the Vatican's doctrine chief, said the "great mistake" was to bring the "idols" in the church in the first place. He cited the biblical First Commandment prohibiting idolatry or worshipping false gods.

"To throw it out can be against human law, but to bring the idols into the church was a grave sin, a crime against divine law," he told conservative U.S. Catholic broadcaster EWTN.

The Vatican has insisted the statues were symbols of life, fertility and Mother Earth, and denounced the theft as a hate-filled, "violent and intolerant gesture."

"In the name of tradition and doctrine, they contemptuously threw away a symbol of maternity and sacredness of life," the Vatican's editorial director Andrea Tornielli wrote in Vatican media.

He noted that one of most influential Catholic thinkers, St. John Henry Newman — who was canonized during the synod — once recalled that Christianity's most important symbols all had pagan origins.

The theft has dominated debate in Catholic media and Catholic Twittersphere, with conservatives cheering the destruction of what they consider symbols of pagan worship and progressives accusing the culprits and their supporters of racism.

"We do not use the term 'racists' lightly, but what else is it?" asked the National Catholic Reporter, a progressive Catholic magazine, in an editorial this week.

"Can you imagine the conservative outcry if someone tossed the image of Our Lady of Czestochowa into

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the Tiber?" it said, referring to the "Black Madonna" icon that was particularly dear to St. John Paul II, a hero to many conservatives.

Whatever the symbolic meaning of the statues, their theft and destruction underscored the increasingly bold lengths to which conservatives are going to voice opposition to Francis and his agenda focusing on the poor, migrants and the environment.

Already, some traditionalists have accused him of heresy for showing flexibility toward allowing divorced and civilly remarried Catholics to receive the sacraments.

Any decision to open up the priesthood to married men or to ordain women deacons will likely only fuel their anger and increase calls for a future pope who is more rooted in orthodox doctrine like John Paul and emeritus Pope Benedict XVI.

Francis is well aware of his conservative opponents — he recently quipped it was an "honor" to be attacked by his American critics.

Other critics are increasingly striking out against him from within the Vatican walls. As the synod was underway, a new scandal over the Vatican's shady finances exploded, sparking alarm among Francis' supporters that there was a concerted attack against him by the Italian "old guard" within the Holy See bureaucracy.

In his morning homily Friday, Francis reflected on his own inner struggle to want to do good but not be able to do it.

"It's a battle between good and evil," he said.

Pioneering director Lina Wertmüller to finally get her Oscar

By LINDSEY BAHR AP Film Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — In 1977, Italian filmmaker Lina Wertmüller became the first woman to ever be nominated for best director at the Academy Awards. Although she didn't win that year — "Rocky" director John G. Avildsen did — the 91-year-old with the famous white glasses will finally get an Oscar of her own Sunday at the annual Governors Awards.

"This is making me very happy," Wertmüller said last month through a translator.

Forty years ago the Federico Fellini-protege barely even registered the historic nature of her nomination, however. She was too busy thinking about her next film.

"Lina never gave too much importance to awards," said Valerio Ruiz, Wertmüller's biographer. "She left that for other people to talk about."

Ruiz also directed a documentary about Wertmüller called "Behind the White Glasses."

Born in Rome in 1928, Wertmüller had been working in theater, sketch comedy and puppetry before making her transition into film. A friend from school married actor Marcello Mastroianni and he made the fateful introduction to Fellini whom she assisted on the set of "8 1/2."

"Anything that he would ask her to do she would do," Ruiz said. "He would see a face going by in a taxi and he would say 'get me that face' and she would chase the taxi."

The relationship was hardly one-sided. Fellini provided his own crew to help Wertmüller make her first film, "The Lizards," in 1963.

"Fellini was much more than a person and friend," Wertmüller said. "Fellini was like opening a window and discovering in front of you a wonderful landscape which you didn't know before. Our relationship was much larger, much deeper and much more meaningful than anything I can describe."

The picture that ultimately caught the attention of the film academy was "Seven Beauties," a sprawling story about a man with seven unattractive sisters who puts himself on a complicated path during World War II when he murders a pimp who turned one of his sisters into a sex worker. Roger Ebert called it "opaque, despairing, and bottomless" in a review at the time.

