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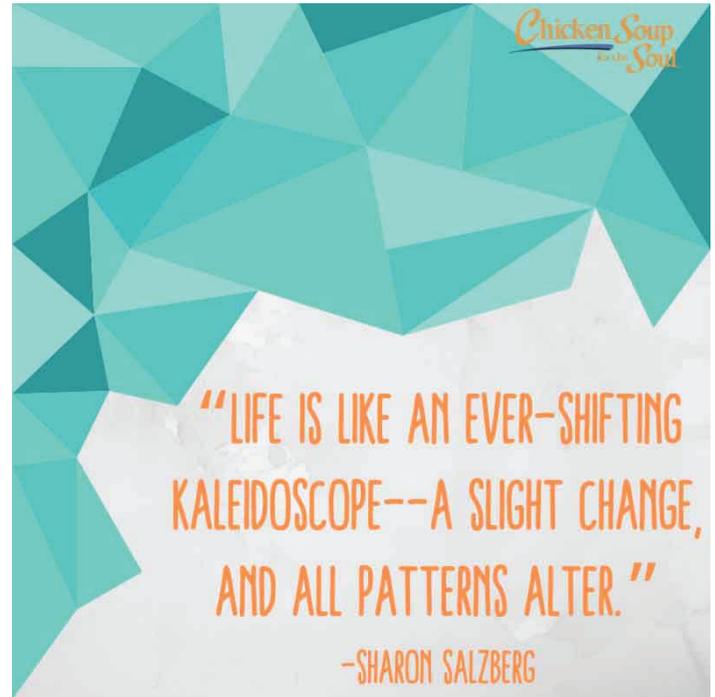
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Groton Area hosting two volleyball matches on Tuesday

Last year it was voted to have only two sites for the first night of the regional volleyball tournament as well as the first round of the regional basketball tournaments. According to Groton Athletic Director Brian Dolan, "It's been getting tougher to hire three crews for the same night in both sports. This way we only need two. The fourth seed gets to pick where they want to play between the number two and number three seeds."

So as a result, Redfield and Tiospa Zina will play at 6 p.m. followed by the Groton Area vs. Sisseton match.

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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Sunday Extras



THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

For she said to herself, "If only I may touch His garment, I shall be made well." But Jesus turned around, and when He saw her He said, "Be of good cheer, daughter; your faith has made you well." And the woman was made well from that hour.

MATTHEW 9: 21,22 



Detail of "Tahitian Girl"
by Paul Gauguin (1848-1903)





1. Is the book of Daniel in the Old or New Testament or neither?

2. Whose first verse is "The elder unto the well-beloved Gaius, whom I love in the truth"? *1 Samuel, 1 Chronicles, 2 Peter, 3 John*

3. From Exodus 25, what pure gold cover was placed on the Ark of the Covenant? *Mercy seat, Mordecai lid, Minatop, Myrrhan mirror*

4. What of Jesus' does Matthew 13:56 speak of? *Brothers, Sisters, Parables, Apostles*

5. Which prophet was famous for his vision of the dry bones? *Hosea, Ezekiel, Jeremiah, Nathan*

6. What was the first sin? *Idolatry, Gluttony, The Fall, Covetousness*

ANSWERS: 1) Old; 2) 3 John; 3) Mercy seat; 4) Sisters; 5) Ezekiel; 6) The Fall

Comments? More Trivia? Gift ideas? Visit www.TriviaGuy.com

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Creamy Tuna Macaroni Salad With Vegetables

Sandwiches, no matter how good they are, can get mighty boring. But bring a tuna pasta salad in your lunch-box, and you create instant excitement!

- 2½ cups uncooked elbow macaroni
- 1¼ cups frozen cut green beans
- 1½ cups frozen cut carrots
- 3 cups water
- 1 (10 3/4-ounce) can reduced-fat cream of celery soup
- 1/2 cup fat-free mayonnaise
- 1 teaspoon dried parsley flakes
- 1/4 teaspoon lemon pepper
- 2 (6-ounce) cans white tuna, packed in water, drained and flaked
- 1/4 cup finely chopped onion

1. In a medium saucepan, combine uncooked macaroni, green beans and carrots. Cover with water. Bring mixture to a boil. Cook over medium heat for about 10 minutes or until macaroni and vegetables are tender. Drain and rinse under cold water.

2. In a medium bowl, combine celery soup, mayonnaise, parsley flakes and lemon pepper. Add drained macaroni mixture, tuna and onion. Mix well to combine. Cover and refrigerate at least 2 hours. Gently stir just before serving. Serves 6 (1 full cup each).

* Each serving equals: 222 calories, 2g fat, 19g protein, 32g carb., 405mg sodium, 3g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 2 Meat, 1 1/2 Starch, 1 Vegetable.

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FLASH GORDON

10-27 BY JIM KEEFE

AS BLAZE MAKES A GRAB FOR THE ICE RIFLE...

...FLASH STRIKES! **BAF!**

WHIRLING AWAY FROM BLAZE, FLASH UNHOLSTERS HIS BLASTER AND FIRES INTO THE ICE MOUND BEHIND HIM.

ZASK!

WELL, IF YOU EXPECT TO HIDE FROM ME IN THERE?!

THOOM!

NOT FROM YOU, BLAZE...

THOOM!

Noooooo!

THOOM!

TO BE CONTINUED!

Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS

BEWARE OF ALWAYS ATTEMPTING TO BEAT YOUR BEST EVER SCORE. AS, SAY, AN 18-HANDICAPPER, YOUR PAR — UNTIL YOU GENUINELY IMPROVE AT GOLF — IS 90, NOT 85.

BE REALISTIC, PARTICULARLY IN TOUGH CONDITIONS. WHEN IT'S WET OR WINDY OR BOTH, ACCEPT THAT YOUR PAR HAS INCREASED, PERHAPS BY AS MUCH AS FOUR OR FIVE SHOTS.

IN SHORT, AVOID THOSE SCORE-WRECKING DISASTERS BY PLAYING WITHIN YOURSELF.

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Here's No. 1 Reason to Remove Gallbladder

DEAR DR. ROACH: My husband's doctor is telling him to have his gallbladder removed because sometimes he has pain in his right side. They did all kind of tests, but he has pain when he drives long hours or when he eats salads, not fried or fatty foods. Can you tell me more about the surgery, and what it might be like for him after the surgery? —A.M.

ANSWER: Almost every time a gallbladder needs to be removed, it is because of gallstones. Gallstones are common. Six percent of men and 9% of women have them, but most of the time, people have no symptoms. It isn't always clear whether the symptoms people have are due to the gallstones that are found on imaging studies, such as CT or ultrasound, but there are some clues to help decide whether a gallbladder that contains stones needs to be removed.

The classic symptoms are pain in the right upper abdomen, especially after eating a fatty meal, such as fried food (some people eat salads with lots of fatty dressing). Sometimes gallbladder pain is not food-associated. Symptoms at nighttime are not uncommon. Nausea, bloating, lower chest pain, belching and burning pain all are well-described with gallbladder disease, and the proof comes when surgery relieves the symptoms.

Sometimes, the imaging test can give clues. Thickening of the gallbladder wall or pain with pressure on the gallbladder (Murphy's sign) are suggestive of acute gallbladder inflammation.

Unfortunately, doctors aren't always right. Occasionally a person's gallbladder is removed, and it doesn't help the symptoms at all. Then, a new search needs to be done to discover the true cause of the symptoms.

Most people do very well after gallbladder surgery. The liver itself takes over the job of storing bile, in the ducts of the liver, and bile is released into the intestines appropriately after eating. However, it takes time for the system to get adjusted to not having a gallbladder, and only 60% of people are completely back to normal after three months. A few people have persistent symptoms for years. Thus, it's wise to be as sure as possible that symptoms are due to gallbladder disease before undergoing surgery.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I have been unable to complete a yawn for a couple of years. You know, that final "aaah" feeling. My doctor just smiled and offered no explanation; I'm sure she had never heard of this before. I am a 70-year-old woman who is retired. Any ideas, suggestions or recommendations to end this unsatisfied feeling? —M.G.

ANSWER: Nobody knows for sure why we yawn. It can be related to low oxygen, fatigue or boredom, but there is a "yawn center" of the brain (in the hypothalamus) and even fetuses have been shown to yawn.

I have read two possible explanations why some people have incomplete or unsatisfying yawns: The first is that in some people, anxiety is the impetus to yawn, and that type of yawn just isn't satisfying. The second is that stretching of the muscles of the face and jaw are necessary for the yawn to be complete. For some people, repeated stretching (from a "forced" yawn) and breathing in very deeply can lead to a satisfying yawn.

Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual letters, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu.



1. What instrument did trumpeter Doc Severinsen really want to play when he was young?

2. Name the girl group started by Micki Harris, Shirley Owens, Beverly Lee and Doris Coley.

3. Which duo released "Easy Lov-er"? Hint: They came together after an informal jam session.

4. What female singer told Dick Clark on "American Bandstand" that she wanted to rule the world?

5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "Saving nickles, saving dimes, Working til the sun don't shine, Looking forward to happier times."

Answers

1. Severinsen, the longtime band leader for "The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson," originally wanted to play trombone as a child, but his arms weren't long enough.

2. The Shirelles, in 1957. They got their start at a high school talent show, performing as the Poquellos.

3. Phil Collins of Genesis and Philip Bailey of Earth, Wind & Fire in 1984. The song netted a Grammy nom and won an MTV award in 1985.

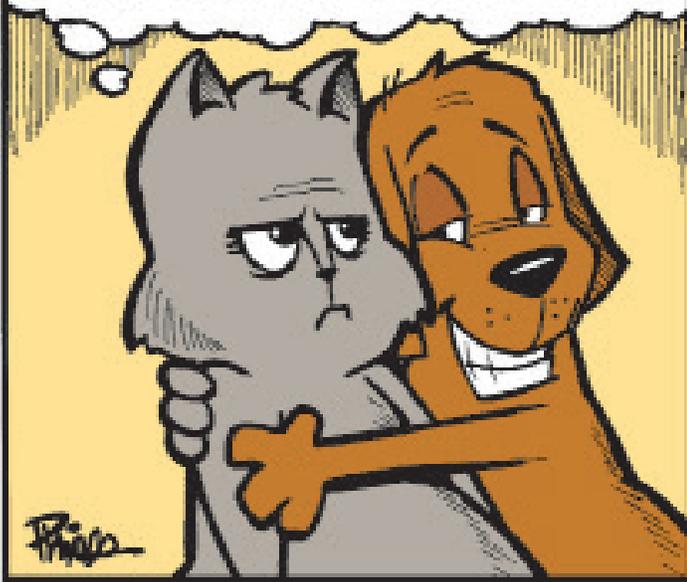
4. Madonna, in 1984.

5. "Blue Bayou," by Roy Orbison in 1963. Linda Ronstadt followed with her signature cover version in 1977. The song was used in several movies, including "The Man Who Fell to Earth" (1977), starring David Bowie, and the Stephen King horror flick "Dreamcatcher" (2003).

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MADE ME DINNER, BOUGHT ME FLOWERS. HE'S IN SO MUCH TROUBLE... I JUST HAVEN'T FIGURED OUT EXACTLY WHY.



GRIN and BEAR IT by Wagner



"I'm not sure I trust a baby sitter desperate enough to watch my kids."

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Differences: 1. Eyeglasses are missing. 2. Man's collar is different. 3. House has been added. 4. Fence slat is missing. 5. Rake is missing. 6. Bricks have been added.

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* Here's another item to add to your environmentally friendly choices list: If you're not going to eat takeout food in the car, just say no to plastic utensils. They are usually packaged in a plastic bag with a napkin, so there's even more you could be saving in waste.

* Make your own whipped butter for dinner rolls. Simply let butter come to room temperature, then whip in your electric mixer until it's nice and fluffy. Chill, or drop by teaspoonful onto a cold cookie sheet lined with parchment paper. Freeze, and then you can arrange them on a plate for a nice presentation. They thaw quickly.

* Add to a pot of water a cinnamon stick, a handful of cloves, two slices of citrus (orange, lemon or both) and some cardamom pods if you have them. Put on a slow simmer, and your house will smell so good!

* Here's a great cooking tip when you want to sear meat: Make sure you do it dry using either paper towels or a kitchen cloth specifically for that purpose. Any moisture on the meat will cause it to steam cook.

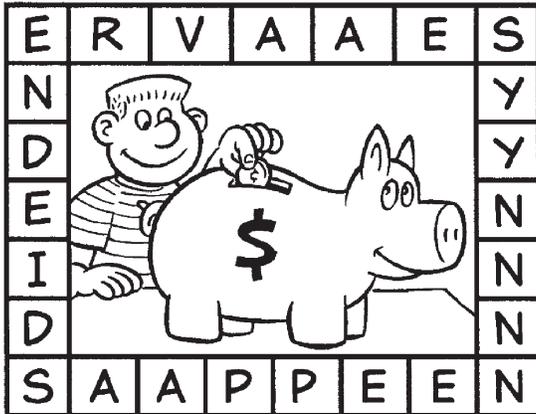
* Want a quick snack that tastes great? Try spicing your own peanuts with this recipe from the National Peanut Board: In a skillet, heat 1 teaspoon of peanut oil over medium heat. Stir in 1 cup of peanuts and toast for about 1 minute. Next, stir in your choice of spices and cook for 1-2 minutes or until spices smell fragrant. Remove peanuts from the pan to drain well on paper towels. Serve warm or at room temperature. How about curry and ginger, or cilantro with chili powder and cumin?

Send your tips to Now Here's a Tip, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.

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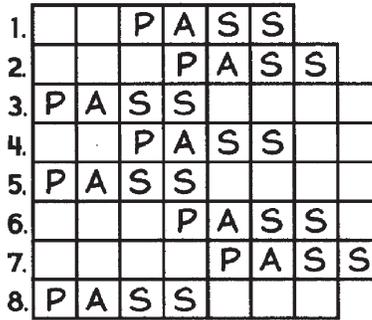
A PIGGY BANKER! Find the hidden quotation above by reading every other letter as you go around the frame counterclockwise.

Starting at the first "A" along the bottom rail, read "A penny saved is a penny earned."

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

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FORWARD PASSES!

Now that the football season is well under way, it's time to work on word "passes." At left are eight words, each of which contains a "pass." Figure out what the words are using the following hints:

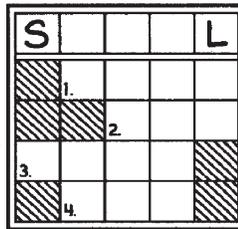
1. Alternate route.
2. Direction finder.
3. Adequate.
4. Stalemate.
5. Travel document.
6. To go beyond.
7. To go where forbidden.
8. It opens many locks.

DOUBLE-DEALER! A used-car dealer sold two cars for \$1,980 each. On the first car he made a 10 percent profit, while on the second car he took a loss of 10 percent. Taken together, did he profit or lose on the deals?

He lost \$40. On the first car he made \$180, while on the second car he lost \$220.

FIND-A-WORD! On the top line goes the mystery word. You need to fill in the missing letters. Clue words (smaller words contained in letter-by-letter order within the mystery word) are defined below.

1. Hooded robe.
2. Nocturnal bird.
3. Flat-bottomed boat.
4. Domestic cattle.



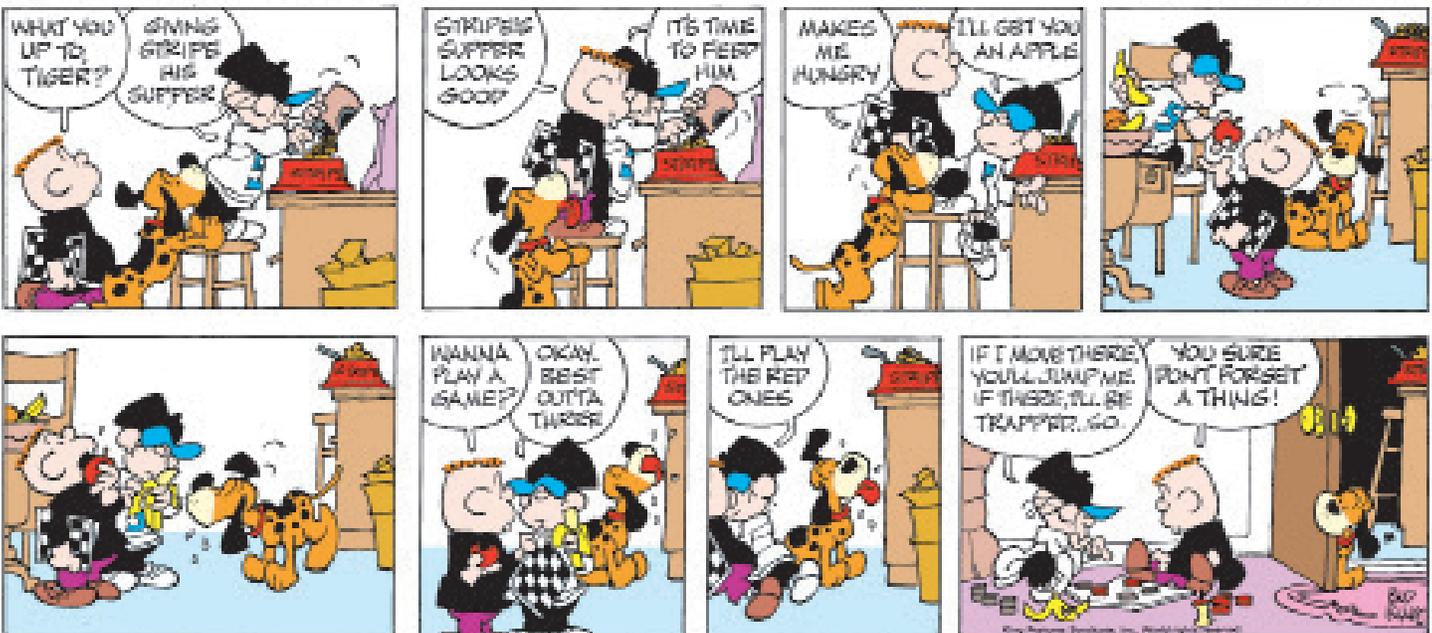
Illustrated by David Coulson



1. Bypass.
2. Compass.
3. Passable.
4. Impasse.
5. Passport.
6. Surpass.
7. Trespass.
8. Passkey.

TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Lehar's "Merry" one
- 6 "Nonsense!"
- 11 In one's dot-age
- 12 Keyless
- 14 Squirm
- 15 Multitask, maybe
- 16 Before
- 17 Clio nominee, maybe
- 19 Antiquated
- 20 Dutch export
- 22 Customizable computer character
- 23 Diver Louganis
- 24 Doughnut, geometrically
- 26 Tell the tale
- 28 Scale member
- 30 Witness
- 31 Curve cutter
- 35 Diamond corners
- 39 Photog's choice
- 40 Fish eggs
- 42 Tick follower
- 43 Singer DiFranco
- 44 "Ivanhoe" author
- 46 "— on parle francais"
- 47 Word-finding

	1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10	
11							12					13
14							15					
16				17		18				19		
20			21		22				23			
24				25		26		27				
			28		29		30					
31	32	33				34		35		36	37	38
39					40		41		42			
43				44				45		46		
47			48				49		50			
51							52					
	53						54					

- game
- 6 Sleepwear
- 7 Dazzle
- 8 Use unduly
- 9 Wool variety
- 10 Billfold
- 11 Saccharine
- 13 Sill
- 18 Hr. fraction
- 21 Indispensables
- 23 Wonderful
- 25 "Mayday!"
- 27 Civil War soldier
- 29 Theft
- 31 Dieters' targets
- 32 Film director
- whose father was a painter
- 33 Baffler
- 34 Wine and dine, maybe
- 36 Elegantly maintained
- 37 Bk. after Prov.
- 38 Vacationer at Vail, probably
- 41 Group character
- 44 Metal refuse
- 45 Recording
- 48 Martini ingredient
- 50 Solidify

DOWN

- 1 Eccentric
- 2 Ready to roll
- 3 Understand
- 4 — podrida
- 5 Unwanted plants

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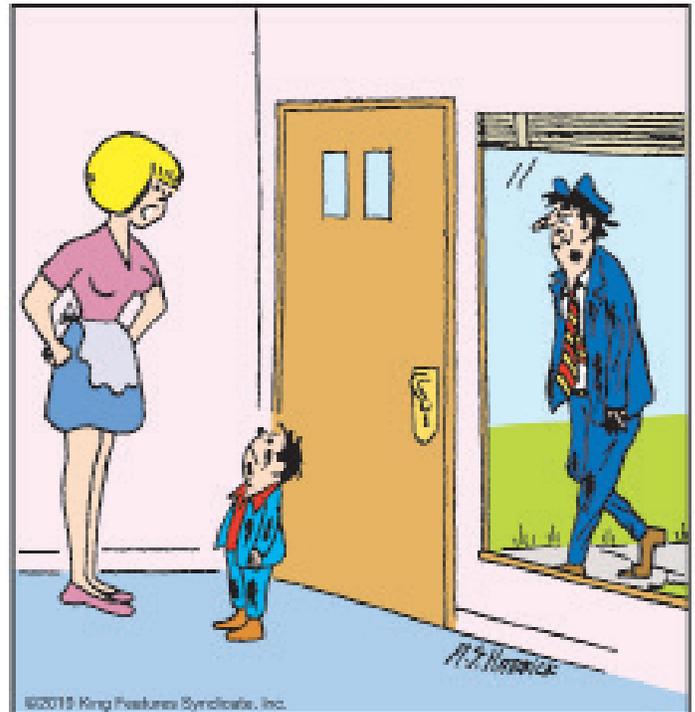
— King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 24 mins.

