

# Groton Daily Independent

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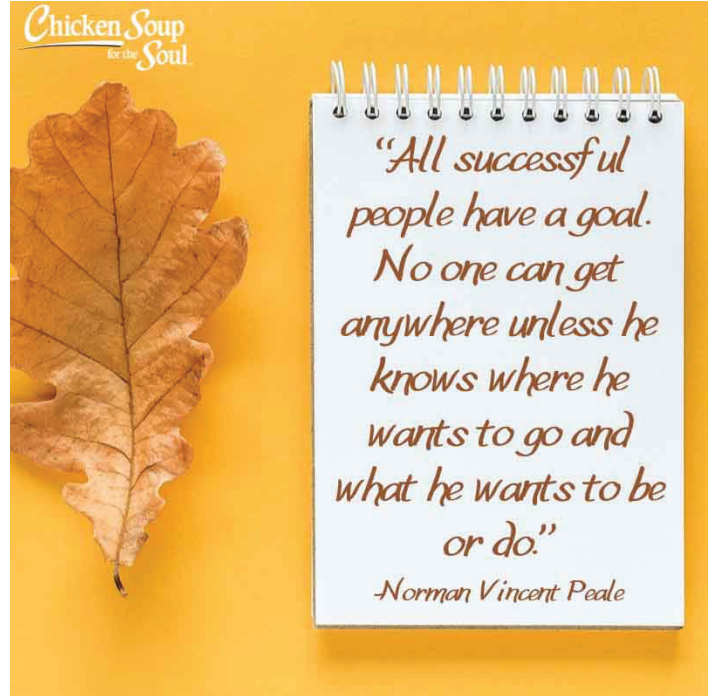
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## Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

**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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## **Only U.S. Beef Should be Labeled as a "Product of the U.S.A."**

**By Sen. Mike Rounds**

South Dakota and American cattle producers raise the best beef in the world. Many families specifically seek out these high-quality products when choosing what beef to purchase at the grocery store. However, some families may not realize that not all meat labeled "Product of the U.S.A." is actually beef from cattle raised within the United States. Current federal regulations include a loophole that allows beef from livestock born, raised and slaughtered in foreign countries to be labeled "Product of the U.S.A." as long as the beef undergoes additional processing at a plant in the U.S. This is wrong.

Senator John Thune (R-S.D.) and I recently introduced legislation to address this issue. The U.S. Beef Integrity Act would make certain that the "Product of the U.S.A." label only goes on beef and beef products exclusively derived from one or more animals born, raised and slaughtered here in the United States. We also wrote a letter to U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Sonny Perdue in support of administrative changes that would prevent beef from cattle born, raised and slaughtered in foreign countries from being labeled as a "Product of the U.S.A." This change would be a win for both consumers and our hardworking cattle ranchers here in the U.S.

Consumers deserve transparency when they're purchasing beef. When South Dakota families purchase beef labeled "Product of the U.S.A.," they should know with certainty that it is coming from one of our top-quality producers. This does not mean we should close the door to other options as well – far from it. I'm glad we have a vast array of choices when we do our grocery shopping. Our bill simply closes the misleading labeling loophole so you'll never be unsure where your beef came from when you're at the grocery store meat counter.

When consumers have greater choice, it results in more innovation in the market and fairer prices. Earlier this year, I introduced legislation that would open up new markets for South Dakota producers. Our bill would allow meat and poultry products inspected by state Meat and Poultry Inspection (MPI) programs to be sold across state lines. Right now, 27 states have state inspection programs that meet or exceed federal inspection standards. However, under current law, products processed at these facilities can't be sold across state lines. Producers have to take extra steps if they want to expand their market reach.

Our farmers and ranchers work hard to deliver the best and safest food products in the world. When I purchase beef at the store, I want to know with certainty that it is an American product. Our beef labeling bill and our meat inspection bill will provide consumers with greater transparency and choice when they're at the grocery store.

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Groton Post No. 39 American Legion



## *Annual*



# *Turkey Party*

**Saturday, Nov. 9, 2019**

**Starting at 6:30 p.m.**

Groton Legion Post Home, 10 N. Main.

Turkey, Ham and Bacon  
to be given away

**FREE ADMISSION**

**DOOR  
PRIZE!**

Lunch served  
by Auxiliary



## Noem Urges EPA to Reconsider Proposed Biofuels Rules

PIERRE, S.D. – Governor Kristi Noem and Minnesota Governor Tim Walz yesterday sent a letter to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Andrew Wheeler urging the agency to honor President Donald Trump’s commitment to follow the Renewable Fuel Standard.

As part of President Trump’s Oct. 4 announcement, he directed the EPA to restore the biofuels lost when the agency granted disproportionate small refinery waivers. At the time of the announcement, Noem applauded the administration’s plan, calling it a “big win for producers.”

In their letter to the EPA, though, Noem and Governor Walz say that the agency’s proposed rules “demonstrate that EPA is oblivious to the harm it has caused.” In the past three years, the EPA has issued 85 small refinery waivers, representing a loss of over 4.3 billion gallons of biofuels.

“President Trump’s announcement to expand ethanol production would be an incredible shot in the arm for South Dakota’s farmers. It would increase the demand for corn and improve long-term agriculture stability,” said Noem. “This announcement is meaningless, though, if the EPA fails to honor the president’s direction and shirks its responsibility to American farmers. The EPA’s recently proposed rules fail to fix the problems they previously caused and once again do not enforce ethanol production requirements. I strongly urge Administrator Wheeler and EPA leadership to reconsider this approach and utilize actual exempted gallon data to ensure the support of farmers and ranchers in South Dakota and throughout the nation.”

“EPA chose to approve these waivers at a time when farmers and biofuel producers were already hurt by adverse weather conditions, flagging export market opportunities, and chronically low commodity prices. Approving these waivers when the agriculture economy was struggling represented a callous disregard for the economic interest our nation’s farmers,” Noem and Walz wrote in the letter.

The governors urged the agency to use a three-year rolling average of actual exempted gallons as the basis to estimate 2020 exempted volumes.

Noem is vice chair of the Governor’s Biofuels Coalition, a group of 21 governors who believe that increasing the use of clean-burning biofuels can decrease the nation’s dependence on imported energy resources, improve public health and the environment, and stimulate state economies.

## State Capitol to Implement New Safety Measures

PIERRE, S.D. – Secretary Craig Price and the Department of Public Safety today announced that a new safety measure designed to keep South Dakota’s state Capitol building safe and accessible to the public will begin this fall.

A security screening room will be constructed near the Capitol’s north entrance and located in office space currently occupied by the Bureau of Human Resources Classifications Division. Those employees have relocated to another space in preparation of the project.

“This is a proactive step in working to protect the Capitol and those who use it,” said Price. “We have designed the screening process to be the least intrusive as possible and allow people to go about their Capitol business. These improvements will enhance public safety while preserving the accessibility of the statehouse.”

“Our State Capitol is the people’s house and this project ensures everyone who visits the building has a safe, positive experience while enjoying its historic beauty,” said Governor Kristi Noem. “Safety is always our top priority, and this modernized approach to Capitol security will help us best serve the hundreds of kids and thousands of visitors who visit the Capitol every year.”

Once the security screening room is completed, visitors will enter through the north doors and be directed into the screening room. Signage will help direct visitors what to do and inform them of what items are not allowed in the Capitol. This information is also available online here.

More information on the security screening process will be announced later.



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## Roncalli Invitational MathCounts Competition

Groton student, Gretchen Dinger, earned second place in the seventh grade individual division. Dillon Abeln earned fifth place in the eighth grade individual division. Gretchen Dinger, Axel Warrington, Payton Mitchell, and Blake Pauli earned second place in the seventh grade team division.

MathCounts is a nationwide coaching and competition program for middle school students that promotes excellence in mathematics. The next junior high competition will be the Roncalli Elementary Countdown MathCounts Competition on Wednesday, December 4.



### 7th Grade Team Awards

First row from the left: Addisyn Heinrich, Jaxson Moore, Kyleigh Schopp, Anna Schwab; Warner; 1st place  
Second row from the left: Gretchen Dinger, Payton Mitchell, Blake Pauli, Axel Warrington; Groton; 2nd place  
Third row from the left: Marlee Baldwin, Reese Comstock, Sam Franks, Athena Johnson; Holgate; 3rd place



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## 7th Grade Individual Awards

First row from the left: Annie Dvorak, Northwestern, 1st Place; Gretchen Dinger, Groton, 2nd Place; Athena Johnson, Holgate, 3rd Place.

Second row from left: Kaden Larson, Roncalli, 4th Place; Reece Comstock, Holgate, 5th Place; Ben Goebel, Roncalli, 6th Place

## 8th Grade Individual Awards

First row from the left: Asi Temoka, Holgate, 1st place; Neva Mikkelsen, Gettysburg, 2nd place; Katelyn Ryan, Holgate, 3rd place

Second row from left: Courtney Decker, Northwestern, 4th place, Dillon Abeln, Groton, 5th place; Ben Ricci, Holgate, 6th place



## **2019 South Dakota All-State Chorus & Orchestra Scheduled for Sioux Falls**

Over 1,000 of South Dakota's best high school vocal and instrumental musicians will gather in Sioux Falls for the 67th Annual South Dakota All-State Chorus and Orchestra on Friday and Saturday, November 1 & 2. The All-State activities will culminate with a Grand Concert at the Denny Sanford PREMIER Center beginning at 7:00 p.m. (CDT) on Saturday evening, November 2nd. Concert tickets can be purchased at [HYPERLINK "http://www.ticketmaster.com" www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com), or at the box office in the Denny Sanford PREMIER Center. The doors of the PREMIER Center will open for the Concert at 5:30 on Saturday evening.

The annual All-State Chorus & Orchestra, sponsored by South Dakota High School Activities Association, is the largest interscholastic high school music activity held in South Dakota. The 2019 All-State Chorus includes 940 singers representing 144 South Dakota high schools. The All-State Orchestra is comprised of 156 musicians from 25 schools.






The guest conductors for the 2019 All-State Chorus & Orchestra Concert are Dr. Timothy Dixon from Messiah College, and Dr. Andrew Last from Luther College. Dr. Last will conduct the All-State Chorus while Dr. Dixon will lead the 2019 All-State Orchestra.

During the All-State Grand Concert, the South Dakota Music Educators Association will recognize several high schools and individuals for their contributions to music in South Dakota. The SDHSAA will also recognize Deanna Wehrspann for her contributions to interscholastic music education by awarding her with the SDHSAA Distinguished Service Award.



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Today	Tonight	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday
				
30%   30%	10%			
Chance Rain/Snow then Chance Rain	Slight Chance Rain/Snow then Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Sunny
High: 41 °F	Low: 26 °F	High: 43 °F	Low: 27 °F	High: 42 °F

**Today**




Morning: Isolated Snow over northern SD.  
 Afternoon: Scattered Rain. Rain may be mixed with snow over the Sisseton Hills.


**near 40°**





National Weather Service  
**Aberdeen, SD**  
 Check out your latest forecast at  
[www.weather.gov/abr](http://www.weather.gov/abr)

**Slightly Warmer Weekend**  
 Only isolated Rain or Snow Sunday-Tuesday

**Saturday**  
 40s

**Sunday**  
 isolated Rain and Snow across mainly north central SD  
 40s

**Monday**  
 isolated mixed precipitation early across much of the area, then over mainly south central SD during the day  
 mid to upper 30s

**Tuesday**  
 isolated Snow across mainly central SD  
 upper 20s to low 30s

11/1/2019 3:56 AM

Published on: 11/01/2019 at 12:17AM

The cold weather remains, with highs 5 to 10 degrees below average for this time of year. Scattered rain will be possible this afternoon. This rain may be mixed with snow over the Sisseton Hills. Expect dry weather Saturday, with highs in the 40s.

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## Today in Weather History

November 1, 1999: High winds of 30 to 50 mph with gusts to around 55 mph caused some tree and building damage throughout Big Stone and Traverse counties. On Highway 10 west of Browns Valley, the high winds blew a semi-tractor trailer full of 12,000 pounds of meat off the road and into a ditch. High winds from 30 to 50 mph, gusting to near 65 mph also caused building and tree damage throughout central, north-central, and northeast South Dakota. In Eureka, the high winds blew down a large part of the ballpark fence. In Mellette, a 250-foot diameter grain bin under construction also received some damage from the winds.

November 1, 2000: A tornado event on the 1st of November was a rare and unusual weather phenomenon to occur so late in the year in North Dakota. Five tornadoes hit south-central North Dakota, causing property damage and injuries. The majority of the damage and injuries occurred in the Bismarck area. Forty-two homes suffered minor to moderate damage. The tornadoes were rated F0 and F1, packing winds up to 90 mph. Another unusual phenomenon, these tornadoes traveled from east to west. The track was caused by an intense low-pressure system, centered over north-central South Dakota, spinning counterclockwise, allowing the low-level flow over Bismarck to move east to west. At the same time, these tornadoes were occurring, snow began to fall in the far western area of North Dakota. Winter storm watches and warnings were posted across north-west and central North Dakota that afternoon. Before this, the last recorded tornado to occur in the state was October 11th, 1979, in Sargent County in southeast North Dakota.

1755: A magnitude 8.7 earthquake devastated the city of Lisbon, Portugal, on this day, killing as many as 50,000 people. The epicenter was located 120 miles west-southwest of Cape St. Vincent. Many individuals who sought safety on the Tagus River were killed by an estimated 20-foot tall tsunami that struck 40 minutes after the earthquake.

1848: When Joseph Henry came to the Smithsonian, one of his priorities was to set up a meteorological program. In 1847, while outlining his plan for the new institution, Henry called for "a system of extended meteorological observations for solving the problem of American storms." On November 1st, 1848, Joseph Henry and Navy meteorologist James Espy wrote a letter urging anyone interested in becoming a weather observer to signify their willingness to do so. By 1849, he had budgeted \$1,000 for the Smithsonian meteorological project and established a network of some 150 volunteer weather observers. A decade later, the project had more than 600 volunteer observers, including people in Canada, Mexico, Latin America, and the Caribbean. Its cost in 1860 was \$4,400, or thirty percent of the Smithsonian's research and publication budget.

1870: United States Army Signal Corps observers at 24 sites around the country simultaneously made weather reports and transmitted them to Washington, where a national weather map would be drawn. This started the process of sending out weather reports by telegraph to metropolitan newspapers. This would be the beginning of our present-day National Weather Service.

2014: Up to 6 inches of snow fell in Gilbert, South Carolina.

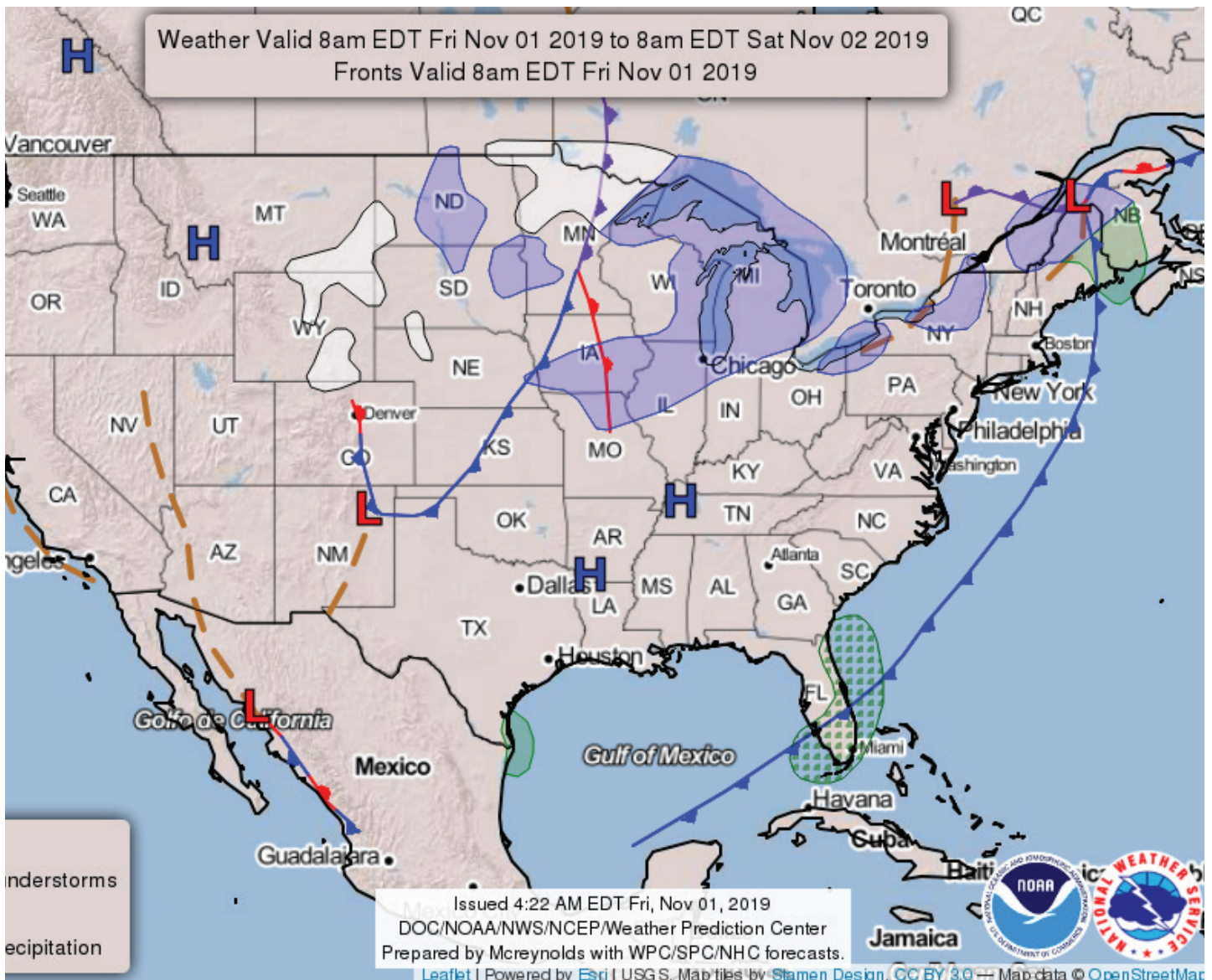
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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

**High Temp:** 43 °F at 3:59 PM  
**Low Temp:** 16 °F at 6:50 AM  
**Wind:** 19 mph at 1:42 PM  
**Day Rain:** 0.00

**Record High:** 75° in 1990  
**Record Low:** -3° in 1935  
**Average High:** 49°F  
**Average Low:** 26°F  
**Average Precip in Oct.:** 1.99  
**Precip to date in Oct.:** 1.55  
**Average Precip to date:** 20.47  
**Precip Year to Date:** 26.57  
**Sunset Tonight:** 6:21 p.m.  
**Sunrise Tomorrow:** 8:14 a.m.





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## ALL THAT AND MORE?

It was the first Sunday for the new pastor in the little country church. His sermon was short, but his prayer was rather lengthy. After the service was over, two members got together to share their opinions of the new pastor.

"That preacher sure can pray," said one.

"Yes, he can," agreed the other. "He prayed for things that the last preacher didn't know that the Lord knew anything about."

