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Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

Tuesday, Oct. 29

Health Screenings - begin at elementary school at 8:30 a.m. and MS/HS after lunch.
Family Night at GHS, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 30

MathCounts at Aberdeen Roncalli, 8:30 a.m. to 11:35 a.m.

Friday and Saturday, Nov. 1 and 2

All State Chorus and Orchestra in Sioux Falls

Saturday, Nov. 2

Oral Interp Pumpkinstakes at Watertown

Sunday, Nov. 3

Turn clocks back one hour to return to Standard Time

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

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Tigers go undefeated in NEC with win over Deuel

Groton Area got a perfect record to win the Northeast Conference Title with a 3-0 win over Deuel. The Tigers win the conference with an undefeated 10-0 record. It was the final regular game of the season with regional action beginning next week.

The match was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Hanlon Brothers, Bahr Spray Foam, De-Hoet Trucking, Allied Climate Professionals, Milbrandt Enterprises, Professional Management Services, BaseKamp Lodge, John Sieh Agency, Groton Auto Works and Groton Chiropractic Clinic

Groton Area won the first game, 25-20. The first game was tied three times early in the game before the Tigers scored five straight points. Groton Area had a 19-12 lead, but Deuel rallied to close to within three, 22-19. Groton Area went on to win, 25-20. The Tigers had three serving errors in the first game while Deuel had one. Groton Area earned 18 of its 25 points while Deuel earned eight of its 20 points. Eliza Wanner led the Tigers with eight kills while Nicole Marzahn had three kills and three ace serves, Kaylin Kucker had two ace serves, Kenzie McInerney had one kill and Stella Meier had one block. Twyla Rossow led the Cardinals with four kills and two blocks, but she would not score for the rest of the match.

The second game was tied at one but Groton Area took a 7-1 lead en route to a 25-11 win. Groton Area scored the last six points of the game. Groton Area had two serving errors and Deuel had none. The Tigers earned 14 of their 25 points and Deuel earned seven of its 11 points. Marzahn led the Tigers with five kills while Indigo Rogers had two kills and an ace serve, Wanner had two kills, McInerney had a kill and a block, Meier had a kill and Tadyn Glover had an ace serve. Harley Hennings led Deuel with two kills and a block.

The third game was tied twice in the early part before Groton Area scored eight unanswered points for a 25-8 third game win. Deuel had one serving error and Groton Area had two serving errors. The Tigers earned 14 of its 25 points and Deuel earned two of its eight points. Marzahn and Wanner each had three kills, Rogers had two kills and an ace serve, Madeline Flihs had three kills, Payton Colestock had an ace serve and Meier had one kill.

For the match, Kaylin Kucker had 29 assists and two ace serves. Nicole Marzahn had nine kills and one assist. Tadyn Glover had 12 digs. Eliza Wanner had 10 digs and 13 kills. Indigo Rogers had five kills. Having one block each were Stella Meier, Madeline Flihs and Kenzie McInerney.

- Paul Kosel



Madeline Flihs
(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



Tadyn Glover
(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

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Big plays hand Webster Area win over Groton Area

Groton Area had more first downs and more total yards on offense, but Webster Area pulled out the big plays for the 24-6 win in the first round of the 11B Football Playoffs.

The game was played in Webster on Thursday and was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Aberdeen Chrysler Center, Bahr Spray Foam, BDM Rural Water, BaseKamp Lodge, BK Custom T's & More, Blocker Construction, DeHoet Trucking, Doug Abeln Seed Company, Groton Dairy Queen, Groton American Legion Post #39, Northeast Chiropractic Clinic, Jark Real Estate, John Sieh Agency, Groton Chiropractic Clinic, Jungle Lanes & Lounge, Lori's Pharmacy, Mike-N-Jo's Body-N-Glass, Milbrandt Enterprises Inc., McGannon Plumbing Heating & Cooling, Olde Bank Cafe, Olson Development, Professional Management Services and S & S Lumber & Hardware Hank.

Groton Area two more first downs than Webster Area, 14-12, and more yards of total offense, 243-222.

Webster Area's first offensive drive featured a big pass play of 35 yards that put the Bearcats on the Tiger 21 yard line. Webster Area had two first downs and scored with 8:56 left in the first quarter on a Braden Holland four yard run. Jacob Pereboom kicked the PAT and it was 7-0.

Groton Area took its first possession into the end zone as well, gathering up two first downs before Brodyn DeHoet scored on a 24-yard pass from Kaden Kurtz. The two-point pass attempt failed and it was 7-6, Webster Area.

On the following kickoff, Webster Area would return the ball all the way down to the Groton Area 10-yard line. The Bearcats got a first down on fourth and goal from the four yard line. On the next play, Braden Holland would score on a 1 yard run. Pereboom kicked the PAT and it was 14-7.

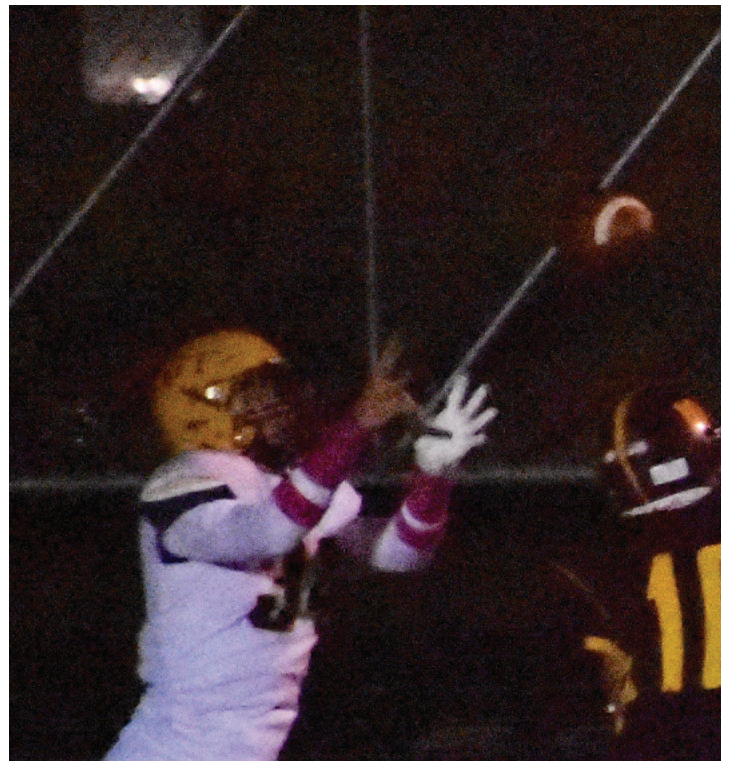
Groton Area would end up punting on fourth and 11 which set the Bearcats up on their own 45 yard line. On the next play, Webster Area would score on a 55-yard pass from Holland to Austin Moen. Pereboom kicked the PAT and it was 21-6 at the end of the first quarter.

Brodyn DeHoet makes a touchdown catch for the Tigers. (Photo by

Paul Kosel)



Peyton Johnson makes a tough catch as he was double teamed by Webster Area's Braden Holland (4) and Matthew Block (88). (Photo by Paul Kosel)



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The second quarter was a stalemate. Groton punted on fourth and one. Webster punted on fourth and 14. Groton's drive inside the Webster 30 yard line ended on an interception. Webster punted on fourth and 12. Groton Area punted on fourth and six. Webster had the ball last in the first half and ended on its own 42 yard line. It was 21-6 at half time.

In the third quarter, Groton Area punted on fourth and four. Webster took its opening drive of the second half down to the Groton Area 13 yard line after getting three first downs and Pereboom finished the drive with a 30 yard field goal.

Groton's next drive was stopped by an interception, but Webster ended up punting on fourth and three. The third quarter ended, 24-6.

In the fourth quarter, Groton Area gave up the ball on downs after being sacked on fourth and eight. Webster Area had a first down before punting on fourth and 16. Groton Area had the ball last, getting five first downs before time ran out.

Jonathan Doeden had 127 yards rushing, 17 yards receiving and four yards passing. Kaden Kurtz had 19 yards rushing, 94 yards passing and six tackles. Brodyn DeHoet had 48 yards receiving and seven tackles. Peyton Johnson had 33 yards receiving and one sack. Darien Shabazz had three yards rushing. Grady O'Neill led the defense with nine tackles and one sack. Thomas Cranford also had a sack.

Colby Reetz led Webster with 44 yards rushing while Austin Moen had 70 yards catching. Sterling Rausch led the defense with 12 tackles and Cade Shoemaker had 10.

Groton Area finishes the season with a 4-5 record.

- Paul Kosel



Jonathan Doeden looks for an opening in the Webster Area defensive line.

(Photo by Paul Kosel)



Peyton Johnson punts the ball. (Photo by Paul

Kosel)



The Tigers dogpile one of the Webster ball carriers on this play. Pictured are Grady O'Neill (54), Kaden Kurtz (20), Pierce Kettering (5) and one other Groton Area player.

(Photo by Paul Kosel)

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GROTON AREA

WEBSTER AREA

First Downs

14

12

Rushing

36-149

30-88

Jonathan Doeden 27-127

Coby Reetz 11-44

Kaden Kurtz 8-19

Sterling Rausch 8-19

Darien Shabazz 1-3

Braden Holland 11-30

Passing

Kaden Kurtz 7-18-94, 1 TD, 2 Int.

Braden Holland 3-8-134

Jonathan Doeden 1-2-4

Sterling Rausch 1-2-8

Receivers

Jonathan Doeden 3-17

Austin Moen 2-70, 1 TD

Brodyn DeHoet 4-48

Jaydon Keller 1-45

Peyton Johnson 1-33

Matthew Block 1-9

Braden Holland 1-8

Fumbles

Had 0 lost 0

Had 0 lost 0

Penalties

6-45

2-20

Defense

Grady O'Neill 9 tackles, 1 sack

Sterling Rausch 12 tackles

Brodyn DeHoet 7 tackles

Cade Shoemaker 10 tackles

Kaden Kurtz 6 tackles

Braden Holland 9 tackles

Thomas Cranford 1 sack

Jared Schlotte 8 tackles

Peyton Johnson 1 sack

Carter Fawcett 8 tackles

Record

4-5

9-0

Next Game

Season Over

Scoring

First Quarter

8:56: Webster - Braden Holland 4 yard run. (PAT Jacob Pereboom kick is good)

4:51: Groton - Brodyn DeHoet 24 yard pass from Kaden Kurtz. (PAT pass no good)

2:01: Webster - Braden Holland 1 yard run. (PAT Jacob Pereboom kick is good)

0:06: Webster - Austin Moen 55 yard pass from Braden Holland (PAT Jacob Pereboom kick is good)

Third Quarter

6:34: Webster - Jacob Pereboom 30 yard field goal

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Soooooooo Close!

	Region 1	Seed Points	W-L
1	Groton Area	43.533	23-7
2	Aberdeen Roncalli	43.500	24-8
3	Redfield	42.080	16-9
4	Webster Area	41.833	20-10
5	Tiospa Zina	39.714	12-9
6	Milbank	38.407	10-17
7	Sisseton	36.759	5-24

The regional seed points are so close that it will come down to a pair of games tonight to decide the top four spots. Right now, Groton Area has a very slim lead over Aberdeen Roncalli. Two games to watch here are Clark/Willow Lake playing Hamlin and Lennox playing Canton. If Hamlin and Lennox both win, Roncalli would more than likely take over the number one seed.

Meanwhile in the third and fourth place positions, Webster Area and Redfield will play each other. Currently, Redfield is holding a slim lead over Webster Area for third place.

Tiospa Zina, Milbank and Sisseton have their positions all locked up.

Later on tonight, the outcome of the matches will decide the final seeding positions for the regions. The number one seed in Region 1A will receive a first round bye and will not play until Thursday, Nov. 7. The other teams will play Tuesday, Nov. 5 at the highest seed.

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Today



Becoming
Sunny

Tonight



Clear

Wednesday



Sunny

Wednesday
Night



Mostly Clear

Thursday



Mostly Sunny

High: 33 °F

Low: 15 °F


High: 35 °F

Low: 17 °F


High: 41 °F

Today
29 to 35°


Tonight
15 to 21°



**CHILLY
TEMPERATURES**
Through midweek



National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD
Updated: 10/29/2019 4:19 AM Central



Published on: 10/29/2019 at 12:23AM

High pressure will build over the region today and Wednesday. Coupled with an upper level trough, this will mean cold and dry conditions. Temperatures will be 10 to 20 degrees below average through midweek.

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Today in Weather History

October 29, 1925: Record cold occurred across the area on this date in 1925. The record lows were 9 at Wheaton, Minnesota, 2 degrees below zero at Watertown, 5 degrees below zero at Aberdeen, 7 degrees below zero southeast of McInstosh, and a frigid late October 19 degrees below zero at Kennebec.

1693: From the Royal Society of London: "There happened a most violent storm in Virginia which stopped the course of ancient channels and made some where there never were any." Known as the Accomack Storm, this event likely caused changes to the Delmarva shoreline, and coastal inlets.

1948: An historic smog event occurred in the town of Donora, Pennsylvania. The smog killed 20 people and sickened 7,000 more.

1917 - The temperature at Denver, CO, dipped to zero, and at Soda Butte, WY, the mercury plunged to 33 degrees below zero, a U.S. record for the month of October. (David Ludlum)

1942 - A tornado struck the town of Berryville in northwest Arkansas killing 20 persons and causing half a million dollars damage. (David Ludlum)

1956 - A violent tornado, or series of tornadoes, moved along a path more than 100 miles in length from south of North Platte NE into Rock County NE. It was an unusually late occurrence so far north and west in the U.S. for such a storm. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Severe thunderstorms in Arizona produced wind gusts to 86 mph at the Glendale Airport near Phoenix, baseball size hail and 70 mph winds at Wickenburg, and up to an inch of rain in fifteen minutes in Yavapai County and northwest Maricopa County. Arizona Public Service alone reported 2.5 million dollars damage from the storms. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Wintry weather prevailed in the Upper Midwest. South Bend, IN, equalled their record for October with a morning low of 23 degrees. International Falls MN reported a record low of 11 degrees in the morning, then dipped down to 8 degrees above zero late in the evening. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms developing along a cold front produced severe weather in Oklahoma and north central Texas during the late afternoon and evening hours. Thunderstorms in Oklahoma produced weak tornadoes near Snyder and Davidson, and produced hail two inches in diameter at Altus. Large hail damaged 60 to 80 percent of the cotton crop in Tillman County OK. Nine cities in the northeastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date as readings warmed into the 70s. For Marquette MI it marked their fifth straight day of record warmth. Arctic cold invaded the western U.S. Lows of 7 degrees at Alamosa CO and 9 degrees at Elko NV were records for the date. (The National Weather Summary)

2011 - New York City received one inch of snow, the earliest they had received that much snow since records began. It was also only the fourth times since the Civil War snow had fallen in New York City in October. The storm also left over three million people without power including 62% of the customers of Connecticut Light and Power.