	W	I	D	O	W		P	S	H	A	W	
S	E	N	I	L	E		A	T	O	N	A	L
W	I	G	G	L	E		J	U	G	G	L	E
E	R	E		A	D	M	A	N		O	L	D
E	D	A	M		S	I	M		G	R	E	G
T	O	R	U	S		N	A	R	R	A	T	E
		S	O	L		S	E	E				
F	R	E	T	S	A	W		B	A	S	E	S
L	E	N	S		R	O	E		T	O	C	K
A	N	I		S	C	O	T	T		I	C	I
B	O	G	G	L	E		H	A	G	G	L	E
S	I	M	I	A	N		O	P	E	N	E	R
	R	A	N	G	Y		S	E	L	E	S	

LAFF - A - DAY



"You look a mess! Just wait until your father gets home!"

Out on a Limb

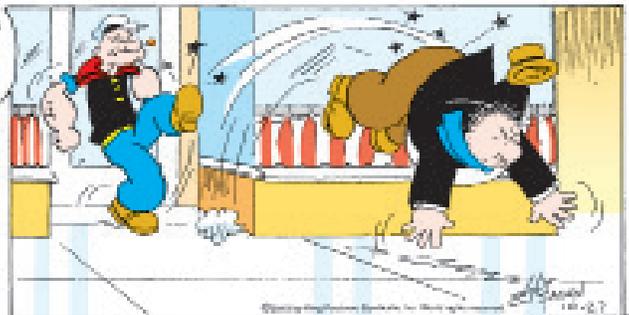
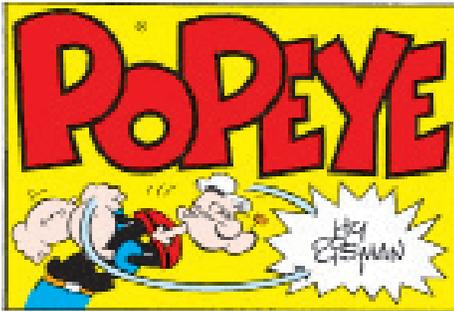


by Gary Kopervas



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R.F.D.



by Mike Marland



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W. Foster
Prince Valiant
 BY GABRIEL AND JAMES O'NEILL

Our Story: HAVING DINED WELL ON FRESH CRABMEAT, WAL AND HIS SHIPMATES, STRANDED FAR FROM KNOWN WATERS IN A WEED-CHOKED INDIANNA, TAKE STOCK OF THEIR PREDICAMENT.



ALETA INSPECTS THE WATER CASKS. "AT THE VERY LEAST, IT WILL TAKE US SOME TIME TO FREE OURSELVES FROM THIS WEED. AND OUR SUPPLY IS GETTING LOW."



WAL SURVEYS THEIR SURROUNDINGS. "THERE ARE DERELICT SHIPS HERE THAT HAVE PRECEDED US. PERHAPS ONE STILL HOLDS GOOD WATER IN ITS STORES."

ONE OLD SALT IS SKEPTICAL. "AND HOW SMALL WE CROSS THIS DEVIL-INFESTED SEA OF WEEDS?"



WAL HAS A READY ANSWER.



"LET ME SHOW YOU A TRICK FROM MY BOYHOOD SPENT IN THE GREAT FENS..."

NEXT: Our water

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

Scammers Want Your DNA ... and Medicare Number

Scammers will exploit every possible opportunity to commit fraud against seniors. This time they're going after our DNA.

The newest fraud involves billing Medicare for special testing that our doctors haven't asked for. As is typical, they go for our vulnerabilities. These scammers claim they have tests for Parkinson's, cancer, dementia, hereditary cancer and more. All we have to do to guard our health is to agree to these "free" tests and submit to a cheek swab right on the spot, or they'll send us a kit in the mail or come to our home. All they need in order to get us the results, they say, is our Medicare information.

That's what they really want, our Medicare number, so they can submit a claim for the tests, some costing \$9,000 to \$11,000 each. If Medicare turns down the request for payment, you could be liable for the full amount.

Beware being approached by anyone when you're out and about. The DNA scammers approach seniors at fairs, the farmers market, by phone, in a parking lot, at aging conferences, health fairs or even at events set up by their community or church. (One group thought they were getting free ice cream to listen to a presentation.)

If someone approaches you about these "free" DNA tests, say no. If you receive a test in the mail anyway, do not open it. Go online to oig.hhs.gov/fraud/hotline and tell them about the test. Or you can call 1-800-447-8477, which is the hotline for the Department of Health and Human Services. You also can call Medicare, your local police and the state attorney general.

Never give anyone your Medicare number or personal information unless it's your regular doctor. Besides the phony DNA tests, you could become a victim of other kinds of fraud.

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1. Name either of the two major-league players to have caught four no-hit games.

2. Who was the only person elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame and the U.S. Senate?

3. Name the only NFL starting quarterback to win Super Bowls for two different teams.

4. When was the last time before 2019 (Virginia, Texas Tech) that both Division I schools in the men's basketball NCAA Championship game were there for the first time?

5. Name either of the two NHL defensemen to record four power-play points in a Stanley Cup Final game.

6. In 2019, Carli Lloyd of the U.S. set a record for most consecutive Women's World Cup matches with at least one goal. How many was it?

7. Sugar Ray Robinson holds the third-longest unbeaten streak in pro boxing history. How long was the streak (number of fights)?

Answers

1. Boston's Jason Varitek and Philadelphia's Carlos Ruiz.

2. Jim Bunning.

3. Peyton Manning, with Indianapolis and Denver.

4. Michigan State and Indiana State, in 1979.

5. Denis Potvin of the New York Islanders (1980) and Boston's Torey Krug (2019).

6. Six matches (starting in 2015).

7. It was 91 bouts — he went from 40-1 in 1943 to 128-1-2 (with a no-contest) in 1951 before losing.

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps

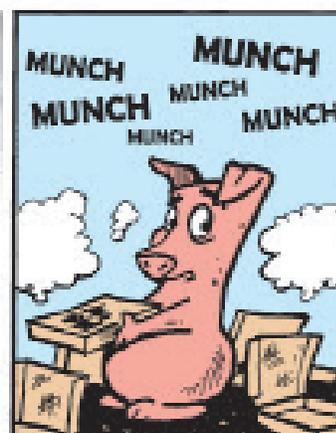
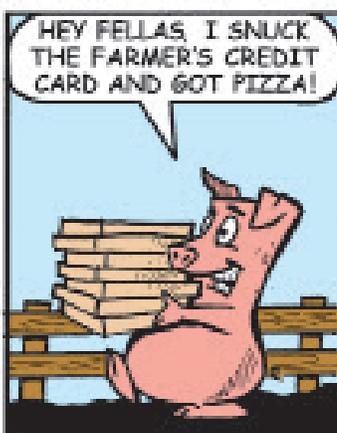


Illustration by Dave T. Phipps

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CONGRESSMAN
DUSTY JOHNSON
Representing **SOUTH DAKOTA** at large



Tick Tock

This won't be new news to you, but Congress sure has a hard time sticking to a budget. Let me back up – Congress has a hard time even creating a budget and many hardworking Americans, including our nation's military, could end up paying the price.

Our federal government is traditionally funded through a process called appropriations. House and Senate committees will consider budget proposals for different parts of the federal government – like military and defense spending, education and transportation – and pass them individually, providing a piecemeal funding structure. It's like putting together your family budget by looking at your gas budget, mortgage and rent costs, as well as spending on food all in separate buckets.

Makes sense, right? Well – it works when Congress does its job, but unfortunately, this process has become increasingly political over the years. Politicians often use these spending bills as a way to insert controversial provisions, decreasing any chances of bipartisanship and resulting in a stalemate. Congress constantly packages multiple spending bills together, even if they're not related, which results in bills that are extraordinarily complex and hundreds of pages long.

Because of the inability of Congress and the president to agree on regular appropriations bills, the government will often pass "continuing resolutions" to keep the government open – Congress takes the easy way out and extends previous funding levels. We owe it to our kids to do the hard work – to look at our nation's budget and make the tough decisions necessary to rein in spending. It's been said so frequently I'm afraid it doesn't sink in for folks anymore, but our nation is running an absurd \$22 trillion deficit. Operating a balanced budget should not be a partisan issue.

I support adding a balanced budget amendment to the U.S. Constitution. It's time for us to put some skin in the game and hold each other accountable. If this is an expectation we have of South Dakota families, and even South Dakota's government, we should expect no differently from Washington.

The clock is ticking. Congress has until November 21st to pass all twelve appropriations bills or we'll be faced with another continuing resolution, leaving tough decisions for another day.

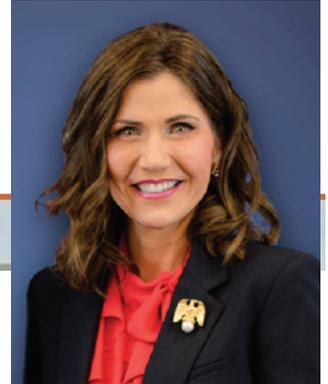
This process is too complicated, and I believe South Dakotans are rightfully frustrated. We must make comprehensive, structural changes to reform this dysfunctional budget process. I have fought and will continue to fight for a conservative approach that rightfully prioritizes your taxpayer dollars and also addresses the gravity of our national debt. I hope my colleagues will join me in this fight.

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SOUTH DAKOTA GOVERNOR
KRISTI NOEM



Protecting and Preserving Our Outdoor Treasures

Fall in South Dakota really is a special time. As the days get shorter and the temperatures drop, the desire to get into South Dakota's outdoors goes up! Fall traditions abound and our natural resources rise to the occasion. Migrating ducks and geese fill our skies, pheasants explode from a shelterbelt, bugling elk and buck deer tug at our thoughts... we can hardly wait to take family and friends out in the field.

But when we take in these extraordinary sights and sounds, it's important to remember the role we all play in protecting and preserving these treasures for future generations.

We've just recently learned that zebra mussels are present in Lake Francis Case. This invasive species is primarily spread to other water bodies through live wells, bait wells, and water left in boats. As boaters and anglers, we have a responsibility to know the laws and protect our waters. Clean, drain, and dry your boat every time you use it. Boat plugs must be pulled – and stay pulled – until the next time you use it. This is especially important to remember when you're duck hunting this fall.

We've also learned that Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) has been detected in Bennett County, which means this disease is spreading among deer and elk in South Dakota. In 2020, deer and elk hunters will have new rules for transporting and disposing of carcasses. CWD is transferred through direct animal-to-animal contact. However, infected carcasses that aren't properly disposed of can, and will, spread this disease. These rules are crucial to protecting our deer and elk herds. We have a responsibility to future generations AND to our wildlife. Get to know the new rules.

Another great way to preserve our outdoor heritage for the future is to take the time to mentor. When I say mentor, I mean more than kids. Take a neighbor, coworker, friend or family member fishing, hunting and camping. Spending time with people new to the outdoors is imperative. Your knowledge, passion, and access are precious and gifts worth passing on.

If you don't think these issues impact you, you're wrong. If you use South Dakota's outdoor resources for any form of recreation, you need to do your part to take care of them and pass them on. I don't want the next generation of outdoor enthusiasts to have to solve these issues when we can do something about it today.

South Dakota's beautiful outdoors are here for all of us to enjoy – for today and for the next generation. We must all take care of them together.

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



South Dakota Leading the Way on 5G

Closing the digital divide in rural America has long been a priority for me, not only because it's urgently needed and long overdue, but because I've experienced the divide firsthand here in South Dakota. My guess is that you probably have, too. But for some of my Senate colleagues who represent more urban areas of the country, it's often hard for them to conceptualize the idea that there are still parts of America that lack basic connectivity.

I don't just mean connecting your phone or computer to the internet, a hurdle in many areas of the country, including South Dakota, to be sure. I'm also talking about the pockets of dead zones that still exist, preventing people from even making a phone call. It's 2019, and people can communicate with one another as they fly above the Atlantic Ocean. If that can happen at 30,000 feet, the least we can expect is the ability to make a simple phone call here on the ground.

While we all can likely agree that being in a dead zone might seem like a luxury – where phone calls, social media, and emails can't distract us – it's easy to see why the advantages of having access to mobile broadband and basic cell service far outweigh the disadvantages.

For example, what if you get a flat tire late at night in the middle of a dark country road? Or worse, maybe you're involved in an accident and need medical attention. Having one bar of service or fewer just isn't going to cut it. So, if we looked at this issue purely from a safety perspective, it's enough of a reason alone to ensure that everyone who wants to be fully connected can achieve that goal and realize its full potential (and enjoy the peace of mind that comes with it).

The same general principle could be applied to business, education, agriculture, telehealth or other parts of our everyday lives. Folks are far more likely to succeed if they have access to mobile broadband technology and the opportunities it can create. And we all know those opportunities can mean the difference between success and failure, high yields and low yields, or e-meeting your doctor in your living room and traveling hours to see her in person. Connectivity, or lack thereof, can be the difference-maker.

When I was chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, I committed to having South Dakota help lead the way in the 5G mobile broadband revolution, and I meant what I said. My MOBILE NOW Act, which is now the law of the land, laid important groundwork that has made it easier to deploy 5G in a timely manner in rural America and around the country. I've worked closely with the Federal Communications Commission and have even brought several commissioners to South Dakota to showcase our state and everything it has to offer.

I've hosted committee hearings in South Dakota and in Washington, and I've invited South Dakotans who are on the front line of this effort to testify and share their work with the nation. I've reintroduced bipartisan legislation that will help improve 5G infrastructure, and I've partnered with the City of Sioux Falls and its forward-looking leaders, like Mayor Paul TenHaken, to make it one of the first, and one of the most rural, 5G-enabled cities in the country.

Given the years of work that have gone into this effort, it was humbling to be in Sioux Falls when Verizon recently flipped the switch on the first 5G cells in the state. Faster speeds and easier access to information is great, but there's more to offer. 5G also means jobs and economic growth. In the Sioux Falls area alone, 5G is expected to create an additional 1,500 new jobs and give the city's economy a big shot in the arm.

By the end of the year, nearly a dozen 5G-enabled small cells will be active along Phillips Avenue in Sioux Falls. It's a major milestone in this technological revolution, but this marks a new beginning in a lot of ways, too. There's a lot more work ahead of us, but when they write the history book on 5G, Sioux Falls will be among the first few chapters, and that's something our state can be proud of having accomplished together.

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

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.

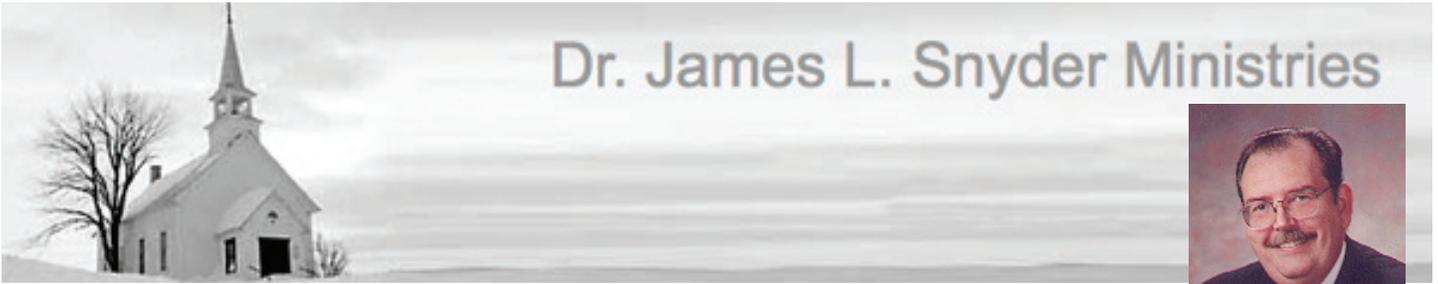
Consumers deserve transparency when they're purchasing beef. When South Dakota families purchase beef labeled "Product of the U.S.A.," they should know with certainty that it is coming from one of our top-quality producers. This does not mean we should close the door to other options as well – far from 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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If Every Dog Has Its Day I Should Be Barking

Lately, I have been getting behind in my work schedule. Just when I think I am caught up, I discover something I had forgotten about.

If only I could forget what I forgot, I would be happy. I am pretty close to being a master at the "O, I simply forgot about that" excuse.

Getting away with it among most people is fine. When it comes to the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, I have yet to get away with it even one time. Not only does she remember things I have forgotten, but also she remembers things I have never known. Of course, I do not challenge her memory, which would be a bad day for sure.

The past week was a week of scrambling trying to keep up with everything. I am still not sure I actually finished the week and my schedule. Nevertheless, I did my very best.

When I was in high school, I usually got away with the excuse, "My dog ate my homework." At the time, if my dog had eaten all the homework I said he had eaten, he would be the size of an elephant.

It was not a very productive week in my viewpoint, and I guess I complained about it more than usual. If there is a PhD in complaining, I am a candidate. Simply call me Dr. Grumpy, because that appears to be my strong suit these days.

The mistake I made was complaining about all this to my wife. I do not know why I was doing that because I know better and understand that it will never get me anywhere. But out of frustration, I complained about how hard my week was. I might have gone on more than I should have.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage finally had enough of that. She stopped me, looked at me with both hands on her hips and said, "Don't you know that every dog has his day?"

I smiled good-heartedly and said, "Thank you for those words of encouragement."

To be truthful, I do not know what that means. Is she suggesting that I am just a dog?

I could probably handle that I suppose. Just give me a treat every now and then and I will wag my tail and do not be alarmed if I start barking.

Or, was she suggesting that everybody has a good day every once in a while?

She smiled back at me and said, "Your good day is about to come your way." Then she went back to her activities.

Sitting in my chair I carefully pondered this wife-psychology that my wife is so proficient at, especially when it has to do with me.

Everybody has a different definition of what a "good day" really is. I must confess that my wife's "good day" is not quite the same as mine.

Her definition of a good day is when she is able to do a lot of work and get it done on time.

My definition of a good day is when I have no work to do and have time to do nothing.

Never the twain shall meet.

I almost asked her to define for me her definition of a "good day." But I knew that it would have no relevance whatsoever to me. And, if I got her to define that good day, I would be responsible to live that

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kind of a good day under her supervision, every day.

Oh, boy. That would end up in a lot of trouble for me, which would not be a "good day" by anybody's definition.

I was tempted to say to my wife, "If every dog has a good day then I should be barking." Everybody knows, especially my wife, the barking dog is chased out of the house." For me, that would not be a good day.

As I get older, but no wiser, my definition of a good day has changed. When I was younger, a good day was when I was able to do a lot of good things for myself. Now, as I have gotten older, a good day is when I have less things to do. And the lesser, the gooder the day in my opinion.

Through the years, I have stumbled onto a secret. I will pass it along, but let us just keep it between us. It is something that has dramatically changed my days.

I have discovered that a "good day" is when I do less for myself and more for the other resident in our home. Of course, the less she knows I am doing for her, the gooder the day for me. It has taken me a long time to learn this, and I am still on the learning track.