Prayer involves responsibility and accountability. As God's children, we are responsible to go to our heavenly Father in prayer and ask for what we need. As for God our heavenly Father, He is accountable to answer our prayers because we are His children. It is important, however, that we understand the child/heavenly Father relationship. Because we are God's children, we are to go to Him any time and every time we have a need. We are to ask for anything and everything, whenever we have a need and wherever we happen to be, as long as the request is in agreement with His will and for our spiritual growth and wellbeing. All of life comes from God and all of our life is given to us to honor God. So, if what we ask will honor and glorify Him – the needs that we have that are in agreement with His Word, His will, and His way – we know He will grant.

Remember this: If it concerns us, it concerned Him first, and He will do whatever it takes on His part to honor His promises if we are faithful to Him in all our ways.

Prayer: Help us, Father, to rely completely upon You for everything we need, trusting in You always. May our heart's desires agree with what honors You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Jeremiah 33:3 Ask me and I will tell you remarkable secrets you do not know about things to come.

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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

### Thursday's Scores By The Associated Press

#### PREP FOOTBALL=

Class 11AAA=

Quarterfinal=

Brandon Valley 52, Rapid City Stevens 21

Sioux Falls O'Gorman 24, Harrisburg 20

Sioux Falls Roosevelt 49, Watertown 14

Sioux Falls Washington 21, Sioux Falls Lincoln 6

Class 11AA=

Quarterfinal=

Brookings 52, Douglas 13

Huron 21, Yankton 6

Mitchell 35, Sturgis Brown 28

Pierre 103, Spearfish 0

Class 11A=

Quarterfinal=

Canton 50, Dakota Valley 6

Lennox 35, Madison 33

Tea Area 49, Tri-Valley 6

West Central 16, Dell Rapids 13

Class 11B=

Quarterfinal=

Bridgewater-Emery 33, Sioux Valley 0

McCook Central/Montrose 37, Mobridge-Pollock 8

Webster 29, Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 22

Winner 36, St. Thomas More 13

Class 9AA=

Quarterfinal=

Bon Homme 55, Jones County/White River 0

Deuel 44, Baltic 20

Lemmon/McIntosh 46, Hamlin 30

Viborg-Hurley 66, Platte-Geddes 20

Class 9A=

Quarterfinal=

Britton-Hecla 48, Burke 6

Canistota-Freeman 44, Wall 13

Gregory 28, Howard 22

Sully Buttes 22, Warner 14

Class 9B=

Quarterfinal=

Colman-Egan 52, Irene-Wakonda 0

Harding County 38, Kadoka Area 26

Herreid/Selby Area 48, Dell Rapids St. Mary 38

Wolsey-Wessington 50, Scotland 0

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

Volleyball

Sioux Falls Lincoln def. Aberdeen Central, 11-25, 20-25, 25-21, 25-20, 15-11  
Wyndmere-Lidgerwood, N.D. def. Wilmot, 25-21, 25-18, 25-18

## Judge declines to delay South Dakota execution

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A judge on Thursday denied a South Dakota inmate's request to delay his execution over concerns about the drug that the state plans to use, rejecting the man's contention that it doesn't act quickly enough.

Charles Rhines, scheduled to die by lethal injection next week in the 1992 stabbing of a 22-year-old doughnut shop worker, had argued that pentobarbital is not an "ultra-short-acting" drug as required by state law. He had sought a full trial on his complaint.

But Second Circuit Judge Jon Sogn wrote in a 23-page order that when the drug is used in lethal doses, it operates "virtually the same" as other drugs that Rhines cited, including thiopental. In fact, Sogn said, pentobarbital in lethal doses may even be faster to induce unconsciousness.

The judge also wrote that he doubted that Rhines' complaint was motivated by a desire to change the drug used to execute him.

"Instead, the real purpose behind his claim is likely to seek a delay of his execution," Sogn wrote.

Attorney General Jason Ravnsborg praised the ruling, saying justice for Rhines' victim — Donnivan Schaeffer — is long overdue.

"Rhines has had his day in court," Ravnsborg said. "It is now time for him to serve his sentence."

An attorney for Rhines didn't immediately respond to a message.

The exact date of Rhines' execution was to be announced 48 hours in advance.

South Dakota uses a two-drug protocol in executions: A barbiturate followed by a paralytic agent. The barbiturate — in this case pentobarbital — is enough by itself to cause death, Sogn wrote, with the paralytic used to ensure death.

A Montana court ruled in 2015 that pentobarbital was not "ultra-short-acting," but several other states, including Georgia, Missouri and Texas, use it in executions.

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.

Sogn acknowledged the Montana decision and Rhines' heavy reliance on it but noted it didn't appear to have been appealed to that state's Supreme Court. He also cited expert testimony by a state witness who said barbiturate classifications as "ultra short acting," "short acting" and "fast acting" are not absolute and can change depending on dosage and whether they are taken by pill or injection.

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 stabbed Schaeffer in the skull, stomach and back when Schaeffer interrupted him as Rhines burglarized the doughnut shop where Schaeffer worked. Rhines, who had been fired from the shop three weeks earlier, tied up Schaeffer. According to a police investigator, Rhines rejected Schaeffer's pleas for mercy.

## Keystone oil pipeline leaks 383,000 gallons in North Dakota

By JAMES MacPHERSON Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — TC Energy's Keystone pipeline has leaked an estimated 383,000 gallons (1.4 million liters) of oil in northeastern North Dakota, marking the second significant spill in two years along the line that carries Canadian tar sands oil through seven states, regulators said Thursday.

Crews on Tuesday shut down the pipeline after the leak was discovered, said Karl Rockeman, North Dakota's water quality division director. It remained closed Thursday.

The Calgary, Alberta-based company formerly known as TransCanada said in a statement that the leak affected about 22,500 square feet (2090 sq. meters) of land near Edinburg, in Walsh County.

The company and regulators said the cause was being investigated.

"Our emergency response team contained the impacted area and oil has not migrated beyond the immediately affected area," the company said in a statement.

TC Energy said the area affected by the spill is less than the size of a football field and that the amount of oil released — 9,120 barrels — would approximately half fill an Olympic-sized swimming pool.

North Dakota regulators were notified late Tuesday of the leak. Rockeman said some wetlands were affected, but not any sources of drinking water.

Regulators have been at the site since Wednesday afternoon monitoring the spill and cleanup, he said.

Crude began flowing through the \$5.2 billion pipeline in 2011. It's designed to carry crude oil across Saskatchewan and Manitoba, and through North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas and Missouri on the way to refineries in Patoka, Illinois and Cushing, Oklahoma.

It can handle about 23 million gallons daily.

The pipeline spill and shutdown comes as the company seeks to build the \$8 billion Keystone XL pipeline that would carry tar sands oil from Alberta, Canada, to refineries in Texas. The proposed Keystone XL pipeline has drawn opposition from people who fear it will harm the environment.

President Donald Trump issued a federal permit for the expansion project in 2017, after it had been rejected by the Obama administration.

Together, the massive Keystone and Keystone XL network would be about five times the length of the trans-Alaska oil pipeline.

The original Keystone has experienced problems with spills in the past, including one in 2011 of more than 14,000 gallons (53,000 liters) of oil in southeastern North Dakota, near the South Dakota border. That leak was blamed on valve failure at a pumping station.

Another leak in 2016 prompted a weeklong shutdown of the pipeline. The company estimated that just under 17,000 gallons (64,350 liters) of oil spilled onto private land during that leak. Federal regulators said an "anomaly" on a weld on the pipeline was to blame. No waterways or aquifers were affected.

In 2017, the pipeline leaked an estimated 407,000 gallons (1.5 million liters) of oil onto farmland in northeastern South Dakota, in a rural area near the North Dakota border. The company had originally put the spill at about 210,000 gallons (795,000 liters).

Federal regulators said at the time that the Keystone leak was the seventh-largest onshore oil or petroleum product spill since 2010. Federal investigators said the pipeline was likely damaged during installation during 2008 and may have occurred when a vehicle drove over the pipe, causing it to weaken over time.

North Dakota's biggest spill, and one of the largest onshore spills in U.S. history, came in 2013, when 840,000 gallons (3.1 million liters) spilled from a Tesoro pipeline in the northwestern part of the state. The company spent five years and nearly \$100 million cleaning it up.

The Sierra Club said the latest spill was an example of why the Keystone XL should not be built.

"We don't yet know the extent of the damage from this latest tar sands spill, but what we do know is that this is not the first time this pipeline has spilled toxic tar sands, and it won't be the last."

Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders took to Twitter on Thursday to condemn the pipeline and Trump for supporting the extension of it.

Sanders said he would shut down the existing pipeline if elected.

## South Dakota Capitol beefing up security

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — State officials are beefing up security at the South Dakota Capitol building this fall. A security screening room is being built near the north entrance doors of the Capitol in Pierre.

In a public service announcement, Department of Public Safety Secretary Craig Price says the screening room will be built into already existing office space.

Price says accessibility to the Capitol building has not changed.

KCCR Radio reports Price says the new screening room is expected to be in place and operational by the time the 2020 legislative session begins in January.

Signs will direct visitors where to go when they arrive. All other doors to the Capitol are locked from the outside with electric locks that are accessible only with approved key cards and fobs for state employees.

## Cinemark Widens Footprint in South Dakota with Third Movie Theatre

PLANO, Texas--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Oct 31, 2019--

Cinemark Holdings, Inc. (NYSE: CNK), one of the world's largest and most influential movie theatre companies, in partnership with Foursquare Properties today announced that it will build a state-of-the-art, modern-style, 12-screen theatre in the Gateway at Rapid City Center. As part of the development located just off Interstate 90, the new Cinemark South Dakota location is scheduled to open in the spring of 2021. This will be Cinemark's third theatre in South Dakota, in addition to the Century Stadium 14 and XD and Century East in Sioux Falls.

This press release features multimedia. View the full release here: <https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20191031005877/en/>

A brand-new, modern 12-screen Cinemark Theatre will be an entertainment anchor in The Gateway at Rapid City. Construction begins summer of 2020 with the opening scheduled for spring 2021. (Photo: Business Wire)

All 12 auditoriums will have reserved seating and will feature Cinemark's Luxury Loungers, which are plush, oversize, heat-controlled reclining seats. The multiplex will also feature an XD auditorium with an immersive wall-to-wall screen and enhanced sound system.

"We are excited to expand our offerings in South Dakota to provide even more guests with an innovative moviegoing experience featuring our immersive technology and customer-preferred amenities," said Mark Zoradi, Cinemark CEO. "Our brand-new Cinemark theatre will be the latest entertainment anchor to the Gateway Development at Rapid City."

This 43-acre project serves as the perfect regional destination for all ages and will provide additional food and beverage, entertainment and lifestyle offerings.

"Cinemark will be a great additional anchor to Gateway at Rapid City and will be the catalyst to additional entertainment and tourist-friendly hospitality venues including restaurants, family entertainment uses, and recreational draws," said Margaret Hyatt, Foursquare Properties Project Manager. "Foursquare Properties is excited to be partnering again with this fantastic organization."

At the Cinemark Rapid City and XD theatre, guests will experience cutting-edge technology and enhanced amenities, including:

A Cinemark XD auditorium with premium sight and sound technology to further immerse audiences in the on-screen action; Cinemark Luxury Loungers – electric-powered, plush, oversize recliners with footrests, cup holders and heat-controlled seats; Reserved seating with online, kiosk and mobile app ticketing capabilities; A modern viewing environment with wall-to-wall screens and enhanced sound systems in all auditoriums; 4K digital projection powered by Barco projectors and RealD 3D capabilities in several auditoriums; A welcoming lobby, complete with a full-service, traditional concession stand filled with favorite offerings like popcorn, Coca-Cola beverages, must-have candy brands and enhanced food offerings including Pizza Hut; A reservable party room available for birthday parties and additional celebrations, and; Special pricing for Discount



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Tuesdays and Cinemark Movie Rewards members. To learn more about construction progress, visit Four-square Properties. Stay connected with Cinemark at cinemark.com and through Cinemark's social media channels at Facebook, Twitter and Instagram (@Cinemark or #Cinemark).

## 2 killed in house explosion on reservation

WAGNER, S.D. (AP) — Tribal police in southeastern South Dakota say two people are dead in a house explosion near Wagner.

Yankton Sioux Reservation Police Chief Willard Bruguier Jr. says one adult and one child died when the house was reduced to rubble Wednesday at Wagner North Housing. Bruguier declined to further identify the victims.

Police earlier indicated a propane leak possibly caused the explosion, but Bruguier says the cause is still under investigation.

## 20-year sentence for woman who sent heroin in fatal overdose

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — An Illinois woman was been sentenced to 20 years in prison for providing the heroin that led to an overdose death in South Dakota.

Twenty-seven-year-old Stephanie Broecker, of Chicago, earlier pleaded guilty to distributing a controlled substance resulting in death. U.S. Attorney Ron Parson says Broecker mailed heroin from Rockford, Illinois to a drug customer in Fedora, South Dakota in November 2017. The recipient used the heroin and died of an overdose hours later.

Federal Judge Karen Schreier also sentenced Broecker this week to three years of supervised release and restitution of about \$3,600. Broecker has been turned over to the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service.

## AP-NORC poll: Many support inquiry but it's not top priority

By HANNAH FINGERHUT and JILL COLVIN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — More Americans approve of the impeachment investigation into President Donald Trump than disapprove of it, though only about a third say the inquiry should be a top priority for Congress, according to a new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

That solid, if measured, support serves as a warning sign for Trump's White House and reelection campaign, which have insisted that pursuing impeachment will end up being a vulnerability for Democrats heading into 2020.

But the findings present some red flags for Democrats, too: More people say House members are motivated mainly by politics rather than by duty as they investigate the Republican president's dealings with Ukraine and whether he abused his office or compromised national security when he tried to pressure the country to dig up dirt on a political rival.

And assessments of the president's performance generally have remained remarkably stable even as the investigation has unfolded at a rapid clip.

Overall, 47% said they support the impeachment inquiry, while 38% disapprove. Like most assessments of Trump and Washington, views of impeachment are starkly polarized.

A vast majority of Democrats approve of the inquiry, including 68% who strongly approve.

Among them is Sandra Shrewsbury, 70, who lives in Greencastle, Indiana. She said that Trump's impeachment is long overdue.

"I am really concerned about our country if this does not stop," she said of Trump's time in office.

She voiced concerns that Trump doesn't have the temperament to be the nation's commander in chief and is doing serious damage to the country's standing.

She was relieved, she said, that after months of hemming and hawing, impeachment proceedings were finally underway.

"I was getting very frustrated with Congress and those investigating because I felt like they were just

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dragging their heels," she said. "I wish they'd stop worrying about getting reelected themselves and get down to the business they're supposed to be doing. ... We pay them to do this job."

"They should have done it a long time, a way long time ago," agreed Monica Galindo, 32, who lives in Camilla, Georgia.

It's another story among Republicans, who overwhelmingly disapprove of the inquiry, including 67% who do so strongly.

"I think its garbage," said Sara Palmer, 42, a staunch Trump supporter who lives in Pocatello, Idaho, and accused Democrats of wasting time and money trying to take down Trump when there are far more important things they should be doing for the country.

"I mean come on!" she said. "There's nothing there. ... He didn't do anything wrong."

That's a sentiment shared by a majority, 64%, of Republicans.

Yet even among members of Trump's party, a modest share think he did do something wrong. About a quarter, 28%, think he did something unethical, while 8% think he broke the law.

The public overall has mixed views of whether the president committed any wrongdoing. Most say his interactions with the president of Ukraine were at least unethical. That includes about 4 in 10 who think he did something illegal. About another 3 in 10 think what he did was unethical but not illegal.

Trump has insisted he did nothing wrong.

But nearly all Democrats think the president crossed a line, including roughly 7 in 10 who say that he broke the law.

Still, not all Democrats think the inquiry should be Congress' top priority. A quarter think it should be an important but lower priority, and 1 in 10 say it should not be an important priority at all. And while most Democrats support the inquiry, 27% think the House is acting mainly on political motivation to challenge Trump's presidency.

Even as Americans express strong opinions about the inquiry, many have mixed assessments of their own understanding of the impeachment process. Just about 3 in 10 say they understand the process very or extremely well, while roughly as many describe their understanding as limited.

Skylar Iske, 22, who voted for Trump in 2016 but has grown weary of him, said it was difficult for him to oppose the process given his limited awareness of the case for impeachment.

"I don't feel like he should be. But then again, I also don't know what they're investigating," said Iske, who lives outside Des Moines, Iowa.

And there are rare areas where Republicans and Democrats actually agree.

Majorities across party lines think it was inappropriate for Hunter Biden, former Vice President Joe Biden's son, to serve on the board of a Ukrainian energy company while his father was vice president, with only about a quarter of Americans saying it was appropriate.

Roughly 7 in 10, including 6 in 10 Democrats, say it wasn't.

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The AP-NORC poll of 1,075 adults was conducted Oct. 24-28 using a sample drawn from NORC's probability-based AmeriSpeak Panel, which is designed to be representative of the U.S. population. The margin of sampling error for all respondents is plus or minus 4.1 percentage points. Respondents were first selected randomly using address-based sampling methods and later were interviewed online or by phone.

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Online:

AP-NORC Center: <http://www.apnorc.org/>

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AP videojournalist Sarah Blake Morgan in Charlotte, North Carolina, contributed to this report.

## Joint Turkish and Russian patrols begin in Syrian region

By MEHMET GUZEL Associated Press

SEVIMLI, Turkey (AP) — Turkey and Russia launched joint patrols Friday in northeastern Syria, under a deal that halted a Turkish offensive against Syrian Kurdish fighters who were forced to withdraw from the

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border area following Ankara's incursion.

The patrols will cover two sections, in the west and east of Turkey's operation zone in Syria, with a depth of 10 kilometers (6 miles). Turkish troops and allied Syrian opposition fighters now control the border towns of Tal Abyad, Ras al-Ayn and nearby villages. The deal on the patrols excludes the city of Qamishli, according to the ministry's statement on Tuesday.

Turkey's defense ministry tweeted on Friday that the patrols started in al-Darbasiyah region, with Turkish and Russian troops, armored vehicles and drones.

The Russian Defense Ministry said the joint patrol consists of nine military vehicles, including a Russian armored personnel carrier, and would cover a 110-kilometer (68-mile) route on Friday.

The joint patrols did not fly Russian and Turkish flags on their armored vehicles on Friday. An Associated Press journalist at the Turkey-Syria border could see the Syrian flag hoisted on a building on the Syrian side. Syrian government troops moved into Kurdish-held areas following an agreement in October.

Turkey last month invaded northeastern Syria to push out Syrian Kurdish fighters whom it considers terrorists for their links to a Kurdish insurgency inside Turkey.

But the U.S. had partnered with the Syrian Kurdish fighters, their top allies in the war against the Islamic State group. The relationship has strained ties between Washington and Ankara who are NATO allies.

After an abrupt and widely criticized decision by President Donald Trump to withdraw American troops from this part of Syria, the Kurdish forces approached the Syrian government and Russia for protection. Syrian government troops and Russian military police subsequently moved into areas along the border.