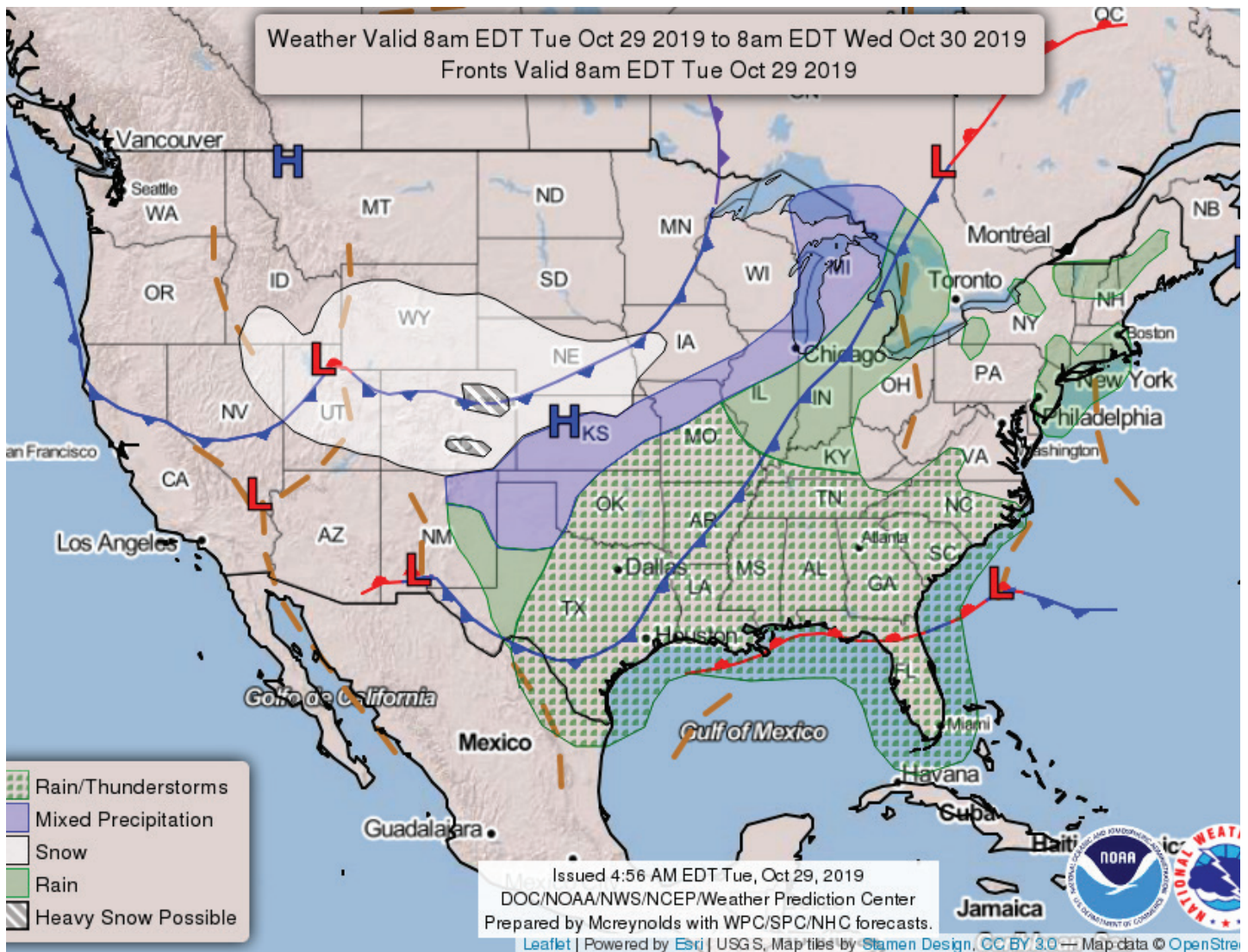
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Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 39 °F at 4:57 PM
Low Temp: 18 °F at 8:15 AM
Wind: 18 mph at 1:47 PM
Day Rain: 0.00

Record High: 79° in 1937
Record Low: -5° in 1925
Average High: 51°F
Average Low: 27°F
Average Precip in Oct.: 1.86
Precip to date in Oct.: 1.55
Average Precip to date: 20.34
Precip Year to Date: 26.57
Sunset Tonight: 6:26 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:10 a.m.



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PRIORITY ONE

Dwight Eisenhower once said, "I do many things that are urgent but few things that are important."

What a most revealing statement from one who successfully served his country as a general and president. It would be good to make it a question for each of us to ask ourselves every day: How do I separate the urgent from the important?

Or should we begin with the question: What is the difference between something that is urgent and something that is important?

Something urgent suggests I must give my immediate attention to an event that is happening now! Important, on the other hand, means that something of significance, value or consequence to me is occurring. I quickly answer a ringing phone because it is annoying and gets my immediate attention. I answered it with urgency, but the call may not be important.

Our Scripture for today talks about the difference between urgent and important. The Rich Fool was overly concerned about wealth and was in a hurry to expand his financial worth. But Jesus said, "Guard against greed and focus on your relationship with God."

We must always make certain that our number one priority as Christians is our relationship with God. We must constantly focus on Him and closely follow Him every day by communicating with Him daily, reading His Word always, and investing time in prayer.

Prayer: I ask, Father, that in Your power and through Your strength, You will always be first in my life. May I think of Your words constantly, and follow them carefully. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Luke 12:14-21 Jesus replied, "Friend, who made me a judge over you to decide such things as that?" 15 Then he said, "Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own."

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2019 Groton SD Community Events

- 10/31/2019 Trunk or Treat/Halloween on Main (Halloween)
- 11/09/2019 Legion Post #39 Turkey Shoot (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
- 12/07/2019 Olive Grove Golf Course Holiday Party
- 12/07/2019 Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services
- Bingo: every Wednesday at the Legion Post #39

2020 Groton SD Community Events

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

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News from the Associated Press

Monday's Scores By The Associated Press

Volleyball

Alcester-Hudson def. Viborg-Hurley, 25-19, 25-12, 25-19
Arlington def. DeSmet, 25-15, 25-21, 25-21
Avon def. Gayville-Volin, 25-23, 25-14, 25-19
Baltic def. Flandreau, 25-10, 25-11, 25-21
Beresford def. Dell Rapids, 25-13, 25-20, 25-21
Burke def. Wagner, 20-25, 25-17, 25-11, 25-20
Chamberlain def. Jones County, 25-16, 25-19, 25-15
Clark/Willow Lake def. Sisseton, 25-16, 28-30, 25-16, 25-22
Colman-Egan def. Dell Rapids St. Mary, 25-20, 25-14, 25-12
Corsica/Stickney def. Marty Indian, 25-9, 25-12, 25-12
Dakota Valley def. Tea Area, 25-13, 25-12, 22-25, 25-15
Elkton-Lake Benton def. Estelline/Hendricks, 25-23, 23-25, 25-18, 25-18
Ethan def. Tripp-Delmont/Armour, 25-13, 25-7, 25-12
Freeman def. Canistota, 25-20, 25-21, 25-16
Garretson def. Sioux Valley, 25-18, 25-20, 25-22
Gregory def. Andes Central/Dakota Christian, 25-22, 16-25, 21-25, 25-19, 15-8
Groton Area def. Deuel, 25-20, 25-11, 25-8
Hamlin def. Britton-Hecla, 25-22, 25-15, 25-20
Harding County def. Bison, 21-25, 25-5, 25-14, 25-17
Hill City def. Belle Fourche, 25-8, 25-11, 15-25, 25-9
Howard def. Iroquois/Doland, 25-21, 25-19, 25-17
Ipswich def. Herreid/Selby Area, 25-22, 25-20, 25-23
Kimball/White Lake def. Colome, 25-10, 25-12, 25-21
Langford def. Great Plains Lutheran, 25-22, 25-19, 15-25, 25-16
Lead-Deadwood def. Custer, 25-21, 25-21, 24-26, 25-18
Lemmon def. Dupree, 25-14, 25-21, 25-23
McCook Central/Montrose def. Hanson, 25-17, 25-18, 25-14
Northwestern def. Faulkton, 25-23, 25-21, 25-15
Oldham-Ramona/Rutland def. Lake Preston, 25-10, 25-11, 25-22
Parkston def. Menno, 25-16, 25-12, 25-14
Pine Ridge def. Edgemont, 25-13, 25-20, 25-17
Rapid City Christian def. Kadoka Area, 25-17, 24-26, 26-24, 25-10
Scotland def. Freeman Academy/Marion, 25-15, 25-9, 25-15
Sioux Falls Christian def. Lennox, 25-11, 25-7, 25-17
Tiospa Zina Tribal def. Milbank Area, 16-25, 25-20, 20-25, 25-23, 15-12
Tri-Valley def. West Central, 25-13, 25-22, 25-13
Waubay/Summit def. Florence/Henry, 23-25, 25-21, 25-21, 25-23
White River def. St. Francis Indian, 25-20, 25-16, 25-10
Winner def. Platte-Geddes, 25-11, 25-13, 25-20
Wolsey-Wessington def. Redfield, 25-22, 25-16, 25-21

Police officer's strike of South Dakota teen angers some

By STEPHEN GROVES Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Activists and relatives of a 13-year-old girl who was struck by a police officer trying to break up a fight said Monday the officer's actions were part of a pattern of using excessive force against Native Americans in South Dakota.

Officer Richard Holt was patrolling at South Middle School in Rapid City last week when the teen and another girl wrestled each other to the ground after school had dismissed. Holt struggled to physically separate the girls, and when they continued to fight, he struck one in the face and then pinned her to the ground.

Police Chief Karl Jegeris said the officer used a "palm-heel strike" to separate the girls, calling the action "appropriate" and necessary to stop the fight. Jegeris said supervisors reviewed the incident by looking at the social media videos, body camera footage and other evidence and determined the use of force was within the department's policy.

Yolanda Clairmont, an aunt of the girl who was struck and who was speaking on the family's behalf, told The Associated Press on Monday that the girl had a bloody and bruised nose from the strike and was treated at the hospital. She said it's the first time her niece was in a fight or had a run-in with the police. The seventh-grader is a member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe.

"Had it been a non-Native, I believe the situation would have been handled differently," Clairmont said.

Police spokesman Brendyn Medina said Holt was responding to an active assault and had no choice but to intervene.

"The race of the individual involved had nothing to do with the response," Medina said.

United Urban Warriors Society, an activist group in Rapid City, called the incident too familiar.

"This is the straw that breaks the camel's back," James Swan, the group's founder, said. "Cops have a history of manhandling natives here."

Community members held a meeting in Rapid City after video from the fight was shared on social media and sparked concern.

The police said the girls were being charged through the juvenile justice system. Family members said the girls were suspended from school and being charged with assault.

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

Man struck, killed by pickup in downtown Sturgis

STURGIS, S.D. (AP) — Sturgis police say a 68-year-old man was struck and killed by a pickup in the city's downtown.

Authorities say the man was struck as he walked in a crosswalk on Monday morning.

The Rapid City Journal reports the victim as pinned under the pickup. Officers and bystanders were able to move the vehicle off of the victim and provide first aid until an ambulance arrived. He was taken to a hospital, where he died. His name was not released.

Sturgis Police Chief Geody VanDewater says the 59-year-old Sturgis man who was driving the pickup was cited for having a windshield obstructed with ice and snow.

DOJ: Sanford to pay \$20M to settle kickback allegations

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sanford Health, one of the nation's largest health systems, has agreed to pay more than \$20 million to resolve kickback allegations stemming from a whistleblower lawsuit filed by two Sanford doctors, the U.S. Department of Justice said Monday.

The lawsuit alleged that the health system based in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, knowingly submitted false claims to federal health care programs for medically unnecessary spinal surgeries, the DOJ said.

"Kickbacks can compromise a physician's medical judgment, result in unnecessary procedures, and in-

crease health care costs for everyone," Assistant Attorney General Jody Hunt of the Justice Department's Civil Division said in a news release.

In a statement, Sanford chief operating officer Matt Hocks said the health system denies any liability or wrongdoing. Hocks said Sanford settled because the \$20.25 million amount is "far less than the unnecessary costs and operational disruption that would have persisted for multiple years."

South Dakota U.S. Attorney Ron Parsons said kickback schemes "create inherent conflicts of interest and warp the medical decision-making process."

The settlement resolves allegations that Sanford knew one of its top neurosurgeons was receiving kickbacks for his use of implantable devices distributed by his physician-owned distributorship.

Sanford received warnings from the neurosurgeon's colleagues and others about the alleged kickback scheme, the DOJ said. They repeatedly warned that the neurosurgeon was performing medically unnecessary procedures involving devices "in which he had a substantial financial interest," the department said.

Despite those warnings, Sanford continued to employ the neurosurgeon, Dr. Wilson Asfora, allowed him to profit from the devices he used in surgeries performed at Sanford, and submitted claims to federal health care programs for those surgeries, including procedures that were medically unnecessary, the DOJ said.

Sanford stands behind the medical treatment that Asfora provided, Hocks said.

"We remain committed to our providers doing what is best for their patients and supporting them in bringing innovative interventions and treatments to patients and communities," Hocks said.

Asfora worked for Sanford from 2007 until he was fired in August 2019, a month after Hocks and two other Sanford executives told employees in an email that the allegations were "bogus."

In a statement issued through his attorney, Asfora said he didn't perform any unnecessary surgeries and that he didn't do any surgeries to profit from using medical devices he invented.

"I stand by my work as a physician and made every single medical decision based solely on my judgment as to what was the best for my patient, not myself," Asfora said.

Drs. Carl Dustin Bechtold and Bryan Wellman, who filed the 2016 whistleblower lawsuit, will receive \$3.4 million of the settlement money under the False Claims Act, which allows whistleblowers to bring lawsuits on behalf of the government and share in any recovery.

Sanford includes 44 hospitals, 1,400 physicians and more than 200 Good Samaritan Society senior care locations in 26 states and nine countries.

South Dakota asks court to let execution proceed

By **STEPHEN GROVES** Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The state of South Dakota asked a judge Monday to reject an inmate's objection to the lethal drug scheduled for use in his execution.

Charles Russell Rhines is scheduled to die next week for the 1992 fatal stabbing of a 22-year-old doughnut shop worker during a robbery. Rhines moved last week to block the execution by arguing that pentobarbital, commonly used to euthanize animals, doesn't act quickly enough. His lawyers argue that by using the drug, the state would be violating Rhines' right to choose his manner of execution and his right to due process.

The state countered that Rhines' argument is based on pentobarbital's performance in a low-dosage setting, and that it works quickly enough when given in high doses. The drug has been used in recent executions in Georgia, Missouri and Texas.

The state also argued that Rhines' objection could have been brought long ago. A South Dakota circuit court judge is scheduled to hear arguments Tuesday.

Pentobarbital was used last year when South Dakota executed Rodney Berget, who killed a prison guard during a 2011 escape attempt. Berget was pronounced dead 12 minutes after the lethal injection began, and a transcript released afterward said Berget asked after the injection was administered: "Is it supposed to feel like that?" That prompted a national group that studies capital punishment to call on the state to release more details about the drug used.

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

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stomach and back while Rhines was burglarizing the Rapid City doughnut shop where Schaeffer worked. Rhines lost two other appeals to delay his execution last week. In those appeals, he argued that he should be able to meet with mental health experts to prepare a clemency application and that the state's execution policies don't follow the state's rule-making requirement. Rhines' attorney did not return a request for comment.

An exact date for Rhines' execution hasn't been announced.

South Dakota Volleyball Polls By The Associated Press

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

Class AA

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs
1. Watertown	(14)	22-1	70	1
2. S.F. O'Gorman	-	19-4	56	2
3. Huron	-	14-6	39	3
4. S.F. Washington	-	16-7	24	5
5. S.F. Roosevelt	-	15-10	15	4

Others receiving votes: Aberdeen Central (12-7) 5; S.F. Lincoln (11-7) 1.

Class A

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs
1. S.F. Christian	(8)	23-9	61	1
2. Miller	(6)	29-2	57	2
3. Dakota Valley	-	27-3	47	3
4. McCook Central-Montrose	-	-	-	21-3 26 4
5. Winner	-	23-4	13	5

Others receiving votes: St. Thomas More (29-5) 5; Hill City (26-3) 1.

Class B

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs
1. Northwestern	(14)	33-0	70	1
2. Faulkton Area	-	18-4	50	2
3. Faith	-	25-3	37	3
4. Chester Area	-	20-7	33	4
5. Ethan	-	22-6	12	5

Others receiving votes: Warner (23-9) 6; Castlewood (21-4) 1; Burke (27-5) 1.

State Sen. Solano resigns; Noem seeks input on replacement

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota state Sen. Alan Solano of Rapid City has announced his resignation. Solano said Monday he will resign his Senate seat effective Nov. 30. The Republican has represented District 32 since 2014.

Solano said he's recognized the difficulties of balancing his legislative responsibilities with his new professional responsibilities. Solano was named CEO of the John T. Vucurevich Foundation last October. He says he needs "to take a step back and focus" on the foundation and his family.

Among his Senate posts, Solano chairs the Education Committee and the Interim Rules Review Committee. He also is a member of the Health and Human Services Committee and the Transportation Committee.

Gov. Kristi Noem has asked for public input in filling the Senate vacancy. Nominations must be submitted by Nov. 8.

Prolonged Missouri River flooding could last all winter

By JOSH FUNK Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Flooding along the Missouri River has stretched on for seven months in places and could endure through the winter, leaving some Upper Midwest farmland and possibly some homes encased in ice.

There are several reasons for the flooding, including high levels along the river, saturated ground and broken levees. And with forecasters predicting a wetter-than-normal winter, it's possible flooding could continue in some places all the way until spring, when the normal flood season begins.

"There's no end in sight. None at all," said Tom Bullock, who hasn't been able to live in his northwestern Missouri home since March because floodwaters cut off access to it.

In Missouri's Holt County, where Bullock serves as emergency management director, roughly 30,000 acres (12,140 hectares) of the 95,000 acres (38,445 hectares) that flooded last spring remain underwater, and at least some of that floodwater is likely to freeze in place this winter.

Similar conditions exist in places along the lower Missouri River, where broken levees will likely take several years to repair.

Nearly every levee in Holt County has multiple breaches and many haven't even been examined yet. Repairs aren't likely to start on most of the area's levees until next year, Bullock said.

One key contributor to the flooding is that the river remains high because the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is still releasing massive amounts of water from upstream dams to clear space in the reservoirs to handle next spring's flooding.

The Corps said it has been releasing more than twice the normal amount of water from most of the dams along the river and will likely continue at that pace into mid-December.

This year has been exceptionally wet in the Missouri River basin, and the amount of water flowing down the river through the year is expected to match the 2011 record of 61 million acre-feet (75.24 billion cubic meters). That is why the releases must remain high until the river freezes over in winter.