The longer I keep this from her, the better it will be for me in the end.

Now I can identify my "good day" where before I had no idea.

In pondering this, I remembered something Jesus said. "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again" (Luke 6:38).

You may not hear me barking, but I am learning what a good day is and how to have it.



Reform of agricultural land taxation could help farmers but shift burden to homeowners and businesses

By: Nick Lowrey

As the property tax takes a larger share of their incomes — and at a time when many are hurting financially — South Dakota farmers and ranchers are pushing for reform of the state's system of valuing and taxing their lands.

But as a decade-long process of updating the system nears an end, it has become increasingly clear that any reform effort that aids agriculture producers will lead to higher taxes for residential and commercial property owners who will assume a larger burden of paying for education and county services.

When legislators overhauled the state's system for assessing the taxable value of farm and ranch land in 2008, the idea was to make the system more fair and ensure tax rates better reflect just how valuable ag land is in a given year. The reform led to sharp increases in ag land values and property tax bills rose accordingly. But as commodity prices have tumbled in recent years, profits have shrunk and taxes are taking up an increasing portion of farm and ranch incomes. Now, as the number of farm bankruptcies and the suicides rate among ag producers continue to rise, many are calling for new reforms in the state's property tax system.

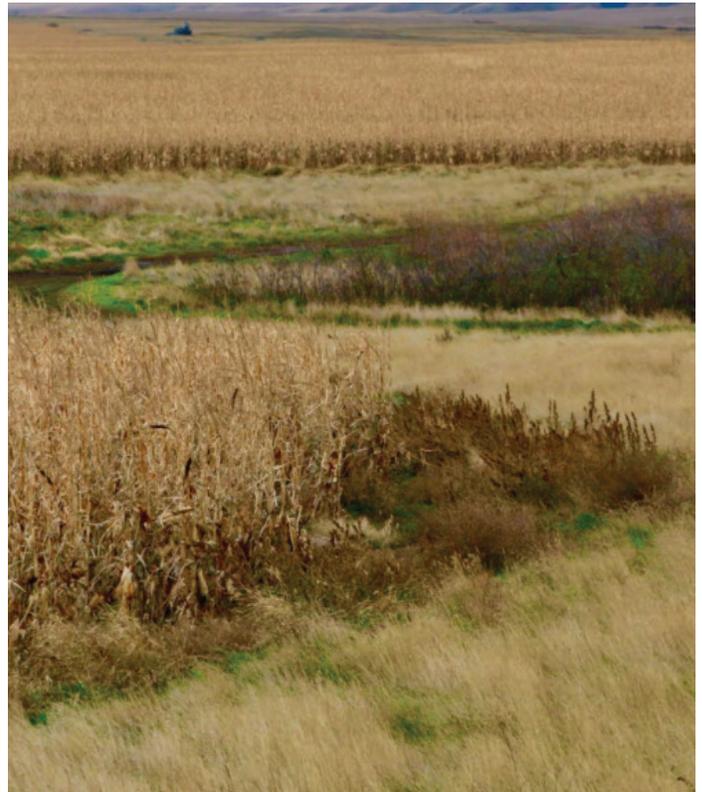
"That gets to the urgency here. We need a fix," said Gary Deering, president of the South Dakota Stock Growers Association.

Ranchers have been hit hard by the state's property tax system which assigns taxable value based on an acre of land's highest and best use, not its actual use. That has led to claims that some rural landowners are paying unfairly high taxes on land that isn't producing revenues at a time they can afford it least.

"You could have some areas in South Dakota that are virgin sod but because of the soil type, they're being taxed as if it were tillable ground and most tillable ground, at least in my area, is being taxed at two-and-a-half times the rate of pasture ground," said Jim Peterson, a former legislator and current East River farmer who has worked on the property tax issue for 14 years.

Critics say the current tax system adds to the pressure on farmers and ranchers to plow up grasslands which perform essential environmental functions, such as preventing erosion. Grasslands also provide habitat for game animals such as pheasants, which are a big driver of the state's second largest industry — tourism.

"It's almost totally the opposite of the way we should be doing it for non-cropland," said Angela Ehlers, executive director of the South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts.



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The state legislative Ag Land Assessment Task Force, created about 10 years ago to oversee changes to the property-tax system, is trying to find the solution Deering and his fellow ranchers say they need. On Oct. 24, the task force held its first meeting of 2019 at the Capitol in Pierre. The centerpiece of the meeting was a presentation from the state Department of Revenue about a pilot study that looked at what impact two entirely new property tax systems — one that would use computer software to determine what the most probable uses for farm and ranch lands is each year, and one that would look at what the land is actually being used for each year — would have on 11 counties spread throughout the state.

Under both systems, the study found, total valuation for farm and ranch land in the 11 counties would decrease by more than \$1 million. Under the actual use model, valuation fell by more than \$2 million in the 11 counties that were studied. If used statewide, the loss in property valuation could result in a shift of the tax burden away from agriculture and toward homeowners and commercial property owners, said Wendy Semmler of the DOR property tax office.

She said the pain likely would be felt most in

school districts that have taken out loans to pay for new buildings or necessary renovations. Those districts may have to raise tax rates on residences and businesses to make up for reduced ag land values, she said.

“If we are going to see extreme value decreases in any particular school district, that is going to cause the levies to increase,” Semmler said.

The tax burden, though, has already shifted toward farmers and ranchers, said Peterson, a member of the Ag Land Assessment Task Force said. While residential and commercial property values have risen by about 20% statewide, he said, the values on ag land have risen up to 200% in some areas over the past decade.

“We’ve taken a lot of skin and put it into the game from agriculture,” Peterson said.

Seeking a more equitable system

Historically, ag land property tax rates in South Dakota were determined using data on recent, comparable land sales. Usually, that system worked out in favor of farmers and ranchers, who despite owning the lion’s share of property in the state have historically paid less in property taxes than commercial property owners and homeowners.

In the mid-2000s, high crop prices, strong hunting tourism and increased development on city edges caused land sale prices to skyrocket. At the time, any land sale that wound up being 150% or more of the historical average couldn’t be used to assess taxable value. The problem was, Peterson said, just about every time land was sold in the waning years of the past decade, the price wound up being more than 150% of the historical average. Agriculture lands would either be undervalued or would see their value rise exponentially from one year to the next. Neither situation was tenable.

During the summer of 2007 and in the 2008 legislative session, state lawmakers hammered out the details of a new system for assessing ag land valuation. It went into effect in 2010 and 2011 was the first year in



Russ Hanson, at left, a property tax expert with the South Dakota Department of Revenue, told the state legislative Ag Land Assessment Task Force that an update to the soil tables used to calculate property tax rates on farm and ranch land is badly needed. Hanson testified at a recent task force meeting as Minnehaha County Director of Equalization Kyle Helseth, center, and state Sen. Craig Kennedy, D-Yankton, look on. Photo: Nick

Lowrey, South Dakota News Watch

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which taxes calculated using the new system were paid. It has remained in place relatively unchanged ever since.

Under the current system, ag land property taxes are calculated using what is known as "production valuation." Essentially, the state Department of Revenue works with economists at South Dakota State University to determine the highest revenue potential each year for both cropland and non-cropland, and then provides that number to county equalizers. The equalizers use state-approved soil tables to calculate the taxable value of each acre on a given property. Once the taxable value is calculated, equalizers can adjust the value based on such things as how difficult a parcel might be for farm equipment to access or its potential for crop growth before assessing the actual tax bill.

The system has led to farmers and ranchers taking on a larger share of the state's property tax burden.

According to the DOR, farmers and ranchers saw their share of the state property tax burden rise from just under 25% to about 28% between 2008 and 2018. In real dollars, the state's farmers and ranchers saw their collective property tax bill rise from \$219.7 million in 2008 to about \$354.6 million in 2017. Commercial properties meanwhile have seen their share of the state property tax burden fall from about 31% in 2008 to about 29% in 2018. Homeowners' share of the burden has remained essentially flat at about 39%.

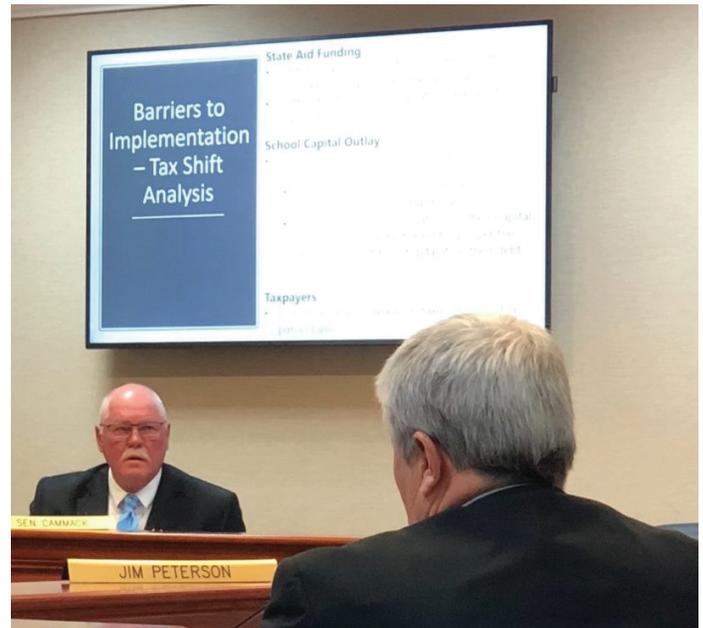
The problem for farmers and ranchers right now is that their taxes are being calculated using average crop prices from years that saw historically high prices, while the current prices for such things as corn, soybeans and beef are relatively low. Eventually, those high-price years will be worked out of the system. But in the meantime, taxes are taking up a much larger portion of farm and ranch incomes, said state Sen. Gary Cammack, R-Union Center, a rancher and business owner who chairs the Ag Land Assessment Task Force.

"We certainly expect to pay our fair share," said Cammack. "But we also don't want it to be such a heavy load that it starts to create some hardships."

Not great for grass

Ranchers have been particularly hard hit by the current property tax system. It relies almost entirely on soil tables to determine whether a piece of land is cropland or non-cropland in order to make value determinations a bit more objective. But the system doesn't account for value that goes beyond dollars and cents.

Many acres of crop-rated soils currently are covered in unbroken, mostly native prairie grasses, Cammack said. Those native prairie remnants support a diverse range of birds, bugs, plants and animals, all of



State Sen. Gary Cammack, R-Union Center, who chairs the 2019 Ag Land Assessment Task Force, at left, said he will push the group to recommend tweaks in the state ag land property tax assessment system. Cammack said he'd like to see legislation that would allow farmers and ranchers to have property taxes reduced on a limited number of grassland acres that are currently taxed as if they were cropland. Brown County Commissioner Mike Wiese is shown in the foreground. Photo: Nick Lowrey, South Dakota News Watch

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which have non-monetary value, he said. Native prairies also happen to be one of North America's most endangered ecosystems.

"We don't want to lose that," Cammack said.

Cattle can and do co-exist with most prairie species while providing an income to the landowner — it's just lower on a per-acre basis than growing corn or soybeans. But crop-rated soil, whether it is growing prairie grass or a cash crop, often is taxed as if it were growing corn.

Deering, who ranches in Meade County about 35 miles east of Sturgis, said most West River ranchers simply cannot afford to buy the equipment necessary to plant the relatively few acres of their land that are home to crop-rated soils. For the better part of

a decade, he and many other ranchers have been forced to eat the cost of higher tax rates without the benefit of growing any high-dollar cash crops.

"There's not much else you can do," Deering said. "I'd probably go broke if I had to buy farm equipment."

Covering the higher property tax rate wasn't that big an issue early on. In 2014 and into 2015, cattle prices were relatively high. But since 2016, cattle prices have fallen and it is getting harder to make ends meet, Deering said.

"The consequence of this system is that the grazing guys are carrying some of the burden of the corn and bean guys," Deering said.

Farmers, though, can benefit from the tax system even when crop prices are low. If a farmer has non-crop rated soil on their land but plants and harvests a marketable crop from it, not only does that farmer pay a lower rate on the land, they can collect that much more profit from it, too.

Deering said the state's current property tax system ends up creating an unintentional incentive for landowners to till up grassland that previously had not been touched by the plow.

Ehlers, with the Association of Conservation districts, said wayward topsoil carried out of tilled farm fields by wind and rain is one of the leading causes of pollution of lakes and streams. Keeping grass on the landscape helps reduce erosion, provides habitat for wildlife and can help keep pollution out of waterways.

"Tax policy should not have an impact on land-management decisions, especially those decisions that deal with conservation of our natural resources," she said. "We don't want short-term tax policy to affect long-term decisions."



Nearly a decade after implementation of a new system for assessing agricultural land values, South Dakota farmers and ranchers are paying property taxes on the full value of their land, often regardless of its use. But controversy is brewing over the way some pasture and grasslands are valued under the system and producers say they are carrying more than their fair share of the statewide tax burden. Photo: Nick Lowrey, South

Dakota News Watch

Possible paths forward

As early as 2016, legislators wanted to know if there was a more equitable way to determine the taxable value of farm and ranch land. That year, the Legislature funded an SDSU study on the topic.

Economists at SDSU analyzed two different methods for assessing taxable value of farm and ranch land. One method was based on the actual use of land and the other used a computer program to predict a

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piece of land's most probable use. The idea was to account for individual management decisions and avoid forcing landowners to plow up grasslands just to pay lower taxes. The study also attempted to update the soil tables used for the current property tax assessment system. The SDSU researchers turned their findings over to the DOR.

In 2019, the Legislature ordered the DOR to do its own analysis of the SDSU study and take a look at what the impact on county and school budgets could be if either of the two models would be implemented. The DOR also took the chance to look at what would happen if the state soil tables were updated.

Semmler and DOR property tax expert Russ Hanson presented the DOR's findings during the Oct. 24 Ag Land Assessment Task Force meeting. In addition to showing that both changes would likely result in millions of dollars worth of lost property tax revenue for counties and school districts, the DOR analysis found that seven counties haven't adopted the Geographic Information Systems technology. GIS mapping would be essential tools for making assessments under either the actual use system or the most probable use system.

Adopting completely new tax assessment systems isn't likely to happen any time soon, Cammack said. More likely are some tweaks to the options county equalizers have to make adjustments to property valuations and creating a process to allow landowners to have property taxes reduced on a limited number of parcels that have been non-production grasslands for decades.

"That would provide some incentives to keep that land in prairie grass," Cammack said.

Those ideas will get more discussion during the Ag Land Assessment Task Force's next meeting, which is set for Nov. 15 in Pierre, Cammack said.

Still, the DOR would like to begin implementing more modern soil tables, said DOR Property Tax Division Director Lesley Coyle. Until the 2019 Legislature required DOR to perform its analysis, no one had taken an accurate look at what updating the soil tables could mean for the state.

Simply updating the soil tables to reflect the more accurate, modern data found in the federal Natural Resources Conservation Service Web Soil Survey resulted in an increase of about \$170,000 in county and school district tax revenues across the 11 counties DOR analyzed. The new tables would better reflect effects of recent flooding in the northeast and of salty soils and better farming practices, which would help to better distribute the property tax burden, Hanson said.

"There are some areas that are helped tremendously," he said.

Adopting new soil tables would only consist of an update of the state's current property tax assessment system, so it could be done without legislation, Cammack said. Still, the DOR was considering a phased roll out to give counties without GIS mapping time to modernize, Coyle said.



ABOUT NICK LOWREY

Nick Lowrey, based in Pierre, S.D., is an investigative staff reporter for South Dakota News Watch. A South Dakotan for more than 20 years, he is a former editor of the Pierre Capital Journal.

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**ACENDA
REGULAR MEETING
BROWN COUNTY COMMISSION
COMMISSIONER'S CHAMBERS, COURTHOUSE ANNEX
25 MARKET STREET, ABERDEEN SD**

**TUESDAY
November 5, 2019**

8:45 a.m. – Call to Order

- **Approve General Meeting Minutes from October 29, 2019**
- **Claims**
- **HR Report**
- **Set Hearing Date for Liquor License Transfers**
- **Alcohol Use Permission Form**
- **Lottery Permit**
- **Brown County Speedway Race Contract**
- **Claim Assignment**
- **Lease Renewal Hay Cutting Land at Fairgrounds**

Public comment and any other matters to come before the Commission for discussion

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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





Jones makes first team All-State soccer

Senior Austin Jones was selected to the first team All-State Soccer Team. It is a first time in several years that Groton Area has anyone named to the first team.

Austin is the son of Jim and Mendy Jones, Groton.



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Wolves Football Breaks Things Open versus UMary at Home

Aberdeen, S.D. – The Northern State University football broke through on Saturday afternoon recording their first home victory of the 2019 season versus the University of Mary. The Wolves recorded multiple season highs in the win, scoring in each of the four quarters.

THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 49, UMARY 21

Records: NSU 5-4 (3-2 North), UMARY 1-8 (0-5 North)

Attendance: 1721

HOW IT HAPPENED

- Northern State scored early and often notched 14 points in the first, 18 in the second, ten in the third, and seven in the fourth
- The Wolves scored on their first drive of the contest, running nine plays and trotting 75 yards down the field with a 5-yard rushing touchdown by Hunter Trautman
- The Marauders tied up the contest on the Wolves following offensive drive on a 55-yard fumble recovery
- Northern extended their lead in the second with a 15-yard rushing touchdown by Isaiah Cherrier, a 13-yard reception by Dakota Larson, and Trautman's second rushing score of the contest
- UMary chipped away at the lead with a passing touchdown of their own, however the NSU offense capped off the half with a 31-yard field goal by Payton Eue, holding a 32-14 lead
- The Marauders final touchdown of the game came with 9:51 remaining in the third on a 13-yard reception before the Wolves ran away with the game
- Hunter Trautman scrambled through the Marauder defense and stiff armed an on-coming defender before hitting Greg Lux for the pairs second touchdown of the 2019 season
- Eue added his second field goal, a 29-yard attempt, late in the third quarter and with under two minutes remaining in the contest Chance Olson grabbed his second interception of the game and ran it back 49 yards for the score
- Northern tallied 28 first downs, accumulating 250 yards rushing, 179 yards passing, and 429 yards of total offense without giving up an interception
- The Wolves converted on 6-of-12 third downs and their lone fourth down, while also going a perfect 7-of-7 from the red-zone
- The NSU defense tallied two sacks and held the Marauders to 4-of-12 on third down and 0-of-4 on the fourth

NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

- Hunter Trautman: 179 yards passing 2 touchdowns, 20-of-27, 88 yards rushing, 2 rushing touchdowns
- Isaiah Cherrier: 77 yards rushing, 1 touchdown
- Dakota Larson: 101 yards receiving, 10.1 yards per reception, 1 touchdown
- Hunter Hansen: 5 tackles, 1 interception (23 return yards), 1 break-up
- Joe Gorghuber: 5 tackles, 1.0 tackles for a loss
- Chase Teiken: 5 tackles, 1.0 sack for a loss of 8 yards
- Bryce Zawatzke: 4 tackles, 1.0 sack for a loss of 7 yards
- Chance Olson: 3 tackles, 2 interceptions (60 return yards), pick six, 2 break-ups
- Payton Eue: 2 field goals, 131 yards punting, 43.7 yards per punt, 456 yards kicking, 50.7 yards per kickoff

BEYOND THE BOX SCORE

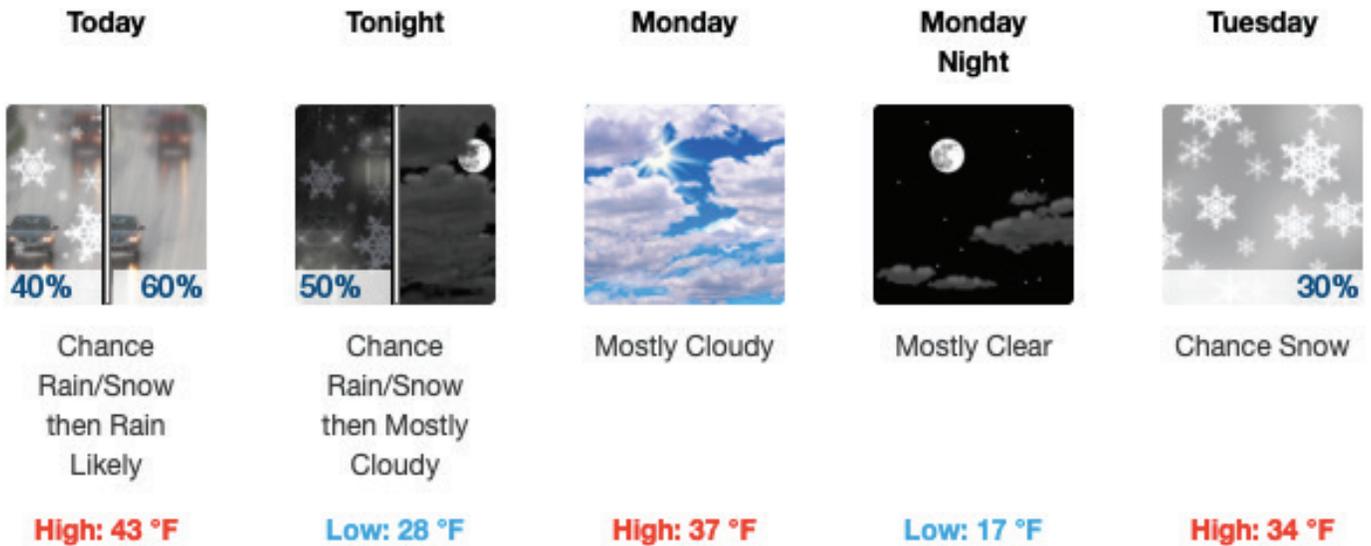
- Northern recorded a single game season high 429 yards of total offense, as well as three interceptions with 83 return yards

UP NEXT

Northern State heads to Minnesota Crookston next Saturday for the final road game of 2019. Due to field conditions the game has been moved to the Alerus Center in Grand Forks with a 7 p.m. kick versus the Golden Eagles.

