

# Groton Daily Independent

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## Bullying and Suicide Seminar Tonight

There will be a seminar on "Bullying and Suicide" on Nov. 6th at Emmanuel Lutheran Church. This is the third seminar that the Groton Churches are having. There is no charge, but a free will offering will be taken. The light supper will begin at 5:45pm and the Seminar begins at 6:30pm.

The following are the guest speakers tonight:

**Ms. Ashley Seeklander.** K-12 School Counselor, Groton Area Schools. She has been a school counselor for 11 years and has been the school counselor with Groton Area for 7 years. In 2018, she was named the SD School Counselor of the Year. She will be sharing some educational information on bullying.

**Brian Machtemes** grew up in Faulkton and was raised by a single mom along with his two siblings. He attended college in Grand Forks, ND majoring in aeronautical engineering. After joining the ND Army National Guard, he switched college to the the University of Minnesota, Crookston and graduated with degrees in Aviation Business management and Agronomy. This is where he met his loving wife, Melissa, who had a 18 month old child named Ben. Melissa was a single mom going to school for nursing.

They moved to Huron in 1997 for employment and in 1999, he adopted Ben. They have been married for 20 years and had two other boys Gavin and Isaac. Both Ben and Gavin are in college with one at SDSU and the younger at USD.

He has been asked to share his experience with teen suicide and the loss of a child. They lost their youngest son, Isaac a year ago to this. He will also share some of the struggles teens face in their journey, some of the factors that led to a bad decision, and the grief this can cause to so many.

**Pastor Lorah Houser Jankord**, Tulare United Church.

## **OPEN:** Recycling Trailer in Groton

The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.

## Tigers shake off stubborn Sisseton team

Groton Area's volleyball team had to overcome a stubborn Sisseton team in the first round of the Region 1A volleyball playoffs. The Tigers won, 3-0, but had to battle from behind in the first two matches to get the job done.

The match was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by the Aberdeen Chrysler Center, BaseKamp Lodge, Bierman Farm Service, Bk Custom T's 'n More, Blocker Construction, Dakota Risk Management, Tyson DeHoet Trucking, Groton American Legion Post #39, Jark Real Estate, Lori's Pharmacy, Milbrandt Enterprises Inc., Mike-N-Jo's Body-N-Glass, Northeast Chiropractic Clinic, S & S Lumber and Hardware Hank, and Webster Landscaping.

The first game was tied three times in the early going before Sisseton doubled up on Groton Area, 12-6. The Tigers called time out. The Redmen scored another point to take a 13-6 lead and held a five point lead at 15-10. Groton Area rallied to tie the game at 21 and 22 before taking a 23-22 lead. Sisseton tied the game at 23 and again at 14. Groton Area would score the last two points for the 26-24 win. Nicole Marzahn had six kills while Indigo Rogers had three and Eliza Wanner, Kaylin Kucker, Madeline Fliehs and Kenzie McInerney each had one kill. Wanner also had an ace serve. Taryn Yammerino led the Redmen with four kills and two ace serves while Lexus Redthunder had two kills and a block, Kierra Silk had two kills and Avery Despiegler had one kill.

The second game was tied at two and three and then the Redmen scored eight straight points to take a 15-5 lead. Groton Area would slowly come back and would tie the game at 19 and took a 20-19 lead after scoring seven straight points. The game was tied at 20 and the Tigers would score the last three points of the game for the 25-21 win. Marzahn, Wanner and Rogers each had three kills and Tady Glover had an ace serve and Marzahn had one block.

By the third game, it appeared at Groton Area had warmed up and went on to dominate the third and final set, winning 25-10. Marzahn had seven kills and an ace serve while Fliehs had three kills, McInerney, Rogers and Wanner each had a kill and Wanner, Glover and Marzahn each had an ace serve.

Marzahn had 16 kills, two ace serves and a block. Rogers had seven kills. Wanner had five kills, an ace serve and 17 digs. Glover had 23 digs, two ace serves and an assist. Fliehs had four kills, McInerney had two kills and Kucker had 31 assists and a kill.

Redthunder led the Redmen with eight kills and four blocks and Yammerino had five kills, three ace serves and two blocks.

Groton Area will host Milbank on Thursday at 7 p.m. for the next round of the playoffs. Milbank came from being down 2-0 to win the final three sets for the 3-2 win over Webster Area.

In the other match played in Groton, Redfield defeated Tiospa Zina 3-0. Game scores were 25-17, 25-17 and 15-12. Kailee Clausen led the Pheasants with 10 kills and an ace serve, Hannah Kuehn had seven kills and three ace serves, Georgia Kuehn had five kills, three ace serves and a block and Courtney Turck had seven kills and an ace serve. Amelia Garman led the Wambdi with nine kills.

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**2019 BASEBALL REPORT**

| EXPENSES:                         | Totals       | General      | Legion      | Jr. Legion  | Jr. Teeners | U12 Boys    | U10/U8 Boys | T-Ball    | Girls SB (4) |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|--------------|
| Coaching Salaries                 | \$ 14,700.00 |              | \$ 5,000.00 | \$ 2,000.00 | \$ 2,000.00 | \$ 1,250.00 | \$ 1,250.00 |           | \$ 3,200.00  |
| Baseball Coordinator Salary       | \$ 3,000.00  | \$ 3,000.00  |             |             |             |             |             |           |              |
| Softball Coordinator Salary       | \$ 1,000.00  | \$ 1,000.00  |             |             |             |             |             |           |              |
| Groundskeeper Salaries            | \$ 19,625.87 | \$ 19,625.87 |             |             |             |             |             |           |              |
| Gatekeeper Salaries               | \$ 762.15    | \$ 762.15    |             |             |             |             |             |           |              |
| Concession Salaries               | \$ 7,937.40  | \$ 7,937.40  |             |             |             |             |             |           |              |
| Social Security                   | \$ 4,279.64  | \$ 2,472.90  | \$ 382.50   | \$ 153.00   | \$ 153.00   | \$ 95.63    | \$ 777.81   |           | \$ 244.80    |
| Umpiring                          | \$ 7,280.00  |              | \$ 1,560.00 | \$ 1,600.00 | \$ 940.00   | \$ 800.00   | \$ 835.00   |           | \$ 1,545.00  |
| Tournament Expenses               | \$ 3,162.80  |              | \$ 225.00   | \$ 1,008.00 | \$ 880.00   | \$ 624.94   | \$ 424.86   |           |              |
| Mileage                           | \$ 5,133.86  |              | \$ 820.69   | \$ 535.00   | \$ 3,024.88 |             |             |           | \$ 753.29    |
| Garbage Hauling                   | \$ 80.00     | \$ 80.00     |             |             |             |             |             |           |              |
| Misc Field Expenses               | \$ 8,444.19  | \$ 8,444.19  |             |             |             |             |             |           |              |
| Supplies                          | \$ 3,849.11  |              | \$ 717.08   | 626.54      | \$ 541.54   | \$ 281.54   | \$ 561.54   | \$ 686.44 | \$ 434.43    |
| Minor Equipment                   | \$ 1,774.89  |              | \$ 365.24   | 147.74      | \$ 293.34   | \$ 236.29   | \$ 28.70    |           | \$ 703.58    |
| Concession Supplies               | \$ 114.94    | \$ 114.94    |             |             |             |             |             |           |              |
| Concession Merchandise for Resale | \$ 16,928.78 | \$ 16,928.78 |             |             |             |             |             |           |              |
| Concession Freezer                | \$ 189.00    | \$ 189.00    |             |             |             |             |             |           |              |
| Split Gate Fee w/ Foundation      | \$ 11,437.57 | \$ 11,437.57 |             |             |             |             |             |           |              |

|                             |                      |                     |                     |                     |                     |                    |                     |                    |                     |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Total Expenses</b>       | <b>\$ 98,262.63</b>  | <b>\$ 71,992.80</b> | <b>\$ 9,070.51</b>  | <b>\$ 6,070.28</b>  | <b>\$ 7,832.76</b>  | <b>\$ 3,288.40</b> | <b>\$ 3,877.91</b>  | <b>\$ 686.44</b>   | <b>\$ 6,881.10</b>  |
|                             | General Divided      | By 11 Teams         | \$ 6,544.80         | \$ 6,544.80         | \$ 6,544.80         | \$ 6,544.80        | \$ 13,089.60        | \$ 6,544.80        | \$ 26,179.20        |
| <b>Grand Total Expenses</b> | <b>\$ 109,700.20</b> |                     | <b>\$ 15,615.31</b> | <b>\$ 12,615.08</b> | <b>\$ 14,377.56</b> | <b>\$ 9,833.20</b> | <b>\$ 16,967.51</b> | <b>\$ 7,231.24</b> | <b>\$ 33,060.30</b> |

| REVENUES:                    | Totals       | General      | Legion      | Jr. Legion  | Jr. Teeners | U12 Boys  | U10/U8 Boys | T-Ball    | Girls SB (4) |
|------------------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|--------------|
| Gate Fees                    | \$ 22,875.14 | \$ 22,875.14 |             |             |             |           |             |           |              |
| Fees to Play                 | \$ 8,450.73  |              | \$ 1,126.73 | \$ 1,267.58 | \$ 1,267.60 | \$ 704.23 | \$ 2,253.54 | \$ 366.24 | \$ 1,464.81  |
| Tournament Fees              | \$ 2,060.18  |              |             | \$ 393.52   |             | \$ 185.18 | \$ 1,481.48 |           |              |
| Donations                    | \$ 499.90    |              |             | \$ 175.00   |             |           |             | \$ 324.90 |              |
| CD Interest                  | \$ 22.50     | \$ 22.50     |             |             |             |           |             |           |              |
| Fence Advertising            | \$ 8,200.00  | \$ 8,200.00  |             |             |             |           |             |           |              |
| Concession Stand Receipts    | \$ 28,503.58 | \$ 28,503.58 |             |             |             |           |             |           |              |
| Pop Commission               | \$ 2,676.50  | \$ 2,676.50  |             |             |             |           |             |           |              |
| Sales of Hats, Shirts, Belts | \$ 2,005.17  |              | \$ 150.22   | 326.28      | \$ 262.91   | \$ 180.28 | \$ 550.24   | \$ 272.34 | \$ 262.90    |

|                             |                     |                     |                    |                    |                    |                    |                     |                    |                     |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Total Revenues</b>       | <b>\$ 75,293.70</b> | <b>\$ 62,277.72</b> | <b>\$ 1,276.95</b> | <b>\$ 2,162.38</b> | <b>\$ 1,530.51</b> | <b>\$ 1,069.69</b> | <b>\$ 4,285.26</b>  | <b>\$ 963.48</b>   | <b>\$ 1,727.71</b>  |
|                             | General Divided     | By 11 Teams         | \$ 5,661.61        | \$ 5,661.61        | \$ 5,661.61        | \$ 5,661.61        | \$ 11,323.22        | \$ 5,661.61        | \$ 22,646.44        |
| <b>Grand Total Revenues</b> | <b>\$ 75,293.70</b> |                     | <b>\$ 6,938.56</b> | <b>\$ 7,823.99</b> | <b>\$ 7,192.12</b> | <b>\$ 6,731.30</b> | <b>\$ 15,608.48</b> | <b>\$ 6,625.09</b> | <b>\$ 24,374.15</b> |

|                                    |                       |  |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                   |                     |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|--|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| <b>UN RECOUPED EXPENSES</b>        | <b>\$ (34,406.50)</b> |  | <b>\$(8,676.75)</b> | <b>\$(4,791.09)</b> | <b>\$(7,185.44)</b> | <b>\$(3,101.90)</b> | <b>\$(1,359.03)</b> | <b>\$(606.15)</b> | <b>\$(8,686.15)</b> |
| Less Expected Legion Reimbursement | \$ 8,676.75           |  |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                   |                     |
| <b>2019 Loss</b>                   | <b>\$ (25,729.75)</b> |  |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                   |                     |

|                          | <u>Additional Expenses</u>      | <u>Additional Revenue</u> | <u>Concession Stand</u>      |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
|                          |                                 |                           | Receipts \$ 28,503.58        |
|                          | Polycap Reimb \$ 955.00         | Fence \$ 2,442.82         | Pop Commission \$ 2,676.50   |
| 2018 Loss \$ (33,859.88) | Sound System \$ 7,423.19        | Polycap \$ 955.00         | Salary+SS/WH \$ (8,544.61)   |
| 2017 Loss \$ (21,152.16) | Foundation Donation \$ 2,576.81 |                           | Resale Items \$ (16,928.78)  |
| 2016 Loss \$ (21,514.17) | Fence \$ 2,442.82               |                           | Supplies/Freezer \$ (303.94) |
|                          |                                 |                           | <b>\$ 5,402.75</b>           |

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| Groton Swimming Pool            | 2017                  | 2018                  | 2019                  |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Operating Revenues:</b>      |                       |                       |                       |
| Admission                       | \$ 29,287.46          | \$ 28,142.68          | \$ 30,187.13          |
| Concessions                     | \$ 1,541.62           | \$ 1,634.90           | \$ 2,288.85           |
| Pop Commission                  |                       | \$ 82.45              | \$ 179.24             |
| Donations                       | \$ 50.00              | \$ 889.02             | \$ 3,500.19           |
| Sign Sales                      | \$ 7,500.00           | \$ 7,500.00           | \$ 2,500.00           |
| <i>Total Revenues</i>           | \$ 38,379.08          | \$ 38,249.05          | \$ 38,655.41          |
| <b>Operating Expenses:</b>      |                       |                       |                       |
| Salaries                        | \$ 67,261.14          | \$ 64,067.24          | \$ 64,080.63          |
| Soc Sec                         | \$ 5,090.79           | \$ 4,779.67           | \$ 4,113.37           |
| Retirement                      | \$ 346.32             | \$ 592.33             | \$ 255.79             |
| Pool Shelter                    |                       | \$ 22,195.79          |                       |
| Water Testing Fees              | \$ 165.00             |                       | \$ 219.00             |
| Publishing                      | \$ 3.00               |                       | \$ 10.00              |
| Repairs                         | \$ 6,505.33           |                       | \$ 502.97             |
| Swimming Lesson Refund          |                       | \$ 20.00              |                       |
| Supplies                        | \$ 14,829.81          | \$ 14,562.72          | \$ 17,951.90          |
| Concessions For Resale          | \$ 546.94             | \$ 1,114.82           | \$ 1,672.36           |
| Training                        | \$ 1,507.60           | \$ 1,440.00           | \$ 3,386.00           |
| Natural Gas                     | \$ 4,326.20           | \$ 3,108.87           | \$ 2,436.82           |
| Garbage Hauling                 | \$ 160.00             | \$ 160.00             | \$ 54.60              |
| Telephone                       | \$ 218.81             | \$ 221.39             | \$ 195.76             |
| Minor Equipment                 | \$ 3,700.60           |                       | \$ 3,513.43           |
| Postage                         |                       | \$ 4.89               | \$ 49.51              |
| Other Expenses                  | \$ 75.00              |                       |                       |
| <i>Total Expenses</i>           | \$ 104,736.54         | \$ 112,267.72         | \$ 98,442.14          |
| <b>Net Loss from Operations</b> | <b>\$ (66,357.46)</b> | <b>\$ (74,018.67)</b> | <b>\$ (59,786.73)</b> |

## Highway 37 Temporary Closed at North Dakota Border

HECLA, S.D. – The South Dakota Department of Transportation, in cooperation with the North Dakota Department of Transportation, has closed Highway 37 at the ND/SD border due to water and ice on the roadway making safe travel impossible.

Officials anticipate the closure to last two-three weeks until the James River recedes.

Motorists are advised to never drive around barricades and to plan an alternate route before traveling.

## Conde National League

**Nov. 4 Team Standings:** Mets 25, Pirates 21½, Cubs 17, Braves 16½, Giants 16, Tigers 12.

**Men's High Games:** John Lowery 200; Lance Frohling 190, 179; Larry Frohling 179.

**Men's High Series:** Lance Frohling 538, Ryan Frohling 498, Larry Frohling 486.

**Women's High Games:** Mary Larson 168, Sandy Hoops 166, Michelle Johnson 163.

**Women's High Series:** Mary Larson 466, Vickie Kramp 431, Michelle Johnson 413.

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## 2019 NEC All-Conference Football Team

Webster Area: \*\*NEC Conference Champions 5-0

|                 |     |
|-----------------|-----|
| Coby Reetz      | Sr. |
| Sterling Rausch | Sr. |
| Carter Fawcett  | Sr. |
| Braden Holland  | Sr. |
| Austin Moen     | Sr. |
| Colby Torrence  | Jr. |

Mobridge/Pollock: 4-1

|                 |     |
|-----------------|-----|
| Reese Cerney    | Sr. |
| Caden Halsey    | Sr. |
| Kregen Norder   | Sr. |
| Braden Goehring | Jr. |
| Trace Cerney    | Jr. |

Sisseton: 3-2

|                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| Anthony Tchida    | Jr. |
| Elijah Kowalzek   | Jr. |
| Mathew Moen       | Sr. |
| Carter Schaunaman | Jr. |

Groton Area: 2-3

|                 |       |
|-----------------|-------|
| Jonathan Doeden | Sr.   |
| Alex Morris     | Jr.   |
| Kaden Kurtz     | Soph. |

Redfield: 1-4

|                |     |
|----------------|-----|
| Max Baloun     | Sr. |
| Gannon Pudwill | Sr. |

Aberdeen Roncalli: 0-5

|               |     |
|---------------|-----|
| Jared Pearson | Sr. |
|---------------|-----|

### Honorable Mention:

|                  |                  |     |
|------------------|------------------|-----|
| Kaden Lesnar     | Webster          | Sr. |
| Jared Schlotte   | Webster          | Sr. |
| Bryston Goehring | Mobridge/Pollock | Jr. |
| Hudson Filler    | Mobridge/Pollock | Jr. |
| Ty Peterson      | Sisseton         | Sr. |
| Dusty Neilan     | Sisseton         | Sr. |
| Brody DeHoet     | Groton Area      | Sr. |
| Thomas Cranford  | Groton Area      | Sr. |
| Jacob O'Keefe    | Ab. Roncalli     | Sr. |
| Antony Martinez  | Ab. Roncalli     | Sr. |
| Dylan Whitley    | Redfield         | Jr. |
| Brady Robbins    | Redfield         | Jr. |

## 2019 NEC Standings

\*Webster NEC Champs 5-0

\*Mobridge/Pollock 4-1

\*Sisseton 3-2

\*Groton Area 2-3

\*Redfield 1-4

\*Ab. Roncalli 0-5

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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



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Today

Tonight

Thursday

Thursday  
Night

Friday



70%

Snow Likely  
and Blustery  
then Sunny



Mostly Clear



Sunny



Increasing  
Clouds



Mostly Sunny

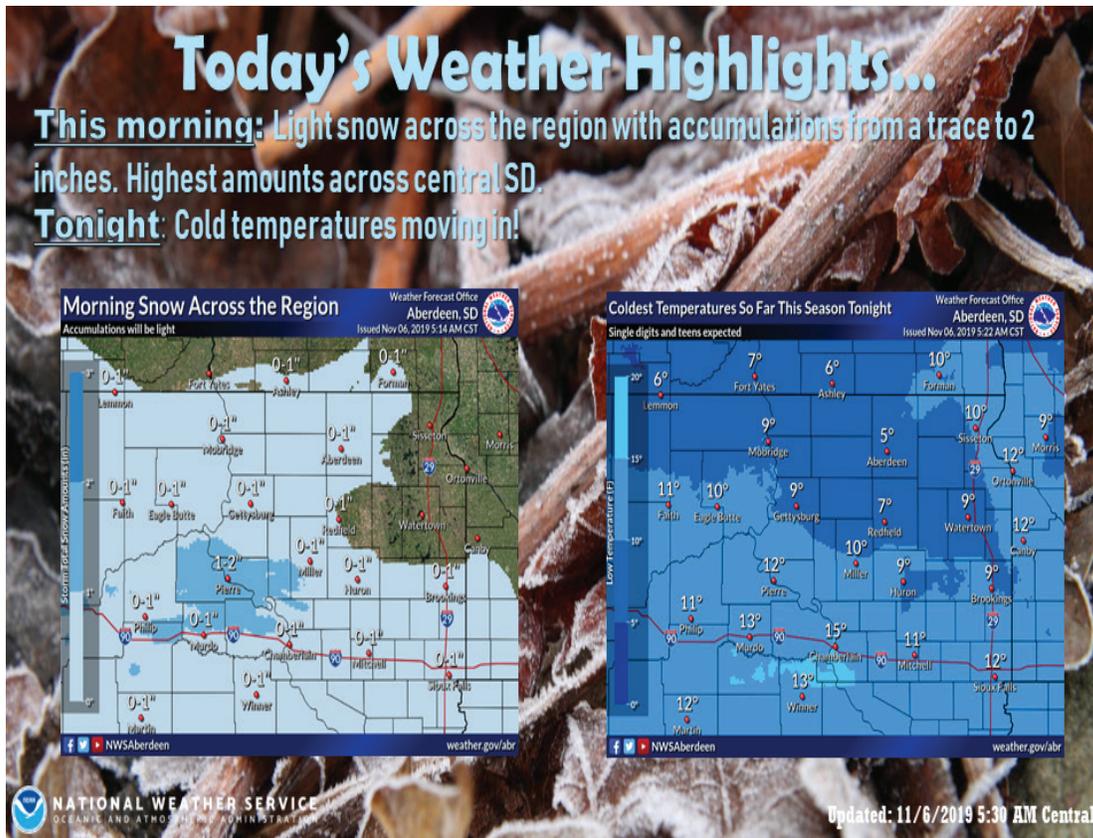
High: 24 °F

Low: 6 °F

High: 30 °F

Low: 17 °F

High: 43 °F



Published on: 11/06/2019 at 12:33AM

Light snow can be expected across the region this morning, but amounts will remain on the light side, with most areas seeing an inch or less. Breezy north winds today will usher in colder temperatures. By late tonight, temps will have fallen into the single digits and teens for most places.