Two ceasefire agreements —brokered by the U.S. and Russia— paused Turkey's operation to allow the Syrian Kurdish fighters withdraw 30 kilometers (about 19 miles, away from the border.

Russia told Turkey, at the end of the 150-hour cease-fire on Tuesday, that the Syrian Kurdish fighters were out of the strip of territory, as well as out of the towns of Manbij and Tal Rifaat, west of the Euphrates River.

Also Friday, Turkey's defense ministry announced that a Turkish soldier was killed after an improvised explosive device detonated on Thursday, bringing the Turkish military's death toll to 13 since the start Ankara's invasion in northeastern Syria on Oct. 9. Mortars fired from Syria during the early phases of the operation killed 21 civilians in Turkey.

Though the truce has mostly held, it has been marred by accusations of violations from both sides and occasional clashes. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has threatened to resume the offensive if deemed necessary.

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Associated Press writers Zeynep Bilginsoy in Istanbul and Vladimir Isachenkov in Moscow contributed to this report.

## Dubai displays tech reputation with global robotics contest

By ARON HELLER Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Seeking to bolster its image as a forward-looking metropolis, Dubai hosted the largest-ever international robotics contest this week, challenging young people from 190 countries to find solutions to global ocean pollution.

Event organizers say their selection of Dubai as host reflects a vote of confidence that this oil-rich Emirati sheikhdom can be a global hub for innovation. They also expressed hope that bringing together tomorrow's scientists and engineers will help develop technologies to solve the world's most pressing issues, particularly those related to the environment.

Dean Kamen, founder of FIRST Global Challenge, said the Middle East represents a part of the world where "the adults have not learned how to play nice with each other" and it was up to young people to fix humanity's self-inflicted wounds.

"We are in an accelerating race toward catastrophe, whether it's global warming, melting of the (polar ice) caps, bird flu, terrorism — you name it, we're worried about it. The solution to most of the world's grand challenges depends on better technologies than we have today," he said.

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"This globe of ours is on life support, so the thought is we get every kid in every country to focus on learning how to use technology, but focus on using it as a tool and not a weapon," he explained.

The unofficial "Robotics Olympics" seeks to encourage young people to pursue subjects known as STEM — science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Teams of four to five students, aged 14-18, each received a kit of rods, wheels, wires and other raw materials with which to assemble their roving robots. Their task: Collect orange balls of various sizes from a playing field, which represented human-created pollutants in the ocean. Some devised robots for scooping, while others snatched up and fired the balls through the air into the receptacles.

The teams then formed "alliances," each with up of four nations, to battle their way to the final round. Overall, 1,500 students took part.

A team captained by Belarus, and including Syrian refugees, eventually won the gold medal, edging out a team captained by Israel in a dramatic final match. But organizers stressed a message of unity, not conflict.

"The kids get it. To them this isn't a competition; this is a 'coop-etition.' This is a celebration of technology," said Kamen.

Previous events tackled challenges related to clean water access and sustainable energy.

Robotics is a natural fit for Dubai, a city that's already testing driverless cars and taxis. It's become a magnet for international entrepreneurs, with an entire zone called "Internet City" that's packed with high-tech startups. Next October, Dubai will host the Expo 2020, welcoming technological breakthroughs from around the world.

"If we are to become the city of the future, we need to have the right talent from around the world," said Omar Al-Olama, the 29-year-old Emirati Minister of Artificial Intelligence, the world's first such minister. "Artificial intelligence is based on data. Data is what drives all these new technologies. We have the holy grail of data. We have 200 nationalities represented in this country."

FedEx recently announced Dubai would become the first city outside the U.S. to test Roxo, an autonomous delivery device that can travel on sidewalks and even unpaved surfaces.

Roxo made its debut international appearance at this week's robotics contest, drawing the interest of the tech-savvy teens hailing from places as diverse as Afghanistan to Zimbabwe. They mingled in Dubai's Festival City, exchanging experiences and forming friendships while talking shop about their gadgets.

"We didn't do so well in the matches because we had a lot of trouble with the control hub, but it doesn't matter, we had a lot of fun," said Stefan Sijbesma, 17, from the Netherlands. "For me, robotics is really important because it really helped me choose what I want to study and what I want to do with my life."

The three-day tournament had a festival-like atmosphere to it, with announcers and commentators analyzing the action in sports-broadcast style and fans waving flags and banners supporting their teams. The pavilion floor was filled with facts about the millions of tons of pollutants threatening the world's oceans, and featured slogans such as "united by land, connected by oceans" and "together we turn the tide on pollution."

As the nail-biting results were being announced, the Israelis huddled with their Ugandan teammates before embracing the winning team in a feel-good ending.

"I can't believe it, it's a miracle," said Yamen Najjar, manager of Team Hope, which represents the Syrian refugees and was part of the winning alliance. "It was a very difficult competition for us, we faced a lot of problems, but we didn't lose hope."

Outgoing U.S. Energy Secretary Rick Perry, who'd made the original announcement that Dubai would host the event earlier this year in a surprise visit to the World Government Summit, was on hand. Perry said he's followed the robotics tournaments since 2002 when, as governor of Texas, he attended one of the regional competitions in Houston and was "blown away" by the passions and abilities of the young contestants.

But he said he found their camaraderie even more impressive.

"It is stunning what these young people are doing," Perry said. "Where the adults may have failed in the standpoint of international diplomacy, these young people may accomplish, and if that's the case maybe that is the most important thing that comes out of this."



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## US jobs data to show whether hiring is still fueling growth

By JOSH BOAK AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The government's October jobs report being released Friday will help show whether hiring remains a key source of strength for a U.S. economy that's been weakened by trade wars and a global slowdown.

It will also provide a glimpse of whatever short-term damage the now-settled strike against General Motors inflicted on the economy.

Analysts have forecast that employers added 90,000 jobs last month and that the unemployment rate ticked up from 3.5% to 3.6%, still near a 50-year low, according to a survey of forecasts by data provider FactSet.

The predicted gain is an artificially low one because of the GM strike. The strike is thought to have caused roughly 60,000 idled workers to be temporarily counted as unemployed during October, meaning that the expected job gain would otherwise be far higher, said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody Analytics.

Hiring has slowed this past year, though it remains high enough to keep the unemployment rate from rising in an otherwise mostly lackluster economy. On Wednesday, the government estimated that the economy grew in the July-October quarter at a modest 1.9% annual rate.

Surveys suggest that employers have turned cautious in large part because of heightened uncertainties caused by President Donald Trump's trade conflicts. The president has imposed tariffs on many goods imported to the U.S., and other nations have retaliated with import taxes on U.S. exports.

One result is that companies, especially in manufacturing, construction and retail but also in some other sectors, have slowed their hiring or have stopped hiring altogether.

"The fundamental outlook for payrolls is deteriorating, with all the surveys we follow pointing to weaker labor demand," said Ian Shepherdson, chief economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics. "Layoffs are still very low and stable, but the downshift in hiring is substantial."

Still, consumers, who drive about 70% of U.S. economic activity, have remained generally resilient. In September, they modestly stepped up their spending, and their incomes grew fast enough to let them save more, too. A rising saving rate is encouraging because it suggests that households have leeway to keep spending and supporting an economic expansion that has entered a record-breaking 11th year.

At the same time, businesses have been a drag on the economy in recent months. Collectively, they have slashed their spending on industrial machinery and other equipment, mostly because the U.S.-China trade war has made them reluctant to commit to big purchases. The tariffs between the U.S. and China, the world's two largest economies, have also reduced U.S. exports.

So far this year, job growth has averaged roughly 161,000 a month, down from a monthly average of 223,000 jobs in 2018, according to Labor Department figures.

October is the usual start of hiring for the holiday shopping season. But the rise of e-commerce and increasing concentration of wealth in large U.S. metros have corresponded with the loss of more than 70,000 jobs at retailers this year. This trend could further diminish hiring by the retail sector, said Richard Moody, chief economist at Regions Financial.

"Given the ongoing structural changes within retail and this year's late Thanksgiving, there was likely much less seasonal hiring this October than in past years," he said.

Sluggish pay growth is another source of concern. The low unemployment rate and a shortage of qualified workers in many industries have nevertheless failed to accelerate wages across the job market as traditional economy theory would suggest. Average annual hourly pay growth has slipped from 3.4% in February to 2.9% in September.

Still, data tracked by the jobs site Glassdoor indicates that wage gains should start to rebound as com-

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panies continue to compete for workers in the hottest job markets.

Noting an upward trend in wages in his company's data, Glassdoor economist Daniel Zhao said, "The labor market is showing no signs of stopping in October."

## China's economy struggles as consumers tighten belts

By JOE McDONALD AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP) — With home sales crashing, real estate agent Zhang Yonggang is tightening his belt, part of a plunge in Chinese consumer demand that is a bigger threat to economic growth than Beijing's tariff war with Washington.

Zhang, who works in the central city of Taiyuan, said his office sold no apartments last month after Beijing tightened lending controls in July to rein in housing costs and debt. Zhang, 42 and married with a teenage son, said his income has fallen by half from a year ago.

"I have no money to buy a home and no plans to change cars," Zhang said. "It is definitely the toughest time I've ever seen."

Communist leaders are counting on consumers to power China's economy, replacing trade and investment. But shoppers, spooked by the tariff war and possible job losses, are cutting spending on cars, real estate and other big-ticket purchases.

Economic growth sank to a three-decade low of 6% over a year earlier in the quarter ending in September. That is stronger than most major countries but a strain for Chinese companies that need to repay debt.

Factory activity shrank more than expected in October, according to an official trade group, the China Federation of Logistics & Purchasing. Analysts said that suggested an uptick a month earlier didn't mark the start of a recovery.

The Chinese slowdown has sent shockwaves through the global economy.

Companies from Apple to Tiffany's have reported weaker sales as Chinese consumers and tourists spend less. China's demand for iron ore, copper and other commodities has softened, depressing global prices.

Communist leaders express confidence China can survive President Donald Trump's tariff hikes on its exports.

On Thursday, the ruling party's Central Committee affirmed support for private business within an economy dominated by state industry and gave no sign of plans to change economic strategy.

But leaders openly fret over slumping consumer spending and other domestic activity.

Premier Li Keqiang, the top economic official, told local leaders last week to fight "downward pressure" on the economy and "make sure targets for this year are achieved."

"Many real economic entities are struggling amid weak domestic demand," the premier said at a meeting with provincial governors, according to a Cabinet statement.

Beijing has tried to stick to plans to nurture self-sustaining, consumer-driven growth instead of resorting to stimulus, which usually means splurging on construction paid for with bank loans. That might re-ignite a surge in debt that forecasters estimate has risen as high as the equivalent of 300% of China's annual economic output.

"China is willing to accept slower growth, but only up to a point," Rory Green of TS Lombard said in a report.

If job losses spike, "of course Beijing will have to step in with a major stimulus," Green said.

Trump's punitive duties on billions of dollars of Chinese goods in a fight over Beijing's trade surplus and technology ambitions have battered exporters. But their impact on the rest of the economy has been smaller than some forecasters expected.

And trade overall is stronger than expected. Shipments to the United States fell nearly 11% in the first nine months of 2019, but exports to the whole world were off only 0.1%.

Retail sales rose 8.2% over a year earlier in the nine months ending in September. But some industries suffered painful contractions: Auto sales fell 11.7%.

The pressures are reflected in Anna Li's dilemma. The 28-year-old employee of an information technol-

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ogy company in Beijing plans to buy an apartment, but first she wants a new job. She has looked since last year and found nothing because companies have cut hiring.

"I used to have a plan to buy an apartment next year, but now it depends on the success of my job hunting," said Li.

The International Monetary Fund is forecasting annual growth of 6.1% this year, down from last year's 6.6% and just above the official minimum target of 6%. Next year, the IMF expects a further decline to 5.8%.

Some analysts question whether China really is achieving even that growth and say the real rate may be closer to 3%. They blame flaws in data collection and political pressure to make results look better.

Economic activity might be up to 21% smaller than official data show, according to Yingyao Hu and Jiaxiong Yao at Johns Hopkins University.

Government data assume all investment pays off, but much spending in 2012-17 went into unproductive projects, say Hu and Yao. They cite evidence including satellite photos that show nighttime cities darker than they should be with more activity.

That could mean Chinese debt is higher relative to the size of the economy than thought. That might further depress consumer demand because more national income must be diverted to repay debt.

Leaders are trying to reassure U.S. and other foreign companies that have postponed or moved planned investments out of China to avoid tariff hikes.

Li, the premier, has told a string of American, European and other visiting business leaders they are welcome despite Beijing's 15-month-old war with Trump.

Beijing has announced market-opening measures over the past two years including abolishing limits on foreign ownership in securities trading, auto manufacturing and some other industries.

"I believe the further improvement of China's business environment will provide larger opportunities," Li told Evan Greenberg, the chairman of the U.S.-China Business Council, which represents companies that do business with China, in an Oct. 17 meeting.

The tariff war has made Beijing determined to adapt to slower growth and less reliance on debt in what it views as a period of strategic competition, said Green of TS Lombard.

Chinese leaders don't want to use credit-fueled stimulus and "leave themselves vulnerable to future economic and financial sanctions," he said.

Plus, Green said, Trump is "the perfect scapegoat" to blame for slower growth.

AP researcher Yu Bing contributed.

## 40 years on, Iranians recall 1979 US Embassy hostage crisis

By **NASSER KARIMI** and **ARON HELLER** Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — For those who were there, the memories are still fresh, 40 years after one of the defining events of Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution, when protesters seized the U.S. Embassy in Tehran and set off a 444-day hostage crisis.

The consequences of that crisis reverberate to this day.

Veteran Iranian photographer Kaveh Kazemi recalled snapping away with his camera as he stood behind the gate where the Iranian militant students would usher blindfolded American hostages to those gathered outside waving anti-American banners and calling for the extradition of the deposed Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi.

"Sometimes they would bring a U.S. flag and burn it, put it in flames and then throw it among the crowd," said Kazemi, now 67, pointing to the spot. "They would come and chant 'death to America,' 'death to the shah' ... it changed the world as I knew it."

Anger toward America had already been growing throughout 1979 as Iran's revolutionary government took hold, but it boiled over in October when the United States took in the ailing shah for medical treatment.

After several protests, the Islamist students raided the embassy on Nov. 4 and took 98 hostages.

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What initially began as a sit-in devolved into 444 days of captivity for 52 Americans seized in the embassy. It prompted President Jimmy Carter to expel Iranian diplomats and launch a failed rescue mission before the Americans were eventually released on the last day of his presidency, setting off decades of hostility amid an Islamic takeover that turned the country from a former U.S. ally into perhaps its greatest adversary.

Many of those sentiments remain today amid the escalating tensions between Tehran and Washington, following the disintegration of Iran's 2015 nuclear deal and the subsequent U.S. sanctions that have sent the Iranian economy into free fall.

Outside the former embassy's shaded red brick walls, which were in the process of being painted with anti-U.S. murals for the upcoming anniversary, former protester Hossein Kouhi said he turned out in 1979 to denounce what he called U.S. intervention in Iran's internal affairs, something he says continues today.

"I had a good feeling then, but we have had a bad fate," said Kouhi, now 76, as he blamed the U.S. for shortages of medicines in Iran because of the sanctions. "Even today, if we allow, it (the U.S.) will come here to plunder Iran, just like it's doing to other countries in the region. No foreigner is a friend of Iran. They all lie."

Zahra Tashakori, a 41-year-old schoolteacher, agreed, saying she was glad the American presence was long gone.

"Look at their movies. They promote violence and other bad things in the societies," she said. "They ruined wherever they intervened in the region. Just look at Iraq, Afghanistan and Syria."

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, like his predecessor Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, repeatedly hails the militants who took over the embassy as being "ahead of their time."

Others on the street, though, had a more nuanced view in hindsight.

"I believed the U.S. Embassy should have been closed down officially, but not through takeover," said Ghasem Rabiei, 49. "The U.S. was opposing the Islamic Republic in many ways, so they should have been deported from our country, but peacefully and legally."

Reza Ghorbani, a 19-year-old engineering student at Tehran's Azad University, asked: "What is the result of this super long hostility? I do not say the U.S. government is good, but these lengthy bitter relations have damaged Iran, too."

The U.S. blames Iran for a series of mysterious oil tanker attacks this year and alleges it carried out last month's attack on the world's largest oil processor in Saudi Arabia, which caused oil prices to spike by the biggest percentage since the 1991 Gulf War.

Iran denies the accusations and has warned that any retaliatory attack targeting it will result in an "all-out war," as it has begun enriching uranium beyond the terms of the 2015 nuclear deal between Tehran and world powers. Iran also shot down a U.S. military surveillance drone and seized oil tankers, as the Trump administration insists upon continuing its "maximum pressure" campaign against Iran.

As it does every anniversary, Iran plans to pack the streets outside the former embassy — rebranded as the "Den of Espionage" — for another massive demonstration looking to fuel more anti-American sentiment for at least another year.

For those who witnessed how it all began, it mostly serves as a reminder of all that it's cost them.

"People should not suffer because of the hostilities among the two countries," said Kazemi, the photographer. "If countries want to kill each other, kill each other. But ordinary people should not suffer. The inflation, the sanctions, everything is affecting all the people every day."

Heller reported from Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Mohammad Nasiri contributed reporting from Tehran.



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## 10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press undefined

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

### 1. DIVIDED HOUSE APPROVES DEMOCRATS IMPEACHMENT RULES

Democrats swept a rules package for their impeachment probe of President Donald Trump by 232-196, underscoring the partisan breach in the chamber.

### 2. WHO IS PUSHING CANDIDATES TO COMMIT TO A 2020 NOMINEE

The Democratic National Committee is increasing pressure on its presidential candidates to commit to campaign actively for the party's nominee in 2020.

### 3. IRANIANS RECALL 1979 U.S. EMBASSY HOSTAGE CRISIS

For those who were there, the memories are still fresh, 40 years after one of the defining events of Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution, when protesters seized the U.S. Embassy in Tehran and set off a 444-day hostage crisis.

### 4. TRUMP'S CLAIM TO SYRIAN OIL RAISES QUESTIONS

By claiming a right to Syria's oil, President Donald Trump has added more complexity — as well as additional U.S. forces and time — to an American military mission he has twice declared he was ending.

### 5. VIETNAMESE TURN TO TRAFFICKERS TO HELP CHASE FORTUNES ABROAD

For many Vietnamese, a job in a Western European country is seen as a path to prosperity worth breaking the law. But the risks of doing so are high and the consequences can be deadly.

### 6. DUBAI DISPLAYS TECH REPUTATION WITH GLOBAL ROBOTICS CONTEST

Seeking to bolster its image as a forward-looking metropolis, Dubai hosted the largest-ever international robotics contest this week, challenging young people from 190 countries to find solutions to global ocean pollution.

### 7. AP POLL: MOST AMERICANS DISLIKE TWICE-A-YEAR TIME FLOPS

A new poll finds that most people across the country want to stop the twice-a-year ritual of clock changes.

### 8. WINDS DRIVING CALIFORNIA FIRES DIE DOWN

Calmer weather allowed crews to increase containment on wildfires after a three-week siege of gusts fanned blazes across California.