Other rivers and lakes in the region are also swollen. For example, parts of the James River in the Dakotas may not drop below flood stage between now and the start of next year's flood season. About 50,000 sandbags are in place to protect homes and other structures near the river in Jamestown, North Dakota.

"I have never seen the water anywhere near this in the fall," said Bill Anderson, who lives near the James in Montpelier, North Dakota. "If we get a bunch of snow, it's not going to be pretty."

South Dakota officials are also closely watching Lake Andes, which is the largest natural water body in the state and has been overflowing for months. The lake borders the Yankton Sioux Indian Reservation and is located near the Missouri River and Fort Randall Dam.

For the last six months, residents in the town of Lake Andes and surrounding areas have had to deal with high water that has washed out roads, flooded basements and inundated graves, said Kip Spotted Eagle, the tribe's historic preservation director. The problem is exacerbated by a 1930s aqueduct that is not properly draining water from the lake to the Missouri River, he said.

"The water is going to freeze and it's going to stay there and it's going to be a big problem," said Spotted Eagle, who lives in Wagner. "Families and kids are going to walk across that ice because it's a shortcut to town. It's a recipe for disaster."

At this point, any significant rain or snow in the region could lead to new flooding because the soil is too saturated to absorb most of it and many rivers are high, according to the National Weather Service.

"It wouldn't take a big precipitation event to renew the flooding in places," said Kevin Low, a weather service hydrologist at the Missouri River Basin River Forecast Center.

The latest long-term winter forecast from the U.S. Climate Prediction Center predicts that much of the northern United States, including the northern Great Plains, is likely to experience a wetter-than-normal winter. That could mean there will be above-average snowpack in the Missouri River's watershed by spring.

"It's just not a very good setup," Low said.

That's bad news for farmers such as Gene Walter, whose low-lying land north of Council Bluffs, Iowa,

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was underwater for most of this year. Walter still can't work on most of his land because even though the floodwaters have partly receded, it is still too muddy.

Crop insurance will give Walter about 75 percent of his normal income, but this year has been full of additional expenses related to flood damage, so "the financial drain has been unbelievable," Walter said. "We're just tired, he said. "We've been beat up so much. We're just tired."

Associated Press writer Dave Kolpack in Fargo, North Dakota, contributed to this report.

Noem requests disaster declaration for tornadoes, floods

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Gov. Kristi Noem is requesting a presidential disaster declaration for the damage caused by tornadoes and floods that struck southeastern South Dakota in September.

Noem made her request in a letter to President Donald Trump. She wrote that storms, tornadoes and floods damaged homes and businesses as well as public infrastructure such as parks, roads, highways, bridges and electrical systems.

The request is for Sept. 9-26 and includes at least \$17 million in requested federal assistance. During that period three tornadoes struck Sioux Falls and flooding hit Madison and Mitchell.

Noem told Trump this is South Dakota's fifth major disaster declaration request since May 20. She says recovery from other disasters continues and local resources are limited.

Noem says many roads have not yet been repaired or are still closed.

Sioux Falls police say homicide victim, suspect acquainted

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Police say the man who was fatally shot in Sioux Falls over the weekend and the man suspected of killing him knew each other and didn't get along.

During a briefing Monday, police spokesman Sam Clemens says the 36-year-old Sioux Falls man suspected in the fatal shooting is still at large. Clemens says witnesses told police there were two shots to the victim's head.

The shooting happened in a downtown parking lot about 1 a.m. Saturday. Police say there was an altercation involving the men and that the public is not in danger.

Police are also looking for two vehicles that might be connected to the shooting. The vehicles are described as a gray sedan and a white SUV. No other information on the vehicles was provided.

Excerpts from recent South Dakota editorials

By The Associated Press undefined

Madison Daily Leader, Oct. 21

Bryon Noem initiative will be well received

First Gentleman Bryon Noem launched an initiative to bring new attention to South Dakota's small towns, a plan that should be well received.

The title "First Gentleman" is new to South Dakota, having elected our state's woman governor in 2018. Previous spouses of governors have been known as "First Ladies."

Many First Ladies have used that distinction to launch an initiative for the public good, usually something that is personally important to them. Recent First Lady Linda Daugaard promoted literacy as her top priority, but also supported efforts to reducing infant mortality, promoting STEM education, and promoting foster parenting.

Bryon Noem intends to remind people of the hidden gems of South Dakota's small towns and places off the beaten path. "Our hometowns are the heartbeat of our state, and I want to highlight them. I want to remind people that South Dakota's rural communities are some of the best places to raise a family or to start a business," he said.

It isn't yet clear how Noem intends to do this, nor how he intends to measure success. He has indicated he wants to travel to small towns, listen to people's stories and distribute them widely.

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We believe the idea behind his initiative will be well-received. Those of us at the Daily Leader have always believed in the smaller towns in our coverage area, like Rutland, Ramona, Wentworth and Chester, and have told their stories every chance we get.

We hope Noem can be successful in his effort, and look forward to its impact on rural South Dakota.

Aberdeen American News, Oct. 26

Events sadden our souls, but release kindness everywhere

If you want to know what the Malchow family means to Aberdeen, you only needed to peek inside the fellowship hall of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

Last Wednesday morning, the hall looked as if it was a large department store loaded with dry goods, clothing, toiletries, food and other items people need to restart their lives.

That was just days after a devastating Main Street fire that continues to tug at our heartstrings. The smell of charred brick and wood as you drive down Main Street continues to break our hearts.

That Oct. 19-20 fire rampaged through an iconic Aberdeen business in a historic part of the city, destroying everything in its path, including Malchow's Home Furnishing and apartments on the second floor. It also affected a neighboring hardware store and Christian bookstore.

Thankfully, no one was hurt. And that's the most important part.

Malchow's multi-generational business has been a Main Street fixture since 1945. It is family-owned, family-run and family-trusted.

Through the years, the Malchows came to be known as honest and hard-working business owners offering quality goods, and as people who care about their community and who give back to it as much as possible.

Their kindness was reflected in that overloaded fellowship hall at the church the Malchows attend. People were responding to help the displaced victims of those apartments above the store.

But they were also giving in a big way because of who the Malchow family is. And in typical Malchow fashion, as members of the family watched their brick-and-mortar legacy burn, they expressed concern about their apartment tenants and the safety of those working to extinguish the fire.

The Malchows have always taken care of Aberdeen. Now, it is time for Aberdeen to take care of the Malchows and their extended apartment-dwelling families.

A big shout of thanks to all those who have helped and are helping to pick up the pieces in the past few days. Especially the emergency responders, law enforcers and firefighters.

And to the volunteers and those who have donated, thank you. It was heartwarming to see so many delivering food and water to firefighters Saturday night and Sunday morning.

"The community has been wonderful," Brown County Emergency Management Director Scott Meints said about the support shown to the first responders. "Food, drink, snacks, you name it. Everybody has stepped up."

Many of the same people were involved in the search for a recent missing plane. That single-engine plane took off from the Aberdeen airport Oct. 9, and crashed shortly after takeoff.

The wreckage was found Oct. 21 3 miles north of town.

A lot of people, including volunteers of all ages, participated in that nearly two-week search.

It is said that in time of tragedy, true character is revealed. In recent weeks, Aberdeen has been tested.

With Aberdeen's soul bared with these sad events, we like what we see in the hearts of many who live here and in the region.

Thank you all.

Argus Leader, Sioux Falls, Oct. 25.

Coverage for autism treatments worth fighting for

When two of the state's largest health insurance providers announced that they would no longer cover an expensive but effective evidence-based treatment for severe autism on small group and individual plans, South Dakota parents whose children relied on the treatment panicked.

Applied behavioral analysis, or ABA, had allowed their children to make hard-won gains such as the ability to speak or to stop hurting themselves and others. Parents watched despairingly in some cases as those gains started to fall away.

A South Dakota law passed in 2014 has required medically necessary ABA coverage from health insurers since 2015. Exceptions were carved out, though, for small group and individual plans. A proposed law that would have closed that loophole was killed in the State Affairs Committee after heavy lobbying from insurance companies and the state's insurance division.

Twice since then, Governor Kristi Noem's administration has thrown lifelines to these families. This summer, the federal government granted approval to changes South Dakota submitted regarding its Essential Health Benefits Plan. Beginning in 2021, tiered ABA coverage based on a child's age will be required of all private policies.

Although relief was on the way, the treatment — which can range from \$40,000 to \$100,000 a year — would have remained uncovered by insurance and financially out of reach for families on small group or individual plans for a full two years. ABA therapy's gains are greatest in young children. Missing treatment over that time would close the door on early intervention for children shut out of coverage.

Again, Noem rode to the rescue. Her administration brokered a deal with Sanford and Avera health plans to add ABA coverage to its 2020 small group and individual plans. Unfortunately, families who purchase their insurance through the state's health insurance marketplace are still shut out, since the deadline for companies to submit those plans has already passed.

Unless state lawmakers can push through some sort of emergency measure to assist these families, 2019 and 2020 represent a lost therapeutic opportunity for their children. Uncertainty over their future grows.

Potential pitfalls lie ahead with the fixes patched together by the state in its negotiations with insurance companies. In passing their own autism-related statutes last year, North Dakota and Tennessee both cited across-the-board ABA coverage as necessary for compliance with the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act. The MHPAEA was signed into law by President George W. Bush in 2008.

And lawsuits against insurance companies whose ABA coverage features treatment limits based on age — as South Dakota's latest Essential Health Benefits Plan lays out — are gaining traction across the country. The health insurer Anthem settled one such class action suit over ABA coverage limitations last year.

Parents are also concerned about how much staying power the 2021 treatment requirements will have. Essential health benefits plans are subject to change more quickly and with more departmental latitude than a mandate written into state law might be. There's also concern over how binding the temporary patch is that Sanford and Avera have agreed on to secure treatment for some children through 2020.

The semantics and process pieces of this problem can overshadow other practical concerns and costs versus benefits. The State Affairs Committee rejected the proposed legislative fix after the lobbying efforts of the state Division of Insurance, which claimed prohibitive costs should the state need to cover a new mandate. In killing the bill, the committee weighed the \$1.4 million cost to the state as heavier than the \$3.2 million cost per child over a lifetime of care.

In those committee hearings, insurance companies also warned of increased premium costs to consumers due to greater financial risk. But when Missouri mandated coverage of all policies in 2018, premiums only increased by 51 cents a month. When South Carolina did the same in 2015, insurance premiums went up by a mere 40 cents a month.

Given the high stakes involved, it behooves our state legislature to take another run at this topic to try to ensure that loopholes don't serve as obstacles for South Dakota children in need.

South Dakota Democrats plan leadership election in December

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Democratic Party plans to elect a new party chair in December after two leaders resigned amid financial problems.

The party's Executive Committee met in emergency session Saturday and created working groups to tackle its recent woes. The Argus Leader reported the party's Central Committee will elect the new chair during its next meeting on Dec. 7.

Chairwoman Paula Hawks and Executive Director Stacey Burnette resigned last week after a Federal Elections Commission report revealed the party owes nearly \$47,000 and has a negative balance of more than \$8,000.

Acting chairman Randy Seiler characterized the party's direction as positive and committed to cleaning up its debts. He told the Argus Leader he is not interested in holding the chair permanently.

An FEC audit earlier this year for the years 2015 and 2016 also found several problems with party finances, including failing to disclose debts and vendor obligations. The state party has closed its offices in Sioux Falls and Rapid City with its staff working remotely.

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

Masked men attack protesters in Iraq's Karbala, killing 18

By ZEINA KARAM and JOSEPH KRAUSS Associated Press

Masked gunmen opened fire at Iraqi protesters in the Shiite holy city of Karbala on Tuesday, killing 18 people and wounding hundreds, security officials said, in one of the deadliest single attacks on protesters since anti-government demonstrations erupted earlier this month.

The attack, which happened overnight, came as Iraqis took to the streets for a fifth consecutive day, protesting their government's corruption, lack of services and other grievances.

The bloodshed in Karbala, a major pilgrimage site where a revered Shiite figure was killed in a 7th century battle, could mark a turning point in the demonstrations.

It was not immediately clear who was behind the attack, and protesters said they did not know whether the masked men were riot police, special forces or Iran-linked militias. The protesters said Iraqi soldiers had been stationed around the protest site but withdrew after the attackers began firing tear gas and live fire.

The provincial governor, Nassif al-Khutabi, denied that any protesters were killed but said there were some injuries among security forces.

He said videos that had spread online were fabricated and not from Karbala. Footage circulating online purporting to show the aftermath of the attack showed fires and people running away to the backdrop of heavy gunfire.

The protests across Iraq, leaderless and largely spontaneous, have been met with bullets and tear gas by security forces from the first day.

At least 73 protesters — not including the latest fatalities in Karbala — have been killed since anti-government demonstrations resumed on Friday, after 149 were killed during an earlier wave of protests this month.

Tuesday's attack happened in Karbala's Education Square, where protesters had set up tents for their sit-in.

One of the demonstrators said they were chanting slogans when an army unit arrived, and that they gave the soldiers flowers and had friendly interactions with them. Then tear gas canisters came spiraling into the square, fired from the streets and alleys behind the soldiers, who then withdrew.

"We saw masked men dressed all in black and they fired live bullets toward the square," the protester said. "People fell dead and wounded right next to me. We tried to escape but when we fled into the alleys we ran into moving checkpoints set up by these forces. They arrested people and searched their phones for video of what had happened."

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Another witness said hundreds of protesters were in the encampment when someone opened fire from a passing car. Then, masked gunmen in black plainclothes arrived and started shooting at the protesters, and tents caught fire.

Both witnesses spoke on condition of anonymity, fearing reprisal. Iraqi security officials confirmed the death toll, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to reporters.

Karbala, along with Baghdad and cities across southern Iraq, has been gripped by a wave of anti-government protests which have often turned violent, with security forces opening fire and protesters torching government buildings and headquarters of Iran-backed militias.

The demonstrations have erupted in Shiite-majority areas and have been directed at the Shiite-dominated government and Shiite political parties and militias, many of which are supported by neighboring Iran.

Karbala is one of the holiest places in Shiite Islam, where Hussein, the grandson of the Prophet Muhammad, was killed in battle in A.D. 680, a formative event in the schism between Shiite and Sunni Muslims. Hundreds of thousands of Shiites flock to the city every year to commemorate his martyrdom.

The overwhelming majority of the residents in Karbala and the city's security forces are Shiite.

The demonstrations are fueled by anger at corruption, economic stagnation and poor public services. Despite its vast oil wealth, Iraq suffers from high unemployment and crumbling infrastructure, with frequent power outages that force many to rely on private generators.

The protests have grown and demonstrators are now calling for sweeping changes, not just the government's resignation. Prime Minister Adel Abdel-Mahdi has promised a government reshuffle and a reform package, which the demonstrators have already rejected.

Authorities on Monday announced a curfew from midnight to 6 a.m. in the capital, as renewed protests there and across the south raged. A senior security official estimated that 25,000 protesters took part in the demonstration in the capital on Monday.

Thousands of students joined Iraq's anti-government protests, as clashes with security forces firing tear gas canisters killed at least three demonstrators and wounded more than 100.

Students skipped classes at several universities and secondary schools in Baghdad and across southern Iraq on Monday to take part in the protests, despite the government ordering schools and universities to operate normally.

One of those killed was a 22-year-old female medical student, the first woman to be killed since the protests began earlier this month. Seventeen students were among the wounded.

10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

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

1. 'I WAS CONCERNED BY THE CALL'

Alexander Vindman, an Army officer at the National Security Council, says he raised concerns twice over the Trump administration's effort to have Ukraine investigate Democrats.

2. WHERE PENTAGON IS SHIFTING ITS FOCUS

The Defense Department is increasing U.S. efforts to protect Syria's oil fields from the Islamic State group as well as from Syria itself and the country's Russian allies.

3. WHAT MILLIONS OF CALIFORNIANS ARE BRACING FOR

To spend days in the dark as the nation's largest utility says it is switching off power again to prevent powerful winds from damaging its equipment and sparking more wildfires.

4. IRAQI SHIITE HOLY CITY HIT WITH VIOLENCE

Iraqi security forces wearing masks and black plainclothes open fire at protesters in Karbala, killing 18 people and wounding hundreds, security officials say.

5. WHO HONG KONG BANNED FROM ELECTIONS

High-profile pro-democracy activist Joshua Wong, and the city's leader rules out political solutions before the end of the violent protests gripping the semi-autonomous Chinese territory.

6. HOW THEY'RE SAVING ENDANGERED GORILLAS

That entails monitoring every single African gorilla in the rainforest, periodically intervening with veterinary care and funding forest protection by sending money into communities.

7. CONGRESSWOMAN'S EXIT INVITES SCRUTINY

The resignation of Rep. Katie Hill over a consensual relationship with a female campaign aide sparks questions about whether women are held to higher standards in public life.

8. FOR SOME COLLEGE GRADS, FINANCIAL RELIEF

A small but growing number of employers are offering help for employees to pay off student debt.