Besides "Seven Beauties," Wertmüller had a string of notable films in the 1970s including "The Seduction of Mimi" and "Swept Away," which Guy Ritchie would attempt to remake with Madonna in 2002. But the attention around the Oscar nomination put her on a different level and soon enough she was sign-

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ing a contract with Warner Bros. to make four films stateside. There was even a two-page ad in Variety magazine saying "Welcome Lina."

The Hollywood honeymoon was short, though. The first film she made, "A Night Full of Rain" with Giancarlo Giannini and Candice Bergen, was a disappointment. Even she acknowledges it was one of her "least accomplished." Warners cancelled the contract after that.

Was she disappointed?

"Honestly not," she said.

Wertmüller has continued working and is still writing to this day and is currently making the rounds in Los Angeles once more as Sunday's big event nears. The non-profit Women in Film, which honored her with a Crystal Award in 1985, hosted an intimate luncheon for Wertmüller Thursday with attendees like "It's Complicated" director Nancy Meyers and "Valley Girl" director Martha Coolidge.

"The honor is long overdue," said Amy Baer, Women in Film's board president.

On Saturday, "The Lizards" will have its American premiere at the TCL Chinese Theatre, Sunday she'll be feted by the film academy and on Monday she'll receive a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Wertmüller isn't just a piece of Oscars trivia for being "the first" female directing nominee: She remains only one of five including Jane Campion ("The Piano"), Sofia Coppola ("Lost in Translation"), Kathryn Bigelow ("The Hurt Locker") and Greta Gerwig ("Lady Bird"). Bigelow is the only one to have won.

It's a statistic that came as a surprise to her during a September interview.

"I didn't even know," she said. "I'm obviously very happy and proud and full of admiration but five is too few. There should be a lot more."

Follow AP Film Writer Lindsey Bahr on Twitter: www.twitter.com/ladbahr

AP-NORC poll: Most Americans oppose reparations for slavery

By COREY WILLIAMS and NOREEN NASIR Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — Few Americans are in favor of giving reparations to descendants of enslaved black people in the United States, a poll shows, even as the idea has gained momentum among Democratic presidential contenders.

Only 29% of Americans say the government should pay cash reparations, according to the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research poll.

But the poll reveals a large divide between Americans of different racial and ethnic backgrounds.

Most black Americans, 74%, favor reparations, compared with 15% of white Americans. Among Hispanics, 44% favor reparations.

Lori Statzer, 79, of West Palm Beach, Florida, opposes cash reparations and an official government apology.

"None of the black people in America today are under the slavery issue," said Statzer, who is white. "It's over with."

Using taxpayers' money to pay reparations "would be unfair to me," she added. "My ancestors came to this country, worked hard to become Americans and never asked for anything."

Poll respondents also were sharply divided by race on whether the U.S. government should issue an apology for slavery: 64% of white Americans oppose a government apology, while 77% of black Americans and 64% of Hispanics believe an apology is due. Overall, 46% of Americans favor and 52% oppose a national apology.

Not everyone realizes how horrible slavery was to black Americans, said 63-year-old Nathan Jordan, adding that the federal government should apologize for slavery "because it was wrong."

While he supports reparations, Jordan, who is black and lives in Vienna, Georgia, can't put a dollar figure on what would be fair.

"I don't think the government could even afford that," he said. "I don't know what the value would be. There are still a lot of (black) people trying to catch up. I'm not sure if they'll ever catch up."

Alicia Cheek, 56, of Asheboro, North Carolina, who is black, opposes both reparations and a government

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apology, saying white people today "can't be liable for what their ancestors did." She also questions how a fair amount could be determined.

The nation is marking 400 years since the first slave ship sailed to what would become the United States, bringing about 20 slaves to the British colony at Jamestown, Virginia, in 1619.

Over the next two centuries, more than 300,000 men, women and children were forcibly brought to what is now the U.S. from Africa, according to the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Database.

The debate on reparations has flared on and off since the moment slavery in the U.S. officially ended in 1865.

After the Civil War, Union Army Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman promised compensation to freed slaves in the form of land and mules to farm it — hence the phrase "40 acres and a mule." But President Andrew Johnson took away the offer.

More than 120 years later, then-Rep. John Conyers, a Detroit Democrat, introduced legislation to establish a commission to develop reparations proposals. He reintroduced it in every congressional session until he resigned in 2017, and it was reintroduced last year by Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, a Texas Democrat. Presidential candidate and Democratic Sen. Cory Booker of New Jersey filed a Senate companion bill this year.