### 9. ASEAN MEETING SPOTLIGHTS ADVANCES IN TRADE

Southeast Asian leaders are making last-minute efforts with wealthier neighbors led by China to conclude negotiations on one of the world's largest free-trade accords when they meet for summit in Thailand.

### 10. 49ERS STAY UNDEFEATED WITH WIN OVER CARDINALS

Jimmy Garoppolo threw for 317 yards and four touchdowns and the San Francisco 49ers reached the halfway point of their season undefeated, beating the Arizona Cardinals 28-25.

## Impeachment inquiry focuses on 2 White House lawyers

By DEB RIECHMANN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House impeachment inquiry is zeroing in on two White House lawyers privy to a discussion about moving a memo recounting President Donald Trump's phone call with the leader of Ukraine into a highly restricted computer system normally reserved for documents about covert action.

Deepening their reach into the West Wing, impeachment investigators have summoned former national security adviser John Bolton to testify next week. But they also are seeking testimony of two other political appointees — John Eisenberg, the lead lawyer for the National Security Council, and Michael Ellis, a senior associate counsel to the president.

The impeachment inquiry is investigating Trump's call in which he asked Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy for "a favor" — one that alarmed at least two White House staffers who listened in on the July 25 call.

Trump asked Zelenskyy to investigate Democrats in the 2016 election and former Vice President Joe

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Biden, a potential 2020 rival, as the Trump administration held up millions of dollars in military aid for the Eastern European ally confronting Russian aggression.

The lawyers' role is critical because two witnesses have suggested the NSC legal counsel — when told that Trump asked a foreign leader for domestic political help — took the extraordinary step of shielding access to the transcript not because of its covert nature but rather its potential damage to the Republican president.

Trump has repeatedly stressed that he knew people were listening in on the call, holding that out as proof that he never would have said anything inappropriate. But the subsequent effort to lock down the rough transcript suggests some people in the White House viewed the president's conversation as problematic.

Tim Morrison, outgoing deputy assistant to the president who handled European and Russian affairs at the NSC, told impeachment investigators on Thursday that military aid to Ukraine was held up by Trump's demand for the ally to investigate Democrats and Joe Biden.

Morrison testified that he was "not concerned that anything illegal was discussed" on the July 25 call, but he said that after listening to what Trump said he "promptly asked the NSC legal adviser to review it."

Lt. Col. Alexander Vindman, a Ukraine expert at the NSC, had the same reaction. He and Morrison were both in the Situation Room in the basement of the West Wing listening in on Trump's conversation with Zelenskyy. Vindman told impeachment investigators that he was alarmed by what he heard, grabbed his notes from the call and went to see Eisenberg.

"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 said.

Vindman said Eisenberg, who's known inside and outside the White House as a meticulous, deliberate lawyer, suggested moving the document that recounted the call to a restricted computer server for highly classified materials, according to a person who familiar with Vindman's testimony. The person was not authorized to publicly discuss it and spoke only on the condition of anonymity.

Ellis, the other White House lawyer being asked to testify, was with Eisenberg when he made the suggestion to move the document into the more secure server. Ellis is no stranger to White House controversies. The New York Times reported in March 2017 that he allowed his former boss Rep. Devin Nunes, R-Calif., then the chairman of the House intelligence committee, to review classified material at the White House.

The material was to bolster Trump's claim that he was wiretapped during the 2016 campaign on the orders of President Barack Obama's administration. The intelligence reports consisted primarily of ambassadors and other foreign officials talking about trying to develop contacts in the inner circle of then President-elect Trump. The report was not confirmed by The Associated Press.

Eisenberg and Ellis, both part of the White House legal staff, declined to comment through an NSC spokesman.

"Consistent with the practices of past administrations from both parties, we will not discuss the internal deliberations of the White House Counsel's Office," deputy press secretary Hogan Gidley said.

Mick Mulvaney, the acting White House chief of staff, has declined to discuss how the White House handles classified materials, but he denies that moving the memo about the call into the highly restricted NICE server — which stands for NSC Intelligence Collaboration Environment — amounted to a cover-up.

"There's only one reason people care about that, right? And it's because they think there's a cover-up," he told reporters at a recent White House briefing, adding, "There must have been something really, really duplicitous, something really under-handed about how they handled this document, because there must be a cover-up."

Mulvaney said if the administration had wanted to cover anything up, it wouldn't have called the Justice Department after the call to have them look at the transcript and wouldn't have publicly released the memorandum of the conversation.

The so-called "memcon" is close to a verbatim transcript, although no audio recordings are made.

Individuals familiar with Trump White House procedure say one Situation Room staffer, using voice-to-text software, repeats each word the president says and another listens and repeats what a foreign leader says. The spoken words are rendered as text and a rough draft is produced.

The draft, which in this case included a few ellipses, is circulated to several people, including NSC subject matter specialists who listened in on the call. They edit the draft for accuracy. Each version is separately preserved on the T-Net system, forming an archive that documents various edits.

Vindman told investigators that the call included a discussion of Biden and Burisma — a reference to the gas company where Joe Biden's son, Hunter, served on the board. Vindman said Trump also mentioned that there were audio recordings of Joe Biden discussing corruption in Ukraine, according to individuals familiar with Tuesday's closed-door testimony.

Vindman said he tried to suggest changes to the five-page "memcon," but was unsuccessful, according to the individuals, who were not authorized to discuss the testimony and spoke only on condition of anonymity.

White House press secretary Stephanie Grisham pushed back on Thursday, saying Vindman "never suggested filling in any words at any points where ellipses appear in the transcript." She added that because Vindman testified behind closed doors, the White House "cannot confirm whether or not Lt. Col. Vindman himself made any such false claim."

Like most presidential calls with foreign leaders, the Trump-Zelenskyy call was put into the T-Net system where certain individuals are granted permission to read it based on their need to know, according to two individuals with direct knowledge of the system. NSC officials working on African issues, for example, would not routinely have been given access to the Ukraine call.

Taking it off T-Net would involve systems specialists, according to the individuals, who were not authorized to discuss the systems publicly and spoke only on condition of anonymity. They would have to identify every person who accessed the document and then wipe any trace of the memcon off the T-Net server. After that, other NSC workers would have had to place the material onto the N.I.C.E. system, which is physically housed in the NSC intelligence directorate.

According to one of the individuals familiar with the White House classified computer systems, Eisenberg couldn't have actually moved it to N.I.C.E. by himself. That raises a question, the individual said, as to what reasons were given for needing it to be moved.

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Associated Press writer Alan Fram contributed to this report.

## **Ex-Trump aide confirms Ukraine aid was linked to Biden probe**

**By LISA MASCARO, ZEKE J. MILLER and DEB RIECHMANN Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — A former top White House official confirmed that military aid to Ukraine was held up by President Donald Trump's demand for the ally to investigate Democrats and Joe Biden but testified that there's nothing illegal, in his view, about the quid pro quo at the center of the Democrat-led impeachment inquiry.

Tim Morrison, who stepped down from the National Security Council the day before his Thursday testimony, was the first White House political appointee to appear and spent more than eight hours behind closed doors with House investigators.

"I want to be clear, I was not concerned that anything illegal was discussed," Morrison said about a pivotal phone call between Trump and the Ukraine president, according to prepared remarks obtained by The Associated Press.

Late Thursday, Trump tweeted about Morrison's comment that no law was broken: "Thank you to Tim Morrison for your honesty."

But Morrison also confirmed what diplomat William Taylor told investigators in earlier testimony — that Morrison had a "sinking feeling" when he learned that Trump was asking the Ukrainians to publicly announce an investigation of Biden and the Democrats, even as the Republican president denied it was a quid pro quo.

"I can confirm," Morrison wrote, that the substance of the diplomat's testimony "is accurate."

Morrison told investigators that he and Taylor did not realize the money was being withheld for the

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investigation of Burisma, the gas company connected to Biden, until a conversation with European Union Ambassador Gordon Sondland in September.

"Taylor and I had no reason to believe that the release of the security sector assistance might be conditioned on a public statement reopening the Burisma investigation until my Sept. 1, 2019, conversation with Ambassador Sondland," Morrison testified.

A defense hawk, Morrison was the National Security Council's top adviser for Russian and European affairs until he stepped down Wednesday. He was brought into the White House by John Bolton, the former national security adviser who was critical of Trump's Ukraine policy and the back-channel diplomacy being run by the Republican president's personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani.

Morrison testified that he was told by his predecessor, Fiona Hill, who also testified in the impeachment inquiry, that Giuliani and Sondland were trying to get Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy "to reopen investigations into Burisma."

Bolton resigned in September, and Morrison had similarly been expected to leave for some time. "I do not want anyone to think there is a connection between my testimony today and my pending departure," he wrote.

As a national security adviser, Morrison was among those listening to Trump's July 25 call with the Ukrainian leader that sparked a whistleblower's complaint and the impeachment inquiry.

He said he asked NSC lawyers to review the call because he had three concerns if word of the discussion leaked: how it would play out in polarized Washington, how it would affect bipartisan support in Congress for Ukraine and how it would affect U.S.-Ukraine relations.

Republican lawmakers portrayed the opening remarks of the longtime GOP policy operative as shifting the debate favorably toward Trump. They said Morrison's opening statement contradicted other witnesses, but they did not provide details.

"It's a very compelling witness today that is giving testimony that contradicts some of the testimony we heard," said Rep. Mark Meadows, R-N.C.

Another Republican, Rep. Chip Roy of Texas, said, "When you all see what he had to say, it will be interesting."

Democrats, though, have said the witnesses are largely corroborating the central argument of the impeachment inquiry — that aid to Ukraine was being withheld as the Trump administration pushed the young democracy for the political investigation.

It is against the law to seek or receive assistance of value from a foreign entity in a U.S. election. Trump says he did nothing wrong.

Morrison had been featured prominently in previous testimony from Taylor, the top diplomat in Ukraine who testified before House investigators last week.

It was Morrison who first alerted Taylor to concerns over Trump's phone call with the Ukraine president.

In fact, Morrison's name appeared more than a dozen times in testimony by Taylor, who told impeachment investigators that Trump was withholding military aid unless Zelenskyy went public with a promise to investigate Biden and Burisma, where Biden's son served on the board.

Taylor's testimony contradicted Trump's repeated denials that there was any quid pro quo.

Morrison testified Thursday that he initially knew so little about Burisma when he took over for Hill in July that he had to do a Google search but quickly understood the Biden connection.

He did clarify one difference from Taylor's recollection of events: He said it was his understanding that "it could be sufficient" if the new Ukraine prosecutor general, rather than Zelenskyy himself, committed "to pursue the Burisma investigation."

As the security funds for Ukraine were being withheld, Morrison told the diplomat, "President doesn't want to provide any assistance at all."

Their concerns deepened when Morrison relayed on Sept. 7 the conversation he had with Sondland that gave him that "sinking feeling."

In it, Sondland explained that Trump said he was not asking for a quid pro quo but insisted that Zelen-



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skiy "go to a microphone and say he is opening investigations of Biden and 2016 election interference," Taylor testified last week.

Morrison told Bolton and the NSC lawyers of this call between Trump and Sondland, according to Taylor's testimony.

The testimony came as the House took its first formal vote on the impeachment inquiry Thursday, approving the process ahead for public hearings and possible drafting of articles of impeachment.

The 232-196 tally split along partisan lines, with all but two voting Democrats supporting the package and all voting Republicans opposed. One Republican-turned-independent joined Democrats in approving the package.

Democrats said they will largely follow rules used during the impeachment proceedings of Presidents Richard Nixon and Bill Clinton. Trump and Republicans dismiss the process as a sham, and the president has directed his staff not to testify in the House inquiry.

"This is a very solemn day in the history of the country when the president's misconduct has compelled us to move forward with an impeachment inquiry," said Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., the chairman of the Intelligence Committee leading the probe.

The spotlight has been on Morrison since August, when a government whistleblower said multiple U.S. officials had said Trump was "using the power of his office to solicit interference from a foreign country in the 2020 U.S. election."

Morrison, formerly a longtime Republican staffer at the House Armed Services Committee, has been bouncing around Washington in GOP positions for two decades.

Associated Press writers Mike Balsamo, Mary Clare Jalonick, Alan Fram and Matthew Lee contributed to this report.

## Sharply divided House approves Democrats' impeachment rules

By ALAN FRAM and MATTHEW DALY Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrats swept a rules package for their impeachment probe of President Donald Trump through a divided House, as the chamber's first vote on the investigation highlighted the partisan breach the issue has only deepened.

By 232-196, lawmakers on Thursday approved the procedures they'll follow as weeks of closed-door interviews with witnesses evolve into public committee hearings and — almost certainly — votes on whether the House should recommend Trump's removal.

All voting Republicans opposed the package. Every voting Democrat but two supported it.

Underscoring the pressure Trump has heaped on his party's lawmakers, he tweeted, "Now is the time for Republicans to stand together and defend the leader of their party against these smears."

Yet the roll call also accentuated how Democrats have rallied behind the impeachment inquiry after House Speaker Nancy Pelosi spent months urging caution until evidence and public support had grown.

She and other Democratic leaders had feared a premature vote would wound the reelection prospects of dozens of their members, including freshmen and lawmakers from Trump-won districts or seats held previously by Republicans. But recent polls have shown voters' growing receptivity to the investigation and, to a lesser degree, ousting Trump.

That and evidence that House investigators have amassed have helped unify Democrats, including those from GOP areas. Rep. Cindy Axne, D-Iowa, said she was supporting a pathway to giving "the American people the facts they deserve," while Rep. Andy Kim, D-N.J., said voters warrant "the uninhibited truth."

Yet Republicans were also buoyed by polling, which has shown that GOP voters stand unflinchingly behind Trump.

"The impeachment-obsessed Democrats just flushed their majority down the toilet," said Michael McAdams, a spokesman for House Republicans' campaign arm.

Elsewhere at the Capitol on Thursday, three House panels led by the Intelligence Committee questioned

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their latest witness into the allegations that led to the impeachment inquiry: that Trump pressured Ukraine to produce dirt on his Democratic political rivals by withholding military aid and an Oval Office meeting craved by the country's new president.

Tim Morrison, who stepped down from the National Security Council the day before his appearance, testified — still behind closed doors — that he saw nothing illegal in Trump's phone call with the Ukrainian president that is at the center of the Democrat-led investigation.

Yet, Morrison also largely confirmed much of what William Taylor, the highest-ranking U.S. official in Ukraine, said in earlier, highly critical testimony about the call, which Taylor said he and Morrison discussed several times.

The Democrats are still waiting to hear if Morrison's one-time boss John Bolton will testify. They have subpoenaed former national security adviser Bolton, who quit the administration after disagreements with Trump over his handling of Ukraine.

In the House inquiry vote, the only Democratic "no" votes were by Reps. Jeff Van Drew, a New Jersey freshman, and veteran Collin Peterson of Minnesota, one of the House's most conservative Democrats. Both are battling for reelection in Republican-leaning districts.

Also supporting the rules was independent Rep. Justin Amash of Michigan, who left the GOP this year after announcing he was open to considering Trump's impeachment.

Thursday's House debate was laced with high-minded appeals to defend the Constitution and Congress' independence, as well as partisan taunts.

"What are we fighting for? Defending our democracy," Pelosi said.

She addressed lawmakers with a poster of the American flag beside her and opened her comments by reading from the preamble to the Constitution. She also said the rules would let lawmakers decide whether to impeach Trump "based on the truth."

"I don't know why the Republicans are afraid of the truth," she said.

But her counterpart, Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy of California, cast the process as a skewed attempt to railroad a president whom Democrats have detested since before he took office.

"Democrats are trying to impeach the president because they are scared they cannot defeat him at the ballot box," he said.

No. 2 House GOP leader Steve Scalise, R-La., accused Democrats of imposing "Soviet-style rules." His backdrop was a bright red poster depicting the Soviet hammer and sickle emblem and the famous St. Basil's Cathedral in Moscow's Red Square.

The House is at least weeks away from deciding whether to vote on actually impeaching Trump. If it does, the Senate would hold a trial on whether to remove him from office. That GOP-run chamber seems highly likely to keep him in the White House.

Rep. Devin Nunes, R-Calif., likened Democrats to a "cult," accusing them of bouncing from "one outlandish conspiracy theory to another." Rep. Maxine Waters, D-Calif., pointedly said she looked forward to Republicans "prioritizing country over party, just as we took an oath to do."

Democrats said the procedures are similar to rules used during the impeachment proceedings of Presidents Richard Nixon and Bill Clinton.

Pelosi decided to have the vote following a GOP drumbeat that the inquiry was tainted because lawmakers hadn't voted to formally commence the work. The rules direct House committees "to continue their ongoing investigations" of Trump.

Democrats hope Thursday's vote will undercut GOP assertions that the process has been invalid. They've noted that there is no constitutional provision or House rule requiring such a vote.

The rules require the House Intelligence Committee — now leading the investigation — to issue a report and release transcripts of its closed-door interviews, which members of both parties have attended.

The Judiciary Committee would then decide whether to recommend that the House impeach Trump.

Republicans could only issue subpoenas for witnesses to appear if the committees holding the hearings approve them — in effect giving Democrats veto power.

Attorneys for Trump could participate in the Judiciary Committee proceedings. Democrats would retain

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leverage by empowering panel Chairman Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., to deny requests by Trump representatives to call witnesses if the White House continues to “unlawfully refuse” to provide testimony or documents Congress demands.

Associated Press writers Andrew Taylor and Lisa Mascaro contributed to this report.

This story has been corrected to say the poster showed St. Basil’s, not the Kremlin, and to show Scalise is the No. 2 House GOP leader, not No. 3.

## Not out of woods yet, but winds driving California fires die

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Calmer weather allowed crews to increase containment on wildfires after a three-week siege of gusts fanned blazes across California and led utilities to cut power to prevent winds from blowing branches into electric lines and igniting an inferno.

Winds subsided in virtually all parts of the state, though Red Flag warnings for fire danger because of winds and ultra-dry conditions remained in place through Friday evening for some inland areas to the north and west of Los Angeles.

Lingering winds were blamed for churning up a wildfire that erupted Thursday evening and quickly spread from a hilltop near Santa Paula, north of Los Angeles.

Authorities in Ventura County ordered evacuations for about 7,500 people in an area that includes roughly 1,800 buildings as the blaze threatened the small, unincorporated rural community of Somis.

Hundreds of firefighters raced to attack the blaze, which initially was fanned by moderate winds and then was fueled by tinder-dry brush in canyons. It grew in only a few hours to around 8,040 acres — just over 12.6 square miles (33 square kilometers) — by 1:30 a.m. Friday.

Ventura County Fire Assistant Chief John McNeil estimated that the fire could reach around 12,000 acres before running out of fuel. Ventura County Sheriff Bill Ayub said a small drone that appeared to be “looking at photography of the fire” interfered with aerial firefighting efforts Thursday.

Meanwhile, dozens of local schools across several districts announced Friday closures because of what officials dubbed the Maria fire.

For most of October, fires sprang up across the state, forcing residents to flee homes at all hours as flames indiscriminately burned barns, sheds, mobile homes and multimillion-dollar mansions.