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NWS ABERDEEN

Light Rain/Snow Possible

 **TODAY**
Light winds, Possible precipitation later in the day
Highs 42-46°F

 **Monday**
Rain/Snow possible early
Breezy
Highs 34-38°F

 NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
Aberdeen, SD 11/3/2019 5:10 AM

WEATHER.GOV/ABR

Published on: 11/03/2019 at 1:16AM

Light precipitation has entered central SD and is expected to move east throughout the day. Some areas can expect a rain/snow mix with little accumulation expected. High temps continue in the mid 40s today but drop into the 30s Monday.

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Today in Weather History

November 3, 2003: Heavy snow fell across the area. Snowfall of 6 to 9 inches fell across Big Stone County in Minnesota, with nine inches in Ortonville. Heavy snow of up to eight inches fell across Grant County in South Dakota. Six inches fell at Big Stone City, and 8 inches fell at Milbank. Heavy snow also fell from the early morning to around noon across parts of central South Dakota. Six inches of snow fell at Kennebec, Fort Thompson, Gann Valley, and Miller.

1927: Historic flooding occurred across Vermont from November 2nd through the 4th. This flood washed out 1285 bridges, miles of roads and railways, and several homes and buildings. Eighty-four people were killed from the flooding, including Lt. Governor S. Hollister Jackson. Click [HERE](#) for more information from the University of Vermont's Landscape Change Program.

1966: An early season snowfall, which started on the 2nd, whitened the ground from Alabama to Michigan. Mobile, Alabama had their earliest snowflakes on record. Louisville, Kentucky measured 13.1 inches, Nashville; Tennessee reported 7.2 inches and Huntsville, Alabama had 4 inches of snow.

1890 - The temperature at Los Angeles, CA, reached 96 degrees, a November record for 76 years. (David Ludlum)

1927 - Somerset VT was deluged with 8.77 inches of rain to establish a 24 hour record for the state. (3rd-4th) (The Weather Channel)

1961 - A rare November thunderstorm produced snow at Casper, WY. (3rd-4th) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Twenty-one cities, mostly in the Ohio Valley, reported record high temperatures for the date. The afternoon high of 80 degrees at Columbus OH was their warmest reading of record for so late in the season. Showers and thundershowers associated with a tropical depression south of Florida produced 4.28 inches of rain at Clewiston in 24 hours. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - A sharp cold front brought about an abrupt end to Indian Summer in the north central U.S. Up to a foot of snow blanketed Yellowstone Park WY, and winds in the mountains near the Washoe Valley of southeastern Wyoming gusted to 78 mph. Unseasonably warm weather continued in the south central U.S. Del Rio TX tied Laredo TX and McAllen TX for honors as the hot spot in the nation with a record warm afternoon high of 91 degrees. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Cold weather prevailed in the central U.S. Six cities in Texas, Minnesota, and Michigan, reported record low temperatures for the date. The low of 7 above zero at Marquette MI was their coldest reading of record for so early in the season. (The National Weather Summary)

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 47 °F at 4:54 PM

Low Temp: 33 °F at 7:22 AM

Wind: 17 mph at 12:22 AM

Day Rain: 0.00

Record High: 75° in 1904

Record Low: 1° in 1991

Average High: 48°F

Average Low: 25°F

Average Precip in Nov.: 0.06

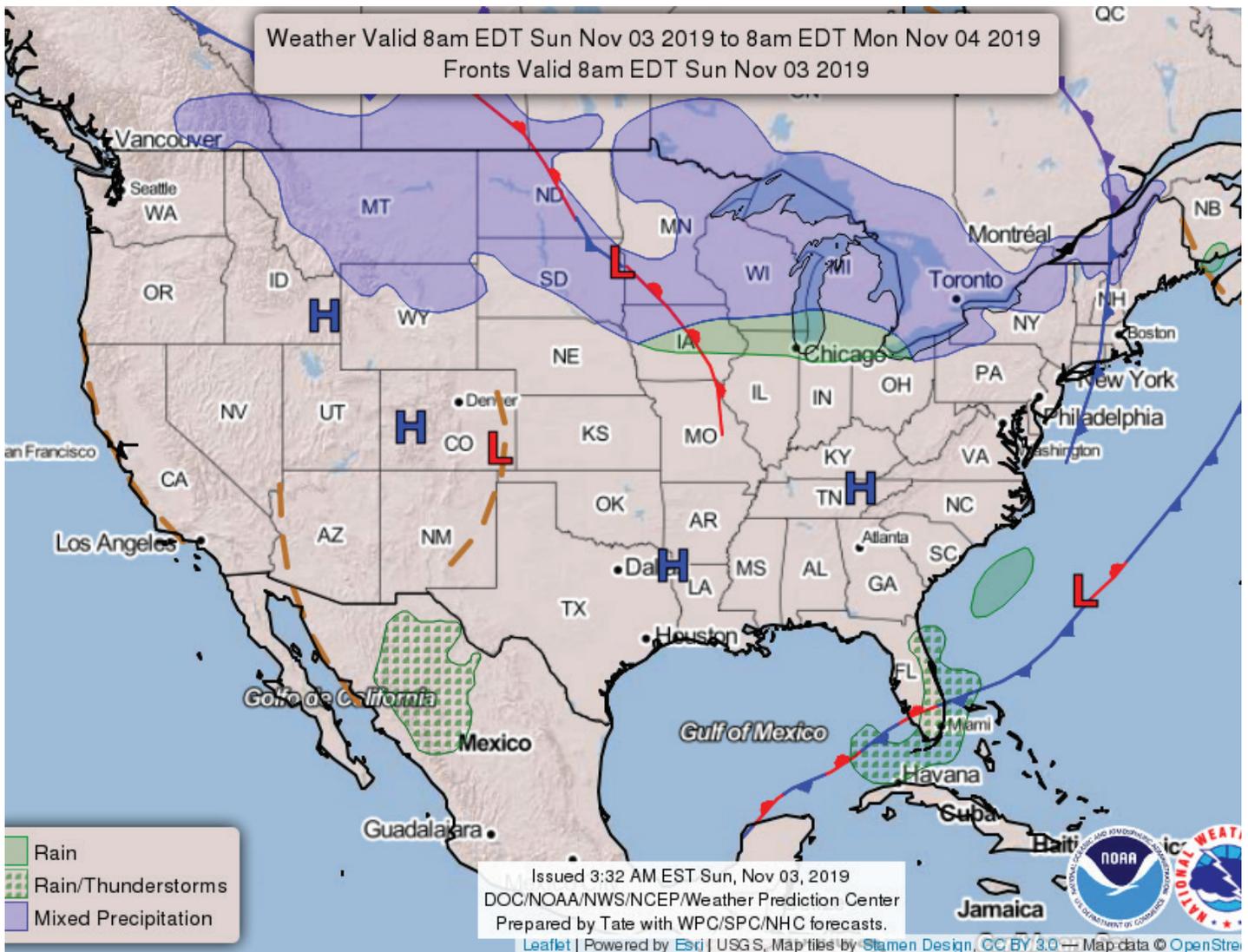
Precip to date in Nov.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 20.53

Precip Year to Date: 26.57

Sunset Tonight: 5:18 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:17 a.m.



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AVOIDING THE TRUTH

A gentleman was fascinated with an advertisement he read about a barometer. He thought he would be the envy of his neighbors to have such an instrument at his home. In his mind he imagined them coming to him for weather reports. So, he ordered one.

When it arrived, the needle was pointing to "Tornado." In disbelief, he shook it, slapped it, then waved it from side to side. But the needle remained pointing toward the word "tornado." In anger, he wrapped it up, took it to the post office, and mailed it back to the manufacturer, thinking, "They tried to cheat me!"

As he was returning home, he noticed that many trees were overturned with their roots in the air. Buildings were destroyed and power lines down. Damage and destruction were everywhere he looked. Finally, he turned onto the street where he lived and there, before his eyes, was his home. It had been completely destroyed. The barometer was right, he was wrong: a tornado had been approaching when he received his barometer.

Many of us fail to realize that there are serious consequences for each decision we make. Every choice does indeed, have its consequences. However, there is one choice that is more important than any other choice we will ever make: What will YOU do with Jesus?

Prayer: We thank You, Father, for Your salvation that can be ours through Christ. May we accept Your grace and accept Your salvation, now! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14 He called you to salvation when we told you the Good News; now you can share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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2019 Groton SD Community Events

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

2020 Groton SD Community Events

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

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News from the  Associated Press

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) _ These South Dakota lotteries were drawn Saturday:

Dakota Cash

20-22-25-27-33

(twenty, twenty-two, twenty-five, twenty-seven, thirty-three)

Estimated jackpot: \$250,000

Lotto America

01-10-31-40-50, Star Ball: 5, ASB: 5

(one, ten, thirty-one, forty, fifty; Star Ball: five; ASB: five)

Estimated jackpot: \$4.42 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$127 million

Powerball

03-23-32-37-58, Powerball: 22, Power Play: 2

(three, twenty-three, thirty-two, thirty-seven, fifty-eight; Powerball: twenty-two; Power Play: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$150 million

Western Illinois beats South Dakota for 1st win in 364 days

MACOMB, Ill. (AP) — Clint Ratkovich scored on a 9-yard run with 34 seconds left and Western Illinois won for the first time in 364 days with a 38-34 victory over South Dakota on Saturday.

Ratkovich's touchdown was the fifth lead change of the fourth quarter, capping a five-play, 59-yard drive that took 45 seconds. Eric Carrera sealed the victory for the Leathernecks (1-8, 1-4 Missouri Valley) intercepting Austin Simmons' pass near the goal line with 4 seconds left.

The Coyotes (3-6, 2-3) took a 34-31 lead on Caleb Vander Esch's 3-yard TD reception with 1:24 left in the game.

Connor Sampson completed 31 of 50 passes for 368 yards, three touchdowns and no interceptions for Western Illinois. Ratkovich had 116 yards from scrimmage and two total TDs, and Tony Tate caught six passes for 100 yards and a score.

Simmons passed for 274 yards, three touchdowns and an interception for South Dakota. Kai Henry rushed for a career-high 145 yards.

The Leathernecks' last win came against Southern Illinois on Nov. 3, 2018.

More AP college football: <http://apnews.com/tag/Collegefootball> and http://www.twitter.com/AP_Top25

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Camera on motorcycle helps lead to arrest in fatal crash

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Authorities say a camera mounted on the motorcycle of a man who was struck and killed in northwestern North Dakota helped lead to the arrest of a driver who may have been involved in the crash.

The North Dakota Highway Patrol says 27-year-old Duke Knoll of Platte, South Dakota, is charged with negligent homicide for the Sept. 8 crash that killed the motorcycle driver, 55-year-old Randy Moore of Warman, Saskatchewan.

The collision happened on U.S. Highway 85 south of Grassy Butte, in McKenzie County. Authorities say Moore died after he tried to avoid a vehicle that had swerved into his lane.

Authorities say Knoll also faces a charge of driving under suspension and is wanted in McKenzie County on misdemeanor drug charges. Court documents do not list an attorney for him.

South Dakota set to execute man who stabbed former co-worker

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Donnivan Schaeffer was delivering supplies to the South Dakota doughnut shop where he worked when a former co-worker who was in the middle of burglarizing the place ambushed the 22-year-old, stabbing him in the stomach. Bleeding from his wound, Schaeffer begged to be taken to a hospital, vowing to keep silent about the crime; instead, he was forced into a storeroom, tied up and stabbed to death.

More than 22 years later, Charles Rhines, 63, is set to be executed for the murder of Schaeffer at Dig 'Em Donuts. The crime, which prosecutors outlined at a recent hearing, shook residents of Rapid City, gave the lead investigator nightmares and left a mother mourning a son's life cut short.

Barring a last-minute stay from appellate courts, the execution will be carried out at 1:30 p.m. Monday. Rhines lost his latest bid to halt it when a judge Thursday rejected his challenge to the execution drug, pentobarbital, on the grounds that it wouldn't act fast enough. He also lost an earlier attempt to have the U.S. Supreme Court hear his argument that he was sentenced to death because he is gay; the state wrote that jurors chose the death sentence partly because of Rhines' "chilling laughter" as he described Schaeffer's death spasms.

"I watched the jury as they listened to the confession of Charles Rhines on audiotape and their reaction to his confession was appropriate. Any human being would be repulsed by the things he said and the way he said them," Steve Allender, the lead investigator, told KELO.

Allender, who took the confession, said Rhines' arrogant demeanor haunted him.

"It's the only case I ever investigated, or the only case I had ever seen as a police officer for 30 years, that I ever had a nightmare about. It was just creepy and weird," said Allender, who is now Rapid City mayor.

The crime happened on March 8, 1992, three weeks after Rhines, then 35, was fired from his job at Dig 'Em Donuts. Schaeffer, of Black Hawk, was stabbed a total of three times. Co-workers found him a few hours later. The investigation would show that Rhines drove through the countryside to scatter the murder weapon and his clothing.

Rhines attended Schaeffer's funeral, then moved to Seattle a few days later. Authorities thought the move was odd because Rhines had vowed to never return to Washington state, where he had spent time in prison. Allender said authorities initially interviewed Rhines and felt something was off, but Rhines wasn't arrested until four months later — after Rhines told his former roommate about the killing.

Rhines appealed his case to the U.S. Supreme Court, arguing his sentence was unconstitutional because

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jurors were homophobic and sentenced him to death because they thought he'd enjoy life in prison with other men. The Supreme Court declined to hear his case.

Jurors "uniformly reported," that Rhines' "chilling laughter during his confession while comparing young Donnivan Schaeffer's death spasms to a decapitated chicken running around a barnyard, not his sexual orientation, was what drove them to impose a death sentence," the South Dakota Attorney General's Office wrote to the court in March 2019.

The letter also states that the jury imposed the death sentence because Rhines "is a stone-cold killer, devoid of any remorse for his crime or empathy for the rights and dignity of other people."

Rhines wrote to the Argus Leader in May 2013, saying that when he saw a grieving mother on the news in an unrelated case, he realized what he had done to Schaeffer's mother.

"Just at the cusp of her beloved child becoming an independent person, a responsible adult with a family and friends surrounding him and his mother waiting expectantly for grandchildren to spoil, having all that snatched away for almost no reason at all and the hole it has had to have left in her heart," he wrote. "Prosecutors talk of closure, but that wound will never close, no matter how long it is there."

Peggy Schaeffer, Donnivan's mother, didn't believe he was remorseful.

"If he were sorry, he could have said it a long time ago," Schaeffer told the Argus Leader in 2014. "Now, 20 years later, he's sorry? Uh-uh."

Schaeffer's family declined to speak with The Associated Press in advance of Rhines' execution. In June, when a judge scheduled the execution, Peggy Schaeffer told reporters, "This step was one big one for justice for Donnivan. It's just time."

Peggy said she feels her son beside her all the time, and thinks about what he would have accomplished in life, the Rapid City Journal reported.

"I missed (having) a daughter-in-law, I missed grandchildren, my son misses his brother, my grandchildren miss an uncle and an aunt," she said. She added that the family lights a candle and places a rose on the table during holidays in her son's memory.

"And he is there, we know it," she said.

Saudi Arabia formally starts IPO of oil firm Saudi Aramco

By JON GAMBRELL and MALAK HARB Associated Press

DHAHRAN, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Saudi Arabia formally began an initial public offering Sunday of a sliver of oil giant Saudi Aramco after years of delay, hoping international and local investors will pay billions of dollars for a stake in the kingdom's crown jewels.

An approval by Saudi Arabia's Capital Market Authority served as the starting gun for an IPO promised by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman since 2016. But unlike traditional IPOs, Saudi Aramco offered no hoped-for price range for its shares nor any idea how much of the firm would be offered to investors on Riyadh's Tadawul stock exchange.

Analysts say the kingdom likely hopes local investors will push its share prices toward a desired \$2 trillion valuation and buoy that price ahead of any possible further listing abroad. Saudi Aramco also made a point in its filings to highlight its profitability and low costs through newly released data once held as a state secret by the Al Saud royal family, euphemistically referred to by the company as its "current shareholder."

However, economic worries, the trade war between China and the U.S. and increased crude oil production by the U.S. has depressed energy prices. A Sept. 14 attack on the heart of Saudi Aramco already spooked some investors, with one ratings company already downgrading the oil giant.

"We want to share the Aramco shares with the citizens of Saudi Arabia," said Yasir al-Rumayyan, the governor of Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund. "We want to get financial investors from all over the world."

It's hard to overstate the power of the oil firm, known formally as the Saudi Arabian Oil Co. It produces over 10 million barrels of crude oil a day, some 10% of global demand. The firm's net income in 2018 was \$111.1 billion, far beyond the combined net income of oil giants BP PLC, Chevron Corp., Exxon Mobil Corp.,

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Royal Dutch Shell PLC and Total SA.

Saudi Arabia's oil sits close to the surface in large pools, making it far cheaper to extract. Saudi Aramco also has proven liquid reserves of 226.8 billion barrels, the largest of any company in the world and "approximately five times larger" than those held by the five oil giants, according to the firm's IPO documents.

That's led to a clamoring from investors for Saudi Aramco stock since Prince Mohammed announced plans in 2016 for a two-phase IPO of 5% of the firm in the kingdom and abroad. The prince hopes to raise some \$100 billion from investors, which will be funneled into the kingdom's PIF sovereign wealth fund for projects to boost employment and major development projects.

"I believe it is in the interest of the Saudi market, and it is in the interest of Aramco," Prince Mohammed told the Economist magazine in 2016 in announcing his plans.

But the planned IPO saw years of delays over valuation concerns and where to list it abroad. Oil prices, once over \$100 a barrel, crashed in 2014 to under \$30 a barrel. Benchmark Brent crude now trades around \$60 a barrel, pushed up by a production cut by OPEC countries like Saudi Arabia and those outside of the cartel like Russia. Those cuts have limited Saudi production, in turn pushing up its estimated government budget deficit for next year to nearly \$50 billion.

The announcement by the Capital Market Authority offered no timeline, share price or percentage of the company to be offered in the IPO, nor did officials or documents later released by Aramco. Both al-Rumayyan and Saudi Aramco CEO and President Amin H. Nasser also declined to say whether an international listing would still happen as well when addressing journalists in Dhahran in eastern Saudi Arabia, the city that hosts Saudi Aramco's headquarters.

"Usually when you go for an IPO, you have a target price," said Capt. Ranjith Raja, an oil analyst at data firm Refinitiv. "There's still no clarity in what they're trying to look at."

Based on that, Saudi Arabia may choose to rely on local investors to push up the price of the stock, Raja said.