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## Today in Weather History

November 6, 1959: A strong cold front that brought near blizzard conditions and freezing temperatures on the 5th continued to bringing a record or near-record lows during the morning hours on this day. Some low temperatures include; -13 in Murdo; -12 in Eureka; -11 in Britton; -10 in Castlewood; -9 near McIntosh and Redfield; -8 in Andover; -7 in Clear Lake and Kennebec; -6 degrees in Aberdeen; -5 in Watertown; and -4 in Pierre.

November 6, 2008: An area of low pressure moving across South Dakota and into Minnesota brought widespread rain, freezing rain, and snow to central, north-central, and northeast South Dakota. Much of the freezing fell across central and north-central South Dakota west of the Missouri River. As the freezing rain changed over to snow and the winds increased, the ice and snow buildup on the power lines and poles caused hundreds of power poles to break across Jones, Stanley, Dewey, and Corson counties. East of the Missouri River, the colder air, and stronger winds moved in, changing the rain over to snow. High winds of 30 to 45 mph with gusts near 60 mph brought widespread blizzard conditions to all of the areas.

Ice buildup ranged from a tenth to as much as an inch for counties west of the Missouri River. Snowfall amounts across the entire area ranged from 2 to 8 inches, with a 15-inch amount recorded in southwest Corson County. Other snowfall amounts include 3 inches in Eagle Butte, Blunt, Kennebec, Mission Ridge, and Onida; 4 inches in Pollock, Gettysburg, and Bowdle; 5 inches south of Harrold, Iona, and near McIntosh; 6 inches in Mobridge; 7 inches in Murdo; 8 inches in McLaughlin, and 15 inches southwest of Keldron.

All 4,600 customers of the Moreau-Grand Electric Company lost power due to the storm. The last time this occurred was during the winter of 1967-68. The monetary loss to this cooperative and other electric cooperatives for Jones, Stanley, Corson, and Dewey counties was in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. Over 100 line workers were working countless hours with crews coming as far away as Nebraska and Iowa to assist in the power recovery. Over 1,000 customers were without power for an extended period. Cell phone coverage was also knocked out for parts of the West River area due to downed towers.

The blizzard resulted in numerous school, business, and road closures along with flight cancellations. Interstate 90 was shut down from Mitchell, South Dakota, to the Wyoming border from Thursday the 6th until Friday evening of the 7th. In the early afternoon hours of Friday, the 7th, slippery roads, high winds, and low visibilities contributed to the rollover of a passenger van carrying seven students. The passenger van rolled several times, causing severe injuries to three of the students. The Governor declared a state of emergency on the 7th, and President Bush declared South Dakota a disaster area.

1977: Several possible causes lead to the collapse of the Kelly Barnes Dam in Georgia to give way. The failure allowed a 40-acre lake to flood the Toccoa Falls College, killing 39 people and injured 60 more.

2005: The deadliest tornado to strike Indiana since April 3, 1974, occurred around 2 am. A single F3 tornado inflicted 24 fatalities, 238 injuries, and nearly 90 million dollars in damage with a path length of 41 miles. This storm moved in a northeasterly direction from just north of Smith Mills Kentucky to Gentryville, Indiana, and crossed the Ohio River three times. Most of the damage occurred as the tornado passed southeast of the city of Evansville, Indiana.

2016: An EF2 tornado hit Cesano, Rome, Italy.

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

**High Temp: 28 °F at 2:31 PM**

**Low Temp: 14 °F at 6:27 AM**

**Wind: 8 mph at 1:00 PM**

**Day Rain: 0.00**

**Record High: 79° in 2004**

**Record Low: -8° in 1991**

**Average High: 46°F**

**Average Low: 24°F**

**Average Precip in Nov.: 0.15**

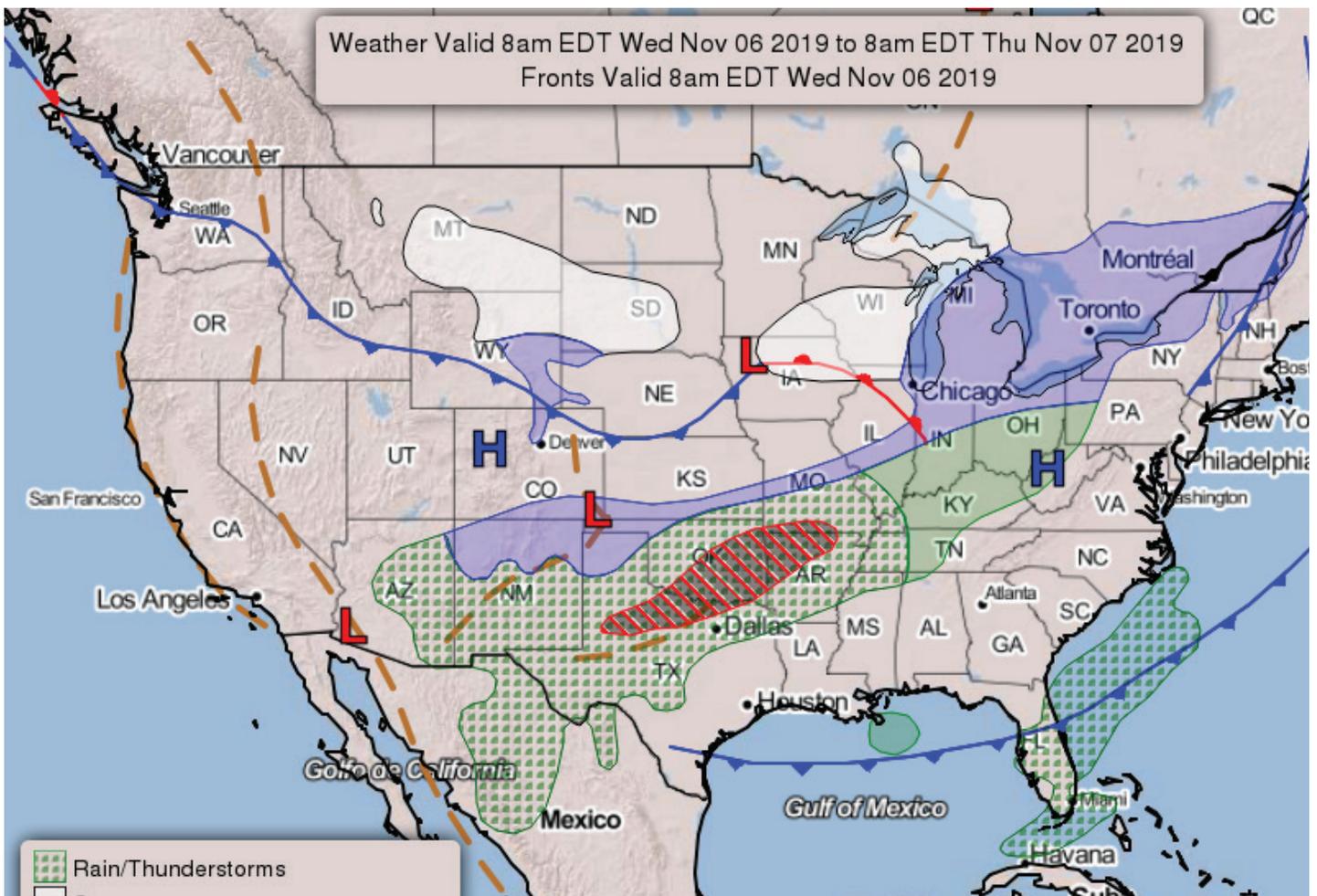
**Precip to date in Nov.: 0.00**

**Average Precip to date: 20.62**

**Precip Year to Date: 26.57**

**Sunset Tonight: 5:14 p.m.**

**Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:21 a.m.**





## CONQUERED OR CONQUEROR

George Mallory, a famous mountaineer and explorer from England, led two expeditions to conquer Mount Everest. Both times he failed to conquer the mountain. He refused to give up and was so committed to conquering the mountain that he recruited another team to accompany him on another expedition.

He studied his past efforts thoroughly and made extensive preparations, carefully planning every detail. Finally, he began his ascent. However, before he reached the top this time, an avalanche struck, killing him and most of his men.

One of the survivors was determined to honor Mallory. Looking at a picture of Mount Everest, he cried, and with tears in his eyes, shouted, "We shall defeat you some- day because you can't get any bigger and we can."

When we feel defeated or destroyed by the tragedies and trials of life, the most important thing we can ever do is to face them honestly. Then carefully plan, take God at His word, and try again. With Paul we can proclaim, "I can do all things through Christ!"

Prayer : Lord, may we labor in Your strength to meet and overcome every challenge we face. In You, with You, and through You, we will succeed! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Philippians 4:13 For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.

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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)

## News from the Associated Press

### **Icy roads contribute to fatal Sioux Falls crash**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Highway Patrol says icy roads contributed to a fatal accident on an interstate bridge in Sioux Falls.

The patrol says one person died and another was injured in a rollover crash on Interstate 229 about 9 p.m. Tuesday. A portion of the interstate was closed for several hours as the scene was cleared.

A winter weather advisory was issued Tuesday night because of icy conditions. Several crashes were reported on Interstate 229 and 29 around Sioux Falls because of slippery roads.

### **SD Lottery**

**By The Associated Press undefined**

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

Mega Millions

02-09-24-49-54, Mega Ball: 19, Megaplier: 3

(two, nine, twenty-four, forty-nine, fifty-four; Mega Ball: nineteen; Megaplier: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$127 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$40 million

### **Ford scores 26, No. 20 Saint Mary's edges Wisconsin in OT**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Saint Mary's got a familiar test from Wisconsin's defense at an unfamiliar venue. Jordan Ford scored 26 points, Malik Fitts added 16 and the 20th-ranked Gaels hung on to beat Wisconsin 65-63 in overtime in the season opener for both teams on Tuesday night.

"Wisconsin is hard to get baskets on," Saint Mary's coach Randy Bennett said. "We just kept grinding and making them work, covering the on-balls and just tried to wear them out."

Saint Mary's led the entire second half before Wisconsin closed the gap and took a brief lead in overtime. But Fitts' basket with 55 seconds to play gave the Gaels the lead for good.

Freshman Kyle Bowen hit 1 of 2 free throws with 4.4 seconds remaining for the Gaels, and Wisconsin had a chance to win it, but Aleem Ford's deep 3-pointer at the buzzer was short.

Aleem Ford made a layup with 52 seconds left that tied the game at 54, and he also had a 3-point attempt to win it in regulation that missed just before the buzzer. He finished with seven points.

It was the Gaels' first visit to the Sanford Pentagon, which will also welcome Minnesota and Oklahoma for a game on Saturday.

Saint Mary's went on a 21-3 run that erased an eight-point deficit and put the Gaels ahead 30-20 just before the break. Wisconsin went without a field goal for a six-minute stretch.

Jordan Ford, a first-team All-West Coast Conference player last year, fueled the run, scoring 15 points all in the final seven minutes of the half, including three 3-pointers. He finished the night 11-for-24 from the field, including 4-for-8 from beyond the arc.

"I was just feeling out the game, feeling out how they were playing us," Ford said. "It only takes one or two shots to get me going. Once I got one 3 down, I was really aggressive and I think it helped our offense."

After Wisconsin cut it to 44-40 with just over 10 minutes to play, the Gaels increased it to 50-41 with a 6-1 run capped by a pair of nifty moves down the lane by Fitts.

Wisconsin didn't fade, however, and Nate Reuvers' 3-pointer with 4:08 to play cut it to 50-49.

The Badgers shot 42.3% from the field while the Gaels finished at 39.3%. Saint Mary's out-rebounded Wisconsin 36-28, including 13 on the offensive end, led by Mattias Tass with rebounds.

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## BIG PICTURE

Saint Mary's: The Gaels got a strong test early in the season from a Big Ten opponent that never let them build a big lead. Saint Mary's was the second-ranked team in the West Coast Conference in the preseason, behind No. 8 Gonzaga.

Wisconsin: The Badgers were picked to finish sixth out of 14 teams in the Big Ten. Their conference opener is Dec. 7 against Indiana.

## LETDOWN

D'Metrik Trice, Wisconsin's top returning scorer, wasn't a threat most of the night and finished with 10 points on 3-of-7 shooting. He missed his only field goal attempt in the first half. His first basket was a 3-pointer early in the second half. Trice rimmed out a wide-open 3-pointer with Wisconsin trailing 54-52 with 1:37 remaining.

## HE SAID IT

"This is a game I'll remember for the rest of my life, just because this place is just so cool." — Bennett on playing at the Sanford Pentagon.

## UP NEXT

Saint Mary's hosts Winthrop on Monday.

Wisconsin is home to Eastern Illinois on Friday.

More AP college basketball: <https://apnews.com/Collegebasketball> and [https://twitter.com/AP\\_Top25](https://twitter.com/AP_Top25)

## Tuesday's Scores By The Associated Press

### Volleyball

Huron def. Brandon Valley, 25-12, 25-18, 25-23

Pierre def. Mitchell, 25-15, 25-21, 25-22

Sioux Falls O'Gorman def. Watertown, 26-24, 25-27, 23-25, 25-15, 15-10

Sioux Falls Roosevelt def. Yankton, 25-20, 25-16, 25-14

Sioux Falls Washington def. Sioux Falls Lincoln, 19-25, 25-14, 26-28, 25-23, 15-8

Spearfish def. Douglas, 14-25, 25-18, 22-25, 25-20, 15-10

### Region 1A

#### First Round

Groton Area def. Sisseton, 26-24, 25-21, 25-10

Milbank Area def. Webster, 15-25, 22-25, 25-19, 25-20, 16-14

Redfield def. Tiospa Zina Tribal, 25-17, 25-17, 25-12

### Region 1B

#### Quarterfinal

Great Plains Lutheran def. Waverly-South Shore, 18-25, 25-15, 18-25, 25-20, 18-16

Langford def. Aberdeen Christian, 25-14, 25-16, 25-19

Northwestern def. Leola/Frederick, 25-7, 25-7, 25-6

Warner def. Waubay/Summit, 25-19, 25-7, 25-8

### Region 2A

#### First Round

Flandreau def. Deuel, 25-23, 25-22, 23-25, 25-18

Florence/Henry def. Clark/Willow Lake, 13-25, 20-25, 25-22, 25-22, 15-10

Sioux Valley def. Flandreau Indian, 25-4, 25-6, 25-4

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## Region 2B

### Quarterfinal

Faulkton def. Sunshine Bible Academy, 25-11, 25-10, 25-9

Ipswich def. North Central, 25-18, 25-17, 26-24

Potter County def. Herreid/Selby Area, 22-25, 25-21, 25-18, 25-21

Sully Buttes def. Highmore-Harrold, 25-22, 25-23, 25-17

## Region 3A

### First Round

Baltic def. Dell Rapids, 25-11, 21-25, 25-18, 25-20

Tri-Valley def. West Central, 25-19, 25-20, 21-25, 25-21

## Region 3B

### Quarterfinal

Castlewood def. DeSmet, 25-18, 25-19, 25-6

Deubrook def. Hitchcock-Tulare, 25-23, 16-25, 25-19, 25-16

Estelline/Hendricks def. Arlington, 25-15, 25-18, 15-25, 20-25, 15-8

Wolsey-Wessington def. James Valley Christian, 25-11, 13-25, 25-13, 25-20

## Region 4A

### First Round

Beresford def. Canton, 25-19, 25-21, 25-22

Elk Point-Jefferson def. Vermillion, 19-25, 25-12, 25-21, 25-22

Lennox def. Tea Area, 25-19, 20-25, 22-25, 25-22, 15-11

## Region 4B

### Quarterfinal

Chester def. Oldham-Ramona/Rutland, 25-14, 25-7, 25-16

Colman-Egan def. Sanborn Central/Woonsocket, 19-25, 25-15, 25-8, 25-14

Elkton-Lake Benton def. Howard, 25-20, 25-11, 25-20

Ethan def. Hanson, 25-18, 25-18, 25-13

## Region 5A

### First Round

Madison def. Parkston, 25-9, 25-16, 25-22

Parker def. Mt. Vernon/Plankinton, 25-19, 24-26, 18-25, 25-16, 15-11

## Region 5B

### Quarterfinal

Alcester-Hudson def. Scotland, 25-21, 25-13, 26-28, 25-16

Bridgewater-Emery def. Viborg-Hurley, 25-18, 25-10, 25-12

Freeman def. Irene-Wakonda, 25-17, 25-19, 25-19

Gayville-Volin def. Canistota, 25-15, 25-14, 25-7

## Region 6A

### First Round

Chamberlain def. McLaughlin, 25-14, 25-17, 25-19

Crow Creek def. Cheyenne-Eagle Butte, 9-25, 25-11, 11-25, 25-12, 15-4

Mobridge-Pollock def. Stanley County, 25-18, 25-10, 25-16

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## Region 6B

### Quarterfinal

Avon def. Platte-Geddes, 21-25, 25-19, 25-18, 25-12

Burke def. Colome, 25-5, 25-11, 25-15

Corsica/Stickney def. Andes Central/Dakota Christian, 25-19, 25-23, 25-16

Kimball/White Lake def. Gregory, 25-16, 25-23, 15-25, 25-12

## Region 7B

### Quarterfinal

Kadoka Area def. Wall, 25-16, 25-15, 25-10

New Underwood def. Oelrichs, 25-11, 25-10, 25-18

Philip def. Lyman, 21-25, 25-22, 25-17, 25-15

White River def. Edgemont, 25-16, 25-13, 25-13

## Region 8A

### First Round

Lead-Deadwood def. Custer, 25-20, 25-14, 25-27, 25-21

Rapid City Christian def. Belle Fourche, 25-19, 25-16, 25-13

St. Thomas More def. Hot Springs, 25-2, 25-14, 25-13

## Region 8B

### Quarterfinal

Faith def. McIntosh, 25-9, 25-12, 25-14

Harding County def. Newell, 25-21, 25-19, 25-15

Lemmon def. Dupree, 25-17, 25-21, 25-22

Timber Lake def. Bison, 25-18, 25-19, 25-18

## Gov. Noem again says no to growing hemp in South Dakota

By **STEPHEN GROVES** undefined

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Gov. Kristi Noem reiterated her opposition Tuesday to legalizing industrial hemp production in South Dakota, even in the face of new federal rules allowing the cash crop.