9. KIDS' APPETITE FOR ONLINE VIDEO ON THE RISE

The number of young Americans watching online videos every day has more than doubled in the past four years, a survey finds.

10. STEELERS OVERCOME SLOW START TO KEEP DOLPHINS WINLESS

Mason Rudolph, booed earlier in the game, rebounded to throw for 251 yards and two touchdowns as Pittsburgh recovered from a 14-0 deficit to beat Miami 27-14.

Army officer says he raised concerns about Trump and Ukraine

By **LISA MASCARO, MARY CLARE JALONICK and COLLEEN LONG** Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A military officer at the National Security Council twice raised concerns over the Trump administration's push to have Ukraine investigate Democrats and Joe Biden, according to testimony the official is to deliver Tuesday in the House impeachment inquiry.

Alexander Vindman, an Army lieutenant colonel who served in Iraq and, later, as a diplomat, is prepared to tell House investigators that he listened to President Donald Trump's July 25 call with new Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and reported his concerns to the NSC's lead counsel.

"I was concerned by the call," Vindman will say, according to prepared testimony obtained Monday night by The Associated Press. "I did not think it was proper to demand that a foreign government investigate a U.S. citizen, and I was worried about the implications for the U.S. government's support of Ukraine."

Vindman is the first White House official who listened in on that call to testify as the impeachment inquiry reaches deeper into the Trump administration and Democrats prepare for the next, public phase of the probe. He's also the first current White House official to appear before the impeachment panels.

The inquiry is looking into Trump's call, in which he asked Zelenskyy for a "favor" — to investigate Democrats — that Democrats say was a quid pro quo that could be an impeachable offense.

The 20-year military officer will testify that he first reported his concerns after an earlier meeting July 10 in which U.S. Ambassador to the European Union Gordon Sondland stressed the importance of having Ukraine investigate the 2016 election as well as Burisma, a company linked to the family of Biden, a 2020 Democratic presidential candidate.

Vindman says he told Sondland that "his statements were inappropriate, that the request to investigate Biden and his son had nothing to do with national security, and that such investigations were not something the NSC was going to get involved in or push."

That account differs from Sondland's, a wealthy businessman who donated \$1 million to Trump inauguration and testified before the impeachment investigators that no one from the NSC "ever expressed any concerns." He also testified that he did not realize any connection between Biden and Burisma.

For the call between Trump and Zelenskyy, Vindman said he listened in the Situation Room with colleagues from the NSC and Vice President Mike Pence's office and was concerned. He said he again reported his concerns to the NSC's lead counsel.

He wrote, "I realized that if Ukraine pursued an investigation into the Bidens and Burisma, it would likely be interpreted as a partisan play which would undoubtedly result in Ukraine losing the bipartisan support it has thus far maintained. This would all undermine U.S. national security."

Vindman, who arrived in the United States as a 3-year-old from the former Soviet Union, served in various military and diplomatic posts before joining the NSC. He was the director for European affairs and

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a Ukraine expert under Fiona Hill, a former official who testified earlier in the impeachment probe. Hill worked for former national security adviser John Bolton.

Vindman will be a key witness. He attended Zelenskiy's inauguration with a delegation led by Energy Secretary Rick Perry, and he and Hill were both part of a Ukraine briefing with Sondland that others have testified irritated Bolton at the White House.

Vindman will testify that he is not the whistleblower, the still unnamed government official who filed the initial complaint over Trump's conversation with the Ukraine president that sparked the House impeachment inquiry. He will say he does not know who the whistleblower is.

"I am a patriot, and it is my sacred duty and honor to advance and defend OUR country, irrespective of party or politics," wrote Vindman, who was wounded in Iraq and awarded a Purple Heart.

"For over twenty years as an active duty United States military officer and diplomat, I have served this country in a nonpartisan manner, and have done so with the utmost respect and professionalism for both Republican and Democratic administrations," he wrote.

The testimony comes a day after Speaker Nancy Pelosi announced the House will vote on a resolution to affirm the impeachment investigation, set rules for public hearings and outline the potential process for writing articles of impeachment against Trump. The vote is expected Thursday.

It would be the first formal House vote on the impeachment inquiry and aims to nullify complaints from Trump and his allies that the process is illegitimate, unfair and lacking due process.

Democrats insisted they weren't yielding to Republican pressure. Pelosi dismissed the Republican argument that impeachment can't begin without formal approval from the House and brushed off their complaints about the closed-door process.

"I do not care. I do not care. This is a false thing with them," Pelosi said. "Understand, it has nothing to do with them. It has to do with how we proceed."

Pelosi's announcement Monday came just hours after a former White House national security official defied a House subpoena for closed-door testimony, escalating the standoff between Congress and the White House over who will testify.

Charles Kupperman, who was a deputy to Bolton, failed to show up for the scheduled closed-door deposition after filing a lawsuit asking a federal court in Washington to rule on whether he was legally required to appear.

Democrats have indicated they are likely to use no-show witnesses to write an article of impeachment against Trump for obstruction of justice, rather than launching potentially lengthy court battles to obtain testimony.

Associated Press writers Zeke Miller, Eric Tucker and Alan Fram contributed to this report.

UK moves closer to holding 1st December election since 1923

By DANICA KIRKA and JILL LAWESS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The leader of the U.K.'s opposition Labour Party told fellow lawmakers Tuesday that he'll back an early election for Britain now that the prospect of crashing out of the European Union without a deal has been taken off the table.

The move by Jeremy Corbyn all but guarantees the country will face its first December election since 1923.

Corbyn's remarks came only hours before British Prime Minister Boris Johnson was set to once again ask lawmakers to approve an early election, saying voters must have the chance to break the Brexit deadlock in Parliament.

"We have now heard from the EU that the extension of Article 50 to January 31 has been confirmed, so for the next three months, our condition of taking no-deal off the table has now been met," Corbyn said. "We will now launch the most ambitious and radical campaign for real change our country has ever seen."

In an effort to blunt opposition to an early vote, the government said Monday it would delay further consideration of the EU divorce deal until after the election. The government wants a Dec. 12 election.

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Johnson on Monday had accused opponents of betraying voters' decision to leave the EU and said that without an early election, the government would be like Charlie Brown, "endlessly running up to kick the ball only to have Parliament whisk it away."

"We cannot continue with this endless delay," he said.

Two opposition parties, the Liberal Democrats and Scottish National Party, had proposed an even earlier election date in hopes that there wouldn't be enough time for the government to push through its Brexit bill before Parliament is suspended ahead of the election. The two parties say they will consider Johnson's latest proposal, though they still prefer a Dec. 9 election.

"It cannot be the 12th," said Liberal Democrat lawmaker Chuka Ummuna, who suggested his party could accept a compromise date of Dec. 10 or 11.

"We will see what else they come forward with," he said. "We have got to break the gridlock."

Johnson took office in July vowing to "get Brexit done" after his predecessor, Theresa May, resigned in defeat. Parliament had rejected her divorce deal three times, and the EU had delayed Britain's scheduled March 29 departure, first to April, and then to the end of October.

The EU on Monday agreed to extend the Brexit deadline for a third time, this time until Jan. 31.

Johnson, who said just weeks ago that he would "rather be dead in a ditch" than postpone the U.K.'s leaving date past Oct. 31, was forced to seek the extension on Parliament's orders to avoid a no-deal Brexit, which would damage the economies of both Britain and the EU.

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

Report: Saudi Aramco shares to start trading in December

By JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — The long-planned initial public offering of a sliver of Saudi Arabia's state-run oil giant Saudi Aramco will see shares traded on Riyadh's stock exchange in December, a Saudi-owned satellite news channel reported Tuesday as the kingdom's marquee investment forum got underway.

The report by Dubai-based Al-Arabiya offered a crackle of life to the Future Investment Initiative in the kingdom's capital of Riyadh, an event created by Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. Initial panels at the forum offered a pessimistic look at a world as participants described the global economy as a teetering on a 1930s-level crisis.

Prince Mohammed, however, hopes for a very-optimistic \$2 trillion valuation for Aramco, which produces 10 million barrels of crude oil a day and provides some 10% of global demand. That would raise \$100 billion he needs for his ambitious redevelopment plans for Saudi Arabia.

However, economic worries, the trade war between China and the U.S. and increased crude oil production by the U.S. has depressed energy prices. A Sept. 14 attack on the heart of Aramco already spooked some investors, with one ratings company already downgrading the oil giant. Meanwhile, questions persist over how the initial public offering will be handled even as Saudi Aramco offers sweeteners and promises of an estimated \$75 billion dividend next year.

The report by Al-Arabiya did not elaborate and cited anonymous sources for the information. However, the channel often breaks news before even the kingdom's state-run media and is widely believed to have a direct line to the Al Saud royal family.

The station's English arm offered more details, saying that a final price for the stock will be set Dec. 4, with shares then beginning to be traded on the Riyadh-based Tadawul stock market on Dec. 11. It added that the Saudi Capital Markets Authority will make a formal announcement about the IPO plans on Sunday. Pricing will begin Nov. 17, it said.

"The Aramco IPO is a cornerstone of Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 plan, which aims to wean the kingdom off its reliance on oil to diversify the economy," the channel said in its report.

Saudi state media and government officials did not immediately acknowledge the report. There also have been other delays in the IPO as well, which has analysts still skeptical.

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There also have been decisions seemingly forced onto Aramco recently, including the nearly \$70 billion purchase in March of the petrochemical firm Saudi Basic Industries Corp. just before it announced a plunge in its quarterly profits. That has seen a change in the long-standing perception that a "strong Saudi Aramco is a strong Saudi Arabia" to viewing the company as a "great source of capital," said Ellen R. Wald, an Aramco expert who wrote the recent book on the firm called "Saudi, Inc."

The kingdom has in the past used the company as a piggy bank, back when it was still an American company. Since buying a 100% interest in the firm by 1980, Saudi Arabia's ruling Al Saud family as its sole "shareholder" largely hasn't interfered in the company's long-term business decisions as its revenue provides around 60% of all government revenue.

"It's a trend that I see is disturbing," Wald told The Associated Press. "It could be potentially damaging to the company, and then in the long term, damaging to the source of funding that has made Saudi Arabia so strong."

Despite that, Wald said the IPO could prove positive for Aramco in the long term. She anticipated the firm offering as much as 3% of its worth on the Tadawul, with hopes a lot of interest in it would drive up its valuation ahead of a possible foreign listing.

The Future Investment Initiative drew 6,000 people and international firms to Riyadh for a forum that's the brainchild of the 34-year-old Prince Mohammed. Already, the forum announced Dow Chemicals, HSBC, Samsung and other global firms as partners to the event. Major private equity firms and investment houses also are taking part.

Heads of state are attending, with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Jordan's King Abdullah II both scheduled to speak Tuesday. Also scheduled is Jared Kushner, President Donald Trump's son-in-law and a White House adviser.

The event is held in part at Riyadh's Ritz-Carlton Hotel, which served as a detention facility during a 2017 purge targeting businessmen, princes and others. Described at the time as an anti-corruption campaign, the arrests targeted wealthy potential challengers to the prince and cemented his grip on power amid allegations of torture denied by the kingdom. Authorities later said it saw the government recoup over \$100 billion.

However, there will be big names not taking part. Among them is Jeff Bezos, the CEO of Amazon and the owner of the Post, who had been in negotiations to open data centers in the kingdom before the killing and dismemberment of Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi at the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul.

Khashoggi's death cast a pall over last year's forum, which saw Prince Mohammed give a fiery speech in which he described the killing as "a heinous act that is unjustifiable." However, U.S. officials and a recent United Nations special rapporteur's report suspect Prince Mohammed had a role in the slaying as members of the team of assassins sent to kill Khashoggi had links to the prince.

As the forum started, panelists like Ray Dalio, the founder of the world's largest hedge fund Bridgewater Associates, offered stark warnings about the state of the global economy, rising inequality and "a conflict between capitalism and socialism."

"There's a form of revolution taking place," Dalio said.

Kirill Dmitriev, the CEO of Russia Direct Investment Fund, offered a similarly sunny opinion, discussing the "weaponization of ideas."

"If there's a major war, or God forbid, nuclear war, nobody will care about monetary policy," he said. "Those geopolitical tensions need to reduce."

Follow Jon Gambrell on Twitter at www.twitter.com/jongambrellAP .

Not over yet: New US Syria mission after al-Baghdadi's death

By **ROBERT BURNS AP National Security Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Pivoting from the dramatic killing of the Islamic State group's leader, the Pentagon is increasing U.S. efforts to protect Syria's oil fields from the extremist group as well as from Syria itself and the country's Russian allies. It's a new high-stakes mission even as American troops are withdrawn from other parts of the country.

Defense Secretary Mark Esper says the military's oil field mission also will ensure income for Syrian Kurds who are counted on by Washington to continue guarding Islamic State prisoners and helping American forces combat remnants of the group — even as President Donald Trump continues to insist all U.S. troops will come home.

"We don't want to be a policeman in this case," Trump said Monday, referring to America's role after Turkey's incursion in Syria. In the face of Turkey's early October warning that it would invade and create a "safe zone" on the Syrian side of its border, Trump ordered U.S. forces to step aside, effectively abandoning a Kurdish militia that had partnered with U.S. troops.

Esper and Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, spoke at a Pentagon news conference to cheer the successful mission by U.S. special operations forces Saturday that ended with IS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi blowing himself up. Esper called al-Baghdadi's death a "devastating blow" to an organization that already had lost its hold on a wide swath of territory in Syria and Iraq.

Milley said the U.S. had disposed of al-Baghdadi's remains "appropriately" and in line with the laws of armed conflict. He also said U.S. forces retrieved unspecified intelligence information from the site, which he described as a place in northwestern Syria where the IS leader had been "staying on a consistent basis."

A U.S. military dog that was slightly injured in the raid has recovered and is back at work, Milley said.

Esper hinted at uncertainty ahead in Syria, even though the Islamic State has lost its inspirational leader, with the Syrian government exploiting support from Russia and Iran.

"The security situation in Syria remains complex," Esper said.

A big part of that complexity is the rejiggering of the battlefield since Trump earlier this month ordered a full U.S. troop withdrawal from positions along the Turkish border in northeastern Syria. Even as those troops leave, other U.S. forces are heading to the oil-producing region of eastern Syria, east of the Euphrates River.

Trump recently has proposed hiring an American oil company to begin repairing Syria's oil infrastructure, which has been devastated by years of war. Repeated U.S. airstrikes against facilities for oil storage, transport, processing and refining starting in 2015 inflicted heavy damage.

Esper said last week that a "mechanized" force would reinforce U.S. positions in the oil region, meaning a force equipped with tanks or Bradley infantry carriers. On Monday he provided no details about the makeup of the force.

He referred to "multiple state and nonstate" forces vying for control of Syrian territory and resources, including the oil. He said that while the main U.S. military mission is to ensure the "enduring defeat" of the Islamic State, that now will include denying oil income for the group.

"The United States will retain control of oil fields in northeast Syria," Esper said, adding that at the height of al-Baghdadi's rule, those oil fields provided the bulk of his group's income.

Esper's remarks echoed Trump's focus on the oil. But whose oil is it?

"We're keeping the oil," Trump said during a speech to police officers in Chicago. "Remember that, I've always said that. Keep the oil. We want to keep the oil — \$45 million a month — keep the oil. We've secured the oil."

Esper emphasized that the purpose of securing Syria's oil region is to deny income to the Islamic State. But a reporter asked whether the mission includes preventing Russian and Syrian government forces from entering that area.

"The short answer is yes, it presently does," Esper said, "because in that case we want to make sure" the Syrian Kurdish-led militia known as the Syrian Democratic Forces, "does have access to the resources

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in order to guard the prisons and arm their own troops, in order to assist us with the defeat-ISIS mission.”

This area has been the scene of unusual confrontations with U.S. forces, such as a one-sided battle in February 2018 in which a pro-Syrian government force reported to be mainly private Russian mercenaries unleashed an artillery barrage near a small U.S. military outpost. As then-Defense Secretary Jim Mattis recounted the episode in congressional testimony two months later, he ordered the attacking force to be “annihilated - and it was” after Russian authorities insisted the attackers were not their troops.

Esper said Monday that he has seen no sign of Syrian or Russian forces challenging U.S. control of the oil fields.

In recent days, however, U.S. officials detected what they considered to be a significant massing of Syrian and Russian forces on the western side of the Euphrates River near Deir el-Zour, a U.S. official said Monday. Russian officials were contacted by phone, and the U.S. was given assurances that the staged forces would not move east, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss a sensitive issue.

Jim Jeffrey, the Trump administration’s special envoy for Syria, seemed to refer to this episode when he said last Friday, “We are currently very concerned about certain developments in the south, in the Deir el-Zour area. 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.”

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

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

The oil was always likely to be a bargaining chip by the Kurds to negotiate a deal with the Syrian government, which unsuccessfully tried to reach the oil fields to retake them from IS. With Trump saying he plans to keep forces to secure the oil, it seems the oil will continue to be used for leverage— with Moscow and Damascus.