The Saudi-owned satellite channel Al-Arabiya reported last week, citing anonymous sources, that pricing for the stock will begin Nov. 17. A final price for the stock will be set Dec. 4, with shares then beginning to be traded on the Tadawul on Dec. 11, the channel reported. The channel is believed to have close links to the kingdom's Al Saud royal family and correctly identified Sunday as the IPO's launch.

Analysts say a \$2 trillion valuation — Apple and Microsoft separately for instance are \$1 trillion — may be a stretch. By announcing the start of the IPO on Sunday, Prince Mohammed may have been convinced to take a lower valuation in order to get the IPO moving.

Saudi Aramco has sought to assure investors, given the questions over its valuation and the potential hazards of future attacks or geopolitical risk. A presentation posted to Aramco's website last month announced the intent to offer a \$75 billion dividend for investors in 2020. That's the payment per share that a corporation distributes to its stockholders as their return on the money they have invested in its stock.

It also pledged that some 2020 through 2024, any year with a dividend under \$75 billion would see "non-government shareholders" prioritized to get paid.

But beyond the stocks, worries persist that Saudi Arabia could be hit by another attack like the one Sept. 14, which temporarily halved its production. The U.S. blames the attack on Iran. Tehran denies it launched the cruise missiles and drones used in the assault. Yemen's Houthi rebels claimed responsibility, but analysts say the weapons used wouldn't have the range to reach their targets from Houthi-controlled areas of Yemen.

Responding to a journalist's question about the safety of an Aramco investment, al-Rumayyan spoke about how quickly the company restored production after the attack.

"The oil traders, they saw this as a nonevent, and that means it is really safe," he said. "That's what the money is saying."

Gambrell reported from Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Trump absent, ASEAN charts path for trade bloc led by China

By **JIM GOMEZ** and **ELAINE KURTENBACH** Associated Press

NONTHABURI, Thailand (AP) — Leaders from fast-growing Southeast Asian economies, China and other regional powers vowed Sunday to transcend conflicts over trade policies and territorial disputes for the sake of stronger economies and regional stability.

President Donald Trump skipped the summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and instead sent his national security adviser, Robert O'Brien. Last year, Trump sent Vice President Mike Pence. Both now are busy campaigning back home, and analysts say their absence will leave room for China to further raise its profile and clout in the region.

The ASEAN meeting's host, Thai Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha, said the group aims to reach a basic agreement on plans for what may become one of the world's biggest trade blocs.

The proposed Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership aims to level trade barriers between the 10 ASEAN members and six other countries in a bloc encompassing nearly a third of all global trade.

Prayuth and other officials said the aim was to have a final deal by next year. ASEAN also hopes to set a code of conduct with China regarding disputed waters in the South China Sea, he said.

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang told other leaders attending that Beijing was committed to forging such an agreement and to ASEAN's central role in the region.

"Given the complexity in the international and regional situation, our cooperation is built on a stable structure and moving forward in a positive fashion," Li said. "This is beneficial to the region and all parties involved."

"We support stability in the region and by doing so we have been able to cope with the instability elsewhere in the world," he said.

On the troublesome issue of the South China Sea, Li welcomed progress on negotiating a code of conduct aimed at taming aggressive actions that could set off armed confrontations in one of the world's most disputed regions.

After being accused of delaying the start of talks for years while building artificial islands with military outposts on contested reefs, China agreed to commence negotiations and both sides announced that the first of three expected rounds was concluded in July.

Li called that progress "a very important landmark" for regional stability. He said China is committed to making headway in the negotiations with ASEAN members, four of whom — Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam — are locked in the territorial disputes.

But the talks are highly contentious and it's unclear if China is ready to sign a code that many governments, including the U.S., hope would be legally binding and potent enough to restrain provocative actions in a busy waterway crucial to global commerce.

Two Southeast Asian diplomats told The Associated Press that in a tense meeting in Vietnam recently, Vietnamese diplomats questioned how the negotiations could progress while flotillas of Chinese fishing boats backed by China's coast guard and navy were swarming into waters where Vietnam, the Philippines and Malaysia have exclusive rights under international law to exploit energy resources.

Chinese officials replied that ASEAN members should not allow one state "to hijack the COC process," one of the diplomats said, referring to the code of conduct talks. The two diplomats spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because of a lack of authority to discuss the issue publicly.

"China's continued harassment of Malaysia, Filipino and Vietnamese activities over the last year shows that it isn't yet prepared to compromise in any substantive way. So these talks always seemed to be heading for trouble," said Greg Poling, a South China Sea expert with the U.S.-based Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative.

The meetings Sunday also touched on other challenges. U.N. Secretary General Antonio Guterres urged the leaders to wean themselves from reliance on coal-fired power plants whose emissions contribute to climate change that is felt keenly in the region in the form of extreme weather disasters and rising sea levels.

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Guterres nudged Myanmar to do more to help resettle hundreds of thousands of members of its Muslim Rohingya minority who have fled violence in the country's northwest.

"Some positive steps have been taken, but much more needs to be done to forge durable solutions and ensure effective accountability," he said.

Asked by reporters about the recent deaths of 39 Vietnamese migrants who died in a shipping container while being smuggled into Britain, Guterres urged that more be done to fight human trafficking by organizing migration rather than leaving it to organized crime.

"Migration is inevitable," he said. "If migration is inevitable, then it's better to organize it."

On the issue of trade, ASEAN officials plan to present to the leaders a report on negotiations on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership. A draft of a statement by the leaders on the RCEP seen by The Associated Press says talks should be finalized by February and endorsed by leaders of member countries at next year's summit, which is due to take place in Vietnam.

"We are committed to sign the RCEP agreement in Vietnam in 2020," the leaders' draft statement said.

ASEAN members include Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. Together, they comprise a fast-growing regional market of nearly 650 million people.

The proposed RCEP trade bloc aims to facilitate and set standards for trade among ASEAN and six other nations: China, Japan, India, Australia, New Zealand and South Korea. It does not include the United States.

Mueller documents: Manafort pushed Ukraine hack theory

By ERIC TUCKER, MIKE BALSAMO and JONATHAN LEMIRE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — During the 2016 presidential campaign, Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort pushed the idea that Ukraine, not Russia, was behind the hack of the Democratic National Committee servers, Manafort's deputy told investigators during the special counsel's Russia probe. The unsubstantiated theory, advanced by President Donald Trump even after he took office, would later help trigger the impeachment inquiry now consuming the White House.

Notes from an FBI interview were released Saturday after lawsuits by BuzzFeed News and CNN led to public access to hundreds of pages of documents from special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation. The documents included summaries of interviews with other figures from the Mueller probe, including Trump's former personal lawyer, Michael Cohen.

Information related to Ukraine took on renewed interest after calls for impeachment based on efforts by the president and his administration to pressure Ukraine to investigate Democrat Joe Biden. Trump, when speaking with Ukraine's new president in July, asked about the DNC servers in the same phone call in which he pushed for an investigation into Biden.

Manafort speculated about Ukraine's responsibility as the campaign sought to capitalize on DNC email disclosures and as Trump associates discussed how they could get hold of the material themselves, deputy campaign chairman Rick Gates told investigators, according to a summary of one of his interviews.

Gates said Manafort's assertion that Ukraine might have done it echoed the position of Konstantin Kilimnik, a Manafort business associate who had also speculated that the hack could have been carried out by Russian operatives in Ukraine. U.S. authorities have assessed that Kilimnik, who was also charged in Mueller's investigation, has ties to Russian intelligence. American intelligence agencies have determined that Russia was behind the hack, and Mueller's team indicted 12 Russian agents in connection with the intrusion.

Gates also said the campaign believed that Michael Flynn, who later became Trump's first national security adviser, would be in the best position to obtain Hillary Clinton's missing emails because of his Russia connections. Flynn said he could use his intelligence sources to obtain the emails and was "adamant that Russians did not carry out the hack" because he believed that the U.S. intelligence community couldn't have figured out the source, according to the agent's notes. Flynn later pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI about his contacts with the Russian ambassador.

Mueller's investigation concluded in March with a report that found insufficient evidence to establish a criminal conspiracy between Russia and the Trump campaign to sway the 2016 presidential election. The

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report also examined multiple episodes in which Trump sought to seize control of the Russia probe but did not conclude one way or the other about whether the president had illegally obstructed justice. Attorney General William Barr ultimately concluded that the president had not committed a crime.

Gates worked with Manafort in a lucrative international political consulting business that included Ukraine and later testified against him. Gates pleaded guilty last year in Mueller's investigation and has been one of the government's key cooperators. He has yet to be sentenced as he continues working with investigators. Manafort was sentenced to more than seven years in prison, in part for financial crimes arising from his Ukraine work.

During his interviews with investigators, Gates said that Donald Trump Jr. would ask where the hacked emails were during family meetings in the summer of 2016. Gates recalled that other key campaign aides, including future Attorney General Jeff Sessions, Trump son-in-law Jared Kushner and Flynn, also "expressed interest in obtaining the emails as well," according to an agent's written summary of one interview. The identity of one of the people who expressed interest in the emails is blanked out.

One time on the campaign aircraft, Gates told the FBI, candidate Trump said "get the emails." Gates also said that another point, Trump told him that more leaks were coming, though the heavily redacted documents do not indicate how Trump knew that.

Gates also described conversations with the chairman of the Republican National Committee, Reince Priebus, who later entered the White House as the first chief of staff. Gates described the RNC as energized by the emails and said that though Trump and Kushner were initially skeptical about cooperating with the RNC, "the WikiLeaks issue was a turning point," the FBI notes show. WikiLeaks was the website that published the stolen emails in the weeks before the election.

The campaign was also very pleased by the releases, though Trump was advised not to react to it but rather to let it all play out, according to the interview summaries.

The RNC would put out press releases to amplify the emails' release, Gates told the FBI. "The RNC also indicated they knew the timing of the upcoming releases," though Gates didn't specify who at the RNC had that information. "Gates said the only non-public information the RNC had was related to the timing of the releases."

Manafort, meanwhile, was trying to advise the Trump campaign even after severing ties with the campaign, causing alarm among some of the candidate's most senior advisers.

Manafort emailed Kushner, on Nov. 5, 2016, just days before the election, saying he was feeling good about the prospect of a Trump presidency. In the email, Manafort said he was "focusing on preserving the victory" and that he had sent a memo to Priebus and had briefed Gates and Fox News host Sean Hannity, a close Trump ally.

Kushner sent Manafort's email to Trump adviser Steve Bannon, who replied: "we need to avoid this guy like the plague."

"They are going to try and say the Russians worked with wiki leaks to give this victory to us," Bannon wrote to Kushner and David Bossie, another Trump associate, in his reply. "Paul is nice guy but can't let word get out he is advising us."

Follow Tucker on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/@etuckerAP>, Balsalmo at <http://twitter.com/@MikeBalsamo1> and Lemire at <http://twitter.com/@JonLemire>

Chinese news agency slams 'barbaric' Hong Kong office attack

By EILEEN NG Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — China's state-owned Xinhua News Agency denounced the attack on its office in Hong Kong by pro-democracy protesters as "barbaric" during a melee that marked nearly five months of unrest in the Chinese territory.

More protests are being planned in seven districts Sunday in a sustained push for political reform and genuine autonomy, after the ruling Communist Party vowed to tighten the grip on one of the world's fre-

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est financial hubs.

Xinhua in a brief statement late Saturday strongly condemned the “barbaric acts of mobs” that had vandalized and set fire to the lobby of its Asia-Pacific office building in the city’s Wan Chai neighborhood.

The Hong Kong Journalists Association also deplored “any act of sabotage against the media” and called for an end to violence against the press.

It was the first strike against the official Chinese news agency in a show of anger against Beijing, which many in the city fear is infringing on the freedoms guaranteed to Hong Kong when the former British colony returned to Chinese control in 1997.

On Friday, the Communist Party in Beijing vowed to “establish and strengthen a legal system and enforcement mechanism” to prevent foreign powers from sowing acts of “separatism, subversion, infiltration and sabotage” in Hong Kong.

Hong Kong, which has a separate legal system from mainland China, has tried to enact anti-subversion legislation before but failed amid public opposition. Beijing may be indicating it is preparing to take matters into its own hands by having the National People’s Congress — a ceremonial legislature — issue a legal interpretation to enact such legislation.

Hong Kong’s government said Sunday its Chief Executive Carrie Lam, currently in Shanghai, will head to Beijing on Tuesday. She is due to hold talks with Vice Premier Han Zheng and join a meeting on the development of the Greater Bay Area that aims to link Hong Kong, Macau and nine other cities in southern China.

Protesters have frequently targeted Chinese banks and businesses. In July, demonstrators threw eggs at China’s liaison office in Hong Kong and defaced the Chinese national emblem in a move slammed by Beijing as a direct challenge to its authority.

Police said that more than 200 people were detained during Saturday’s protests in multiple areas on Hong Kong Island and Kowloon district. This included five youths found with 188 gasoline bombs, pepper sprays and protest gear such as helmets and goggles.

Senior police official Yeung Yiu-Chung said the four men and one woman, aged between 19 and 24, were detained in a residential building in Wan Chai. Police are investigating if there was an organization or mastermind behind them, he added.

A bomb disposal robot was used to detonate two suspicious parcels on different roads late Saturday, said a police spokesman, who declined to be named as he wasn’t authorized to speak to the media.

After police stymied an unauthorized rally with tear gas and water cannons, groups of hardcore protesters regrouped with gasoline bombs and attacked shops and subway exits. Police responded in street battles late into the night in familiar scenes that had besieged the financial hub since June.

The protests were sparked by a now-shelved plan to allow extraditions to mainland China but have since swelled into a movement seeking other demands, including direct elections for the city’s leaders and an independent inquiry into police conduct. Lam last month invoked emergency powers to impose a face mask ban that further enraged protesters for crimping their right to assemble.

More than 3,000 people have been detained and the city has slipped into recession for the first time in a decade as it grapples with the turmoil and the impact from the U.S.-China trade war.

Climate activists nab Macron portraits, divide French judges

By **NICOLAS VAUX-MONTAGNY** Associated Press

LYON, France (AP) — Is stealing a presidential portrait a prison-worthy crime? Or a laudable act of civil disobedience?

Courts around France are grappling with this question in response to an unusual new environmental movement that’s aiming to push French President Emmanuel Macron to do more to fight climate change.

One by one, environmental activists around France have removed Macron’s official portraits from more than 130 town halls this year, from the foothills of the Alps to the Left Bank of Paris.

Their point: Even as Macron portrays himself on the global stage as Mr. Climate, the centrist, business-friendly president isn’t acting boldly enough to change his own country’s planet-damaging ways. They’re

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notably angry that France has lagged on its international commitments to increase use of renewable energy and reduce emissions. France remains well behind its European neighbors in its use of renewable energy.

The portrait-removers have been facing trials around the country, with some fined, others acquitted. An appeals trial of the first court case was held last week in Lyon with the ruling still pending, and a new trial is scheduled later this month.

The protesters don't fit a single mold — one's a math teacher, another works for the SNCF national rail company, another's an organic vegetable farmer.

At last week's trial, defendant Helene Lacroix-Baudrion argued that the portrait removal was "an act aimed at taking care of life and our environment."

"We just want Macron, who holds himself up as a climate defender, to respect France's commitments under the COP21 (the 2015 U.N. climate agreement signed in Paris)," she told The Associated Press.

An expert working for the U.N. climate change agency testified as a defense witness at the trial, and climate activists gathered for a boisterous protest outside the courthouse.

The trials themselves have turned into public debates on civil disobedience, France's rich tradition of protest — and of course, the environment.

France is divided over how, and how fast, to cut emissions blamed for worsening climate change. Macron argues that he's doing more than most, and has stood up to U.S. President Donald Trump on the need for countries and corporations to cooperate to cut emissions.

However, Macron backed down on a fuel tax last year meant to help wean France off fossil fuels, because the tax triggered the yellow vest protest movement against economic injustice, which saw months of violent protests that devastated some major shopping streets in Paris.

So activists started targeting Macron's portraits, symbolically dethroning him to demand action.

Several brought stolen portraits to a march at the Group of Seven summit Macron hosted in Biarritz in August, to try to embarrass him at the global event. They brandished the pictures upside down, arguing that his climate policy is the opposite of what the planet needs.

French law says the acts can be considered "group theft," which can be punishable by several years in prison. No court seems willing to go as far as locking up the portrait-removers, but the verdicts have been mixed.

Six portrait-removers were convicted in the first trial, in Bourg-en-Bresse in June, but five were only given suspended fines. The sixth was fined 250 euros (\$280) because he already had a criminal record.

The court ruling said it wasn't clear how removing the portraits would "save humanity from ecological disaster" and argued that "other avenues were open to the defendants to defend their cause."

The protesters themselves, from the Non-Violent Action COP21 activist group, accepted the ruling, but the prosecutor appealed, seeking tougher punishment.

In September, a Lyon court acquitted two activists, ruling that they had a "legitimate motive" and that "climate upheaval is a constant fact that seriously affects the future of humanity."

"Faced with the lack of respect by the state" for its climate commitments, the ruling reads, "the citizens' means of expression in a democratic country cannot be reduced to the votes cast in elections."

A few weeks later, a Paris court fined eight activists 500 euros (\$560) each.

Nine more trials are scheduled in coming months, all over France.

Angela Charlton in Paris contributed

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Coal plant on tribal land to close after powering US West

By FELICIA FONSECA Associated Press

ALONG THE BLACK MESA AND LAKE POWELL RAILROAD, Ariz. (AP) — Ron Little nestles into a familiar

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seat aboard a train locomotive and slides the window open, leaning out to get a better view of dozens of rail cars that stretch for a mile behind and the landscape he knows so well.

The heavy steel wheels roll along a dizzying pattern of concrete railroad ties that snake through sandstone formations, boulder-laden arroyos and grasslands. Little points to a rock formation named for the reddish dirt that Navajos use to dye wool for rugs and another with a cutout like the handle of a milk jug.

"It's beautiful scenery you just go live with every day," he said.

Every day until recently, when the last of the trains he's operated for more than half his life pulled up to a power plant with thousands of tons of coal.

Before the year ends, the Navajo Generating Station near the Arizona-Utah border will close and others in the region are on track to shut down or reduce their output in the next few years. Its owners are turning to cheaper power produced by natural gas as they and other coal-fired plants in the U.S. face growing pressure over contributing to climate change.

Those shifts are upending people's livelihoods, including hundreds of mostly Native American workers who mined the coal on tribal land, loaded it from a roadside silo and helped produce the electricity that has powered the American Southwest since the 1970s.

Two tribes each will lose millions of dollars in income, while workers like Little are forced into early retirement. Some employees will stay on to restore the land, while others aren't sure what's next.

Ted Candelaria, a fourth-generation railroader who voted for President Donald Trump in hopes he would be coal's saving grace, said the change is bittersweet.

"I got all emotional, started tearing up. It's kind of sad because I love what I do," Candelaria said from the driver's seat of his pickup truck, looking toward a line of locomotives. "Where else does a guy get to come to work and ride on an electric train?"

The Black Mesa and Lake Powell Railroad was one of only three 50-kilovolt electric lines in the world. The rail yard boasted some rarities, including a 1976 locomotive with a faded blue body and a rusty red front end that led the final journey from the coal silos to the power plant in late August, effectively shutting down the mine that fed it.

The power plant was built in the late 1960s on land leased from the Navajo Nation, one of two coal-mining Native American tribes that has the largest land base, spanning parts of Arizona, New Mexico and Utah.

The plant was a compromise to keep more hydroelectric dams from being built through the Grand Canyon and to power a series of canals that deliver water to Arizona's major cities, allowing them to grow. At the time, the U.S. was facing a natural gas shortage and utilities turned to coal to feed the electric grid.

Now, utilities increasingly are shifting to renewable energy, setting standards to wean themselves off coal, an industry Trump has tried to prop up. The country gets about 25% of its electricity from coal-fired plants, down from 40% five years ago, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

U.S. utilities announced the retirement of nearly 550 coal-fired power generators since 2010, the agency said. More are planned.

Two other coal-fired plants operate on or near the Navajo Nation in northwestern New Mexico and have a majority Navajo workforce. The San Juan Generating Station is slated to close in 2022, and the nearby Four Corners Power Plant by 2038.

One unit at the Navajo Generating Station in Arizona shut down in September. Decommissioning the other two is expected to take two years, with the smokestacks coming down in 2020.