The good news was that dry, dangerous winds that swept both ends of the state this week had mostly subsided and forecasters predicted an upcoming week of placid conditions.

Nearly 200,000 Sonoma County residents were allowed to return home even as the 120-square-mile (311-square-kilometer) fire that forced them to evacuate continued to burn. At least 140 homes were destroyed.

Brenda Catelani choked up as she recalled driving back home to Windsor with her husband.

“I think when we left, and especially Sunday, we didn’t think we’d be coming back,” Catelani said.

Chunks of burnt embers, burned leaves and ash littered the outside of her house.

The fire had come within 500 yards (457 meters) of their house — closer than the wine country fires of 2017 that killed 44 people and destroyed 8,900 homes and other buildings in Sonoma and Napa counties.

“We feel extremely lucky,” Catelani said.

Evacuations were also lifted for two small fires, fed by gusts up to 60 mph (96 kph), that destroyed homes early Thursday in the heavily populated inland region east of Los Angeles. One of those blazes, in Jurupa Valley, was caused by dry grasses ignited when a stolen car chased by police tried to escape through fields.

The wildfires came even as many were in the dark from the intentional outages.

In places where the power stayed on, utility lines and other electrical equipment were suspected or confirmed as the cause of several fires, including the one in Sonoma, another that started on a hillside above the San Fernando Valley of Los Angeles and one that burned around the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley on Wednesday.

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Pacific Gas & Electric finished restoring power to dozens of counties in the north and central regions after a third round of shutoffs this week designed to protect power lines from being damaged or toppled by high winds and sparking fires.

However, about 80,000 Southern California Edison users remained without power by late Thursday night.

The most devastating wildfires in California's history have occurred in the past two years in the fall, fueled by a combination of built-up brush, dry conditions and extreme winds. The anniversary of the deadliest of those — last year's fire that torched the town of Paradise and killed 85 — is next week.

The state experienced a wet winter with a large snowpack, and temperatures and wind speeds didn't spike simultaneously over the summer, which has led to a less destructive fire season overall.

Acreage burned this year is down nearly 90% from last year and 80% below the five-year average over the same period, according to figures compiled through Sunday by the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

The moisture, however, has fueled explosive growth of grasses that have now shriveled into golden and brown tinder.

## Democrats push candidates to fully commit to 2020 nominee

By BILL BARROW Associated Press

The Democratic National Committee is increasing pressure on its presidential candidates to commit to campaign actively for the party's nominee in 2020, going beyond a previous loyalty pledge for White House hopefuls.

The unity push from Chairman Tom Perez is part of a wide-ranging strategy designed to prevent the mistakes that cost Democrats the 2016 presidential election. It comes as the Republican National Committee continues to dwarf the Democratic Party in fundraising, while Democrats face the prospect of a bruising, expensive nominating fight that could last well into election year.

"We'll need every Democrat working together in order to defeat Donald Trump," Perez said, repeating his pledge for a full national campaign even as most Democrats remain focused on the primary campaign.

As an example, the DNC holds up former President Barack Obama, who is already raising money and remains neutral in a nominating fight that includes his vice president, Joe Biden, and who is already raising money for the party. An Oct. 25 email from Obama to grassroots donors produced the party's best online fundraising day of the cycle, the DNC said, and the former president will headline a fundraising gala in California in November.

DNC officials say Obama has already talked with party leaders about campaigning on behalf of the nominee, whoever it is.

Perez is asking all candidates to commit, like Obama, to serve as surrogates, with a focus on battleground states in the weeks after the July 13-16 nominating convention in Milwaukee. And Perez wants each campaign, as candidates drop out, to designate a senior adviser to serve as a liaison to help the national party use the vestiges of individual candidates' campaigns to build out Democrats' general election campaign.

DNC officials say the effort isn't targeted at any campaign. But since President Donald Trump's 2016 election, Democratic power players have lamented the bitterness that lingered among many supporters of Bernie Sanders after he lost the nomination to Hillary Clinton. Sanders endorsed and campaigned for Clinton, but some of his supporters never fully embraced her candidacy, and some Clinton loyalists blamed them for her narrow losses in key states like Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania.

DNC officials say the overall purpose of what Perez calls a "unity effort" is to pool all Democratic resources, making them available to state parties in battleground states to benefit the presidential nominee and all other Democrats running for lower offices.

Perez already has required candidates to pledge explicitly to support the nominee. Candidates also have been asked to help the party raise money and, as a condition of getting the DNC's national voter file, pledge to give back the additional data they gather on voters once they drop out of the presidential race.



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The DNC says 10 candidates to date have sent fundraising emails and 15 have participated in fundraising events. That list includes Elizabeth Warren, who has shunned high-dollar fundraisers for her own campaign but agreed to help the party. But it does not include Sanders, Warren's chief rival for the Democrats' progressive faction. Sanders' campaign says he would attend such events if he wins the nomination, provided they are open to low-dollar donors.

The data requirements, meanwhile, are part of Democrats' attempts to catch up to a Republican data operation that surprised the Clinton campaign in 2016 and to avoid the scenario under Obama, whose campaign ran its own sophisticated data operation but never fully integrated it with the party. Sanders also never turned over his voter data after ending his 2016 bid.

Follow Barrow on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/BillBarrowAP> .

## Thousands lose power as severe thunderstorms sweep north

NEW YORK (AP) — Hundreds of thousands of customers lost power as severe thunderstorms raked the Eastern Seaboard on an atmospheric Halloween night.

At least 420,000 customers from South Carolina up to Maine and in Ohio were without power just before midnight Thursday, according to outage maps for electric utilities covering 16 states and the District of Columbia. The National Weather Service warned that "severe thunderstorms capable of damaging winds and torrential rainfall will continue to push through" the northeast U.S. overnight, possibly accompanied by downed trees, flooding and more power outages.

Several tornado warnings were issued overnight, including for parts of New Jersey and Pennsylvania, southeastern Virginia, and eastern North Carolina.

As of 9:30 p.m., Mount Mansfield, Vermont, reported peak wind gusts of 79 mph (127 kph), while peak wind gusts had reached 46 mph (74 kph) down in Cary, North Carolina. News outlets reported widespread flooding across central Pennsylvania.

Colder temperatures and gusty winds in the region were likely for Friday, the National Weather Service said. Storms with heavy rain and strong winds swept the central United States — from the Gulf Coast to the Great Lakes — on Thursday ahead of an arctic blast that forecasters said could bring near-record cold to the South.

Trees were toppled in the western Carolinas and Tennessee, where news outlets reported at least five people were injured when trees hit vehicles. Tornado watches during the day stretched from South Carolina to northern Pennsylvania.

At least 80,000 homes and businesses were in the dark because of intermittent power outages from Louisiana to West Virginia midday Thursday. A freeze warning reached across more than dozen states, from southwestern Texas into the South and Midwest. Overnight lows could dip into the upper 20s in parts of the Deep South, forecasters said.

A blanket of snow caused travel problems in Illinois, meanwhile, with snow forcing the cancellation of more than 200 flights at Chicago's international airports.

As much as 3 inches (5 centimeters) of snow driven by 50 mph (80 kph) winds was predicted around the Great Lakes.

The storms provided another round of drought relief across the Southeast after weeks of dry weather endangered crops and increased fire risks. But a new federal report showed much of Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina are still too dry.

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## Garoppolo throws 4 TD passes, 49ers beat Cardinals 28-25

By DAVID BRANDT AP Sports Writer

GLENDALE, Ariz. (AP) — San Francisco's game-manager turned into quite the game-changer in an impressive performance.

Jimmy Garoppolo threw for 317 yards and four touchdowns on a night his team's vaunted defense wasn't at its best, and the San Francisco 49ers reached the halfway point of their season undefeated, beating the Arizona Cardinals 28-25 on Thursday.

For a quarterback who often gets the backhanded compliment of being a good game-manager, Garoppolo's stellar performance provided some proof that the 27-year-old might be a little better than people think.

His teammates already knew.

"Yeah, he's pretty good," San Francisco 49ers tight end George Kittle said. "I don't know why people don't think he is. He makes some pretty gutsy throws out there, doesn't he? Goodness gracious."

San Francisco (8-0) fell behind 7-0 but responded with three touchdowns — one as time expired in the second quarter after Cardinals coach Kliff Kingsbury called a timeout and gave the 49ers a second chance on fourth down — to take a 21-7 halftime lead.

The 49ers were in control until about five minutes left in the fourth quarter, when Andy Isabella caught a short pass and sprinted for an 88-yard touchdown to help the Cardinals pull to 28-25.

But the 49ers were able to run out the clock on their ensuing offensive drive to end Arizona's comeback. Garoppolo had two crucial third-down completions to keep the final drive alive, including one to Emmanuel Sanders who caught seven passes for 112 yards and a touchdown.

Garoppolo completed 28 of 37 throws including touchdowns of 30, 7, 1 and 21 yards.

"Our team has done a good job of winning in different ways this year," Garoppolo said. "Whether it's offense, special teams, defense or mixing and matching all of them. That's how you create a good football team. You're not relying on one part and everyone's playing tomorrow. Complimentary football.

"That's where we're at right now."

Even in victory and at 8-0, Niners cornerback Richard Sherman was downright grumpy when asked about the defense. Arizona had 357 total yards.

"It's not about the results. The results are going to be what they are," Sherman said. "Thank goodness our offense executed. But it's about the process, it's executing the way you're supposed to. It's about doing your job repeatedly, like with robotic consistency."

Arizona (3-5-1) lost its second straight game. Rookie quarterback Kyler Murray threw for 241 yards and two touchdowns.

The Cardinals came into the game without their top two running backs, David Johnson and Chase Edmonds, who were battling injuries.

Kenyan Drake — who was acquired by the Cardinals on Monday in a trade with the Miami Dolphins — ran for 36 yards on the first play of the game and capped the opening drive with a 4-yard touchdown run. He finished with a team-high 110 yards rushing and 52 yards receiving.

"That's what we expected from him, why we traded for him," Kingsbury said. "His skill set is perfect for what we do. He's explosive, he runs tough and to come and learn an entirely new offense, we didn't hold anything back. We knew we could call our best game."

### BAD TIMING

Arizona looked as if was about to escape the first half trailing 14-7 after San Francisco's Jeff Wilson Jr. was stopped on fourth down just shy of the goal line with a few seconds remaining in the first half.

But there was one major problem for the Cardinals: Kingsbury called a timeout just before the play began.

The 49ers converted on their second chance when Garoppolo hit Sanders for a 1-yard touchdown pass and a 21-7 lead. Kingsbury said he was trying to get a "Kodak" snapshot of what the 49ers were trying to do.

"Obviously looking back on it we would have rather gotten that stop," Kingsbury said. "It just didn't work

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out for us this time.”

## ROAD WARRIORS

San Francisco's off to an 8-0 start for the second time in franchise history. The Niners won 10 straight games to start the 1990 season.

This year's streak has included five road wins. The 49ers have three straight home games starting with the Seahawks on Nov. 11.

## KITTLE SCARE

The 49ers got a scare early when star tight end George Kittle left the game after taking a helmet to the knee. But the third-year star quickly returned and responded with a 30-yard touchdown catch late in the first quarter to tie it at 7.

## INJURIES

49ers: Defensive lineman Arik Armstead left in the first quarter with a throat injury but returned to the game. ... Linebacker Kwon Alexander had a chest injury in the second half and didn't return.

Cardinals: Defensive lineman Clinton McDonald left with what the team called a "stinger" in the third quarter.

## UP NEXT

San Francisco returns home to face Seattle on Nov. 11 for a Monday night game.

Arizona travels to Tampa Bay on Nov. 10.

More AP NFL: <https://apnews.com/NFL> and [https://twitter.com/AP\\_NFL](https://twitter.com/AP_NFL)

## Trump claim to Syrian oil raises many questions

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

WASHINGTON (AP) — By claiming a right to Syria's oil, President Donald Trump has added more complexity — as well as additional U.S. forces and time — to an American military mission he has twice declared he was ending so the troops could come home.

Extending the mission to secure eastern Syria's oilfields happens to fit neatly with the Pentagon's view — supported by some Trump allies in Congress — that a full withdrawal now could hasten a revival of the Islamic State group, even after the extremists lost their leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, in a U.S. raid.

The military acknowledged on Thursday that an Army unit with armored vehicles, including Bradley infantry carriers, is now operating in the Deir el-Zour oil region. It did not say how many soldiers are being added there, but officials have said the eventual force there likely will be about 500, including roughly 200 who had been there even before Trump was persuaded to revise his plan for a near-total withdrawal, which he announced on Oct. 14.

Trump has offered varying descriptions of the military's role in eastern Syria. On Oct. 25 he said, "We've secured the oil, and, therefore, a small number of U.S. troops will remain in the area where they have the oil." Three days later, he went further, declaring the oil to be America's.

"We're keeping the oil — remember that," he said in Chicago. "I've always said that: 'Keep the oil.' We want to keep the oil. Forty-five million dollars a month? Keep the oil."

White House officials since then have declined to explain what Trump meant by "we're keeping the oil" or his estimate of its value. Pentagon officials have said privately they've been given no order to take ownership of any element of Syria's oil resources, including the wells and stored crude.

Defense Secretary Mark Esper said Thursday he interprets Trump's remarks about keeping Syria's oil as meaning that the extremists must be denied access to it.

Syria has been mired in civil war since 2011. Since that time, its oil production has shrunk from a peak of about 400,000 barrels a day to an estimated 80,000 barrels, said Jim Krane, an energy expert at Rice University.

Russia has expressed outrage at Trump's claim to the oil, calling it "state banditry." Foreign Ministry spokesman Maj. Gen. Igor Konashenkov said grabbing the oil belies U.S. claims to be fighting terrorism and

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"lies far from the ideals that Washington has proclaimed." For years the U.S. has said its military interventions abroad are meant to enhanced peace and security, not to take any nation's territory or resources.

Stephen Vladeck, a national security law professor at the University of Texas at Austin, said there is no solid legal argument the Trump administration can make for claiming Syria's oil.

Beyond the legal question, analysts say the mission is fraught with danger.

"This is a sensitive gunpowder barrel of a mission," said Loren DeJonge Schulman, deputy director of studies at the Center for a New American Security who was a senior Pentagon and White House official under President Barack Obama.

"U.S. forces are being sent with only the shakiest possible legal authorization, knowing their commander-in-chief may change his mind as he has multiple times in the past," she said, adding that an oil grab is what many in the Middle East have long suspected is the purpose of U.S. wars.

Trump also has said he wants a U.S. oil company to enter eastern Syria to invest in restoring oil production. Private experts, however, say that is problematic.

"The modest size of the resource, risk of conflict, and legal obstacles to investment from U.S. sanctions make it unlikely that a U.S. oil major would find it commercially attractive to invest in the Syrian oil sector," said Jason Bordoff, director of an energy policy center at Columbia University.

"Syria could be a bigger energy supplier than today, but years of mismanagement have left the fields in disarray, so it would require a lot of political stability and investment to bring them back to where they were," said Michael Webber, a professor of energy resources at the University of Texas at Austin.

Esper has said that securing the Deir el-Zour oilfields is a legitimate move to block a major source of income for the Islamic State and to provide funds for the Syrian Kurds who are still fighting IS. A few years ago, the extremists were exploiting the oil to finance its so-called caliphate, carved out of large swaths of Syria and Iraq with an army now all but extinguished.

In 2015-16 the U.S. military carried out an air campaign — dubbed Operation Tidal Wave II, after a World War II operation against oil facilities in Romania — that destroyed tanker trucks used by the extremists to transport oil for black market sales and damaged many oil facilities.

"We weren't going after the militants at all, we were going after the money, and by blowing them up we actually weakened them significantly," said Katherine Zimmerman, a counterterrorism expert at the American Enterprise Institute.

"Denying them access to resources like the oil is a way that we're going to need to fight them," she added.

Since then, U.S.-supported Syrian Kurdish forces have controlled the oil, supported by a small contingent of U.S. troops. A quiet arrangement has existed between the Kurds and the Syrian government, whereby Damascus buys the surplus through middlemen in a smuggling operation that has continued despite political differences. The Kurdish-led administration sells crude oil to private refiners, who use primitive homemade refineries to process fuel and diesel and sell it back to the administration.

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

Esper told reporters the mission in Deir el-Zour includes blocking potential Russian and Syrian army efforts to probe that region, east of the Euphrates River, and challenge the American presence. A few days earlier, U.S. officials had contacted Russian authorities to question a massing of Syrian and Russian forces on the opposite side of the Euphrates -- a buildup that suggested a potential confrontation. In February 2018 a group of several hundred Russian mercenaries fired artillery near U.S. forces in the oil region, and the Americans responded by killing many of them.

Trump himself has acknowledged the potential for a fight over the oil.

"We're leaving soldiers to secure the oil," he said Sunday. "And we may have to fight for the oil. It's okay. Maybe somebody else wants the oil, in which case they have a hell of a fight."

AP writers Aamer Madhani in Washington; Sarah El Deeb in Beirut; and David Koenig in Dallas, contributed to this report.



## Dying winds bring relief after weeks of California wildfires

By **BRIAN MELLEY** and **TERENCE CHEA** Associated Press

WINDSOR, Calif. (AP) — Lynn Darst and her husband were camped out in their motor home on the edge of their seats for four days wondering if their house would survive yet another wildfire menacing Sonoma County.

Flames had come close to their neighborhood of spacious homes surrounded by vineyards two years ago and danger was closing in again.

“We were comfortable, but fearful of what the consequences could be,” Darst said Thursday, the day after finding her home had been spared once again.

Darst was among the nearly 200,000 residents allowed to return home even as the fire burned along with several other blazes in the state. They were the lucky ones — at least 140 homes had been destroyed in the Sonoma fire.

The blaze was the largest to burn over a three-week siege of vicious gusts that fanned fast-moving wildfires across California and led utility companies to cut power to millions to prevent winds from blowing branches into electric lines and igniting an inferno.

The winds subsided in virtually all parts of the state Thursday and forecasters anticipated at least a week of calm weather, though there was no rain in the forecast that would reduce the threat of fall fires.

However, winds lingered in some mountainous areas and they were blamed for driving a new wildfire that threatened homes Thursday night north of Los Angeles.

The fire on a hilltop near Santa Paula in Ventura County quickly grew to about 6 square miles (16 square kilometers).

It threatened the small, unincorporated community of Somis and prompted evacuation orders for about 7,500 people in an area that includes roughly 1,800 buildings, authorities said.

Hundreds of firefighters raced to battle the flames, aided by bulldozers and water-dropping helicopters.

The most devastating wildfires in California’s history have occurred in the past two years in the fall, fueled by a combination of built-up brush, dry conditions and extreme winds. The anniversary of the deadliest of those — last year’s fire that torched the town of Paradise and killed 85 — is next week.

The state experienced a wet winter with a large snowpack and temperatures and wind speeds didn’t spike simultaneously over the summer, which has led a less destructive fire season overall.

Acreage burned this year is down nearly 90% from last year and 80% below the five-year average over the same period, according to figures compiled through Sunday by the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

The moisture, however, has fueled explosive growth of grasses that have now shriveled into golden and brown tinder.