AP Diplomatic Writer Matthew Lee contributed.

Survey: Number of kids watching online videos soars

By MARTHA IRVINE AP National Writer

The number of young Americans watching online videos every day has more than doubled, according to survey findings released Tuesday. They’re glued to them for nearly an hour a day, twice as long as they were four years ago.

And often, the survey found, they’re seeing the videos on services such as YouTube that are supposedly off limits to children younger than age 13.

“It really is the air they breathe,” said Michael Robb, senior director of research for Common Sense Media, the nonprofit organization that issued the report. The group tracks young people’s tech habits and offers guidance for parents.

The survey of American youth included the responses of 1,677 young people, ages 8 to 18. Among other things, it found that 56% of 8- to 12-year-olds and 69% of 13- to 18-year-olds watch online videos every day. In 2015, the last time the survey was conducted, those figures were 24% and 34%, respectively. The margin of error was plus or minus 2.8 percentage points.

Overall screen time hasn’t changed much in those four years, the survey found. The average tween, ages 8 to 12 for the purposes of this survey, spent four hours and 44 minutes with entertainment media on digital devices each day. For teens, it was seven hours and 22 minutes. That did not include the time using devices for homework, reading books or listening to music.

But the findings on video-watching indicate just how quickly this generation is shifting from traditional television to streaming services, often viewed on smartphones, tablets and laptops. Among the teens

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surveyed, only a third said they enjoyed watching traditional television programming “a lot,” compared with 45% four years ago. Half of tweens said the same, compared with 61% in the last survey.

YouTube was their overwhelming first choice for online videos, even among the tweens who were surveyed — three-quarters of whom say they use the site despite age restrictions. Only 23% in that age group said they watch YouTube Kids, a separate service aimed at them and even younger children. And of those, most still said they preferred regular YouTube.

“It puts a lot of pressure on a parent to figure out what they can reasonably filter,” Robb said.

When presented with the findings, YouTube said that, in the coming months, it will share details on ways the company is rethinking its approach to kids and families.

For now, Farshad Shadloo, a spokesperson for YouTube, a subsidiary of Google, reiterated the company’s terms of use on age: “YouTube is not a site for people under 13.” Among other things, the company also cited its restriction filters and YouTube Kids.

Even so, many children with online access are adept at getting access to regular YouTube or other streaming content — partly because their parents are overwhelmed, said Sarah Domoff, an assistant professor of clinical psychology at Central Michigan University who studies tech’s impact on youth and families.

Those parents could certainly be doing more to track screen time, she said. But, as she sees it, filters on services such as YouTube also aren’t adequate.

“It’s really hard to block out certain things unless you’re really standing over your child,” Domoff said. That’s especially hard to do when devices are portable.

Some are skeptical about how much YouTube will really change a service that easily leads its users, young and old alike, down a “rabbit hole” of video content, much of it created by everyday people.

“If your model is built on maintaining attention, it’s really hard to do something,” said Robb, of Common Sense Media.

His advice to families: “Protect homework time, family time, dinner time and bed time. Have device-free times or zones.”

Domoff added, “There needs to be a game plan.”

Martha Irvine, an AP national writer and visual journalist, can be reached at mirvine@ap.org or at <http://twitter.com/irvineap>.

Activist barred from election as Hong Kong nears recession

KELVIN CHAN Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — Hong Kong authorities barred pro-democracy activist Joshua Wong from an election as the city’s leader warned Tuesday that months of violent protests have pushed the city to the brink of recession.

In comments likely to further anger protesters, Chief Executive Carrie Lam said there would be no political solution until the violent protests gripping the semi-autonomous Chinese territory end.

“For the government to resort to measures that will appease the violent rioters, I don’t think that is the solution,” Lam told reporters.

“Until and unless we tackle the violence and put an end to it, it is very difficult to continue the political dialogue we have done,” Lam said.

Hong Kong has been wracked by political crisis since early June. What initially were massive but peaceful marches and sit-ins have intensified into battles between hardcore demonstrators hurling firebombs and bricks at police who have deployed tear gas, rubber bullets and water cannons. Both sides blame the other for using increasingly aggressive tactics.

Samson Yuen, an assistant professor of political science at Lingnan University, said the main factor drawing people into the protests has been anger over alleged police brutality.

Yuen said the decision to disqualify Wong from running in a local election was a “strange decision” also likely to add to public “anger or grievances.”

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Wong, 23, became known as the young face of Hong Kong's "Umbrella Movement" that peacefully occupied streets for 79 days in 2014. He since has been repeatedly arrested and jailed. He has played a smaller role in the current protests, whose leadership is more diffuse, but China's communist leaders have targeted him in accusing foreign powers of colluding with anti-China separatists to foment unrest.

Wong posted on his Twitter account a copy of a letter ruling invalid his nomination as a candidate in the Nov. 24 local district council elections. The government confirmed Wong's disqualification, without identifying him.

"The decision to ban me from running for office is clearly politically driven," Wong told reporters. He said Beijing was pressuring Hong Kong election officials to carry out political censorship but it would backfire.

"It will just trigger more and more Hong Kongers to take to the street and also vote in the election."

The letter said Wong's embrace of the concept of self-determination includes Hong Kong's independence, which violates a requirement to promise to uphold its constitution. Wong denied that, saying his answers to the officer's questions were twisted as part of a "mind reading game."

Wong and other pro-democracy activists were disqualified from running in previous elections. This time, Wong said he alone was banned among more than 1,000 candidates.

Hong Kong's neighborhood councilors and half of Hong Kong's legislature are directly elected, but the rest are chosen by trade and industry groups while the top leader is handpicked by an elite pro-Beijing panel.

The protesters are seeking full democracy and want that to change.

The current round of demonstrations was sparked by concern over proposed extradition legislation that could have led to Hong Kong citizens facing trials in mainland Chinese courts, where they would not enjoy the same sorts of civil protections granted to their own region when Britain handed control of the former colony to China in 1997.

It reflects deep unease over an erosion of such rights and liberties, which are denied to people living under communist rule in the Chinese mainland.

The extradition legislation was eventually formally withdrawn, but the authorities have rejected calls for Lam to resign and for an independent inquiry into the handling of the protests by the police. Meanwhile, the protesters have widened their demands, seeking greater democracy.

With no end to the standoff in sight, Lam said the city is at risk of falling into a recession as its tourism and retail industries languish.

"If this quarter's growth rate, compared to the second quarter's growth rate, is negative, it will be the second decline in a row. Then it can be said that we have entered a technical recession," she said.

The economy could end up contracting for the full year, she said.

Fresh protests, looting erupt in Chile despite new Cabinet

By MICHAEL WEISSENSTEIN and EVA VERGARA Associated Press

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP) — Fresh protests and attacks on businesses erupted in Chile Monday despite President Sebastián Piñera's replacement of eight key Cabinet ministers with more centrist figures and his attempts to assure the country he has heard calls for greater equality and improved social services.

Thousands of protesters crowded again into central Santiago, and one group set fire to a building that houses a fast-food restaurant and stores. Firefighters were battling the blaze.

Other looters attacked a pharmacy, and there was an attempt to set a subway station on fire. Meanwhile, hundreds of thousands of people attempted to get home from work on free buses sent to replace trains out of service due to the burning of dozens of stations over the last week in Latin America's most modern public transportation system.

By Monday evening, piles of detritus burned on street corners and some residents and business owners tried to extinguish blazes with handheld fire extinguishers. At least a couple dozen glass storefronts were smashed and graffiti cursing Piñera and calling for revolution was sprayed on virtually every building.

Piñera replaced the heads of the interior, treasury, economy, labor and four other ministries with generally younger officials seen as more centrist and accessible.

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"Chile has changed and the government must change," Chile's president said.

However, his government announced no policies Monday aimed at addressing 10 days of protests over deficient social services and the high cost of living in one of Latin America's most prosperous and modern nations.

"A new Cabinet isn't enough, we need real changes in health care, education, pensions," said Omar Soto, 34, who runs a cellphone shop.

Protesters almost uniformly say they are frustrated with the so-called neoliberal model that has left Chile with region-topping prosperity along with a widely criticized private pension system, and two-tiered health and education systems that blend the public and private, with better results for the minority who can afford to pay.

Many Chileans talk of waiting a year for an appointment with a specialist, or families receiving calls to finally set up appointments for loved ones who died months earlier. Hundreds of thousands are hobbled by educational loans that can follow them into their 40s and even 50s.

"Last Friday we had a peaceful protest and being peaceful they didn't listen to us," said Sebastián, a 25-year-old welder who declined to give his last name saying he fear authorities. "You have to get their attention somehow."

Adding to protesters' anger was a military crackdown on demonstrations and looting that has left 1,132 hurt, with dozens partially blinded by police or soldiers' gunshot pellets, according to the National Human Rights Institute and the Chilean College of Medicine. The death toll from the 10 days of violence stands at 20, although it is unclear how many were killed by police and how many by looters.

The U.N. High Commissioner on Human Rights, former Chilean President Michelle Bachelet, was sending a delegation to the country Monday to investigate the situation. Amnesty International was also sending a team.

From afar, Chile has been a regional success story — under democratically elected presidents on the left and right, a free-market consensus has driven growth up, poverty down and won Chile the region's highest score on the United Nations Human Development Index, a blend of life expectancy, education and national income per capita. In 2010, Chile became the second Latin member of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, after Mexico.

Meanwhile, a 2017 UN report found that the richest 1% of the population earns 33 percent of the nation's wealth. That helps make Chile the most unequal country in the OECD, slightly worse than Mexico. Piñera himself is a billionaire, one of the country's richest men.

___ Michael Weissenstein on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/mweissenstein>

___ Associated Press correspondents Marcos Sepulveda in Santiago and Luis Andres Henao in Buenos Aires contributed to this report.

Air Force's mystery space plane lands, ends 2-year mission

By **MARCIA DUNN AP Aerospace Writer**

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — The Air Force's mystery space plane is back on Earth, following a record-breaking two-year mission.

The X-37B landed at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida early Sunday. The Air Force is mum about what the plane did in orbit after launching aboard a SpaceX rocket in 2017. The 780-day mission sets a new endurance record for the reusable test vehicle.

It looks like a space shuttle but is one-fourth the size at 29 feet.

Officials say this latest mission successfully completed its objectives. Experiments from the Air Force Research Laboratory were aboard.

This was the fifth spaceflight by a vehicle of this sort. No. 6 is planned next year with another launch from Cape Canaveral. According to Air Force Secretary Barbara Barrett, "Each successive mission advances our nation's space capabilities."

How do you save endangered gorillas? With lots of human help

CHRISTINA LARSON AP Science Writer

KINIGI, Rwanda (AP) — Deep in the rainforest of Volcanoes National Park, a 23-year-old female gorilla named Kurudi feeds on a stand of wild celery. She bends the green stalks and, with long careful fingers, peels off the exterior skin to expose the succulent inside.

Biologist Jean Paul Hirwa notes her meal on his tablet computer as he peers out from behind a nearby stand of stinging nettles.

The large adult male sitting next to her, known as a silverback, looks at him quizzically. Hirwa makes a low hum — “ahh-mmm” — imitating the gorillas’ usual sound of reassurance.

“I’m here,” Hirwa is trying to say. “It’s OK. No reason to worry.”

Hirwa and the two great apes are all part of the world’s longest-running gorilla study — a project begun in 1967 by famed American primatologist Dian Fossey.

Yet Fossey herself, who died in 1985, would likely be surprised any mountain gorillas are left to study. Alarmed by rising rates of poaching and deforestation in central Africa, she predicted the species could go extinct by 2000.

Instead, a concerted and sustained conservation campaign has averted the worst and given a second chance to these great apes, which share about 98% of human DNA.

Last fall, the Switzerland-based International Union for Conservation of Nature changed the status of mountain gorillas from “critically endangered” to “endangered,” an improved if still-fragile designation, reflecting new survey data.

It wouldn’t have happened without an intervention some biologists call “extreme conservation,” which has entailed monitoring every single gorilla in the rainforest, periodically giving them veterinary care — to clean infected wounds, for instance — and funding forest protection by sending money into communities that might otherwise resent not being able to convert the woods into cropland.

“The gorillas are still here. We celebrate that as a victory,” Hirwa says.

Instead of disappearing, the number of mountain gorillas — a subspecies of eastern gorillas — has risen from 680 a decade ago to just over 1,000 today. Their population is split between two regions, including mist-covered defunct volcanoes within Congo, Uganda and Rwanda — one of Africa’s smallest and most densely populated countries.

“The population of mountain gorillas is still vulnerable,” says George Schaller, a renowned biologist and gorilla expert. “But their numbers are now growing, and that’s remarkable.”

Once depicted in legends and films like “King Kong” as fearsome beasts, gorillas are actually languid primates that eat only plants and insects, and live in fairly stable, extended family groups. Their strength and chest-thumping displays are generally reserved for contests between male rivals.

Hirwa works for the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund, a conservation nonprofit group. The organization is a successor to the Digit Fund, which Fossey created in 1978 after poachers killed one of her favorite gorillas, Digit. Today the organization supports research, education and training for future conservationists in Africa.

Every week, Hirwa and other scientists gather data as part of long-term behavioral research.

As Hirwa recently observed a gorilla family, he gingerly pulled back a stalk of stinging nettles for a better view.

He watched as the silverback, a 19-year-old named Pato, walked on all fours toward a squirming infant gorilla, Macibiri. Pato sat beside her and ran his long fingers through her fur, grooming her, looking for insects or other things caught in her glossy black coat. He made a low hum.

“Not every silverback will do that, will pay attention to the infants,” Hirwa says. “That shows his personality. Pato is one chill silverback.”

Hirwa noticed a fresh wound on Pato’s chest, a small red slash.

Most likely, he surmised, Pato had been jousting with the family’s second silverback for control of the group.

Later, Hirwa informed the chief park warden and the staff at Gorillas Doctors, a nongovernmental group

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whose veterinarians work in the forest.

The vets monitor wounds and signs of respiratory infections, but they intervene only sparingly.

When they do — for example, by darting a gorilla with antibiotics — they almost never remove the animals from the mountain, since reuniting gorillas can be difficult. A long absence can change the delicate social dynamic.

“Our hospital is the forest,” says Jean Bosco Noheli, a veterinarian at Gorilla Doctors. When his team goes into the field to address a gorilla emergency, they must carry everything they might need in equipment bags weighing up to 100 pounds — including portable X-ray machines.

Schaller, the biologist, conducted the first detailed studies of mountain gorillas in the 1950s and early '60s, in what was then the Belgian Congo. He also was the first to discover that wild gorillas could, over time, become comfortable with periodic human presence, a boon to researchers and, later, tourists.

Today, highly regulated tour groups hike in the Rwandan rainforest to watch gorillas.

Within Volcanoes National Park, tour groups are limited to eight people at a time, with only an hour spent observing gorillas.

You can't carry food or even water bottles near the animals, lest a curious silverback snatch them and perhaps be exposed to your germs. Don't hold eye contact for too long. And if a gorilla acts aggressive — which is rare — look down, bend your knee and show you acknowledge its authority. Hirwa calls this “submissive pose.”

The number of tourists per day is limited, and the price is steep: \$1,500 per visit.

Ticket revenue pays for operating costs and outstrips what might have been made from converting the rainforest to potato farms and cattle pastures. About 40% of the forest already was cleared for agriculture in the early 1970s.

“With tourism, the tension is always not to overexploit,” says Dirck Byler, great ape conservation director at the nonprofit Global Wildlife Conservation, which is not involved in the Rwanda gorilla project. “But in Rwanda, so far they're careful, and it's working.”

The idea of using tourism to help fund conservation was contentious when conservationists Bill Weber and Amy Vedder first proposed it while living in Rwanda during the 1970s and '80s. Fossey herself was skeptical, but the pair persisted.

“The wonder of the gorillas' lives, their curiosity, their social interactions — we felt that's something that could be accessible to others, through careful tourism,” Vedder says.

Figuring out the balance of how many people could visit the forest, and for how long, was a delicate process of trial and error, Weber says.

The pair, who are married and currently professors at Yale University, had another idea, equally radical when it was first proposed — some of the money raised must benefit local communities.

“Back then, the field of conservation was dominated by the ‘fortress model’: You draw a line, build a wall, hire guards and keep local people out,” Weber says. “But it wasn't really working to stop poaching. There needs to be a real incentive for local people to care about conservation.”

In 2005, the government adopted a model to steer 5% of tourism revenue from Volcanoes National Park to build infrastructure in surrounding villages, including schools and health clinics. Two years ago, the share was raised to 10%.

To date, about \$2 million has gone into funding village projects, chief park warden Prosper Uwingeli says. “Every year, we meet with the communities,” he says. “We have to give back.”

Before taking on the job of running what amounts to one of Rwanda's most high-profile enterprises, Uwingeli studied gorilla behavior as a research assistant at the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund.