The coal reserves are vast beneath the land belonging to the Navajo Nation and the neighboring Hopi Tribe. The plant has burned 24,000 tons of coal a day for nearly 50 years, and the Navajo Nation estimates it still has a 100-year supply.

Without extending the rail line beyond the 78 miles (126 kilometers) between the power plant and the silos at the Kayenta Mine, the coal has nowhere to go.

"It's disappointing to us," said Randy Lehn, the mine's acting general manager. "We tried harder than anyone else to try to keep this thing going."

Peabody Energy, which owned the mine, launched a bid to save the Navajo Generating Station last year with rallies, ads and a "Yes to NGS" campaign. Residents of the Navajo community of LeChee, closest to

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the plant, wrote to Trump asking for help.

It didn't work. The Navajo Nation and the Hopi Tribe now are hard-pressed to come up with a way to make up for the losses, including money for student scholarships and road maintenance.

The Hopi Tribe is losing \$14 million a year in coal revenue, or 82% of its general budget that pays for human resources, information technology and financial staff, court programs and legal counsel. More than \$3 million goes to Hopi villages.

Tribal members who gathered coal from the mine to heat their homes or used it for ceremonial fires will have to look elsewhere, a similar concern for thousands of Navajos.

"(It's) the main concern right now because we're in that part of the season of the year now," Hopi Vice Chairman Clark Tenakhongva said. "Religious are finally realizing: 'What are we going to do for heating? How are we going to survive from here on out?'"

The Hopi Tribe plans to cut government services where it can, possibly switching workers to a four-day workweek.

"Everybody is concerned as far as what the future looks like," Tenakhongva said.

Economic development is difficult for the Hopi Tribe, which is landlocked by the much-larger Navajo Nation and doesn't get as much tourist traffic. Hopi officials plan to lobby Congress for funding and to fulfill what it says are land obligations to the tribe.

U.S. Rep. Tom O'Halleran, an Arizona Democrat who represents both tribes, recently introduced legislation that would temporarily help replace lost coal revenue and create training and educational programs for displaced workers.

At the height, mining operations in the region employed 700 mostly Native American workers. The power plant had more than 500 employees, 90% of whom were Navajo.

Navajo President Jonathan Nez said the tribe will lose between \$40 million and \$50 million annually from coal revenue and lease payments — money being replaced temporarily with interest from a trust fund it developed in 1985 to replenish lost revenue from coal, timber, gas and oil.

The interest is enough to cover the losses each year, but the tribe would have to consider approving that method in budget talks going forward.

Mine and power plant workers are being encouraged to start their own businesses and bid on tribal projects, Nez said. His administration also has encouraged members to spend their money on the reservation.

Tourism, solar plants, a call center and manufacturing facilities could help make up lost revenue, tribal officials said, but no single venture will replace the money coal brought in.

"There is potential for a lot more as far as diversification when we look at renewable energy as well as our enterprises of the Navajo Nation that pay back funds to the Navajo Nation," tribal economic development director J.T. Willie said.

The tribe will have access to the transmission lines that carried power from the plant to customers in the U.S. West and will keep a warehouse, offices and the train tracks, which Willie said could be used for tourism or sold.

Gerald Clitso, sitting in the control booth of a coal silo above the railway recently, is not convinced he would have as lucrative of a job opportunity elsewhere in the Navajo Nation.

"Our leadership, they just don't have the vision, the foresight to see into the future to see what can sustain our economic conditions here on the Navajo reservation," he said. "With the plant going down and the coal mine going down, we'll end up going back to the days of using Coleman lanterns."

He peered through a window above the train that slowly rolled into the towering concrete silo along U.S. 160, his fingers jostling the controls that fill each car with 1,000 tons of coal delivered from the mine 18 miles (29 kilometers) away.

Behind him, Navajo workers talked about lost money for scholarships that helped with school and about the relationships formed over decades of working together, reminiscing about exchanging grilled mutton for fried chicken with other people at the silo.

The same conversations are happening along the railroad and at the power plant in Page, where a trio

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of concrete stacks rise 755 feet (236 meters) above the desert, lights flashing to warn planes.

The plant isn't far from popular tourist attractions like Antelope Canyon, Lake Powell and Horseshoe Bend, where the bluish-green water of the Colorado River takes a 270-degree turn.

Lyle Dimbatt, a former Page mayor who grew up there with other power plant employees, said the region still will benefit from tourism, but the economy will take a hit from losing the power plant and mine.

Dimbatt, who is not Native American, still has one kid in school and isn't ready to leave his job as the nighttime train supervisor.

"If I'm honest with you, I'm not happy about it, but can't do nothing about it," Dimbatt said, shrugging. "I'm just glad I'm not walking out of the door with nothing, because some of them are."

Over half the workers at the mine qualified for retirement, said Lehn, the general manager. A few will stay for cleanup work. The others are out of jobs.

Phoenix-based Salt River Project, majority owner and operator of the power plant, has offered transfers to employees who want them, but that means leaving the reservation.

Schoolchildren would rather not move to a bigger city where they have no family, friends and few open spaces, Pauline Begay said from her office at the LeChee Chapter, a local government of the Navajo Nation, within view of the power plant.

For Little, he will miss the paycheck that helped put his kids through college. He rose from utility man to train operator, passing up the chance to be a supervisor because he liked the serenity aboard the train.

The locomotives and train cars are destined for the scrap pile.

Associated Press writer Susan Montoya Bryan contributed to this report.

Catalans against secession are alarmed by recent violence

By JOSEPH WILSON Associated Press

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) — As a tour guide in one of Europe's top travel destinations, María José Martínez constantly takes busloads of tourists to an overlook in Barcelona to gaze upon one of Spain's most enchanting skylines.

But instead of being wowed by the Mediterranean blue and the sandcastle-like spires of Antoni Gaudí's La Sagrada Familia basilica, recent clients have been unnerved by the sight of smoke rising from smoldering street barricades set aflame by Catalan separatists.

"My clients asked me, 'What is that huge column of smoke, María?'" the 55-year-old Martínez said Friday recounting the moment from a few days before. "I said this is what the supposedly non-violent separatists are doing, burning the city."

Martínez is one of the roughly 50% of Catalonia's 7.5 million residents who polls and recent elections show are opposed to the wealthy region's separatist movement, which has provoked Spain's worst political crisis in decades. She and others say they are increasingly concerned with the violent turn that the separatist movement has taken after almost a decade of exclusively peaceful protests.

Barcelona and nearby towns were recently rocked by surprisingly violent riots that lasted for a week after a landmark Supreme Court decision on Oct. 14 that sentenced nine Catalan separatist leaders to prison for their role in a failed 2017 secession attempt. Many separatists considered the verdict unfair and have taken to the streets in protests that have been peaceful.

Some protests, however, have been followed by intense clashes with police. The street battles left over 500 people hurt, nearly half of them police, and have turned up the tension in Spain's restive northeast.

Many Spanish unionists are also fed up with what they consider the stifling social atmosphere in Catalonia, where separatists have the support of most public institutions, many elected officials in regional and town governments, and the public broadcast media.

Martínez and others who support Spanish unity say they often feel ignored or marginalized. Martínez says that she is considering leaving Barcelona altogether for southern Spain because her tour business is suffering cancellations by tourists scared off by the riots.

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Other unionists are trying a different strategy: They are starting to push back.

The recent street violence spurred 80,000 unionists to fill a main Barcelona boulevard in their own protest Oct. 27.

While pro-secession parties and civil society groups have set aside their differences on social and economic issues and forged a common front, the unionist side has long been hobbled by divisions along classic left-right ideological lines. But the unionist protest was a rare event in which progressive and conservative politicians banded together at a rally for Spanish unity.

Jordi Salvadó, a 24-year-old law student, attended the unionist march. He is part of a student organization called S'Ha Acabat ("It's Over" in Catalan) which is challenging separatist activists at universities, where the focus has shifted as the streets have grown calmer.

Pro-secession student groups have marched and called strikes and sit-ins, pressuring several universities in Catalonia to cancel some classes and make attendance optional so students can join protests. Salvadó was part of a large group of students who have forced their way past lines of masked separatists who have barred the entrances to university buildings since the court verdict.

"What the universities have to do is stop giving them privileges," Salvadó said. "We don't think this is going to get better. (The separatists) must stop using force and respect the rights of those who think differently from them."

On the surface, Barcelona has mostly returned to normality, except for the occasional roadblock by small groups of separatists and the absence of trash containers in the city that were torched by protesters.

But the Catalan crisis is poised to be a decisive issue for Spain's national election on Nov. 10, where Socialist Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez is trying to remain in power. He has refused to meet with Catalan chief Quim Torra, a fervent separatist, who Sánchez says has not been responsive enough to the concerns of his unionist citizens.

Torra and other separatist leaders are pledging to wage a non-violent civil disobedience campaign that to block roads and train lines in hopes of forcing the Spanish government to negotiate. Torra recently told The Associated Press that "If we don't sit down to talk, this won't stop" in reference to the protests.

And so while the riots have stopped for now, many fear that they could flare back up. That has left businesses worried about Barcelona losing its veneer as one of the world's most attractive cities.

Carlos Rivadulla, president of a pro-union business association, worries about the long-term cost of the separatist movement on Catalonia, one of Spain's traditional economic strongholds.

Over 1,000 Catalan companies, included Catalonia's two most important banks, registered their legal headquarters outside the region in 2017 at the height of the secession bid. Catalonia's economy grew slower than the average of Spain's other regions in 2018 and has fallen far behind the growth posted by Madrid.

"Mr. Torra is working against companies," Rivadulla said. "Spain is by far our most important client, and he is insulting them!"

He says Catalonia cannot afford to be caught in an "economic slow death" caused by violent protests, instability and declining trade.

"All the indicators are deteriorating. We are shooting ourselves in the foot," he said.

The Rock, President Trump watch Masvidal win big at UFC 244

By DAN GELSTON AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — President Donald Trump was on his feet for the main event as Jorge Masvidal defeated a bloodied Nate Diaz via TKO before the fourth round at UFC 244 at Madison Square Garden on Saturday night.

Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson wrapped a crudely named, made-for-PPV baddest man in MMA title belt around Masvidal's waist as nearly 20,000 fans howled in protest of the quick finish. Masvidal dominated the first three rounds and opened cuts above Diaz's eyes that turned his face into a crimson mask. The assigned doctor for the New York State Athletic Commission stopped the fight just before the fourth round. Both fighters felt the bout should continue.

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"I was hyped, I was ready to go," Diaz said. "I come in here to fight. It's not my fault the doctor stopped it. We'll run it back, though."

Johnson walked out holding the \$50,000 Baddest Mother (Censored!) championship belt to a thunderous ovation as his WWE theme music hit. Trump, who became the first president to attend a UFC card, clapped for Johnson and stayed on his feet for the furious early rounds.

Masvidal charged at Diaz once the initial bell rang before he pulled up and smiled, a nod to his UFC-record 5-second KO of Ben Askren in his last fight. Trump and his adult sons stood as Masvidal took quick control and pounded on Diaz. Diaz had a gash open over his right eye, his face bloodied as he lay on his back trying to kick away Diaz.

The partisan crowd took turns chanting "Diaz!" and "Jorge!" and The Rock sat stone-faced, nodding at the biggest haymakers. Diaz staked his claim as the BMF — if the B stood for bloodiest — when he flexed for the crowd to end the second as blood poured down his face.

The doc wouldn't let the fight go into a fourth and the 170-pound bout was over, though a BMF rematch could be on the horizon.

"Let me heal up and let's go again," Diaz said.

The president appeared pleased with the card, staying for the entire 4-plus hour show.

The packed house at the Garden stood and had their phones out, craning their necks to catch a glimpse of the president as he took his cageside seat. Trump smiled and waved to fans as AC/DC's "Back in Black" was blasted over the speakers shortly before the start of the 10 p.m. event. Trump received a mixed reaction, though nothing quite as derisive as the boos and "Lock him up!" chants he received last week at the World Series.

Trump hugged boxing legend Roberto Duran as they posed for a picture and sat in the same row as UFC President Dana White. Trump is tight with White, a relationship that dates to UFC's formative years before its rise into a billion dollar promotion. New Jersey was one of the first states that embraced UFC, and White credits cards at the Trump Taj Mahal for helping the company grow into a heavyweight in the sports world. White spoke at Trump's request at the Republican National Convention and they are occasional dining partners.

Trump wore a suit and red tie, and sat with sons Donald Jr. and Eric, several congressional Republicans and sports personalities just out of range of potential blood splatter.

Trump Jr. tweeted White told the family, "it was the most electrifying entrance he seen in 25 years of doing this ." The Trump brothers sat cageside in August in New Jersey in support of Trump fan Colby Covington.

Taking a break from an impeachment inquiry, Trump could only hope the first fight of the pay-per-view wasn't a sign of things to come — a devastating KO from the left.

He rose from his seat like the rest of the fans when Kevin Lee knocked out Gregor Gillespie with a left leg kick to the head. Gillespie bounced off the cage and lay motionless, out cold on the mat for a minute or so. Trump didn't react as he watched the replay and applauded just like a regular fight fan when Gillespie finally came around and got to his corner. He did not appear to sing along to Darren Till's "Sweet Caroline" walkout music.

Derrick Lewis won his heavyweight bout and gave Trump a shoutout from inside the cage, saying "I know everything ain't going so good in the White House. You gotta turn that ... around in 2020."

Protesters outside MSG chanted "Danger, danger, there's a Fascist in the White House," over a bullhorn and held signs that read "Trump/Pence Out Now!" Once the fights started, there were no noticeable signs or sustained calls of support or protest for Trump. The only jabs were delivered inside the fenced-in, 4-foot octagon came from the fighters. Lewis was the only winner who mentioned Trump, and the crowd of nearly 20,000 seemed largely uninterested in him.

The Rock and the president overshadowed a wildly entertaining card that had the Garden rocking in nearly every bout.

The former WWE champ is the biggest box office star in Hollywood, with his "Jumanji" follow up out later this year. Johnson also announced his Seven Bucks Productions company is working on a biopic on retired MMA star Mark Kerr. Kerr won consecutive UFC heavyweight tournaments in the company's infancy

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and later battled serious addiction issues. Johnson is set to star as the fighter known as the "Smashing Machine."

More AP sports: <https://apnews.com/tag/apf-sports> and https://twitter.com/AP_Sports

AP Analysis: Iran, US still captive to 1979 hostage crisis

By JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

The 1979 U.S. Embassy takeover in Tehran may have ended after 444 days, but both America and Iran still remain captive to a crisis that began 40 years ago.

While those held hostage at the embassy ultimately would be released, Iran to this day holds dual nationals and those with Western ties as bargaining chips for negotiating deals. Cries of "Death of America" still echo through hard-line rallies as Iran's supreme leader criticizes the untrustworthiness of the "Great Satan" over President Donald Trump unilaterally pulling the U.S. out of the 2015 nuclear deal.

That mutual suspicion has reached a level unseen since the hostage crisis — and perhaps in some ways has gone beyond it.

While President Jimmy Carter ultimately expelled all Iranian diplomats from the U.S. during the crisis, America kept issuing visas to Iranians. Today, the Trump administration's longstanding travel ban on Iran and other nations largely keeps Iranians from getting visas at all, despite large Iranian-American populations in cities like Los Angeles.

The ban has brought non-immigrant visa issuance for Iranians down from over 35,000 in 2015 to some 6,000 in 2018, according to State Department statistics. That has cut off families from each other, as well as shut down a crucial source of information about Iran that U.S. diplomats gather during visa interviews.

Meanwhile, the chance for an armed conflict has risen, something avoided even during the hostage crisis. The U.S. blames Iran for a series of attacks across the Middle East in the last six months, culminating with a drone-and-cruise-missile attack on Saudi Arabia in September that halved the kingdom's oil production and caused energy markets to spike. Iran denies being responsible for that attack, as well as for explosions that targeted oil tankers off the United Arab Emirates. However, Tehran proudly claimed shooting down a U.S. military surveillance drone in June and has seized other tankers.

How did the U.S. and Iran get here? A direct line can be drawn back to the American miscalculations before, during and after the Islamic Revolution.

"Iran is not in a revolutionary or even a 'pre-revolutionary' situation," a CIA analysis on the country circulated in the White House declared in August 1978. "There is dissatisfaction with the shah's tight control of the political process, but this does not at all at present threaten the government."

By January 1979, Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi would flee Iran while suffering from a fatal illness the U.S. knew nothing about. The Islamic Revolution would take hold in the next month, which also would see Marxist students overrun the embassy in Tehran and briefly hold it.

The U.S. in part realized the danger its diplomats, employees, military advisers and spies faced. The U.S. presence in Iran dropped from over 1,400 civilian and military personnel to about 70 by the time of the Nov. 4, 1979 embassy takeover.

However, the Carter administration sought to establish a relationship with Iran's revolutionary government. There had been billions of dollars in arms sales to the shah, including advanced F-14 Tomcat jet fighters that required American support. The U.S. also wanted to maintain access to its secret listening posts in Iran to monitor signals and missile tests in the Soviet Union. America long had seen the shah as a bulwark in the Persian Gulf against Soviet expansion. Soviet forces would invade Afghanistan amid the hostage crisis, leading to the Carter Doctrine — that the U.S. would use military force to defend its interests across the energy-rich region.

All this blinded Washington to warnings from Tehran. When Carter allowed the shah into New York for medical treatment Oct. 23, he lit the fuse for the Islamist student takeover. A protest Nov. 1 saw the embassy protected.

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That wasn't the case Nov. 4, both the 15th anniversary of the shah expelling Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini from Iran and of a bloody attack by security forces on students the year before. Police faded into the background as hundreds of students jumped the fence and took over the embassy in 3 1/2 hours.

But the students themselves would date their anger back further to the 1953 coup that overthrew Iran's elected prime minister and cemented the shah's power, a putsch organized by the CIA and British spies.

The hostage crisis ultimately ended on the day President Ronald Reagan was inaugurated in 1981. It saw both sides agree to the Algiers Accords, which promised to end disputes over unfulfilled military purchases made by the shah, outstanding court cases and U.S. political and military intervention "in Iran's internal affairs."

Yet today, some payments from the shah's era remain outstanding as Iran continues to detain dual nationals. A U.N. panel has described "an emerging pattern involving the arbitrary deprivation of liberty of dual nationals" in Iran. In the case of detained Iranian-British national Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe, some have tied her case to 400 million pounds (\$530 million) held by the United Kingdom from a never-completed tank sale to the shah.

Meanwhile, Iran routinely accuses the U.S. of interfering in its internal affairs. It points now to the Trump administration's "maximum pressure" policy, which it describes as trying to topple its Shiite theocracy.

Iran has sought to challenge Trump's renewed U.S. sanctions after his pullout from the nuclear deal before the International Court of Justice at The Hague. But like with everything in this crisis, Iran's argument took root in the long history between the two countries — a 1955 friendship treaty signed between the U.S. and the shah that the Islamist students who took over the embassy opposed.

EDITOR'S NOTE — Jon Gambrell, the news director for the Gulf and Iran for The Associated Press, has reported from each of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, Iran and other locations across the world since joining the AP in 2006. Follow him on Twitter at www.twitter.com/jongambrellAP.

US judge blocks Trump's health insurance rule for immigrants

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — A federal judge in Portland, Oregon, on Saturday put on hold a Trump administration rule requiring immigrants prove they will have health insurance or can pay for medical care before they can get visas.

U.S. District Judge Michael Simon granted a temporary restraining order that prevents the rule from going into effect Sunday. It's not clear when he will rule on the merits of the case.

Seven U.S. citizens and a nonprofit organization filed the federal lawsuit Wednesday contending the rule would block nearly two-thirds of all prospective legal immigrants.

The lawsuit also said the rule would greatly reduce or eliminate the number of immigrants who enter the United States with family sponsored visas.

"We're very grateful that the court recognized the need to block the health care ban immediately," says Justice Action Center senior litigator Esther Sung, who argued at Saturday's hearing on behalf of the plaintiffs. "The ban would separate families and cut two-thirds of green-card-based immigration starting tonight, were the ban not stopped."

The proclamation signed by President Donald Trump in early October applies to people seeking immigrant visas from abroad — not those in the U.S. already. It does not affect lawful permanent residents. It does not apply to asylum-seekers, refugees or children.