Hemp is seen as a possible boon by many farmers, but Noem said in a statement that legalizing it is akin to legalizing marijuana because it is difficult for law enforcement to distinguish between the two. But the governor also said South Dakota will allow the crop to be transported across the state in keeping with federal laws. The U.S. Department of Agriculture last week announced new regulations that allow farmers to grow hemp and ship it across state lines.

"I remain opposed to industrial hemp in South Dakota because of the impact it will have on public safety and law enforcement's ability to enforce drug laws," Noem said.

South Dakota police arrested a Colorado man in July for carrying large bags of what he claims was hemp in his SUV. A state trooper field-tested the 300 pounds (136 kilograms) of the substance and found it had high levels of THC, the component in marijuana that produces a high

Noem's opposition to hemp has put her at odds with her own Republican Party in the Legislature. She vetoed a bill to legalize industrial hemp in the spring. Lawmakers supporting hemp production said she is hurting South Dakota farmers.

"There's no way legalized hemp has anything to do in my mind with the legalization of marijuana. They are two distinct crops," said Majority Leader Lee Qualm, a Platte Republican.

Randy Stratton, an agriculture consultant who helps small farms develop specialty crops said small farms could benefit from a specialty crop like hemp, but the state's prohibition is holding them back from entering an emerging market.

"South Dakota is always the last on everything. If you look at our economic growth, it's anemic," Stratton said.

Other farmers disagreed, saying they were fine with the way things are because the risk of entering the new hemp market is not worth it. Scott VanderWal, the president of the South Dakota Farm Bureau, said the hemp market may already be saturated.

Farmers across the country are considering the new cash crop. Hemp is turned into products such as CBD oil and nutritional supplements. The 2018 farm bill removed hemp as a controlled substance if it contains less than 0.3% of THC. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration still regulates and approves hemp products.

But the new rules have also left officials trying to figure out how to regulate the products. Vaping products that claim to contain CBD but are actually spiked with synthetic marijuana have sent dozens of people to emergency rooms, an Associated Press investigation found.

Michael Weiner, a lawyer who specializes in hemp regulation, said that concerns about vaping led the FDA to slow approval of new CBD products.

Noem argued that it would cost hundreds of thousands of dollars to get the technology that measures levels of THC and distinguishes between hemp and marijuana.

But with South Dakota's highways now open to industrial hemp, the state may have little choice in the matter. Stratton pointed out that because South Dakota would have to test hemp that's being moved through the state under the new federal rules, it makes sense to allow farmers to grow it anyways.

## North Dakota asks South Dakota to help with agency probe

By JAMES MacPHERSON Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — North Dakota's top law enforcement officer has tabbed authorities in South Dakota to help investigate an agency that allegedly violated state law on contract bidding.

North Dakota Auditor Joshua Gallion released a report last month that said the Department of Commerce violated the law on bidding uncompetitive contracts totaling more than \$87,000 for the state's new "Be Legendary" logo and associated "rebranding" effort for the state.

The move sparked criticism earlier this year when the contract for it was awarded to a Minnesota firm headed by a woman who once worked for Gov. Doug Burgum's old Fargo software business.

The company was awarded the \$9,500 job without competition because it came in below the \$10,000 threshold required for additional bids. But the audit found two temporary employment contracts that were used to "stay under the purchasing thresholds that required contractor competition."

The Commerce Department has maintained it did nothing wrong.

Commerce Director Michelle Kommer said in a statement Tuesday the agency "recognizes there is always room for improvement and has identified appropriate control enhancements." Commerce Commissioner Michelle Kommer said.

The agency is expected to present its "improvements" on Wednesday to the Legislature's Audit and Fiscal Review Committee.

Stenehjem asked that the investigator come from South Dakota's Bureau of Investigation. Stenehjem said in a statement he wants an "independent third-party investigator" who has "no personal knowledge of the agency or employees that are the subject of the audit."

Stenehjem said North Dakota law allows "ad hoc special agents" to be appointed from other jurisdictions for a "special law enforcement purpose."

Stenehjem, a Republican, lost the governor's race to Burgum in the party's primary in 2016. Gallion, the state auditor, also is a Republican.

Burgum spokesman Mike Nowatzki said the GOP governor did not recommend his former employee for the logo or rebranding.

But he did support "unified branding effort for state government," Nowatzki said.

North Dakota's Republican-led Senate killed a bill in March sponsored Democratic Rep. Marvin Nelson that would require the Commerce Department to scrub the logo and hold a contest. The bill had sailed

through the House after lawmakers learned the logo was awarded to the Minnesota firm.

## TravelCenters of America Opens TA Express in Summit

WESTLAKE, Ohio--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Nov 5, 2019--

TravelCenters of America Inc. (TA) has opened a new TA Express in Summit, South Dakota. Formerly Coffee Cup Fuel Stop, the newly-branded TA Express is located on Interstate 29, Exit 207, at 45789 U.S. Highway 12. This is the third Coffee Cup to convert to a TA Express this year through a franchise agreement with Heinz, Inc.

Amenities at TA Express Summit include:

Ten diesel lanes, all including DEF Six fueling positions with Cenex-branded gasoline 80 truck parking spaces Three private showers CAT Scale Travel store Pizza Hut Express, Cinnabon, Caribou Coffee and Subway quick-service restaurants Hot and cold freshly-prepared foods Gaming room Laundry room Transfo scanning TA Express Summit is the second TA location in South Dakota and grows the company's total nationwide network of travel centers to 261.

"The Coffee Cup Fuel Stops are well-suited for the TA Express brand, and we've significantly grown our presence in the northern U.S. through the agreement with Heinz, Inc.," said Barry Richards, president and COO of TA. "We're look forward to continuing our growth with the Coffee Cup team and be able to serve even more customers."

TA and Heinz Inc. signed an agreement in February to convert four Coffee Cup Fuel Stops to TA Express sites in 12 months. The first opened in April in Steele, North Dakota, a second opened in September in Hot Springs, South Dakota and the fourth is planned for early next year in Vermillion, South Dakota.

Heinz, Inc. also plans to build two new TA Express travel centers, in Rapid City and Sioux Falls, South Dakota in coming years.

## Sioux Falls considers beekeeping in the city

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Councilors in Sioux Falls are considering whether to lift the city's ban on beekeeping.

Two councilors have been working on the proposal to keep beehives within city limits for nearly a year. Theresa Stehly and Janet Brekke see beekeeping as a benefit to the environment. The Argus Leader says their proposal creates a regulated system involving permits and fees along with education and training requirements.

Sioux Falls Animal Control Supervisor Julie DeJong says her officers will need to ensure they're equipped to hand bee-related emergencies, should the proposal pass at Tuesday night's meeting.

The Rapid City Journal reports that in 2016 several people were injured and a dog was killed by bees that were being raised in Sturgis that had become agitated.

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

## AP sources: State Dept. worried about defending ambassador

By MATTHEW LEE AP Diplomatic Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The State Department's third-ranking official is expected to tell Congress that political considerations were behind the agency's refusal to deliver a robust defense of the former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine.

People familiar with the matter say the highest-ranking career diplomat in the foreign service, David Hale, plans to tell congressional impeachment investigators on Wednesday that Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and other senior officials determined that defending Ambassador Marie Yovanovitch would hurt the effort to free up U.S. military assistance to Ukraine.

Hale will also say that the State Department worried about the reaction from Trump's personal attorney Rudy Giuliani, also one of the strongest advocates for removing the ambassador.

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Meanwhile, State Department Counselor T. Ulrich Brechbuhl, who was subpoenaed to appear before the impeachment inquiry on Wednesday, was on the plane with Pompeo, who departed early Wednesday morning for Germany. Two other witnesses who were scheduled for Wednesday — Russ Vought, the acting director of the White House Office of Management and Budget, and Rick Perry, the Energy secretary — are not expected to show up.

Yovanovitch, who was removed from her posting in May, has already appeared before investigators in the impeachment inquiry into President Donald Trump. She detailed efforts by Giuliani and other Trump allies to push her out of Ukraine, testifying that a senior Ukrainian official told her that "I really needed to watch my back."

Hale is expected to shed more light on why the State Department did not step up to defend its top envoy in Kyiv. According to the people familiar with the matter, he will say he tried to distance himself and the department from the matter by removing himself from email chains about Yovanovitch.

Hale, for example, never responded to an email sent by former top Pompeo adviser Michael McKinley urging Pompeo to speak out in defense of Yovanovitch after the White House released a partial transcript of Trump's phone call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, the officials said.

One official said Hale had "tried to take himself out of the loop on Ukraine." But another official said Hale would defend Pompeo's actions as "politically smart" for the State Department and its employees in the long run.

The people familiar with the matter were not authorized to discuss Hale's appearance publicly and spoke on the condition of anonymity.

Hale, a fluent Arabic speaker who joined the foreign service in 1984, has served as ambassador to Lebanon, Pakistan and Jordan and in posts in Tunisia, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia.

## Beshear claims victory in Kentucky; Bevin refuses to concede

By BRUCE SCHREINER Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Kentucky's bitter race for governor went into overtime as Democrat Andy Beshear declared victory while Republican Gov. Matt Bevin, a close ally of President Donald Trump, refused to concede with results showing he trailed by a few thousand votes.

Kentucky has some sorting out to do before inaugurating its next governor.

With 100% of precincts reporting, Beshear — the state's attorney general and the son of Kentucky's last Democratic governor, Steve Beshear — had a lead of 5,333 votes out of more than 1.4 million counted, or a margin of less than 0.4 percentage points. The Associated Press has not declared a winner.

In competing speeches late Tuesday, Beshear claimed victory while Bevin refused to concede.

"My expectation is that he (Bevin) will honor the election that was held tonight," Beshear said. "That he will help us make this transition. And I'll tell you what, we will be ready for that first day in office, and I look forward to it."

That first day isn't far off. Kentucky inaugurates its governors in the December following an election.

Bevin, meanwhile, called the contest a "close, close race" and said he wasn't conceding "by any stretch."

"We want the process to be followed, and there is a process," he said.

Bevin won the 2015 GOP primary for governor by a scant 83 votes, noting wryly Tuesday night: "Would it be a Bevin race if it wasn't a squeaker?"

The margin is much larger this time. Bevin hinted there might be "irregularities" to look into, but didn't offer specifics. His campaign didn't immediately respond to an email seeking an explanation.

There is no mandatory recount law in Kentucky. Bevin may request counties canvass their results, which is not a recount, but rather a check of the vote count to ensure the results were added correctly. Bevin would need to seek and win a court's approval for a recount.

"The margin is large enough to not have a reasonable expectation that it can be closed with anything outstanding," Kentucky Secretary of State Alison Lundergan Grimes' office said in a statement. "The process laid out by the law will be followed and all candidates do have a recourse to review or challenge

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their results.”

Grimes, a Democrat, has overseen 20-plus recanvasses during her two terms as secretary of state, her office said. The results never changed significantly enough to flip the outcome of a race, it said.

The final hours of campaigning were dominated by the endorsement Bevin received from Trump at a boisterous rally Monday night in Lexington, Kentucky. Through a spokesman, the president boasted Tuesday night about the boost he had given the incumbent governor despite Bevin finishing with fewer votes to his name.

“The president just about dragged Gov. Matt Bevin across the finish line, helping him run stronger than expected in what turned into a very close race at the end,” Trump campaign manager Brad Parscale said in a statement. “A final outcome remains to be seen.”

Trump had loomed large in the race as Bevin stressed his alliance with the Republican president in TV ads, tweets and speeches. Trump carried Kentucky by a landslide in winning the presidency in 2016 and remains popular in the state. The president took center stage in the campaign with his election eve rally to energize his supporters to head to the polls for his fellow Republican.

But the combative Bevin had been struggling to overcome a series of self-inflicted wounds, highlighted by a running feud with teachers who opposed his efforts to revamp the state’s woefully underfunded public pension systems.

Bevin lagged well behind the vote totals for the rest of the GOP slate for statewide offices. Republican candidates swept Kentucky’s races for attorney general, secretary of state, auditor, treasurer and agriculture commissioner.

Trump took credit on Wednesday for the near sweep, tweeting, “Our big Kentucky Rally on Monday night had a massive impact on all of the races,” and claiming that Bevin “picked up at least 15 points in last days, but perhaps not enough (Fake News will blame Trump!).”

Meanwhile, the Libertarian candidate for governor, John Hicks, got 2% of the vote.

Beshear dominated in the state’s urban areas in Louisville and Lexington and won some traditionally Republican suburban counties in the state’s northernmost tip, just south of Cincinnati, to offset Bevin’s strength in rural areas. Beshear also made inroads in eastern Kentucky, winning several counties in a region where Trump is highly popular.

While Beshear looks to quickly pivot to governing, he’ll be confronted by a dominant GOP. Republicans hold overwhelming majorities in the state legislature.

Beshear maintained his focus throughout the race on “kitchen table” issues like health care and education to blunt Bevin’s efforts to hitch himself to Trump and nationalize the race.

On health care, Beshear could have an immediate impact by backing away from a Bevin proposal to attach work requirements to Medicaid benefits received under the Affordable Care Act. Bevin’s plan for some “able-bodied” recipients has been challenged in court and is yet to be enacted, and Beshear has vowed to rescind it.

On the campaign trail, Beshear also said he wants to legalize casino gambling, proposing to use that revenue to support public pensions. Some Republican lawmakers campaigning for Bevin vowed to reject that idea if it came before them.

Beshear also exploited Bevin’s feud with teachers over pensions and education issues, repeatedly referring to Bevin as a bully.

Beshear said Tuesday night that teachers shared in his victory.

“To our educators, your courage to stand up and fight against all the bullying and name calling helped galvanize our entire state,” Beshear said.

Beshear proposed a \$2,000 across-the-board pay raise for public school teachers and vowed to submit “an education-first budget” to lawmakers.

School bus driver Conley McCracken said earlier Tuesday in Bowling Green that he voted for Bevin the first time. He said school issues turned him away from the Republican.

“He’s trying to keep retirement away from a lot of the teachers and school employees and things of that nature,” the 68-year-old McCracken said.

Trump's support of Bevin wasn't enough to get McCracken's vote a second time around. "I don't like the way he's doing (things), so I changed my mind," McCracken said.

Jonathan Mattise contributed to this article from Bowling Green, Kentucky.

## US diplomat acknowledges what Democrats call a quid pro quo

By LISA MASCARO, ERIC TUCKER and MARY CLARE JALONICK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — "I now do recall."

With that stunning reversal, diplomat Gordon Sondland handed House impeachment investigators another key piece of corroborating testimony Tuesday. He acknowledged what Democrats contend was a clear quid pro quo, pushed by President Donald Trump and his personal lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, with Ukraine.

Sondland, in an addendum to his sworn earlier testimony, said that military assistance to the East European ally was being withheld until Ukraine's new president agreed to release a statement about fighting corruption as Trump wanted. Sondland said he was the one who carried the message to a Ukrainian official on the sidelines of a conference in Warsaw with Vice President Mike Pence.

"I said that resumption of U.S. aid would likely not occur until Ukraine provided the public anti-corruption statement that we had been discussing for many weeks," Sondland recalled.

His three-page update, tucked beneath hundreds of pages of sworn testimony from Sondland and former Ukraine Special Envoy Kurt Volker, was released by House investigators as Democrats prepared to push the closed-door sessions to public hearings as soon as next week.

Late Tuesday, Sondland flew to Portland, Oregon, and was met by a small group of protesters at Portland International Airport.

"I didn't change my testimony, but I can't answer any questions," Sondland told reporters. He didn't elaborate.

Trump has denied any quid pro quo, but Democrats say there is a singular narrative developing since the president's July 25 call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy when he first asked for "a favor." That request, which sparked the impeachment inquiry, included a public investigation into Ukrainian activities by Democratic former Vice President Joe Biden and his son and Trump's allegations of Ukrainian interference in the 2016 U.S. election.

On Wednesday, the State Department's third-ranking official is expected to tell Congress that political considerations were behind the agency's refusal to deliver a robust defense of the former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine.

People familiar with the matter say David Hale plans to tell congressional impeachment investigators on Wednesday that Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and other senior officials determined that defending Ambassador Marie Yovanovitch would hurt the effort to free up U.S. military assistance to Ukraine. The people familiar with the matter were not authorized to discuss Hale's appearance publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., the chairman of the Intelligence Committee, said the House panels conducting the inquiry are releasing the word-by-word transcripts of the past weeks' closed-door hearings so the American public can decide for themselves.

"This is about more than just one call," Schiff wrote Tuesday in an op-ed in USA Today. "We now know that the call was just one piece of a larger operation to redirect our foreign policy to benefit Donald Trump's personal and political interests, not the national interest."

Pushing back, White House press secretary Stephanie Grisham issued a statement saying the transcripts "show there is even less evidence for this illegitimate impeachment sham than previously thought."

In the transcripts and accompanying cache of text messages, U.S. diplomats are shown trying to navigate the demands of Trump and his personal lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, who they soon learn is running a back-channel U.S. foreign policy on Ukraine.

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"It kept getting more insidious," Sondland told investigators, as the "timeline went on."

Sondland testified that he spoke with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo about Giuliani, "and Pompeo rolled his eyes and said: 'Yes, it's something we have to deal with.'"

In his revised testimony, Sondland, a wealthy businessman who donated \$1 million to Trump's inauguration, says his memory was refreshed by the opening statements of two other inquiry witnesses, the top U.S. diplomat in Ukraine, William Taylor, and Tim Morrison, a European expert at the National Security Council.

The ambassador initially testified on Oct. 17 that he did not "recall taking part in any effort to encourage an investigation into the Bidens." He told investigators he didn't know that the Ukraine firm Burisma, that Trump wanted Ukraine to investigate, was linked to Joe Biden's son Hunter.

But in the weeks since a May visit to Kyiv for Zelenskiy's inauguration, Sondland and the other diplomats had been heavily involved in Ukraine policy and in text messages about what Trump wanted as they came to realize the military assistance was being withheld.