Sometimes he misses the quiet, patient work of a scientist. But his time in the field also helped shape his mission.

“We don't want to protect the park with guns. We want to protect and conserve this park with people who understand why, and who take responsibility,” he says.

One recent morning at dawn, Emmanuel Bizagwira, one of the park's 100 full-time gorilla trackers, spotted something moving in the trees ahead.

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"Can you see over there?" he says, pointing with his radio antenna. "The gorillas are eating there. I saw them. Did you see the trees? They're there."

Pushing through waist-high shrubs alongside fellow tracker Safari Gabriel, he kept his eyes on the trees where he'd seen movement.

Each morning, his job is to locate the whereabouts of a particular 24-member gorilla family, called Agashya group, then alert the park warden.

These gorilla trackers are the backbone of the entire conservation project. Their work enables the scientists, tour guides and veterinarians to find gorillas quickly and do their jobs.

Bizagwira's grandfather also hiked in the same forest. He was a poacher who laid traps for bushmeat, mostly intended for antelopes but sometimes also ensnaring gorillas.

Bizagwira, 31, says he is grateful to have steady work to protect the gorillas.

"I love my job, I love wild animals," he says.

He can identify several dozen plants that gorillas eat, and looks for torn or crushed stems to determine where gorilla troops may have recently passed. Sometimes, he glimpses elephants and golden monkeys in the same forest.

At Nyabitsinde Primary School, nearly every pupil has at least one relative working in nearby Volcanoes National Park. Leontine Muhawenimana, who is 11, says her father also is a tracker, and she likes to hear his stories about gorillas.

The school has new classrooms with blackboards and wooden benches, and a colorful mural outside the bathroom reads "Washing hands prevents diseases." But the school is still short on some basic supplies, like pencils.

"The money that built this school comes from tourism," says Fabien Uwimana, a French and English teacher. "More children today can go to school."

The money from tourism helps, but the region is still poor.

Jean Claude Masengesho lives with his parents and helps them farm potatoes. About once a week, the 21-year-old earns a little extra money helping tourists carry their bags up the mountain, totaling about \$45 a month. He would like to someday become a tour guide, which would earn him about \$320 monthly.

The obstacle is that most tour guides have attended college, and Masengesho isn't sure how his family can afford tuition.

"It's my dream, but it's very hard," he says. "In this village, every young person's dream is to work in the park."

In the meantime, he draws portraits of gorillas with green and black crayons. Mostly, he draws silverbacks.

He is fascinated by gorillas, but also pragmatic. "People come from all over the world to see the gorillas," he says. "Gorillas bring us money from all over the world, and we need to protect them."

Sixty years after he first moved to central Africa to study gorillas as a wide-eyed 26-year-old with a notebook, the veteran biologist Schaller says conservation may need both a moral and an economic argument.

Schaller believes that people have no right to exterminate a species, but also that "you have to find some economic benefit for the people that border the park."

"You have to involve them somehow," he says, "make them feel it's their park, too."

This Associated Press series was produced in partnership with the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

Frustration at utility rising as California blackouts endure

By **DON THOMPSON** and **JOCELYN GECKER** Associated Press

SANTA ROSA, Calif. (AP) — Millions of Californians prepared to be in the dark — some for five days, or longer — as the nation's largest utility said it was switching off power again Tuesday to prevent powerful winds from damaging its equipment and sparking more fires.

Pacific Gas & Electric Corp. said its latest blackout will start early Tuesday and affect 605,000 custom-

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ers — about 1.5 million people — in 29 Northern California counties. The announcement came even before the last blackout had ended, which shut power to more than 2.5 million people. It wasn't clear if power, that for many went out Saturday, would be restored before the next round of outages.

What was clear was that patience was wearing thin and frustration at the utility was growing. From the suburbs of San Francisco up north to the wine country, people searched for places Monday to charge phones and stocked up on ice for the non-perishable food.

Powerful winds were driving multiple fires across California and the deliberate shut-offs were intended to prevent blazes. Crews are battling a huge wildfire in Sonoma County wine country that has destroyed 96 buildings.

Petaluma resident Scotty Richardson, whose lights went out Saturday, said the prospect that power might not be restored for days makes him "furious, furious."

Richardson was out Monday getting breakfast, charging his phone and making business calls at the Lumberjacks restaurant in Petaluma. He vented frustration at the on-again, off-again roller coaster of outages but also anger at the utility's role in causing deadly fires in the past, and apparently sparking some of this season's fires.

"PG&E can't figure out how to deliver power reliably without killing people," he said. "This is more than three strikes — it's a failure of epic proportions."

Richardson and his fiancée run a business out of their home, so "it's imperative that we have electricity. Everything is done for us by a computer or phone," he said. Refrigerated foods have spoiled and he worries that the ongoing outages might lower property values.

"This has been a massive inconvenience," he said. "This can't be the new normal."

PG&E is under severe financial pressure after its equipment was blamed for a series of destructive wildfires during the past three years. Its stock dropped 24% Monday to close at \$3.80 and was down more than 50% since Thursday.

Many Californians are skeptical of PG&E's motives for the blackouts, and feel the utility is more concerned with its finances than the massive inconvenience it's causing.

"It's so obvious it's just to protect them from more liability," Janet Luoma of Santa Rosa said at a Red Cross evacuation shelter.

At the shelter in Santa Rosa, Chris Sherman plugged his laptop into a wall outlet and charged his phone while he waited for the all-clear to go home, anticipating that once he did he could lose power.

"They don't seem to know what the hell they're doing," he said about PG&E. "I'm not sure that they're really protecting anything."

The company reported last week that a transmission tower may have caused a Sonoma County fire that had forced nearly 200,000 people to evacuate.

PG&E said Monday its power lines may have started two wildfires over the weekend in the San Francisco Bay Area, even though widespread blackouts were in place to prevent downed lines from sparking in dangerous winds.

The fires described in PG&E reports to state regulators match blazes that destroyed a tennis club and forced evacuations in Lafayette, about 20 miles (32 kilometers) east of San Francisco.

The fires began in a section of town where PG&E had opted to keep the lights on. The sites were not designated as a high fire risk, the company said.

In Lafayette, where many people lost power on Saturday, people criticized PG&E for poorly communicating about the shutoffs.

"Are we getting power tomorrow, are we not getting power tomorrow? We don't know," said Kelly Bitzer, who came to a Safeway supermarket Monday looking for an outlet to charge her phone.

"PG&E has spent millions of dollars giving bonuses to their executives, but they can't keep up with their infrastructure needs," she said. "It's very frustrating."

More than 900,000 power customers — an estimated 2.5 million people — were in the dark at the height of the latest planned blackout, nearly all of them in PG&E's territory in Northern and central California. By

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Monday evening a little less than half of those had their service back.

Southern California Edison had cut off power to about 800 people as of Monday night and warned that it was considering disconnecting about 400,000 more as winds return midweek. The company also faced a growing backlash from regulators and lawmakers.

U.S. Rep. Josh Harder, a Democrat from Modesto, said he plans to introduce legislation that would raise PG&E's taxes if it pays bonuses to executives while engaging in blackouts.

The Public Utilities Commission plans to open a formal investigation into the blackouts within the next month, allowing regulators to gather evidence and question utility officials. If rules are found to be broken, they can impose fines up to \$100,000 per violation per day, said Terrie Prosper, a spokeswoman for the commission.

The commission said Monday it also plans to review the rules governing blackouts, will look to prevent utilities from charging customers when the power is off and will convene experts to find grid improvements that might lessen blackouts during next year's fire season.

The state can't continue experiencing such widespread blackouts, "nor should Californians be subject to the poor execution that PG&E in particular has exhibited," Marybel Batjer, president of the California Public Utilities Commission, said in a statement.

PG&E has set up what it calls Community Resource Centers in areas affected by the power outages, where people can go to charge phones and laptops, get free water, snacks, flashlights and solar lanterns. At one of them, in Berkeley, a few dozen people sat around Monday morning charging their phones, comparing outage stories and seeking information.

"Any word when we're going to get power?" asked Renata Polt, 87. She said she had expected the power might be out for one day and felt "dismay and anger" about the extended outage.

Cell phone coverage in parts of Berkeley was very spotty during the outage, and residents said they heard it was because cell phone towers didn't have backup power.

"It's like, really? Nobody thought of that?" said Alexandra Cons, who lost her house in a deadly 1991 fire that raged through the Berkeley hills. This week's ferocious winds combined with the utter darkness during the blackout at night have been hard on her.

"It's hard for me to separate the outage and strong winds from the possibility of losing my home again," she said. "It's a lot of traumatic memories."

Gecker reported from Berkeley and Lafayette, California. Associated Press writer Johnathan J. Cooper reported from Phoenix.

Crews battle California blazes before windstorms return

By STEFANIE DAZIO and BRIAN MELLELY Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Crews fought Tuesday to drown, slash and smother wildfires that have incinerated dozens of homes in Northern and Southern California before returning windstorms can blow them back into furious life.

In California's wine country, firefighters worked to reinforce fire lines in western Sonoma County while rushing to shore up the eastern side that could be the new focus as winds switched direction.

"We're playing both offense and defense right now on two different sides of the fire," said Jonathan Cox of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

Bulldozers carved firebreaks, hand crews attacked hot spots with hoses and shovels, and aircraft painted hillsides with fire retardant.

The fire that began last week near the town of Geyserville had destroyed 57 homes and damaged another dozen, with 90,000 homes and other buildings considered threatened. About 156,000 people were under mandatory evacuation orders.

The blaze was 15% contained.

Evacuation orders were downgraded to warnings for some 30,000 people in the west but new warnings

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were issued to people in the east, with Calistoga in Napa County and Middletown in Lake County — a community badly damaged by a 2015 wildfire.

Winds were expected to hit 20 to 30 mph (48 kph) Tuesday, with gusts of up to 50 mph (80 kph) by afternoon. The winds will peak by midnight before easing, forecasters said.

In the south, a brief lull in the wind helped crews attacking a blaze that swept through the star-studded hills of Los Angeles on Monday. The fire roared up a steep hillside near the J. Paul Getty Museum in the Brentwood section. It destroyed at least eight homes and damaged at least six, forcing LeBron James and thousands of others to flee.

The Getty, with its collection of priceless art, was not threatened, fire officials said.

Much of the blaze was reduced to smoldering ruins and hot spots but hot, dry Santa Ana winds that could blow them to life and spread embers were predicted beginning Tuesday night. Red flag warnings of extreme fire danger were issued for much of Southern California into Thursday, with gusts up to 75 mph (120.7 kph) possible in some areas.

With no rain and more wind in the forecast, the coming days could be grim.

The flames didn't discriminate. In wine country, vineyard farmworkers were among those displaced. In Los Angeles, James and former Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger were driven from their homes along with tens of thousands of others.

"Man, these LA (fires) are no joke," the Los Angeles Lakers star tweeted, using an emoji for the word "fires." "Crazy night."

Joann Killeen packed up her important papers, medicine, power bars and her dog Riley and fled as soon as she got an evacuation call from the fire department on her cellphone at about 2 a.m. Monday. Her hilly neighborhood is vulnerable to fires and Killeen said she has been evacuated five times in 18 years.

"The most important thing is your life," she said, "so you always have your go-bag ready to go and you just go. The rest of it is just stuff and stuff can be replaced."

Utilities in the north and south repeatedly cut power to hundreds of thousands of customers in recent weeks because of concerns that winds would knock down lines and spark fires. Officials warned of yet another round of safety shut-offs.

Pacific Gas & Electric Co. said some 1.5 million people will be hit with more shut-offs starting Tuesday. PG&E also has said its transmission lines may have been responsible for the Sonoma County fire.

Southern California Edison had cut off power to about 800 people as of Monday night and warned that it was considering disconnecting about 400,000 more as winds return midweek.

Steelers overcome slow start, drop winless Dolphins 27-14

By WILL GRAVES AP Sports Writer

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Mason Rudolph heard the boos. They were impossible to miss as the minutes passed, the mistakes piled up and the Pittsburgh Steelers found themselves down two scores on Monday night to arguably the worst team in the NFL.

Turnovers. Dropped passes. Penalties. Missed opportunities. For the better part of 30 minutes, it was hard to tell if the Steelers or the Miami Dolphins were the team in the midst of a massive rebuild.

"I would have booed that performance too," Rudolph said. "Coming out slow and it's the Pittsburgh Steelers. There's a standard here and we weren't meeting it at the time."

Eventually, however, Rudolph found his footing. Eventually, the Dolphins morphed back into the team playing for a shot at the top pick in the draft. And eventually the Steelers avoided an embarrassing loss that would have effectively ended the competitive portion of their season by rallying for a 27-14 victory.

Rudolph threw for 251 yards and two touchdowns in his first start after getting knocked unconscious earlier this month against Baltimore, and James Conner added 145 yards and a touchdown on the ground as Pittsburgh (3-4) won consecutive games for the first time since ripping off six straight in the middle of last season.

"You dig a big of a whole there in the first half and I was proud of the way we responded," Rudolph said.

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Rudolph stressed he wasn't worried about the long-term effects of a frightening concussion he suffered against Baltimore on Oct. 6, when he was knocked cold on a helmet-to-helmet hit by Ravens safety Earl Thomas. Still, he looked shaky at best during an ugly opening quarter that saw the Dolphins grab their first two-touchdown lead over any opponent in more than a year.

Pittsburgh's first possession ended with Rudolph throwing a pick to Xavien Howard — back in the lineup after missing two games with a knee injury — and its second ended with Rudolph misfiring badly on fourth down. Yet he remained upbeat amid the growing pains and eventually things started to click. Rudolph completed 20 of 36 passes, including a 45-yard touchdown to rookie Diontae Johnson late in the second quarter and a 26-yard strike to JuJu Smith-Schuster in the third quarter that put the Steelers firmly in control.

"We needed to get him going early on because all it takes is that one big play for him," Pittsburgh wide receiver James Washington said. "His mind is going. He's got that adrenaline going and (once) we started moving the ball down the field running and passing, we were on."

And the Dolphins (0-7) were not.

Ryan Fitzpatrick passed for 190 yards with two touchdowns and two picks, both to Steelers safety Minkah Fitzpatrick, who orchestrated a trade from Miami to Pittsburgh last month. But a rare hot start couldn't prevent Miami from staying winless through seven games for the first time since 2011. The Dolphins have dropped 10 straight dating to last season.

"We just have to continue to keep fighting," Ryan Fitzpatrick said. "That's just kind of the place that we're at right now. Just continue to keep fighting, continue to keep going to practice and trying to get better every single day."

CURIOUS CALL

The Dolphins, in the midst of an exhaustive rebuild under first-year coach Brian Flores — a process that included trading running back Kenyan Drake to Arizona on Monday for a conditional sixth-round pick in next year's draft just hours before kickoff — showed their first extended signs of life in an already lost season.

Ryan Fitzpatrick's two touchdown passes gave Miami — a 14-point underdog — a 14-point advantage for the first time since Oct. 7, 2018. The Dolphins couldn't hold on then, allowing the Bengals storm back for a victory. A year later, not much has changed. The Steelers pulled within 14-10 at the break thanks to the first of Minkah Fitzpatrick's two interceptions and an odd defensive play call by the Dolphins.

Leading by 11 points and with Pittsburgh facing third-and-20 outside of field goal range, Miami opted to blitz and didn't bother to guard Johnson, who took a short pass from Rudolph and used a couple of downfield blocks by Washington to weave his way 45 yards to the end zone.

"Wanted to be aggressive," Flores said. "We can second guess a lot of calls. I'm not going to second guess that one. I thought we had success with the call, and they made a play."

INJURIES

Dolphins: Howard's return was brief. He left in the second half after aggravating his knee injury. ... CB Ken Webster left with an ankle injury in the first half and did not return.

Steelers: Conner left in the fourth quarter with a shoulder injury. ... Ramon Foster (concussion) exited with a concussion in the first half and did not return. ... RB Benny Snell left with an ankle injury in the third quarter.

UP NEXT

Dolphins: Welcome the New York Jets (1-6) next Sunday. Miami swept the Jets last season.

Steelers: Host Indianapolis (5-2) next Sunday. Pittsburgh has won each of its last five meetings with the Colts.

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

Asian shares mixed after S&P 500 hits all-time high

By ELAINE KURTENBACH AP Business Writer

BANGKOK (AP) — Shares were mixed in Asia and Chinese benchmarks fell Tuesday after the S&P 500 index closed at an all-time high.

The rally Monday came at the beginning of a busy week of corporate earnings and economic reports and with investors expecting another interest rate cut by the Federal Reserve.

Investors have been balancing worries over the impact that the costly trade war between the U.S. and China is having on corporate profits and the global economy against renewed optimism that negotiations that got underway this month could result in some kind of resolution in the conflict.

"A U.S.-China trade deal, even an interim one, remains the critical macroeconomic event for the year," Jeffrey Halley of Oanda said in a commentary.