With virtually no rain in October and bursts of erratic winds, fires sprang up across the state, forcing residents to flee homes at all hours as flames indiscriminately burned barns, sheds, mobile homes and multimillion-dollar mansions.

Conan O’Brien, Arnold Schwarzenegger and LeBron James evacuated hillside estates in Los Angeles while farmworkers were driven from homes in Sonoma County wine country where the fire leveled the historic Soda Rock Winery.

The causes of the fires have been just as diverse.

The blaze that destroyed dozens of trailers in Villa Calimesa Mobile Home Park east of Los Angeles and killed two people was started when a trash truck dumped a flaming load of garbage that spread to grass and was swiftly whipped out of control by winds.

A fire that broke out Thursday in Jurupa Valley, not far from Calimesa, was caused when two of Southern California’s quintessential themes — car chases and Santa Ana winds — collided as a hot car came to a halt in a field and ignited dry grasses.

Wildfires occurred even as many were in the dark from the intentional outages.

In places where the power stayed on, utility lines and other electrical equipment were suspected or confirmed as the cause of several fires, including the one in Sonoma, another that started on a hillside

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above the San Fernando Valley of Los Angeles and one that burned around the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley on Wednesday.

More than 350,000 people statewide remained without power Thursday, most in Southern California where winds were not expected to die until sundown.

Pacific Gas & Electric Co. workers in Northern California were inspecting power lines and working to restore power.

Winds were gusting up to 60 mph (96 kph) early Thursday morning when two fires broke out in the heavily populated inland region east of Los Angeles.

The fire started by the stolen car burned three homes and forced residents to temporarily flee.

Another early morning fire in San Bernardino destroyed six homes and forced about 1,300 people to evacuate, but they were allowed to return home later. The cause was under investigation.

While the fires are not out, progress was heading in the right direction, said Scott Ross, a spokesman for CalFire.

The outcome in Sonoma was better than expected, considering that 80,000 homes had been threatened and evacuations extended to the coast.

"Now it's just time to get this mopped up and put out," Ross said.

The fire burned 120 square miles (311 sq. kilometers) and was 60% contained,

Residents whose homes were still standing were relieved, and grateful for the firefighters who had been fighting it for more than a week.

Nancy Lang, co-owner of Safari West, a Santa Rosa exotic wildlife preserve that was in the evacuation zone, stayed behind with employees to care for animals that include giraffes, zebras, a rhino and cheetah.

"This fire was extremely erratic. It jumped from place to place. We never knew from minute to minute what was going to happen," Lang said. "We're breathing a big sigh of relief and we're quite pleased this thing is coming to an end."

Brenda Catelani, who lives in the same Windsor neighborhood as Darst, choked up as she recalled driving home Wednesday with her husband and finding chunks of embers in her yard, burned leaves and ash.

The fire had come within 500 yards (457 meters) of their house — closer than one of the wine country fires of 2017 that killed 44 people and destroyed 8,900 homes and other buildings in Sonoma and Napa counties.

"I think when we left, and especially Sunday, we didn't think we'd be coming back," Catelani said.

Melley reported from Los Angeles. Associated Press writers Stefanie Dazio, Christopher Weber and John Antczak in Los Angeles, Juliet Williams in San Francisco contributed to this report.

## Asian shares mixed on new US-China trade jitters

By ELAINE KURTENBACH AP Business Writer

BANGKOK (AP) — Asian shares were mixed on Friday after investors were spooked by a report that cast doubt on the prospects of a long-term U.S-China trade deal.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng rose 0.4% to 27,020.20 and the Shanghai Composite jumped 0.7% to 2,950.47. In South Korea the Kospi climbed 0.5% to 2,093.34. In Australia, the S&P ASX/200 lost 0.3% to 6,662.10.

Japan's Nikkei 225 index fell 0.5% from 22,820.26 after a survey of purchasing managers showed factory activity contracting in October.

The Jibun Bank Japan Manufacturing purchasing managers index was at 48.4 on a scale where 50 shows activity contracting. That was down from 48.9 in September.

"Worrying signs for Japanese manufacturers appeared at the start of the fourth quarter, with PMI data showing conditions deteriorating at the sharpest rate for almost three-and-a-half years," Joe Hayes of IHS Markit said in a commentary.

"Even more concerning was the fact that new orders, a key forward-looking component of the survey, was the primary reason underpinning this marked decline," he said.

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Shares also fell in Bangkok, Jakarta and Singapore but rose in Taiwan.

Stocks closed broadly lower on Wall Street following a report that raised concerns about the prospects of a comprehensive trade deal between Washington and Beijing.

The Bloomberg report, citing unnamed sources, suggested Chinese officials are doubtful that they will be able to reach a comprehensive, long-term trade deal with the U.S.

That overshadowed remarks by President Donald Trump, who touted Thursday that both sides are working on finding a location to sign "phase one" of the trade deal.

"It's mainly the concerns about whether there will be some kind of trade deal with China, both the first round and the bigger agreement that, obviously, appears further away," said Kate Warne, chief investment strategist at Edward Jones. "When there's good news on trade negotiations, stocks tend to move up, and when there's bad news or concerns, stocks tend to sell off."

Despite the sell-off, the benchmark index closed out October with its second straight monthly gain as an easing of trade tensions and surprisingly good corporate earnings gave investors more confidence.

Industrial stocks led the selling Thursday.

The S&P 500 index fell 0.3% to 3,037.56. The benchmark index is on track for its fourth-straight weekly gain and is now up 21.2% this year.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 0.5% to 27,046.23.

The Nasdaq slid 0.1%, to 8,292.36. The Russell 2000 index of smaller company stocks lost 0.7%, to 1,562.45.

The world's two biggest economies have wrangled for more than 15 months over U.S. allegations that China steals technology, forces businesses to hand over trade secrets and unfairly subsidizes its technology companies in an aggressive drive to supplant American technological dominance.

They have imposed tariffs on hundreds of billions of dollars' worth of each other's goods in a trade fight that has slowed global economic growth.

Negotiators from both countries are trying to settle details of the phase one deal, which sidesteps some of the biggest issues dividing the countries.

"You have the Chinese saying, 'Gee, they're not sure there's a possibility for a long-term negotiation here, which is just another reminder that there are big issues still on the table,'" said Paul Christopher, head of global market strategy for Wells Fargo Investment Institute. "A phase one deal is not really much of a deal at all."

Investors have been assessing a steady flow of earnings and economic reports this week. They will get another batch of economic data Friday with the government's release of October employment data, though a 40-day strike against General Motors is expected to dampen the jobs snapshot.

Benchmark crude oil gained 21 cents to \$54.39 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It fell 88 cents to settle at \$54.18 a barrel on Thursday.

Brent crude oil, the international standard, gained 6 cents to \$59.68 a barrel.

The dollar fell to 108.04 Japanese yen from 108.02 yen on Thursday. The euro strengthened to \$1.1164 from \$1.1152.

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

## Pink or blue? Some gender reveal parties take dangerous turn

By GRANT SCHULTE Associated Press

It was supposed to be a happy moment, a chance to declare the sex of a soon-to-be-born baby with a blast of color and burst of attention on social media.

But the gender reveal party explosion that killed an Iowa woman this weekend highlights the extreme lengths some families go to advertise on social media that they're expecting a boy or a girl.

Gender reveal parties have grown increasingly popular and elaborate, with smoke, confetti or colored treats to symbolize the soon-to-be-born child's biological sex. But what began as a lighthearted, intimate

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gathering with family and close friends has morphed into a spectacle with guns, explosives and wild animals to maximize shock value — with sometimes dangerous consequences.

"There's this huge pressure to publicize these once-private moments," said Carly Gieseler, an associate professor at the City University of New York's York College, who has studied the rise of gender-reveal parties. "You get that outside validation that what you did was unique, that it was extra special. It drives celebrations to the extreme because you're trying to do the thing that no one's done before."

Gieseler said the number of gender reveal parties has risen over the last decade but speculated that the recent string of accidents could cause it to decline.

The homemade explosive that killed 56-year-old Pamela Kreimeyer in Knoxville, Iowa, on Saturday was just the latest example. The device was meant to spray colorful powder into the air, but instead exploded like a pipe bomb. Kreimeyer, who was standing 45 feet away, died instantly when a piece of debris struck her head.

Two years ago, an off-duty border patrol agent accidentally started a 47,000-acre wildfire in southern Arizona when he shot a target filled with an explosive powder and blue coloring to signal that he was expecting a son. Agent Dennis Dickey was charged with a misdemeanor and sentenced to probation for triggering the fire, which caused more than \$8 million in damage.

In Australia, a car that spewed blue smoke to announce the arrival of a boy burst into flames last year, forcing the driver and passengers to abandon it.

And in separate instances over the last two years, couples announced their child's sex by putting items into the mouths of their pet alligators — a watermelon filled with blue Jell-O in Louisiana and a pink-powder-filled balloon in Florida.

The use of homemade explosives is particularly concerning to fire officials, who worry about one-upmanship and copycats.

"These explosives are very unpredictable," said Ron Humphrey, a special agent in charge of the Iowa State Fire Marshal Division. "You can set 10 off and get 10 different results. If we can get any message across to people, it's to tell them simply not to do it."

Just one day after the deadly Knoxville explosion, authorities in nearby Waukee, Iowa, received multiple calls about a blast outside of town. No one was injured, but the shockwave from the commercially available "gender reveal kit" rattled homes as far as 2 miles away. Waukee Fire Department Captain Tomme Tysdal said one neighbor complained about broken windows.

Event planners say they've seen an increase in formal gender reveal parties in recent years. Most draw between 30 and 50 people, and some couples even rent event halls for their announcement, said Bonnie Rosa-Mosena, a Des Moines-area wedding and event planner.

"It's not enough just to have grandma and grandpa there," she said. "They want all of their friends. It's a big party."

Rosa-Mosena said one of her client couples used a confetti cannon for their gender reveal party, but guests stood far away when it was fired. Another client revealed the baby's gender while skydiving with a blue aerial flare, signaling a boy.

Gender reveal parties have been a social media staple since 2008, when an expectant mother, Jenna Karvunidis, posted a blog item on a parenting website about a family barbeque where she had baked a cake with pink icing inside to reveal that she was having a daughter.

The story was picked up by The Bump, a pregnancy magazine, and placed in OB-GYN offices throughout the country. It quickly spread online.

Karvunidis said she was horrified to see her idea co-opted with dangerous activities, and she chose not to have any ceremony when she was pregnant with her younger daughters.

"The whole thing is just absolutely insane," said Karvunidis, now a law student in Los Angeles.

Even so, shooting an exploding target for a gender reveal party appealed to Jon Sterkel, the owner of a tree care business in Scottsbluff, Nebraska. Sterkel's celebration in 2017 drew international media attention, but authorities ticketed him for detonating the kit without a state permit. Sterkel apologized, saying



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he didn't realize he needed one, and prosecutors dropped the citation.

Sterkel said he and his wife bought the target because they had shot similar explosives in the past with proper safety precautions. They named their son Wesson, after the gunmaker Smith & Wesson.

"It's just an everyday thing out here," said Sterkel, who lives 20 miles from the Wyoming border. "We're just a bunch of rednecks who love hunting and shooting, and we thought this was going to be pretty unique way to do it. If it's done in the right way, in the right environment, then it's totally enjoyable."

Follow Grant Schulte: <https://twitter.com/GrantSchulte>

## Vietnamese turn to traffickers to help chase fortunes abroad

By HAU DINH Associated Press

DIEN THINH, Vietnam (AP) — For many Vietnamese, a job in a Western European country is seen as a path to prosperity worth breaking the law. But the risks of doing so are high and the consequences can be deadly, as the discovery of 39 bodies in a truck in England last week proved.

The victims were believed to Asian migrants who had paid traffickers to smuggle them into the country. And now residents of this small rural Vietnamese community fear that two cousins were among the dead in the refrigerated cargo container.

"I miss him very much," said Hoang Van Lanh, who anxiously awaited word on the fate of his 18-year-old son, Hoang Van Tiep. But he added, "That's life. We have to sacrifice to earn a better living. Tiep is a good son. He wants to go overseas to work and take care of parents when we get old. He insisted to go, for a better life."

Dien Thinh in north-central Vietnam is a coastal village with 300 households that depend on small-scale farming of peanuts and sesame and seasonal fishing. A big pink church in the village center that marks this as a Catholic settlement is surrounded by modest homes, though there are also some new two- and three-story houses belonging to families who have members working abroad.

The village is a 15-minute drive from Yen Thanh district, a similar area where 13 families have come forward to report missing family members.

By Vietnamese standards, Dien Thinh is not especially poor, but like many rural areas, it lags behind urban regions economically. The average annual per capita income in the province where the village is situated is \$1,620, compared with a national average of \$2,587, according to the Vietnamese government.

Many young people head for the cities or gamble on their chances in Europe, whether out of devotion to their families, a desire to escape a life of backbreaking manual labor, or a yearning for a fancy new house.

Tiep's parents live in a one-story brick house built three years ago. Hanging across the length of a living room wall, above a cross, is a framed print of "The Last Supper." His mother, Hoang Thi Ai, sobbed and stared blankly this week as visitors tried to comfort her. She carried her phone everywhere in the hope he would contact her.

The last texts she received from him were on Oct. 22 — the day before British authorities discovered the truck — and said he was "on the way" to England and "please prepare the money at home" and "10 thousand 5," shorthand for the 10,500 pounds (\$13,600) left to be paid to the traffickers.

Families normally pay half the trafficker's fee before the trip and the remainder when the person being transported arrives at the destination. Tiep's family was never asked for the second payment, compounding their fears he is among the dead.

Ai said Tiep dropped out of school in the ninth grade and started working because they are so poor. "He helped out by going fishing with his father. But fishing trips didn't bring a lot," she said. "He couldn't find a job. That's why he wanted to go."

The family borrowed the equivalent of \$17,500 from a bank to pay for him to be smuggled into France in 2017, when he was 16. The journey, through Russia and Germany, took 20 days. Tiep worked as a dishwasher at a series of restaurants, sending home money to help pay off the loan. But even today, the family still owes about \$4,500.

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Tiep told his parents his prospects in France were poor, and he wanted to go to England for a better-paying job working at nail salons. "Nail bars," as they are known in Britain, are go-to employment spots for Asian migrants but often pay barely enough to scrape by. He asked for his parents' financial help, saying the move would help pay off the debt.

"He told me that he'd travel by car, but it turned out that they transported people in that container," his father said. "I would never have let him go that way."

He added: "I hope he can be spared by not being on that container. But we have to prepare for the worst. That's fate. If he died, I hope we can have him back home."

Living just few hundred meters (yards) from Tiep's family is the family of his cousin Nguyen Van Hung, likewise feared to be a victim of the trafficking tragedy. He also hasn't contacted his family since Oct. 22.

Hung, 30, had been a school music teacher. But the salary he earned for part-time work, 4 million to 5 million dong (\$170 to \$220) a month, could not support him in the city where he taught, and he did not want to return to his village. He was desperate to find work overseas, said his father, Nguyen Thanh Le.

"Hung wanted to go to work abroad so he could earn money to support his parents, because we are both ill and can't work much," Le said. "I actually didn't want him to go, but I wanted him to stay at home, and get married, but he didn't tell us and secretly left Vietnam."

Hung made it to France in 2017, where he worked as a waiter at several restaurants.

The journey of thousands of miles to Western Europe is dangerous, especially for women and children.

"There is a very high risk for them to be sexually exploited on the way," Mimi Vu, an anti-trafficking activist based in Vietnam. "If you are traveling by yourself among a bunch of men, what do you think is going to happen? ... If these people think they can make money off of you, they will make money off of you."

Safe passage hardly brings the migrants closer to any financial reward. The extortionate smuggling fees leave many migrants in a state of bondage.

They typically have to pay \$40,000 to \$50,000 to be smuggled into England, plus interest, and when they get there, money is withheld from their meager pay, leaving them with little if any to pocket, Vu said. Paying off the debt can take years.

There are legal and safe ways for Vietnamese to earn money overseas. They are not cheap, but they are less expensive than dealing with traffickers. Travel arranged by legitimate overseas employment agencies normally ranges from \$3,000 to \$5,000.

These agencies register with Vietnam's Labor Ministry and work with vocational schools and universities to set up training and orientation programs before sending workers to destinations mostly in Asia, including Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Singapore and Malaysia, and in the Middle East, including Kuwait and Qatar.

Truong Cong Suu, head of the labor department in the district where Dien Thinh is situated, said that while about 1,000 people from the district take the legal route to work overseas each year, around 200 to 300 go through illegitimate channels.

Local authorities say they take steps to stop the flow, issuing work-related passports only when they have a reference letter from a legitimate labor export agency and turning down suspicious requests for tourist passports if they have doubts the applicant's family can afford the trip.

"If they stay in school and continue the education, they can go overseas through regulated and legitimate agents," Vu said. "But they want to get rich faster because they are fed with false information about salary and the lives in England."

The problem, Vu said, is that "the Vietnamese don't realize that they are victims."

"They just think it is part of the suffering that they have to endure to be successful, to make it to the other side," she said.

## Trick-or-treater, 7, critically injured in Chicago shooting

CHICAGO (AP) — A 7-year-old girl out trick-or-treating in a bumblebee costume was critically injured Thursday night after being struck by apparent stray gunfire, police said.

The girl, who was shot in the upper chest area, was taken to Stroger Hospital in critical condition, ac-

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According to Fire Department spokesman Larry Langford. A 30-year-old man was shot in the left hand and taken to a nearby hospital in good condition.

The shooting occurred early Halloween evening as the girl was walking with her family and other trick-or-treaters along a street in the Little Village neighborhood.

In a tweet, Chicago police spokesman Anthony Guglielmi said the girl was believed to be an unintended victim. He said members of the community were assisting investigators "but we need more."

"We heard the shots ... four shots, and I went outside," said Lali Lara, who works in a nearby cellphone store, told the Chicago Tribune. "The girl's father was screaming, 'My little girl's been shot.'"

Police said a group of males were chasing another male along the street when someone in the group fired at the intended victim. It was not immediately known if the wounded man was with the girl or was the one targeted by the shooters. Police say they have no description of the gunman, and no one was in custody.

"This is unacceptable," police Sgt. Rocco Alioto said. "A 7-year-old girl that was trick-or-treating with her family had to get shot because a group of guys want to shoot at another male."

Police said there is a surveillance camera near the crime scene from which video can be obtained.

## Frozen in time, US Embassy a monument to Iran hostage crisis

By MEHDI FATTAHI and JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — The U.S. Embassy in Tehran remains frozen in 1979 as the 40th anniversary of the Iran hostage crisis approaches, a time capsule of revolutionary graffiti, Underwood typewriters and rotary telephones.

The diplomatic compound was overrun by students angered when Washington allowed ousted Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi into the U.S. for medical treatment. What initially began as a sit-in devolved into 444 days of captivity for 52 Americans seized in the embassy.

Today, the embassy remains held by the Basij, a volunteer wing of Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, partly as a museum and a space for student groups. Likewise, the Iranian Embassy in Washington remains empty since then-President Jimmy Carter expelled all of Iran's diplomats during the crisis, although it is closed to the public and maintained by the U.S. State Department.