Volker and Sondland both testified they were disappointed after briefing Trump at the White House about the new leader of the young democracy who was vowing to fight corruption.

At a pivotal May 23 meeting, Trump "went on and on and on about how Ukraine is a disaster and they're bad people," Sondland testified.

Trump holds an alternative view, pushed by Giuliani, that it was Ukraine, not Russia, that interfered in the 2016 elections in the U.S., a theory counter to U.S. intelligence findings.

"They tried to take me down.' He kept saying that over and over," Sondland recalled Trump saying.

Trump told the diplomats to work with Giuliani on Ukraine issues.

Over the time that followed, Volker and Sondland proposed to Zelenskiy's top aide, Andriy Yermak, that they a draft statement to be issued by Ukraine on potential interference with the U.S. political process. At Giuliani's urging, that statement needed to have an "insert at end with 2 key items:" Burisma and the 2016 U.S. elections.

"It was Mr. Giuliani who said: If it doesn't say Burisma and 2016, it's not credible, because what are they hiding?" Volker testified.

Pressed by investigators, Sondland testified that it would be improper for the U.S. to prompt Ukraine to investigate the Biden family. "It doesn't sound good."

The statement was never issued, as Ukraine refused it. Volker said he told Yermak it was "not a good idea."

Questions swirled after a government whistleblower's August complaint about Trump's phone call with Zelenskiy.

By September, Sondland also told investigators, Trump was in a "bad mood" and nearly hung up on him when the ambassador asked what it was he wanted from Ukraine.

"I want nothing. I want no quid pro quo," Trump said, according to Sondland. "I want Zelenskiy to do the right thing."

As House investigators released more transcripts Tuesday, they also announced they want to hear from Trump's acting chief of staff and a top aide to Pence, reaching to the highest levels of the White House.

Pence spokeswoman Katie Waldman said the vice president was unaware of the "brief pull-aside conversation" that Sondland reported having with Yermak. She also said Pence was unaware of the ongoing back-and-forth over the statement, and that it never came up during his meeting with Zelenskiy.

At a closed-door lunch Tuesday, Pence told Senate Republicans the funds were being withheld over concerns that the Europeans weren't contributing enough aid and issues of corruption in Ukraine, according to a person familiar with the meeting but unauthorized to discuss it and granted anonymity.

Trump says the probe is illegitimate and the administration has resumed its efforts to block the inquiry as two more White House officials, an energy adviser and a budget official, declined to appear Tuesday before investigators, even after one received a subpoena.

Meanwhile, investigators said they wanted to hear on Friday from Trump's acting chief of staff, Mick Mulvaney. They contend his news conference last month amounted to "nothing less than a televised confession" of Trump's efforts to have Ukraine investigate Democrats and Biden as the White House was

blocking military funding.

Trump says he did nothing wrong, and Mulvaney later tried to walk back his remarks.

The White House has instructed its officials not to comply with the impeachment inquiry being led by House Democrats. Mulvaney is not expected to appear.

Republicans have been unable to deliver a unified argument against the impeachment probe, but Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said Tuesday he's "pretty sure" how it all will end.

McConnell said he believes Trump will stay in the White House. "I don't think there's any question it would not lead to a removal," he said.

A top Trump ally, Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., told reporters he doesn't plan to read the transcripts, calling the whole inquiry "bunch of B.S."

Sondland closed his addendum to the House investigators saying he may have had a second call with Trump, but has been unable to obtain phone records and "cannot specifically recall" if that was the case.

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Associated Press writers Colleen Long, Matthew Lee, Matthew Daly, Alan Fram, Andrew Taylor, Jill Colvin and Padmananda Rama contributed to this report.

## Zimbabwe's severe drought killing elephants, other wildlife

By FARAI MUTSAKA Associated Press

MANA POOLS, Zimbabwe (AP) — Weak from hunger and thirst, the elephant struggled to reach a pool of water in this African wildlife reserve. But the majestic mammal got stuck in the mud surrounding the sun-baked watering hole, which had dramatically shrunk due to a severe drought.

Eventually park staff freed the trapped elephant, but it collapsed and died. Just yards (meters) away lay the carcass of a Cape buffalo that had also been pulled from the mud, but was attacked by hungry lions.

Elephants, zebras, hippos, impalas, buffaloes and many other wildlife are stressed by lack of food and water in Zimbabwe's Mana Pools National Park, whose very name comes from the four pools of water normally filled by the flooding Zambezi River each rainy season, and where wildlife traditionally drink. The word "mana" means four in the Shona language.

At least 105 elephants have died in Zimbabwe's wildlife reserves, most of them in Mana and the larger Hwange National Park in the past two months, according to the Zimbabwe National Parks and Wildlife Management Authority. Many desperate animals are straying from Zimbabwe's parks into nearby communities in search of food and water.

Mana Pools, a UNESCO World Heritage Site for its splendid setting along the Zambezi River, annually experiences hot, dry weather at this time of year. But this year it's far worse as a result of poor rains last year. Even the river's flow has reduced.

The drought parching southern Africa is also affecting people. An estimated 11 million people are threatened with hunger in nine countries in the region, according to the World Food Program, which is planning large-scale food distribution. The countries of southern Africa have experienced normal rainfall in only one of the past five growing seasons, it said.

Seasonal rains are expected soon, but parks officials and wildlife lovers, fearing that too many animals will die before then, are bringing in food to help the distressed animals. The extremely harsh conditions persuaded park authorities to abandon their usual policy of not intervening.

Each morning, Munyaradzi Dzoro, a parks agency wildlife officer, prays for rain.

"It's beginning to be serious," he said, standing next to the remains of the elephant and buffalo. "It might be worse if we fail to receive rains" by early November. The last substantial rains came in April, he said.

An early end to a "very poor rainy season" has resulted in insufficient natural vegetation to see the animals through, said Mel Hood, who is participating in the Feed Mana project, which is providing supplementary feeding.

Most of the animals in Mana Pools "are more or less confined to the barren flood plains," where temperatures soar to 113 degrees Fahrenheit (45 degrees Celsius), she said.

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Separated from neighboring Zambia by the Zambezi, the region's once reliable sources of water have turned into death traps for animals desperate to reach the muddy ponds. Like the elephant and buffalo, many other animals in the park have gotten stuck in the clay while trying to reach Long Pool, the largest of the watering holes at 3 miles (5 kilometers) long.

The animals were pulled out by rangers, but they could not survive predators on the pounce for weak prey.

"The carnivores attacked it from behind," Dzoro said of the buffalo. The elephant carcass had been there for almost a week and emitted a strong stench as flies feasted on it.

At just 5% of its normal size, Long Pool is one of the few remaining water sources across the park's plains. On a recent day, hippos were submerged in some puddles to try to keep their skin from drying out in the extreme heat while birds picked at catfish stranded in the mud.

Two others of Mana's pools have completely dried up, while the third is just 20% to 30% of its usual size and dwindling, Dzoro said.

There are more than 12,000 elephants roaming Mana's flood plains as well as an abundance of lions, buffaloes, zebras, wild dogs, hyenas, zebras and elands. The animals are visibly affected by the drought. Some impalas show signs of skin mange. In addition to the land animals, the park has 350 bird and aquatic species, according to the parks agency.

In other parts of Mana, park authorities are pumping water from deep boreholes, but the supplies are barely enough, he said.

"We used to say nature should take its course," Dzoro said of the park's normal policy of not intervening and allowing the ecosystem to find its own balance.

"We are now forced to intervene, which is manipulative conservation, because we are not sure when and how we will receive the rain. To avoid losing animals we have to intervene to maintain population sizes," Dzoro said.

With the acacias, other indigenous trees and grasses that provide the bulk of food for herbivores like elephants and buffaloes also decimated by the drought, authorities began supplementary feeding in July.

Trucks and tractors ferry hay to various locations in the 2,196- square-kilometer (848-square-mile) park. In some spots, elephants, buffaloes and zebras are fed next to each other. The Feed Mana project has so far trucked 14,000 bales to the park, said Hood, the animal welfare campaigner.

The group has been appealing for "urgent" donations of items such as soy bean hay, grass and cubes made of nutritious grains and molasses.

"Although it may not be enough to stave off all the hunger pangs, it is certainly giving these animals a chance to survive until conditions improve," Hood said.

Zimbabwe has an estimated 85,000 elephants and neighboring Botswana has more than 130,000. The two countries have the largest elephant population in the world. Zimbabwe says it's struggling to cope with booming numbers of wild elephants and is pushing to be allowed to sell its ivory stockpile and export live elephants to raise money for conservation and ease congestion in the drought-affected parks.

Other African countries, especially Kenya, are opposed to any sale of ivory. And earlier this year the meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species voted to continue the ban on all ivory sales.

At Mana Pools, saving the animals is a challenge and officials say Zimbabwe is severely affected by climate change that has changed weather patterns.

In past years, Mana Pools would get up to 24 inches (600 millimeters) of rain per year, said Dzoro, the wildlife officer. Now it's lucky to get half that.

With such a dramatic reduction, "we can't have perennial sources to sustain animals and some of the perennial springs have dried up. Climate change is affecting us. That's why the manipulative way now is the only way to rescue our fauna," Dzoro said.

"Climate change is real for sure, we are witnessing it," he said.

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## Pro-Beijing lawmaker in Hong Kong stabbed while campaigning

By EILEEN NG Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — An anti-government assailant stabbed and wounded a pro-Beijing Hong Kong lawmaker who was election campaigning Wednesday, police said, in another escalation of violence surrounding the protests demanding political reforms in the semi-autonomous Chinese territory.

Junius Ho has become a hated figure by the protesters over his alleged links to violence against them. After receiving initial medical treatment, Ho told reporters the knife had been blocked by his rib cage and that he was left with a minor 2-centimeter-deep (0.79-inch-deep) wound.

Police have arrested the assailant. Ho, two of his assistants and the attacker were all injured, hospital officials said.

At a news conference Wednesday in Beijing to wrap up her visit to mainland China, Hong Kong's embattled leader, Carrie Lam, condemned the attack on Ho and said she was concerned over rising public proclivity for violence.

"How can protesters carrying out violent acts claim to be pursuing freedom and democracy? Their every move challenges the freedom and violates the rights of the majority of the Hong Kong people," she said.

Lam, who earlier held talks with Vice Premier Han Zheng, said she was grateful for support from Chinese leadership during her trip and pledged to strictly enforce the law to restore order. She also met President Xi Jinping in Shanghai on Monday, seen as an endorsement of her government's handling of the crisis.

"The violent activities carried out by radical separatist forces have gone far beyond the bottom line of law and ethic," Han Zheng said. "The most important work for the Hong Kong society now is to stop violence and restore order."

China's foreign ministry recently dismissed a report that said Beijing planned to replace Lam next year. But the ruling Communist Party said in a statement Tuesday that it would "perfect" the system to appoint and dismiss Hong Kong's leader and top officials, in an indication of firmer grip on the territory. No details were given.

A video circulating on social media showed a man giving flowers to Ho and asking permission to snap a picture with him. Instead, the man drew a knife from his bag and stabbed Ho in the chest but was quickly overpowered by Ho and several others.

The man kept hurling abusive comments at Ho, calling him "human scum."

Ho has been targeted by anti-government protesters since July 21, when armed masked men in white T-shirts violently attacked demonstrators and passengers at a subway station in northern Yuen Long, injuring 45 people.

That attack marked a dark turn in the protests that began in early June, and demonstrators have accused police of being slow to respond or even colluding with the attackers. Police later said members of organized crime gangs were involved. Ho was seen shaking hands with some of the attackers that night.

Ho, whose constituency includes Yuen Long, denied colluding with gangs. He said that he bumped into the men after dinner and thanked them for "defending their homes," but that he didn't know about the violence until later.

Protesters have vandalized Ho's office several times and desecrated his parents' graves.

Ho was campaigning for Nov. 24 district elections to pick 452 councilors, a low-level poll held every four years but closely watched this year as a gauge of public sentiment at the time of prolonged protests that have hardened positions in both camps. The seats are currently dominated by the pro-establishment bloc.

The attack on Ho sparked concerns that the polls may be postponed. The city's biggest pro-establishment party voiced renewed concerns over safety, saying there were 150 incidents of their candidates being

harassed and their offices vandalized in the last month, local media reported.

Many have seen a now-shelved China extradition bill that triggered the unrest as a sign of Beijing infringing on Hong Kong's judicial freedoms and other rights guaranteed when the former British colony was returned to China in 1997.

Apart from Ho, there have also been attacks on pro-democracy figures. On Sunday night, a knife-wielding man bit off part of the ear of district councilor Andrew Chiu and slashed two people. Jimmy Sham, a leader of one of the city's largest pro-democracy groups, was attacked by hammer-wielding assailants last month.

On Wednesday, hundreds of students at two universities rallied in support of a 22-year-old man who is fighting for his life in a hospital after reportedly falling off the upper floor of a carpark building when police fired tear gas in clashes early Monday.

Police investigations are ongoing to determine what exactly happened in the case, which has further incensed students at forefront of the protests.

## As Paradise rebuilds, a divide over safety a year after fire

By DON THOMPSON Associated Press

PARADISE, Calif. (AP) — There was "no way in hell" Victoria Sinclair was rebuilding in Paradise.

She'd thought she was going to die during the six hours it took her to escape the deadliest and most destructive wildfire in California history. The town where she'd raised her family was nearly wiped out, two of her three cats had disappeared into the flames, and she "was done."

Sinclair and tens of thousands of others in nearby communities fled the wind-whipped inferno that killed 85 people and incinerated roughly 19,000 homes, businesses and other buildings on Nov. 8, 2018.

Despite her vow to stay away, Sinclair's family was one of the first to rebuild, braving the enduring threat of wildfires, and now, repeated power outages as the nation's largest utility tries to prevent its equipment from sparking blazes on windy days like it did in Paradise a year ago.

Weeks after the fire, Sinclair had an epiphany when she returned to the ruins of her home, where she raised a daughter and nearly two dozen foster children over eight years. Even rescue groups eventually found her two missing cats.

"There was a wind that was blowing through what was left of my trees, and I just felt a calmness. I just felt more peace than I had any time since the fire, and I was standing in the ashes of our living room," she said. "It was just like, 'This is home,' and then the thought of living anywhere else seemed impossible."

"Rebuilding the Ridge" is a rallying cry on signs around town, evoking the beauty and peril of rebuilding on a wind-swept jut of land poking out of the Sierra Nevada and begging the question: Will the resurgent community be safer this time?

About 3,000 people have come back, and nearly 200 grocery stores, restaurants and businesses have reopened, like Nic's Restaurant with its sandwiches named after police and firefighters who helped evacuate the town. Just 15% of the 1,800 people who answered an online community survey in April said they were gone for good.

"I want people to see that Paradise is a place to return home to," Sinclair said. "The scars run deep here, but so do the roots that help it grow."

Hers is one of just nine homes that have been rebuilt in the year since the nation's deadliest wildfire in a century, but the town is on track to issue 500 building permits by the end of 2019.

Paradise is now largely populated with travel trailers. They are parked on lots scraped clean of more than 3.66 million tons of charred and toxic ruins, the equivalent of four Golden Gate bridges or twice the tonnage that was removed from the World Trade Center site.

"When you drive around, you don't see all the carcasses anymore of the houses and the cars," said town councilman Michael Zuccolillo, who is also a real estate broker. "You'd hear hammers and chain saws and nail guns."

Wildfire mitigation consultant Zeke Lunder fears Paradise is setting itself up for another disaster.

"As we saw in the Camp Fire, the town's really well set up to kill people with wildfire," said Lunder, who

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lives in nearby Chico.

The five routes out of town quickly became gridlocked with traffic, abandoned vehicles and downed power poles during the blaze. Half the town's 200 miles (320 kilometers) of roads are privately owned, many of them narrow, dead-end tracks leading through small, densely forested lots. Authorities found five bodies in and around vehicles trapped at the end of a long road with no way out.

To make the town safe, officials would have to start fresh with a new grid of interconnected streets and alleys, spend millions of dollars a year to keep brush and trees in check, and force homeowners to keep their properties clear, Lunder said.

"We're not going to keep fires from burning through Paradise, so whatever they build up there should be something that can survive a wildfire," Lunder said. "But just building a bunch of wooden houses out in the brush, we already saw what happened."

Town leaders are under heavy pressure to keep Paradise both affordable and forested.

"If you take away all the trees, it's what we're here for, is for the trees," resident Vincent Childs told town council members in June as they prepared to vote on new building safety standards.

Former town councilman Steve Culleton said he and his wife couldn't afford many of the safety proposals and he's skeptical they would have prevented the Camp Fire.

"We don't need to be some kind of experiment for the rest of the world," he said at the meeting.

Paradise officials have taken steps to make the town more fire resistant but stopped short of the stringent restrictions adopted by several fire-prone Southern California communities. Paradise adopted only seven of 15 proposed fire safety standards and changed four of those it accepted.

Mayor Jody Jones praised Rancho Santa Fe, in San Diego County, where wood fences can't touch houses and the fire department sends inspectors with tape measurers to ensure trees and bushes are far enough away. Homes are considered so fire resistant that people are told to stay inside if they can't evacuate.

In Paradise, council members rejected a plan to ban combustible materials within 5 feet (1.5 meters) of homes until it would allow plants. Policing people's plants, Zuccolillo said, would "kind of go against the fabric of our town. ... We don't want big government telling us what to do."

Improving evacuation routes and emergency warnings are still under consideration, while city leaders last month required people to remove hazardous trees that could fall into a public right of way. But the removal of nearly 100,000 trees is still less than a third of those that need to go, council members say.

Jerry McLean is among those who think town leaders are going too far.

An American flag he and his wife, Joyce, left behind a year ago became a symbol of the town's resilience when photographs showed it flying in the ruins of their neighborhood.

Jerry wanted to move to Texas, but Joyce insisted on rebuilding, and they almost immediately put a down payment on a manufactured home that arrived last week. They expect to be in their new house by Christmas — but first Jerry and a buddy constructed a new wooden shed just steps away.

He isn't worried, gazing on the charred matchsticks that used to be surrounding trees.

"What's it going to burn for the next 50, 100 years? There's nothing left," he said.

In another neighborhood, Libby and Jason Hail's home stands alone, a wide skirt of gravel and fire-resistant stucco construction protecting it from the flames. What might drive them out of Paradise now is not the fire danger, but Pacific Gas & Electric's repeated planned power outages.

Electrical cords snaked from a generator in the backyard during a blackout in October, powering the computer Libby uses to work from home. Even that wasn't possible when the internet got cut off.

"If this is going to be our new normal for 10 years, I can't do this for 10 years," she said, referring to PG&E's estimate of how long the outages could go on.

Repeated blackouts are one way utilities are trying to prevent another Paradise disaster as climate change makes wildfires deadlier and more destructive. They plunged millions of people into darkness multiple times last month, drawing anger for upending people's lives for days. And it may not have stopped their equipment from igniting wildfires that burned homes.

Gov. Gavin Newsom approved nearly two dozen laws last month addressing the precautionary power

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shutoffs or encouraging communities to adopt standards to make homes and their surroundings more fire resistant. The state budget already includes \$1 billion to prepare for wildfires and other emergencies.

Yet lawmakers of both political parties say California missed opportunities to make the state safer.

Newsom vetoed a measure to let communities sidestep the state's strict environmental rules to build new evacuation routes. Lawmakers whittled a proposed \$1 billion fund for rural residents to make their homes more fire resistant to a \$75 million pilot program designed to seek federal money for entire communities.