"Number two is the trajectory of U.S. interest rates, and here the story is getting murky," he said.

Japan's Nikkei 225 index gained 0.5% to 22,970.38, while the S&P ASX/200 edged 0.1% higher to 6,747.10.

The Hang Seng in Hong Kong lost 0.3% to 26,815.88 and the Shanghai Composite index dropped 0.4% to 2,968.05 after Hong Kong's leader says the city is at risk of falling into a recession as it enters its fifth month of pro-democracy protests.

Chief Executive Carrie Lam said Tuesday that if third quarter data due for release on later this week shows negative growth, then the semiautonomous Chinese city's economy will have entered a technical recession.

In other markets, South Korea's Kospi lost 0.2% to 2,089.17. Shares rose in Taiwan, Bangkok and Singapore but fell in Jakarta.

Traders are awaiting releases of several important U.S. economic reports this week, including the Labor Department's monthly employment report on Friday. Economists expect a slight increase in the unemployment rate to 3.6% in October from 3.5% in September.

Monday's rally on Wall Street extended a recent string of gains in what's mostly been a solid month for the market.

The S&P 500 index closed at 3,039.42, around 14 points above its previous record set on July 26 and up 0.6% for the day. It notched that milestone after weeks of hovering just below its prior high.

Investors have been encouraged as most of the companies that have reported quarterly results the past couple of weeks beat Wall Street analysts' forecasts for earnings growth.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average gained 0.5% to 27,090.72 but is still about 1% below its record set on July 15.

The Nasdaq climbed 1% to 8,325.99, while the Russell 2000 index of smaller company stocks picked up 0.9% to 1,571.93.

Microsoft rose 2.5% after winning a Pentagon contract. Other technology companies also climbed. AT&T led broad gains for communications companies.

While the market waits for something concrete to emerge from the U.S.-China trade negotiations, investors have been largely playing it safe.

Despite Monday's rally, the market could be in for some volatility this week as some 156 companies in the S&P 500 are scheduled to issue their quarterly results this week.

Google's parent Alphabet reported results after the close of the market Monday. The company's revenue exceeded Wall Street expectations but profits fell short. The stock dropped nearly 2% in after-hours trading.

European markets got a boost Monday after the European Union agreed to give Britain a three-month extension for its planned departure from the 28-member trading bloc. It had been set to leave on Oct. 31. The extension gives both sides more time to make a deal that will cover trade and other issues.

Traders are awaiting releases of several important U.S. economic reports this week, including the Labor Department's monthly employment report on Friday. Economists expect a slight increase in the unemployment rate to 3.6% in October from 3.5% in September.

Benchmark crude oil lost 11 cents to \$55.70 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It fell 85 cents to settle at \$55.81 a barrel on Monday.

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Brent crude oil, the international standard, dropped 5 cents to close at \$61.20 a barrel. The dollar rose to 108.98 Japanese yen from 108.96 yen on Monday. The euro weakened to \$1.1096 from \$1.1100.

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

National security official twice raised concerns on Ukraine

By **LISA MASCARO, MARY CLARE JALONICK and COLLEEN LONG** Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A military officer at the National Security Council twice raised concerns over the Trump administration's push to have Ukraine investigate Democrats and Joe Biden, according to testimony the official is prepared to deliver Tuesday in the House impeachment inquiry.

Alexander Vindman, an Army lieutenant colonel who served in Iraq and, later, as a diplomat, is prepared to tell House investigators that he listened to President Donald Trump's July 25 call with new Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and reported his concerns to the NSC's lead counsel.

"I was concerned by the call," Vindman will say, according to prepared testimony obtained Monday night by The Associated Press. "I did not think it was proper to demand that a foreign government investigate a U.S. citizen, and I was worried about the implications for the U.S. government's support of Ukraine."

Vindman will be the first current White House official set to appear as the impeachment inquiry reaches deeper into the Trump administration and Democrats prepare for the next, public phase of the probe.

The 20-year military officer will testify that he first reported his concerns after an earlier meeting July 10 in which U.S. Ambassador to the European Union Gordon Sondland stressed the importance of having Ukraine investigate the 2016 election as well as Burisma, a company linked to the family of 2020 Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden.

Vindman says he told Sondland that "his statements were inappropriate, that the request to investigate Biden and his son had nothing to do with national security, and that such investigations were not something the NSC was going to get involved in or push."

That account differs from Sondland's, a wealthy businessman who donated \$1 million to Trump inauguration and testified before the impeachment investigators that no one from the NSC "ever expressed any concerns." He also testified that he did not realize any connection between Biden and Burisma.

For the call between Trump and Zelenskyy, Vindman said he listened in the Situation Room with colleagues from the NSC and Vice President Mike Pence's office, and was concerned. He again reported his concerns to NSC's lead counsel, he said.

He wrote, "I realized that if Ukraine pursued an investigation into the Bidens and Burisma, it would likely be interpreted as a partisan play which would undoubtedly result in Ukraine losing the bipartisan support it has thus far maintained. This would all undermine U.S. national security."

Vindman, who arrived in the United States as a 3-year-old from the former Soviet Union, served in various military and diplomatic posts before joining the NSC. He was the director for European affairs and a Ukraine expert under Fiona Hill, a former official who testified earlier in the impeachment probe. Hill worked for former national security adviser John Bolton.

Vindman will be a key witness. He attended Zelenskyy's inauguration with a delegation led by Energy Secretary Rick Perry, and he and Hill were both part of a Ukraine briefing with Sondland that others have testified irritated Bolton at the White House.

Vindman will testify that he is not the whistleblower, the still unnamed government official who filed the initial complaint over Trump's conversation with the Ukraine president that sparked the House impeachment inquiry. He will say he does not know who the whistleblower is.

"I am a patriot, and it is my sacred duty and honor to advance and defend OUR country, irrespective of party or politics," wrote Vindman, who was wounded in Iraq and awarded a Purple Heart.

"For over twenty years as an active duty United States military officer and diplomat, I have served this country in a nonpartisan manner, and have done so with the utmost respect and professionalism for both

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Republican and Democratic administrations," he wrote.

The testimony is expected the day after Speaker Nancy Pelosi announced the House will vote on a resolution to affirm the impeachment investigation, set rules for public hearings and outline the potential process for writing articles of impeachment against Trump. The vote is expected Thursday.

At its core, the impeachment inquiry is looking into Trump's call with Zelenskiy, when he asked the new Ukraine president for a "favor" in what Democrats say was a quid pro quo that could be an impeachable offense.

It would be the first formal House vote on the impeachment inquiry and aims to nullify complaints from Trump and his allies that the process is illegitimate, unfair and lacking due process.

Democrats insisted they weren't yielding to Republican pressure. Pelosi dismissed the Republican argument that impeachment can't begin without formal approval from the House and brushed off their complaints about the closed-door process.

"I do not care. I do not care. This is a false thing with them," Pelosi said. "Understand, it has nothing to do with them. It has to do with how we proceed."

Pelosi's announcement Monday came just hours after a former White House national security official defied a House subpoena for closed-door testimony, escalating the standoff between Congress and the White House over who will testify.

Charles Kupperman, who was a deputy to Bolton, failed to show up for the scheduled closed-door deposition after filing a lawsuit asking a federal court in Washington to rule on whether he was legally required to appear.

Democrats have indicated they are likely to use no-show witnesses to write an article of impeachment against Trump for obstruction of justice, rather than launching potentially lengthy court battles to obtain testimony.

Associated Press writers Zeke Miller, Eric Tucker and Alan Fram contributed to this report.

North Carolina judges block current congressional map

By GARY D. ROBERTSON Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — North Carolina judges on Monday blocked the state's congressional map from being used in the 2020 elections, ruling that voters had a strong likelihood of winning a lawsuit that argued Republicans unlawfully manipulated district lines for partisan gain.

The panel of three Superior Court judges issued a preliminary injunction preventing elections under the district lines, starting with the March 3 primary.

The judges halted the use of these districts less than two months after they struck down state House and Senate districts. There they found extreme political manipulation of the lines similar to what voters suing over the congressional map also say occurred.

In the ruling Monday, the judges — Paul Ridgeway, Alma Hinton and Joseph Crosswhite — agreed that "there is a substantial likelihood that plaintiffs will prevail on the merits of this action by showing beyond a reasonable doubt that the 2016 congressional districts are extreme partisan gerrymanders" in violation of the North Carolina Constitution.

The judges gave no date by which a new map must be drawn, but suggested lawmakers could redraw them on their own quickly to ensure congressional primaries be held as scheduled. The State Board of Elections has said lines needed to be finalized by Dec. 15.

"The court respectfully urges the General Assembly to adopt an expeditious process," the judges wrote.

Republican state legislators made plain when they drew that map that the lines were designed to help the GOP retain 10 of the state's 13 congressional seats, but argued such strategies weren't unlawful. Republican defendants in the lawsuit and three sitting GOP U.S. House members opposed the injunction request.

The judges' ruling, which could be appealed, would likely lead to a map with more competitive districts

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for the November race — making it more difficult for national Republicans to retake control of the U.S. House. The lawsuit is being bankrolled by a national Democratic group led by former Attorney General Eric Holder.

Democratic and unaffiliated voters who sued Sept. 27 sought the injunction before any trial is held on their partisan gerrymandering claims. They said the case was extremely similar to a successful lawsuit over state legislative districts.

“For nearly a decade, Republicans have forced the people of North Carolina to vote in districts that were manipulated for their own partisan advantage,” Holder said in a news release. “Now — finally — the era of Republican gerrymandering in the state is coming to an end.”

Senate leader Phil Berger, a Republican, said he wasn’t surprised by the congressional ruling given the recent decision involving the legislative districts, calling it judicial activism and a “flawed approach to re-districting law.” Berger said he expected the legislature would likely redraw the map, but no decision has been made.

The same three judges hearing the congressional case ruled in that case just two months ago, finding Republicans performed extreme political manipulation in those maps to ensure they could hold majorities in almost any political environment. Republicans were ordered to redraw those lines. Also Monday, the judges issued a separate ruling in the legislative case, upholding all of the changes that the General Assembly made to several dozen state House and Senate districts. The plaintiffs who sued there had wanted a third-party expert to step in and rework 19 House districts.

In the current congressional lawsuit, the plaintiffs’ attorneys convinced the judges that evidence already accumulated from separate federal litigation challenging the congressional lines shows they are likely to succeed in the state case.

The federal case went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, which decided 5-4 in June that federal courts would not get involved in partisan redistricting claims. But the justices left the door open for state courts to intervene.

Opponents of the current congressional map have latched on to the comment made by state Rep. David Lewis during the 2016 remapping. Lewis said at the time he was proposing a 10-3 map “because I do not believe it’s possible to draw a map with 11 Republicans and two Democrats.” Lewis said later he was joking.

Attorneys for Lewis and other Republican lawmakers who are defendants in the state congressional lawsuit case reject the plaintiffs’ partisan gerrymandering claims. They told the judges it was too late to make congressional map changes, since candidate filing begins in early December and that facts in the case were not settled. Changes now, the GOP’s lawyers said, would result in voter confusion and extremely low turnout should the primary have to be delayed.

Utility says power lines may have started 2 California fires

By **DON THOMPSON** and **JONATHAN J. COOPER** Associated Press

SANTA ROSA, Calif. (AP) — Pacific Gas & Electric Co. power lines may have started two wildfires over the weekend in the San Francisco Bay Area, the utility said Monday, even though widespread blackouts were in place to prevent downed lines from starting fires during dangerously windy weather.

The fires described in PG&E reports to state regulators match blazes that destroyed a tennis club and forced evacuations in Lafayette, about 20 miles (32 kilometers) east of San Francisco.

The fires began in a section of town where PG&E had opted to keep the lights on. The sites were not designated as a high fire risk, the company said.

Powerful winds were driving multiple fires across California and forcing power shut-offs intended to prevent blazes. PG&E said a contractor working in Humboldt County died in a vehicle accident during the power shutoff Friday.

More than 900,000 power customers — an estimated 2.5 million people — were in the dark at the height of the latest planned blackout, nearly all of them in PG&E’s territory in Northern and central California. By Monday evening a little less than half of those had their service back. But some 1.5 million people in

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29 counties will be hit with more shut-offs starting Tuesday because another round of strong winds is expected, the utility said.

Southern California Edison had cut off power to 25,000 customers and warned that it was considering disconnecting about 350,000 more as Santa Ana winds return midweek.

PG&E is under severe financial pressure after its equipment was blamed for a series of destructive wild-fires during the past three years. Its stock dropped 24% Monday to close at \$3.80 and was down more than 50% since Thursday.

The company reported last week that a transmission tower may have caused a Sonoma County fire that has forced 156,000 people to evacuate.

PG&E told the California Public Utilities Commission that a worker responded to a fire in Lafayette late Sunday afternoon and was told firefighters believed contact between a power line and a communication line may have caused it.

A worker went to another fire about an hour later and saw a fallen pole and transformer. Contra Costa Fire Department personnel on site told the worker they were looking at the transformer as a potential ignition source, a company official wrote.

Separately, the company told regulators that it had failed to notify 23,000 customers, including 500 with medical conditions, before shutting off their power earlier this month during windy weather.

Before a planned blackout, power companies are required to notify customers and take extra care to get in touch with those with medical problems who may not be able to handle extended periods without air conditioning or may need power to run medical devices.

PG&E said some customers had no contact information on file. Others were incorrectly thought to be getting electricity.

After that outage, workers discovered 43 cases of wind-related damage to power lines, transformers and other equipment.

Jennifer Robison, a PG&E spokeswoman, said the company is working with independent living centers to determine how best to serve people with disabilities.

The company faced a growing backlash from regulators and lawmakers.

U.S. Rep. Josh Harder, a Democrat from Modesto, said he plans to introduce legislation that would raise PG&E's taxes if it pays bonuses to executives while engaging in blackouts.

The Public Utilities Commission plans to open a formal investigation into the blackouts within the next month, allowing regulators to gather evidence and question utility officials. If rules are found to be broken, they can impose fines up to \$100,000 per violation per day, said Terrie Prosper, a spokeswoman for the commission.

The commission said Monday it also plans to review the rules governing blackouts, will look to prevent utilities from charging customers when the power is off and will convene experts to find grid improvements that might lessen blackouts during next year's fire season.

The state can't continue experiencing such widespread blackouts, "nor should Californians be subject to the poor execution that PG&E in particular has exhibited," Marybel Batjer, president of the California Public Utilities Commission, said in a statement.

Cooper reported from Phoenix. Associated Press writer Christopher Weber contributed from Los Angeles.

Robert Evans, iconic producer of 'Chinatown,' dies at 89

By JAKE COYLE AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Robert Evans, the protean, fast-living Hollywood producer and former Paramount Pictures production chief who backed such seminal 1970s films as "Chinatown," "The Godfather" and "Harold and Maude," has died. He was 89.

Evans' publicist, Monique Moss, confirmed that Evans died on Saturday. No other details Monday were immediately available.

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His career was a story of comebacks and reinventions. Evans had launched a successful women's clothing line with his brother, Charles, and was visiting Los Angeles on business when actress Norma Shearer saw him sunbathing by the pool at the Beverly Hills Hotel. She persuaded producers to hire the handsome, dark-haired 26-year-old to play her late husband, movie mogul Irving Thalberg, in "Man of a Thousand Faces," a film about horror movie star Lon Chaney.

After acting roles faded, Evans re-emerged at Paramount and quickly converted the studio from a maker of mediocre films to the biggest hit machine in Hollywood, home to "The Godfather" and "Love Story" among others.

For decades, and with many flops in between, the ever-tanned, large glasses-wearing Evans was one of Hollywood's most outsized and flamboyant personalities, encapsulating the romance of a now bygone movie era where films were greenlit more on instinct than market research. He was married and divorced seven times. He was the model for Dustin Hoffman's petty-minded Hollywood producer in the 1997 satire "Wag the Dog."

"The higher you get, the lower you can fall," Evans mused in a 2003 interview. "You pick yourself up at the count of nine, you come back and win and be done with it. I believe in being a survivor."

The title of his 1994 memoir, "The Kid Stays in the Picture" (later turned into a 2002 documentary) came from an early story of his improbable success.

After he appeared in "Man of a Thousand Faces" Darryl Zanuck signed Evans to a contract at Twentieth Century Fox and cast him as a bullfighter in "The Sun Also Rises." The filmmakers insisted the young actor wasn't right for the role, so Zanuck went to Mexico City, where the film was being made, to see for himself. His verdict: "The kid stays in the picture."

It was Evans who optioned "The Godfather" while Mario Puzo was writing it. As Paramount chief, Evans presided over Francis Ford Coppola's production but his role in the movie, itself, has sometimes been exaggerated — including by Evans, himself. But Coppola, recalled Evans fondly on Monday, recollecting the producer's "charm, good looks, enthusiasm, style and sense of humor."