The 27-acre U.S. compound sits on the corner of Taleghani Street and Mofatteh Avenue, a busy thoroughfare through downtown Tehran.

Before the 1979 Islamic Revolution, Taleghani Street was known as Takhteh-Jamshid Street, the Farsi term for Persepolis, the ancient Persian religious capital. Mofatteh Avenue had been named after U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, whose distant cousin Kermit Roosevelt, a CIA operative, played a role in the 1953 coup that toppled Prime Minister Mohammad Mossadegh and cemented the shah's power.

The brick gate around the compound has become famous for its anti-American murals. On the day of the takeover, Nov. 4, 1979, Islamic students scaled its fence the same way their Marxist rivals had done earlier that year on Feb. 14.

The earlier incident was broken up by security forces, and an uneasy calm had returned to the embassy, although officials cut its staff to about 70 people.

The Great Seal of the United States on the outside wall has been defaced, although another one still is undamaged in white above the entryway of the compound's chancery. The two-story office block resembles a U.S. high school, something the diplomatic staff joked about by calling it "Henderson High," after former U.S. Ambassador Loy Henderson.

Entering the chancery is like stepping back in time. Rooms on the ground floors were shut and locked when Associated Press journalists visited on a recent night. The rooms are used by student groups and others.

Up a staircase, a guide led the AP journalists through the heavy safe door that guarded the embassy's secure vault room. This area has become part of the Basij museum.

Inside the vault sits the embassy's communications gear. Those Americans who hid in the room during

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the takeover rendered the equipment inoperable, removing and destroying individual components of the telexes — teletype machines that could transmit messages over phone lines to the rest of the world.

By destroying only the components, the staff could easily put the machines back into use had Iranian security forces rescued the employees, as they had in the Feb. 14 incident.

"The list was prioritized, so that the last items to go were the secure teletypes that kept them connected to Washington," journalist Mark Bowden wrote in his 2006 book, "Guests of the Ayatollah," recounting the crisis. "When it was decided to begin destroying them, selected parts were culled from the various bits and either smashed with a hammer or cut in half with a saw."

But saving the bulk of the machines instead only made them curiosity pieces in the Basij museum. A small placard on part of the equipment simply identifies it as a "coding and electronic communication center."

Against a wall near a window air conditioner sits a blue-gray metal contraption that looks like a small wood chipper. A hose runs from it to a vacuum-cleaner-like device sitting over a large barrel.

This was the embassy's disintegrator, an industrial-style device designed to first shred documents and materials, then burn them to ash inside the barrel.

"It was slow to work and temperamental in nature, subject to jamming at the least provocation," recounted William J. Daugherty, a CIA officer who was among the hostages. "Within a few minutes, the device went 'ka-chonk' and shut down. Using a small commercial paper shredder, we continued to destroy what we could."

But they left behind a huge pile of shredded strips that the students later would spend weeks piecing together like a vast jigsaw puzzle of memos and reports. Other papers didn't get shredded. On one table sits a CIA report on Sheikh Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa, then the ruler of the Mideast island nation of Bahrain. Empty safes stand open, with one bearing signs of being pried apart.

Other rooms contain black-and-white photos of the embassy takeover. A large painting of one of the images shows U.S. Marine Sgt. Ladell Maples of Earle, Arkansas, and Cpl. Steve Kirtley of Little Rock, Arkansas, with their hands above their heads at the time of the takeover.

Images like those of surrendering American troops carry a strong resonance for hard-liners in Iran. Hanging on another wall is an artist's rendering of Iran's 2016 capture of 10 U.S. sailors in the Persian Gulf before their release a day later.

Some of the walls in the chancery bore fresh paint, although others still show some of the students' graffiti.

"The den of espionage must be shut down," it reads in Farsi, while another line honors Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, who became supreme leader of Iran after returning from exile in France earlier in 1979.

In English, it reads: "There is no time for intervention in Iran anymore."

One wall features a poster in Farsi reading, "Death to America," although it offers an alternative English translation of "Down with America."

Another reads: "Death to the USA," with the letter "U" bearing the profile of U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo; the "S" the pompadour of President Donald Trump; and the "A" the moustache of former U.S. national security adviser John Bolton, a longtime hawk on Iran.

"Death to America means 'Death to Trump, John Bolton and Pompeo,'" the sign's caption reads, quoting a February speech by Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the current supreme leader, published by his website.

"Death to these individuals means death to American leaders. We have nothing to do with the American people," it says

In the same speech, Khamenei added: "As long as the U.S. government and regime continues the same malevolence, interference, evil and malice in its actions, this 'Death to America' will continue to be heard from the people of Iran."

Gambrell reported from Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

## Seniors at California complex 'abandoned' during blackout

By JANIE HAR Associated Press



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NOVATO, Calif. (AP) — One woman in her 80s tripped over another resident who had fallen on the landing in a steep stairwell. Others got disoriented, even in their own apartments, and cried out for help.

At least 20 seniors with wheelchairs and walkers were essentially trapped, in the dark, in a low-income apartment complex in Northern California during a two-day power shut-off aimed at warding off wildfires.

Residents of the Villas at Hamilton in Novato, north of San Francisco, say they were without guidance from their property management company or the utility behind the blackout as they faced pitch-black stairwells and hallways and elevators that shut down.

"We were surprised by how dark it was," said Pamela Zuzak, 70, who uses a walker to get around. "There was nothing, nothing lit. It was like going into a darkroom closet, pitch black, you couldn't see in front of you."

Pacific Gas & Electric Co. shut off power to more than 2 million people over the weekend to prevent its equipment from sparking fires amid hot, dry gusts. It was just one of four pre-emptive rounds of shut-offs imposed by the utility this month.

By PG&E's estimate, more than 900,000 people were without power Wednesday, some of them since Saturday, while crews battled fires in Northern and Southern California.

The outages turned urban highways dark and blackened shopping malls once glittering with light. People stocked up on batteries, water and gas and lamented the spoiled food in refrigerators.

But the blackouts are more challenging for older and disabled residents who lack the transportation and money to rush out for ice and groceries, said John Geoghegan, head of the Hamilton Tenant Association.

He said about a third of the Villas' 140 residents are too old, sick or cognitively impaired to care for themselves during an extended outage. He alleges the property management company VPM "abandoned" its tenants.

Geoghegan came home Saturday night to find residents milling in the parking lots, some near panic. "Some expected they would be communicated with, but they weren't hearing from anybody," he said.

VPM Management of Irvine, landlord Affordable Housing Access of Newport Beach, and the on-site manager did not respond to requests for comment from The Associated Press.

Elected officials and PG&E customers have complained bitterly over the utility's lack of communication and inability to provide real-time estimates of when power would be back on.

Marie Hoch, president of the Hamilton Field of Marin Owners Association, which does not include the Villas, got a call Monday. She visited the three buildings that make up the complex and found apartments without heat and electric stoves that did not work.

"I thought it was particularly upsetting that they knew the power outage was coming," she said of management.

Zuzak didn't leave her floor until after Monday night, when power was restored. She spent the two days ping ponging from one end to the other, checking on neighbors.

Her friend Patti Zahnow, 77, who also uses a walker, says she was too frightened to leave her apartment.

"It was really dark. They put a flood light up that wasn't working," she said. "They should have a flood light that works."

Residents said emergency lighting came on in the windowless hallways but lasted for about 12 hours, not nearly long enough for an extended outage. Battery-operated front doors to the buildings that are usually locked became unlocked during the outage.

"It's pretty disconcerting for the seniors who were fairly unprepared or have difficulty orienting at night-time," said Maureen Wagner, 64, who serves as a caregiver for her sister, who lives at the Villas.

Resident Helen Wagar, who is in her 80s, was returning to her third-floor apartment from walking her dog, Pixie. She was climbing the stairs, in the dark, when she tripped over another woman who had fallen on a landing.

Wagar's knee is swollen. She never found out the identity of the woman.

"It was black as pitch in that stairwell," she said. "I never did see the girl at all."

Associated Press writer Stefanie Dazio in Los Angeles contributed to this report.

## Survivors say burning train took 20 minutes to stop, 74 dead

By ASIM TANVEER Associated Press

MULTAN, Pakistan (AP) — A raging fire swept through a train in Pakistan's eastern Punjab Province on Thursday, killing 74 people, and survivors said afterward it took nearly 20 minutes for the train to stop amid contradictory reports about the condition of the train's brakes.

Three carriages were consumed by flames from a fire caused by a cooking gas stove and dozens of people jumped in panic from the speeding train.

Conductor Sadiue Ahmed Khan told The Associated Press the train's emergency braking system was in perfect working order and the train stopped within three minutes after the first signs of fire.

"This is the worst tragedy in my life as a driver," he said.

Investigators said they will be looking at the train's braking system to determine its condition at the time of the fire. Survivors recounted pulling at emergency cords that weave through the train to notify the conductor, but they said the train continued to speed down the tracks.

Ghulam Abbas, a passenger who had gotten on the train in the town of Nawabshah in neighboring Sindh Province with his wife and two children, echoed other passengers who said it took nearly 20 minutes for the train to stop. He recounted watching panicked passengers jumping off the speeding locomotive.

"We learned afterward that most of them had died," he said.

Abbas' wife, Sulai Khan Bibi, said she was horrified what would happen to their two small children. "We were so close to death, but Allah saved us," she said, clutching the children.

The train, which was traveling from the southern Arabian Sea port city of Karachi to Rawalpindi, just 10 kilometers (6 miles) from the federal capital, was carrying 857 passengers. Most of the dead were members of Tableeqi-e-Jamaat, an organization of Islamic missionaries. The fire was believed to have started in their compartment.

Mufti Wahab, a district chief of the Tableeqi-e-Jamaat, said as many as 52 members of his organization were "martyred because of the fire."

The fire apparently started after one of several small stoves brought on to the train by the the Tableeqi members exploded, setting other gas cylinders used to fuel the stoves on fire, said Deputy Railways Commissioner Jamil Ahmed.

Flames roared through the train engulfing three carriages as it approached the town of Liaquatpur in Punjab. Survivors recounted horrific scenes of fellow passengers screaming as they jumped through windows and off the train, flames billowing from the carriages.

"We could hear people crying and screaming for help," said Chaudhry Shujaat, who had boarded the train just a few hours earlier with his wife and two children. "I thought we would die. The next car was on fire. We felt so helpless."

Kaleem Ullah, an official with the district emergency services, said of the 43 people injured, 11 were still in critical condition. Several of them had jumped off the train — many to their deaths — after the fire broke out and before it eventually screeched to a halt, said Ahmed, the railways official.

In Pakistan, poor passengers often bring their own small gas stoves on the trains to cook their meals, despite rules to the contrary, according to Railways Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed. Safety regulations are often ignored in the overcrowded trains.

Railway official Shabir Ahmed said bodies of passengers were scattered over a 2 kilometer- (1 mile-) wide area around the site.

People from nearby villages rushed to the train, carrying buckets of water and shovels to help douse the flames. "But it was impossible," said Ahmed.

Through the morning hours, rescue workers and inspectors sifted through the charred wreckage, looking for survivors and aiding the injured. Local Pakistani TV footage from the scene showed a huge blaze raging as firefighters struggled to get it under control.

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Officials said they were still trying to identify the victims and that the lists of fatalities and those injured were not ready yet. Another train was dispatched to bring the survivors to the city of Rawalpindi, they said.

Yasmin Rashid, a provincial minister in Punjab, told reporters that medical staff were providing the best possible treatment for the injured at a hospital in Liaquatpur. Those critically injured were taken by ambulance to the city of Multan, the largest city nearest to the site of the accident.

Pakistan's military said troops were also participating in the rescue operation. President Arif Alvi and Prime Minister Imran Khan issued statements expressing their sorrow over the tragedy.

Khan took to Twitter to offer his condolences to the families of those killed and say he was praying for the speedy recovery of the injured. He also ordered an urgent investigation into the incident.

U.N. Secretary-General also extended "deep condolences" to the families of the victims as well as the people and government of Pakistan and wished "a swift and full recovery to those who were injured," U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said.

Train accidents in Pakistan are often the result of poor railway infrastructure and official negligence. Media reports on Thursday suggest that railways officials did not notice when passengers boarded the train, carrying individual gas stoves.

In July, a passenger train rammed into a freight train at the Walhar Railway Station in the district of Rahim Yar Khan, killing at least 20 people and injuring 74.

A month earlier, a passenger train traveling to the eastern city of Lahore from the port city of Karachi collided with a freight train in the southern city of Hyderabad, killing three people.

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Associated Press writers Munir Ahmed and Kathy Gannon in Islamabad contributed to this report.

## Chicago teachers strike ends after 11 days without school

By KATHLEEN FOODY and DON BABWIN Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Chicago teachers and the nation's third-largest school district reached a labor contract deal on Thursday, ending a strike that canceled 11 days of classes for more than 300,000 students.

Mayor Lori Lightfoot announced that the district had reached a deal with the Chicago Teachers Union after months of unsuccessful negotiations led to the city's first significant walkout by educators since 2012. The union's 25,000 members went on strike Oct. 17, holding marches and rallies across the city.

Chicago Teachers Union delegates voted late Wednesday to approve a tentative deal that includes pay raises over five years, but they initially refused to end the strike unless the mayor added school days to cover the lost time.

The union said Lightfoot had agreed to make up five days of lost time. The school district said classes will resume Friday.

Throughout the strike, Chicago Public Schools kept schools open, promising parents that their kids would have a safe place to go and receive meals. City parks, libraries and community groups also opened their doors to kids whose parents didn't want to leave them home alone but were uncomfortable using schools being picketed by educators.

Families across the city breathed a sigh of relief as they heard the news.

"It is over finally, thank God," said Dominique Dukes, who has two children, ages 7 and 14. "They did miss out on their education. It was the worst experience ever. Hopefully it doesn't happen again."

Dukes, 33, said she printed off grade school worksheets at the library to keep her children occupied. Dukes works early mornings at a warehouse and her boyfriend works nights; they took turns watching the children.

Teachers said the strike was based on a "social justice" agenda and aimed to increase resources, including nurses and social workers for students, and reduce class sizes, which teachers say currently exceed 30 or 40 students in some schools. Union leaders said the strike forced the city to negotiate on issues they initially deemed out of bounds, including support for homeless students.

Lightfoot said a strike was unnecessary and dubbed the city's offer of a 16% raise for teachers over a

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five-year contract and other commitments on educators' priorities "historic."

The Chicago strike was another test of efforts by teachers' unions to use contract talks typically focused on salaries and benefits and force sweeping conversations about broader problems that affect schools in large, politically left-leaning cities, including affordable housing, added protections for immigrants and the size of classes.

The agreement approved on Wednesday was not immediately released but Sharkey said some of teachers' wins could "transform" schools in the district. The full union membership still must hold a final vote on the agreement.

Broad outlines include a 16% raise for teachers during the five-year contract, a new committee to investigate and enforce classroom sizes that surpass limits in the agreement and funding to add social workers and nurses to the city's schools.

Lightfoot said at the start of the strike that she would not restore any lost days and stuck to that position late Wednesday in response to the union's demands. Lightfoot and Sharkey met privately at City Hall on Thursday as teachers protested outside in the snow. The mayor eventually emerged from her office and announced the strike would end.

Sharkey, who did not stand by the mayor's side to announce the strike's end, told reporters that union members "don't need to see me smiling with the mayor."

"What they need to see is that we have a tentative agreement and we now have a return to work agreement," he said. "I'm glad that people get to return to work. Frankly, it's been hard on teachers to be out this long and it's been hard on parents to be out this long. It's been hard on our students."

The walkout served as one of Lightfoot's first major hurdles after taking office this year. The former federal prosecutor campaigned on a progressive platform, including school reform, and the union accused her of failing to follow through on campaign promises.

The first-term mayor dismissed questions Thursday about possible ripple effects of the strike, saying she was focused on repairing "damage" to students and families.

"Nobody wins in a circumstance like this," she said.

Union officials said they were building on massive teacher protests in conservative states, including West Virginia last year where teachers called for higher pay and greater funding for schools.

Hillary Remis, a 37-year-old science teacher at McAuliffe Elementary School, said she thinks the walkout was worthwhile and considers the compromise on makeup days "fair."

"I think we walked out with a better contract than we had to begin with from the previous contract," Remis said. "There were some good compromises by both sides. Anything that benefits the school and benefits the kids is worth it."

Chicago teachers were joined by thousands of school staff, including security guards and teachers' assistants who belong to a unit of the Service Employees International Union. That union reached a tentative agreement with the district on Sunday, but its leaders vowed to remain on the picket lines until the teachers reached their own deal.

The strike also spread from the picket line to the playing field, as some high school athletes found themselves shut out of competitions. One school, Solorio Academy, missed a chance to win its second state soccer championship in three years because the tournaments began during the strike.

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Associated Press writer Sophia Tareen contributed to this report.

## The pressure is now on Facebook to ban political ads, too

By MAE ANDERSON and RACHEL LERMAN AP Technology Writers

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Twitter's ban on political advertising is ratcheting up pressure on Facebook and Mark Zuckerberg to follow suit. But so far, that doesn't appear likely to happen.

Facebook's policy is to accept paid political ads from candidates without fact-checking them or censoring them, even if they contain lies.



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And Zuckerberg doubled down on that stand Wednesday following Twitter's announcement, reiterating that "political speech is important" and that Facebook is loath to interfere with it.

Twitter, Facebook and other social media sites have come under fire over Russia's use of such platforms to spread misinformation and sow political division in the U.S. during the 2016 presidential campaign. That debate has heated up again in recent weeks along with the 2020 race for the White house.

Twitter chose to respond with a ban on all political advertising, suggesting that social media is so powerful that false or misleading messages pose a risk to democracy.

The timing of the announcement, the same day as Facebook's quarterly earnings report, seemed designed to goad Zuckerberg.

"The pressure is going to be extremely strong on Facebook to do something similar, and if they don't, the criticism of Facebook will only increase," said Tim Bjarin, president of consultancy Creative Strategies.

In fact, some of the Democratic presidential candidates immediately suggested Facebook follow Twitter's lead.

Montana Gov. Steve Bullock tweeted: "Good. Your turn, Facebook." And Pete Buttigieg said, "I think other online platforms would do well to either accept their responsibility for truth or question whether they should be in the business at all."

But Zuckerberg stood firm.

"This is complex stuff. Anyone who says the answer is simple hasn't thought about the nuances and downstream challenges," the Facebook CEO said. "I don't think anyone can say that we are not doing what we believe or we haven't thought hard about these issues."

As for refusing to fact-check political ads, Facebook has said it wants to provide politicians with a "level playing field" for communication and not intervene when they speak, regardless of what they're saying.

Banning political ads has its own challenges, starting with defining what exactly is political. For example, Greenpeace might not be able to buy an ad urging people to support legislation to fight climate change. But what if an oil company wanted to run an ad for its products that also seemed to come out against such legislation?

Twitter and Facebook already take steps to prevent political manipulation by verifying the identities of political advertisers — measures prompted by the furor over Moscow's interference. But the verifying systems, which rely on both humans and automated systems, have not been perfect.