The proclamation says immigrants will be barred from entering the country unless they are to be covered by health insurance within 30 days of entering or have enough financial resources to pay for any medical costs.

The rule is the Trump administration's latest effort to limit immigrant access to public programs while trying to move the country away from a family based immigration system to a merit-based system.

The White House said in a statement at the time the proclamation was issued that too many non-citizens were taking advantage of the country's "generous public health programs," and said immigrants contribute

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to the problem of “uncompensated health care costs.”

Under the government’s visa rule, the required insurance can be bought individually or provided by an employer and it can be short-term coverage or catastrophic.

Medicaid doesn’t count, and an immigrant can’t get a visa if using the Affordable Care Act’s subsidies when buying insurance. The federal government pays for those subsidies.

According to the Migration Policy Institute, a nonpartisan immigration think tank, 57% of U.S. immigrants had private health insurance in 2017, compared with 69% of U.S.-born, and 30% had public health insurance coverage, compared with 36% of native-born.

The uninsured rate for immigrants dropped from 32% to 20% from 2013 to 2017, since the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, according to Migration Policy.

There are about 1.1 million people who obtain green cards each year.

“Countless thousands across the country can breathe a sigh of relief today because the court recognized the urgent and irreparable harm that would have been inflicted” without the hold, said Jesse Bless, director of federal litigation at the American Immigration Lawyers Association.

Earlier this year, the administration made sweeping changes to regulations that would deny green cards to immigrants who use some forms of public assistance, but the courts have blocked that measure.

Trump takes break from impeachment for another kind of fight

By JONATHAN LEMIRE Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Politics can be a bruising business. But President Donald Trump took a break from battling the Democrats’ impeachment inquiry to watch another bloodsport Saturday, drawing a mixed response at a UFC match at a raucous Madison Square Garden.

Both loud boos and cheers could be heard as Trump, joined by his adult sons, Don Jr. and Eric, as well as several congressional Republicans, took their seats ahead of the pay-per-view mixed martial arts match. The greeting, though split, was warmer than the reception Trump received earlier in the week, when he was roundly booed and faced a “Lock him up!” chant at a World Series game he attended in Washington.

Though a bloody mixed martial arts fight may be an unusual venue for a president, Trump has long-standing ties to the UFC and sat just a few rows from the cage, where fighters took turns bloodying each other with a variety of kicks and punches.

When one of the fighters, Gregor Gillespie, was briefly knocked unconscious by a roundhouse kick, Trump was watching intently but did not visibly react. He later clapped when Gillespie was able to return to his feet.

Trump frequently waved to the crowd at the UFC 244 tournament, headlined by a battle between Nate Diaz and Jorge Masvidal for a new belt named BMF, a vulgar acronym. Masvidal won the fight after the match was stopped and Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson awarded him the championship belt.

Trump’s ties with UFC head Dana White date back to 2001, when he hosted a UFC battle at his now-defunct Trump Taj Mahal hotel in Atlantic City, New Jersey. White, who has said he would “never say anything negative about Donald Trump,” spoke at the 2016 Republican National Convention in Cleveland.

Trump’s return to New York came just days after he announced that he and his family are switching their residence from their longtime home to Florida.

Explaining his decision on Twitter, Trump said he lamented being “treated very badly by the political leaders” in New York, the state where he was born and his business is still based. Trump, who has raged against the Democratic political leaders in New York — he and his business are the subject of several investigations — will also benefit from Florida’s lower tax rate.

Leery of the protests that surround Trump Tower whenever he returns to New York, the president has not come home often since taking office. He was set to sleep in his former penthouse Saturday before leaving town the following morning, his motorcade certain to add to the traffic congestion anticipated that for the New York City Marathon.

Joining him at the fight were Republican House Leader Rep. Kevin McCarthy and Reps. Peter King, R-

N.Y., and Mark Meadows, R-N.C.

Follow Lemire on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/@JonLemire>

Lutheran sisters recall nursing those wounded at Berlin Wall

By KIRSTEN GRIESHABER Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Sister Brigitte Queisser walks slowly along the decaying remains of the Berlin Wall, its rusty rebar reinforcement exposed where the concrete has crumbled away. The 77-year-old pauses to catch her breath, opens a gate and steps from the former democratic West Berlin into what used to be the communist East.

What is a simple step today was a monumental feat for those who tried to escape Soviet-controlled East Berlin during the nearly three decades that the wall divided that part of the city from its free, western side. Some attempts were meticulously planned for months, others brazen and spontaneous.

Many succeeded flawlessly. But as a deaconess of the Lutheran Lazarus Order, Sister Brigitte witnessed first-hand the consequences for those who weren't able to pull it off quite so smoothly.

Directly across the street from the wall, on Bernauer Strasse, her order ran a clinic that provided immediate help to those who were injured trying to get through the barrier, with its watch towers and armed soldiers. The sisters also took care of burying those who died seeking freedom.

"Families were torn apart, people couldn't move freely from one neighborhood to the other anymore, many died trying to run away to the West," she said. As she thought back to those hard times, Sister Brigitte touched the silver cross dangling from a long necklace over her dark-blue habit.

"It was a nightmare," she said.

As Germany prepares to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall next month, it also commemorates those who were arrested, injured or died as they sought to escape by tunneling under the wall, swimming past it, and climbing or flying over it. At least 140 people died trying, according to the latest academic research.

The first iteration of the Berlin Wall was built in 1961, billed by East German leader Walter Ulbricht as an "anti-fascist protective wall" intended to keep his country secure. In reality, it was built to keep its citizens from fleeing to the West.

It stood for 28 years, until Nov. 9, 1989, a sinister presence that was seen as the front line and a symbol of the Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union.

The Lazarus deaconesses were at the heart of it, their residence and clinic on Bernauer Strasse cut off from the order's cemetery by the wall itself.

"We took care of everybody in our first-aid station who was somehow injured," remembers 84-year-old Sister Christa Huebner. "Dead or alive, cut open, fractured, everything — we made sure they received first aid and also checked whether they had to be hospitalized."

Many of the sisters worked as nurses in the hospital. From its windows overlooking the wall, they witnessed daredevil escapes.

"I saw young men jumping from the roofs on the other side into the nets of the West Berlin firefighters; other men roped down on clothes lines and came to us with their hands all bloody," Sister Christa said as she reminisced about those turbulent years while sitting with a handful of other retired women from her order in the mother house, which is still in the same complex where the clinic used to be.

"One time I saw how a manhole cover on the street opened from below and two people climbed out — they'd escaped underground through the canalization."

"But there were also those who weren't so lucky," she added. "We took care of those who died as well."

Cut off from the order's own graveyard, the sisters had to find a different burial place.

"Our graves were part of the death strip," said Sister Brigitte. "We couldn't take care of the graves any longer, police were patrolling there day and night."

Today, the deaconesses can again access their own cemetery and visit the graves of their sisters.

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Standing under an old linden tree, Sister Brigitte looks at the marble gravestones marking the resting spots of her late companions. The faint sounds of school and tourist groups visiting where the wall used to stand tall drift over from Bernauer Strasse, now a major tourist attraction.

"I often thought, 'God, can you please take away this wall,'" Sister Brigitte says. "When it finally happened, it was like a fulfillment — but at the same time it was also beyond comprehension."

She added: "It was a miracle."

Follow AP's full coverage of the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall at <https://www.apnews.com/FalloftheBerlinWall>

Airbnb bans 'party houses' after California shooting kills 5

By STEFANIE DAZIO and DAISY NGUYEN Associated Press

ORINDA, Calif. (AP) — Airbnb's CEO said the company was taking actions against unauthorized parties in the wake of a deadly shooting at a Halloween party held at an Airbnb rental home in California.

In a series of tweets, Brian Chesky said Saturday the San Francisco-based company is expanding manual screening of "high risk" reservations and will remove guests who fail to comply with policies banning parties at Airbnb rental homes.

He also said the company is forming a "rapid response team" when complaints of unauthorized parties come in.

"We must do better, and we will. This is unacceptable," he tweeted.

Five people died after a Thursday night shooting that sent some 100 terrified partygoers running for their lives in the San Francisco suburb of Orinda.

The four-bedroom home had been rented on Airbnb by a woman who told the owner her dozen family members had asthma and needed to escape smoke from a wildfire, the person with knowledge of the transaction told The Associated Press. A fire burning in Sonoma County about 60 miles (97 kilometers) north of Orinda earlier in the week fouled the air over a wide area.

The owner was suspicious of a one-night rental on Halloween and before agreeing reminded the renter that no parties were allowed, said the person with knowledge of the transaction, who was not authorized to publicly disclose the information and spoke only on condition of anonymity.

The owner, Michael Wang, said his wife reached out to the renter Thursday night after neighbors contacted them about the party. The renter said there were only a dozen people at the home but Wang said he could see more people on video from his doorbell camera.

"We called the police. They were on the way to go there to stop them, but before we got there the neighbor already sent us a message saying there was a shooting," he told the Chronicle.

No arrests had been made and there was no immediate word on a motive for the attack. Two guns were found at the property, authorities said.

Three people, all from the Bay Area, died at the scene and a fourth died at the hospital, authorities initially said. The Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office identified them Friday evening as Tiyon Farley, 22, of Antioch; Omar Taylor, 24, of Pittsburg; Ramon Hill Jr., 23; and Javin County, 29. The sheriff's office identified a fifth victim, 19-year-old Oshiana Tompkins of Vallejo and Hercules, late Friday night, saying she died at a hospital.

Taylor's father, Omar Taylor Sr., said his son was hired to play music at the party.

"Wrong place, wrong time," he told The East Bay Times.

Laneisha Epps, his stepmother, told KGO-TV, that the family is devastated.

"I personally think this was a senseless, careless act. It's such a traumatic experience the family is taking on now," Epps said. "Music and DJ'ing was his happiness, I don't even think he was going in thinking there was trouble or anything."

Omari Taylor told KGO that his brother worked as a DJ to help support his young daughter. "He was a good man. If he was here right now, he'd want everyone to stay strong," Taylor said.

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"He wanted to be successful in everything and he wanted to care of everyone, take care of his children's children. That's what his plan was," Taylor told the TV station.

Other people were wounded by gunshots or injured in the panic that followed, authorities said.

The party at the four-bedroom house apparently was advertised on social media as an "Airbnb mansion party."

Orinda, with a population of about 20,000, requires short-term rental hosts to register with the city annually and pay an occupancy tax. The maximum occupancy is 13 people.

Orinda city documents show officials issued violations in March for exceeding the home's maximum occupancy and illegal parking. City Manager Steve Salomon said the homeowner had resolved previous complaints lodged in February over occupancy and noise and in July over overflowing trash.

Airbnb is "urgently investigating" what happened, spokesman Ben Breit said in an email.

Airbnb has banned the renter from its platform and the home has been removed as a listing, he said.

One attendee said he was enjoying the music and watching people dance when he heard shots and people started running.

The screaming seemed to last forever, said Devan, who asked that his last name not be used because he feared for his safety.

"Everybody started running, scrambling," he said. "People were just collapsing and friends were helping friends. It was a scary situation and then as everyone is panicking and stuff, there were more shots."

Devan shot a video posted to Instagram that showed a wounded man on the ground and a police officer standing over him and a woman saying she needs to go to the hospital "because my hand's been blown off."

On Friday, police tape surrounded the block as people came to collect their cars and other belongings. One woman in tears told reporters the father of her child had been killed. She left before giving her name.

Romond Reynolds picked up the car of his son, 24-year-old Armani Reynolds, who he said was left comatose by the shooting.

"All I know is that he's a victim and was at the wrong place at the wrong time," Reynolds said.

Neighbor Shahram Saki, 61, said in a phone interview that some fleeing partygoers hid in the bushes in his front yard and others begged to be let into his home.

"They were screaming for help. I told them, 'You gotta get out of here,'" Saki said. "I was scared to death, anything could have happened."

Dazio reported from Los Angeles. Associated Press writers Janie Har in San Francisco and Brady McCombs in Salt Lake City contributed.

Crews make progress on large Southern California wildfire

By JOHN ANTCZAK Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Authorities lifted evacuation orders for a farm community Saturday as firefighters make progress on a large wildfire in Southern California that continues to threaten about 2,500 homes and buildings.

Ventura County officials allowed an unknown number of residents in Somis to return home Saturday morning after firefighters contained 30% of the Maria Fire, which has burned nearly 15 square miles (38 square kilometers) and forced nearly 11,000 people to evacuate.

Fire activity subsided overnight. The county officials said in a 6 p.m. update that the humidity level is expected to stay low and winds will become more favorable to firefighting in Southern California.

Police in Santa Monica urged beachgoers to seek shelter indoors after lightning was reported over the city.

Crews battled to keep the flames away from orchards and farms in the rural area. Three buildings were destroyed.

The fire erupted on a hilltop northwest of Los Angeles on Thursday during what had been expected to

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be the tail end of gusty Santa Ana winds.

The cause was under investigation but there was a troubling possibility that an electrical line might have been involved — as such lines have been at other recent fires.

Southern California Edison said Friday that it re-energized a 16,000-volt power line 13 minutes before the fire erupted in the same area.

Edison and other utilities up and down the state shut off power to hundreds of thousands of people this week out of concerns that high winds could cause power lines to spark and start fires.

SCE will cooperate with investigators, the utility said.

In Northern California, more people were allowed to return to areas evacuated due to the huge Kincade Fire burning for days in the Sonoma County wine country.

The 121-square-mile (313-square-kilometer) fire was 72% contained, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection said.

The tally of destroyed homes reached 175 and there were 35 more damaged, Cal Fire said. Many other structures also burned.

Historic, dry winds prompted the state's largest utility, Pacific Gas & Electric Co., to initiate four rounds of widespread pre-emptive shut-offs in Northern California this month to prevent wildfires.

But the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District pegged the utility's equipment as the cause of three smaller fires that cropped up Oct. 27 in the San Francisco Bay Area suburbs of Martinez and Lafayette.

And while the cause of the Kincade Fire hasn't been determined, PG&E reported a problem with a transmission tower near the spot where the fire started.

This story has been corrected to report that the Maria Fire is northwest of Los Angeles, not northeast.

Biden defends his 'vision' against Warren's indirect attacks

By BILL BARROW Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Bristling at Elizabeth Warren's suggestions that he's a milquetoast moderate with small ideas, presidential candidate Joe Biden countered Saturday that he offers a "bold" vision for the country and warned that Democratic primary voters should not get distracted by the party's increasingly tense battle over ideological labels.

It was a departure from Biden's usual campaign speech and signaled perhaps a new phase of Democrats' search for a nominee to take on President Donald Trump, with Warren, the leading progressive candidate, and Biden, the top choice for most moderates and establishment liberals, ratcheting up the intensity three months ahead of the Iowa caucuses.

"The vision I have for this country, there's nothing small about it. It is like going to the moon," Biden told supporters in Des Moines, as he hit the high points of a policy slate that would increase the federal government's spending and scope on everything from health care to the climate crisis.

Without naming Warren, the former vice president said his ideas — such as a "public option" to compete alongside private health insurance, as opposed to Warren's "Medicare-for-All" plan run altogether by the government — actually set the progressive standard in 2020 for a simple reason: They're more achievable.

"I'm not promising anything crazy," Biden said. "But it's a vision — a vision of how we can get things done."

With reporters afterward, Biden zeroed in on Warren's estimated \$20 trillion price tag for the first decade of single-payer insurance. "Getting that plan through, even in a Democratic Congress," Biden predicted, "would be difficult."

Biden's latest volleys came barely 12 hours after Warren used Iowa Democrats' annual fundraising gala to draw sharp distinctions in the Democratic field, though she, like Biden, avoided naming opponents.

"Anyone who comes on this stage and tells you to dream small and give up early is not going to lead our party to victory," the Massachusetts senator told thousands of voters sporting t-shirts and waving signs as their preferred candidates took turns on center stage at a downtown Des Moines arena Friday night.

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Even if "some people in our party don't want to admit it," Warren argued, the nation is in "a time of crisis" not just because of Trump's divisiveness but more so because of an economic and political system rigged against the working class. "If the most we can promise is 'business as usual' after Donald Trump," Warren said, "then Democrats will lose."

The senator doubled-down Saturday, insisting in Vinson, Iowa, that sweeping plans are good politics and perhaps necessary to upend Trump. "We need big ideas to inspire people, to get them to turn out for the caucuses, to turn out and vote," Warren said.

Asked hours later, after an event in Dubuque, if she was suggesting candidates like Biden weren't being ambitious enough, Warren responded: "Nope. I'm just out here talking about what I'm running on."

"I'm talking about my vision for what it means to build an America going forward that doesn't just work for a thin slice at the top, but an America that works for everyone," she said.

Still, at the very least, Biden's reaction suggests frustration over Warren's apparent momentum, even as he and his aides maintain that his philosophical approach will be successful among both Democratic primary voters and the general electorate.

Biden's proposals, to be clear, put him to the left of recent Democratic nominees, including Hillary Clinton in 2016. But on most points, he falls short of the proposals on the left flank that Warren and her fellow progressive, Sen. Bernie Sanders, have set.

Rather than obliterate private insurance, Biden touts a government plan to compete alongside private firms. Rather than government covering all four-year college tuition, Biden pushes two years a taxpayer-paid tuition. On climate, he backs most long-term goals of the left's "Green New Deal," but on a longer timeline and with an initially less aggressive crackdown on the fossil fuel industry.

"It's made to look like 'Well, Biden is coming off with some moderate proposal,'" Biden said Saturday. "There's nothing moderate about making sure everyone has health care. There's nothing moderate about getting to net-zero emissions. There's nothing moderate about fundamentally changing the school system in America so we can effectively complete in the 20th century."

The difference in his proposals, Biden argued: "I tell you straight up how we're going to pay for it and how much it's going to cost and how it's going to get done."

The dynamics Biden faces were crystallized as young climate activists interrupted him and chided him for not doing enough to take on the oil and gas industry. "Let her speak," the candidate said as his supporters tried to drown out one of the activists.

Yet as the small group chanted, sang and ultimately departed, Biden grew more frustrated.

"If you'll notice, they left before I answered her question," he said. "This is what is going on that's wrong with our party right now. Everything is taken in contexts that are not accurate."

As his voice calmed, he sought again to widen his appeal.

"The way we win is we unify, we come together as Democrats," he said. "We all have basically the same hopes and dreams. The question is, practically, how we get there. But it's not a lack of vision."

Associated Press writer Will Weissert contributed to this report from Vinson and Dubuque, Iowa.

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

Nationals fans rejoice in red as hometown heroes are honored

By **CAROLE FELDMAN** and **LYNN BERRY** Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The song "Baby Shark" blared over loudspeakers and a wave of red washed across this politically blue capital Saturday as Nationals fans rejoiced at a parade marking Washington's first World Series victory since 1924.

"They say good things come to those who wait. Ninety-five years is a pretty long wait," Nationals owner Ted Lerner, who is 94, told the cheering crowd. "But I'll tell you, this is worth the wait."

As buses carrying the players and team officials wended their way along the parade route, pitcher Max

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Scherzer at one point hoisted the World Series trophy to the cheers of the crowd.

At a rally just blocks from the Capitol, Scherzer said his teammates grinded their hearts out to "stay in the fight." And then, after backup outfielder Gerardo Parra joined the team, he said, they started dancing and having fun. And they started hitting. "Never in this town have you seen a team compete with so much heart and so much fight," he said.

And then, after he spoke, the Nats danced.

Team officials, Nationals manager Dave Martinez and several players thanked the fans for their support through the best of times and staying with them even after a dismal 19-31 start to the season. "I created the circle of trust and I trusted these guys," he said.

The camaraderie among the players was a theme heard throughout the rally. "It took all 25 of us, every single day we were pulling for each other," said pitcher Stephen Strasburg, the World Series MVP.

Nationals veteran slugger Howie Kendrick, 36, said that when he came to the Nationals in 2017, "I was thinking about retiring. This city taught me to love baseball again."

Another veteran, first baseman Ryan Zimmerman, choked back tears as he recalled how he and the fans grew up together. He was 20 when he joined the Nationals during their first season, in 2005.

"I got guys that come up to me now that are 30 years old and said I've been their favorite player since they were a little kid, which is disturbing — basically like Juan," he said.

It was a reference to Juan Soto, the left fielder who turned 21 during the series.

Washington had been thirsting for a World Series championship for nearly a century. The Nationals gave them that by winning in seven games over the Houston Astros; the clincher came on the road Wednesday night.