And they stalled legislation to set statewide standards for building in very high-risk fire areas over concerns it could limit affordable housing.

California's growing homeless population is one reason there is little talk of prohibiting construction in high-risk areas like Paradise. Rural areas are generally much more affordable than cities like San Francisco and Los Angeles, which face their own dangers from earthquakes, fires and rising oceans.

Newsom wouldn't block homebuilding in high-risk areas after the fire in Paradise, saying there is "something that is truly Californian about the wilderness and the wild and pioneering spirit."

Char Miller, a Pomona College professor of environmental analysis, said officials should instead consider creating a fund to buy property in flood and fire zones and keep it as open space.

"It actually pays someone not to live there rather than telling them, 'You can't,'" he said.

More than 2.7 million Californians live in areas at very high risk for wildfires, according to an Associated Press analysis of census data and state fire maps. Nearly 180 cities and towns are in the very high hazard areas.

That's one reason Newsom and rural lawmakers touted efforts to clear brush and trees near communities to slow advancing flames. President Donald Trump has accused California's Democratic leaders of not doing enough to manage overgrown forests.

Timothy Ingalsbee, executive director of Firefighters United for Safety, Ethics and Ecology, said clearing trees is usually counterproductive because the weeds and brush that grow back in open areas are more flammable than the mature trees they replace.

"We have the technology and the know-how to build homes that are less flammable. We have no ability to do that to the forests," he said.

Bill Husa and many like him loved Paradise because it was like living in a national forest, with all its risks and rewards.

"Taking all the trees was harder on me than losing everything in the fire," he said, standing in the powdery red dust where his home was once sheltered by old-growth oaks and evergreens.

The 56-year-old doesn't have the money to rebuild and isn't sure where, or if, he'll get it.

"Whether I come back or not, I'm replanting these trees," Husa said. "I'm never going to be around to see it, but in 60, 70, 80 years, it will be nice again."

## Analysis: Trump's GOP has no answer for suburban slide

By STEVE PEOPLES AP National Political Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The suburban revolt against President Donald Trump's Republican Party is growing. And if nothing else, the GOP's struggle across the South on Tuesday revealed that Republicans don't have a plan to fix it.

In Kentucky, Trump and his allies went all in to rescue embattled Gov. Matt Bevin, who literally wrapped himself in the president's image in his pugnacious campaign. In Virginia, embattled Republicans ran away from Trump, downplaying their support for his policies and encouraging him to stay away.

In the end, neither strategy was a sure winner.

Bevin's race was too close to call Tuesday night, locked in a virtual dead heat with Democrat Andy Beshear in a state Trump won by nearly 30 percentage points in 2016. The GOP in Virginia lost control of both houses of the legislature for the first time in a generation.

It's difficult to draw sweeping conclusions from state elections, each with their own unique quirks and personalities. But there's little doubt Tuesday's outcome is a warning to Republicans across the nation a

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year out from the 2020 election and a year after the 2018 midterms: The suburbs are still moving in the wrong direction.

"Republican support in the suburbs has basically collapsed under Trump," Republican strategist Alex Conant said. "Somehow, we need to find a way to regain our suburban support over the next year."

The stakes are undoubtedly high. While neither Virginia nor Kentucky is likely to be a critical battleground in the presidential race next year, Tuesday's results confirm a pattern repeated across critical swing states — outside of Philadelphia, Detroit and Charlotte, North Carolina. They're also sure to rattle Republican members of Congress searching for a path to victory through rapidly shifting territory.

To be sure, Republicans demonstrated their firm grip on rural areas, and turnout for both sides appeared to be healthy for off-year elections. Notably, Kentucky's voters elected Republicans to a handful of other statewide offices. In Mississippi, another Trump stronghold, Republicans kept their hold on the governor's office, as Lt. Gov. Tate Reeves defended well-funded Democratic Attorney General Jim Hood.

But the GOP's challenge was laid bare in places like Virginia's Henrico County just outside Richmond.

Republican state Sen. Siobhan Dunnivant won there by almost 20 percentage points four years ago. The area has recently been transformed by an influx of younger, college-educated voters and minorities, a combination that's become a recipe for Democrats' support.

With the final votes still trickling in Tuesday night, Dunnivant was barely ahead of Democrat Debra Rodman, a college professor who seized on Trump and her Republican opponent's opposition to gun control to appeal to moderate voters.

In northern Virginia, Democrat John Bell flipped a state Senate district from red to blue in a district that has traditionally favored Republicans. The race, set in the rapidly growing and diverse counties outside of Washington, D.C., attracted nearly \$2 million in political advertising.

Democrats' surging strength in the suburbs reflects the anxiety Trump provokes among moderates, particularly women, who have rejected his scorched-earth politics and uncompromising conservative policies on health care, education and gun violence.

Republicans' response in Virginia was to try to stay focused on local issues. In the election's final days, Dunnivant encouraged Trump to stay out of the state. The president obliged, sending Vice President Mike Pence instead.

Struggling for a unifying message, some Republicans turned to impeachment, trying to tie local Democrats to their counterparts in Washington and the effort to impeach Trump.

No one played that card harder than Kentucky's Bevin, who campaigned aside an "impeachment" banner and stood next to Trump on the eve of the election.

But even in ruby-red Kentucky, Trump was not a cure-all and the trouble in the suburbs emerged.

Bevin struggled in Republican strongholds across the northern part of the state, where the Democrats' drift and increased enthusiasm was clear.

In 2015, Bevin won Campbell County south of Cincinnati handily. On Tuesday, Beshear not only carried the county with ease, he nearly doubled the number of Democratic votes there, compared to the Democratic nominee of four years ago. Beshear also found another 74,000 Democratic votes in urban Jefferson County, home of Louisville.

Beshear led Bevin by the narrowest of margins Tuesday night.

Republicans were quick to blame Bevin for his stumbles. The governor was distinctly unpopular and picked fights with powerful interests in the state. Still, it was difficult for Republicans not to note the warning signs for the party next year and beyond.

"They continue to lose needed support in suburban districts, especially among women and college-educated voters," said Republican strategist Rick Tyler. "That trend, if not reversed, is a death spiral."

## Democrats promise swift action after win in Virginia

By ALAN SUDERMAN Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Virginia Democrats promised swift action on a host of liberal policy proposals now that they've won full control of state government for the first time in more than two decades.

Democratic leaders said Virginians should expect a higher minimum wage, new gun restrictions and greater abortion rights after their party flipped control of the state House and Senate in Tuesday's election. They also promised ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment, making Virginia the final state needed for possible passage of the gender equality measure.

With Democratic Gov. Ralph Northam already in office, Democrats will now have full control of the statehouse for the first time in 26 years.

"Tomorrow the work begins and the people want to see results," Sen. Dick Saslaw, poised to be the next Senate majority leader when lawmakers return to the Capitol in January, told supporters at a victory party in Richmond. "And let me tell you, for God's sake, they're going to get results."

Tuesday's victory extended the Democrats' winning streak under President Donald Trump.

Suburban voters turned out in big numbers to back Democratic candidates, continuing a trend of once GOP-friendly suburbs turning blue. This is the third election in a row in which Virginia Democrats made significant gains since President Donald Trump was elected.

The Democrats' big win was a warning sign for the president and Republicans ahead of next year's election. Higher-educated and more affluent suburban voters — particularly women — have revolted against Trump's GOP both in Virginia and nationwide. The suburbs leaned Republican in the past but have become a key battleground amid shifting demographics and Trump's turbulent presidency.

Tuesday was a rough night for many suburban Republicans in Virginia. Del. Tim Hugo lost his spot as the last Republican representing Fairfax County, northern Virginia's most populous suburban jurisdiction.

Of the four states with legislative elections this year, Virginia was the only one where control of the statehouse was up for grabs. Republicans lost their slim majorities in both the state House and Senate.

National groups, particularly those aligned with Democrats, pumped huge amounts of money into the contests to test-drive expensive messaging and get-out-the-vote campaigns ahead of the 2020 balloting. Gun control and clean-energy groups affiliated with former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg spent several million dollars helping Democrats.

Virginia also drew several high-profile visits from 2020 presidential hopefuls, including former Vice President Joe Biden, as well as current Vice President Mike Pence.

President Donald Trump tried to rally Republicans via Twitter but stayed out of Virginia, a state he lost in 2016.

The only candidate Trump endorsed by name, Republican Geary Higgins, was handily defeated in a northern Virginia Senate district previously held by the GOP.

Gary Keener and wife Marthanne Huffines-Keener, of Glen Allen, a suburb just north of Richmond, said they voted Republican for years but have voted Democrat since the 2008 election of former President Barack Obama. They said Trump definitely had a large impact on Virginia's election.

"We didn't want to make that our only reason for coming out," Keener said. "But he's a baboon. We do some traveling, and wherever we go, we're embarrassed."

Republicans hoped an off-year election with no statewide candidates on the ballot would help defuse the anti-Trump energy that powered previous cycles. GOP lawmakers also bet on the specter of a possible Trump impeachment providing a last-minute surge by motivating the Republican base. Republicans were able to hold on to several seats in close races but expressed disappointment with the overall outcome of the night.

House Majority Leader Todd Gilbert on Tuesday predicted that Democrats would pursue an "extreme agenda" that would undo Republican efforts to make Virginia a business-friendly state.

"Virginians should expect public policies that look a lot more like the train-wreck that is California than the Virginia of good fiscal management and common-sense conservative governance," Gilbert said in a

statement.

Democrats were keenly focused on gun issues during the election, saying Republicans should be held accountable for failing to pass new restrictions after a mass shooting in Virginia Beach earlier this year.

Republicans accused Democrats of trying to use the tragedy for political gain while focusing heavily on past Democratic efforts to loosen restrictions for third-trimester abortion.

The Democratic victories Tuesday will make the legislature more diverse. Sen.-elect Ghazala Hashmi is the first Muslim-American woman to serve in the Senate. Del. Danica Roem, who made history as the first openly transgender person elected and seated in a U.S. state legislature, easily won reelection.

Jenne Nurse, a 25-year-old who recently accepted a state government job, said she's excited about the increasing diversity.

"It's nice to see the Virginia Legislature look like Virginia. It's so important," said Nurse, who is black.

Tuesday's election could help cement Democratic rule for the next decade, because the winners will decide who controls the next redistricting process. Lawmakers approved a proposed constitutional amendment this year that would create a new bipartisan commission empowered to draw legislative and congressional maps. Democrats have to sign off on it again next year before presenting it to voters.

Associated Press reporters Sarah Rankin and Denise Lavoie contributed to this report.

## **Dems flip Virginia; Kentucky governor race too close to call**

**By BILL BARROW Associated Press**

Democrats took full control of the Virginia legislature for the first time in more than two decades while the race for governor in deeply Republican Kentucky was too close to call despite a last-minute boost from President Donald Trump.

In Kentucky, Democratic challenger Andy Beshear held a narrow lead and declared victory in the governor's race over Republican incumbent Matt Bevin on Tuesday, though Bevin had not conceded. And in Virginia, Democrats flipped control of the state Senate and House, gaining outright control of state government in a state that is often a battleground for the White House.

"I'm here to officially declare today, Nov. 5, 2019, that Virginia is officially blue," Democratic Gov. Ralph Northam told a crowd of supporters in Richmond.

A year before the presidential election, the results offered warning signs for both parties. Voters in suburban swaths of Kentucky and Virginia sided with Democrats, a trend that would complicate Trump's path to reelection if it holds. And the Democrats who made gains on Tuesday did so by largely avoiding positions such as "Medicare for All" that have animated the party's left flank in the Democratic presidential primary.

Democratic pickups in Virginia occurred in Washington, D.C., and Richmond suburbs that already had trended in the party's direction in recent years. In Kentucky, Beshear gained considerable ground on Bevin in Kentucky's suburban Cincinnati, Ohio, counties that had helped propel the Republican to office four years ago. Other statewide GOP candidates in Kentucky won by comfortable margins. But the dip at the top of the ticket still offered another example in the Trump era of suburban voters' willingness to abandon established Republican loyalties — even with the president making a personal appeal on behalf of a GOP standard-bearer.

Trump's 2020 campaign manager tried to find a positive frame for the results in a state Trump won by 30 percentage points in 2016.

"The president just about dragged Gov. Matt Bevin across the finish line, helping him run stronger than expected in what turned into a very close race at the end," Brad Parscale said.

Trump may depend on Mississippi, where he also campaigned in the final stretch before Election Day, for something to crow about. With Republican Gov. Phil Bryant term-limited, GOP nominee Tate Reeves defeated Democrat Jim Hood to extend the GOP's 20-year hold on the state's top office. But even that contest could finish with a single-digit margin in a state Trump won by 28 percentage points three years ago.

The tighter result for Reeves reflected the same suburban trends seen in other states. Heavily Repub-

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lican counties outside Jackson, Mississippi, and Memphis, Tennessee, still tilted to the GOP nominee but by noticeably narrower margins than what Bryant had four years ago to win a second term.

Legislative seats also were on the ballot in New Jersey, with Democrats positioned to maintain their overwhelming majorities and quell any opportunity for Trump to suggest that the Republicans were encroaching on Democratic territory ahead of 2020.

While Tuesday's results aren't necessarily predictive of what will happen next November, voters in multiple states tied their decisions to the national atmosphere, particularly the president.

In Kentucky, 73-year-old Michael Jennings voted straight Democratic. A Vietnam veteran, retired state worker and former journalist, Jennings described the president as unfit for office and a threat to American democracy.

"If Kentucky can send a small flare up that we're making the necessary turn, that's a hopeful sign that would have reverberations far beyond our state," he said.

Yet Richard Simmons, 63, a butcher from Glen Allen, Virginia, was just as staunchly in the GOP camp, saying he voted for GayDonna Vandergriff in a state House race. Her Republican affiliation, Simmons said, "means everything to me, especially now."

A staunch Trump support, Simmons called the impeachment investigation unfounded. "It's one diversion after another to keep Trump from doing anything," he said. "He's helped the economy, like, big-time. And I trust the guy."

To explain Kentucky, Republicans undoubtedly will echo the Trump campaign and focus on Bevin's weaknesses. He spent his term battling with state lawmakers — including Republicans — and teachers. Beshear, meanwhile, is well known as state attorney general and the son of Steve Beshear, who won two terms as governor from 2007 to 2016 even as the state trended more solidly Republican in federal elections. Still, a Bevin upset would leave Trump explaining why his signature tactic of late campaign rallies wasn't enough in a state he won easily in 2016.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, who easily defeated Bevin in a 2014 Senate primary, also has a vested interest in the outcome. McConnell is favored to win reelection next year in Kentucky, even as national Democrats harbor hopes of defeating him. The powerful senator likely will see a fundraising bonanza for a potential challenger if Beshear prevails.

In Mississippi, Republicans have dominated state politics for two decades. Reeves, the current lieutenant governor, sought to capitalize on those GOP leanings after Hood, the attorney general, acknowledged that he voted for Hillary Clinton over Trump in 2016. Hood needed a high turnout of the state's African American voters and a better-than-usual share of the white vote to pull off the upset.

Reeves, Parscale said, will be "a tremendous conservative leader for Mississippians in fighting for freedom and keeping taxes low" and "a key ally" as 2020 approaches and Trump ramps up his push for reelection.

Elsewhere, voters in the West were deciding several ballot measures, with residents of Tucson, Arizona, appearing to overwhelmingly reject a proposal to designate it as Arizona's only sanctuary city.

The proposal called for new restrictions on when and where people could be asked about their immigration status and required officers to first tell people that they have a right not to answer questions about whether they're in the country legally. Tucson's all-Democratic City Council opposed the measure, citing concerns about the potential for losing millions of dollars in state and federal funding.

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

## 10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press undefined

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

### 1. DEMOCRATS SHOW STRENGTH IN KEY STATES

Democrats take full control of the Virginia legislature for the first time in a generation while the race for

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governor in deeply Republican Kentucky was too close to call.

## 2. WHERE REPUBLICANS ARE LOSING GROUND

The suburban revolt against Trump's Republican Party is growing and the GOP's struggle across the South reveals that they don't have plan to fix it, an AP analysis finds.

## 3. STATE DEPARTMENT WORRIED ABOUT DEFENDING TOP ENVOY TO UKRAINE

David Hale plans to tell House impeachment investigators that political considerations were driving the department's refusal to strongly defend Marie Yovanovitch, sources tell AP.

## 4. CHILD SURVIVORS OF MEXICO AMBUSH SAVED BY COURAGE

The eight U.S. children who survived an attack by drug cartel gunmen managed to hide in the brush, with some walking miles to get help despite bullet wounds.

## 5. THE SHOES ARE COMING OFF AGAIN IN IRAQ

Iraqi protesters are mocking Iran's leaders, firebombing the offices of its local political allies and threatening its diplomatic missions.

## 6. TROUBLE IN PARADISE

A year after a wind-driven wildfire killed dozens and destroyed thousands of structures, questions remain whether this California community will be any safer.

## 7. 'IT'S BEGINNING TO BE SERIOUS'

Elephants, zebras, hippos, impalas, buffaloes and many other wildlife are being stressed by a severe drought in Zimbabwe.

## 8. 'EAST GERMANY OPENS BORDERS'

That iconic news alert by AP journalist Frieder Reimold captured the unfolding history after the Berlin Wall came down 30 years ago.

## 9. FEDS TO CONSIDER GENETICALLY ALTERED TREE

The closely-watched move could expand the frontier for genetically engineered plants beyond farms and into forests.

## 10. WHO MADE COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF RANKINGS

Ohio State, LSU, Alabama and Penn State are the top four teams in the selection committee's first rankings of the season.

## Protests in Iraq reveal a long-simmering anger at Iran

By QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA and JOSEPH KRAUSS Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — The shoes are coming off again in Iraq.

In years past, Iraqis have beaten their shoes against portraits of Saddam Hussein in a sign of anger and insult. In 2008, an Iraqi journalist threw his shoes at a ducking President George W. Bush during a news conference to vent his outrage at the U.S.-led invasion.

Now protesters in Baghdad's Tahrir Square are using their shoes again — slapping them against banners depicting Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's supreme leader.

More violent demonstrations of their fury have erupted in southern Iraq, where protesters have torched the headquarters of parties and militias linked to Iran and thrown firebombs at an Iranian Consulate.

The anti-government protests that have convulsed Iraq in the past month are fueled by economic grievances and are mainly directed at Iraq's own political leaders. But they have also exposed long-simmering resentment at Iran's influence in the country, with protesters targeting Shiite political parties and militias with close ties to Tehran.

The uprising in Iraq, and similar anti-government protests underway in Lebanon, pose a threat to key Iranian allies at a time when Tehran is under mounting pressure from U.S. sanctions.

"There's a lack of respect. They act like they are the sons of this country and we are beneath them," said Hassanein Ali, 35, who is from the Shiite holy city of Karbala but came to Baghdad to protest. "I feel like the Iranian Embassy controls the government and they are the ones repressing the demonstrators. I want Iran to leave."

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That the protesters are mainly from Shiite areas undermines Iran's claim to be a champion of Shiites, who are a majority in Iraq and Iran but a frequently oppressed minority in the wider Muslim world.

"This has embarrassed Shiite leaders close to Iran," said Wathiq al-Hashimi, a Baghdad-based analyst. "After these demonstrations, Iran may lose Iraq by losing the Shiite street."