In one case, Facebook mistakenly took down ads for Bush's baked beans because they contained the word "Bush" and the food company was not registered with Facebook as a political advertiser. Media organizations have also seen their ads flagged for review when they promoted news stories about candidates or important issues.

And then there's the question of what to do with individual posts from politicians or other opinion makers, which can carry political messages and be shared widely even though they are not paid ads.

Details about Twitter's new policy won't be released until Nov. 15, a week before it takes effect. But Twitter does call for removing not just campaign advertisements but also ads on issues of legislative importance. That could include such topics as climate change, gun control and immigration.

EMarketer analyst Debra Aho Williamson said Zuckerberg's stance probably isn't a financial decision, since political ads aren't big moneymakers.

Facebook, which had 2018 revenue of \$55.8 billion, said Wednesday that it expects ads from politicians to account for less than 0.5% of its revenue next year.

Twitter, which had revenue last year of about \$3 billion, is thought to make even less from the ads; it said it brought in only \$3 million from political ads during the 2018 midterms.

"It is a really complicated decision," Williamson said. "I think that Mark Zuckerberg is truly struggling with figuring out what is the best thing to do for the company and Facebook users."

Wedbush Securities managing director Michael Pachter likewise said the Facebook founder is trying to pull off a tricky balancing act.

"Zuckerberg is trying to satisfy investors by growing revenues and satisfy regulators and legislators by cracking down on false and misleading ads, while maintaining the virtuous stance of being a defender of

free speech," Pachter said.

Daniel Kreiss, a journalism professor at the University of North Carolina, said that a middle ground for Twitter and Facebook might be to allow political ads but to prohibit targeting, or showing them only to specific groups of people.

If campaigns aren't allowed to target, he said, messages will become broader and perhaps less misleading.

Laura Packard, a partner at PowerThru, a digital consulting firm that works with left-of-center campaigns and advocacy groups, said Twitter's ban was the right decision for voters.

"This might make my work harder," she said. "But in general, I think that if any platform cannot police misinformation and lies, then they shouldn't offer paid advertising."

AP reporter David Klepper in Providence, Rhode Island, contributed to this report. Mae Anderson reported from Atlanta.

## Boy Scouts to boost annual youth fees by more than 80%

By DAVID CRARY AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Facing a potentially ruinous wave of new sex-abuse lawsuits, the Boy Scouts of America is increasing its annual youth membership fee by more than 80%.

The group says the move, which has dismayed many of the Scouts' adult volunteer leaders who warn the increase is prohibitively steep for some, is needed to meet rising operating costs, notably for the liability insurance that covers all official Scouting activities.

For years, the BSA has been entangled in costly litigation with plaintiffs who said they were abused by scout leaders in their youth. Hundreds of lawsuits may lie ahead with the recent enactment of laws in New York, New Jersey, Arizona and California making it easier for victims of long-ago abuse to seek damages.

The fee increase, disclosed to the Scouts' regional councils last week, seeks to relieve some of the financial pressure. As of Jan. 1, the annual membership fee for 2.2 million youth members will rise from \$33 to \$60; the fee for adults will rise from \$33 to \$36, the Scouts said. The increases could generate more than \$60 million in additional funds in the coming year.

The BSA says it's exploring "all available options" to maintain its programs and has not ruled out the possibility of declaring bankruptcy.

As part of that process, the Scouts said they are consolidating their departments and recently eliminated more than 35 positions at its National Service Center.

The BSA's current youth participation is down from more than 4 million in peak years of the past. It has tried to offset the decline by admitting girls, but the membership rolls will take a big hit as of Jan. 1, when the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints — for decades a major sponsor of Boy Scout units — cuts its ties with the BSA and launches its own global youth programs.

In its announcement, the BSA made no specific reference to the sex-abuse litigation but made clear the fee increase was driven by insurance costs.

"Unfortunately, the cost of liability insurance we must carry to cover all Scouting activities has increased dramatically over the past several months, and the organization is no longer able to offset the cost of insurance," the BSA said.

In addition to insurance, the BSA said, membership fees cover other "essential services" such as background checks for adult leaders, program development and updated youth protection and safety training.

The national fees do not cover costs for uniforms and handbooks, which can easily exceed \$100 per year.

Scores of the Scouts' volunteer adult leaders weighed in on the fee increase in comments on a blog operated by the BSA's Scouting Magazine. Several of the leaders warned that the increase would be financially burdensome for low-income families and might drive them away from scouting.

The BSA insists that the scouting remains a good value, compared with many other organized youth activities.

"While most extracurricular activities are seasonal, Scouting is a year-round program that remains one

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of the most valuable investments we can make to support young men and women," the BSA announcement said.

The organization says it will strive to assist families who feel they cannot afford the higher fees. It announced creation of a fund, supported through donations, to provide financial assistance.

Many of the volunteer leaders commenting on the blog were upset by the timing of the announcement. It came after Scout units had already begun collecting fees for their 2020 registration renewal process and setting their budgets for the coming year.

"I am extremely disappointed in the handling of this increase," wrote John Guild, a Dallas attorney who has helped lead a Cub Scout pack and slammed the move for lack of transparency as well as its poor timing. Guild also questioned how effective the fee increase would be, contending that the BSA "is facing hundreds of millions of dollars in liabilities and tens of millions of dollars in legal fees."

Jason Krut, who is active with a Pittsburgh-area Cub Scout pack, called the increase "unconscionable."

"It reeks of incompetence and mismanagement," he wrote on the blog. "It will force children, leaders, and families away from scouting and to seek out BSA alternatives."

Brandon Boos, a leader of a Cub Scout pack in Worthington, Ohio, said the magnitude of the increase was understandable but he faulted the timing.

"The roll-out did not demonstrate the same high quality of character we are trying to instill in our Scouts," Boos wrote on the blog.

In a subsequent email to The Associated Press, Boos said he still loves the Boy Scouts, plans to continue as a volunteer and hopes other parents do likewise.

Donald Dement, a volunteer leader with his sons' Boy Scout troop in Frisco, Texas, said most of the parents would have no trouble affording the higher fees, while hard-up families would likely get assistance from their troops.

Dement said some conservative families in Frisco continue to resent major changes made by the BSA in the past decade — these included opening its programs to girls, and admitting gays as scouts and adult leaders. One local troop, he said, made hats for summer camp last year emblazoned with "Make Scouting Great Again."

But regarding the fee increase, he said most scouting families "will be understanding and accepting."

The Boy Scouts filed lawsuits last year against six of its own insurers, saying they have improperly refused to cover some of the sex abuse liabilities incurred by the organization. The insurers say the coverage obligation is voided because the BSA failed to take effective preventive measures such as warning parents that scouts might be abused.

"We believe insurance companies should uphold their commitments by paying their share of claims," the BSA said in an email to The Associated Press on Thursday. "We remain in disputes with some carriers and look forward to a resolution that benefits victims and helps them on their journey towards healing."

## Border wall, impeachment battle imperil budget progress

By ANDREW TAYLOR Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate passed a long-overdue, \$209 billion bundle of bipartisan spending bills Thursday, but a bitter fight over funding demanded by President Donald Trump for border fencing imperils broader Capitol Hill efforts to advance \$1.4 trillion worth of annual Cabinet agency budgets.

The 84-9 vote sends the measure into House-Senate negotiations but doesn't much change the big picture. There has been little progress, if any, on the tricky trade-offs needed to balance Democratic demands for social programs with President Donald Trump's ballooning border wall demands.

To amplify the point, Democrats shortly thereafter filibustered a much larger measure anchored by the \$695 billion Pentagon funding bill, protesting Trump's plans to again transfer billions of dollars from the Pentagon to the border wall project. The mostly party-line vote triggered a familiar round of finger-pointing.

"This delay is because they insist on including in this bill authority for President Trump to raid American tax dollars from our military — money that is intended for specific military priorities — to pay for his wall,

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which he promised that Mexico would pay for," said Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt. "And that is unacceptable."

Passage of the annual appropriations bills is one of the few areas in which divided government in Washington has been able to deliver results in the Trump era, despite last winter's 35-day partial government shutdown. Trump has only reluctantly signed the measures, however, and the White House has been unyielding so far on its wall demands during this spending round.

A sense of optimism in the aftermath of a July budget and debt deal has yielded to pessimism now, and the poisonous political fallout from the ongoing impeachment battle isn't helping matters. The budget pact blended a must-do increase in the government's borrowing cap with relief from the return of stinging automatic budget cuts known as sequestration that were left over from a long-failed 2011 budget deal.

At issue are the agency appropriations bills that Congress passes each year to keep the government running. The hard-won budget and debt deal this summer produced a top-line framework for the 12 yearly spending bills, but filling in the details is proving difficult.

While it appears likely that lawmakers will prevent a government shutdown next month with a government-wide stopgap spending bill, the impasse over agency appropriations bills shows no signs of breaking.

Democrats say White House demands for \$5 billion for Trump's long-sought U.S.-Mexico border wall have led the GOP-controlled Senate to shortchange Democratic domestic priorities.

They say negotiations can't begin in earnest until spending hikes permitted under the July budget deal are allocated among the 12 appropriations subcommittees more to their liking. Trump is demanding a huge border funding increase that comes mostly at the expense of a major health and education spending bill.

Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Richard Shelby, R-Ala., said Democrats "seem more focused on scoring political points than ensuring our military has the certainty and funding it needs to counter our adversaries."

"I am not optimistic," said House Appropriations Committee Chairwoman Nita Lowey, D-N.Y. "I don't see the Senate taking action that would enable us to have an active negotiation with them. They haven't set the groundwork. And until they figure out the (subcommittee allocations) — although we are having very nice conversations — I don't see progress."

Current stopgap spending authority expires Nov. 21, and another measure will be needed to prevent a shutdown reprising last year's 35-day partial shuttering of the government. All sides want to avert a repeat shutdown, but it can't be entirely ruled out because of the dysfunction and bitterness engulfing Washington these days.

Staff discussions on a new stopgap continuing resolution, or CR in Capitol Hill shorthand, haven't yielded agreement yet. Democrats, including Lowey, have floated the idea of a stopgap continuing resolution into February, which would likely punt the budget battle past any Senate impeachment trial.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., is pressing for a CR of shorter duration in hopes of wrapping up the unfinished budget work by Christmas. McConnell and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., spoke by telephone on Monday, congressional aides said, in hopes of breaking the logjam.

But no progress was made at a follow-up staff session on Tuesday that included White House representatives. The White House is playing a strong hand on the border wall since it has begun employing its transfer authorities to shift billions of dollars of Pentagon funding toward wall construction — far more than it has obtained through the regular funding process.

The White House is demanding \$5 billion in appropriations for the wall this budget year — up from \$1.4 billion now. It is also demanding to keep its powers to transfer Pentagon dollars as well — and to get Congress to refill Pentagon military base construction projects tapped last month to pay for up to \$3.6 billion worth of border fencing.

A senior Democratic aide who spoke on condition of anonymity to describe the closed-door session said it was unproductive.

"There is such animosity and bitterness and confrontation, it's going to be really difficult to get agreement on anything," said former House Appropriations Committee Chairman Harold Rogers, R-Ky. "So I worry about whether or not we can even pass a CR."



## 3-2-1-Cookoff! Astronauts to bake cookies with new test oven

By **MARCIA DUNN AP Aerospace Writer**

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Forget reheated, freeze-dried space grub. Astronauts are about to get a new test oven for baking chocolate chip cookies from scratch.

The next delivery of supplies for the International Space Station — scheduled for liftoff this weekend — includes the Zero G Oven. Chocolate chip cookie dough is already up there, waiting to pop into this small electric oven designed for zero gravity.

As a tantalizing incentive, sample cookies baked just this week are also launching Saturday from Virginia on Northrop Grumman's Cygnus capsule, for the six station astronauts.

The experiment explores the possibility of making freshly baked goods for space travelers. With NASA eyeing trips to the moon and Mars, homemade food takes on heightened importance. What's in orbit now are essentially food warmers.

Run by a New York couple, Zero G Kitchen aims to create a kitchen in space one appliance at a time, starting with the oven.

"You're in space. I mean, you want to have the smell of cookies," said Zero G Kitchen's Jordana Fichtenbaum, a social media specialist for hotels and restaurants. "The kitchen is really sort of the heart of the home to me, and the oven is kind of where it's at. So just to make (space) more comfortable and make it more pleasant, more delicious."

Out-of-this-world baking can also entice the public and make space exploration more relatable, according to her husband, Ian Fichtenbaum, who works in the space business.

Also collaborating on this first-of-its-kind space bake: Texas-based Nanoracks, which designed and built the oven and arranged the flight, and DoubleTree, which supplied the same cookie dough used by the hotel chain for welcome cookies.

"That's the beauty of this to me," Jordana Fichtenbaum said by phone earlier this week. "It's the same recipe and the same thing that you get on Earth."

Previous station crews have created their own pizzas using flatbread and warmed them in the galley. Astronauts have attempted other creative cuisine, mixing and heating chopped onions and garlic, for instance, and whipping up salads from station-grown greens. Results have been mixed.

The cookie baking will be slow going — the oven can bake just one cookie at a time, and it could be weeks before the astronauts have time to try it out.

Five raw cookies have been in a space station freezer since the summer. Each is in its own individual clear silicone pouch and, according to Ian Fichtenbaum, resembles a frozen hockey puck. The oven's maximum heat is 350 F (177 C), double the temperature of the U.S. and Russian food warmers aboard the space station. The cylindrical oven uses electric heating elements.

Nanorack manager Mary Murphy anticipates a baking time of 15 to 20 minutes per cookie at about 325 F (163 C). The aroma of baking cookies should fill the lab each time a cookie comes out of the oven and is placed on an attached cooling rack, she said.

The first cookie will be the real test; it could end up looking like a blob or a mini pancake in the absence of gravity. Three of the space-baked cookies will be returned to Earth for analysis.

"Baking doesn't always go according to plan, even on the ground," said Murphy.

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## Today in History

By **The Associated Press** undefined

Today in History

Today is Friday, Nov. 1, the 305th day of 2019. There are 60 days left in the year.

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Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 1, 1936, in a speech in Milan, Italy, Benito Mussolini described the alliance between his country and Nazi Germany as an "axis" running between Rome and Berlin.

On this date:

In 1604, William Shakespeare's tragedy "Othello" was first presented at Whitehall Palace in London.

In 1765, the Stamp Act, passed by the British Parliament, went into effect, prompting stiff resistance from American colonists.

In 1861, during the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln named Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan General-in-Chief of the Union armies, succeeding Lt. Gen. Winfield Scott.

In 1945, Ebony, a magazine geared toward black readers, was first published.

In 1950, two Puerto Rican nationalists tried to force their way into Blair House in Washington, D.C., in a failed attempt to assassinate President Harry S. Truman. (One of the pair was killed, along with a White House police officer.)

In 1952, the United States exploded the first hydrogen bomb, code-named "Ivy Mike," at Enewetak (en-ih-WEE'-tahk) Atoll in the Marshall Islands.

In 1968, the Motion Picture Association of America unveiled its new voluntary film rating system: G for general, M for mature (later changed to GP, then PG), R for restricted and X (later changed to NC-17) for adults only.

In 1973, following the "Saturday Night Massacre," Acting Attorney General Robert H. Bork appointed Leon Jaworski to be the new Watergate special prosecutor, succeeding Archibald Cox.

In 1989, East Germany reopened its border with Czechoslovakia, prompting tens of thousands of refugees to flee to the West.

In 1991, Clarence Thomas took his place as the newest justice on the Supreme Court.

In 1995, Bosnia peace talks opened in Dayton, Ohio, with the leaders of Bosnia, Serbia and Croatia present.

In 2003, Democratic presidential candidate Howard Dean stirred controversy within his party by telling the Des Moines (duh-MOYN') Register he wanted to be "the candidate for guys with Confederate flags in their pickup trucks." (The former Vermont governor explained that he intended to encourage the return of Southern voters who had abandoned the Democrats for decades but were disaffected with the Republicans.)

Ten years ago: Afghan President Hamid Karzai's challenger, former Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah, withdrew from an upcoming runoff election, effectively handing Karzai a victory. Lender CIT Group filed one of the biggest Chapter 11 bankruptcy filings in U.S. corporate history. (CIT Group emerged from bankruptcy protection the following month.) Meb Keflezighi (keh-FLEZ'-gee) became the first U.S. man in 27 years to win the New York City Marathon, in a time of 2:09:15; Ethiopian runner Derartu Tulu won the women's title in 2:28:52.

Five years ago: The national average price of gasoline fell to \$2.995, according to AAA, marking the first time in four years that gas was cheaper than \$3 a gallon. The United Nations' expert panel on climate science, meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark, finished a report on global warming that the agency said offered "conclusive evidence" that humans were altering Earth's climate system. Bayern won the \$5 million Breeders' Cup Classic by a nose, surviving a stewards' inquiry prompted by multiple horses bumping near the start.

One year ago: Robert Bowers pleaded not guilty to federal charges in the shooting that left 11 people dead at a Pittsburgh synagogue; funerals for the victims of the deadliest anti-Semitic attack in American history continued for a third day. Edmund Zagorski became the first man executed in Tennessee's electric chair since 2007; his last words were "Let's rock," before he was executed for shooting two men and slitting their throats during a drug deal. Thousands of Google employees around the world briefly walked off the job to protest what they said was the company's mishandling of sexual misconduct allegations against executives.

Today's Birthdays: World Golf Hall of Famer Gary Player is 84. Country singer Bill Anderson is 82. Actress Barbara Bosson is 80. Actor Robert Foxworth is 78. Magazine publisher Larry Flynt is 77. Country singer-humorist Kinky Friedman is 75. Actress Jeannie Berlin is 70. Music producer David Foster is 70. Actress Belita Moreno is 70. Rhythm-and-blues musician Ronald Khalis Bell (Kool and the Gang) is 68. Country

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singer-songwriter-producer Keith Stegall is 65. Country singer Lyle Lovett is 62. Actress Rachel Ticotin is 61. Rock musician Eddie MacDonald (Smalltown Glory, The Alarm) is 60. Apple CEO Tim Cook is 59. Actress Helene Udy is 58. Pop singer-musician Mags Furuholmen (a-ha) 57. Rock singer Anthony Kiedis (Red Hot Chili Peppers) is 57. Rock musician Rick Allen (Def Leppard) is 56. Country singer "Big Kenny" Alphin (Big and Rich) is 56. Singer Sophie B. Hawkins is 55. Rapper Willie D (Geto Boys) is 53. Country musician Dale Wallace (Emerson Drive) is 50. Actress Toni Collette is 47. Rock musician Andrew Gonzales is 47. Actress-talk show host Jenny McCarthy is 47. Actor David Berman is 46. Actress Aishwarya Rai (ash-WAHR'-ee-ah reye) is 46. Rock singer Bo Bice is 44. Actor Matt Jones is 38. Actress Natalia Tena is 35. Actor Penn Badgley is 33. Actor Max Burkholder is 22. Actor-musician Alex Wolff is 22.

Thought for Today: "People who bite the hand that feeds them usually lick the boot that kicks them."  
— Eric Hoffer, American author and philosopher (1902-1983).

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