"He had strong instincts as evidenced by the long list of great films in his career. When I worked with Bob, some of his helpful ideas included suggesting John Marley as Woltz and Sterling Hayden as the Police Captain, and his ultimate realization that 'The Godfather' could be 2 hours and 45 minutes in length," said Coppola, also noting Evans' contributions to "The Cotton Club."

"May the kid always stay in the picture," added Coppola.

Evans was born Robert J. Shapera in New York, the second son of Archie Shapera, a dentist, and his wife, Florence, a homemaker. He began acting in radio while in junior high school, going on to appear in more than 300 shows.

After "The Sun Also Rises," Evans left Hollywood to join his brother in the clothing business, but was lured back in 1966 when Zanuck offered him a three-picture contract as a producer. That same year Paramount Pictures hired him to head production.

From 1966 to 1974 Evans presided over such hits as "The Odd Couple," "Rosemary's Baby" and "Goodbye, Columbus." He was a pivotal figure not only restoring Paramount but in a halcyon period of auteur-driven moviemaking, backed storied directors including Sidney Lumet, Hal Ashby and Peter Bogdanovich.

Albert Ruddy, who won an Oscar as producer of "The Godfather," credited Evans with filling an essential role in the picture's success. When Paramount's head of distribution objected to the nearly three-hour running time, Evans backed up the filmmakers and insisted that the movie not be cut.

"He said, 'I'll quit before I cut the movie,'" Ruddy said Monday. "He saved the movie."

Evans didn't share in Paramount's prosperity, however. He wasn't granted any bonuses, and his string of marriages and divorces drained away much of the money he did make. After brief marriages to actresses Sharon Hugueny and Camilla Sparv, he married MacGraw, who became a star with her performance in "Goodbye, Columbus." She gave birth to Evans' only child, Joshua.

MacGraw became a superstar after "Love Story," then went off to Texas to spend four months making "The Getaway" with Steve McQueen, with whom she had one of Hollywood's more notable affairs. She and

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Evans divorced in 1972 and he married former Miss America Phyllis George in 1977. They split a year later. Meanwhile, Evans had formed his own production company, and he quickly turned out one of the biggest hits of 1974, Roman Polanski's "Chinatown." It earned Evans his lone Oscar nomination.

The next decades brought a period of failures, however, including Coppola's "The Cotton Club," and the "Chinatown" sequel "The Two Jakes" and the thrillers "Sliver" and "Jade." In 1980 he pleaded guilty to cocaine possession and was placed on a year's probation.

In 1983, he was called to testify at a preliminary hearing in the murder of a "Cotton Club" investor, Roy Radin. On the advice of his lawyers, Evans pleaded the Fifth Amendment. Although he was never connected to any wrongdoing, his refusal to testify to avoid self-incrimination further sullied his reputation.

He had a near-fatal setback in 1998 when he suffered a stroke in a Hollywood screening room.

"A bolt of lightning shot through my body," he told a reporter later. "I thought I had died. I heard Ella Fitzgerald sing 'It's a Wonderful World.'"

Evans underwent a grueling rehab, but still found time for his fifth wedding, this time to Oxenberg. The marriage barely lasted longer than the couple's five-day courtship. "My fault," Evans said afterward. "My brain wasn't working right."

Wedding No. 6 occurred in 2002. The bride was Leslie Ann Woodward, a model and actress. Divorce followed a little more than a year later. In 2005, Evans married Lady Victoria White, a socialite 33 years his junior. At the time he had just finished his second memoir, "The Fat Lady Sang," and he told Time magazine that with this marriage, "I finally found the last chapter." But he and White also divorced, in 2006.

Evans' last movie as a hands-on producer was a hit: the 2003 romantic comedy "How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days."

"That's the problem with today's business," Evans told the Los Angeles Times in 2002. "It's not an art form, it's a barter form. The studios are run by committees of MBAs, but I've never seen an MBA who knows how to make people cry."

This story has been corrected to show that Thalberg was dead when producers decided to cast Evans as Thalberg in "Man of a Thousand Faces."

National Writer Hillel Italie and the late Associated Press writer Bob Thomas contributed to this report.

Man arrested in Texas shooting that left 2 dead, 12 hurt

GREENVILLE, Texas (AP) — A man suspected of opening fire at an off-campus college party in Texas, killing two people and injuring 12 others, was arrested Monday.

Brandon Ray Gonzales, 23, of Greenville, Texas, was taken into custody less than 48 hours after Saturday's shooting, Hunt County Sheriff Randy Meeks said. Gonzales, who was arrested at the auto dealership where he worked, was booked into the Hunt County jail on a charge of capital murder of multiple persons. Bond was set at \$1 million. In a television interview Monday, Gonzales maintained he is innocent.

The shooting happened around midnight Saturday outside Greenville, 15 miles (24 kilometers) southwest of a satellite campus of the Texas A&M University System. Authorities believe the shooter may have been targeting just one person at the party of about 750 people, and that others may have been shot at random, Meeks has said.

Kevin Berry Jr. of Dallas and Byron Craven Jr. of Arlington, both 23, were killed, authorities said.

The shooting took place at a Halloween and homecoming party for Texas A&M University-Commerce at a facility called The Party Venue, according to Meeks, though officials said it was not a school-sanctioned event.

Authorities believe the shooter entered the venue, which sits along a highway in a rural area some 2.5 miles (4 kilometers) from the Greenville city limits, through the back door and began firing with a handgun, Meeks said. It was "complete chaos" after the shots rang out, with hundreds of people including the

gunman fleeing, the sheriff said.

In an interview from the Hunt County jail in Greenville, Texas, Gonzales told WFAA-TV that he was at the party dressed as a security guard but that he was in his car outside the party hall when the gunfire erupted. He said he has witnesses who can corroborate his whereabouts, but he wouldn't identify those witnesses in the interview.

Of the 12 people injured, six were shot and six were trampled or hurt by glass, authorities said. Five remained in the hospital — one in critical condition and four in good condition — on Monday, Meeks said.

The shooting came as Texas A&M University-Commerce, about 60 miles (97 kilometers) northeast of Dallas, celebrated homecoming weekend. According to its website, it is the second-largest university in the Texas A&M University System.

After a vigil for Berry on Sunday night at a Dallas park, at least one person opened fire. Dallas police said no one was injured but several vehicles were reported damaged.

Texas A&M University-Commerce had planned to hold a community gathering Monday afternoon featuring student and faith-based leaders along with counselors. But the school later said that based on conversations with students, the decision was made to postpone the gathering. University officials did not elaborate.

___ This story has been corrected to show that the suspect's last name is Gonzales, not Gonzalez.

IS leader's death ushers in new phase for the group

By SARAH EL DEEB Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — One of Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi's last audio messages was an appeal for his followers to do everything in their power to free Islamic State detainees and the women being held in jails and camps in northeastern Syria.

With news of the extremist group's leader's death, Kurdish security forces worried about the possibility of attacks or rioting have been tightening security at these facilities, which hold more than 80,000 members and supporters of the militant group, including women and children.

Fear of chaos already was running high over the fate of those detained after this month's Turkish military invasion of northeastern Syria, which ushered in major troop changes in the area about two weeks after al-Baghdadi's message. Kurdish officials said they needed to divert fighters and logistics to the front line to ward off the Turkish offensive. Turkey moved troops into areas along the border, while Syrian border guards were deployed in others.

A shaky cease-fire is in place and an agreement to redeploy Kurdish forces away from the borders.

While news of al-Baghdadi's death had not been announced in the camps on Monday, many of his supporters living in detention facilities and camps in Syria have telephones and they most likely heard the news.

"If our men are in prison, we are the soldiers of the Caliphate," some of the women held in al-Hol, the largest holding camp in northern Syria chanted Monday, according to a security official with the Kurdish-led internal security agency. The official wasn't authorized to talk to journalists and spoke anonymously.

The camp is home to 70,000, most of them women and children including about 11,000 foreigners. More than 10,000 prisoners, including 2,000 foreigners, are in detention facilities in northeastern Syria.

The nighttime raid by U.S. special operations forces was a blow to the militant group that became a global organization under his leadership. His demise only few months after losing the group's territorial hold ushers in a new phase for IS amid uncertainty over the new leadership as thousands of its supporters and members languish in prisons.

The decentralized group, with members estimated anywhere between 14,000 or 30,000, has already pivoted toward insurgency after losing its territory in the last couple of years. But its branches abroad and the number of those who pledged their allegiance have increased.

Who the next leader is will likely determine whether the group will dig in to consolidate its hold on Syria and Iraq — or focus on global outreach.

The group has not officially announced al-Baghdadi's death or named a new leader. In public, followers and supporters have not eulogized the 48-year old. But social media posts by groups affiliated with IS

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note that the death of a leader doesn't spell the end of an ideology.

"Jihad has not stopped with the death of a leader or Emir," said a post on Shmoukh al-Islam page, or glory of Islam. It added: "What if the leader of the Believers is martyred, we will stay the course and to whoever follows we renew the pledge."

Experts and security officials say one of al-Baghdadi's close aides will likely succeed him. But the shadowy head of IS was security-obsessed and known for turning on members of his close circle. One possible favorite is Abdullah Qardash, an Iraqi Turkman from Talafar and a former officer in Saddam Hussein's army. The two met in a U.S. prison in 2003 and Qardash became al-Baghdadi's top security henchman.

The IS Shura council, the shadowy group's leadership of 10 or so people, is supposed to choose the next leader if al-Baghdadi had designated a successor. But it's not clear how many of them are still alive.

Another of al-Baghdadi's close aides, Abu Hassan al-Muhajir, was killed in a joint U.S. operation with Kurdish forces in Jarablus on Sunday, hours after al-Baghdadi blew himself up during a U.S. raid. Little is known about al-Muhajir, who was appointed spokesman in 2016 and is believed to be a foreigner given his nom de guerre, the migrant.

Syrian Kurdish forces spokesman Mustafa Bali said his fighters believe al-Muhajir was in Jarablus to facilitate al-Baghdadi's travel to the area, which is administered by Turkey-backed fighters.

"More (IS figures) remain hiding in the area," Bali said Sunday.

The new leader's priority, experts say, will likely be prison breaks. The group's previous incarnation organized some of the most spectacular prison escapes in Iraq in a year-long operation called "Breaking the Walls." It was responsible for at least eight different prison breaks, freeing nearly 500 people between 2012 and 2013.

"It has almost always been a priority (for the group), the question is whether it'll be able to pull it off," said Hassan Hassan, an IS expert and an analyst at the Center for Global Policy.

Forces from the Kurdish-led internal security agency were "on high alert" in anticipation of possible riots in the camps, attacks on the prisons and an increase in "revenge attacks" in northeastern Syria where most of the group's members and supporters are, the official with the agency said.

Kurdish officials said there have seen an uptick in IS activities in recent weeks, attacking checkpoints and patrols with roadside and remotely detonated bombs.

Jennifer Cafarella, a Syria expert with the DC-based Institute for the Study of War, said it wasn't yet clear whether IS would pick an Iraqi leader.

"ISIS has become a global organization and if it hopes to remain so, it will need a leader that can convincingly fill the role of an international commander and cleric. ISIS's Iraqi heritage could actually become a liability for the organization," she said using another acronym for IS.

Hassan said the organization will probably pick an Iraqi as the majority of its members are from Iraq and given the group's focus on religious and operational credentials.

He added: Whoever "he is, he'll have to start from scratch. To build his legacy and prove himself."

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Oct. 29, the 302nd day of 2019. There are 63 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 29, 2012, Superstorm Sandy slammed ashore in New Jersey and slowly marched inland, devastating coastal communities and causing widespread power outages; the storm and its aftermath were blamed for at least 182 deaths in the U.S.

On this date:

In 1787, the opera "Don Giovanni" by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart had its world premiere in Prague.

In 1901, President William McKinley's assassin, Leon Czolgosz (CHAWL'-gahsh), was electrocuted.

In 1911, Hungarian-born American newspaperman Joseph Pulitzer, 64, died in Charleston, S.C.

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In 1923, the Republic of Turkey was proclaimed.

In 1929, "Black Tuesday" descended upon the New York Stock Exchange. Prices collapsed amid panic selling and thousands of investors were wiped out as America's "Great Depression" began.

In 1956, during the Suez Canal crisis, Israel invaded Egypt's Sinai Peninsula. "The Huntley-Brinkley Report" premiered as NBC's nightly television newscast.

In 1957, former MGM studio boss Louis B. Mayer died in Los Angeles at age 75.

In 1960, a chartered plane carrying the California Polytechnic State University football team crashed on takeoff from Toledo, Ohio, killing 22 of the 48 people on board.

In 1967, Expo 67 in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, closed after six months.

In 1987, following the confirmation defeat of Robert H. Bork to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court, President Ronald Reagan announced his choice of Douglas H. Ginsburg, a nomination that fell apart over revelations of Ginsburg's previous marijuana use. Jazz great Woody Herman died in Los Angeles at age 74.

In 1998, Sen. John Glenn, at age 77, roared back into space aboard the shuttle Discovery, retracing the trail he'd blazed for America's astronauts 36 years earlier.

In 2017, all but 10 members of the Houston Texans took a knee during the national anthem, reacting to a remark from team owner Bob McNair to other NFL owners that "we can't have the inmates running the prison."

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama paid a post-midnight visit to Dover Air Force Base in Delaware to honor the return of 18 soldiers killed in Afghanistan. A Coast Guard C-130 plane and a Marine Cobra helicopter collided off the Southern California coast, killing seven Coast Guard members and two Marines. Deposed President Manuel Zelaya and his opponents agreed to a U.S.-brokered deal to end the power crisis that had paralyzed Honduras following a coup.

Five years ago: Ordering firm restrictions for U.S. troops returning from West Africa, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said the military men and women helping fight Ebola had to undergo 21-day quarantines upon their return — longer than required for many civilian health care workers. The San Francisco Giants succeeded where no team had in 3 1/2 decades, winning Game 7 on the road for their third World Series title in five years as they defeated the Kansas City Royals 3-2.

One year ago: A new-generation Boeing jet operated by the Indonesian budget airline Lion Air crashed in the Java Sea minutes after takeoff from Jakarta, killing all 189 people on board; it was the first of two deadly crashes involving the 737 Max, causing the plane to be grounded around the world as Boeing worked on software changes to a flight-control system. The Pentagon announced that it was sending thousands of troops to the southwest border, as President Donald Trump stepped up his dire warnings about caravans of Central American migrants moving toward the United States. Klay Thompson of the Golden State Warriors broke teammate Stephen Curry's record for 3-point shots in one game, nailing 14 of them and scoring 52 points overall in a 149-124 win over the Chicago Bulls.

Today's Birthdays: Bluegrass singer-musician Sonny Osborne (The Osborne Brothers) is 82. Former Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf is 81. Country singer Lee Clayton is 77. Rock musician Denny Laine is 75. Singer Melba Moore is 74. Musician Peter Green is 73. Actor Richard Dreyfuss is 72. Actress Kate Jackson is 71. Country musician Steve Kellough (Wild Horses) is 63. Actor Dan Castellaneta (TV: "The Simpsons") is 62. Comic strip artist Tom Wilson ("Ziggy") is 62. Actress Finola Hughes is 60. Singer Randy Jackson is 58. Rock musician Peter Timmins (Cowboy Junkies) is 54. Actress Joely Fisher is 52. Rapper Paris is 52. Actor Rufus Sewell is 52. Actor Grayson McCouch (mih-KOOCH') is 51. Rock singer SA Martinez (311) is 50. Actress Winona Ryder is 48. Actress Tracee Ellis Ross is 47. Actress Gabrielle Union is 47. Actor Trevor Lissauer is 46. Olympic gold medal bobsledder Vonetta Flowers is 46. Actress Milena Govich is 43. Actor Jon Abrahams is 42. Actor Brendan Fehr is 42. Actor Ben Foster is 39. Rock musician Chris Baio (Vampire Weekend) is 35. Actress Janet Montgomery is 34. Actress India Eisley is 26.

Thought for Today: "Put it before them briefly so they will read it, clearly so they will appreciate it, picturesquely so they will remember it and, above all, accurately so they will be guided by its light."— Joseph Pulitzer, American newspaper publisher (born 1847, died this date in 1911).

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**Groton Area
MS/HS Invites
Our Families!**

Family Night

October 29th 5-7pm GHS Gym

Free Meal Provided-Personal Pan Pizza!

Student Bonus Points Available!

Post-Secondary Representatives that will be available: National Guard, NDSDS, LATI, NSU, SDSU, PC, Mitchell Tech, University of Jamestown, USF, and South East Tech

Showcasing:

- Living Wax Museum
- Individual and Group Musical Performances
- Student Made Crafts for Sale and Groton Tiger Clothing Available
- Several Bake Sale Opportunities
- Counselor Café and Book Study Opportunity
- Individual Classroom Teacher Table/Booth
- Financial Aid and Scholarship Information Available
- Student Original Art Displayed

Come join us for a fun and interesting evening!