In Tahrir Square, protesters have brandished crossed-out pictures of Khamenei and Gen. Qassim Soleimani, the architect of Iran's regional military interventions who has helped direct the response to the rallies. Demonstrators have beaten the posters with their shoes in a replay of scenes from the ouster of Saddam 16 years ago.

As in many cultures, shoes are regarded as inherently dirty in Arab countries. Last week in Baghdad, a version of the Iranian flag was painted on the pavement with a swastika on it so protesters could walk on the image.

On Sunday night in Karbala, protesters climbed the walls of the Iranian Consulate by the light of burning tires as the crowd chanted "The people want the fall of the regime," one of the main slogans from the 2011 Arab Spring. Security forces dispersed the protest, killing at least three people and wounding nearly 20.

The demonstration came less than a week after masked men suspected of links to the security forces opened fire on a demonstration in Karbala, killing at least 18 people.

## BLAMING IRAN

Many protesters blame Iran and its allies for deadly violence in the southern city of Basra last year and during a wave of protests in early October, in which Iraqi security forces killed nearly 150 people in less than a week, with snipers shooting protesters in the head and chest.

The spontaneous protests resumed on Oct. 25 and have only grown in recent days, with tens of thousands of people packing central Baghdad and holding rallies in cities across the Shiite south. The protesters have blocked roads and ports and have clashed with security forces on bridges leading to Baghdad's Green Zone, the seat of power. More than 110 people have been killed since the demonstrations resumed.

But the grievances go way back.

Iran, which fought a devastating war with Iraq in the 1980s, emerged as a major power broker after the American invasion, supporting Shiite Islamist parties and militias that have dominated the country since then.

It also supports many of the militias that mobilized in 2014 to battle the Islamic State group, gaining outsized influence as they fought along with security forces and U.S. troops to defeat the extremists. Those militias, known as the Popular Mobilization Forces, have since grown into a powerful political faction with the second-most seats in parliament.

"People make a direct connection between the failure and the corruption of the Shia political establishment, both politicians and some clerics, and the Iranian interference in Iraqi affairs," said Maria Fantappie, an expert on Iraq with the Brussels-based Crisis Group, a global think tank.

There has been a "drastic change" in the perception of the Popular Mobilization Forces, with many protesters viewing them as an instrument of repression, she said. A broader crackdown on the protests "would backfire on them in a massive way."

## WAITING IT OUT

Lebanon also has seen huge demonstrations in recent weeks against its ruling elite and government, which is dominated by allies of the Iran-backed Hezbollah militant group. They included, for the first time, protests in Shiite-majority communities seen as Hezbollah strongholds.

But there the response has been different.

With the exception of a brief and nonlethal attack on the main protest site in Beirut last week by supporters of Hezbollah and the Shiite Amal party, the militant group has refrained from confronting protesters, and Lebanese security forces have acted with restraint.

Hezbollah and its allies have expressed sympathy for the protesters' demands and have called for the quick formation of a new government following the resignation of Prime Minister Saad Hariri last week.

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But they have also cast aspersions on the protesters, alleging that the U.S. and other Western powers are manipulating them to try to drag the country back into civil war.

Iran's allies in Iraq appear to have adopted a similar response.

Iraqi President Barham Salih, a member of a Kurdish party close to Iran, said he will approve early elections once a new electoral law is enacted. Prime Minister Adel Abdul-Mahdi, another veteran politician, has expressed support for the protesters but urged them to reopen roads so life can get back to normal. Qais al-Khazali, the leader of one of Iraq's most powerful Iranian-backed Shiite militias, said this week that the U.S., Israel, Arab Gulf nations and unspecified local officials are working to "incite strife and chaos."

The Trump administration, which has expressed support for the protests in Iraq, could inadvertently aid that narrative by linking them to its own efforts to curb Iran's influence. That could provoke a similar backlash against the U.S., which still has thousands of troops in Iraq and is also widely seen as having meddled in the country's affairs.

Political leaders in Iraq and Lebanon have yet to offer concrete proposals to meet protesters' demands. The process of forming a new government in either country would take months, and without fundamental change would leave the same political factions in power.

In the meantime, Iran has sought to keep its alliances intact. Soleimani traveled to Najaf over the weekend to meet with top Shiite clerics, according to three Shiite political officials who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the talks.

Iran's allies appear to be betting that as the weeks and months go by, the public will grow frustrated at the road closures and other disruptions to daily life, and that the protests will gradually fizzle out.

There are already signs of frustration.

Saddam Mohsen, a Baghdad resident, said the closure of three central bridges after clashes between protesters and security forces has worsened the city's already terrible traffic, causing "huge problems."

"Shutting down three bridges means shutting down half of Baghdad," he said.

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Krauss reported from Beirut.

## AP reporter recounts covering fall of Berlin Wall in 1989

By **KIRSTEN GRIESHABER** Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — After months of overtime writing about upheaval and protests in East Germany, AP's Frieder Reimold settled in on Nov. 9, 1989, to watch a televised evening briefing by Guenter Schabowski, a member of the Communist country's Politburo.

History didn't give Reimold a break that night. About an hour into the rambling news conference, Schabowski mentioned that East Germany was lifting restrictions on travel across its border into West Germany. Pressed on when the new regulations would take effect, he looked at his notes and stammered, "As far as I know, this enters into force ... this is immediately, without delay."

It was so offhanded that it took Reimold a little time to recognize the implications of the statement — that East Germany was opening the Berlin Wall and the heavily fortified border with West Germany. Carefully, Reimold, then the Berlin bureau chief of The Associated Press' German service, typed out what has become his iconic alert: "DDR oeffnet Grenzen" — "East Germany opens borders."

At first, nothing happened. In the days before the smartphone, news traveled more slowly. But less than one hour later, as West German broadcasters and West Berlin radio station RIAS began picking up the AP alert at the top of the hour in their news programs, East Berliners began jamming border crossings in Berlin. Border guards had received no orders to let anyone across, but within hours gave up trying to hold back the crowds.

"This was the alert that changed the course of the night," Reimold says, looking back as Germany celebrates the 30-year-anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. "The alert sped up a development that sooner or later would have been inevitable in any case."

Built in 1961, the Wall stood for 28 years at the front line of the Cold War between the Americans and

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the Soviets.

It had carved a 156.4-kilometer (97.2-mile) swath through Berlin's heart and the surrounding countryside, and through the hearts of many of its people. Seeming as permanent as death, it cut off East Germans from the supposed ideological contamination of the West and stemmed the tide of people fleeing East Germany.

Despite the formidable obstacle and threat of stiff punishment, many tried to escape by tunneling under it, swimming past it, climbing or flying over it. At least 140 people died in the attempt, according to the latest academic research.

In the weeks leading up to Schabowski's announcement the pressure had been building, with street protests in Leipzig, East Berlin and elsewhere. Thousands of East Germans had fled the country by seeking refuge in the West German embassy in Prague.

"As reporters and journalists, we had experienced everything up-close and under extreme pressure," recalled Reimold, 75, who retired a decade ago. "We had cracked lips and red eyes from the exhaustion, we felt like we couldn't go on any longer."

Nobody had expected the border to be opened as quickly as it happened, however — and certainly not with such a humdrum announcement, which Reimold strained to listen to in the din of the AP's West Berlin newsroom.

"One colleague was sitting next to the TV across the room from me and screaming over everything Schabowski had said, which was quite awkward," Reimold remembered. "I had to simultaneously listen to him, listen to what Schabowski was saying on TV and at the same time write about it."

Despite the confusion, Reimold sent out his alert at 7:05 p.m. Other wire services alerted the news as well, but none went so far that moment as to say that Schabowski's announcement in fact meant that East Germany had opened its border.

Reimold's AP alert is widely seen as having helped nudge the process along, and in a nod to its significance his words are today immortalized in a plaque in the sidewalk on Bornholmer Strasse, the border crossing where people first walked over from East to West.

That night, Reimold worked until 2 a.m. When he had finally sent out his last report, he got up and walked over to the office window overlooking the corner of Fasanenstrasse and Kurfuerstendamm — West Berlin's most glamorous boulevard. Thousands of people from both parts of the city were streaming past the glitzy stores, drinking beer, celebrating freedom.

"And then along comes this little Trabi," Reimold remembers, using the nickname for the typical East German Trabant cars. "It stops, scared, doesn't know what to do with all the masses ahead."

"Until somebody in the crowd notices what's going on, pulls open the car's doors, gets other people to join, and all of them bang their hands on the roof of the car and say: 'Welcome, welcome, welcome to the West!'"

This was the moment, Reimold said, that he realized something in Germany had "definitively changed and was irreversible."

"And that's when I noticed that tears were running down my cheeks," he said.

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Randy Herschaft and Francesca Pitaro contributed reporting from New York.

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

## US child survivors of Mexico ambush saved by courage, mother

By PETER ORSI and MARK STEVENSON Associated Press

GALEANA, Mexico (AP) — The eight children, some mere infants, who survived the ambush in northern Mexico not only escaped the drug cartel gunmen who killed their mothers but managed to hide in the brush, with some walking miles to get help despite grisly bullet wounds.

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In a testament to a mother's devotion, one woman reportedly stashed her baby on the floor of her Suburban and got out of the vehicle, waving her arms to show the gunmen she wasn't a threat. She may have moved away from the vehicle to distract their attention; her bullet-ridden body was found about 15 yards (meters) away from the SUV.

The mother was one of nine U.S. citizens — three women and six children all living in northern Mexico — slaughtered Monday when cartel gunmen ambushed three SUVs along a dirt road in an attack that left one vehicle a burned-out, bullet-riddled hulk. Mexican officials said the gunmen may have mistaken the group's large SUVs for those of a rival gang amid a vicious turf war.

Criminal investigators said late Tuesday that a suspect was arrested and is under investigation for possible connections with the deaths. In a statement posted on Facebook, the Agency for Criminal Investigation for the state of Sonora said that the suspect was found in the town of Agua Prieta, right at the border with the U.S. state of Arizona, holding two hostages who were gagged and tied inside a vehicle.

The suspect, whose gender was not specified in the release, was also found in the possession of four assault rifles and ammunition, as well as various large vehicles including a bullet-proofed SUV, the agency said.

The five wounded children were seriously enough injured that Mexican authorities flew them to the border in a military helicopter to receive hospital care in the United States. Sonora state health officials said they were "stable" at the moment of transfer. Three other children who were not wounded are in the care of family members in the tiny hamlet of La Mora in northern Mexico.

But what the children went through in the remote, mountainous area of Sonora state is nearly indescribable.

Kendra Miller, a relative, said in an account of the shootings that Devin Blake Langford, 13, was one of the few uninjured young people and quickly took charge, eventually walking about 14 miles (22.5 kilometers) back to La Mora for help.

"After witnessing his mother and brothers being shot dead, Devin hid his six other siblings in the bushes and covered them with branches to keep them safe while he went for help," according to the account. "When he took too long to return, his 9-year-old sister left the remaining five to try again."

That girl, McKenzie Rayne Langford, walked for hours in the dark before she was found several hours after the other children were rescued. She was listed as missing for a while.

Altogether, the kids were on their own from about 1:00 p.m., when the ambush began, until about 7:30 p.m., when they were rescued. Relatives from La Mora tried to reach them before that, but were turned back by gunfire. The area is the site of a cartel turf war.

In recordings of calls between the rescuers, they can be heard debating whether it was better to risk more lives, or wait for an hour or two until Mexican army troops arrived. It was an agonizing decision.

What they saw when they found the children was terrifying.

Cody Greyson Langford, 8, had been shot in the jaw and bled profusely. Another girl had been shot in the foot and the back.

The killers were apparently members of the Juarez drug cartel and its armed wing, La Linea — "The Line" — whose gunmen had entered Sinaloa cartel territory and set up an armed outpost on a hilltop and an ambush further up the road. The Juarez cartel apparently wanted to send a message that it controlled the road into Chihuahua. It was this invasion force that the American mothers and their three vehicles drove into.

It was only after the first vehicle was shot up and set afire that 50 or 60 Sinaloa cartel gunmen showed up to see what had happened.

But it isn't the cruelty of the cartel, but the bravery, innocence and sacrifice of the victims that relatives want remembered.

Austin Cloes, a relative of the victims, said from his home in Salt Lake City that they were good people who loved their children and enjoyed their quiet lives based around a successful pecan farming operation.

"This sort of thing shouldn't go unnoticed," said Cloes, who works with at-risk youth and coaches high school basketball. "And these sorts of people shouldn't just be buried without their names being put out

there. These are great people.”

The dead in the attacks included a mother, her 8-month-old twins, her 10-year-old daughter, a 12-year-old son. Another mother lay dead in the front seat of another Suburban, along with the bullet-riddled bodies of her sons, ages 11 and 2.

The victims lived in Sonora state, about 70 miles (110 kilometers) south of Douglas, Arizona, in the hamlet of La Mora, which was founded decades ago by an offshoot of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Many La Mora residents call themselves Mormons but are not affiliated with any church.

A number of such American farming communities are clustered around the Chihuahua-Sonora state border. Many members were born in Mexico and have dual citizenship. While some of the splinter groups were once polygamous, many no longer are.

All of the victims were apparently related to the extended LeBaron family in Chihuahua, whose members have run afoul of the drug traffickers over the years. Benjamin LeBaron, an anti-crime activist who founded neighborhood patrols against cartels, was killed in 2009.

The victims had set out to visit relatives in Chihuahua. One woman was headed to the airport in Phoenix to meet her husband.

While a drug-related violence has been raging for years in Mexico, the attack underscored the way cartel gunmen have become increasingly unconcerned about killing children as collateral damage. In August in Chihuahua state, cartel gunmen fired 123 bullets at a man and also killed three girls, ages 4, 13 and 14. In June, a young boy was killed along with his father in Sonora state. In July, a 10-year-old was killed during a robbery in Puebla state.

AP Writer Brady McCombs in Salt Lake City contributed to this report.

## **Voters in US states decide on sanctuary city, Airbnb rentals**

**By The Associated Press undefined**

Voters in the West took a dim view of taxes, while New Yorkers backed a new way to elect some of their leaders and a New Jersey city cracked down on Airbnb.

Tucson voters seemed uninterested in becoming a sanctuary city, and those in Washington weighed whether to roll back limits on affirmative action.

Across the country, ballot measures gave voters a chance to weigh in on a wide range of issues. Among the highlights:

### **ARIZONA**

Tucson voters overwhelmingly rejected a proposal to designate their town as Arizona’s only sanctuary city. The decision in one of Arizona’s most liberal cities is a relief for the Democrats who control city government. They worry the initiative would jeopardize millions of dollars in state and federal funding and put public safety at risk. The initiative was a direct challenge to the state immigration law that drew global attention, protests, boycotts and lawsuits when it was adopted nine years ago.

### **NEW JERSEY**

Voters in a New Jersey city that’s just a few minutes by train from lower Manhattan approved restrictions on Airbnb and other short-term rental companies. Jersey City, home to around 271,000 people, has become increasingly popular with tourists seeking an alternative to pricey New York City lodging. That has led to complaints about absentee owners turning apartment buildings into de facto hotels and having a negative effect on affordable housing. The regulations limit how often landlords can rent properties if they don’t live on site. They also forbid short-term rentals in buildings with more than four units if the owner isn’t present and prohibit renters from serving as hosts. The referendum was the latest chapter in a battle that has played out in numerous American cities, including San Francisco, where Airbnb is based.

### **NEW YORK**

Voters in New York City passed a measure to adopt a ranked-choice voting system in some future elections. The new system, which passed with overwhelming support, will let people rank up to five candidates

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in order of preference, rather than picking just one to support. Other places, including Maine and San Francisco, already use ranked choice voting systems, but New York City will be the most populous place in the United States to embrace it. The system will be used in primaries and special elections starting in 2021.

## COLORADO

A measure that would legalize sports betting and tax it to help pay for water conservation was too close to call Tuesday evening. The proposal had bipartisan support and only token organized opposition. But the state Constitution requires voters to approve new taxes. It would allow Colorado's 33 casinos to take both in-person and online bets on professional, collegiate, motor and Olympic sports next year. Legal sports betting has grown since New Jersey won a U.S. Supreme Court case in 2018 allowing it in all 50 states.

Colorado voters rejected a ballot measure asking if the state could keep tax revenue that otherwise would be refunded under limits set by a 1992 constitutional amendment called the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights.

## WASHINGTON

A measure that reinstates the use of affirmative action in state employment, contracting and admission to public colleges and universities was losing in early returns. The measure asks people whether they want to change current laws that prohibit state government from giving preferential treatment to individuals or groups based on race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin in public employment, public education, or public contracting.

Voters in Washington were also weighing in on a transportation measure. In early returns they were approving an initiative that would cap annual vehicle registration fees at \$30. If the measure goes on to pass, transit and road budgets across the state would be slashed.

## Republican wins competitive race for Mississippi governor

By EMILY WAGSTER PETTUS Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — Republicans strengthened their dominance in Mississippi by keeping the governorship and picking up the last remaining statewide office that has been held by a Democrat.

Second-term Republican Lt. Gov. Tate Reeves on Tuesday defeated fourth-term Attorney General Jim Hood in the hardest-fought Mississippi governor's race since 2003.

"I want to be the governor for all Mississippians, and I'm going to work hard every day to do that," Reeves told The Associated Press after his victory.

Hood has been the only Democrat in statewide office the past 12 years.

Hood was district attorney before winning statewide office, and he told supporters at a party late Tuesday that "the good Lord" has allowed him to serve the people of Mississippi.

"I guess it was not his will that we continue on as governor," Hood said.

The Republican state treasurer, Lynn Fitch, was elected attorney general on Tuesday. She defeated Democrat Jennifer Riley Collins, a military veteran and former director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Mississippi.

President Donald Trump and Vice President Mike Pence both traveled to Mississippi in the closing days of the campaign to stump for Reeves. In Tupelo last week, Trump had expressed surprise that the race appeared close and cited the impeachment inquiry as a reason that voters should cast their ballot for Reeves.

"President Trump's rally and endorsement in Mississippi undoubtedly had an impact and helped Governor-elect Tate Reeves nail down his victory," Trump campaign manager Brad Parscale said in a statement. "Governor Reeves will be a tremendous conservative leader for Mississippians in fighting for freedom and keeping taxes low."

Trump also congratulated Reeves, tweeting: "Great going Tate!"

Reeves, 45, served two terms as the elected state treasurer before being elected lieutenant governor in 2011. He campaigned this year on keeping taxes low and limiting government regulation of businesses. Reeves also said that a vote for Hood is akin to a vote for "liberal" national Democrats, including U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Hood's high-profile gubernatorial race came four years after the party's nominee was Robert Gray, a

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long-haul truck driver who didn't vote for himself in the primary, raised little money and lost the general election by a wide margin.

Hood, 57, campaigned this year on improving schools and highways and on expanding Medicaid to the working poor. Expansion is an option under the federal health overhaul signed into law in 2010 by then-President Barack Obama. Mississippi is among the 14 states that have not expanded Medicaid, a decision that Hood said has cost the state \$1 billion a year in federal money.

Hood did not invite national Democratic figures to the state to campaign for him in person, but Obama recorded a call that went to some Mississippi residents Monday, urging people to vote for Hood.

Republicans have been governor in Mississippi for 24 of the last 28 years. The last Democratic governor, Ronnie Musgrove, lost in 2003 as he sought a second term.