Other Democratic candidates have come out in support of reparations or at least a commission to study it. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, a Republican, has publicly opposed the idea of a national reparations policy.

Anita Belle, founder of the Reparations Labor Union in Detroit, says "doing the right thing means making amends for what a nation did wrong."

Belle said she was encouraged to see even a low level of support for reparations among white Americans. "That's still progress," she said.

An apology for slavery would help the country move on, said Reuben Miller, assistant professor in the University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration.

"And by moving on, I don't mean moving on and forgetting," he said. "I mean moving on past the atrocity. It would teach a lesson about the relationship of black Americans with their government."

The new poll finds that about 3 in 10 Americans think the history of slavery still has a great deal of influence on black Americans. About another 3 in 10 think it has a fair amount of influence.

And many see enduring disadvantages for black Americans in public life. About two-thirds of Americans think white people are treated more fairly than black people by police, and about half see advantages for white people in applying for jobs or shopping in stores.

"We have to look at righting the wrong with cash to the people that were done wrong," Belle said. "To just say we aren't going to do anything is to just perpetuate the wrong."

Associated Press video producer Noreen Nasir reported from Chicago.

The AP-NORC poll of 1,286 adults was conducted Sept. 20-23 using a sample drawn from NORC's probability-based AmeriSpeak Panel, which is designed to be representative of the U.S. population. The margin of sampling error for all respondents is plus or minus 3.8 percentage points.

Online:

AP-NORC Center: <http://www.apnorc.org/>

Nations pledge \$9.8B to global climate fund to help the poor

PARIS (AP) — Rich countries have pledged \$9.8 billion to help poor nations tackle climate change, the Green Climate Fund said Friday, as environmental activists slammed the United States for refusing to contribute and other nations for giving too little.

Yannick Glemarec, the executive director of the Green Climate Fund, said 27 countries announced contributions by the end of a two-day conference in Paris.

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The United States did not make any pledge, as U.S. President Donald Trump has decided to stop paying into the fund. Former U.S. President Barack Obama pledged \$3 billion toward the fund, but Trump moved to withhold \$2 billion of that after taking office.

The Climate Action Network, which is made up of more than 1,300 non-governmental organizations, castigated both the U.S. and Australia for refusing to pitch in.

They "have turned their backs on the world's poorest and have once again isolated themselves in global efforts to respond to the climate emergency," the network said.

It also named Canada, the Netherlands, Portugal, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Austria and Belgium as countries that "failed to deliver their fair share" and called on them to make up the shortfall.

Oxfam International's Armelle Le Comte called the failure of the United States and Australia to provide funding "appalling."

But the Green Climate Fund's Glemarec put an optimistic spin on the shortfalls.

"We will most likely be able to find additional resources" before the United Nations' annual climate conference, which will be held in December in Santiago, Chile, Glemarec said.

Glemarec said the extra money will increase the fund's capacity from about \$1.4 billion per year now to \$2.4 billion per year in the period from 2020-2024.

French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire, speaking earlier Friday, praised "a great success" that he attributed largely to European countries, noting that almost half of the amount was being provided by France, Germany and Britain alone.

"Many countries will double their contributions," Le Maire said.

The South Korea-based fund, which provides money to help developing countries reduce their emissions and cope with the impacts of climate change, says it has nearly exhausted some \$7 billion received following an initial funding round five years ago.

Follow AP's full coverage of climate change issues at <https://www.apnews.com/Climate>

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Saturday, Oct. 26, the 299th day of 2019. There are 66 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On October 26th, 2001, President George W. Bush signed the USA Patriot Act, giving authorities unprecedented ability to search, seize, detain or eavesdrop in their pursuit of possible terrorists.

On this date:

In 1774, the First Continental Congress adjourned in Philadelphia.

In 1825, the Erie Canal opened in upstate New York, connecting Lake Erie and the Hudson River.

In 1881, the "Gunfight at the O.K. Corral" took place in Tombstone, Arizona, as Wyatt Earp, his two brothers and "Doc" Holliday confronted Ike Clanton's gang. Three members of Clanton's gang were killed; Earp's brothers and Holliday were wounded.