"I just wish they could have won in DC," said Ronald Saunders of Washington, who came with a Little League team that was marching in the parade.

Nick Hashimoto of Dulles, Virginia, was among those who arrived at 5 a.m. to snag a front-row spot. He brought his own baby shark toy in honor of Parra's walk-up song, which began as a parental tribute to the musical taste of his 2-year-old daughter and ended up as a rallying cry that united fans at Nationals Park and his teammates.

As "Baby Shark, doo doo doo doo doo doo" played on a crisp morning, early risers joined in with the trademark response — arms extended in a chomping motion. Chants of "Let's go Nats!" resonated from the crowd hours before the rally.

Kimberly Ballou of Silver Spring, Maryland, said sports "is a unifier" that transcends race, gender and class and brings people together.

The crowd along the route was deeply packed. Cheers went up and fans waved red streamers, hand towels and signs that said "Fight Finished" as the players rode by on the open top of double-decker buses. General Manager Mike Rizzo, a cigar in his mouth, jumped off with the World Series trophy to show the fans lining the barricades and slap high-fives. Manager Martinez also got in on the fun.

"We know what this title means to DC, a true baseball town, from the Senators to the Grays and now the Nationals," Mayor Muriel Bowser said. "By finishing the fight you have brought a tremendous amount of joy to our town and inspired a new generation of players and Nationals fans."

Bowser added: "We are deeply proud of you and I think we should do it again next year. What do you think?" Then she started a chant of "Back to back! Back to back!"

Martinez said he liked to hear the mayor pushing for back-to-back championships and said: "I get it. I'm all in. But let me enjoy this one first. I don't know if my heart can take any more of this right now. I need to just step back and enjoy this."

Martinez, who had a heart procedure recently, said that during the Series, as things heated up, players and fans shouted at him to watch out for his heart. "All this right here has cured my heart," he said.

And as the "Baby Shark" theme played once more, team owner Lerner told the team's veterans, "From now on, you can call me 'Grandpa Shark.'"

President Donald Trump has invited the Nationals to the White House on Monday, though relief pitcher

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Sean Doolittle doesn't plan to attend.

"There's a lot of things, policies that I disagree with, but at the end of the day, it has more to do with the divisive rhetoric and the enabling of conspiracy theories and widening the divide in this country," Doolittle told The Washington Post.

Doolittle found support from Larry Stokes of Boyds, Maryland, citing Trump's stand on immigrants. "They're playing this game, but he doesn't like immigrants," Stokes said.

But to fan Bridget Chapin, who came from Burke, Virginia, with her husband, Mark, "Regardless of how you feel, you go to the Oval Office. I'm really weary of athletes making political statements. I watch sports to get away from all that."

The president attended Game 5 in Washington and was greeted with loud boos when he was shown on the giant video screen during a tribute to veterans. The boos more than overwhelmed a scattering of cheers.

Delores Smith of Washington, a longtime baseball fan who said she had an uncle who pitched in the Negro Leagues, said the World Series was "a big win" for the city. "This is the first time in a long time that I've seen the whole city come together. There's no fussing about Trump."

Even with the threat of stars leaving for free agency — as outfielder Bryce Harper did after 2018 — fans hoped the Nationals' success would continue.

"I don't think it's going to be our last time. This team, even when our last superstar left, this team rallied around, they played as a team," Larry Stokes said.

Fans — and shortstop Trea Turner — urged the Nationals to re-sign third baseman Anthony Rendon, who was greeted with chants of MVP.

Iran student leader says he regrets 1979 US Embassy attack

By **NASSER KARIMI** and **MOHAMMAD NASIRI** Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — His revolutionary fervor diminished by the years that have also turned his dark brown hair white, one of the Iranian student leaders of the 1979 U.S. Embassy takeover says he now regrets the seizure of the diplomatic compound and the 444-day hostage crisis that followed.

Speaking to The Associated Press ahead of Monday's 40th anniversary of the attack, Ebrahim Asgharzadeh acknowledged that the repercussions of the crisis still reverberate as tensions remain high between the U.S. and Iran over Tehran's collapsing nuclear deal with world powers.

Asgharzadeh cautioned others against following in his footsteps, despite the takeover becoming enshrined in hard-line mythology. He also disputed a revisionist history now being offered by supporters of Iran's Revolutionary Guard that they directed the attack, insisting all the blame rested with the Islamist students who let the crisis spin out of control.

"Like Jesus Christ, I bear all the sins on my shoulders," Asgharzadeh said.

At the time, what led to the 1979 takeover remained obscure to Americans who for months could only watch in horror as TV newscasts showed Iranian protests at the embassy. Popular anger against the U.S. was rooted in the 1953 CIA-engineered coup that toppled Iran's elected prime minister and cemented the power of Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi.

The shah, dying from cancer, fled Iran in February 1979, paving the way for its Islamic Revolution. But for months, Iran faced widespread unrest ranging from separatist attacks, worker revolts and internal power struggles. Police reported for work but not for duty, allowing chaos like Marxist students briefly seizing the U.S. Embassy.

In this power vacuum, then-President Jimmy Carter allowed the shah to seek medical treatment in New York. That lit the fuse for the Nov. 4, 1979, takeover, though at first the Islamist students argued over which embassy to seize. A student leader named Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who later became president in 2005, argued they should seize the Soviet Embassy compound in Tehran as leftists had caused political chaos.

But the students settled on the U.S. Embassy, hoping to pressure Carter to send the shah back to Iran to stand trial on corruption charges. Asgharzadeh, then a 23-year-old engineering student, remembers

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friends going to Tehran's Grand Bazaar to buy a bolt cutter, a popular tool used by criminals, and the salesman saying: "You do not look like thieves! You certainly want to open up the U.S. Embassy door with it!"

"The society was ready for it to happen. Everything happened so fast," Asgharzadeh said. "We cut off the chains on the embassy's gate. Some of us climbed up the walls and we occupied the embassy compound very fast."

Like other former students, Asgharzadeh said the plan had been simply to stage a sit-in. But the situation soon spun out of their control. Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the long-exiled Shiite cleric whose return to Iran sparked the revolution, gave his support to the takeover. He would use that popular angle to expand the Islamists' power.

"We, the students, take responsibility for the first 48 hours of the takeover," Asgharzadeh said. "Later, it was out of our hands since the late Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini and the establishment supported it."

He added: "Our plan was one of students, unprofessional and temporary."

As time went on, it slowly dawned on the naive students that Americans wouldn't join their revolution. While a rescue attempt by the U.S. military would fail and Carter would lose to Ronald Reagan amid the crisis, the U.S. as a whole expressed worry about the hostages by displaying yellow ribbons and counting the days of their captivity.

As the months passed, things only got worse. Asgharzadeh said he thought it would end once the shah left America or later with his death in Egypt in July 1980. It didn't.

"A few months after the takeover, it appeared to be turning into a rotten fruit hanging down from a tree and no one had the courage to take it down and resolve the matter," he said. "There was a lot of public opinion support behind the move in the society. The society felt it had slapped America, a superpower, on the mouth and people believed that the takeover proved to America that their democratic revolution had been stabilized."

It hadn't, though. The eight-year Iran-Iraq War would break out during the crisis. The hostage crisis and later the war boosted the position of hard-liners who sought strict implementation of their version of Islamic beliefs.

Seizing or attacking diplomatic posts remains a tactic of Iranian hard-liners to this day. A mob stormed the British Embassy in Tehran in 2011, while another attacked diplomatic posts of Saudi Arabia in 2016, which led to diplomatic ties being cut between Tehran and Riyadh. And Iran will commemorate the 40th anniversary of U.S. Embassy takeover on Monday by staging a rally in front of the Tehran compound where it was located.

However, Asgharzadeh denied that Iran's then-nascent Revolutionary Guard directed the U.S. Embassy takeover, although he said it was informed before the attack over fears that security forces would storm the compound and retake it. Many at the time believed the shah would launch a coup, like in 1953, to regain power.

"In a very limited way, we informed one of the Guard's units and they accepted to protect the embassy from outside," Asgharzadeh said. "The claim (by hard-liners) on the Guard's role lacks credit. I am the main narrator of the incident and I am still alive."

In the years since, Asgharzadeh has become a reformist politician and served prison time for his views. He has argued that Iran should work toward improving ties with the U.S., a difficult task amid President Donald Trump's maximalist campaign against Tehran.

"It is too difficult to say when the relations between Tehran and Washington can be restored," Asgharzadeh said. "I do not see any prospect."

Associated Press writer Jon Gambrell in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, contributed.

Is the anti-Trump suburban revolt escalating? Watch Virginia
By STEVE PEOPLES and ALAN SUDERMAN Associated Press

Groton Daily Independent

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RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Republican state Sen. Siobhan Dunnivant wanted to avoid talking about President Donald Trump as she courted voters this week on Ridgefield Green Way just outside Virginia's capital city. The middle-aged man at one door didn't want to talk about anything else.

"I've only got one question. Do you support Trump?" he asked.

"Yes," Dunnivant replied.

"Then you've got my vote," he said.

On the sidewalk a few minutes later, Dunnivant actively distanced herself from the Republican president, acknowledging he is deeply unpopular in her district — despite the doorway encounter. The 55-year-old OB-GYN said she'd prefer that Trump stay out of Virginia ahead of Tuesday's high-stakes elections.

"I don't want to have Washington, D.C., replicated in Virginia," she told The Associated Press. "I'm running a campaign on state issues and getting state things done."

Dunnivant's dance speaks to the dire threat Trump has created for Republicans in Virginia and, more broadly, suburbs across America. This is where higher-educated and more affluent voters — particularly women — have revolted against Trump's GOP. These areas leaned Republican in the past, but amid shifting demographics and Trump's turbulent presidency, they have transformed into the nation's premier political battleground.

Nearly three years into Trump's administration, Virginia's leftward shift appears to be rapidly accelerating. Since the beginning of 2017, Democrats have won every statewide contest, made historic gains in the House of Delegates and picked up three additional congressional seats. And on Tuesday, Democrats are just a handful of new seats away from seizing control of both chambers of the Virginia legislature for the first time in more than two decades.

Voters across several other states also head to the polls Tuesday, including Mississippi and Kentucky, whose high-profile gubernatorial races have attracted Trump's direct involvement.

But more than anywhere, Virginia's lower-profile state legislative elections will test the magnitude of the GOP's suburban slide. Democratic victories could reshape the national political landscape in 2020 — and, perhaps more broadly, politics across the South for decades.

Like Virginia, suburban North Carolina, Georgia and Texas have seen explosive growth and demographic shifts in recent years that have given Democrats real momentum, even if they have yet to break through.

"We are a model for the South," said former Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe, who has served as a chief surrogate in the state's legislative elections.

Vice President Mike Pence will rally voters in Virginia Beach on Saturday. But Trump, who is his party's most powerful political weapon, has been noticeably absent. Instead, the president dedicated time over the weekend to campaign in deep-red Mississippi and Kentucky.

Virginia Republican Corey Stewart, an unapologetic Trump loyalist who was beaten badly in last year's U.S. Senate race, suggested Trump would help his party by rallying the base in Virginia in what is expected to be a relatively low-turnout election. Still, he feared that the elections could be "a complete rout" for Republicans.

"Things are so bad right now in Virginia for a Republican like me," Stewart said. "Things are moving in the wrong direction in the suburbs."

Trump campaign spokesman Tim Murtaugh had only this to say about the president's decision to bypass Virginia: "President Trump is focused on the places where he can have the greatest impact in 2019, and those are in states having governor's races."

Trump may be a major factor in Virginia's off-year elections, but he was often a silent factor on the ground as suburban candidates scrambled across House and Senate districts knocking on doors to ensure their supporters' vote on Tuesday.

Like many suburban neighborhoods across the nation, the voters here in Richmond's suburbs tend to have more education and more money than those in rural areas. It's located in Henrico County, where more than 42% of residents hold a college degree and the median household income is \$66,447.

They have also trended younger and more racially diverse in recent years. Nearly 30% of Henrico's

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population is African American and 8% is Asian, reflecting the changes in population growth since 2000 that have accompanied the county's leftward shift in recent elections.

The voters here are aware of national politics, but interviews on the ground this week suggest many are more invested in local issues that affect their families. On the doorstep, voters are more likely to raise concerns about education, health care and, perhaps above all, gun violence.

Still, one district voter, Elyse Ward, a 31-year-old marketing and technology manager who's expecting her first child later this month, said "it goes without saying" that Trump is on her mind as she weighs next week's election.

"I'm ready for him to go," Ward said.

Four years ago, the Republican Dunnavant won this Senate district by almost 20 points. This year, she's facing a fierce challenge from Debra Rodman, a college professor who said in an interview this week that Democrats in Virginia's legislature represent a "firewall against the craziness in Washington."

"With Donald Trump in the White House, it's never been more important to vote in state election," says one of her campaign flyers.

Yet Rodman has difficult questions to answer about her political party as well.

Republicans in recent days have seized on Washington Democrats' push to impeach the president, hoping to cast Virginia's local elections as a referendum on impeachment.

"Stop the impeachment witch hunt," one GOP mailer says, with pictures of former presidential nominee Hillary Clinton, U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and House Intelligence Committee Chairman Rep. Adam Schiff all wearing witch hats.

Rodman was reluctant to talk impeachment, but she took a firm position when pressed.

"Yeah, I do think he needs to be impeached," Rodman said with a sigh. "This is what our democracy is about, is having somebody who's going to represent the people, and right now I think we're in really tough times."

She also distanced herself from some national Democrats' call to adopt a government-backed "Medicare for All" health care system and sidestepped questions about banning assault weapons. On health care, she favors a so-called public option that would give Americans the choice to keep their private insurance. And on guns, she said her immediate focus was "low-hanging fruit" like universal background checks and "red flag" laws.

Dunnavant has sided with the Republican majority in the State House to block Democrats' push for such gun control measures. She opposes universal background checks, saying she doesn't have enough information to know if they would be effective.

"I would not say I'm an expert. I think I want input from subject matter experts to see how that's going to work," she said.

While some suburban moms may want more, the position is popular with the shrinking number of Trump loyalists in Dunnavant's suburban district.

Back on Ridgefield Green Way, 65-year-old conservative Richard Delafosse said one thing above all is important to him this election season: "Keeping America great."

Associated Press writer Josh Boak in Washington contributed to this report.

UAW president taking leave amid corruption probe

DETROIT (AP) — The United Auto Workers announced Saturday that President Gary Jones is taking a paid leave of absence amid a federal investigation of corruption within the union.

The UAW said Jones requested the leave, which is effective Sunday. UAW Vice President Rory Gamble will serve as acting president.

"The UAW is fighting tooth and nail to ensure our members have a brighter future. I do not want anything to distract from the mission," Jones said in a statement.

The union is in the middle of negotiating new four-year contracts with Detroit automakers.

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UAW-represented workers at General Motors Co. recently approved a new contract after a 40-day strike. Union members are scheduled to begin voting Monday on a proposed contract with Ford Motor Co., which Gamble helped negotiate. If Ford workers ratify the agreement, the UAW will begin bargaining with Fiat Chrysler.

The FBI has been investigating fraud and misuse of funds at the UAW for more than two years. Ten people have been convicted so far, including union leaders and auto company officials.

Jones has not been charged, but federal agents searched his suburban Detroit home in August in connection with the investigation.

In a recent court filing, federal prosecutors alleged that seven top UAW officials had conspired since 2010 to embezzle funds through schemes such as submitting false vouchers for conference expenses.

The Detroit News, citing sources familiar with the investigation, said Jones is one of the unnamed union leaders.

Au revoir to daylight saving time, but not a goodbye

WASHINGTON (AP) — Au revoir to daylight saving time, but not goodbye.

At 2 a.m. local time Sunday, standard time returns across most of the United States, accompanied by the welcome one-night extra hour of sleep.

With the time shift, it'll be lighter earlier in the morning and darker earlier in the evening.

Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and most of Arizona don't observe daylight saving time. No need to change clocks in those places.

Daylight saving time returns at 2 a.m. local time on Sunday, March 8.

According to a poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research, 7 in 10 Americans prefer not to switch back-and-forth, but there's no agreement on which time clocks ought to follow.

Online:

Time change rules: <http://tinyurl.com/j9t8ybe>

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Sunday, Nov. 3, the 307th day of 2019. There are 58 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 3, 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson soundly defeated Republican Barry Goldwater to win a White House term in his own right.

On this date:

In 1839, the first Opium War between China and Britain broke out.

In 1911, the Chevrolet Motor Car Co. was founded in Detroit by Louis Chevrolet and William C. Durant. (The company was acquired by General Motors in 1918.)

In 1936, President Franklin D. Roosevelt won a landslide election victory over Republican challenger Alfred "Alf" Landon.

In 1957, the Soviet Union launched Sputnik 2, the second manmade satellite, into orbit; on board was a dog named Laika (LY'-kah), who was sacrificed in the experiment.

In 1970, Salvador Allende (ah-YEN'-day) was inaugurated as president of Chile.

In 1979, five Communist Workers Party members were killed in a clash with heavily armed Ku Klux Klansmen and neo-Nazis during an anti-Klan protest in Greensboro, North Carolina.

In 1986, the Iran-Contra affair came to light as Ash-Shiraa, a pro-Syrian Lebanese magazine, first broke the story of U.S. arms sales to Iran.

In 1992, Democrat Bill Clinton was elected the 42nd president of the United States, defeating President

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George H.W. Bush. In Illinois, Democrat Carol Moseley-Braun became the first black woman elected to the U.S. Senate.

In 1994, Susan Smith of Union, South Carolina, was arrested for drowning her two young sons, Michael and Alex, nine days after claiming the children had been abducted by a black carjacker.

In 1995, President Bill Clinton dedicated a memorial at Arlington National Cemetery to the 270 victims of the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103.

In 1997, the Supreme Court let stand California's groundbreaking Proposition 209, which banned race and gender preference in hiring and school admissions.

In 2017, Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, who walked away from his post in Afghanistan and triggered a search that left some of his comrades severely wounded, was spared a prison sentence by a military judge in North Carolina; President Donald Trump blasted the decision as a "complete and total disgrace."

Ten years ago: In the 2009 elections, Chris Christie, a Republican former U.S. attorney, unseated New Jersey Democratic Gov. Jon Corzine while in Virginia, Republican Bob McDonnell beat Democrat R. Creigh Deeds. German Chancellor Angela Merkel (AHN²-geh-lah MEHR'-kuhl) marked the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall with a speech to the U.S. Congress by exhorting the world to "tear down the walls of today" and reach a deal to combat global warming. Actor-comedian Carl Ballantine ("McHale's Navy") died in Los Angeles at age 92.

Five years ago: Thirteen years after the 9/11 terrorist attack, the resurrected World Trade Center opened for business, marking an emotional milestone for both New Yorkers and the nation. Tom Magliozzi, 77, one half of the brother duo who had hosted National Public Radio's "Car Talk," died near Boston.

One year ago: Top-ranked Alabama remained unbeaten with a 29-0 victory over No. 4 LSU. Accelerate took the lead at the top of the stretch and held off Gunnevera to win the \$6 million Breeders' Cup Classic at Churchill Downs in Kentucky.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Lois Smith is 89. Actress Monica Vitti is 88. Former Massachusetts Gov. Michael S. Dukakis is 86. Actor Shadroe Stevens is 73. Singer Lulu is 71. "Vogue" editor-in-chief Anna Wintour is 70. Comedian-actress Roseanne Barr is 67. Actress Kate Capshaw is 66. Comedian Dennis Miller is 66. Actress Kathy Kinney is 66. Singer Adam Ant is 65. Sports commentator and former quarterback Phil Simms is 64. Director-screenwriter Gary Ross is 63. Actor Dolph Lundgren is 62. Rock musician C.J. Pierce (Drowning Pool) is 47. Actor Francois Battiste (TV: "Ten Days in the Valley") is 43. Olympic gold medal figure skater Evgeni Plushenko is 37. Actress Julie Berman is 36. Actress Antonia Thomas (TV: "The Good Doctor") is 33. Alternative rock singer/songwriter Courtney Barnett is 32. TV personality Kendall Jenner (TV: "Keeping Up with the Kardashians") is 24.

Thought for Today: "Love is never merely an amiable tolerance of whatever form human frailty and folly may take." — Josiah Royce, American philosopher (1855-1916).

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