## Asia stocks mixed on possible US-China trade snag

By JOE McDONALD AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP) — Asian stock markets were mixed Wednesday after investors were rattled by a possible snag in a U.S.-Chinese trade truce following reports Beijing wants Washington to lift punitive tariffs.

Shanghai and Sydney declined while Tokyo and Hong Kong advanced.

Beijing wants 15% tariffs imposed in September on \$125 billion of Chinese imports removed as part of a "Phase 1" deal in talks aimed at ending a trade war that threatens global growth, according to news reports. There was no sign whether President Donald Trump would agree, which raised the possibility of a new breakdown in negotiations.

"We see it fit to temper optimism for now," said Vishnu Varathan of Mizuho Bank in a report.

The Shanghai Composite Index declined 0.2% to 2,985.45 while Tokyo's Nikkei 225 was up 12 points at 23,263.83. Hong Kong's Hang Seng was unchanged at 27,680.44 and Seoul's Kospi was flat at 2,143.77.

Sydney's S&P-ASX 200 sank 0.2% to 6,682.30. Benchmarks in Taiwan and New Zealand declined while Singapore advanced.

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones Industrial Average and the Nasdaq closed at record highs Tuesday. The Standard & Poor's 500 index closed just below the all-time high reached the previous day.

Gains have been driven by better-than-expected company earnings, interest rate cuts, hopes for a trade truce and a steadily growing economy.

The upbeat mood marks a pivot from the summer, when worries about trade, Britain's potentially messy exit from the European Union and the slowing global economy loomed over the market.

The Dow rose 0.1% to 27,492.63. The S&P 500 fell 0.1% to 3,074.62. The Nasdaq composite added less than 0.1% to 8,434.68.

China's central bank helped ease worries about a possible liquidity crunch by cutting its base interest rate on a one-year loan by 0.05% to 3.25%.

Analysts said the People's Bank of China was fill demands for credit while keeping financial system risks under control.

"This is a small step towards future policy rate cuts, and it also signals that China's central bank will finally start to follow other central banks in lowering its policy rate," Citigroup economists said in a report.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude lost 31 cents to \$56.92 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose 69 cents on Tuesday to close at \$57.23. Brent crude, used to price international oils, declined 37 cents to \$62.59 per barrel in London. It gained 83 cents the previous session to close at \$62.96.

CURRENCY: The dollar declined to 109.03 from Tuesday's 109.16. The euro was little-changed at \$1.1078.

## White House lawyers expected to take lead in impeachment

By ERIC TUCKER and ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — As House Democrats prepare for public impeachment hearings, President Donald Trump and his legal team are working to organize a defense that will rely heavily on White House attorneys and congressional Republicans to stave off the threat to his presidency.

Democrats consider the hearings to be their best chance to put Trump's behavior on public display before a politically fraught impeachment vote. Trump's allies, for their part, see the hearings as an opportunity to take the fight to the president's opponents. The political lens through which both sides are viewing the public hearings is informing the president's legal strategy, according to Trump's supporters.

The White House counsel's office is currently expected to take the lead in mounting the president's defense, according to a person familiar with the legal strategy who spoke on condition of anonymity to relay internal discussions. The arrangement will put government attorneys, rather than the president's personal lawyers, on the front lines of Trump's attempt to fend off Democratic efforts to remove him from office.

The White House did not comment on the arrangement.

The White House attorneys will be bolstered by the roster of GOP lawmakers who have already been serving as the president's de facto defense counsel in closed-door hearings. Transcripts of depositions released this week show Republican lawmakers taking steps to try to undermine the credibility of witnesses in the impeachment inquiry. Other legislators have sought to publicly unmask the whistleblower whose summer complaint served as the catalyst for the impeachment probe.

A White House official said the president was supportive of efforts to move vocal defenders like Rep. Jim Jordan of Ohio to the House Intelligence Committee, which will hold the first public hearings, believing him to be an effective questioner and defender of the president. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss legal strategy.

Further involvement by the lawyers is expected once hearings move to the Judiciary Committee. The House voted last week to approve rules for the impeachment inquiry that invite the president and his attorneys to attend all hearings by that committee. Additionally, the president's counsel is to be granted access to the committee's evidence and the ability to question witnesses. The White House official dismissed the idea that the president would attend.

The decision to put the counsel's office out in front in responding to the impeachment inquiry was made because the congressional probe centers on actions that Trump took as president, according to the person familiar with legal strategy. That's in contrast to the impeachment inquiry into President Bill Clinton, which involved allegations that he lied about his relationship with a White House intern and sought to obstruct an investigation into the affair.

It gives Trump the image of being represented by the White House counsel, rather than private attorneys whose prominence in the proceedings, they believe, might diminish his stature. It also keeps the legal team that still includes embattled former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani away from the spotlight.

In the first year of special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into ties between the Trump campaign and Russia, the administration added a special in-house lawyer, Ty Cobb, to respond to prosecutors' requests for documents and interviews with White House staff. Cobb was later replaced by another attorney, Emmet Flood. The president also relied on a team of personal attorneys, including Giuliani, to handle negotiations with Mueller's team on matters such as terms for an interview.

"The rationale is correct as far as it goes, but I also think that there's good reason to not have the White House counsel's office take the lead on this," said Timothy Flanigan, a former deputy counsel to President George W. Bush.

He added: "The White House counsel's office has a lot to do. It's not clear to me that it's always a good idea for the White House counsel to get involved in a project of this magnitude."

Still, there can be benefits in having the counsel's office intimately involved in an investigation like this, simply by virtue of familiarity with the events.

"They've obviously spent a lot of time with whatever documents there are and whatever information

there is," Flanigan said.

Trump's supporters, meanwhile, can be expected to try to minimize the threat of the impeachment inquiry by casting the Mueller probe as one that was more perilous in nature. They aim to paint impeachment as a done deal given the Democratic majority in the House, and argue that any outcome short of removal of the president through conviction in the Senate is a victory for Trump.

## George Orwell New Mexico exhibit bares 'doublespeak' legacy

By RUSSELL CONTRERAS Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — War is Peace. Freedom is Slavery. Ignorance is Strength.

Those were the slogans of the Party in George Orwell's 1949 novel "1984" that allowed the superstate of Oceania to keep its population under control. The Thought Police thwarted dissent. The Ministry of Truth promoted lies. The Ministry of Love tortured lovers.

Those dystopian warnings about the fake becoming the gospel have shaped the minds of generations since they appeared in print more than a half-century ago. And now a new exhibit on Orwell at the University of New Mexico's Zimmerman Library in Albuquerque, New Mexico seeks to remind people about the author's premonitions amid a new — yet very familiar — era.

"George Orwell: His Enduring Legacy" which runs to April, features posters and material related to "1984" and his 1945 allegorical novella, "Animal Farm." It also contains rare Orwell books in different languages to highlight his reach and evolution as a writer.

The British-born Orwell, who died in 1950, was known for "Animal Farm" and "1984," both of which tackled totalitarianism. Orwell's "1984" has become a best-seller in the U.S. again during the Trump administration.

The exhibit was sparked after a longtime advocate and employee of the University of New Mexico University Libraries donated his collection of rare Orwell books. For years, Russ Davidson, a University of New Mexico professor and curator emeritus, amassed rare Orwell books from around the world.

Those rare works included first editions of "Animal Farm" and "1984" in Icelandic, Ukrainian, Swahili, French, Urdu, German, Hungarian and Spanish. He also obtained first, early and other scarce editions of many of Orwell's other books, essays, and reportage.

Such unique books are on display in the exhibit.

Yet, the most captivating aspect of the small but powerful exhibit is the art and objects connected to themes and Orwell's life. Artifacts and posters from the Spanish Civil War are shown to illustrate how the conflict played a role in Orwell's intellectual formation. Orwell fought against a right-wing military coup in Spain but fled after he was shot in the throat and officials sought his arrest.

The campy book cover art also is seductive, offering commentaries about the eras the editions were produced rather than the work inside. In one edition of "1984," for example, the cover features characters for the Sen. Joseph McCarthy Era 1950s with the words "forbidden love...fear...betrayal." It's almost as if novel was merely a pulp fiction soap opera found at Route 66 gas stations, except it's not.

Then, there are the portrayals of Napoleon, the authoritarian pig in Animal Farm. Red posters show Napoleon in military gear of communist Eastern Europe. Other images show his celebrating his abundance at the sake of others, since, "all animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others."

Journalists, academics and political observers of every succeeding generation since Orwell's untimely death have argued that Orwell remains relevant in their time. And, yes, the same could be said of today.

Orwell's concepts of doublespeak (deliberately euphemistic, ambiguous, or obscure language), newspeak (doublespeak for political propaganda) and thoughtcrimes (thoughts deemed illegal by a mob or a government) continued to be cited in response to current events.

President Donald Trump's practice of blurting falsehoods — like saying, "The Kurds are much safer right now" after Turkey invaded Kurdish strongholds — have been called Orwellian.

The same has been noted for some Democrats. California Gov. Gavin Newsom claimed in August that the "vast majority" of San Francisco's homeless people came from Texas. (A 2019 report found 70 percent had previously lived in the city).

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Even in New Mexico, the most Hispanic state in the U.S. that sits along the U.S.-Mexico border, Orwellian concepts in practice have emerged.

In 2016, for example, a left-leaning immigrant rights group denounced then-Republican Gov. Susana Martinez and her attempts to revamp a state law that allowed immigrants in the country illegally to obtain driver's licenses. The group called a potential compromise to create a "two-tier" system to issue two types of licenses — one compliant with the federal REAL ID Act — nothing but a "scarlet letter."

After New Mexico Democrats said it would support the compromise and the bill passed, the group changed course and publicly and proudly claimed Martinez lost.

But she won.

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Russell Contreras is a member of The Associated Press' race and ethnicity team. Follow him on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/russcontreras>

## Iran to fuel centrifuges in new step away from nuclear deal

By **NASSER KARIMI** and **JON GAMBRELL** Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran will start injecting uranium gas into over a thousand centrifuges at a fortified nuclear facility built inside a mountain, the country's president announced Tuesday in Tehran's latest step away from its atomic accord with world powers since President Donald Trump withdrew from the deal over a year ago.

President Hassan Rouhani's announcement means that Iran's Fordo nuclear facility, publicly revealed only 10 years ago, again will become an active atomic site rather than a research facility as envisioned by the landmark 2015 accord. The State Department announced days ago that it would renew a waiver allowing Russia's state-run Rosatom nuclear company to continue its conversion work at the site.

The announcement represents a significant development as Fordo's 1,044 centrifuges previously spun without uranium gas for enrichment under the deal. It also increases pressure on European nations that remain in the accord to offer Iran a way to sell its crude oil abroad. Rouhani threatened to further pull Iran out of the deal in early January 2020, which could mean curtailing international surveillance of its program or pushing enrichment close to weapons-grade levels.

"We are aware of their sensitiveness toward the Fordo facility and those centrifuges," Rouhani said in a live televised address. "At the same time, we cannot tolerate unilateral fulfillment of our commitments and no commitment from their side"

The International Atomic Energy Agency — the United Nations' nuclear watchdog monitoring Iran's compliance with the deal — declined to comment on Rouhani's announcement. Iran's envoy to the IAEA later told the state-run IRNA news agency the U.N. watchdog received word of Tehran's decision in a letter that also asked for inspectors to be on hand Wednesday for the gas injection at Fordo.

European Union spokeswoman Maja Kocijancic described the bloc as "concerned" by Iran's decision. State Department spokeswoman Morgan Ortagus decried the move, saying Iran originally built Fordo as a "fortified, underground bunker in which to conduct secret uranium enrichment work."

"Iran has no credible reason to expand its uranium enrichment program, at the Fordo facility or elsewhere, other than a clear attempt at nuclear extortion that will only deepen its political and economic isolation," Ortagus said.

Experts described Iran's announcement as a major tear to the unraveling deal.

"They're getting closer and closer to muscle. They aren't cutting fat right now," said Richard Nephew, a

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scholar at Columbia University who worked on the deal while at the State Department.

Fordo sits some 25 kilometers (15 miles) northeast of Qom, a Shiite holy city and the site of a former ammunition dump. Shielded by the mountains, the facility also is ringed by anti-aircraft guns and other fortifications. It is about the size of a football field, large enough to house 3,000 centrifuges, but small and hardened enough to lead U.S. officials to suspect it had a military purpose.

Iran acknowledged Fordo's existence in 2009 amid a major pressure campaign by Western powers over Tehran's nuclear program. The West feared Iran could use its program to build a nuclear weapon; Iran insists the program is for peaceful purposes.

The centrifuges at Fordo are first-generation IR-1s. The nuclear deal allowed those at Fordo to spin without uranium gas, while allowing up to 5,060 IR-1s at its Natanz facility to enrich uranium.

Rouhani on Tuesday did not say whether the centrifuges would produce enriched uranium. He stressed the steps taken so far, including going beyond the deal's enrichment and stockpile limitations, could be reversed if Europe offers a way for it to avoid U.S. sanctions choking off its crude oil sales abroad. However, a European trade mechanism has yet to take hold and a French-proposed \$15 billion line of credit has not emerged.

"We should be able to sell our oil," Rouhani said. "We should be able to bring our money" into the country.

The 2015 nuclear deal, which saw Iran limit its enrichment in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions, called for Fordo to become "a nuclear, physics and technology center." Rosatom did not immediately respond to a request for comment about its work there. However, Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said the joint Russian-Iranian project at Fordo would not be affected by Tehran's latest move.

Rouhani's announcement came after Ali Akhbar Salehi, the head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, said Monday that Tehran had doubled the number of advanced IR-6 centrifuges operating in the country to 60.

A centrifuge enriches uranium by rapidly spinning uranium hexafluoride gas. An IR-6 centrifuge can produce enriched uranium 10 times faster than an IR-1, Iranian officials say.

As of now, Iran is enriching uranium up to 4.5%, in violation of the accord's limit of 3.67%. Enriched uranium at the 3.67% level is enough for peaceful pursuits but is far below weapons-grade levels of 90%. At the 4.5% level, it is enough to help power Iran's Bushehr reactor, the country's only nuclear power plant. Prior to the atomic deal, Iran only reached up to 20%.

Tehran has gone from producing some 450 grams (1 pound) of low-enriched uranium a day to 5 kilograms (11 pounds), Salehi said. Iran now holds over 500 kilograms (1,102 pounds) of low-enriched uranium, Salehi said. The deal had limited Iran to 300 kilograms (661 pounds).

The collapse of the nuclear deal coincided with a tense summer of mysterious attacks on oil tankers and Saudi oil facilities that the U.S. blamed on Iran. Tehran denied the allegation, though it did seize oil tankers and shoot down a U.S. military surveillance drone.

As previous steps brought Iran no closer to a new deal with Europe, Fordo could be a "make-or-break" decision for Tehran, said Aniseh Bassiri Tabrizi, a research fellow at a British think tank called the Royal United Services Institute. Beyond this, Iran can only increase enrichment, limit U.N. surveillance of its program or pressure the region through a "retaliatory approach," she said.

"It's a very risky gamble. You know, you're risking basically an open confrontation with the West," Tabrizi said. "And that is something that apparently the Iranians are ready to go for."

Gambrell reported from Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Associated Press writers Vladimir Isachenkov in Moscow and Matthew Lee in Washington contributed to this report.

## **'I was appalled': Black customers say host told them to move**

**By TERESA CRAWFORD and DON BABWIN Associated Press**

AURORA, Ill. (AP) — An attorney representing a group of black customers who say they were asked to change tables at a Chicago-area Buffalo Wild Wings because of their skin color urged the restaurant chain Tuesday to make wholesale changes to avoid a discrimination lawsuit.

Some children who attended the birthday party Oct. 26 in Naperville broke into tears during a news conference. Two of the adult attendees of the party described what happened, and attorney Cannon Lambert laid out a list of hiring and training demands for the company.

Justin Vahl, one of the adults at the child's party, recalled walking into the restaurant with a group of nearly 20 people — some as young as 5 years old — and the host promptly asking what race he was. When Vahl inquired as to why that mattered, he said the host responded, "We have a regular customer here who doesn't want to sit around black people."

"I was appalled," Vahl said.

Vahl and Marcus Riley, another adult who attended the party, said the group sat down anyway near the customer who levied the complaint. One manager walked over to apologize to the group, but another later said the party had to move to another table because that one was reserved.

Riley said he called his mother that day while leaving the restaurant and began to cry when telling her about the incident. Both he and Vahl said they struggled to explain to the children what had happened.

"Now I got to explain (to the children) what being a black man is," Riley said.

As they left, Vahl and Riley said they saw other embarrassed employees, one of whom was crying and another who handed them a phone number to call and report what happened.

The franchise announced after last month's incident that the two employees in question had been fired and others will undergo sensitivity training. It said the customer whose complaint started the controversy would be banned for life at the chain's more than 1,200 restaurants.

Lambert questioned how the company would enforce that. He also demanded that it thoroughly question prospective employees to make sure they know how to properly deal with "racially charged situations" before they're hired and establish a hotline for any employee who witnesses such an incident in the future. He said the company's ongoing sensitivity training should include some of the customers who faced the discrimination in Naperville.

"They can show other corporate participants what it is to stand up to racism," Lambert said. "There is no need to file a lawsuit if there is no disagreement" by the company.

Naperville, a community of about 150,000 people, is approximately 70% white and 18% Asian, with black and Hispanics each making up about 5% of the population.

The incident comes just a few months after a clerk at a Naperville gas station was fired when he was captured on video telling Hispanic customers that they "need to go back to their country."

Andre Howell, vice president of operations of the Multicultural Foodservice & Hospitality Alliance, a national group affiliated with the National Restaurant Association, said the number of reports of similar incidents have climbed significantly in recent years.

"Customers are feeling emboldened to share what otherwise have been masked or not talked about," he said.

## **US health officials link childhood trauma to adult illness**

**By MIKE STOBBE AP Medical Writer**

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. health officials estimate that millions of cases of heart disease and other illnesses are linked to abuse and other physical and psychological harm suffered early in life.

In a report released Tuesday, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention tried to estimate the impact of harmful childhood experiences on health in adulthood.

Health officials acknowledged the study does not prove that these experiences directly cause certain illnesses. And they were not able to rule out other possible factors, such as the stress caused by financial

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family problems.

But the link is strong, and is bolstered by many other studies, said Jim Mercy, who oversees the CDC's violence prevention programs.

"There's a lot of evidence connecting these things," and it's become clear that the more harmful incidents a child suffers, the more likely their health suffers later, he said.

For at least two decades, researchers have been looking at how suffering or witnessing traumatic events as a child affects the likelihood of physical injury or illness later in life.

Researchers say such stressful experiences can affect how the body develops, and can also put a child on a path to smoking, drug use, and other unhealthy behaviors.

The topic has been getting more attention in recent years from public health officials. California's recently-appointed surgeon general has made childhood trauma and what is known as toxic stress a priority.

CDC has been involved in previous research on the topic, but Tuesday's report is the agency's first on the national impact of the problem.

Researchers are increasingly focused on developing ways to reduce what is now a well-established link, said Dr. Dayna Long, a researcher at the UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland.

She called the CDC report "critical" because it adds important estimates about the potential impact preventive measures might have.

"Trauma really is a public health crisis that everybody needs to start addressing," she said.

The findings are based on questionnaires of about 144,000 adults in 25 states that were conducted in 2015, 2016 or 2017. The surveys asked people about health problems. They also were asked about childhood experiences with divorce, abuse, domestic violence, or drug abuse in the home, or a relative's mental illness.