In 1944, the World War II Battle of Leyte (LAY'-tay) Gulf ended in a major Allied victory over Japanese forces, whose naval capabilities were badly crippled.

In 1949, President Harry S. Truman signed a measure raising the minimum wage from 40 to 75 cents an hour.

In 1965, the Beatles received MBE medals as Members of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire from Queen Elizabeth II at Buckingham Palace.

In 1979, South Korean President Park Chung-hee was shot to death by the head of the Korean Central Intelligence Agency, Kim Jae-kyu.

In 1980, Israeli President Yitzhak Navon became the first Israeli head of state to visit Egypt.

In 1984, "Baby Fae," a newborn with a severe heart defect, was given the heart of a baboon in an ex-

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perimental transplant in Loma Linda, California. (Baby Fae lived 21 days with the animal heart.)

In 2000, the New York Yankees became the first team in more than a quarter-century to win three straight World Series championships, beating the New York Mets 4-to-2 in game five of their "Subway Series." (The Yankees matched the Oakland Athletics' three in a row from 1972-74, and won their fourth title in five years.)

In 2002, a hostage siege by Chechen rebels at a Moscow theater ended with 129 of the 800-plus captives dead, most from a knockout gas used by Russian special forces who stormed the theater; 41 rebels also died.

In 2006, a wildfire in Southern California killed five firefighters (investigators later determined the cause of the blaze was arson).

Ten years ago: A U.S. military helicopter crashed while returning from the scene of a firefight with suspected Taliban drug traffickers in western Afghanistan, killing 10 Americans, including three DEA agents; four more troops were killed when two helicopters collided over southern Afghanistan. Bill Cosby received the 12th annual Mark Twain Prize for American Humor during a salute at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

Five years ago: Left-leaning Dilma Roussef was narrowly re-elected in Brazil's tightest presidential election since its return to democracy three decades earlier. Serena Williams won the WTA Tour Finals for the third straight year and fifth time overall, beating Simona Halep (HAL'-ehp) 6-3, 6-0 in Singapore. The San Francisco Giants shut out the Kansas City Royals 5-0 to take a 3-2 edge in the World Series.

One year ago: Federal authorities captured a Florida man with a criminal history and accused him of sending at least 13 mail bombs to prominent Democrats. (Cesar Sayoc was sentenced to 20 years in prison by a judge who concluded that the bombs purposely were not designed to explode.) The Los Angeles Dodgers and the Boston Red Sox took the field for what would become the longest World Series game in history, an 18-inning marathon lasting 7 hours and 20 minutes; the Red Sox won 3-2 on a home run by Max Muncy. Former Fox News Channel personality Megyn Kelly was fired from her NBC morning show after triggering an uproar by suggesting it was OK for white people to wear blackface at Halloween.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Shelley Morrison is 83. Actress Jaclyn Smith is 74. TV host Pat Sajak is 73. Hillary Rodham Clinton is 72. Musician Bootsy Collins is 68. Actor James Pickens Jr. is 67. Rock musician David Was is 67. Rock musician Keith Strickland (The B-52's) is 66. Actress Lauren Tewes is 66. Actor D.W. Moffett is 65. Actress-singer Rita Wilson is 63. The president of Bolivia, Evo Morales, is 60. Actor Patrick Breen is 59. Actor Dylan McDermott is 58. Actor Cary Elwes is 57. Singer Natalie Merchant is 56. Actor Steve Valentine is 53. Country singer Keith Urban is 52. Actor Tom Cavanagh is 51. Actress Rosemarie DeWitt is 48. Actor Anthony Rapp is 48. Writer-producer Seth MacFarlane (TV: "Family Guy") is 46. TV news correspondent Paula Farris is 44. Actress Lennon Parham is 44. Actress Florence Kasumba is 43. Actor Hal Ozsan is 43. Actor Jon Heder is 42. Singer Mark Barry (BBMak) is 41. Actor Jonathan Chase is 40. Actress Folake Olowofoyeku (foh-LAH'-kay oh-low-wow-foh-YAY'-koo) is 36. Olympic silver medal figure skater Sasha Cohen is 35. Rapper Schoolboy Q is 33. Actor Beulah Koale (TV: "Hawaii Five-0") is 28.

Thought for Today: "Without a song, each day would be a century." — Mahalia Jackson, gospel singer and civil rights activist (born this date in 1911, died in 1972).

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