The survey did not assess how severe the experiences were, and it's not clear if some types of incidents are more harmful than others.

But CDC officials are recommending programs to try to stop such incidents or lessen their impact. They mentioned mentoring programs, parent education, and paid family leave.

The CDC found:

—Adults who experienced the most potentially traumatic events were more likely to smoke and drink heavily.

—Women, blacks and American Indians and Alaskan Natives were more likely to experience four or more kinds of harm during childhood.

—Preventing such events could potentially reduce the number of adults with weight problems by 2%, the number of adults with coronary heart disease by 13%, and the number of adults with depression by 44%.

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## 'Goodness and humor' celebrated as 'Sesame Street' turns 50

By MARK KENNEDY AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Fifty years ago, beloved entertainer Carol Burnett appeared on the very first broadcast of a quirky TV program that featured a bunch of furry puppets.

Blink and you might miss it, but Burnett followed a cartoon about a witch called Wanda, which was loaded with words beginning with the letter w.

"Wow, Wanda the Witch is weird," Burnett commented. And then — poof — she was gone.

That show was "Sesame Street" and Burnett, like a lot of kids, was instantly hooked. She would return to the show multiple times, including visits to demonstrate to pre-school viewers where her nose was and to smooch a rubber duckie.

"I was a big fan. I would have done anything they wanted me to do," she said. "I loved being exposed to all that goodness and humor."

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This first episode of "Sesame Street" — sponsored by the letters W, S and E and the numbers 2 and 3 — aired in the fall of 1969. It was a turbulent time in America, rocked by the Vietnam War and raw from the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King the year before. The media, like today, was going through disruption.

Newt Minow, who was the Federal Communications Commission chairman at the time, famously said TV was becoming "a vast wasteland." Like today, there was lots of content, but it wasn't necessarily quality.

Enter "Sesame Street" creators Joan Ganz Cooney and Lloyd Morrisett, who worked with Harvard University developmental psychologist Gerald Lesser to build the show's unique approach to teaching that now reaches 120 million children. Legendary puppeteer Jim Henson supplied the critters.

"It wasn't about if kids were learning from TV, it was about what they were learning from TV," said Steve Youngwood, the chief operating officer of Sesame Workshop. "If they could harness that power to teach them the alphabet and their numbers as opposed to the words to beer commercials, you may be able to make a really big difference."

No one else was doing it. Children's programming at the time was made up of shows like "Captain Kangaroo," "Romper Room" and the violent skirmishes between "Tom & Jerry." "Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood" was lovely, but it was mostly teaching social skills.

"There was nothing even remotely that contained any educational component at all for children," said Phillip Levine, a professor of economics at Wellesley College who has studied the show. "Sesame Street" was 100% about education."

The show was designed by education professionals and child psychologists with one goal: to help low-income and minority students aged 2-5 overcome some of the deficiencies they had when entering school. Social scientists had long noted white and higher income kids were often better prepared.

So, it wasn't an accident that the show was set on an urban street with a multicultural cast. Diversity and inclusion were baked into the show. Monsters, humans and animals all lived together peacefully.

Bert, Ernie and the gang made an instant impression on actress Sonia Manzano. She saw a neighborhood that looked like hers. She saw people who looked like her. She would become a cast member, Maria, on the show, starring and writing for it from 1971-2015, including getting married on air.

"I was raised without seeing people of color on television. So, when I was given the opportunity to be a person of color on television, I jumped at it," said Manzano, who is of Latino descent. "And I think I was successful as Maria because I never forgot that there could be a little kid like me watching television and forming ideas about the world."

Over the years, "Sesame Street" has welcomed many more. It became the first children's program to feature someone with Down syndrome. It's had puppets with HIV and in foster care, invited children in wheelchairs, dealt with topics like jailed parents, homelessness, women's rights, military families and even girls singing about loving their hair.

It introduced the bilingual Rosita — the first Latina Muppet — in 1991. Julia, a 4-year-old Muppet with autism came in 2017 and this year has offered help for kids whose parents are dealing with addiction and recovery. So important is the show that PETA recently asked for the creation of a vegan Muppet.

"We are a mirror to society here even though we're dealing with birds and chickens and monsters," said Matt Vogel, the puppeteer who portrays Big Bird and the Count and who grew up watching "Sesame Street."

When actor Will Lee, who played the grocer Mr. Hooper, died in 1982, the show explained death to children. When Big Bird lost his nest to a hurricane, the community rebuilt his home. To help kids after 9/11, Elmo was left traumatized by a fire at Hooper's store but was soothingly told that firefighters were there to help.

"We see a need and we meet that need because I feel like we have a voice that's loud enough that can do that — that can reach people and make a difference," Vogel said. "Our mission is to make kids smarter, stronger and kinder and that those lessons that we impart to them stay with them."

Therapist Jerry Moe, the national director of the Hazelden Betty Ford Children's Program, applauds the show for helping children handle trauma — addiction, PTSD, death.

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"While the numbers and the colors and the sizes and the shapes are all incredibly important, so is that social-emotional development that children need," he said.

"Sesame Street' deals with the reality of what's going on with the kids today. And 'Sesame Street' does it in such a child-friendly, age-appropriate, developmentally-appropriate way that not only grabs kids' attention, but also all the providers," Moe said.

Celebrity appearances — starting with Burnett and now numbering 650 — aren't just a fun component of the show, they're part of the lesson. From Janelle Monae to Sarah Jessica Parker, from Anderson Cooper to Danny DeVito — they're all part of an attempt to lure parents to watch as well.

"When parents watch the show with their kids, the learning is deeper because you have a conversation about what you watched together. You talk about it," said Benjamin Lehmann, executive producer. "The parents are there to scaffold on the lessons."

In the adults' honor are characters who go over the heads of young viewers — Ethel Mermaid, Baa Baa Walters and Alistair Cookie — not to mention spoofs like "Orange Is the New Snack," "Grouch Eye for the Nice Guy" and "Upside Downton Abbey."

Not everyone has adored the show, especially those who grouse about federal funds going to a nonprofit that earns millions on licensing for everything from lunch boxes and toys to diapers and commercials for Farmers Insurance.

Big Bird in 2012 found himself unexpectedly in the presidential race when Mitt Romney said he would defund public broadcasting if elected. "I love Big Bird," then-President Barack Obama retorted. (On "Saturday Night Live," Big Bird insisted he didn't want to "ruffle any feathers.")

In 2015, the longtime PBS show inked a five-year pact with HBO that gave the premium cable channel the right to air new episodes nine months before they air on PBS. That prompted some criticism that Sesame Workshop favored viewers who could afford HBO over those who could not. But since the HBO deal, the show has not gotten any federal funding.

Before each season, educators and creators gather to align the curriculum with the latest thinking. In the past, for example, narrative stories were broken up into little chunks because the thinking at the time was that kids couldn't follow a long story. That turns out not to be true, and "Sesame Street" now delivers 10-minute narratives.

Sesame Workshop has also pared episodes from an hour to 30 minutes, and the show is now shot on 4K, with the creators knowing that most children are watching on tablets or phones.

Does it all really help? In 2016, Levine and economist Melissa Kearney at the University of Maryland produced one of the most widely cited studies about the impact of "Sesame Street."

They compared households that got the show with those who didn't and found that the children exposed to "Sesame Street" were 14% more likely to be enrolled in the correct grade level for their age at middle and high school.

"There's no question that the introduction of 'Sesame Street' was a good thing," Levine said. "Early childhood intervention does have the ability to improve lifelong learning among children."

Some shows have lasted longer — "Meet the Press" and "The Tonight Show" among them — but few have had as big a cultural impact. "Sesame Street" is shown in more than 150 countries, has won 193 Emmys, 10 Grammys and will get a 2019 Kennedy Center Honor for lifetime artistic achievement in December, the first time a television program will receive the award.

Music has always been a big part of the show and its song "Rubber Duckie" peaked at No. 16 on the Billboard charts in 1970. "Sing," which premiered on the show, went even higher, hitting No. 3 on Billboard in 1973 when the Carpenters recorded it.

There have been a few bumps in the road, like Roosevelt Franklin, an early puppet whose stereotypical African American dialect offended many. Katy Perry showed a little too much Katy Perry for some parents in 2010 and Cookie Monster, in the face of an obesity epidemic, had to moderate his adoration of cookies to "a sometimes food."

But the show is still going strong despite an explosion of cheap online alternatives with bright colors and songs — like "Baby Shark" — all competing for preschoolers' eyeballs. One recent study found kids

as young as 2 had a daily screen time diet of 3 hours.

"There's a different version of a wasteland right now. And in some ways that motivates us even more to make sure that we, and the industry at large, doesn't give into that," Youngwood said. "We have to earn their time every day as opposed to the view that it's an entitlement."

Associated Press video producers Brooke Lefferts and John Carucci contributed to this report.

Mark Kennedy is at <http://twitter.com/KennedyTwits>

## Impeachment reversal: Diplomat now acknowledges quid pro quo

By LISA MASCARO, ERIC TUCKER and MARY CLARE JALONICK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — "I now do recall."

With that stunning reversal, diplomat Gordon Sondland handed House impeachment investigators another key piece of corroborating testimony Tuesday. He acknowledged what Democrats contend was a clear quid pro quo, pushed by President Donald Trump and his personal lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, with Ukraine.

Sondland, in an addendum to his sworn earlier testimony, said that military assistance to the East European ally was being withheld until Ukraine's new president agreed to release a statement about fighting corruption as Trump wanted. Sondland knows that proposed arrangement to be a fact, he said, because he was the one who carried the message to a Ukrainian official on the sidelines of a conference in Warsaw with Vice President Mike Pence.

"I said that resumption of U.S. aid would likely not occur until Ukraine provided the public anti-corruption statement that we had been discussing for many weeks," Sondland recalled.

His three-page update, tucked beneath hundreds of pages of sworn testimony from Sondland and former Ukraine Special Envoy Kurt Volker, was released by House investigators as Democrats prepared to push the closed-door sessions to public hearings as soon as next week.

Trump has denied any quid pro quo, but Democrats say there is a singular narrative developing since the president's July 25 call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy when he first asked for "a favor." That request, which sparked the impeachment inquiry, included a public investigation into Ukrainian activities by Democratic former Vice President Joe Biden and his son and Trump's allegations of Ukrainian interference in the 2016 U.S. election.

Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., the chairman of the Intelligence Committee, said the House panels conducting the inquiry are releasing the word-by-word transcripts of the past weeks' closed-door hearings so the American public can decide for themselves.

"This is about more than just one call," Schiff wrote Tuesday in an op-ed in USA Today. "We now know that the call was just one piece of a larger operation to redirect our foreign policy to benefit Donald Trump's personal and political interests, not the national interest."

Pushing back, White House Press Secretary Stephanie Grisham issued a statement saying the transcripts "show there is even less evidence for this illegitimate impeachment sham than previously thought."

In the transcripts and accompanying cache of text messages, U.S. diplomats are shown trying to navigate the demands of Trump and his personal lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, who they soon learn is running a back-channel U.S. foreign policy on Ukraine.

"It kept getting more insidious," Sondland told investigators, as the "timeline went on."

Sondland testified that he spoke with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo about Giuliani, "and Pompeo rolled his eyes and said: 'Yes, it's something we have to deal with.'"

In his revised testimony, Sondland, a wealthy businessman who donated \$1 million to Trump's inauguration, says his memory was refreshed by the opening statements of two other inquiry witnesses, the top U.S. diplomat in Ukraine, William Taylor, and Tim Morrison, a European expert at the National Security Council.

The ambassador initially testified on Oct. 17 that he did not "recall taking part in any effort to encourage an investigation into the Bidens." He told investigators he didn't know that the Ukraine firm Burisma, that

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Trump wanted Ukraine to investigate, was linked to Joe Biden's son Hunter.

But in the weeks since a May visit to Kyiv for Zelenskiy's inauguration, Sondland and the other diplomats had been heavily involved in Ukraine policy and in text messages about what Trump wanted as they came to realize the military assistance was being withheld.

Volker and Sondland both testified they were disappointed after briefing Trump at the White House about the new leader of the young democracy who was vowing to fight corruption.

At a pivotal May 23 meeting, Trump "went on and on and on about how Ukraine is a disaster and they're bad people," Sondland testified.

Trump holds an alternative view, pushed by Giuliani, that it was Ukraine, not Russia, that interfered in the 2016 elections in the U.S., a theory counter to U.S. intelligence findings.

"They tried to take me down.' He kept saying that over and over," Sondland recalled Trump saying.

Trump told the diplomats to work with Giuliani on Ukraine issues.

Over the time that followed, Volker and Sondland proposed to Zelenskiy's top aide, Andriy Yermak, that they a draft statement to be issued by Ukraine on potential interference with the U.S. political process. At Giuliani's urging, that statement needed to have an "insert at end with 2 key items:" Burisma and the 2016 U.S. elections.

"It was Mr. Giuliani who said: If it doesn't say Burisma and 2016, it's not credible, because what are they hiding?" Volker testified.

Pressed by investigators, Sondland testified that it would be improper for the U.S. to prompt Ukraine to investigate the Biden family. "It doesn't sound good."

The statement was never issued, as Ukraine refused it. Volker said he told Yermak it was "not a good idea."

Questions swirled after a government whistleblower's August complaint about Trump's phone call with Zelenskiy.

By September, Sondland also told investigators, Trump was in a "bad mood" and nearly hung up on him when the ambassador asked what it was he wanted from Ukraine.

"I want nothing. I want no quid pro quo," Trump said, according to Sondland. "I want Zelenskiy to do the right thing."

As House investigators released more transcripts Tuesday, they also announced they want to hear from Trump's acting chief of staff and a top aide to Pence, reaching to the highest levels of the White House.

Pence spokeswoman Katie Waldman said the vice president was unaware of the "brief pull-aside conversation" that Sondland reported having with Yermak. She also said Pence was unaware of the ongoing back-and-forth over the statement, and that it never came up during his meeting with Zelenskiy.

At a closed-door lunch Tuesday, Pence told Senate Republicans the funds were being withheld over concerns that the Europeans weren't contributing enough aid and issues of corruption in Ukraine, according to a person familiar with the meeting but unauthorized to discuss it and granted anonymity.

Trump says the probe is illegitimate and the administration has resumed its efforts to block the inquiry as two more White House officials, an energy adviser and a budget official, declined to appear Tuesday before investigators, even after one received a subpoena.

Meanwhile, investigators said they wanted to hear on Friday from Trump's acting chief of staff, Mick Mulvaney. They contend his news conference last month amounted to "nothing less than a televised confession" of Trump's efforts to have Ukraine investigate Democrats and Biden as the White House was blocking military funding.

Trump says he did nothing wrong, and Mulvaney later walked back his remarks.

The White House has instructed its officials not to comply with the impeachment inquiry being led by House Democrats. Mulvaney is not expected to appear.

Republicans have been unable to deliver a unified argument against the impeachment probe, but Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said Tuesday he's "pretty sure" how it all will end.

McConnell said he believes Trump will stay in the White House. "I don't think there's any question it

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would not lead to a removal," he said.

A top Trump ally, Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., told reporters he doesn't plan to read the transcripts, calling the whole inquiry "bunch of B.S."

Sondland closed his addendum to the House investigators saying he may have had a second call with Trump, but has been unable to obtain phone records and "cannot specifically recall" if that was the case.

Associated Press writers Colleen Long, Matthew Lee, Matthew Daly, Alan Fram, Andrew Taylor, Jill Colvin and Padmananda Rama contributed to this report.

## Today in History By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, Nov. 6, the 310th day of 2019. There are 55 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 6, 1984, President Ronald Reagan won re-election by a landslide over former Vice President Walter Mondale, the Democratic challenger.

On this date:

In 1814, Adolphe Sax, the inventor of the saxophone, was born in Dinant, Belgium.

In 1860, former Illinois congressman Abraham Lincoln of the Republican Party was elected President of the United States as he defeated John Breckinridge, John Bell and Stephen Douglas.

In 1861, Confederate President Jefferson Davis was elected to a six-year term of office.

In 1956, President Dwight D. Eisenhower won re-election, defeating Democrat Adlai E. Stevenson.

In 1977, 39 people were killed when the Kelly Barnes Dam in Georgia burst, sending a wall of water through Toccoa Falls College.

In 1986, former Navy radioman John A. Walker Jr., the admitted head of a family spy ring, was sentenced in Baltimore to life imprisonment. (Walker died in prison in 2014 at age 77.)

In 1990, about one-fifth of the Universal Studios backlot in southern California was destroyed in an arson fire.

In 1995, funeral services were held in Jerusalem for assassinated Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

In 1997, former President George H.W. Bush opened his presidential library at Texas A&M University; among the guests of honor was President Clinton, the man who'd sent him into retirement.

In 2001, billionaire Republican Michael Bloomberg won New York City's mayoral race, defeating Democrat Mark Green.

In 2012, President Barack Obama was elected to a second term of office, defeating Republican challenger Mitt Romney.

In 2016, FBI Director James Comey abruptly announced that Democrat Hillary Clinton should not face criminal charges related to newly discovered emails from her tenure at the State Department.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama signed a \$24 billion economic stimulus bill, hours after the government reported that the unemployment rate had hit 10.2 percent in Oct. 2009 for the second time since World War II.

Five years ago: The march toward same-sex marriage across the U.S. hit a roadblock when a federal appeals court upheld laws against the practice in four states: Ohio, Michigan, Kentucky and Tennessee. (A divided U.S. Supreme Court overturned the laws in June 2015.) Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu reassured Jordan's King Abdullah that he would not yield to increasing demands by some members of his center-right coalition to allow Jews to pray at a Muslim-run holy site in Jerusalem.

One year ago: Democrats seized the House majority in the midterm elections, but Republicans gained ground in the Senate and preserved key governorships, beating back a "blue wave" that never fully materialized. In Texas, Republican Sen. Ted Cruz staved off a tough challenge from Democrat Beto O'Rourke. Republican Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker was defeated by state education chief Tony Evers.

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Today's Birthdays: Actress June Squibb is 90. Country singer Stonewall Jackson is 87. Singer P.J. Proby is 81. Actress Sally Field is 73. Singer Rory Block is 70. Jazz musician Arturo Sandoval is 70. TV host Catherine Crier is 65. News correspondent and former California first lady Maria Shriver is 64. Actress Lori Singer is 62. Actor Lance Kerwin is 59. Rock musician Paul Brindley (The Sundays) is 56. Former Education Secretary Arne Duncan is 55. Rock singer Corey Glover is 55. Actor Brad Grunberg is 55. Actor Peter DeLuise is 53. Actress Kelly Rutherford is 51. Actor Ethan Hawke is 49. Chef/TV judge Marcus Samuelsson is 49. Actress Thandie Newton is 47. Model-actress Rebecca Romijn (roh-MAYN') is 47. Actress Zoe McLellan is 45. Actress Nicole Dubuc is 41. Actress Taryn Manning is 41. Retired NBA star Lamar Odom is 40. Actress Patina Miller is 35. Actress Katie Leclere (LEH'-klehr) is 33. Singer-songwriter Ben Rector is 33. Singer-songwriter Robert Ellis is 31. Actress Emma Stone is 31. Actress Mercedes Kastner is 30.

Thought for Today: "The illiterate of the future will not be the person who cannot read. It will be the person who does not know how to learn." — Alvin Toffler, American writer-futurist (1928- ).

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